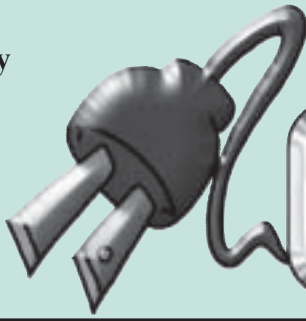


February
2004



Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

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

Manning Substation Nears Completion

Reliability is critical for the electric service to our members. With the addition of the second 5 kV transformer at the Manning substation this should be accomplished.

The Lane-Scott Electric staff and I would like to thank our members for their patience on the December 30th outage while we were getting the new transformer switched over and operational. This was a combined effort of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, Lane-Scott Electric, High Line Services and Peak Power Engineering. All these groups worked together to get this job completed.

The outage was longer than expected. Any time an outage goes into the supper

hour we understand that it causes more inconvenience than usual. Members who called our office were extremely supportive and understanding. That speaks highly for the quality of the members of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative and we appreciate them.

A new year welcomes us, and we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that are ahead of us. As general manager, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our employees and Board of Trustees for their dedication in making Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative an organization their member-owners can be proud of.

Earl Steffens, General Manager



Lane-Scott's crews and High Line Services crews working on the Manning Substation.

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
Paul Seib, Ness City, Secretary
Dick Ramsey, Scott City, Treasurer
Eric Doll, Garden City
Ed Gough, Dighton
Harold Hoss, Ness City
Bruce Wilkins, Scott City
Richard Sorem, Jetmore

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 Electric Cooperative Meet the Employees

Bray Serves Lane-Scott Members

Stan Bray started with Lane-Scott Electric as part time summer help in 1972. He was an apprentice lineman for 5 years after which he was a journeyman lineman for 15 years. He was appointed Line Superintendent in 1993, a position he held for 9 years before being appointed to Director of Operations in 2001.

During his tenure as Line Superintendent, Stan was instrumental in the process of upgrading Lane-Scott's distribution lines and systems. Stan has continued to bring Lane-Scott Electric forward as an industry leader in new technology while serving as Director of Operations.

Stan is currently enrolled in the Management Internship Program, a six-week program of useful training, exercises, and discussion that will challenge and stimulate the mind in management development. He also attended the Operations Internship Program.

Stan was the President of the Line Superintendents Association in 2002. Stan has been active in the community by running the REC program for 10 years. He is also a board member of the golf course. Stan enjoys playing golf and fishing on occasion.

During his 31+ years of service Stan has seen a lot of changes. These changes have been good for the members and for the safety of the personnel.

Stan says the best part of his job is working for the members and with the personnel of Lane-Scott Electric.



OPERATIONS UPDATE

We have now completed the installation of our automatic read meters in the Scott Park area. These are meters that we are able to read from the computer in our office through a signal transmitted over our power lines. We also installed these meters south of Dighton and in the area south of Ransom. Our plans are to order more the first of next year and hope to complete all single phase meter installations in late 2004 or early 2005.

We have completed construction on the 3 phase line north of Healy for Encore Inc. This is to electrify four oil wells. We are still working on getting

electricity north of Pendennis for several oil wells. We have trimmed some trees that were causing problems and will continue with tree trimming through out the winter. We will continue to change out poles that were rejected from the pole testing.

We had very little trouble with the storms that rolled through the area. We had one pole top burnt off and two phase floaters. We completed inventory this week and are ready to begin the new year.

The completion of our new transformer in our Manning sub is now com-

plete. We want to thank those people who were affected by the scheduled outage. This was necessary for us to complete the substation project. The outage took longer than expected as there were a few problems that needed corrected before the new transformer could be energized. Now that the substation is complete we will finish several projects that need completed before the spring and summer months are here.

If you have any questions feel free to call or stop in the office.

Director of Operations-Stan Bray

Don't Neglect Your Humidifier

Regardless of the type of humidifier you have in your home, regular maintenance is necessary for proper operation and health reasons, says Richard B. Hayter, director of Engineering Extension Programs at Kansas State University.

