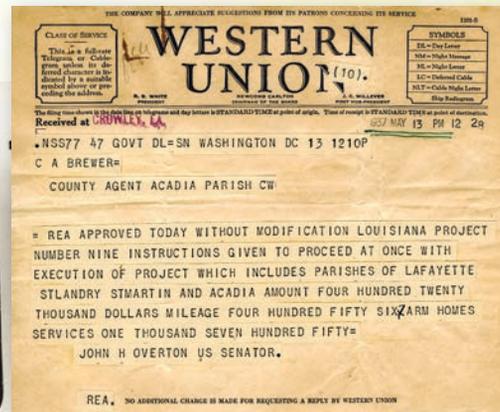


SLEMCO POWER

JAN/FEB
2013



BRINGING THE LIGHT



75 YEARS OF SLEMCO HISTORY

Before 1938 only two homes in rural Acadiana had central station electricity. But all that would change once SLEMCO energized its first line. PAGE 4



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TakeNote

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS TO BE MAILED IN UPCOMING BILLS

Plan now to apply for SLEMCO's scholarship drawing if you would like to win one of 20 \$2,000 scholarships at our annual meeting on June 1.

Applications for the 2013 SLEMCO scholarship will be mailed with every SLEMCO bill in February and March.

The entry deadline is Thursday, May 2, at 4:30 p.m. in the Lafayette SLEMCO office; mailed entries must be postmarked by May 2.

When you receive the form, fill out the application if you, your spouse, your dependent child or legal ward plan to attend a public college in Louisiana this fall (Lucky Account Number 2062611201).

Due to Internal Revenue Service rules, applicants who are dependent children must not turn 24 during 2013. The IRS prohibits parents from claiming children as dependents during the year they turn 24, even if they are full-time students. Any applicants turning 24 during 2013 must have their own SLEMCO account. They can't be sponsored by a parent or guardian, but they may be sponsored by a spouse because all SLEMCO accounts are community property under state law.

If you need more than one application, photocopy both sides of the one you receive, download one from www.slemco.com or wait until the following month to receive another copy in the mail. All area high school guidance counselors have a supply of applications, as do the scholarship offices at UL Lafayette and LSU-Eunice.

Everyone has the same chance to win. Only one application per student will be accepted; duplicate entries will be voided. Make sure to fill out the application com-

pletely and sign the form where indicated.

Eligibility requirements are listed on each form, so please read them carefully. Here's a quick overview:

- Only SLEMCO customers, their spouses, children or legal wards are eligible to win a scholarship. A member cannot sponsor grandchildren, nephews, nieces or friends except as their legal guardian. Children cannot be considered a dependent if they will turn 24 years of age anytime during 2013.



iStock © Mileiko Dilis

- Any student applying must be planning to pursue an undergraduate degree at a public university in Louisiana this fall.

- High school seniors and anyone going back to college or to college for the first time must have graduated from high school with at least a "C" average. Continuing college students must have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

- The sponsoring SLEMCO member must have been a member for the past 12 consecutive months, as of May 2, 2012.

- The applicant is not required to attend the annual meeting on June 1, but the sponsoring member or member's spouse must attend to claim a scholarship.

If a member or spouse is applying, either spouse may attend the meeting to claim the scholarship.

Questions about SLEMCO scholarships should be directed to Mrs. Mary Laurent at 896-5384. Completed applications should be mailed to the SLEMCO Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 90866, Lafayette, LA 70509-0866.

Any entry received after the May 2 deadline will be ineligible.

RISKS OF COMBINING GRAPEFRUIT AND MEDICATIONS

Since the early 1990s, doctors and pharmacists have been telling their patients not to drink grapefruit juice or eat grapefruit while taking certain medications. Less known but equally risky are Seville oranges (used to make marmalade) and tangelos (a cross between tangerines and grapefruit).

But wait, citrus fruit is good for you, right? Citrus fruits, and grapefruit in particular, are excellent sources of vitamin C, potassium and dietary fiber. And most medications are not affected by grapefruit, tangelos and Seville oranges at all.

However, years ago researchers accidentally discovered a drug interaction link while researching whether alcohol would negatively interact with the heart medication Plendil (felodipine). The researchers used grapefruit juice with the alcohol during the study to mask the taste of the alcohol. The blood levels of felodipine were increased several fold, increasing the side effects of the medication. Further studies proved that grapefruit juice was causing the problem.

Why does this happen? Substances in grapefruit, and its close relatives, block metabolizing enzymes in the small intestine. If the drug or medicine can't be metabolized properly, more of the drug enters the bloodstream and stays in the body longer. This can lead to potentially dangerous levels of the drug in your body.

Other medications are affected in the opposite way. Those interactions decrease the amount of medicine actually getting metabolized by the body, which is also a problem (Lucky Account Number 4504603201).

