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## Last of the "Four Horsemen of the Lines" Dies

Elmer E. "Bud" Krebs, age 93, passed away on March 23.

Krebs was the last surviving member of the four-man line crew who appeared in a photo that became a national symbol of the grit and determination showed by workers nationwide to bring electricity to rural America.

The picture was known as the "Four Horsemen of the Lines," and it was taken on March 31, 1938, in Horton.

The photographer snapped the picture while the linemen were riding on the back of a truck stretching lines along the road the day before the lines were energized at Brown-Atchison, the first Rural Electrification Administration (REA) financed project to energize in Kansas.

The next day, John Carmody, REA administrator, threw the switch that sent electricity flowing to farms and rural residents in Brown and Atchison counties.

Krebs had started his employment with the REA following the Depression. Times were tough and Krebs, then 23, traveled 13 miles to Horton one August day in 1937 in search of work.

"We heard about the REA coming in," Krebs recalled in an interview with KEC's Larry Freeze at the Brown-Atchison annual meeting in 2004. "So, I decided to go down there to see if I could get a job."

He was hired to cut brush and dig holes for



(From left): Lind Jacobson, Junior Adams, Elmer Krebs and Karl Jacobson were the "Four Horsemen of the Lines" in this photo taken March 31, 1938 in Horton, KS.

the electric poles 10 hours a day, six days a week. He learned he would be paid \$13 a week.

"I felt like a millionaire," Krebs said with a smile.

Krebs' work with the REA finished that same year.

He went on to drive a truck for a dairy co-op, and later spent 22 years managing a farmer's cooperative until his retirement in 1977.

"The photo of Mr. Krebs and the Four Horsemen became iconic in representing the self sufficiency of rural electrification in Kansas and elsewhere," said KEC's Stuart Lowry, vice president/general counsel. "His example lives on as was evidenced in the way the members joined together during last December's ice storms."

Krebs was the last surviving member of the crew, which included Junior Adams and brothers Lind and Karl Jacobson.

Funeral services were held March 28 at the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Hiawatha.



Elmer Krebs, then 89, was invited to the Brown-Atchison annual meeting in 2004.

## In Brief

### Deregulation 'A Total Failure'

Some lawmakers who voted to deregulate the electric industry in Maryland in 1999 now say it was a big mistake, one that has cost ratepayers heavily. Those who adamantly opposed it say their worst fears have come true. But today, lawmakers are still divided over charting the best course for Maryland's energy future. Dozens of bills offering solutions have popped up this session, but progress has stalled and some doubt a decision will be made this year.

*Baltimore Business Journal - 3/21/08*

### Governor's Veto Halts Energy Bill

Gov. Sebelius vetoed the coal plant bill on March 21 as supporters of the measure considered another route to gaining approval for the project in western Kansas.

Sebelius said the legislation, which allows expansion of a coal-fired power plant outside Holcomb and restricts the authority of the state's top environmental regulator, would have allowed too much carbon dioxide pollution.

Supporters of the bill said the veto put the economic and energy needs of western Kansas in jeopardy.

The legislation, receiving bipartisan legislative support, came in response to an October decision by KDHE Secretary Rod Bremby to block the 1,400-megawatt expansion of the Holcomb facility.

*Topeka Capital Journal - 3/22/08*

### Tri-State Generation Names New CEO

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Colorado's second-largest power generator, will have a new leader, Ken Anderson, effective July 1.

Anderson takes over when the current executive vice president and general manager, J.M. Shafer, retires.

Anderson, 48, currently serves as the association's senior vice president of generation and power management. He'll become Tri-State's seventh CEO since the group started in 1952.

Tri-State sells wholesale power supplies to 44 electric cooperatives and public power districts who provide electricity to about 1.4 million people.

