

# The Tennessee River, a valuable resource

Each year Mother Nature sends us a finite amount of rain to replenish the earth and supply the river system. This time of year, I dread the spring storms that sometimes have more wind than rain, but in the electric utility business, I understand the critical need for the water to make electricity. As a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Resource Stewardship Council, which was created to advise TVA on its river activities and to align priorities among the competing objectives and values, I have a new appreciation for the outstanding job TVA does in managing the Tennessee River system. This is a job that started more than seven decades ago and continues today.

The primary charge by Congress to the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933 was to tame the Tennessee River and reduce its flooding. Additionally, TVA was to provide safe navigation of the river, promote the economic and social well-being of the people living in the Tennessee Valley and encourage the electrification of the area using the benefits of dams for the generation of electricity.

The Tennessee River is 652 miles long. It begins northeast of Knoxville and flows south through Chattanooga into Alabama, then west through Mississippi and back north through West Tennessee until it empties into the Ohio River at Paducah, Ky. The river system includes 20 dams for flood control and 29 for power supply. There are 480,000 acres of recreational lakes and 11,000 miles of shoreline for public use. It is a natural treasure and a vital component for the production of electricity to the residents of the Tennessee Valley.

TVA operates the Tennessee River as an integrated system. Under this approach,

the six different areas of river responsibility — flood control, navigation, power supply, water quality, recreation and land use — become one. It is a complex and demanding task to supply each of these areas by squeezing the maximum benefit out of every drop of water.

In the new world of electricity deregulation that is still moving forward under the guise of National Energy Security, the operation of the Tennessee River is one area that is overlooked. TVA no longer receives federal funding for river operations; all these costs appear on your electric bill each month. But, if managed properly, the benefits outweigh the

costs, and it is important for TVA to retain operation of the Tennessee River system to reap those benefits. An abundant supply of water is critical to produce electricity whether it is generated by coal, gas, nuclear or water running over the dam.

There are demands from within the Valley for the tributary lakes to hold more water for boating, while other places along the river want more water released for canoeing and rafting. North Georgia would like to have access to the river for a water supply to meet its exploding residential growth. The new demands on the Tennessee River are many, and the majority of these demands would reduce the amount of electricity generated by the river. All these requests must be considered on their merits, but I don't believe the members of Pickwick Electric Cooperative should pay for recreation in upper East Tennessee or provide water for the suburbs of Atlanta.

So when the spring showers come, with or without the wind, I must say, "Thank you, Lord, for the rain."

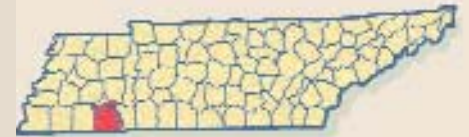


**Karl Dudley**  
President  
Pickwick Electric  
Cooperative  
kdudley@  
pickwick-electric.com



## 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**



**530 Mulberry Avenue**

**P.O. Box 49**

**Selmer, TN 38375**

**Phone Numbers:**

**(731) 645-3411**

**(731) 632-3333**

**1-800-372-8258**

**Web site:**

**[www.pickwick-electric.com](http://www.pickwick-electric.com)**

**These five pages contain local  
news and information**

**for members of Pickwick Elec-  
tric Cooperative.**



# Employees receive promotions

**D**onnie Gibbs has been promoted to the position of operations foreman.

He began his employment with Pickwick Electric Cooperative on June 15, 1987. Through the years, he has worked as a groundman, lineman and maintenance line foreman.

Donnie and his wife, Jennifer, live in Selmer and have two sons, Dustin and Eric.

David Sims was promoted to the position of substations foreman. He began his employment with PEC on Jan. 12, 1976, as a right-of-way laborer. His other positions included groundman and substation technician.

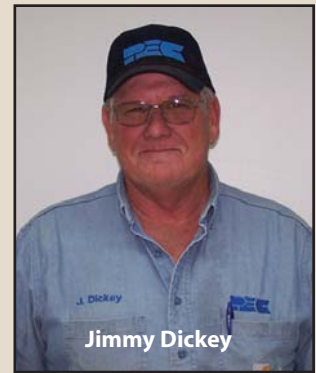
David and his wife, Roxanne, live in Selmer and have two children, Ashley and John David.



Donnie Gibbs



David Sims



Jimmy Dickey

Jimmy Dickey was promoted to the position of right-of-way foreman. He joined PEC on Aug. 28, 1984, as assistant storekeeper. His other positions included meter reader, tree trimmer and truck driver/groundman.

Jimmy and his wife, Charlotte, live in Stantonville and have two children, Sharon and Allison, and five grandchildren.

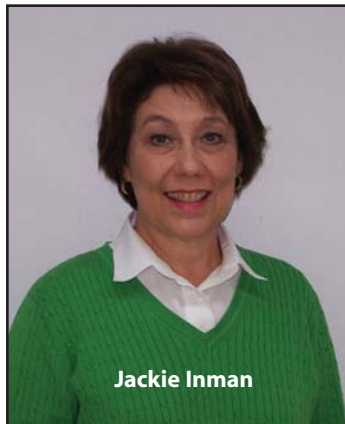
## Jackie Inman announces retirement

**A**s each year passes, we reflect on the events of our lives and look forward to the hopes and dreams to come. As Jackie Inman begins 2007, her dream of retiring will come true on Feb. 9.

Inman joined PEC in 1987 as a rotation employee, assisting in the cashier department, the file room and as steno-file clerk. In 1990, she assumed the duties of assistant member records clerk and soon advanced to full-time member records clerk.

“Each day was a challenge in the member records department,” Inman says. “Every situation was different, and each and every customer asks a different question. At times it was difficult to wait on the customers, answer the phone and dispatch the crews, but it was all part of the job. I am very appreciative of the guys in the engineering department, as they have always been helpful with any questions I could not handle. They made my job much easier.”

“Of the many changes made during my years at PEC, one of the best was going to an automated phone system. It relieved us from having to answer each call and made it possible for us to be more attentive to our customers.”



Jackie Inman

“The highlight of my career at PEC has been meeting and working with the local contractors and electricians,” says Inman. “I will truly miss each of them, and I value the life-long friendships I’ve made while working at PEC.”

Inman is a graduate of Selmer High School. Prior to PEC, she was employed by Henco. She and her husband, Robert, live in Selmer. They have two sons — Rob and wife Vanessa of Selmer and Brent and wife Melonie of Nashville — and four grandchildren: Mason, Garrett, Jesse and Karli. The Inmans attend Eastside Church of Christ.

As for the future, Inman plans to enjoy life at a slower pace, have more time for family and friends and complete some projects that are “long overdue.” She says, “It’s been a pleasure to work with a good group of people that were always willing to help when you needed them.”

“Jackie has been a valuable employee, and we appreciate her efforts to serve our customers well,” PEC President Karl Dudley says. “We wish for her and Robert many happy years of retirement.”



# Cooperative appreciates cards

*Pickwick Electric Cooperative would like to express sincere appreciation for the beautiful Christmas cards received from these cooperative members and friends.*

The Curry Family  
 Mary Frances Wright  
 Ellis Brothers  
 Billy and Frances Hill  
 Jimmy and Patricia Hill  
 James Edward Wright  
 Ed and Frances Wright  
 Bobby and Teresa Stanford  
 Alcorn County Electric Power Association  
 McNairy County Adult Education Staff  
 Almae Chappell  
 The International Brotherhood of  
 Electrical Workers Local Union 474  
 City of Michie mayor, aldermen and  
 employees  
 Kenny, Rhonda and Courtney Lambert  
 Service Electric Company  
 Better Source Supply Company  
 Caney Fork Electric Cooperative Inc.  
 Tommy and Connie Willcutt  
 Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative  
 Health Partners Work Partners  
 Employer Services  
 Patterson & Dewar Engineers Inc.  
 Central Service Association  
 Volunteer Energy Cooperative  
 Torco Testing Services Inc.  
 Pennyrile Electric  
 Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative  
 Member Services  
 Doyle Weeks and family  
 Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation  
 Alvine Boyd  
 Appalachian Electric Cooperative  
 Paris Board of Public Utilities  
 Utilicor  
 David and Carlean Gray  
 Gibson Electric Membership Corporation  
 Teen Challenge Memphis  
 United Utility Supply  
 4-Way Electric Inc.  
 Williams, Jerrolds, Godwin &  
 Nichols PLLC  
 Barbara Martin  
 Carl and Virginia Crabb  
 Bobby and Lorena Browder  
 Nashville Electric Service  
 McWhorter & Franklin Engineers  
 Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative  
 Tri-County Electric Membership  
 Corporation  
 John E. and Phyllis Ann Dunwoody  
 The Kellen Henry family

