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**GENERAL MANAGER**

Dan Wilkerson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Bill Atkinson,  
*Chairman*
- Hank McQuaide,  
*Vice Chairman*
- Frank Thurmond,  
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- Roy Trotter

**DIVISION MANAGERS**

- Michael Hering
- Pat Kasper
- Gary Miller
- Scott Smith
  
- Lee R. Starr  
*Chief Risk Officer*

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

- Billing/Collections/Connects  
(979) 821-5700
- Electrical Outage/Lines Down  
(979) 822-3777
- Energy Audits / Conservation  
(979) 821-5772
- Distribution/Line Design  
(979) 821-5700
- Power Track Cards/Service  
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# Food For Families Food Drive Stocks Area Pantries

*Story by Louellen S. Coker*

For the eleventh year running, Brazos Valley citizens will have the opportunity to help stock the shelves of the Brazos Valley Food Bank and aid the many agencies and pantries in the region during the Food For Families food drive, organized by KBTX-TV. This community outpouring brings together people from businesses and all walks of life to provide for others.

As in previous years, those giving non-perishable foods or cash to support the cause can donate at the Brazos Center in Bryan on Thursday, December 7, 2006, from 5:30 am until 10:35 pm. Back again, are the two satellite drop-off sites which debuted last year. People who are unable to make it to the Brazos Center can work to end hunger by dropping off their nonperishable goods at the The Kimbro Center in Madisonville or Mid-South Synergy in Navasota from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm.

“The Food For Families food drive is extremely important to the hungry

in our community,” said Theresa Mangapora, Brazos Valley Food Bank Director. “We had another record-breaking drive in 2005. \$53,730 and 190,000 pounds of food were collected locally to assist in the fight against hunger on the local level. Neighbors helping neighbors in need. The Brazos Valley should be proud of these efforts.”

She emphasized, “We are the Brazos Valley Food Bank, but happen to be based in Brazos County. Not everyone who lives throughout the Brazos Valley understands the reach of our organization—40 partners in 5 counties. This is why the satellite drives are so important. It allows individuals to learn about the hunger relief organizations in their town, support them and find out just how much the Brazos Valley Food Bank contributes to the success of their efforts. Fostering partnerships to feed hope—that is our slogan.”

“We invite everyone to come out and give from their hearts as they help

**Area community members, like the enthusiastic teachers from Neal Elementary, show tremendous support for the KBTX-TV Food For Families food drive held each December.**



end hunger,” said Mandy Garland, KBTX-TV Promotions Director, “whether it be through nonperishable food, paper or toiletry items, money, the ability to sort food or provide musical entertainment. Every aspect of the program is vital for its success.”

She elaborated, “KBTX-TV created this as something we

*Food continued on page 23.*

# Scarmardo Gin Continues Cotton Legacy

Story by Louellen S. Coker

Scarmardo Gin, one of the oldest cotton gins in the Brazos Valley was founded in 1932 by a conglomerate of farming families and has emphasized providing its customers with quality ginning in order to maximize their return on their crop investment. Over the years, descendants of the five founding families have owned and operated the gin. The current Board of Directors is comprised of Mark Carrabba, Mike Patranella, Vince Patranella, Gene Polzer, Frank Scarmardo and Steve Scarmardo.

“We have always been a community gin,” stated Vince Patranella. “At one time we were one of fifteen gins in the area; now we are the only gin in the area for some of our customers and have only a handful of competitors throughout our full service area.”

The current gin, located at 2024 FM 50 in Caldwell, was built in 1960 and has been updated over the years. It serves cotton farmers in a 60-mile radius of the Brazos River bottom, comprised of Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Milam and Robertson counties.

“In essence, ginning has changed very little over the years,” said Vince.

“However, we have been successful because we have incorporated changes in technology. We focus on the little things that increase the quality of the product and provide good customer service for our farmers. When they have a successful year, we have a successful year.”

Ginning season runs from the end of August until some time in November, depending on when the year’s cotton crop is harvested and the last bale is sent to market. The gin goes into 24 hours a day, 7 days a week production as the first modules arrive from their customers. Modules, which are delivered within a two to three week period, are large units of unprocessed cotton that have been harvested by the farmer. How the farmer loads the module transporter, determines the amount of cotton any module will yield.

