



Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Up Date

June, 2008



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Dan Laws

“. . .take advantage of your opportunity.”

A story was once told of a man traveling across the American frontier in the late 1800's, who happened on the camp of a strange little man near the edge of a desert. The little old man was elated to have some company and quickly offered cool water to drink. The visitor explained he could not stay long, that he was in a hurry to complete his journey west. The strange little old man quickly warned his visitor that it would be wise to sit and visit until nightfall and then resume his journey across the desert.

To travel in the heat of the day was certain suicide, he told his visitor. The visitor was eventually convinced it would be folly to attempt crossing the desert in the heat. After they had talked for a while, the little old man encouraged his visitor to get some sleep, with the promise he would wake him at moon rise to continue his journey across the desert.

The visitor was awakened as promised, and promptly prepared to cross the desert. The strange old man walked with his visitor to the edge of the desert. They stopped near a pile of pebbles and said their farewells. The little old man made one final request of the visitor. He asked him to gather as many pebbles as he wanted and take them with him on his journey.

The visitor had no interest in gathering the pebbles, but did not want to disappoint his gracious host. So, he did as asked and gathered a handful of pebbles. As he walked into the desert, the little old man called after him saying, "In the morning take a look at the pebbles and be both happy and sad."

As they parted ways, the visitor was admittedly curious about what the old man had said. He thought of it many times, as he walked through the night. By morning, he had reached the other side of the desert. As he sat down to rest, he remembered the little man's request and opened his tote sack to look at the pebbles. To his amazement, he was instantly happy, as he gazed at what he could now see were gold nuggets. Almost as quickly, he felt sadness, because he remembered the old man told him to take as many as he wanted.

Life in general is that way for all of us. There are so many experiences we take for granted. Because we do, we fail to "gather as many" of those experiences as we will one day wish we had. Perhaps the very best example is our relationship with our children. For all of us, there will be something that we didn't gather as much as we now wish we had. One of the secrets of life is to make certain there aren't too many of those things.

We are entering into the election process here at Rio Grande Electric. It is time for you to consider who you will want to manage your electric utility into the future. Three of the four directors, whose seats are up for re-election, have reached their term limits and must go off the board for at least three years. This is your chance to shape the future of the Cooperative. Please vote. Balloting is done by mail, which is both convenient and easy. There is no excuse for the limited participation we experience. I encourage you not to gather too little; take advantage of your opportunity. There may come a day when you will be happy you did and sad you didn't do more.

Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 22-28 ----- Visit www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov