

Powerline easements — people helping people

Perhaps nothing is more near and dear to the operation of an electric cooperative than the easements, or rights of way, on which its facilities stand. The free conveyance of easements for the common good was a founding precept and critical building block of rural electrification and a premier example of the cooperative spirit.

Today, easements continue to be of utmost importance to Pickwick Electric Cooperative (PEC). There is no “chicken-or-the-egg” dilemma between easements and electricity. Easements must come first. Without them, there is no electricity. If easements are not well maintained, electric service won’t be satisfactory.

Being “cooperative” about granting easements was an absolute necessity for the build-out of lines in the early days of rural electrification when few rural residents had power available anywhere within miles. Power is available today to PEC members because of people they never knew freely granting easements over many years.

Today, granting an easement remains an unselfish gesture of neighbor helping neighbor. We see it occur hundreds of times each year as new line extensions are constructed throughout the service area. It’s gratifying to see existing members passing on to others the same generosity that allowed them to receive electric service years before.

The question of new easements does not only come up with regard to new

service line extensions. It also plays a crucial role as the early lines are rebuilt to improve service for current and future generations.

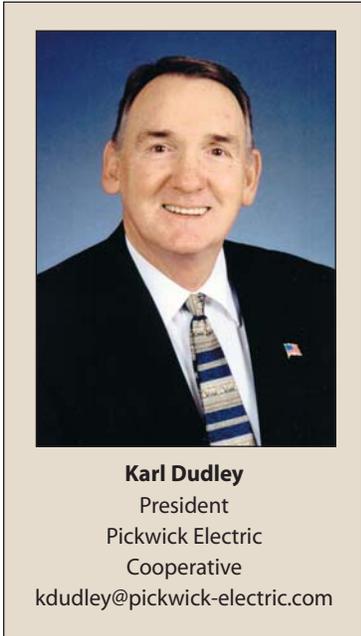
Money and materials were in short supply in the early days of rural electrification. There was also plenty of skepticism about whether the rural lines would ever be viable. Pennies were pinched. Power lines were built over the shortest distance from point A to point B, even if that meant crossing farm fields, wooded areas and ravines.

As these early lines have been rebuilt, many have been rerouted along roadways to increase line accessibility for main-

tenance and service quality. Such relocation is often feasible if new easements are available from all concerned parties and if right-of-way clearing requirements are reasonable. Recently several miles of power lines have been upgraded and relocated due to state highway projects.

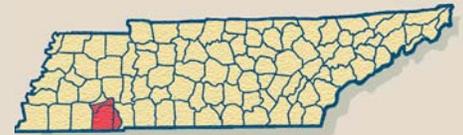
For those of you who have willingly granted easements in the past, I take my hat off to you for unselfishly helping others. For those of you who will be asked in the future to grant easements for line extensions or relocations, please consider the request in the proud spirit of rural electrification, people helping people.

PEC maintains approximately 45,000 poles and more than 2,000 miles of lines. This system would not have been possible without the cooperative spirit of our membership.



Pickwick Electric Cooperative

**Serving members in all of
McNairy County and
portions of Chester,
Hardeman and Hardin
counties in Tennessee and
Alcorn and Tishomingo
counties in Mississippi**



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These five pages contain local

news and information

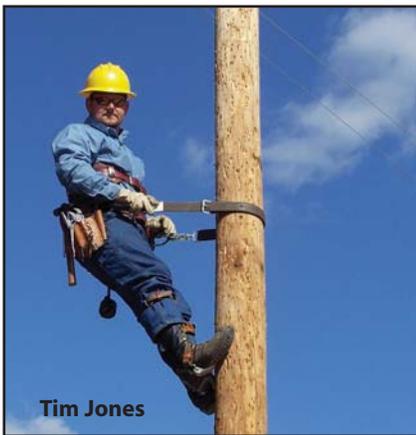
for members of Pickwick Elec-

tric Cooperative.

Jones and Shirley attend lineman school

Tim Jones and Justin Shirley have completed the Apprentice Lineman Fundamental Training School in Atlanta. This 10-day school is designed to give future linemen a good understanding and hands-on experience of the job.

