

April  
2004



Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

## LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839  
Phone 620-397-5327



Pictured above is Dan Sharp of Sharp Bros. Seed receiving a \$50,000 economic development loan from Earl Steffens, General Manager of Lane-Scott Electric

## Lane-Scott Revolving Fund Supports Hometown Pride Grocery in Healy

Hometown Pride is more than just a name. It's a community action. With the closing of the Cooperative Grocery Store in January of 2003, the citizens of Healy were forced to drive to Scott City or Dighton for their basic grocery needs. After a groundswell of community support, Sharp Bros. Seed Co. purchased the building and contents with help from a Lane-Scott Economic Development Loan. The building was completely remodeled and new energy efficient fixtures installed. After a long wait, the community welcomed the reopening of their grocery store in October 2003. The

support has been fantastic. Every day someone comes in and asks for a specific item they would like the store to carry rather than purchase it out of town. The business is truly "Hometown Pride".

Lane-Scott Electric originally established this revolving loan fund for the purchase of a fire truck for the City of Dighton and Lane County. This revolving loan fund now provides a much needed avenue for business development opportunities in our area. Lane-Scott is pleased to be associated with Hometown Pride and wishes them a great future.

### **Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Newsletter**

Telephone 397-5327  
Owned & Published by  
The Lane-Scott Electric  
Co-op, Inc.  
P.O. Box 758  
410 S. High St.  
Dighton, KS 67839

### **Board of Directors**

Larry Jasper, Dighton, President  
Dick Jennison, Healy, V. President  
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Dick Ramsey, Scott City, Treasurer  
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Bruce Wilkins, Scott City  
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### **Staff**

Earl Steffens, General Manager  
Stan Bray, Mgr. of Electrical  
Operations  
Katherine Lewis, Mgr. of Financial  
Services  
Bob Venters, Resale Manager

### **In Case of Outage**

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call Dighton, 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

**After Hours & Weekends Call:  
1-800-407-2217**

### **24-Hour Electrician Emergency Service**

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day. To request after-hours electrician service, call the following number:

**1-800-407-2217**

# Lane Scott Meet the Employees



**Alan  
Scott**

Alan Scott, better known by Scott or Scottie by his co-workers will be retiring after thirty-four years of service at the end of May 2004. He started with Lane-Scott Electric in September of 1970 as an apprentice lineman working his way up to journeyman lineman. He was appointed Construction Foreman in 1992. Alan has attended numerous schools on metering, transformers, safety, OCR coordination, and the UOM School in Garden City. Alan also completed the Merchant Job Training and Safety program after it was implemented in 1992.

One of the biggest changes over the years has been the purchase and use of the bucket trucks for the lineman. Some of the other changes are the use of computers, load control, lighting arrestors, and new technologies of the industry. These are all things that have made his job a lot easier. Alan says, "Moving into the present building was also one of the biggest changes for Lane-Scott Electric."

Alan, his wife Marsha, son Garrett, and daughter Lori have lived in Dighton all of their lives. He has helped with summer programs with the kids. Alan hopes to pursue his hobby in woodworking after retirement and maybe catch up on some of those jobs he has been putting off. Lane-Scott Electric sent Alan and Marsha to the NRECA annual meeting in New Orleans, in January of this year.

Alan's job has been very demanding at times with being on call, ice storms, lighting storms and those brown bag lunches everyday. Alan has worked for six managers over his tenure and says the employees here at Lane-Scott are the best. Alan says, "He enjoys the challenge of new construction and getting a job done."