So which medications are affected by grapefruit and its juice? According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration:

- Some statin drugs to lower cholesterol, such as Zocor (simvastatin), Lipitor (atorvastatin) and Pravachol (pravastatin)

- Some blood pressure-lowering drugs, such as Nifediac and Afeditab (both nifedipine)
- Some organ transplant rejection drugs, such as Sandimmune and Neoral (both cyclosporine)
- Some anti-anxiety drugs, such as BuSpar (buspirone)
- Some anti-arrhythmia drugs, such as Cordarone and Nexterone (both amiodarone)
- Some antihistamines, such as Allegra (fexofenadine).



You can check with the University of Florida Center for Drug Interaction Research and Education at <http://www.druginteractioncenter.org> to see if your medications interact negatively. Your best bet, though, is to ask your doctor or pharmacist

if there is an interaction and follow their directions. ●

Sources: www.webmd.com, www.fda.gov/consumer, <http://drugs.about.com>, <http://www.druginteractioncenter.org>



ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

FIREPLACES AND HEATING

A crackling fire in your home adds cozy warmth and delightful light that draws family and friends together on chilly winter evenings.

Enjoyable as a fireplace in your living room or den may be, it is actually a very poor source of supplemental heating—and can increase your energy bill by making your whole-house heating system work harder.

The reason? The traditional home fireplace will suck in heated air produced by your furnace to fuel the fire, then exhaust it through the chimney. Then your furnace must turn on to replace the lost warm air.

Even when not in use, fireplace chimneys may cost you energy by opening your home to cold air in the winter and hot air in the summer. Always close the fireplace damper when it's not in use. You can buy products to temporarily seal the chimney in off season as well. ●

LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS

Only one member claimed a \$10 prize for finding her account number in the previous *SLEMCO Power*: **Betty Joseph** of Maurice.

Nine others missed out on their chance. They included **Pamela B. Galjour** of Duson, **Elzie Lejeune** of Branch, **Orville J. Hanchey** of St. Martinville, **Janet Mistrot** of Opelousas, **Kenric Inzerella** of



Lafayette, **William Naumann Jr.** of Abbeville, **Albert E. Osterholm III** of Carencro, **Tiffany Kleespies** of Youngsville and **Jesse Poimboeuf** of Arnaudville.

Ten more numbers are hidden in this issue. If yours is one of them, call Mrs. Gayle Babin at SLEMCO at 896-2504 to verify if you are a winner (Lucky Account Number 3069090101). ●

LIGHTING THE FUTURE

LOOKING BACK ON SLEMCO'S 75 YEARS

BY CURTIS DARRAH

Reading these words in temperature-controlled comfort and ample illumination of electric light, it might be hard to comprehend how different, and difficult, life in rural Acadiana was prior to the arrival of SLEMCO electricity in 1938.

Rural families had plenty of reasons to retire early from their drudgery, while their neighbors in nearby towns and cities were enjoying some of the comforts and leisure that electric lines made possible. At that time the rural people of Acadiana, like rural people all across the country, were separated from their town and city cousins by more than miles—they seemed to be living in different centuries (Lucky Account Number 3015222501).

In the midst of the Great Depression, the federal government finally decided that rural electrification was an investment in the nation's economy and formed the Rural Electrification Administration to lend money, with interest, to any utility company willing to accept the challenge of electrifying rural America.

And one of those pioneering companies was formed in the Lafayette Parish Courthouse on June 11, 1937, as the Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation—SLEMCO. Less than a year later, at nine a.m., Friday, May 20, 1938, with a flick of a switch at Lafayette Power Plant, SLEMCO energized its first 120 miles of electric lines to begin serving 256 member-owners in Lafayette, Acadia, St. Landry and St. Martin parishes. On the day prior, only two homes in rural Acadiana had the luxury of central station electricity.

SLEMCO was do-it-yourself electricity in more ways than one. When the lights went on in 1938 to the first SLEMCO members, the cooperative had already beaten some formidable obstacles to success. The fledgling utility's officers and directors were not only amateurs in the power business, most hadn't even experienced electricity before. The rural population they had elected to serve was thinly scattered, making it hard and expensive to electrify. But Southwest Louisiana had waited a long while for the opportunity to get electricity; sold on its benefits the organizers, employees and members of the new cooperative were determined to make it happen.

ON THE COVER: At Lafayette Power Plant in 1938, (left to right) SLEMCO engineer U. J. Gajan, board member Howard F. Young, President M. W. Scanlan and an unidentified individual energize the cooperative's first 256 customers along 120 miles of lines.