Inman Brothers Wrecker Service  
 CFC Member Center  
 Allen, Summers, Simpson, Lillie &  
 Gresham PLLC  
 Fayetteville Public Utilities  
 Maudene Dancer  
 The Selcat Office and staff  
 Pat and Helen Montgomery  
 Ruby Lambert  
 Middle Tennessee Electric  
 Membership Corporation  
 R.A. Phillips  
 Forked Deer Electric Membership  
 Corporation  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Plateau Electric Cooperative  
 Jennie Sloan  
 Kenny Foust and family  
 Cumberland Electric Membership  
 Corporation  
 Electric Power Services Inc.  
 Mike Reppert  
 Allen & Hoshall  
 Southwest Electric Company  
 Tennessee Electric Cooperative  
 Association  
 Ray and Shirley Milford  
 Jerry and Belle Jarrett  
 Dynamic Lighting Inc.  
 Cooperative Response Center Inc.  
 Hopkinsville Electric System  
 EnergyNet Service  
 Carolyn, Dennis and Danny Cotner  
 Junell Moore  
 Jerry Clausel  
 Jackson Energy Authority  
 Paul and Marie Willis  
 Fisher & Arnold Inc.  
 McNairy County Soil Conservation Dist.  
 Sunguard EXP  
 Mary English  
 Lonnie Garner  
 Community South  
 Utility Equipment Service  
 McNairy Health & Rehab Center  
 Paducah Power System  
 Powell Valley Electric Cooperative  
 Buddy and Joyce Waddell  
 Barbara Brock  
 Joe Brock and family  
 Tony Garner and family  
 Engineered Plastics of Pickwick Inc.  
 Southern Wood Preserving

Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative  
 Barloworld Truck Center  
 Regions and AmSouth Bank  
 Briggs Inc.  
 Mountain Electric Cooperative  
 Upper Cumberland Electric  
 Membership Corporation  
 MidSouth Utility Consultants LLC  
 Estel and Mary Ruth Mills  
 David Hutch  
 Hood Patterson & Dewar Inc.  
 T.C. Kennedy  
 Town of Milledgeville  
 Faye Kent  
 Doug and Judy Raines  
 Terry and Charlotte Stackens  
 Ruffin & Associates  
 Bobby and Shirley Johnson  
 Harold and Frankie Finley  
 Younger & Associates  
 Sandra Brush and family  
 Holston Electric Cooperative  
 Tennessee Valley Public Power Associa-  
 tion Inc.  
 Davis H. Elliott Construction Co., Inc.  
 Mid South Utility Consultants LLC  
 Red River Specialities Inc.  
 Robert and Dortha Williams  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Babiec  
 United Way of West Tennessee  
 EDS\*PAY  
 Duck River Membership Corporation  
 Leon and Eyvonne Maness  
 Fugitt Rubber & Supply Co., Inc.  
 Memphis Light, Gas and Water  
 Advanced Automotive Equipment Ser.  
 Evelyn H. Mitchell  
 Carina Technology Inc.  
 Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee  
 Bill and Brenda Beavers  
 Humboldt Utilities  
 CoBank  
 Larry and Teresa Grimes  
 Don and Nevella Smith  
 Betty and Ernest Reece  
 Joe and Donna King  
 Grand Harbor at Pickwick  
 Glenn McCullough family  
 Verble Nixon  
 David, Karen and Autumn Barbee  
 Glenn and Jan English  
 Marie Sanders  
 NRUCFC





# Reflections and celebrations of McNairy County FCE

For more than 79 years, McNairy County Family and Community Education Clubs have shared common goals with other organizations across the state to learn through shared experience, improve home and community life, strengthen adult education and promote projects that enhance family and community life.

