

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

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

Heather Delaney & Kiara Steffens are the Winners of the 2003 Washington D.C. Youth Tour

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to announce that Heather Delaney & Kiara Steffens are the winners of the 2003 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Heather Delaney is the daughter of Neal and Diane Delaney of Ness City; she is a junior at Ness City High School. Kiara is the daughter of Earl and Kathy Steffens of Dighton; Kiara is a sophomore and attends Dighton High School. Heather and Kiara will join a group of other young people from Kansas and all over the United States to get a first hand look at Washington D.C. from June 12 -June 19, 2003.

Rane Nolan & Megan Roemer are Winners of the 2003 Energy Seminar at Steamboat Springs, CO

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to announce that Rane Nolan & Megan Roemer are the winners of the 2003 Energy Seminar at Steamboat Springs, Colorado from July 19 – July 25, 2003. Rane is the son of William and Marian Nolan of Scott City where he is a sophomore at Scott City High School. Megan is the daughter of Randy and Beverly Roemer of Healy; Megan is a junior and attends Dighton High School. Rane and Megan will join a group of Kansas's young people to find what the Cooperative Youth Leadership is really about.

Photos of the winning students and copies of their essays are on the inside pages.

For Your Convenience . . .

We're Opening over the Noon Hour

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative is please to announce that the office will be open over the noon hour, effective May 1, 2003.

Our office hours will remain 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but to better serve our customers' needs, we will not be closing at any time during those hours.

It is our pleasure to serve you!

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

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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 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.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

How the Services from Lane-Scott Electric, Inc. Have Made Our Lives Better

By Heather Delaney

If you really think about it, almost everything in regard to "powering" our lives has changed in the past hundred years. We have many different varieties of lights, computers, cell phones, CD players, televisions, and many electrical appliances that make life easier for us than it was for our ancestors.

Although we have Benjamin Franklin to thank for first harnessing the electricity that controls our lives today, Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative has improved my life one hundred percent. Conveniences such as being able to wash and dry clothing in electricity powered machines, cook supper on an electric stove, heat our home without starting a fire, cool our house with an air-conditioner during those blistering Western Kansas summers, access the internet, talk to friends through e-mail, and drive around town at night using the street lamps as a source of light all make this sixteen-year-old's lifestyle much easier than that of my grandparents. Without electricity from the Lane-Scott Cooperative I would not be able to type this paper on the computer, listen to my music, or make a call on my cell phone.

Today nearly everything in our homes and businesses is run by electricity: there isn't much of anything that must be run by hand. People who live in the country no longer have to pump their

own water by hand; they can use an electric pump to make this important task faster and easier. Farmers use the electrically powered computer, TV, and radio to know how the wheat, soybeans, corn or grain sorghum prices have varied during the day. Electric drills, welders, and milking machines make many farm tasks much easier, and without electricity, farmers couldn't plug in their tractors on cold nights so that they will start the next morning.

Electricity has improved all of our lives whether or not we all want to admit or think about it. I am proud to admit that electricity has made my life much better in the past sixteen years, and I'm certain that new electrical conveniences yet to be invented will help my life change for the better in the future.

I would like to thank all the staff at Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative for giving me the opportunity to write this essay; composing it has helped me consider the many conveniences electricity gives me each day, and as a result, I appreciate electricity and the Lane Scott-Electric Cooperative more than I did before.



Heather Delaney

By Kiara Steffens

Back in the 1600s when William Gilbert first recorded the use of electricity, things rubbing together, he probably never would have imagined that it would lead to something this great. A big step for the rural electric cooperatives was the Rural Electrification Act of 1935. This act allowed farmers and others to borrow money from the government to open up a non-profit electric business.

We don't often think of what everyday life would be without electricity. If you were to look at

your everyday life, you would find that most everything you do involves electricity. Not a day goes by I don't use electricity.

With the help of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., I have been able to lead an easier life, which is both a good and bad thing. Homework is made much easier with the use



Kiara Steffens

of computers and television. Life is also more enjoyable; watching movies and reading a book are both fun things to do, if you have the help of electricity. Taking advantage of technology makes life easier which in turn makes me less active.

Lane-Scott Electric is a cooperative. This means that they are a voluntary organization that gives back to the community. The members of Lane-Scott are the owners; they each hold a part of the com-

pany.

Lane-Scott helps the youth to learn more about electric cooperatives. They also support the youth by sponsoring activities; such as, athletics, 4-H, Junior Board of Directors, and trips.

In conclusion, I think Lane-Scott offers a lot to the community. They offer more than just the obvious, electricity; they offer young adults a chance to succeed.

By Rane Nolan

I am lucky to live on the farm that my great-grandfather established in the year 1917. I am a member of the fourth generation to live in northern Scott County, Kansas. I am growing up on the same farm that my grandfather and mother both grew up on. My grandfather told me many, many stories about how he lived. He worked the fields behind a plow and a team of mules. Now, my father has a GPS guided tractor. Papa (my grandfather) told me about using kerosene lamps when he was very young. Our house is the house that he grew up in, but we live in comfort, with three computers and internet service.

