

Beyond the lines

Carroll Electric exists to serve our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

Carroll Electric Celebrates its 80th Anniversary

Imagine it's 1937. Rural America knew life could be easier if electric lines were run outside city limits. Enter Carroll Electric Cooperative, a member-owned organization funded with loans from the REA (Rural Electrification Administration). From just 150 members to now over 97,000 member accounts in both rural and metro areas, the cooperative spirit of serving is still its guiding light.

Incorporated on Nov. 8, 1937, Carroll Electric is celebrating its 80th anniversary. In 1937, a gallon of gas was \$0.10, the average wages were \$1,780 per year, a pound of hamburger was \$0.12 and the average monthly rent was \$26. Who knew parts of this hill country called the Ozarks would become rated as one of the top places to live and work in the United States?

Looking Back

During a recent visit with Lloyd Sutton, formerly of Lurton, Ark., it was discovered electricity came to Lurton on the day he was born, Sept. 23, 1940. Lurton is located at the intersection of Arkansas State Highways 7 and 123, just 25 miles south of Jasper.

Lloyd's father, Charles Sutton, had learned electrical work and started wiring houses around Lurton in

Celebrating
Eight Decades
80
years
of dedicated
service to members.

preparation for the coming of electricity. Lloyd's grandfather, I.C. Sutton, owned and operated the Lurton Handle Factory which initially used a Delco generator to furnish the lights for the factory. The factory provided work for many people of the area. When power came to Lurton, I.C. rewired the factory and began using power from Carroll Electric.

The town of Lurton was named by Lloyd's grandmother Cornelia Sutton who was the first Postmaster of Lurton from 1916 through 1947. Lloyd said he has heard many stories about how electricity improved and changed lives in this community.

Memories from born and raised Benton County resident Loneta Blevins also include some of Carroll Electric's

rich history. The early Blevins and Townsend pioneers settled in Rogers in the 1870s. Loneta Townsend (Blevins), was born on July 27, 1928, and was the oldest of 12 children.

Loneta's mother always read stories to the family from the Kansas City Star newspaper that came once a week. One coal-oil lamp was used for light. When electricity came, one light bulb was hung from the ceiling supplying the home's only light. Her mother also handmade all the family's clothes so when her father purchased an electric Pfaff sewing machine, her mother felt "pretty up town." Loneta still has



Judy Sutton (1959-2012), Jo Sutton and Lloyd Sutton at the monument marking the original homestead of Lloyd's grandparents.

this machine and uses it to applique when quilt making.

Loneta acquired a scrapbook from her sister-in-law, Dorothy Jean Blevins. In the scrapbook was a newspaper article describing Carroll Electric's 1939 celebration of the first 50 miles of power lines in Benton County. Dorothy had been named "Queen of Light" at this event held at Bella Vista. Thousands of Carroll Electric members attended the celebration and listened to speakers from as far

away as Washington, D.C., and watched an elaborate pageant portraying the progress of light from 3000 B.C. through 1939.

Many long-time residents could share similar memories of when electricity arrived at their home. Their stories are part of what makes Carroll Electric's heritage so strong.

Looking Ahead

With such significant contributions to the progress of northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri, Carroll Electric Cooperative is proud to be in a position to continue meeting the growing needs of this region. There are 38 substations, 10,575 miles of power lines, 264 professional employees, state-of-the-art technology and a fleet of equipment and vehicles to continue providing the reliable, affordable service members have come to rely upon.



Loneta Blevins shares the scrapbook from her late sister-in-law Dorothy Jean Blevins.

The Cooperative's solar demonstration lab has provided live production and maintenance data since 2015 to help members make informed decisions about purchasing home solar arrays.

Purchasing wholesale power generated from a balanced mix of fuels is important to Carroll Electric members. The Cooperative supports a strategy that utilizes renewable resources while preserving the investments members have in existing fuel-efficient power plants.

The next eight decades for Carroll Electric's members will certainly be different from the previous ones. The one thing that will not change is the Cooperative's commitment to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. A proud past...a powerful future...that's Carroll Electric Cooperative.

Leftover Thanksgiving Panini

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 slices sourdough sandwich bread
2 slices Swiss cheese
1/3 cup shredded leftover Thanksgiving turkey
3 tablespoons leftover cranberry sauce
1/3 cup leftover dressing
2 tablespoons leftover giblet gravy
2 tablespoons butter, at room temperature

Spread mustard on both slices of bread, then lay a slice of cheese on each piece. On one slice, arrange the turkey and the cranberry sauce. On the other slice, lay the dressing and spoon the gravy over the top.

Carefully unite the two halves into one sandwich, then spread the top side of the bread with 1 tablespoon of butter.

Invert the sandwich, butter-side down, onto a hot panini maker (or a grill pan or skillet, over medium-low heat). Spread the top with the remaining tablespoon of butter.

Close the panini maker and grill the sandwich until both sides of the bread are crusty and golden, the fillings are hot, and the cheese is melted.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Wishing you all the best of the season

Carroll Electric's business offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23 to observe Thanksgiving. Payments may be made online, or in the night depositories available at each of our four offices. Office addresses and online bill payment options can be found at carrollecc.com



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