

If you previously thought electric vehicles (EVs) were for urban areas only, you may want to think again. Major Matthew Crandall and his wife, Lauren are living proof that not only are EVs feasible for rural living, but they are also quite useful – and even preferable – for young families with infants!

Originally from Minnesota, Matt and Lauren have been stationed at Altus Air Force Base for just over one year. They live outside of town, just off of a rural county road. Matt is a KC-135 pilot in the Air Force and Lauren is a busy stay at home mom with their new 5-month old son, Davis.

You may be wondering what makes this couple a likely candidate for a top-of-the-line electric vehicle. We wondered the same thing. In fact, we spent an afternoon visiting with the Crandalls so we could an-

swer this very question.

Although Matt has traditionally been an early adopter of new technologies, he was still very resistant to EVs at first. As the proud owner of both a souped-up, all black Ford Mustang as well as a lifted Ford F-150, Matt admits to being somewhat of a motorhead. He loves the sound of a gas engine and the pleasure of tinkering with the parts and pieces that make it purr.

That was, until he took his first ride in an electric vehicle with a friend of his from the air base. Matt immediately went home to research as much as he could about EVs and pretty quickly found himself sold on the idea of getting his own.

“The new technology is exciting,” says Crandall, “there are so many aspects I love about it – the performance, the technology, the vision...”

Lauren was a bit slower to adapt

to the idea of purchasing a new EV. The idea of buying a new car – and one that didn’t run on gas – seemed a bit flippant at first, but once she experienced the car for herself, her own hesitations were quickly driven away.

“Now that I’ve seen what it can do, I am very impressed with it. At first, I was very hesitant... I was worried about the gas and being able to find charging stations on long road trips...but now I am very much in the mindset of EV rather than gas, I can see how that is the future.”

Though the couple has only owned their EV for around 6 weeks, they’ve already made two lengthy road trips in the vehicle. After traveling in an EV both Lauren and Matt say that going back to gas-vehicle travel seems like going from an iPhone back to a flip phone.



More at www.swre.com

Educating our members.

SWRE family adapts to new electric vehicle lifestyle



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Southwest Rural Electric

P.O. Box 310
700 North Broadway
Tipton, OK 73570-0310
1-800-256-7973

Haley Hoover, *SWRE News* editor

SWRE News is published monthly for distribution to members of Southwest Rural Electric Association. SWRE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Don't forget the "heart" of your community this Valentine's Day

A few weeks ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 100th birthday party of SWRE's oldest living former employee. As someone who lived and worked in Tipton for the majority of her life, it was no surprise to me that her party was well attended by many folks who cherished her and the cheerful spirit she brings to their community. Nearly everyone I spoke with had a story that related back to "the REA" where Opal spent most of her working life.

Hearing the stories truly touched my heart as it reminded me of how special cooperatives are to the communities they serve. Farmer's Cooperatives, Telephone Cooperatives, and other cooperatives are incredibly important to the rural communities of America. Without their presence, many of us would struggle to receive the quality of life we know and love today. In fact, not only is this "quality of life" a cooperative principle, but it is literally part of the original mission statement of Southwest Rural and still remains so today.

It was each of these cooperatives that brought services to the small towns where large corporations would not go due to lack of profitability. Thus, the cooperatives being built *for* and *with* the consumers they serve, have become the heart of the communities they reside in.

Today it is easy to forget where we would be without these incredible institutions. With electricity, business, phone lines and internet all at our disposal, we often take for granted the wonderful role cooperatives play in our everyday lives.

This Valentine's Day, remember to appreciate the heart of your community – those who create opportunities and conveniences for businesses and individuals to flourish in small town, America. Let us also not forget the men and women who spend their lives serving at the cooperatives who make their communities. Happy Birthday, Opal, and thanks for being such an important part of our electric cooperative.

Manager/CEO, Ken Simmons

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov



Former SWRE employee turns 100

Opal Winkler

The year is 1947. Harry S. Truman is president, gas is 15 cents a gallon and the Cold War is just beginning. Electricity is still relatively new to farms in Texhoma, as SWRE has only been an established electric cooperative for ten years. On April 4th of this year, CEO Clark T. McWhorter hired a very special woman into the billing department at Southwest Rural Electric.

Opal quickly became a key employee at SWRE. Over 34 years, Opal Winkler worked her way around many jobs in the SWRE office.