I can't imagine living without electricity like my

great-grandparents and Papa. My life centers around the use of my computer for my classes at school. I am very involved in the Electricity project in 4-H. I work on my school's electric car project. Papa used a slide rule - I have a graphing calculator.

Papa saw the progression of electricity into farming. I now experience all the benefits of what he saw develop. Our family has been a part of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. for many years.



Rane Nolan

By Megan Roemer

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative has made my life better by supplying electricity for all my needs. After thinking about what I actually have thanks to their help I realize my life has been made much easier by their services.

Before the electricity generation began slightly over 100 years ago, houses were lit with kerosene lamp, food was cooled in iceboxes, and homes were warmed by wood burning or coal-burning stoves. Despite its great importance in our lives, most of us rarely stop to think what life would be like without electricity. Yet like air and water, we tend to take electricity for granted. Everyday we use electricity to do many functions for us.

The electricity that we take for granted every-

day is a key factor in our lives. I never stopped to think about how important it is to have electricity or all the things I use that are powered by electricity such as: an alarm clock, a hot shower, food, clean clothes, computers, telephones, music, lights, curling iron, hair dryer, scoreboards at games, and many other things I use in my daily life.

Today, Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative ensures us an adequate supply of electricity to meet all the demands of our community at any given time.



Megan Roemer

Energy Can Be Lost through Skylights

Skylights present at least three energy problems, according to Doug Walter, president of the Kansas Building Science Institute in Manhattan.

- They offer little resistance to heat flow. A double-glazed skylight loses 10 times as much heat per square foot as a cathedral ceiling with R-19 insulation.

- An operable skylight allows heated air to escape through leaks in the frame.

- Skylights can be a source of unwanted heat gain in summer, especially if they are unshaded by trees and are mounted in a roof with little slope. A horizontal skylight can admit as much as 220 Btu an hour, per square foot, during the middle of a hot summer day.

“You can minimize conduction and infiltration heat loss by adding a second or third layer of glazing or by using movable insulation at night,” said Walter. “An additional layer of glazing can be added easily and inexpensively by applying clear, heat-shrink plastic over the interior frame of the skylight.

“To apply the plastic, use double-stick tape, then stretch it tight by heating it with a blow dryer,” said Walter. “By applying the plastic over the frame, you also reduce air leakage.”

Movable insulation, made by cutting a piece of rigid insulation to fit the skylight opening, can be pressed into the skylight frame at night, then removed in the morning.

Preventing sunlight from striking the skylight is the best way to control unwanted heat gain. This can be done with vegetation or seasonally applied covers, such as a solar screen.

“You can also reflect sunlight from the inside by using light-colored Venetian blinds, a roller shade, or movable insulation with a reflective backing,” said Walter.

Teach Your Children about the Hazard of Electricity

- ❖ Kite flying near power lines.
- ❖ Tree climbing in close proximity to any type of overhead wires.
- ❖ Improper use of electric tools.
- ❖ Putting small toys into electric outlets



What Does Your Board of Directors Do?

Your Board of Directors is the policy-making body of your Cooperative. As such, the directors meet monthly to establish the basic policies and long-range plans that serve as a guideline for management decisions. They review the activities of the cooperative, monitor its financial condition and take action on a wide variety of matters affecting its well-being.

To make sound decisions directors must stay informed about complicated issues. This requires hours of reading materials in preparation for board meetings and attending special courses and conferences as required. As you can see, members who serve on your Board of Directors face a tremendous amount of responsibility. As a Cooperative member, you also have a responsibility to help elect directors who will continue to provide the quality of leadership, dedication and expertise necessary for the successful operation of your business. To fulfill your responsibility, attend your Annual Meeting and vote for the director you feel is best qualified for the job.

Trees + Power Lines = TROUBLE

Planting trees and shrubs around your home can be a major investment in both time and money. Careful planning before planting will help ensure success and a good return on your landscape investment.

One of the most common mistakes is planting a tall-growing tree too close to a power line. Pruning a tree planted too close to a power line becomes too difficult and dangerous as the tree matures. And eventually its branches may pose power outage hazards, especially during storms.

In the worst cases, electric utility crews must drastically prune the tree to allow for the safe and reliable distribution of electricity.

Homeowners can avoid this situation altogether through careful planning. When planning landscaping near power lines, choose shrubs or small trees. Good small-tree choices include Japanese maple and juniper.

To give your plantings a healthy start:

- Make the planting hole no deeper than the original soil depth, whether it was grown in a container or in the field.

- Thoroughly water newly transplanted trees and shrubs. Lack of water is the leading cause of transplant failure.

- Mulch with two inches of bark or six inches of pine straw to suppress weeds, retain moisture and moderate temperature extremes.

For more information, visit www.arboday.org.
