

NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 1008 • Perryton, TX 79070 • Phone (806) 435-5482

IN MEMORIAM: SETH HUSTON



Lance Corporal Seth Huston, 19, of Perryton, died August 21 in the Al Anbar province in Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, First Marine Division of the First Marine Expeditionary Force. He died in a firefight with Iraqi insurgents. An explosion killed Huston and two other Marines. He was a graduate of Perryton High School.

North Plains Electric Cooperative wishes to pay tribute to Seth and his family. Seth was the first person from within the NPEC service area to give his life in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Caleb Campbell, classmate, friend, and son of NPEC groundman Gregg Campbell, wrote the following tribute.



A Tribute

Seth was an American soldier. He was a Marine. People do not understand the true concept of what Seth's job was. Yeah, people sit here back in the States with no worries, while Seth and other soldiers do the dirty work so that people here in America can sleep peacefully at night. I believe that no one can comprehend what it is like over there, unless you are sitting in a foxhole next to a soldier in Iraq or unless you have been there before.

From knowing Seth back in high school and from talking to him during last Christmas break, I know that Seth loved putting that uniform on everyday. I know that he took pride in who he was and what he was doing for this nation. He knew he had a duty—to protect this nation from bad people. Seth knew that there could be a day that he would meet Jesus in Heaven. However, that did not stop him. What courage that must have taken! A true MAN. I respect him and the other soldiers more than any other thing that I can think of. The strength that it must have

taken, yet nothing stopped him. He knew what his duty was, what his mission was, and he was going to fulfill it.

When I think of Seth, I always think of this ... As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for I am the BADDEST Marine in this valley. I know and I believe in my heart that Seth is in Heaven. Although he is not present with us on this earth, his spirit will live forever. Every time I hear the National Anthem I will think of you, Seth, and know that you fought hard. I will never forget that Seth Huston was one hell of an American soldier. A protector of the greatest nation on earth.

Seth, you'll always be in my heart. Most of all I just want to say thank you. THANK YOU. God bless.

Friend and Classmate '03
Caleb Campbell
United States Military Academy
U.S. Army

OUTAGE REPORTING SYSTEM

At NPEC, we understand that an outage can be a frustrating experience. We work hard to prevent them. But occasionally, factors beyond our control cause the inevitable. We also realize that even more frustrating is not being able to report the outage due to busy signals, phone problems, etc.

To help us better serve you and prevent busy signals, North Plains Electric Co-op has implemented a technology to assist us with this problem. The new system is called PORCHE IVR. PORCHE and IVR are acronyms for Primary Outage Response Call Hold Equipment and Interactive Voice Response. The technology helps NPEC members avoid the busy signals that often accompany the high volume of member calls caused by an outage. Although the name implies that this will be the primary system, it will be used as a backup and only when call volumes are high and our normal dispatchers cannot answer all the incoming calls.

Our dispatchers will continue to answer calls 24 hours a day. This system

will hopefully prevent those frustrating busy signals before they can happen. As the name implies, it is interactive and requires only a voice response. Typically, during regular business hours, we have four incoming lines at our office with several employees answering them. In the past, nighttime calls were forwarded to Perryton Answering Service, where we had two lines covered by the service. They were able to answer six calls per line at once before the line was busy for incoming calls.

With the PORCHE IVR, two lines will continue to be answered by the answering service and two additional lines will be answered by the new system. A member will only reach the PORCHE IVR if the first two lines are busy.

If the PORCHE IVR answers your call, the system will ask you a few questions. You may simply answer the question vocally or you can use the keypad on your phone. In reporting an outage, the system's first preference is meter number; however, it can also record the number from the

phone number associated with a specific meter.

In the event of an outage:

1) If possible, have the meter number of the service affected. (Contact us if you would like a handy magnet with our phone numbers and a place to record your meter number.)

2) Always call if you're out of power.

If you have questions, please let us know.

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

Your electric cooperative is just one of about 1,000 similar utilities around the country. And they're all celebrating Cooperative Month.

Electric cooperatives are unique because they follow the cooperative business model. That means the utilities are owned by the local consumers who buy electricity from them, rather than by shareholders who might live far away.

All cooperatives are owned by their consumers. That includes credit unions and farm, food and transportation cooperatives.