*Denver Business Journal - 3/12/08*

## Cooperative Calendar

April	9	Western Kansas ElectroRally, Municipal Airport, Scott City.
	16-17	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, KEPCo Headquarters, Topeka.
	18	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	23	166.1 Understanding the New World of Power Supply for Employees, Hays.
	24	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka - 10 a.m.
	24-25	Kansas Member Services Director's Association (KMSDA) Meeting, Hays.
May	25	Kansas Line Superintendents Meeting, Salina.
	30-5/1	KEC Board of Trustees Meeting, Dodge City.
	4-7	NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
	6-8	Supervisor's Conference, Topeka.
	14-15	KEPCo Board of Trustees Meeting, Eisenhower Museum, Abilene.
	16	Sunflower Board of Directors Meeting, Sunflower Headquarters, Hays.
	28	PCB Compliance Seminar, Country Inn & Suites, Salina.
29	MDM Meeting, KEC Headquarters, Topeka - 10 a.m.	

## KEC Members' Annual Meetings

April	4	Twin Valley - Meeting at 7 p.m., Labette County High School, Altamont.
	5	Sumner-Cowley - Lunch at 11:30 p.m., Meeting at 1 p.m., Wellington High School.
	8	Sedgwick County - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cotillion Hall, Wichita.
	8	DS&O - Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Meeting at 7:30 p.m., Bicentennial Center, Salina.
	11	CMS - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Meade High School.
	11	Alfalfa - Dinner at 5 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., Cherokee High School.
	12	Victory - Health Fair 8 a.m. - 12, Lunch at noon, Meeting at 2 p.m., Dodge City Civic Center.
	18	Rolling Hills - Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Meeting at 7 p.m., NCK Vo-Tech.

### Kansas Member Services Directors Association Plans Spring Meeting

Kansas electric cooperatives' member services and communications professionals will meet for the 2008 Kansas Member Services Directors Association (KMSDA) spring meeting on April 23-25 at the Hampton Inn in Hays.

The focus of this meeting is on renewable energy. KEPCo's Les Evans and Sunflower's Bob Johnson will facilitate a round table discussion on wind power, KEC's Doug Shepherd will review



Tim Nauman 1 Photography

the CARE program, and a tour of the new Smoky Hills Wind Farm will be offered.

Prior to the meeting, NRECA Course 166.1 Understanding the New World of Power Supply for Employees will be taught by Bryan Singletary.

For more information about the meeting or the course, or to receive a copy of the agenda, call Shana Holsteen, KEC, at (785) 478-4554 or email [sholsteen@kec.org](mailto:sholsteen@kec.org).

## In Sympathy

### Bill Gifford

Bill Gifford, retired KEC employee, died on March 29. Gifford had served as KEC's director of apparatus testing from 1989 - 1999.

Services were held in Overbrook, KS, on April 1. Cards may be sent to his widow, Julie Gifford, at 4515 W. US 56 Highway, Burlingame, KS 66413.

### Ulysses Tragedy

On March 27, a car accident claimed the lives of four sophomore girls in Ulysses: Victoria Dowell, Julia Alcala, Veronica McDaniel, and Myranda Mason. Three of those girls were related to two of Pioneer employees, Sheila Mason and Dee Longoria. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of these students.

# Annual Meeting Highlights

## Butler

Butler's annual meeting was held on March 13 in Towanda. Over 245 members registered for the meeting, and more than 950 meals were served. Entertainment included artist Gary Hawk, singer Trent Criswell, the Kid's Corner, and the men's and women's quartets from Butler County Community College.

Guest speakers included youth winners Kaci Thiesen and Renee Simon who spoke on their experiences last summer, and KEPCo's Steve Parr who spoke to the members about current power supply issues.

Re-elected to the board were Richard Jimenez and Olin Claassen. The members also voted on a bylaw provision regarding the term limits of a trustee appointed to fill an unexpired term.

## Pioneer

Pioneer held its annual meeting and health fair on March 15 at the Grant County Civic Center. This year, 1,367 members and guests had their blood drawn at the health fair. Nearly 600 people went through the lunch line, and 300 members attended the annual meeting.

The guest speaker was Sunflower's Earl Watkins who gave a presentation on the importance of the Holcomb expansion project.