Seventeen students from various electric systems attended the school. The first day consisted of getting the proper tools issued, going over rules and regulations and watching training films. The next day found the students attending a safety meeting and receiving instructions on pole climbing and how to properly tie knots. Students learned to tie 14 different knots, each of which had to be tied in six seconds or less. After that, it was off to the pole yard to do some climbing.



Tim Jones

Each student started out on 10-foot poles and, throughout the week, gradually worked their way up to 35-foot poles. Overall, the students took 22 tests and were required to maintain a 70 average.

“We are happy to offer this training to

our apprentice linemen because we feel it is the best training available,” said Pickwick Electric Cooperative President Karl Dudley.

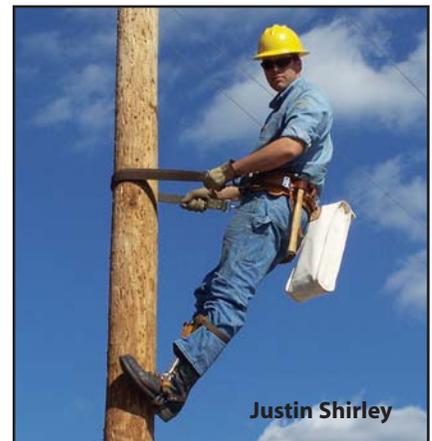
Both employees agreed that this was a tough and demanding 10 days, but it was well worth their time.

“This was the first step of the many foundation blocks in building our careers as linemen,” Shirley said of the training.

Jones began his employment with PEC on March 15, 2006. Prior to working for PEC, he worked for Dover Elevator in Middleton. He and his wife, Tina, along with daughter Valerie Marie, live in Selmer. The family attends Lakeview Baptist Church.

Shirley came to the cooperative on May 22, 2006. He is a 2004 graduate of Adamsville High School and attended Freed Hardeman University for two years.

Shirley lives in Ramer and attends Stantonville Church of Christ.



Justin Shirley

Holiday gift-giving ideas that save energy and help the environment

Holiday gift-giving is heartwarming, full of surprises and fun. It also creates 1 million extra tons of waste between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Eve every year!

Why not consider giving presents that use less energy and create less trash? Here are some suggestions:

- Give energy-efficient small appliances like kitchen aids and grooming devices.
- Stuff stockings with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Look for clothes and products made from recycled materials.
- Bestow blankets, sweaters or scarves that help to hold down

heating costs.

- Create a handmade gift like a basket of baked goods or fruit, a collection of your family’s favorite recipes, a videotape of family members sharing their favorite stories or a wreath strung with holly and pine cones.
- Buy something you know the recipient will use: tickets to a ballgame or concert, a gift certificate to the video store or grocery store or a membership in a health club.

As you celebrate the season of joy and giving, give and use wisely. Who knows how far the benefits will spread!

Tree-trimming is essential for reliable power delivery

Your electric cooperative's lines, poles and substation structures are engineered to withstand many forces of Mother Nature. However, they may not withstand the force of a fallen tree or large branch, which could lead to a disruption of service. Trees touching power lines actually drain electricity off the electrical system and, in severe cases, can cause your co-op's line-protection devices to take a circuit out of service. Voltage

dips, caused when trees contact a power line, can create problems for sensitive electronics in homes and businesses in the area.

Vegetation management, including tree-trimming, is an important aspect of PEC's goal of delivering power to you that is safe, reliable, environmentally responsible and affordable. In fact, your co-op's vegetation management program can help reduce outages caused by things such as branches falling on lines during storms, shrubbery interfering with voltage levels or plantlife in right-of-way areas making access to equipment difficult.

At PEC, it is our goal to take care of trees that could pose safety or reliability issues before someone is injured or experi-



PEC employee Wes Ashe trims trees from the bucket truck.

ences a power outage. This applies to trees with limbs that could break off and fall into power lines during heavy winds, causing blinking lights or momentary outages.

Your cooperative is concerned only with trimming trees that might impact service reliability or the safety of co-op employees, members and the general public.

