

McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • www.mclennanelectric.com • (254) 840-2871

HUNTING DOGS—HOBBIES AND BEST FRIENDS

It began as a hobby ...

Almost 10 years ago, James and Anna Slover decided to bring their dream to life by way of a female Labrador retriever named Hershey. Then there was Dottie, and now they have Rocky. In all, Rocky Hill Labs has raised approximately 150 registered AKC Labrador puppies in three colors: yellow, black and chocolate.



Rocky, a yellow Lab, was their first choice when it came time to purchase a Lab for stud services due to his pedigree. Rocky's mom is a top class hunting dog, and his dad was a winning show dog



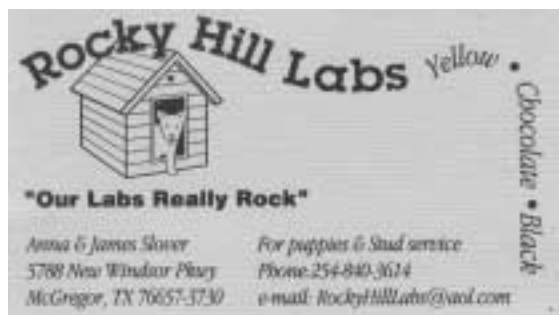
The Slovers went to Oklahoma City to buy this new dog for their business. Rocky quickly became their house

pet, but he is still one of the two stud dogs that they have for breeding. Their four female Labs usually have one to two litters per year.



What started out as a hobby has grown into a breeding and boarding business and will probably become a full-time job for James whenever he retires from his job as a serviceman with McLennan County Electric Cooperative. Progressively adding facilities for the business, they now have six outside kennel pens and two inside pens. The inside area is heated and air-conditioned. There is a bathing area to prepare the pups for their new homes. Rocky Hill Labs also boards dogs while their masters are away for work or vacation.

Their registered AKC Labrador retriever puppies sell from \$150 to \$400, with pricing determined by sex, age and color. If anyone is interested in more information about Rocky Hill Labs, the Slovers live northeast of McGregor on FM 3047 and can be contacted at the telephone number or e-mail listed on their business card below.



We salute those serving our country; many are our neighbors and friends. Being part of the community is something we take seriously. We hope you and your family enjoy a happy Thanksgiving.

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TIGHTEN UP YOUR FIREPLACE

That comforting, crackling fire in your hearth may be costing you a fortune in heating bills. Most fireplaces are less than 10 percent energy-efficient.

Even with the flue closed, warm air can get sucked out of the house through the chimney in the winter, and cold air can leak out in the summer.

To save money on your electric bill, isolate the room your fireplace is in by closing doors, if possible. If nobody is using the home's other rooms while you're cozying up to the fire, turn the thermostat down to about 55 degrees in the rest of the house.

Some other tips for a more efficient fireplace:

- Install tight-fitting glass doors on your fireplace. This will decrease the amount of air that leaks through the chimney, but it won't stop it altogether. Open glass doors while the fire is burning at its hottest; close them as the fire dies down. Glass doors also greatly reduce the risk of accidental fires caused by burning embers popping out of the fireplace.

- Equip the fireplace with an outdoor air intake. This allows your fire to draw air from the outside instead of

using the heated air inside the home as fuel. An alternative: station air inlets as close to the fireplace as possible.

- Buy a fireplace insert to increase energy efficiency. Inserts are available in a range of sizes and styles and have strict air controls to prevent leaking.

- Close the fireplace off if you don't use it at all. Plug the flue and use caulk to make a tight seal. Let everyone know not to start a fire in the sealed-off fireplace!



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: HAY VALLEY

Hay Valley is a dispersed rural community on State Highway 36, four miles northwest of Gatesville in north central Coryell County. It is bordered to the north by a low mountain range, to the west by the old Ames community, to the south by the Leon River, and to the east by a state prison installation.

George Washington Tanner and his wife, Martha Matilda Smith Gillion Tanner, settled in the valley in 1870. They established a successful farm and stock-raising operation and by about 1878 had completed a two-story rock house up next to the mountain on the north side of the highway. In the late 1980s, the house was still kept in good repair by its owners. The nearby Yows home, built in the 1880s, is another beautifully restored building; by the late 1980s, it had been occupied by five generations of the Yows family.

Since Hay Valley is so close to Gatesville, it never had a post office, but it did have a church and a school. Its church, organized in 1881, was originally called the Hay Valley Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, and later the Hay Valley Baptist Church. For a time, the community's school and church met in the same building, but eventually a separate schoolhouse was built. After the children in Hay Valley were transferred to the Gatesville schools, the Hay Valley school building was deeded to the church, which was still using it in the mid-1980s. At that time about a dozen farms occupied the valley. Descendants of early settlers still living there include members of the Davis, Byrom, Quicksall and Yows families.

Copyright: The Texas State Historical Association; The Handbook of Texas online

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

OUT OF GAS

Jesse Noland, 5, does his part to help conserve energy while little brother Jacob Noland, 3, provides an alternate power source. Clearly, Jesse prefers a riding mower while Jacob leans in favor of "push" mowers. Both boys are grandsons of Tom and Deb Penney of McGregor.



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NOTICE OF COLLECTION POLICIES AND FEE

In a continuing effort to provide the members of McLennan County Electric Cooperative with dependable electric service at the most affordable price, MCEC's board of directors has revised the collection fees and policies. The changes, which become effective January 1, 2005, are as follows:

- The delinquent penalty on commercial accounts will be 5 percent of the total bill or \$5, whichever is greater. The previous penalty was 5 percent of the bill.
- The trip charge for a collection connect, disconnect or call out for a problem on the member side of the meter will be \$50.
- The overtime additional fee for a trip other than out-of-age calls made after 4 p.m. will be \$75. Reconnects will be made the following day for calls received after 7 p.m.
- Any account disconnected for nonpayment may be required to bring the account current before reconnection.

• No cash will be collected in the field by a one-man crew. Receipts will be written for payments received in the field.

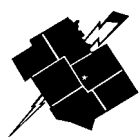
MCEC's employees try to accommodate the needs of all our members; however, it is critical that the members understand the importance of paying their bills on time. Disconnection of a member's electric service is an unpleasant, but necessary, part of the cooperative's duties. The member's bill is due upon receipt and considered late 16 days from the billing date on the monthly statement. When a bill is not paid on time, the collection process costs the entire co-op membership.

We understand that this is a large increase; however, we must adjust the fees to help cover the costs of these services. If the cost of a service is not covered, the entire membership subsidizes that service. Members who have questions regarding these changes should contact the MCEC office at (254) 840-2871 or 1-800-840-2957.

**McLENNAN COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
Your Home Team Advantage

HOLIDAY CLOSING

McLennan County Electric Cooperative will be closed November 25 and 26 in observance of Thanksgiving. We will open Monday, November 29. We hope you and your family enjoy a safe holiday together.



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REMINDERS

PHOTOS

We are still in need of photos of members' families, children, grandkids or something special to you. You can send these to Neil Johnson at the office, or e-mail them to neil@mclennanelectric.coop.

SCHOLARSHIP AND YOUTH TOUR PROGRAMS

We will be sending out information on the MCEC Youth Tour program as well as scholarship applications to area schools in the near future. Watch for information on these or check our website at www.mclennanelectric.coop.