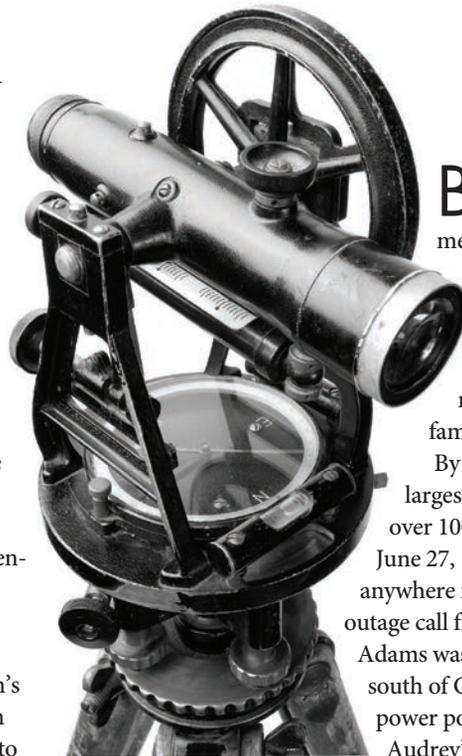


Photo by Curtis Darrah © 2012

The Fifties— Growth and growing pains

By the Fifties, not only had the fledgling cooperative taken flight, it was now providing its members with the lowest rates in Louisiana.

Despite rapid growth, SLEMCO had successfully created a tightly-knit cooperative community. Members may have been scattered across Southwest Louisiana, only a few for every mile of line, but they were all part of the SLEMCO family and owners of their own utility company.

By 1955, with its 22,500 members, SLEMCO was the largest rural electric cooperative in the nation, serving over 100,000 people. But challenges remained. Thursday, June 27, 1957, was a day that no one—at SLEMCO or anywhere in South Louisiana—would ever forget. The first outage call from Hurricane Audrey came at 3:15 a.m. Preston Adams was calling to report the lights were out in his home south of Crowley, apparently from damage to a nearby power pole. It was the first of many to fall that morning as Audrey's vicious winds cut a 200- to 300-mile-wide swath through SLEMCO's service area, eventually knocking out 90 percent of its system.

The dispatch office was swamped with reports as Hurricane Audrey began to flatten, flood and maul the coast of Southwest Louisiana and eastern Texas. This was only the first of many tests over the coming years, pitting the resilience of SLEMCO's system and the dedication of its workers against a catastrophic hurricane.

Audrey was truly an epic storm. Every available crew and employee was called out to restore service and repair damage, with crews working up to 19 hours a day for eight long days. It required a level of teamwork greater than ever before in the cooperative's history, as linemen tightly cinched their climbing belts to keep from being blown off the poles where they were making repairs.

The Seventies & Eighties— Energy and economic pressures

By the end of 1958, the small rural utility had grown into one with annual revenues of over \$2 million. With the spread of electricity, city residents moving into rural areas would continue to become an increasingly more significant portion of SLEMCO's customer base. SLEMCO had truly transformed the makeup of rural South Louisiana by bringing it electricity.

Closing out the following decade at the 1969 annual meeting, SLEMCO could celebrate a year of unprecedented growth. But



SLEMCO's second office was located at 207 North College (later renamed North University) near Four Corners in Lafayette. It was built in 1952 next door to its first office at 203 North College.

In turn, all three men would eventually follow in U. J. Gajan's footsteps as SLEMCO's top manager.

The Nineties to Today— A foundation for the future

from the rosy perspective of 1969, it would have been impossible to recognize the difficulties the corporation would face when it finally entered the Seventies and an inescapable economic storm.

In the early Seventies, the economic boom of the Sixties finally disappeared, leaving the nation to face an economic bust that would extend into the early Eighties, complete with crippling double-digit inflation, four recessions and unemployment that nearly reached 11 percent at its peak.

It would prove a very difficult time for electric utilities.

High oil prices. Weak economic growth. Ever-increasing deficits. A 40 percent stock market drop, crippling the market for a decade. A devalued dollar, risking trade with Arab oil producers. Easy monetary policies backslashing into crippling double-digit inflation. "The Great Inflation of the 1970s" was the economic equivalent of a perfect storm.

On January 1, 1978, SLEMCO's board announced the promotion of U. J. Gajan to chief executive officer and the promotion of Herman J. Kesel to general manager. Gajan had begun his career over 40 years before as a young engineer, and had served as its general manager for the better part of 38 years.

As assistant general manager under Gajan for 33 years, Kesel had worked for SLEMCO in the summers since its birth, and was hired permanently three years later as an engineer who charted some of the earliest SLEMCO lines.

Leon Mocek, another manager who had come up from engineering during a 20-year career, was promoted to assistant general manager, director of operations and maintenance. The final promotion was J. U. Gajan II, promoted to assistant general manager, director of administration. The son of U. J. Gajan, he also came from an engineering background, joining SLEMCO in 1966 from Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph (which became South Central Bell) in Baton Rouge where he was an outside plant engineer.



The 24th Annual Meeting in 1961 was packed with a record-breaking crowd: speakers were set up outside to accommodate those who could not get in. This was the scene in Lafayette's Blackham Coliseum immediately before the drawing for the grand prize, a new \$6,400 all-electric Gold Medallion home: every seat was taken and every inch of standing room was full. Traffic to the coliseum had been bumper to bumper before the meeting.