Tree-trimming crews are very diligent in trimming only what is

absolutely necessary. They follow guidelines set forth by the National Electric Code and National Electrical Safety Code line clearance requirements.

There are some things our members can do to assist the cooperative in its right-of-way maintenance program such as not planting fast-growing trees under power lines. You can also report conditions such as trees or limbs that have grown up into the power lines.

Reporting these conditions not only reduces maintenance costs but also helps ensure that you will have reliable, uninterrupted electric service to your home.



Trent Chandler operates Kershaw equipment to clear a right of way near Forrest Hill Substation.



Right-of-way crew members are, from left, Wes Ashe, Robert Davis, Brent Hanna, Bob Mask, Trent Chandler and Phillip Burns.



PEC adapts policy for electrical facilities installed in areas subject to flooding

When an area becomes subject to flooding, it is necessary that measures be taken to safeguard against the perils of the unpredictable floodwater and its interaction with electrical facilities owned by the cooperative and our members. The cooperative shall make the determination as to when an area may flood based upon available data from the Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, county emergency management and other pertinent organizations. Once a determination has been made as to when a particular area may flood, within 24 hours prior to the anticipated flooding the cooperative shall make an effort to remove all meters and shall de-energize the primary lines serving the area. The primary lines will remain de-energized until such time as the water has receded and complete access to the line has been restored. In the event that the data changes or the anticipated flooding has not occurred, the member may petition the cooperative to have electrical service restored. The cooperative will review any such petition on an individual basis.

When the floodwaters have receded and the areas served by the primary lines are safe to be re-energized, the cooperative shall restore power to the primary lines and make a determination at each member location if a meter can be set to restore power according to the following procedure:

1. The cooperative shall purchase electrical inspection per-

mits and make arrangements with the state of Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors to inspect all electrical services within the affected area. Prior to the electrical inspection, cooperative personnel shall visit each electrical service location to determine the potential flood damage and make a determination for electrical restoration as follows:

- A. If there are no visible signs that water has compromised any of the premises' electrical equipment, the meter will be set and power restored. The customer shall be required to execute a release of liability and continued extension of service shall be based upon the findings of the state of Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors.
- B. If there are visible signs that water has compromised any of the premises' electrical equipment, the meter will not be set until such time as any repairs have been made and the state of Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors have approved the installation safe to be re-energized.

The cooperative shall bill each customer a reconnect fee per the cooperative's operating policies and procedures.

The cooperative shall not be responsible for any loss, loss of use or damage resulting from the flooding, loss of electrical service or any other liability caused by this situation. The cooperative shall make a diligent attempt to limit the duration of electrical outage to a minimum but cannot be held responsible for its duration due to conditions beyond our control.

Seasonal safety tips

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has issued a safety checklist to remind everyone to keep electrical safety in mind during the change of seasons:

- Safely store warm-weather tools like lawn mowers and trimmers. Check cold-weather tools such as leaf and snow blowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools or parts right away.
- Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be in use again until spring.
- Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect



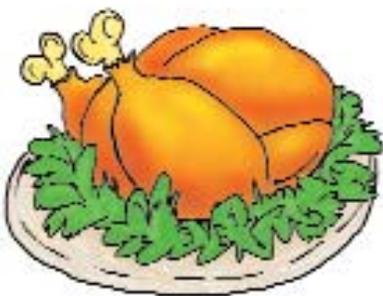
outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure electrical equipment that has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair dealer.

- Keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.
- Make sure electric blankets are in good repair, certified by an independent testing lab such as UL, CSA or ETL. Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut.
- Do not tuck your electric blanket into mattresses or under children, and don't put anything on top of the blanket while in use such as comforters or bedspreads. Never allow pets to sleep on the electric blanket.



PEC's 71st annual meeting

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006, approximately 600 members and friends were in attendance for Pickwick Electric Cooperative's 71st annual meeting. Entertainment was provided by the MCHS Jazzcats and the Step-N-Tyme Band. The crowd also enjoyed hot dogs and Cokes, along with some nice door prizes.



The PEC office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving. Should you have an emergency, we will have standby crews available. Have a safe and happy holiday.