



NewsLine

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The Great Depression, the New Deal, and Rural Electrification

I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people.
—Franklin D. Roosevelt

The stock market crash of 1929 began a chain reaction that spread financial disaster across the nation. This economic collapse, during which banks closed and many lost their life savings, became known as the Great Depression.

When Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1933, millions of families were without food and shelter. President Roosevelt launched his “New Deal,” a plan to end the Great Depression. New Deal programs included PWA

(Public Works Administration), which provided jobs building highways, bridges, and other public works; AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration), which regulated farm production and promoted soil conservation; CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), which hired young men to plant trees, build dams, and work on other conservation projects; and TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority). TVA projects included flood control, erosion control, reforestation, and power production.

As unemployment continued, President Roosevelt asked Congress for money to develop a rural electrification program as part of a public works bill. On May 11, 1935, the President signed the order that set up the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The REA was given \$100 million to expand access to electric power for rural Americans.



Construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway, a CCC project, began in 1935.

Did You Know?

Several factors, including consumer debt, led to the Great Depression. New production methods meant that goods were produced faster, but many workers couldn't afford to buy the things they made. Many factories closed, and workers lost their jobs.

Nationally, farm debt also contributed to the Great Depression. Farmers had not shared in the prosperity of the 1920s, and many had to sell their land, tools, and animals to pay debts.

“When the lights came on”



In honor of Colquitt EMC's 80th Anniversary, we are asking our members for stories, pictures, and interesting objects from Colquitt EMC or REA history. If you have memories or stories of “when the lights came on” please contact us to share. The contact person is Joni Fox, (229) 386-2278, or jonifox@colquittemc.com.

Energy Improvements May Earn Tax Credits

Taxpayers who upgrade their existing homes to improve energy efficiency may be eligible for tax credits to offset some of the costs. As of the 2015 tax year, the federal government is allowing a credit known as the Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit. The credit was due to expire after 2014 but has been extended through 2016.

Equipment and materials can qualify for the Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit only if they meet technical efficiency standards set by the Department of Energy. The manufacturer can tell you whether a particular item meets those standards. For this credit, the IRS distinguishes between two kinds of upgrades.

The first is “qualified energy efficiency improvements,” and includes the following:

- Home insulation
- Air seal products (weather-stripping, spray foam in a can, caulk, house wrap).
- Exterior doors
- Exterior windows and skylights
- Certain roofing materials



You can claim a tax credit for 10% of the (materials only) cost of qualified energy efficiency improvements. Tax Credit does NOT include installation costs. But, you can install the insulation/home sealing yourself and get the credit.

The second category is “residential energy property costs.” Some measures include:

- Electric heat pumps (\$300 maximum credit)
- Electric heat pump water heaters (\$300 maximum credit)
- Central air conditioning systems (\$300 maximum credit)

Significant limits apply to all measures:

- This credit has a maximum lifetime limit of \$500 for all years combined, from 2006 to the present.
- Of that combined \$500 limit, a maximum of \$200 can be for windows.
- The maximum credit for any other single residential energy property cost is \$300.

Claim for credits using IRS Form 5695 with your tax return.

Visit https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits on the web for more information.

Colquitt EMC Scholarship Program Begins in April

Colquitt EMC awards scholarships to students who are enrolled in colleges or universities located in Colquitt EMC’s service area. To be eligible, applicants must reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC member.

Applications and additional details will be available in our offices and at www.colquitemc.com beginning **April 1, 2016.**



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Unclaimed Capital Credits

In compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-12-236 of "The Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act" of Georgia, Colquitt EMC is attempting to locate former members and heirs whose capital credit checks were issued December 1, 2010 for electrical service received in 1989, but which have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or have been otherwise unclaimed.



A current database of these members, with their last known address, is available at our offices. The last possible date to claim these funds is June 30, 2016. All funds not claimed by this date will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. section 44-12-236 of "The Disposition of Unclaimed Capital Property Act" of Georgia.



Know what's BELOW, CALL before you dig.

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling **811** before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even a small project like planting trees and shrubs.

The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets your underground utility lines marked for free and helps prevent undesired consequences. For more information visit www.call811.com.

BURN WITH CARE...AVOID TROUBLE

ATTENTION: Use firebreaks around any utility poles on land that will be burned under controlled conditions. By using a firebreak to protect utility poles, you can help Colquitt EMC save thousands of dollars in repair costs. Also, you can avoid potential safety problems resulting from burned poles. -Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Recipes of the Month



Tex Mex Shepherd's Pie

INGREDIENTS

First Layer

1 1/2 lbs ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 small green bell pepper, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 (14 1/2 ounce) can diced tomatoes with green chilies
1 (15 1/2 ounce) can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
2 cups frozen corn, thawed
8 ounces tomato sauce
1 -2 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon oregano
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/8-1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)
salt, if needed to taste

Middle Layer

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Top Layer

8 medium yukon gold potatoes, scrubbed, peeled, and cut into chunks
3 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup milk
1 cup low-fat sour cream
1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, DIVIDED (or cheddar-jack)
1 tablespoon diced green chilis
1/2 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
1 teaspoon chives
1/4 teaspoon pepper

DIRECTIONS

In a skillet over med-high heat, crumble and brown beef with onion, green peppers and garlic, until no longer pink. Drain. In the same empty skillet, add tomatoes, kidney beans, corn, tomato sauce and spices; stir well. Return the hot drained beef mixture to the skillet and mix well. Simmer for about 10 minutes. Pour into the bottom of a 13" x 9" (or larger) baking pan. Sprinkle with the 1/2 cup cheese; set aside.

While beef is browning, etc -- in a large pot, boil potato chunks in salted water until tender; drain. Return to hot pot and mash with butter, milk, and sour cream. Add 1 cup ONLY of the cheese, green chilies, and the salt, pepper and chives. Mash to desired consistency. Evenly spread potatoes over cheese layer in the pan. Evenly sprinkle potatoes with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes.

Yields: 10 Servings

Per Serving: 536.2 Calories, 25.5g Fat, 650.5mg Sodium, 90.3 mg Cholesterol, 52g Carbohydrate.

(Cut Here)