To reduce dependence on expensive outside sources of power, Louisiana's electric cooperatives had formed Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, which began operating its first power plant, Big Cajun I, in 1972. But by the start of the Nineties, it was becoming hard to ignore that the spiraling economic pressures of the Seventies and Eighties—coupled with high interest rates and unforeseen regulatory issues, had seriously undermined Cajun Electric (Lucky Account Number 1311201000).

SLEMCO and the state's rural cooperatives had envisioned Cajun as a long-term guarantee of lower rates. Now it was becoming increasingly apparent that their financial entanglement with Cajun Electric might drown—not save—them. The cost of power, and in particular the costs of Big Cajun, would eventually pose the greatest risk SLEMCO had faced since stringing its first mile of line.

From the early days of the cooperative, SLEMCO's annual meetings had been heavily attended. From the beginning, the meeting was a tradition that many members looked forward to all year long. Music, coffee and prizes—including giveaway of a new car or truck—had become part of the fun, along with the opportunity to visit with neighbors and friends from communities throughout its eight-parish service area.

But the membership's 55th Annual Meeting in 1992 was special because it included something new: awarding college scholarships worth \$2,000 each by random drawing

to qualifying students, an extremely popular program with SLEMCO member, and to this day a highlight of each annual meeting.

And in 1992, SLEMCO's board of directors elected a new president, Jerry Meaux, a Lafayette Parish businessman from the Judice community. Meaux—a farmer, cattleman, horseman and homebuilder—had served on its board since 1981 and was only the fourth president since its founding president, M.W. "Mike" Scanlan. Meaux remains president of SLEMCO's board of directors to this day.

Continued on page 6



By the end of the 1990s, years of battling in the courts and mediation over who should take over the assets of Cajun Electric Power finally ended with SLEMCO's choice, Louisiana Generating Company, purchasing its assets, including Big Cajun II (above) in New Roads. The results were a rebate for SLEMCO customers and a wholesale power contract ensuring stable and lower rates for decades to come.

On January 15, 1996, Leon J. Mocek retired; he had served as general manager and chief executive since 1985. J. U. Gajan was named as his replacement, a position he holds to this day. He was only SLEMCO's fifth general manager in 59 years.

J. U. "Mickey" Gajan was the son of U. J. Gajan, who managed the utility from 1941 until 1980. Born two years before SLEMCO's founding, the cooperative was at the center of his childhood memories. "The dispatch office was literally in my bedroom: when people would call at night that their power was out, the phone rang in my bedroom on Cedar Crest Court in Lafayette," he recalled.

SLEMCO had weathered the economic downturns and spiraling fuel-cost-driven rate increases of the Seventies and Eighties only to face a daunting new series of challenges by 1996. Growth was flat. The utility had actually lost money for the two previous years.

SLEMCO's financial report to its members in 1996 offered a laundry list of aggressive efforts to manage rates and control costs. This was the start of a push through the end of the decade to prepare the utility for its future. These efforts would make the company stronger, more efficient and more competitive. By 1996 the operating deficits of the previous two years ended, with operating margins back in the black and the utility's customer base climbing to 70,211 by year's end (Lucky Account Number 3245765101).

With the February 1997 decrease, SLEMCO's all-electric rate customers were paying the lowest rates in the area. But the financial problems at Cajun Electric had finally reached crisis, raising serious questions of whether SLEMCO would be able maintain such rates in the future.

The resulting bankruptcy of Cajun Electric Power Cooperative—which took nearly six years to resolve—was a very critical period for SLEMCO's future. Any misstep would have serious implications for the rates the cooperative's members would pay for decades to come.

On August 4, 2000, representatives of SLEMCO and the Louisiana Public Service Commission announced rebate checks totaling \$32 million for SLEMCO customers as part of the Cajun bankruptcy settlement. (From left) SLEMCO CEO & General Manager J. U. Gajan, Public Service Commissioner Dale Sittig, Commissioner Jimmy Field and SLEMCO President Jerry Meaux.



From the beginning, SLEMCO's board and management staff resolved to protect its rates, no matter who prevailed in court. After carefully reviewing all the proposed plans, SLEMCO negotiated an advantageous agreement with Louisiana Generating. That early agreement secured a rate reduction, sizable refunds and a long-term wholesale power contract at advantageous rates that would continue a decade beyond the contracts of most of the other cooperatives in the state.

In 2000, the utility began an aggressive construction program to strengthen its system, from substations to distribution and transmission lines. After the low ebb of the early Nineties, spirits were high and a new sense of pride and renewal was obvious, from the hallways to the front lobby of its headquarters. The men and women guiding the company through perilous shoals had proved themselves worthy successors to its original founders—who with the zeal of missionaries, had electrified all of Southwest Louisiana with low cost electricity, line by line, home by home, leaving an inspiring legacy.

SLEMCO was now a company truly prepared to enter a new century.

By SLEMCO's 65th birthday in 2002, the cooperative had grown to over 80,000 customers and 8,500 miles of line—the largest electric company of its kind in Louisiana. But nature was not kind to Southwest Louisiana in the first decade of the new century. The first in what would be a long series of unwelcome windy visitors, Hurricane Lili, made landfall in SLEMCO territory in September 2002.