During ginning season, 30 people constantly work to get the cotton processed and on its way to market as soon as possible. Safety is a very important factor for the gin. Employees undergo training each year to ensure they know how to work safely with any upgrades to the equipment that occurred during the off season.

“We stress safety through

mandatory training for everyone from crew to management each year,” asserted Mark Carrabba. “We make sure our employees are safe and pay them for the excellent job they do. Many of them return each year and bring family members with them.”

Once the farmer delivers his harvest, weighs it and tells the gin operators where to send the processed fiber, the modules are put into storage under special tarps in the gin’s yard to await ginning. Ginning, which takes the raw cotton boll and removes the seeds and other debris from the cotton fiber and then places it in a bale, is the first step in making cotton-based products.

To process a module, Scarmardo Gin uses a module transporter to move the module for feeding into the separator unit. The separator unit loosens the packed cotton and conducts initial trash removal before conveying the cotton into the gin where it undergoes drying, cleaning and extracting before lint and seed are separated in the gin. After all the fibers are removed from the seeds, the seeds are sent to a holding area and the lint undergoes a final cleaning and combing before being put into a bale and prepared for shipping.

Once ginned, the bales of cotton are

## The Ginning Process

1. The cotton ripens in the field.
2. Farmers use a combine to harvest their cotton and ready it for the gin.
3. The module transporter readies a load to begin the ginning process.
4. The separator unit loosens the packed cotton to begin ginning.



## Did you know?

A single bale of cotton produces

<b>330</b>	<b>Jeans</b>
<b>1217</b>	<b>Men's shirts</b>
<b>896</b>	<b>Woven blouses</b>
<b>542</b>	<b>Women's skirts</b>
<b>3015</b>	<b>Baby diapers</b>
<b>782</b>	<b>Terry bath towels</b>
<b>7820</b>	<b>Men's handkerchiefs</b>
<b>484</b>	<b>Men's dress trousers</b>
<b>210</b>	<b>Sheets</b>
<b>1120</b>	<b>Pillow cases</b>

sent to the buyer of the farmer's choice and the seeds are separated based on quality and sold for seed or to be processed for human consumption in cottonseed oil and other similar products. Stems and leaves which are waste products ultimately become fertilizer while waste fiber products sometimes find their way into the paper used for our currency.

The grade and strength of the fiber are directly correlated with the amount of money a farmer receives for his crop. The price for cotton ranges from \$0.45 to \$0.58 per pound. In 2005, the gin produced 29,000 bales each of which weighed approximately 480 lbs. The average module yields approximately 18-20 bales.

While the ginning process does not affect the basic grade of the fiber, it can impact the quantity that is generated and ultimately the farmer's bottom line. Scarmardo Gin does everything it can to ensure the finished output is of the highest



**Scarmardo Gin is one of the highest production gins in the Brazos Valley.**

quality and quantity.

"We take pride in how we record, track, process and distribute cotton lint," explained Vince. "While the ultimate grade and strength is determined in the field, we make sure we provide the maximum yield possible for our customer."

Scarmardo Gin works closely with Texas A&M University to conduct research and add value to its customer's product through its findings. These studies have included

- the effective life of the tarps that the farmers use to protect their crops in the gin's yard while awaiting ginning.
- the effectiveness of different types of tarps.
- the way cotton is formed into modules.
- the most effective bale shape.
- how the cotton is preserved in the field.

To ensure future generations understand the historical significance

of cotton to the area, Scarmardo Gin works with local schools and conducts tours of the gin to explain the ginning process and how cotton is an integral part of our lives.

"Young children often do not understand the relationship between the clothes they wear and the cotton they see growing in the fields," explained Paul Salas, Scarmardo Gin Superintendent. "They are amazed to see the process and to learn how important cotton is to their lives."

When the ginning season is over, a different kind of work begins. The number of employees is scaled down and the gin undergoes repairs and upgrades in preparation for the next season. The office staff spends the off season ensuring the farmers receive proper payment for their crops.