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## ***Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Continues to Upgrade Its Plant in 2003***

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative showed much progress in our physical plant for 2003. Eight and a half miles of mostly 3 phase line were changed out to new. We also tested approximately 4000 poles as part of our maintenance program. Much of the line that was tested was constructed in the 1950's, and even with that amount of age we experienced only a 10% rejection rate. Of the approximately 400 rejected poles we have already changed out 280. Additional segments of our maintenance program include testing our Oil Circuit Reclosures (OCR) and transformer testing for PCB. Detailed substation inspection checklists are completed monthly including registering the number of blinks that occur on our lines. We also check the nitrogen levels in the substation transformers to ensure no moisture is getting inside. Monthly regulator readings tell us if our members are receiving the proper voltage at their location. Our regulators outside the substations are checked every April and November. Formal line patrol is performed every 3 years and 2003 was our year to drive every mile of line. Our linemen record any irregularities from insulators, trees, cracked poles, etc. Once the line patrol is completed we systematically repair whatever is needed. Lane-Scott also uses infrared on a regular basis for our maintenance of facilities.

Lane-Scott implemented a GPS program in

2002. To date we have coordinates of all pertinent poles in 3 of our 4 substations. The final substation should be completed in 2004. The Manning substation upgrade to a 5000 kV transformer has been completed. The completion of this project will give our members in the Manning area the backup power needed. It will also give Lane-Scott flexibility in switching our circuits as needed. Our automatic meter reading (AMR) program is about 50% complete. This project is intended to be finished in 2004.

In 2003, Lane-Scott Electric purchased 71,911,932 kilowatts. With our line maintenance programs we continue to keep our line loss at a respectable rate of 7.68%. For all loads combined we have maintained a very good load factor of 79.39%.

Lane-Scott Electric continued to pay back capital credits to its members in the amount of \$178,377.89. These capital credits were from the years of 1979, 1980, and 1981. Three years ago the Board of Trustees put a plan into effect to pay back capital credits on a 20 year rotation at the end of 2004. Currently we are on schedule.

Lane-Scott showed a loss for the year of \$30,716.00. We started a wholly owned subsidiary called High Line Services in 2003. The company consists of infrared testing, power line construction, and pole testing divisions. As with many new businesses it

does take some time and money to get it up and working effectively. In 2003, High Line Services showed a loss of \$383,932.00. This was the most significant factor in the Lane-Scott Electric loss last year. We continue to have a good working relationship with the City of Dighton. We extended our operation and maintenance agreement for another 7 years. Lane-Scott Electric Resale department showed a loss of \$22,874.14 while our electric energy and operations showed a profit of \$299,703.00.

Our subsidiary activity had significant impact on your electric cooperative in 2003. Part of a new start up business is to keep adjusting areas so it can be profitable. In February of 2004 our Board of Trustees voted to shut down the pole testing division of High Line Services. The inability to find a quality pole testing division manager, continued pressure to keep a complete work force, and negative margins were the basis for the decision to close this division. You can be assured that your management and Board of Trustees monitor this and all activities very closely.

Lane-Scott Electric will continue to give you the quality service you have experienced in the past and continue to expect in the future. If at any time you want to visit with me about your cooperative please stop by the office.

## What You Should Do Following An Accident

Even a minor fender bender can rattle the most experienced driver. The key is to remain calm and take things a step at a time in getting the necessary information from other drivers and documenting the scene. Here are some tips from the auto experts at *Consumer Reports*.

- Place triangles, flares, or another warning signal device around the accident scene, then stand a safe distance away until help arrives.
- Call police if a phone is handy.
- Don't argue or admit blame.
- Don't reveal your insurance limits or other financial data.
- Ask to see a driver's license, registration, and insurance card for all drivers involved.
- Write down the name, address, phone number, license number, registration number, and insurance number for the driver(s) involved, and the insurer(s).
- Also note the other vehicle's license plate, year, make, model, color, and vehicle identification number (VIN).
- Get names and phone numbers of witnesses and anyone injured.
- Get the investigating officer's name, badge number, and department.
- Draw a detailed diagram of the accident scene, showing streets and cars involved.
- Notify your insurer at once.

Source: *Consumer Reports*

## Water Garden Safety

Water gardens are becoming more popular every year. If you plan to install a water garden this spring, or you have a pond and you're preparing it for the new season, you need to consider some basic safety steps when using electricity around water.