That storm cut off the production of oil within the Gulf of Mexico and caused severe damage in portions of the state, and to

Louisiana's barrier islands and southern marshes. By now, SLEMCO had considerable experience with major hurricanes and comprehensive plans for preparing to restore power as quickly as possible in a storm's aftermath, which left behind a trail of muck and misery from widespread wind and flood damage.

But 2005 would be the year Louisiana and her neighbors were pounded consecutively by two of a seemingly unending series of severe storms. It was a hurricane season with a record four Category 5 storms.

Southwest Louisiana escaped the first, Katrina, but the Gulf washed inland less than a month later during Rita. Hurricane Rita's wrath on Acadiana's coastal parishes could be summed up in two words: storm surge.

Fortunately, Rita claimed only one SLEMCO transmission structure, thanks to major improvements in the two years since Hurricane Lili. Within six days power was restored to every SLEMCO member who could receive it. Continued investment over the past few years in a program to strengthen and rebuild SLEMCO's electrical system had paid off, helping its distribution system weather the storm.

Unfortunately, back-to-back hurricanes would pummel Acadiana with wind and water in September 2008.

It began the morning of September 1 when Hurricane Gustav roared ashore as a strong Category 2 storm. By the day prior to landfall, nearly two million people had evacuated southern Louisiana, the largest evacuation in the state's history.

When Gustav slammed Acadiana, it left 85,258 of SLEMCO's 93,469 customers without electricity. But by Saturday night, September 6, power had been restored for nearly every member. By the time Gustav departed, it was time to prepare for the next unwelcome visitor from the Gulf. The problem was that monster storm, Ike, was less than a week away and reported to be the most massive hurricane ever recorded. Weary homeowners and utility crews throughout the state held their breath.

By the time Ike finally made landfall in Galveston, Tex., on September 13, its surge had sent a wall of water miles into Louisiana's mainland. In reflooding parts of Southwestern Louisiana, it added to the heartache of countless families in Cameron, Vermilion and Iberia parishes, some of whom had barely recovered—if at all—from the sweeping floodwaters spawned by Hurricane Rita three years before.

Ike's massive size packed a bigger punch than implied by its Category 2 status. Its surge rose slower than Rita's, but was higher in some areas—and the waters from Ike were painfully slow to recede.



In preparing for the 21st century, SLEMCO began an aggressive construction program to strengthen its system, from substations to distribution and transmission lines. Today SLEMCO's employees—such as (from left) Adam Soileaux, Blair Godfrey, Dallas Donovan, Curtis Catalan, Skip Broussard, Felix Guidry, Paul Guidry and Martin Leonard—continue to build on the inspiring legacy of its original founders, who electrified all of Southwest Louisiana with low cost electricity.

The result was extensive flooding in southern Vermilion and Iberia parishes, reflooding many homes rebuilt after Rita and causing problems even in areas that escaped flooding in that earlier storm.

SLEMCO had built a prudent level of flood protection into its entire electrical system, but with the eroding coastline bringing the Gulf of Mexico ever closer to its southern substations, SLEMCO committed to a five-year \$5.2 million flood mitigation plan, beginning in 2008, to raise these substations to elevations higher than the worst flooding experienced during Hurricane Rita.

How do you assess the success of an organization such as SLEMCO as it marks the passage of its 75th year of service? Ultimately, SLEMCO's remarkable growth and success is due to a steadfast adherence to low-cost electric power (Lucky Account Number 3420180000).

Since 1937, this cooperative effort had achieved its goal of electrifying rural Acadiana and SLEMCO's membership has grown beyond that original base of rural farms to include industry, business and people in villages, towns and cities throughout eight parishes.

During those 75 years, the utility also served to improve life for cooperative members in Southwest Louisiana by supporting initiatives that would create jobs, improve educational opportunities and offer a better quality of life for everyone in Acadiana.

That's why SLEMCO people, working together for better living since 1937, stand ready to light the future for the next 75 years and beyond.





TORNADO SPAWNS NEW HOME

A tornado on Christmas Eve 2009 completely destroyed the home of Charlie and Brandy Freed of Crowley. But the family is now enjoying a spacious Design One home. The family built their new home earlier than expected after losing their former home in a matter of seconds, while Brandy and the children took shelter in a bathroom, the only room left standing once the twister had passed.

Two notable details in the Freed home are a granite island in the kitchen that was “leather finished” at Massimo Precision Granite in Lafayette and a brick garage, which Brandy notes is very easy to keep clean. Both features are out of the ordinary and merit inclusion in your home plans (Lucky Account Number 2106731000).



Brandy & Charlie Freed with Macey, 7, and Emma, 5.

In addition, the family room fireplace backs a matching fireplace out on the patio, a feature that we are seeing more and more in new construction.

The Freed home has 3,600 square feet of living area and 5,600 square feet under roof. Their electric bills are just a little higher than the bills at their previous home, which was half the size, despite keeping their thermostat lower than before on hot summer days.