Depending on the mineral content of the water used in your humidifier, precipitated solids may develop and clog small water nozzles, block evaporative elements and inhibit proper operation of moving parts within the humidifier.

These precipitated solids may be discharged from the humidifier and distribute white dust into the home.

"Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for cleaning your particular humidifier, and do so frequently," Hayter said. "Cleaning two or three times during the heating season and upon shutdown in the spring will help remove any buildup of precipitates."

Some humidifiers have evaporative elements that can be replaced. Others constantly flush the humidifier and discharge any concentration of salts to a floor drain.

Stagnant water left standing in humidifiers provides a fertile breeding ground for bacteria linked to odor as well as respiratory ailments.

"Under worst-case conditions, legionella, the bacteria producing Legionnaire's disease, has been found in stagnant humidifiers," Hayter said. "Thoroughly cleaning the humidifier in the spring can help avoid these problems."

Protecting Your Family from the Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

Jeff Dumont awoke one night to a piercing scream from his 6-week-old baby son. Getting up to respond, Dumont felt light-headed and dizzy—but his son's screams drove him on. He took his son outside and then went back inside for his wife.

Dumont said he barely had the strength to carry his wife out of the house, and she ended up having to crawl out on her hands and knees. Dumont called 911, and they were all rushed to the hospital.

What Dumont and his family experienced was what thousands of people end up dying from or going to the emergency room for every year: carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. The symptoms of CO poisoning are fatigue, headache, weakness, confusion, disorientation, nausea, dizziness and respiratory problems. Very high levels of CO concentration in the blood can lead to death.

The CO gas interferes with the blood's ability to deliver oxygen throughout the body because CO binds to the iron atom in hemoglobin, which is the main oxygen-carrying compound in the blood. This binding

prevents the hemoglobin from taking up and releasing oxygen throughout the body.

Carbon monoxide comes from the incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuels including coal, wood, charcoal, natural gas and fuel oil. The cause of Dumont's poisoning was a faulty furnace. In addition to faulty furnaces, the gas can be emitted by unvented kerosene and gas space heaters, wood stoves, gas stoves, fireplaces and water heaters, automobile exhaust from attached garages, and tobacco smoke. Problems can arise from improper installation or maintenance of these appliances, or inadequate ventilation.

According to the National Safety Council, the following actions can be taken to prevent CO poisoning:

- Make sure that appliances are properly adjusted and working according to manufacturers' instructions and building codes.
- Get annual inspections for heating systems, chimneys and flues and have them cleaned by a qualified technician.

- Open flues when using fireplaces.
- Use proper fuel when using fireplaces.
- Never use ovens and gas ranges to heat your home.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle, or camper.
- Ensure that stoves and heaters are vented to the outside and that exhaust systems do not leak.
- Never use un-vented gas or kerosene space heaters in enclosed spaces.
- Do not leave a car or lawn mower engine running in a shed or garage, or in any enclosed space.
- Ensure that your furnace has adequate intake of outside air.
- Properly install carbon monoxide detectors—but not in place of proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.

Source: National Safety Council; The Omaha Channel.com; ScienceDaily.com

Downed Power Lines Are Dangerous

Mother nature isn't always kind to power lines. Winter winds, snow and ice often prove to be too much for utility poles and power lines.

If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact your local electric cooperative immediately. Do not go near the line or the pole. Just because it's on the ground doesn't mean it's safe to approach.

When your power goes out because of a storm, restoring electrical power is not as easy as throwing a switch. Damage caused by wind, ice or snow storms usually occurs at several points in the distribution system. The idea is to get the power back on for everyone in the most efficient manner.

When a widespread outage occurs, the first location your local electric cooperative repair crews check is the substation.

Crews then work their way out on the main distribution line, restoring service to the main feeder lines, then lines serving groups of homes and finally individual consumers.