- Before you start digging, call your local electric and phone company to mark the lines in the area of the pond.
- Make sure any pump you use to aerate and recirculate your pond is rated for underwater use (submersible). Using a non-submersible pump, at best, will ruin the pump. At worst, you could be in for a severe and possibly fatal shock. The same is true for underwater lights.
- Your exterior electrical outlets should be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). Exterior GFCI outlets should also be equipped with covers to prevent rain or splashing water from breaking the circuit.
- Never hook a pump to an extension cord, even one rated for exterior use. The pump should be plugged directly into the GFCI outlet. If one is not located nearby, have an electrician install a GCFI extender to the area.
- Use care when installing and plugging in the pump. Lower the pump into the pond, making certain it is stable. Then be certain to dry your hands and stand on a dry area before you plug it in.
- Keep other electric tools and appliances away from the pond. If you should drop anything electrical into the pond, unplug the tool before you try to retrieve it.

Source: [eponds.com](http://eponds.com); [mywatergarden.co.uk](http://mywatergarden.co.uk)

# HEY!!!



## Don't Forget to spring forward

Daylight Savings Time begins April 4. Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour before you go to bed.

## From Our Families to Yours!

# Happy Easter



## *Can You Help Us Give These People Money?*

If you have information regarding any of these people or businesses, please contact us so that we can send their check to them.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Last Known Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Last Known Address</u>
Wiley R. Ash Jr. ....	1496 Meeker Ct Rose Hill, Ks. 67133	Vickie Klein .....	326 N. Kansas No. 5 Wichita, Ks. 67214
Paul S. Campbell .....	PO Box 171 Clay Center Ne. 68933	Wade Pagett .....	Box 677 Laverne Ok. 73848
Virgil Chapman .....	PO Box 158 Ashland, Ks. 67831	Petx Petroleum Corp .....	1616 Glenarm Pl #1700 Denver, Co. 80202
Eagle Explorations Inc. ....	Star Route Pratt, Ks. 67124	Wesley Randles .....	General Delivery Monument, Ks. 67747
Graham Michaelis Corp .....	Box 769 Woodward, Ok. 73801	Floyd Ryan .....	425 E. Cardinal Springfield, Mo. 65807
Steve Hammersmith .....	Box 97 Cheyenne Wells, Co. 80810	Dallas Scothorn .....	Eskridge, Ks. 66423
David Kean .....	101 N. High Grant City, Mo. 64456	Richard Shively .....	Rt 1 Victoria, Ks. 67671
Charles Keeney Sr. ....	1301 W. Central Webb City, Mo. 64870	Harvey Watson .....	1810 Arrowhead Stillwater, Ok. 74074
		Wil-Mc Oil Corp .....	PO Box 15251 Irving, Tx. 75010

If anyone knows any of the above people and or a new address would you please contact the office of Lane-Scott Electric. This is for capital credits.

## Those Strange Outlets Protect You

Have you ever wondered why you have different outlets in the bathroom? Those outlets are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). More than two-thirds of 300 electrocution deaths could have been prevented with the use of GFCI outlets, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The GFCI is able to shut off when a small fluctuation in current is detected. These outlets are much more sensitive to current fluctuations than a fuse or your circuit breaker.

These GFCI outlets should be installed anywhere an appliance might come in contact accidentally with water, typically in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room or garage.

Don't take your GFCI for granted. The Underwriters Laboratory suggests testing your GFCI monthly to make sure it is working properly with the following steps:

- Push the "Reset" button located on the GFCI receptacle.
- Plug a nightlight (with an "ON/OFF" switch) or other product (such as a lamp) into the GFCI receptacle and turn the product "ON."
- Push the "Test" button located on the GFCI receptacle. The nightlight or other product should go "OFF."
- Push the "Reset" button again. The light or other product should go "ON" again.

If the light or other product remains "ON" when the "Test" button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly or has been incorrectly installed (miswired). If your GFCI is not working properly, call a qualified, certified electrician who can assess the situation, rewire the GFCI if necessary or replace the device.

Source: Underwriters Laboratory, Inc.; [safeelectricity.com](http://safeelectricity.com)