One large cooperative is the Associated Press, the world's oldest and largest news organization, which is owned by its member-subscribers—thousands of newspapers, radio and television stations and online publications. Another is Ocean Spray, an agricultural cooperative owned by more than 800 cranberry growers and 126 grapefruit growers in the United States and Canada.

You and your neighbors own your electric cooperative, so October is your month to celebrate!

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK; CHANGE ALARM'S BATTERIES

The time on your clocks isn't the only thing you need to change when Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Oct. 31, this year.

It's appropriate that Daylight Saving Time ends in October, which is Fire Prevention Month, because when you change the time on your clocks, you should also change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

The most common reason smoke detectors fail to function during a house fire is because the batteries are dead. Changing the batteries twice a year when you set your clocks to "spring ahead" or "fall behind" is an easy habit to form.

A 78-year-old Benjamin Franklin

introduced the idea of "saving daylight" by joking about it in an essay after seeing a demonstration of new oil lamps in Paris. Franklin deemed a 6 a.m. sunrise an incredible waste of light, and suggested changing the hours on clocks to save candles in the evening.

It wasn't until World War II, however, that Americans embraced the practice (after dabbling in it during the prior World War).



NORTH PLAINS EC SERVES CHAR

Members of North Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) are very familiar with the advantages of living a rural lifestyle; however, very few choose to share and even profit from the experience. A few members have done just that by opening and operating their own bed-and-breakfasts (B&B) here in the NPEC service area. Currently there are five B&Bs served by NPEC. Reasons for opening these rural accommodations range from diversifying ranch income to simply using houses no longer needed by the family. According to the website www.ibbp.com: "Bed-and-breakfast accommodations give you a unique and personalized travel experience with a touch of local flavor. These small, charming, privately owned bed and breakfast inns are an affordable choice for pleasure or business travel."

Local owners say most guests are looking for a quiet, comfortable stay, for a taste of rural life, and a place to relax and step out of their busy lives. All area inns rely on word of mouth and repeat business.

Bed-and-breakfasts host 55 million inn guests a year, according to a July 14, 2004, article in *Smart Money* magazine. The magazine also notes a growth from 1,000 licensed B&Bs in 1980 to 20,000 today. Statewide, B&Bs are also a popular business. According to the Professional Association of Innkeepers International, a nationwide listing of bed and breakfasts, Texas ranks in the top 10 states in number of bed-and-breakfasts.

Bed-and-breakfasts in the NPEC service area include:

ADOBE WALLS BED-AND-BREAKFAST

This bed-and-breakfast is south of Spearman in Hutchinson County, 19 miles north of the famous 1874 Adobe Walls Battleground. It has a magnificent view of the Canadian River valley canyons. Owner Lana Pat-

terson started the B&B two years ago and primarily targets hunters. It is also popular for visiting family members in town for weddings and funerals. The house was moved to its present location from the old company town of Phillips, near Borger.

For breakfast, Patterson offers homemade bread and cinnamon rolls. She also provides farm fresh eggs, bacon and sausage that guests may cook for themselves.

For more information, call Travis or Lana Patterson at (806) 659-3339 or e-mail tpatterson@antden.com for rates, packages and reservations.

The Adobe Walls Bed-and-Breakfast website is www.spearman.org/adobebb.html

ARRINGTON RANCH HOUSE LODGE

Located south of Canadian at the headwaters of the Washita River in

the Texas prairie rivers country, the lodge offers abundant bird and wildlife watching, hiking, and the chance to join in the work of the ranch. Six miles of nature trails are available for ranch guests to walk or ride bikes. It is a popular destination for birdwatchers. The Arrington Ranch was established in 1897 and has remained in the family as a working cattle operation ever since.

Legendary Captain George Washington Arrington, a Texas Ranger and early Wheeler and Hemphill county sheriff, built the house in 1918. The house also appeared in the movie, *Castaway*. The house has five guest bedrooms with king, queen and twin combinations. Guests share two full baths. Rooms are named after Arrington's grandparents and sons.

Owner Mike Arrington describes the decision to start the B&B as an opportunity to diversify ranch

income, hopefully allowing the ranch to continue in the family and providing the chance for his three sons to come back to the ranch if they desire.

