

JOIN THE Party!

It's a milestone year for Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. We're turning 80! Here are some of the ways we'll celebrate.



IN THE PAGES OF TEXAS CO-OP POWER MAGAZINE



Longtime member profiles will introduce you to some of the cooperative's earliest commercial and residential members. Two profile subjects this year:

▣ **St. Matthew Lutheran Church**, perched on the gentle rise of Sandy Hill, 10 miles northeast of Brenham, has been welcoming area residents since 1891. It first got electricity in 1939. Like the other Lutheran churches that dot Washington County, St. Matthew was formed to serve the local community of German immigrants, most of them cotton farmers. Its doors are still open today.

▣ **SPJST Lodge No. 38**, left, another of the cooperative's first members, joined in 1939. The Czech fraternal order's meeting place was built 13 years earlier, in 1926, in an area once known as Kovar, between Smithville and Flatonia. You can still rent the 72-by-100-foot dance floor today.



IN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

- ▣ **Contests and giveaways** throughout the year will spotlight our past, test your knowledge and share your stories.
- ▣ **A monthly countdown** of our eight decades. Throughout March, we're looking back at the 1940s.
- ▣ **Video conversations** with longtime members and employees and person-on-the-street pop quizzes for fun prizes.
- ▣ Look for our hashtag, **#bluebonnetturns80**

IN FUTURE ISSUES

- ▣ In April, read about the **history of electric appliances** and enjoy an entertaining timeline of the devices that changed lives.
- ▣ Visit with some of our **former meter readers**, and learn about the history of the meters of yesterday and today.
- ▣ Savor some of our readers' favorite family **heirloom recipes**; selected entries will receive a great cookbook.
- ▣ In August, learn **80 things about Bluebonnet**, the region and your electricity.
- ▣ At the end of the year, we'll offer experts' — and your — **predictions for the next 80 years** about the cooperative, our region and electricity.

AT EVENTS

Attend our **Annual Meeting** on Tuesday, May 14, in Giddings. In addition to a state-of-the-cooperative report and a vote on important Bluebonnet business, you can see a collection of vintage electric appliances like the early hand-held hair dryer below. There will be timeline displays, a history photo booth and more. Get information **on the next page** and in the April and May issues of Texas Co-op Power magazine.

Later this year, join us at **birthday parties** in locations around our service area. These family-friendly events will feature activities, displays, prize drawings, birthday cupcakes and lots of Bluebonnet history. Keep an eye on our pages in Texas Co-op Power magazine and on social media for details.



LOOKING BACK: THE '40s



'**Casablanca**' starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, won the Best Picture Oscar for 1943.

'**Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy**' was a hit for the Andrews Sisters and became a World War II classic. Bette Midler re-recorded the song and made it a hit again in 1972.

'**Oklahoma!**' was Rogers & Hammerstein's first collaboration and a Broadway smash hit. It garnered a special Pulitzer Prize in 1944.