Andrew meets its match:
The power of the human spirit

There might be enough energy in ten minutes of one hurricane to match the nuclear stockpile of the entire world, yet even that is no match for the power of the human spirit.

When Hurricane Andrew battered Louisiana with winds over 150 mph, nature staged an awesome display as it pounded Louisiana on August 26, leaving more than 150,000 electric consumers of seven cooperatives in the dark and inflicting millions of dollars in damage to the electric Co-op system.

The majority of cooperative outages beyond the gulf coast were repaired within 48 hours, and the rest took longer because entire lines had to be cleared and rebuilt.

From New Iberia south to the Gulf of Mexico, Teche Electric Cooperative and South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Asso. faced the task of completely rebuilding major parts of their electrical distribution system.

Also suffering major damages were Dixie Electric Members Corp., SLECA, Washington-St. Tammany Electric Co-op, Concordia Electric Co-op and Pointe Coupee Electric Co-op.

Nearly 700 workers and more than 400 vehicles from Louisiana and other cooperatives in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia rushed to the aid of the hard-hit systems.

Some folks just came down to help on their own, like Bert Roan and David McDowell from Farmser Electric Co-op at Greenville, Texas. Using their vacation time, they drove down to Houma in their own car, offering help SLECA was happy to accept.

Several retired employees, like SLECA's Rev. Jared Steele of Amelia, came back to work to help out, as did veteran Russell Guidroz at Pointe Coupee Electric Co-op.

A group from South Carolina's Berkeley Electric Co-op which weathered and remembered Hurricane Hugo drove a caravan of vans packed with relief items to south Louisiana's isolated rural areas.

Louisiana cooperative employees staged a heroic effort during and after the storm, especially in the Teche Electric and SLECA areas, working 16-hour shifts to restore service to members while many of their own damaged homes went unattended.

People like Teche Electric Marketing Director Jerry Fowler got his mother-to-be wife to safety from New Iberia to Pointe Coupee Electric Co-op's office so hungry crews would have a hot meal after long hours in the field.

Brenda Shirley, wife of lineman Donnie Shirley, packed all the spaghetti and meat sauce she could carry to Northeast Louisiana Power Co-op's office so hungry crews would have a hot meal after long hours in the field.

At SLECA, crews moved their entire offices before the storm hit. Many of them had homes unfit to return to after the storm.

Andrew brought out the best in people. Neighbors helped neighbors. Volunteers worked with fire departments, law enforcement agencies, parish maintenance crews and utility crews to clear roads and help the injured.

Those with intact homes welcomed the homeless; those who could prepare a hot meal for those without. Those with freezers or portable generators offered storage space to those with none to save food.

A great many people were inconvenienced by outages and many complained about it. Yet, over and over again, cooperative members took food and drink to workers who were clearing lines or rebuilding entire power systems.

When cooperative trucks bogged down in fields, farmers brought tractors to pull them out. Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corp. workers proudly related how one gentleman, when power was restored, people came out and applauded the crews. Members showed their appreciation by offering out-of-state workers Louisiana dishes few of them had never tasted before.

Everyone got involved. Teche Electric Director Joe Davis loaded his personal vehicle full of food, water and ice and delivered it to senior citizens who had no way to reach pick-up locations. Dixie Electric Director Leslie Falks was among directors and managers who delivered meals in their own cars to linemen scattered across hundreds of miles of Co-op systems.

Cooperative managers like Joseph Cotten of Pointe Coupee Electric, directors like SLECA's Brian Rivet and employees like JoAnn Kimbro along with their families helped load delivery trucks or hand out bottled water, food and ice in communities hardest hit by Andrew for days after the storm.

Supplies were donated by other cooperatives in Louisiana and from many other states across the country.

"We've experienced one of the most devastating hurricanes to ever hit America," A. Paul Wood, executive director of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, noted. "And we've learned the only force equal to a hurricane's power is the generosity and kindness of the human spirit."
Andrew leaves 150,000 Co-op members without

Power systems suffer damage from wind that killed more than 150,000 customers.