For more information about Scarmardo Gin or the ginning process, please contact them at (979) 272-8334.

**5. The cotton lint and seeds are separated in the gin.**



**6. Combed and cleaned lint is formed into bales.**



**7. Cotton bales, weighing 480 lbs., are wrapped.**



**8. Bales are readied to be shipped to the farmer's buyer.**



# Bryan Texas Utilities' Chick Herrin Becomes Legend in His Own Time When Inducted into the International Lineman's Hall of Fame

Story by Florence Ridlon, Ph.D.

Bryan Texas Utilities' (BTU's) own James "Chick" Herrin was the only inductee still alive to accept the award in the inaugural class of the International Lineman's Hall of Fame. The beautiful poster for the induction shows five men in suits and ties and Chick in rain gear and helmet in a bucket truck. The others honored with this distinction were

- Thomas Edison (1847-1931), who invented the first commercially practical incandescent light and vowed "We will make electricity so cheap that only the rich will burn candles."
- Mathias Klein (1826-1918), who

forged the first lineman's pliers that would become the standard of the industry.

- Henry Miller (1850-1896), the founder and first president of what is today known as the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
- Andy Anderson (1910-1983), the first live line demonstrator for A.B. Chance, now Hubbell Power Systems.
- Floyd Pike (1918-1975), the founder and first president of Pike Electric, a company that is today the largest, most successful electrical contractor in the southeastern United States.

Chick was also the only lineman inducted into the elite first class of the International Lineman's Hall of Fame. And Chick is a lineman's lineman. He's done it all. He worked on huge transmission lines, up to 500 kv, set steel towers with helicopters, worked in the swamps in Louisiana, in the mountains and deserts of New Mexico and Colorado, in hurricane ravaged East Texas, on distribution cutovers in Michigan and served BTU customers with dedication for the last 22 years.

In nominating Chick, BTU's Group Manager, Transmission & Distribution, Roy Trotter said, "Chick Herrin is steadfast in his dedication to a profession that requires unique qualities of an individual. He displays the characteristics of a seasoned craftsman with a passion to prepare the next generation of electrical workers and the energy of an apprentice. The respect he commands is unsurpassed with subordinates, peers, management, and utility customers. Chick Herrin is a champion master craftsman and the kind of individual that exemplifies the qualities that establish the true nature of the Brotherhood of Electrical Linemen."

With BTU's General Manager, Dan Wilkerson, and Roy Trotter looking on, Andy Price, the International

**Chick Herrin, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Texas Lineman's Rodeo, surveys the scene of the 2005 Rodeo from a bucket truck.**



Lineman's Hall of Fame founder and curator, presented Chick with his Hall of Fame plaque before an audience of 4,000 at the banquet for the 2006 International Lineman's Rodeo and Expo in Overland, Kansas. An emotional Chick Herrin thanked the crowd with his usual eloquence. Chick is a modest man which perhaps explains part of why he is so universally loved at BTU. He says about his induction, "After all the years of working in a trade that I have loved so much, being inducted into the Lineman's Hall of Fame, is amazing. I cannot put into words what or how I feel. Certainly, I don't feel deserving because I have worked with so many truly great linemen over the years."

He may not feel he deserves it, but everyone at BTU feels there is no one more deserving of this honor than Chick Herrin. Dan Wilkerson expressed the sentiments of all the employees of BTU when he said, "Chick Herrin is a credit to BTU and his chosen profession. There is no better example of all the good, decent and heroic qualities that it takes to be a great lineman than Chick. We at BTU are thrilled with this award that has been bestowed upon him and feel blessed that we have the opportunity

to work with Chick."

The purpose of the International Lineman's Hall of Fame, according to Andy, is to "...pay tribute to those linemen and individuals (both past and present) who have contributed to the safety and the existence of the electrical industry and to those individuals who continually exceed in the call of duty. It is our goal that the sacrifices, dedication, and contributions made by these individuals be proudly, honorably, and admirably recognized for their unwavering devotion to linemen and the electrical industry."

