



# UP DATE



March, 2003



## A Message From The General Manager/CEO

By Daniel G. Laws

### *The Co-op Difference: Concern For Community*

From time to time, we like to discuss the Seven Cooperative Principles, because, to be perfectly honest, it is these principles that set us apart from other ways of doing business. One of the seven principles that we take great pride in is "Concern for Community".

We can't and wouldn't attempt to buy fancy public relations advertisements on television and in the newspapers like you see from the investor-owned utilities. By the same token, there's really no need for us to, because we feel that actions speak louder than words, and you probably feel that way, too.

The Little League kids and their parents in South Brewster County know we're pretty handy to have around when it comes to putting in lights for a ball park. And there's a church in Brackettville that got a little help getting up on the roof to do repair work. Then there's the Valentine School, where our crews dug 22 holes so the new playground equipment could be installed. Science classes in Terlingua were able to conduct some seismic experiments, all because they got a little helping hand. Fire departments and emergency medical services are always glad to get communications equipment when it is no longer useful to the Co-op. There's a lot more, but you get the message. We're not in it for the glory, but we do take pride in being able to make a difference.

Our young people are especially important to the Co-op, because, though it has become cliché to say so, they really are our future. That's why we like to donate

to Jr. Livestock Shows, and conduct electrical safety demonstrations throughout the eighteen Texas and two New Mexico counties we serve.

The Co-op has and will continue to uphold all the principles which set us apart, and we are always available to talk to you about any concerns you have. One of the concerns our members have voiced lately is the potential for an act of terrorism against Rio Grande's system. Let me begin by saying, our areas are not in a population intensive area like Washington, D.C., or New York City, so it's fairly safe to assume that these guys aren't interested in Langtry, Terlingua, Pumpville, Valentine, etc. Of course, I could be wrong, but I do believe our area is safe from terrorist activity. In fact, I guarantee you that our system is under more danger from terroristic strikes by birds, snakes, and squirrels than from that other squirrel - Saddam.

We'll keep monitoring all the issues that affect our membership, just as we've always done, and we'll continue our commitment to the communities we serve. That's why you can count on Rio Grande Electric Cooperative to be

***"Your Home  
Team  
Advantage."***