Another important benefit in such energy efficiency is that the money saved can help build a nicer home or pay your mortgage off sooner.

If you have a new home in your future, consider building it to SLEMCO’s Design One standards. Call Robert Mitchell at 896-2524 for help with specifications and guidelines. ●



An interesting feature is this family room fireplace, which backs a matching fireplace on the patio—great for winter parties.

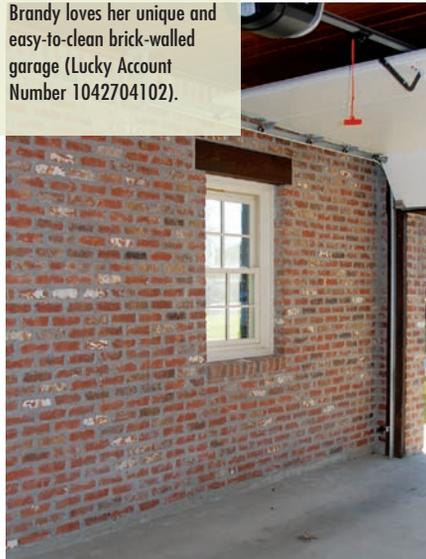




Meticulously stained and scored concrete floors add detail and drama to this beautiful home.



Brandy loves her unique and easy-to-clean brick-walled garage (Lucky Account Number 1042704102).



THIS HOME'S FEATURED SUPPLIERS

- **BUILDER:** LK Breaux and Associates, Keith Breaux, Crowley
- **LUMBER:** Stine Lumber, Crowley
- **HEATING/COOLING:** J&K AC & Heating, Crowley
- **ELECTRICIAN:** Tommy Thevis, Mowata
- **PLUMBING:** Pioneer Plumbing, Jennings
- **WINDOWS:** Windows, Doors & More, Lafayette
- **DOORS:** Stine Lumber, Crowley
- **FLOORING:** Concrete stained by Keith Breaux
- **APPLIANCES:** Leleux's, Crowley
- **PAINTERS:** Keith Breaux, Crowley
- **BRICK:** Mike Baker Brick, Lafayette
- **CONCRETE:** Port Aggregates, Jennings
- **CABINETS:** Hebert's Cabinets, Breaux Bridge
- **INSULATION:** Stine Lumber, Crowley
- **GARAGE DOORS:** Acadiana Overhead & Roll Doors, Crowley
- **INTERIOR DESIGN:** Sue Briggs, Crowley
- **GRANITE:** Leather finish by Massimo, Lafayette, for the kitchen; Precision Granite in Scott, all other rooms.

Planning a new home on SLEMCO power? Call Robert Mitchell at 896-2524 or e-mail robert.mitchell@slemco.com for information on our latest Design One guidelines.



(Right) The leather-finished granite island adds a touch of richness. Brandy planned a cabinet filled with her beautiful crystal (photo left, opposite page) so that it would be revealed through the open pantry door.

These recipes come from **The Smithfield Cookbook...Continuing Traditions** by *The Woman's Club of Smithfield*. To order, send \$18 plus \$4 shipping and handling to *The Woman's Club of Smithfield, P.O. Box 754, Smithfield, VA 23431*, or visit www.gfwc-smithfieldva.org for more information.

Seafood Lasagna with Brandied-Basil Cream Sauce

- 8 cups ricotta cheese
- 1 1/2 cups grated Parmesan Reggiano cheese
- 3/4 lb. shredded provolone cheese
- 6 eggs
- 24 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 1 tbsp. black pepper
- 1 lb. lasagna noodles, cooked
- 24 large shrimp, cut lengthwise, peeled and deveined
- 1 lb. lump crabmeat
- 2 lbs. sea scallops, large dice
- 9 thin slices provolone cheese

Preheat oven to 350°. This recipe should make 3 layers. In a bowl, mix together ricotta, Parmesan, shredded provolone, eggs, basil and black pepper. Spray the bottom of a lasagna pan with cooking spray. Add a layer of noodles. Spread a thin layer of cheese mixture to cover noodle layer and top with a layer of shrimp, crabmeat and scallops. Repeat steps again, ending with a layer of noodles until you have completed the process 3 times. Arrange provolone cheese slices on top of lasagna. Bake for approximately 1 hour or until golden brown and bubbly.

To serve, cut into portions and place lasagna on a plate. Generously spoon Brandied-Basil Cream Sauce over the top and garnish with fresh basil.

BRANDIED-BASIL CREAM SAUCE

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 cup Cognac or brandy
- 12 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 1 cup shrimp stock
- 1/2 cup Parmesan Reggiano cheese salt and white pepper to taste

Bring heavy cream, Cognac, basil leaves and stock to a boil. Reduce mixture to preferred consistency. Add Parmesan cheese, stirring to melt and remove from the heat. Add salt and pepper.