2006 was the inaugural class and the judges made certain those they chose were worthy. As stated by the

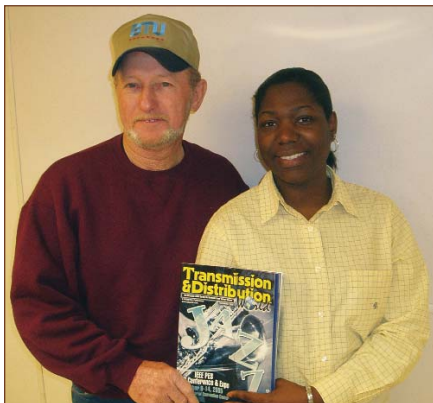



**Mayor Pat H. Fussell (right, front) hands BTU Crew Boss Chick Herrin the key to the City of San Augustine, Texas after BTU linemen volunteered their assistance after Hurricane Rita left the town without power in 2005. BTU Lineman Volunteers John Eiman, Matthew Zavodny, Raymond Tidwell, James Brown and Rodney Jackson (from left to right) look on.**

Hall of Fame Board: "Our goal is to set the standards of future Hall of Fame inductees by choosing the inaugural induction class from those individuals who will set the standards and the caliber of character for nominations and inclusion in the years to come."

**Winners of the 2005 9th Annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo, BTU's competitors (from left, Chris Callaway, Joe Lapaglia, Raymond Tidwell and from right Leroy Thomas, Terry Toole, Kevin Lee and Derek Pusser) pose with their numerous awards and their mentor and BTU Operations Supervisor, Chick Herrin (4th from left).**







**In 2005, Operations Supervisor, Chick Herrin, with the assistance of BTU Engineer, Shawndra Green, wrote an article for Transmission & Distribution World discussing BTU's proactive approach in upgrading and improving the system.**





**International Linemans Museum**  
*Preserving the history of linemen and the electrical utility industry.*

## 2006 Inaugural Inductees

 <p>Thomas Edison 1847-1931</p>	 <p>Mathias Klein 1826-1918</p>	 <p>Henry Miller 1850-1896</p>
 <p>Andy Anderson 1910-1983</p>	 <p>James "Chick" Herrin</p>	 <p>Floyd Pike 1918-1975</p>

The International Lineman's Museum & Hall of Fame will pay tribute to those linemen and individuals (both past and present) who have contributed to the safety and existence of the electrical industry and to those unique individuals who continually exceed in the call of duty. It is our goal that the sacrifices, dedication and contributions made by these individuals be proudly, honorably and admirably recognized for their unwavering devotion to linemen and the electrical industry. For more information, please visit [www.linemanmuseum.com](http://www.linemanmuseum.com).

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do for the community that isn't commercial. We subsidize the costs associated with the food drive and many businesses in the area provide essential support through shopping carts, tables, trucks, traffic control and food for the many volunteers."

Ms. Garland and the Brazos Valley Food Bank are looking for volunteers to assist both during and after the drive. "We need volunteers throughout the day to take donations to sorting areas, to sort the food and to move it

to waiting trucks that will deliver the food to the pantries," she said.

In addition to receiving and sorting canned goods on December 7, BTU and its employees will be collecting donated nonperishable items in the days leading up to the event. Many organizations will do the same. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to do so quickly to ensure there is a function for them during the time they are able to give.

Ms. Mangapora explained, "The stocking of pantries and need for volunteers just begins on December 7.

We also need volunteers in the days following the food drive to help sort and distribute the donations. Last year, we were so successful that it took several months to sort all the food that was donated."

Individuals or groups who are interested in volunteering during the drive or want more information, can visit [www.kbtx.com](http://www.kbtx.com) or contact Ms. Garland at [garland@kbtx.com](mailto:garland@kbtx.com) or 979-846-7777. To contribute or volunteer after December 7, please visit [www.bvfb.org](http://www.bvfb.org), or contact the Brazos Valley Food Bank at 979-779-3663.