A few of her previous job titles include:

- billing clerk
- assistant cashier
- secretary to billing
- cashier
- bookkeeper

Opal worked under three different CEOs and retired under B.R. Green in 1981. Though she still loved her career and had plenty of energy left in her, a bad car accident led her into retirement.

Mrs. Winkler has spent the majority of her life living and working in Tipton, Oklahoma. She now resides in Altus, Oklahoma where she receives excellent care and comfort every day. Last month, she reached a huge milestone – turning 100 years old. This very special woman is now SWRE’s oldest living former employee.

Throughout her career she saw the effects of new electric technology from colored television sets to toasters and blenders. By the time she retired in 1981, the first IBM personal computer was on the market!

The loyalty and dedication of Opal Winkler has made a profound difference in the strength of our cooperative. She has been a formative asset in the building of Southwest Rural Electric’s brand and integrity. It is employees like her who make the cooperative what it is – the heart of the community.

Happy Birthday, Opal! Here’s to many more amazing years.



@swre_coop



*Employee of the
month, 1974*



*with Lura F.
VanScoder, c. 1965*



*100 years old,
January 6, 2019*

The Perfect Valentine's Day Steak Dinner



Ingredients:

1 teaspoon canola oil	
2 1/2 inch-thick filet mignon steaks, 12 to 14 ounces total	
1/2 teaspoons each kosher salt and freshly ground pepper	
1 large shallot, minced	
	1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
	1/4 cup sweet vermouth
	3/4 cup reduced-sodium chicken or beef broth
	1/2 teaspoon corn starch

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Heat canola oil in a medium heavy oven-proof skillet. Meanwhile, sprinkle steaks with kosher salt and pepper. When oil shimmers, add steaks, and cook until the bottom is deeply browned, about 5 minutes. Turn steaks over, and transfer the skillet to the oven. Roast until the steaks are 130 degrees for medium-rare 8 to 11 minutes. Transfer steaks to a plate and tent with foil to keep warm.
3. Place skillet over medium-high heat. Use caution the handle will be hot!! Add shallot and thyme to the skillet, and cook, stirring until the shallot is browned, about 30 seconds. Add vermouth and let simmer until almost reduced by one half. Stir the cornstarch into the broth and add to the skillet. Bring to a simmer, stirring. Cook until slightly thickened and reduced to about 1/2 cup. Remove from the heat.

 For the full recipe, visit our Pinterest page!

SWRE Trading Post

FREE classified non-commercial ads available for SWRE members only. Ads also posted at www.swre.com.
Mail ads to Haley Hoover at P.O. Box 310 Tipton, OK 73570, email to haleyhoover@swre.com or call 1-800-256-7973.

For Sale: Mesquite Firewood \$65 a rick. Pick up south of Snyder. Call 580-447-3065.

For Sale: Double pedestal dining table with 2 arm chairs and 4 side chairs. With leaf, 6 feet long and approximately 3 feet wide. \$350 OBO. Call 580-569-4550.

For Sale: Oreck vacuum cleaner, very well maintained and works well. Has a new beater bar. Vacuum is from a smoke free/pet free home. Comes with 11 disposable bags and two belts. \$175.00 940-886-6529.

For Sale: Used fencing wood posts. 6-8 feet long, varied diameters; corner & insulators. Text/call 940-631-2568

FREE to a good home: 2-year-old Rottweiler dog. Hates chickens but loved kids. Very friendly - will lick you to death! Call 580-563-2289.

For Sale: PS016510S Spicer large truck transmission. 750 miles since rebuilt. Excellent condition. Fits Cat, Cummins & Detroit. Phone: (580)480-5452 (cell) or (580)639-2341.

For Sale: Registered Polled Hereford Bulls and commercial Angus Bulls. 16-20 months old. Call 940-

852-5181 or 940-839-5551.

For Sale: 2003 Keystone Hornet camper trailer. 31 foot with a 3x12 slide-out. Call (580) 318-4812.

For Sale: Betty Boop dolls for \$10 each, also china dolls for \$5 each. Call 940-552-2010 for inquiries

For Sale: Young Guinea Chicks, \$3 each. Call 580-471-8055.

For Sale: Jack Russell Puppies. Vet checked, first shots, wormed. Located in Blair. 580-301-0253 please no texts.

For Sale: 20-22 mo. Old Polled Hereford Bulls, also 12-24 mo. Angus Bulls. Call 940-852-5181 or 940-839-5551.



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P.O. Box 310, Tipton, Ok. 73570-0310