CHEF'S NOTE: Make your own shrimp stock by boiling together and reducing by 2/3 the following ingredients:

- shells from 5 lbs. of shrimp
- 1 peeled Bermuda onion studded with 8 whole cloves
- 3 bay leaves
- 2 tbsp. whole black peppercorns
- 5 quarts of water

–Monroe Duncan

Fantastic Broccoli Vegetable Salad

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1–2 tbsp. cider vinegar
- 2 heads broccoli, cut in small pieces
- 1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1–2 sweet red peppers, diced
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup dried sweetened cranberries

Mix mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar well and set aside. Mix all other ingredients in a large bowl and stir in the mayonnaise mixture. Refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.

–Evelyn E. Munford

Fried Green Tomato Caprese

- 3 green tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 eggs, beaten lightly with a touch of skim milk
- 2 cups Panko (Japanese bread crumbs)
- 1 lb. fresh mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 red onion
- 1 bunch fresh basil
- 1/2 cup olive oil (includes oil for frying)
- 1/2 cup aged balsamic vinegar salt and cracked pepper

Thinly slice green tomatoes as if to

place on a sandwich. Dredge in flour and shake off excess. Dip in egg mixture and toss with Panko bread crumbs to coat. Slice fresh mozzarella in 1/2-inch slices, slice red onion in very thin rings, thin slice fresh basil and set aside in separate dishes. Pan fry green tomatoes in 1/4 cup olive oil. When cooked, pat dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper. Assemble Caprese in this order: mozzarella, red onion slice, basil, crispy green tomato and repeat three times so it is stacked three tomatoes high on the plate. Finish with a drizzle of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. I always finish with more cracked pepper. Yield: 6 servings

–Leon Buenviaje

Rosemary and Garlic Scented Lamb

FOR THE LAMB

- 8 (4-oz.) lamb chops
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 tbsp. rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

YOGURT-CUCUMBER SAUCE

- 1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. minced garlic (about 1 large clove)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 cups low-fat plain yogurt
- 1 cup cucumber, peeled, seeded and grated or chopped
- mint sprigs (optional)

Preheat a hot grill and the oven to 400°. Rub the chops with oil, garlic, rosemary, salt and pepper. Place on the grill and cook for 4 minutes on each side. Place chops on a baking sheet and finish in the oven, about 5 minutes or until desired doneness. Serve topped with Yogurt-Cucumber Sauce (tzatziki). For the sauce, mix all ingredients. Chill for at least 1 hour. Garnish with mint. Extra sauce may be used for dipping pita chips.

–Joanne Rose Willis

Butter Pecan Scones

1/2 cup chopped pecans
8 tbsp. butter, divided
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup whole-wheat flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
4 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 egg, beaten
1 cup heavy cream, divided
1 1/2 cups butterscotch baking morsels
1/2 cup raisins

Mix pecans with 1 tbsp. melted butter. (Refrigerate remaining 7 tbsp. butter.) Bake pecans at 350° for approximately 3–5 minutes, stirring frequently to prevent overcooking. Remove from oven and cool. Mix flours, brown sugar, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl. Cut in remaining 7 tbsp. cold butter with a pastry knife or with your fingertips until the consistency of meal. Add nuts, butterscotch morsels and raisins. Stir in the egg and 3/4 cup of the cream and mix lightly. Add additional cream if necessary. Do not over-mix. Divide dough into two balls. Turn out onto a floured surface one at a time and knead 2–3 turns. Pat into a circle approximately 1/2-inch thick and cut into 6 or 8 wedges. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet, brush with remaining cream and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 375° for approximately 20 minutes or until lightly done. Cool. These are best served the next day or frozen and served later.

Variation: In place of butterscotch chips and raisins, add white chocolate chips, dried cranberries and 1 tsp. orange zest.

—Caroline Darden Hurt

Peach Daiquiri

1 pkg. frozen peaches
1 oz. lime juice
1 tsp. confectioners' sugar
3 tbsp. grenadine syrup
6 oz. rum
2 cups crushed ice

Blend all together in blender.

—Day Simpson Prevatte

Martha Everett's Whiskey Cake

1 1/2 cups seedless dark raisins
1 1/2 cups water
3 tbsp. bourbon whiskey
1/2 cup butter

1 cup sugar
3 egg yolks
2 cups sifted cake flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup nuts, chopped
1 tsp. vanilla
3 egg whites

On the day before making the cake, combine raisins and water in a saucepan; bring to a boil and cook 20 minutes. Cool; add whiskey. Let stand overnight. To make cake, cream butter with sugar; beating until fluffy. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Drain liquid from raisins; measure one cup of liquid (if not

sugar and nuts, beating until very smooth. Add vanilla and whiskey, continuing to beat until of spreading consistency. Fills and frosts 2 (8- or 9-inch) layers.