**FOOD FOR FAMILIES**



## Most Needed Items for 2007

- 100% Juice Boxes
- Beef Ravioli
- Breakfast Foods (hot & cold)
- Canned Meats
- Dry Cereal
- Cereal Bars
- Coffee
- Cooking Oil
- Crackers
- Creamer
- Diapers (child & adult)
- Dried Beans
- Evaporated Milk
- Flour
- Fruit Cups (shelf stable)
- Fruits (canned)
- Jam
- Jelly
- Ketchup
- Mac n' Cheese
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- Oatmeal
- Paper Towels
- Pasta (any type)
- Peanut Butter
- Powdered Milk
- Pudding (shelf stable)
- Rice
- Soup (canned and pop-top)
- Seasonings
- Stuffing Mix
- Sugar
- Tea
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant)
- Tuna
- Tuna/Chicken Salad lunch kits
- Vegetables (canned)



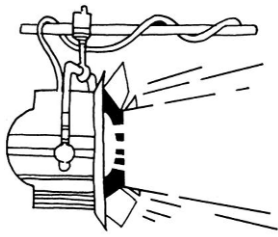
Live footage from the food drive will air on KBTX-TV as hundreds of volunteers help donors unload their vehicles throughout the day.



### Holiday Closings

BTU offices will be closed on the following dates to allow its employees to celebrate the holidays.

December 22-25, 2006  
January 1, 2007



## Employee Spotlight



### *Heddie Lookadoo — Settlement Operations Analyst*

*Story by Louellen S. Coker*

With a strong background in both accounting and technology, Heddie Lookadoo became a Settlement Operations Analyst for Bryan Texas Utilities in 2001. A native of Dilley, Texas, she moved to the Bryan area with her family in 1995 and opted to stay when the company she worked for relocated to the Austin area.

"I enjoy living in a small town like Anderson," Heddie commented. "When my prior employer relocated, I decided to find a job where I could stay in the area because my children were settled in their schools. They are thriving and I find my position at BTU stimulating."

Heddie uses her accounting and technical skills as she reviews all Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) charges and payments that occur daily to verify their accuracy. BTU receives 34 charges based on 720 determinants at 96 intervals each day.

Heddie explained, "I am a data analyst. To do my job effectively, I must understand the ERCOT settlement protocols and calculations and determine if each is being applied correctly as it relates to our Qualified Scheduling Entity (QSE) operations." She expounded, "My job is to make sure we are paid for the energy that we sell to ERCOT and that we pay the appropriate price for any energy we purchase."

Additionally, she creates reports reflecting daily QSE activities which

allow BTU to appropriately gauge the financial impacts of the day's buying and selling of energy and ancillary services with ERCOT.

She works in an ever-changing zonal market. Enhancements to the existing market are discussed through various committees and working groups made up of market participants. Many of these market changes can affect settlement. Heddie participates in the Commercial Operations Subcommittee and the Data Extract Working Group to contribute and stay informed of any changes that would affect BTU.

She is one of the most active settlement analysts in the ERCOT market. She has saved BTU's customers significant money over the last four years. Heddie has filed over 1,000 disputes with ERCOT questioning particular charges or payments to BTU. She disclosed, "Of the several hundreds of disputes I've filed, I have had only five disputes denied since I began." The number of disputes and the success rate Heddie has achieved is due primarily to her knowledge and understanding of both the ERCOT settlement process and QSE operations.

When not ensuring BTU receives the money it is due, Heddie spends time enjoying her hobbies and her family. She raises Quarter Horses and shows Boar goats and horses in shows throughout the state. She also enjoys dove hunting. A former barrel racer,

she teaches her children and other members of 4H and FFA to do so. She nourishes her spiritual side at Singleton Baptist Church in Anderson.

This single mother has three daughters and one son, who are equally as talented as she: Felicia, 22, Michelle, 15, Kathaleen, 14, and John, 13. Felicia, who also works for BTU, is studying Accounting at Blinn College. Michelle, who has Cerebral Palsy, participates in school activities. Kathaleen is very active in school where she plays on the volleyball team, runs cross country track and barrel races. In the summer of 2007, she will travel to Australia and New Zealand as part of the People-to-People exchange program. John plays baseball and basketball. He also has been selected to take the SAT exams in 2007 as part of the Duke University Talent Search.

**Heddie saves BTU considerable money each day as she verifies ERCOT charges.**