Guests include a mixture of business people, nature enthusiasts, family



Above: Arrington Ranch House Lodge. This house, south of Canadian, was featured in the movie, *Castaway*.

Right: Plaque from the Texas Department of Agriculture recognizing 100 years of family operation.



MING BED-AND-BREAKFASTS

reunions and even international visitors. "Overall, most people enjoy the quiet," Arrington said. "We have had a guest who had trouble sleeping because it was too quiet." Other guests include out-of-towners visiting Canadian for weddings and funerals.

Arrington offers guests tours of the ranch and serves a continental breakfast, including wife Debbie's famous blueberry muffins and hot cinnamon rolls.

For information, reservations or driving directions, contact:

*Mike and Debbie Arrington
9765 Co. Rd. 5
Canadian, TX 79014
Phone (877) 325-6924
E-mail: lodge@yft.net
The Arrington Ranch House Lodge
website is www.arringtonranch.com.*

PRAIRIE HAVEN BED-AND-BREAKFAST

Prairie Haven is located 10 miles south of Canadian near the split of U.S. highways 60 and 83. Owners John and Diana McGarr use a separate house that was formerly part of their family housing for lodging guests, and they offer a full-service breakfast in the dining room of their current home. Breakfasts range from eggs, breakfast meats and homemade buttermilk biscuits, to pancakes and French toast. Homemade jellies are also offered. Prairie Haven is popular with local newlyweds as a place to stay before the big honeymoon. It is also popular for couples as a romantic getaway. McGarr also reports several business travelers utilizing the B&B. "Business people enjoy our place because it really is a quiet place to relax," he says. Wildlife viewing also adds to the appeal.

For information, reservations or driving directions, contact:

*John & Diana McGarr
(806) 323-5555*



Old Hansford Bed-and-Breakfast is one of several B&Bs served by North Plains Electric Cooperative.

OLD HANSFORD BED-AND-BREAKFAST

Cathy Patterson decided to make her small house (built in the early 1900s) a bed-and-breakfast shortly after she and husband Pat purchased the house and surrounding land five years ago. "We had furniture for it and decided we did not want to make it a rental house," she said, adding that she also wanted a place for one of her sons and his family to stay when returning to Spearman.

The house was built and surrounding land was originally surveyed for a town site. Early owners believed that the railroad would cross on their land and development would occur. They also drilled a large water well to accommodate the new town. But the North Texas and Santa Fe Railway bypassed the area in favor of Spearman, which became the new county seat. The post office of the old town of Hansford and most of its people and businesses moved there.

Old Hansford B&B is located between Spearman and Gruver overlooking Palo Duro Creek canyon. Because of its proximity to both towns, guests include business people visiting both towns, ranging from politicians to silage cutters and everything in between. It is also popular

with hunters, and family members for funerals and weddings.

Patterson offers homemade bread and cinnamon rolls, as well as farm eggs and bacon the guests may cook. The three-bedroom, one-bath house features a full kitchen.

For information, reservations or driving directions, contact:

*Pat and Cathy Patterson
Rt. 7 Box 1A
Spearman, TX 79081
(806) 659-3273
tcattle@antden.com*

*The Old Hansford Bed & Breakfast
website is www.spearman.org/hansfordbb.html.*

THE THICKET, THE YELLOW COTTAGE AND HORSESHOE GUESTROOMS

Innkeeper Dana Urschel Pinkston offers several choices and lodging opportunities at the Urschel Ranch headquarters northeast of Canadian. "Basically, any building not in use is offered as a place to stay," Pinkston says.

The Thicket is a two-story, five-bedroom ranch house built in 1924 by Dana's grandfather, D.F. Urschel. It has been featured in the Canadian tour of homes. The Yellow Cottage is a smaller three-bedroom house noted for its character and charm. Individual rooms similar to a motel are also offered at the Horseshoe Guestrooms. These rooms, as the name implies, are decorated with relics of the family's horse business over the years. Horseback rides are also available to guests, making this B&B popular with tourists as well as hunters.

Pinkston offers homemade muffins and breads and can serve a full breakfast if requested. She also offers to prepare picnic lunches for guests.

For information, reservations or driving directions, please contact Dana Urschel Pinkston at (806) 323-8118.