—Betty Everett Hanlon

Chocolate Roulade

6 oz. dark chocolate
1 tsp. cold coffee
3/4 cup sugar
4 large eggs
whipping cream

Heat oven to 350°. Line a 9x13-inch baking sheet with wax paper. Melt chocolate in a double boiler and add the cold coffee. Separate eggs. Combine chocolate mixture, sugar and egg yolks and beat until fluffy and cream colored. In a separate chilled bowl, whip the egg whites



Chocolate Roulade

istockphoto © msheldrake

sufficient amount, add additional whiskey in water to measure 1 cup of liquid). To creamed mixture, alternately blend in dry ingredients and liquid, a third of each at a time. Stir in nuts, vanilla and raisins. Beat egg whites until stiff, but not dry; fold into batter. Turn into two 9" layer pans. Bake in 350° oven 25 minutes. Cool and frost with Butter Cream Frosting.

BUTTER CREAM FROSTING

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 to 1 cup chopped nuts
1 box (3 1/2 cups) confectioners' sugar, sifted
3–4 tbsp. bourbon whiskey

Cream butter with 1 cup confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy; add rest of

until stiff and standing in peaks. Gently combine the chocolate mixture and the egg whites. Spread on a wax paper lined baking sheet and bake for 15–20 minutes. Allow to cool and carefully turn the baking sheet over onto the counter or a large board. Whip the cream. (I don't measure this, merely guess.) Do not sweeten. Spread the cream over the chocolate sheet cake. Gently roll the concoction and place it carefully on the serving dish. Decorate the serving plate with scattered raspberries. Dust with confectioners' sugar.

—Angie Lowry

For extra copies of these recipes or to e-mail a copy to a friend, visit *SLEMCO Power* magazine online at www.slemco.com.

PRE-QUALIFIED SLEMCO CUSTOMERS CAN APPLY FOR DEFERRED BILLING DURING ENERGY EMERGENCIES

In the spring of 2001 the Louisiana Legislature passed the Louisiana Emergency Relief Act of 2001, requiring the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) to adopt rules to ensure that gas and electric utilities under its jurisdiction implement a deferred billing program for pre-qualified customers in the event of an LPSC-declared “energy emergency.”

Under such an emergency, a pre-qualified customer would be able to defer partial payment of their utility bill over a three-month period.

An “energy emergency” is characterized by inordinately high utility bills which are the product of one of the following factors: high gas or other fuel costs, unusually inclement weather necessitating extensive use of utilities, or any other circumstances as determined by the LPSC. The LPSC has the authority to determine what constitutes “inordinately high bills,” “high fuel costs” and “unusually inclement weather.”

Only specific groups of customers can pre-qualify for the deferral and pre-qualification is mandatory.

Once an “energy emergency” has been declared by the Public Service Commission, any new applications received will not be eligible for bill deferral until the next energy emergency.

The following groups are eligible:

- Customers who are at least 65 years old and whose incomes do not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level established by the federal government.

- Customers of any age who receive food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

- Customers whose sole income consists of Social Security benefits.

- Governmental entities as identified by the LPSC who provide vital services, the absence of which could result in “imminent peril” to the public health, safety and/or welfare.

- Those customers who need life sustaining, electrically-operated equipment or life sustaining medical treatment that requires electricity.

Enrollment in the program is simple. After determining that you qualify, call

Under an LPSC-declared “energy emergency,” pre-qualified customers meeting certain criteria would be able to defer partial payment of their utility bill over a three-month period.

SLEMCO’s Customer Services department at 896-5200 weekdays (except holidays) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and an application will be mailed to you. The application must be filed in the name of the person who is listed on the SLEMCO account. In addition to the application, the following information will be required to pre-qualify for the bill deferral program:

- Customers who are at least 65 years old and whose incomes do not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level as established by the federal government must provide a copy of their current driver’s license

(or valid, pictured identification card) and a copy of their tax returns from the previous year (Lucky Account Number 1434890000).

- Customers who receive food stamps or TANF must provide a copy of their current driver’s license (or valid, pictured identification card) and a copy of government documents including, but not limited to, a Letter of Certification issued by the Parish Office of Family Support or some other proof that they are receiving Food Stamps or TANF.

- Customers whose sole income consists of Social Security payments must provide a copy of their current driver’s license (or valid, pictured identification card), a copy of their previous year’s tax returns and governmental documents including, but not limited to, a letter from the Social Security Administration office stating the benefits that are being received.

- Governmental entities that provide vital services, the absence of which could result in “imminent peril” to the public health, safety and/or welfare, must provide documents that confirm that the customer is a governmental entity and identifying the services it provides.

- Customers who need life sustaining, electrically-operated equipment, or life sustaining medical treatment that requires electricity for them or another member of their household, must provide a copy of their current driver’s license (or valid, pictured identification card) and a letter signed by a licensed physician which states the diagnosis and prognosis of the patient and also states that “electricity is necessary in sustaining the life of his/her patient.”

For customers wishing to avoid the “energy emergency” issue altogether, SLEMCO’s Budget Billing is a convenient alternative to even out monthly electric bills for a customer’s primary residence. For more information, you can visit www.slemco.com.