Working from substation to homes result in faster repairs for the most people. Otherwise individual homes and farms would be "fixed," but there would be no electricity to flow to them.

Who's on First?

When your power goes out because of a storm, restoring electrical power is not as easy as throwing a switch. Damage caused by wind, ice or snow storms usually occurs at several points in the distribution system. The idea is to get the power back on for everyone in the most efficient manner.

When a widespread outage occurs, the first location your local electric cooperative repair crews check is the substation.

Crews then work their way out on the main distribution line, restoring service to the main feeder lines, then lines serving groups of homes and finally individual consumers.

Working from substation to homes result in faster repairs for the most people. Otherwise individual homes and farms would be "fixed," but there would be no electricity to flow to them.

Happy Valentine's Day,



Saturday, February 14

There Are More Than a Few Ways Our Members Can Save Money

As your member-owned cooperative, we would like to remind you that when you save electric energy by making your home more energy-efficient, you not only save money for yourself, but you also can save money for other co-op members, too.

Here are a few quick tips on how you can tighten up your home and save a few energy dollars:

- **Caulk it.** By far the least expensive and most effective way to weatherize is to make sure your doors and windows are airtight by caulking any air gaps around the seals and openings.
- **Service your furnace.** A well-tuned furnace is like a well-tuned car: It runs better, more efficiently and lasts longer.
- **Install removable plastic around windows.** Virtually every hardware and discount store sells these inexpensive plastic window-covering kits.

Dimmers Help Save Energy

Dimmer switches can help you create the right mood in any room, as well as provide just the right lighting level for any task: dining, watching TV, working on your computer or even reading.

Just as important is the fact that dimmers can help you stretch your energy dollars and significantly prolong the life of all the light bulbs controlled by dimmers.

Today, dimmers come in a wide variety of styles and price ranges, and installing them takes just a few minutes. (Make sure you turn off the power to the circuit before you start!) In fact, the least expensive, rotary-style dimmer costs just a few dollars, and a more contemporary slide dimmer costs just a couple of dollars more.

However, if you want to go all-out in your home's lighting scheme, you can use digital dimmers that allow dimming in multiple locations in your home. In addition, you can coordinate programmable dimmers for distinct lighting schemes for a home theater, elegant dining and holiday entertaining.

'Hot' Water Not Really That Hot

A simple way to save home energy costs is to redefine what's hot water.

Many homeowners are comfortable with their water heater set at 140 degrees. Some find lower temperatures get the job done. The goal is the lowest temperature at which the family is satisfied clothes and dishes are getting clean, said engineers with the Extension Energy Service at Kansas State University.

Gas, propane and oil-fired water heaters typically have a single thermostat, located near the bottom of the tank outside the exterior shell. That thermostat may have warm, medium and hot settings, rather than choices calibrated in degrees, the

engineers said.

Electric water heaters can have two thermostats, which commonly are behind access plates on the water heater's shell. Setting them requires (1) disconnecting the circuit breaker to the water heater, (2) removing the access plates and (3) setting the thermostats.

Homeowners with excess capacity for family needs can set the upper thermostat at the temperature they want for household use. They can turn the lower thermostat off or set it below 140 F.

More tips on energy safety and savings are available on the Web (<http://www.engext.ksu.edu/ees/>).

Instant-On TV's Always Use Electricity

Instant-on television sets use power all the time, just to stay warmed up. How much their owners can save by unplugging a set when it's not in use varies from model to model, according to engineers with the Extension Energy Service at Kansas State University.

In one test, however, they found a mid-size instant-on TV consumed about 300 watts while it was running, but less than one watt when switched off. So, at an average Kansas energy price of 8 cents per kilowatt hour, the convenience of that set's having instant-on cost less than 70 cents per year.

Televisions with tubes in their circuitry need more power to stay warmed up. They may consume as much as \$12 in electricity each year, the engineers said. But some models have a switch on the back of the cabinet for owners who do not want to use the instant-on feature.