Re-elected to the board were Melvin Winger, Don Dunn and Martie Floyd.

## Flint Hills

Flint Hills' 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held on March 25 at the Centre High School in Lost Springs. There were over 400 meals served to 157 registered members and their families.

The membership heard from last year's youth winners who spoke about their experiences at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, and KEPCo's Steve Parr spoke about power supply issues.

Re-elected to the board were Roger Zimmerman, David Cosgrove, Tim Miser and Don Kraus.

## Prairie Land

Prairie Land celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its annual meeting on March 25 at the cooperative's headquarters in Norton. More than 470 members attended and approximately 525 meals were prepared by Bigge's Country Kitchen. Meals were served by the Kansas Association for Youth (KAYS) from Norton Community High School. Violinist Stanton Nelson performed during the lunch.

Sunflower's Kyle Nelson was the guest speaker, and he gave an informative presentation about the Holcomb expansion project.

Because of the MKEC acquisition, Prairie Land has added two additional districts. Re-elected were Mike Rogers, Keith Ross, and Byron Carpenter. Newly elected to fill the two additional seats were Ronald Griffith and Jerry Gallagher.

## Heartland

Heartland's annual meeting was held on March 25 at the cooperative's headquarters in Girard. There were 106 members who registered for the meeting, and approximately 225 members and guests were served a meal.

A western recording artist, Eli Barsi, performed for the group. Re-elected were Dennis Peckman, Patrick Johnson, G.C. Smith and Sam Marsh.

## Ninnescah

Ninnescah's annual meeting was held March 25 at the Pratt Municipal Building. Over 300 people were served dinner.

Carla Bickel reviewed the three FEMA storm recovery projects and detailed the damage from these storms. She passed on comments she heard from members following the storm recovery efforts, agreeing that the Ninnescah staff and those cooperatives providing mutual aid were "heroic" in their efforts.

Trustee Norman Frederick was recognized for his service to the Board. Frederick retired and moved to Hutchinson, and Michael Christie, Stafford, was selected to fill his unexpired term. Re-

elected to the board were Curis Durall, Pratt, and Edwin Lenkner, Coats. Newly elected was Ken Unruh, Lewis.

## Doniphan

Doniphan held its 71<sup>st</sup> annual meeting on March 27 in Denton. The Doniphan West PTO served 160 members and guests a meal, and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class acted as table servers.

Re-elected to the board was Carl Laipple. Newly elected to the board were Steve Whittaker and Joe Cluck, replacing John Wayne Cluck and James Ruddy, who did not seek re-election.

The membership approved several bylaw changes on Board of Trustees, District makeup, and capital credits. Board President Jack Denton and Manager Arlan Mitchell briefed the membership on storm damage and future rebuilding efforts. Stuart Lowry of KEC and Suzanne Pollman and David Shupe of Westar were guest speakers.

## Radiant

More than 100 registered members and their family attended Radiant's 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Fredonia on March 27.

Re-elected to three-year terms on the board were Loren Dickens, Daryl Donohue and Don Songer. Dickens was honored for receiving the Board Leadership certificate and Lee Bracken was recognized for receiving the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate.

Scholarships were also presented to area students. Guests included Bob Bowser, KEPCo, and Larry Freeze, KEC.

## Lyon-Coffey

Lyon-Coffey's annual meeting was held March 31 in Emporia. There were 201 members registered for the meeting, and more than 500 meals were served.

The members enjoyed musical entertainment and heard reports from last year's youth winners.