Power systems bounce back with massive manpower

Andrew leaves 150,000 Co-op members without electric service. It took an estimated $7 million in manpower to repair damage to 1,500 service centers and 400 pieces of equipment. By the end of the storm, the number of customers without power dropped below 50,000. Almost 60% of the customers lost power in Louisiana, 70% in Mississippi, and 50% in Alabama. The total estimated damage cost was $2 billion. The long-term damage to Louisiana's coast, wetlands and ecosystems will take years to repair.

"Louisiana Country," the official publication of the state's rural electric cooperatives, published an annual hurricane preparedness publication. The publication has never taken longer to appear than this year. Editor Whitney Belanger says it was the most timely item they've ever published.

"Unlike earthquakes, floods, oil spills, or ice storms, our Gulf Coast can expect a hurricane season every year. Sometimes they hit, sometimes not. You cannot underestimate them and you must be prepared to take necessary precautions to protect lives and property," Belanger said.

Severe electric system damage was widespread across south Louisiana.

Mobile homes became rubble.

Majestic Oaks around Houma tangled in downed power lines.

Andrew left many homes roofless.

Clearing lines a foot at a time.

North Louisiana crew helps South Louisiana Coop.

St. Mary Parish sugar cane farmers were hardest hit by Andrew.

Andrea's fury was all too evident around Franklin.
Emergency personnel total 687 Crewmen

Seven states send Co-op crews to restore power

While the winds of Hurricane Andrew were still battering south-central Louisiana, the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops in Baton Rouge began receiving literally hundreds of offers of assistance from Electric Cooperatives and their contractors across the country.

As Louisiana Electric Cooperative crews were able to venture into the storm's aftermath to determine the extent of damage to their systems, Job Training & Safety Director Buck Theriot notified co-ops and contractors across the South about Louisiana's desperate need for men and equipment.

Forty-two Electric Co-ops, and 16 contractors from seven states sent a total of 687 crewmen and more than 400 pieces of equipment to assist Louisiana's Rural Electric Cooperatives.

The following impressive list are those friends who sent help (listed by state) and the number of crewmen they sent to help restore power in the shortest time possible.

Louisiana's Rural Electric Co-op members thank you!

ALABAMA

Electric Co-ops: No. of Men:
Southern Pine 6
Tombigbie 3
Cullman 4
Coosa Valley 4
Covington 5
Baldwin County 7
Dixie Electric 4
Clark-Washington 5
Contractors: Beo Construction 15

ARKANSAS

Electric Co-ops: No. of Men:
Ashley-Chicot 7
First Electric 8

FLORIDA

Contractors: No. of Men:
Musgrove Construction 35

Back Theriot, statewide job training and safety director, coordinated the massive influx of crews to help restore power to cooperative members.

GEORGIA

Electric Co-ops: No. of Men:
Carol 13
Cobb 18
Colquitt 10
Flinth 12
Mitchell 8

LOUISIANA

Electric Co-ops: No. of Men:
BREMC 33
Cajun 7
DEMC 1
Beauregard 9
Jeff Davis Electric 7
Northeast 19
Washington-St. Tammany 8
Claiborne Electric 16
SLECA 3
SLECA 18
Valle Electric 20

MISSISSIPPI

Electric Co-ops: No. of Men:
Coast Electric 19
Natchez Trace 4
Central 8
Delta 3
East Mississippi 9
Four County 23

This crew from Singing River Electric Power Association, a Mississippi Co-op, assisted SLECA at Houma during Hurricane Andrew. They are from the Coast District: Lee Hedegaard, Woody Sanders, James Urey, H.L. (Punk) Ivey, Sam Jones, Terry (Pete) Peterson, Lewis (Mad Dog) Maddox, Jerry (Skeeter) Shock, David (Rip) Pryor, Delma (Sister) Cummins; and the Lucedale Unit: Spencer (Red) Holland, Eddie Havard, Larry Crenshaw, David (Little Fat Buddy) Eubanks, David (Pluto) Cameron, Robbie (BBT) Fairley, Jason (Killer) Fallin, and Stanton Fairley.

