

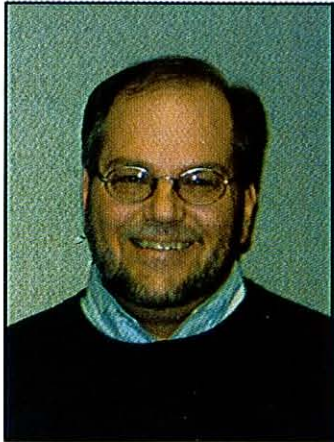


"Owned By Those We Serve"

UP DATE



February, 2002



A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

Valentine's Day: Who was Valentine, and why should we remember him?

Though we are all terribly caught up in our careers, children, and the whirl of every day life, each February, our thoughts turn to Valentine's Day. In trying to come up with an appropriate message to you, I decided to find out the "hows" and "whys" of Valentine's Day. Just who was this fellow, for whom we have named the day we set aside to honor and celebrate "love"? There are several different stories – at least three, that I found. Though they are similar, each puts a slightly different spin on how we came to celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

Who was Valentine? This question is not an easy one to answer. Depending on which book you read, you might find one author making the case that there were two different men named Valentine, whose lives were mixed together to form one legend, and another arguing that two different legends are about the same man. Still another author might say that there were three men named Valentine.

The History Channel gives the following answers to who "Valentine" could have been:

- Valentine was a Roman priest who was martyred during the persecution of Claudius the Goth around A.D. 269 or 270 and buried on the Flaminian Way.

- Valentine was a bishop of Terni martyred in Rome.

- Valentine as a youth, though unsaved, helped Christians during a time of persecution. He was caught and put in jail, became a believer there, and was clubbed to death for this on February 14, 269. While in prison, he is said to have sent messages to friends saying, "Remember your Valentine", and "I love you".

- In one story, it is said that Valentine was a priest that secretly married couples, defying the law of Emperor Claudius which temporarily forbid marriages.

- Valentine was imprisoned for refusing to worship pagan gods. Making friends with the jailer's daughter, he is said to have cured her through prayer, and on the date of his execution (Feb. 14th) he is said to have written her a note signed, "Your Valentine".

The one thing we can be sure of is that at least one person by the name of Valentine did live and that he was killed for being a Christian. Beyond this, we are on shaky ground. So no matter which Valentine story you choose to believe, the fact is that he is remembered.

His name is associated with Christianity and love. If each of us can live our lives in such a way as to be remembered

through the centuries for our goodness, then we will have accomplished much.

Though we don't expect there to ever be a "Rio Grande Electric Cooperative Day", we do our best for our members, and would hope that the way we conduct business will be thought of kindly. We don't expect to be remembered with a Valentine's Day card, but you can remember us as

"Your Home Team Advantage".

We Love Our Members!