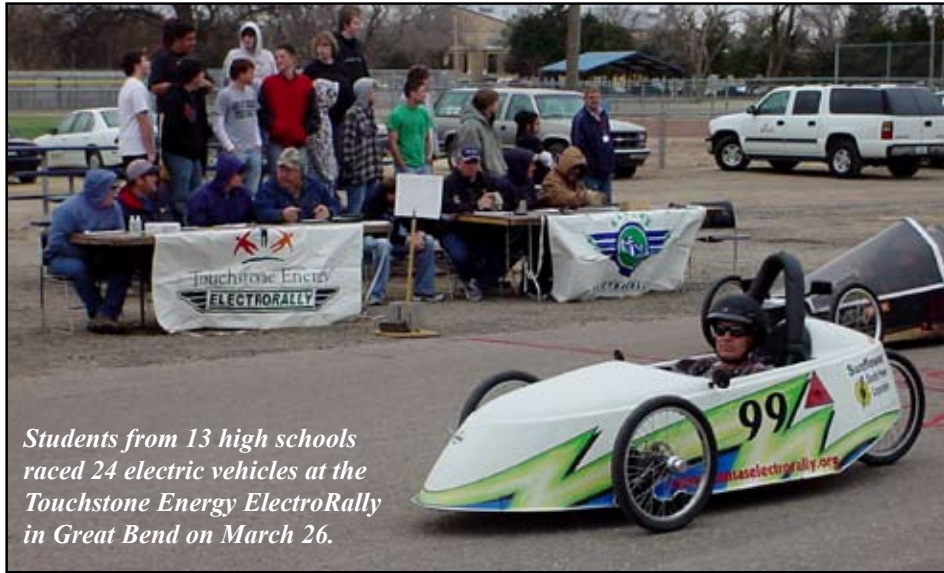
Re-elected to the board were Wayne VanGundy, Richard Prather and Richard Schmidt.

# Schools Compete at Annual Touchstone Energy ElectroRally Held in Great Bend

How many laps around a track can a fleet of student-built electric vehicles make in an hour? That was the question at the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally, on March 26 at Brit Spaug Park in Great Bend.

This is the twelfth year of races in Kansas. This competition is designed to introduce and raise awareness of alternative energy sources – namely electricity – to high school students.

This event involved teams from high schools throughout Kansas that have spent this past school year designing, raising funds, and building electric race cars. The schools that sent students to race on the quarter-mile, oval track included Altamont, Dighton, Goodland, Grainfield, Hays, Haysville, LaCrosse,



*Students from 13 high schools raced 24 electric vehicles at the Touchstone Energy ElectroRally in Great Bend on March 26.*

Lucas, Mulvane, Olathe, Scott City, Spearville, St. John and Ulysses. The cars from Scott City won both the experimental and the standard class race, and Olathe won the novice class.

Cooperative volunteers from Midwest Energy, Pioneer, Sunflower, Victory, Western, and Wheatland helped man the race.

The cars are single person, lightweight, aerodynamic, and highly efficient. Students are encouraged to be innovative and creative in the design of the cars. All cars are powered by deep-cycle lead acid battery packs. The experimental cars use solar panels in addition to the batteries that are used in the standard class.

For more information, visit [www.kansaelectrorally.org](http://www.kansaelectrorally.org).

## Job Opportunities

### Colorado Co-op Seeks Human Resources & Safety Manager

Poudre Valley Rural Electric in Fort Collins, Colorado, has a position open for a Human Resources & Safety Manager.

Applications can be found at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com). Submit application along with a resume to Brad Gaskill, CEO, P.O. Box 272550, Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2550.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

### Lane-Scott Electric Seeks Lineman

Lane-Scott, Dighton, is seeking a journeyman lineman to help provide safe and reliable electric distribution service.

Requirements include a HS Diploma/GED, successful completion of an apprenticeship program or equivalent job experience, involving a minimum of four years line experience in all areas of electric distribution, trouble shooting and maintenance. Valid Class A CDL with excellent driving record.

Lane-Scott offers a competitive wage and full benefit package including paid family medical insurance, including vision and dental; NRECA pension plan, paid life insurance, 401K, LTD insurance and other benefits.

Send resume and cover letter to Vic Torson, Manager of Electrical Operations, Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 758, Dighton, KS 67839, call 800-427-2217, or email [vic.torson@lanescott.coop](mailto:vic.torson@lanescott.coop).

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