Red Simpson, Inc. 25
E. K. Kulaga Co. 23
Chem-Spray 25
A&B Utility Co. 10
Ellis Electric Co. 7
Travis & Travis 8
Spinks Construction 6
Shamrock Construction 33
E. P. Breaux 26
City of New Roads 3

TEXAS

Electric Co-ops: No. of Men:
Wood County 6
Panola-Harrison 20
Sam Houston 8
Deep East Texas 5
Rusk County 6
Jackson 5
Jasper Newton 9
Farmers Electric 2
Contractors: Proline Construction 8
Blume
Asplund Tree
Expert Co. 47

Rescue Your Dying Septic System NOW!
Just Pour Safe, Easy To Use Powder Into Your Commode and Finally...
END SEPTIC TANK BACKUP CLOGGING and SMELL

WHY SEPTIC TANKS BACK UP Septic tanks clog. Backup and smell because of household cleaners, which are great for dishes, laundry, and floors, but not good backers in your tank and create septic tank problems. Without this bacterial action solid waste builds up in your system. The SEPTIPRO® supplement that works with your good bacteria to break down and digest fats, grease, starches, and all organic waste materials including paper and cotton fibers, solid waste, and dirt in your drainfield, drainline, and drainfield drainage. The entire system stops working and works from beginning to end.

SEPTIPRO® MAKES YOUR TANK SAFER. NO MORE COSY MECHANICAL DRAIN CLEANING, DIPPING OR PUMPING.

SAVE AND EASY TO USE Just pour your SEPTIPRO® into your commode, let it work! Results usually visible overnight. Non-toxic, non-flammable, non-hazardous to humans, plants, and domestic animals. Effective in removing all solids and solids in solution. The SEPTIPRO® supplement will completely digest sludge, sludge, and all organic waste materials in the septic tank and drainfield. It is safe for all animals and will completely digest all waste materials and solids in solution. It is not hazardous to people, plants, or animals. It safe for all domestic animals. It is safe for all domestic animals.

SAVE ON LARGER SIZES

Pearl River Valley 8
Singing River 36

END SEPTIC TANK BACKUP CLOGGING and SMELL

CHICAGO (special) — Neighbors were astounded when a woman who for years had suffered from arthritis was discovered buoyantly sweeping her walkway.

The woman then exercised by riding a bicycle.

"I'm taking up tennis again," he said.

"Your book, is Yours Free"

The book has been reprinted and is available to readers of this notice. Information in its pages is usually accessible only to specialists.

"Body Pain: What It Is and How to Relieve It" is available only from its publisher.

"I thought I was doomed to endure pain forever," said a Texas housewife. "I'm leading a normal life again. I couldn't be happier."

The publisher suggests that because of demand, those with arthritis, bursitis, neck or back pain, sciatica, or muscle soreness should write for the booklet without delay.

For a copy, send $1.00 to cover shipping costs to:

Wonder Laboratories
Dept. KOK Lock Box 880
White House, TN 37188

End Septic Tank Backup Clogging and Smell

//Advertisement//
Co-ops reduce suffering through ALEC relief effort

Following "Hurricane Andrew," electric cooperative line crews, right-of-way crews, bucket trucks and contractors weren’t the only relief sent to south Louisiana to assist hurricane victims.

Before the hurricane winds even died down, Louisiana’s electric cooperatives were receiving calls from electric cooperatives from as far away as South Carolina who wanted to help in the relief effort.

Paul Wood, executive director of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, said that hundreds of calls from cooperatives all over the United States were coming in offering their assistance. "We were very glad to have their help," Wood said.

Caravans of trucks loaded with bottled water, ice, and food headed to four cooperative service areas in southern Louisiana that were virtually without power. "We feel that this was the least we could do for these people to make their lives a little easier until the power was restored," Wood said. "Everyone pitched in. It was really a big team effort."

Several Louisiana cooperatives participated in the relief endeavor. The first weekend after the storm, volunteers from Valley Electric Membership Corp. in Natchitoches and Teche Electric Cooperative, Jeanerette, distributed water and ice to about 300 people in two of the most hit areas served by Teche Electric in St. Mary Parish. South Louisiana Electric Cooperative (SLECA) in Houma joined the convoy at the Stevensville Volunteer Fire Station to distribute bags of groceries, water and ice to about 250 people. Sandy Stockwell, coordinator of the hurricane relief effort, said that of all the items donated, baby food and diapers seemed to be the most needed. By the time the last bag of groceries was given out at the Amelia Recreation Center where 500 people had waited for assistance, over 4,000 bags of ice, 3,000 bottles of water and 800 bags of groceries had been distributed.

Similar convoys of water and ice were sent to Grosse Tete by Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corp. and to St. Francisville by Dixie Electric Membership Corp. Claiborne Electric Cooperative in Homer supplied a U-Haul of food which was distributed to over 400 people who were still without power and Berkeley Electric Cooperative in South Carolina brought eight employees and four vans of supplies to victims in the hardest hit cooperative areas.

While President Bush toured severely damaged Jeanerette, where Teche Electric is based, volunteers organized by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperative (ALEC) distributed food, water and ice to several hundred hurricane victims just three blocks away.

In addition to the volunteers and supplies being donated to south Louisiana, ALEC has set up a "Hurricane Andrew Relief Fund" to aid the victims of "Hurricane Andrew."

"We are receiving checks from cooperative linemen, directors, secretaries and employees from all over the country," Wood said. "It is really gratifying to see the cooperative spirit in action."

One donation to the fund was made by Dale Brown, LSU head basketball coach and native North Dakotan, who presented a check for $2,500 to the "ALEC Relief Fund" from the North Dakota Electric Cooperatives.

LSU Basketball Coach Dale Brown (above left) presents a check for $2,500 to the Hurricane Andrew Relief Fund on behalf of the North Dakota Electric Cooperatives. A. Paul Wood, executive director of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, accepts the check which is being used along with other donations from across the country to aid the victims of the hurricane. Below, eight employees of Berkeley Electric Cooperative in South Carolina unload the four van loads of supplies they brought to hardest hit Louisiana electric cooperatives.

Louisiana Electric Cooperative employees hand out ice and water in hard-hit rural areas of the Teche Electric Cooperative service area near Jeanerette, which had 150 mph winds for several hours.

Hurricane-ravaged members of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative line up for ice and water distributed by Louisiana Electric Cooperative employees in Amelia near Morgan City. Such basics as ice, water and food were distributed in hardest-hit areas through money donated by Electric Cooperative employees nationwide.

Grateful cooperative members bring home ice and water.

September 1992, LOUISIANA COUNTRY, Page 7
Crews Work To Recover Co-Op From Andrew's Destruction

A Special Thanks to the many cooperative Employees and Families who came together to help SLECA with the Hurricane Andrew recovery (see pages 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7)

SLECA News
SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSN., P.O. BOX 4037, HOUMA, LA 70367 (876-6860)

Cooperatives are unique in that their members own and control their businesses. This ownership characteristic is unique because by your vote you decide future leaders, issues and changes that affect your business, county and community.

 voiced earlier in the year to consider amendments to extend Louisiana’s exemption from the following to become effective on the October 15th, and we are asking for reconsideration on the November 5th.

SLECA News

July 6, 1992

Ministers of the regular session to August 15th.

NRCA of

First Amendment to the state Constitution which affects the rights of businesses and workers in Louisiana.

FARMER'S MARKET & CRAFT FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1992
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
SLECA GROUNDS
COTEAU ROAD - HWY 660 - HOUMA, LA

CRAFTS - PRODUCE - FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT
FREE ADMISSION

Enterainment By:
Ev. J. R. Jerry Steele & The Gospel Crusaders
4-H Club Cooking Contest

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 11, 1992

SLECA President Mike Guidry announced the Board of Directors approved several amendments to the state Constitution which are in the process of becoming law.

The amendments which are in the process of becoming law are:

Amendment No. 1: To authorize the use of funds for programs of watershed, cleanups, grants and investments to promote economic development in the state. These programs are established by local governments and by two-thirds of the legislative membership of the legislature or by two-thirds of the governing body of a special purpose district.

Amendment No. 5: To eliminate the requirement that a family court has jurisdiction over cases involving title to movable and immovable property and to provide that the family court has jurisdiction over the date of marriage or of the date of separation.