The first records found of the Home Demonstration Club, now known as the Family and Community Education Clubs (FCE), were from 1927. There were 14 women's clubs organized with an enrollment of 330 members. Demonstrations were given on vegetable cookery, cottage cheese and salads, canning vegetables and chicken, quick desserts and bread-making.

In 1937, some new demonstrations were introduced: mattress-making, clothing, gardening and home improvement. Thirty-seven mattresses were made as a result of the demonstrations. Montez Wilkerson was the home agent at this time.

The mattress program continued to be the main work of the home agent through the 1940s. In 1941, Gladys Williams was named home agent. When Selective Service began to examine drafters, they found the need for better-nourished Americans. At this time added to the clubs' menu was a study on nutrition.

Kathryn Ford Scott served as home agent during World War II, and in 1943, her main emphasis was "Victory Gardens."

In 1953, Fairene B. Sewell assumed the position of home agent. She wrote, "Nutrition is a long-time objective and will present a problem in the county for years to come." The club

members continued to study nutrition and widen their variety of homemaking skills. County council and leader training skills were also added to the program.

During the '60s and '70s, club members mastered the skill of furniture-refinishing and upholstery, making picture frames and interior design. Emphasis was also put on increasing their knowledge and understanding of the four food groups.

In 1987, the name Home Demonstration Club was changed to Extension Homemakers Club. Work areas during this period gave focus to housing, food, nutrition and health, family living, clothing and cultural arts and crafts. Membership dropped slightly to 245 members.

At the present time, there are five Family and Community Education Clubs with 120 members. Rita Casey is the Extension agent. Their main focus was and still is to provide useful and practical information on subjects relating to home economics and agriculture.

PEC employees Bobby Barnes, Beverly Lambert and Kevin Roy were honored guests at the FCE Annual Awards Program and Luncheon hosted by the Lawton and Selmer FCE clubs on Dec. 14 at the Lawton Community Center.

If you are interested in becoming a member of an FCE club, please contact Extension agent Rita Casey at (731) 645-3598. Her office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the exception of noon to 1 p.m. when the office is closed for lunch.



Members honored for hours of service for 2006 are, front row, from left, Hazel Dudgeon, Gloria Coln, Linda Smith, Wilma Moore and Ouida Lott. Back row: Glenda Barron, Sandra Bass, Verblene McCormick, Harlie Evans and Barbara Isbell.



Entertainment for the luncheon was provided by club members, from left, Harlie Evans, Mary Dona Miller, Blenda Brush, Mary Nell Browning and Rita Casey.



# Electrical cord safety

Extension cords, with their ability to bring any appliance or lamp within easy reach of an electrical outlet, are some of the most convenient products in the home. But when they are misused, they can also be a potential source of danger.

Extension cords are generally rated in amps and volts. To determine if an extension cord is properly rated, add the total wattage of each bulb or electrical device and then divide by 120 to calculate the total number of amps. If the total number of amps is equal to or greater than the maximum rating of the cord, you must use a higher-rated extension cord.

If you were to use a thin cord for a device that draws a lot of current such as an electric space heater, the cord could overheat and start an electrical fire. Select the right cord for the job. Larger appliances and power tools use cords with three prongs, or conductors, one of which is the ground wire.

Choose a replacement cord with the correct insulation. Electric space heaters, for example, are required to use cords with a thermosetting insulation to prevent the cord from melting. Look for the letter "H" on the cord. Lamp cords are usually flat with the individual conductors parallel to each other. This type of cord is limited to indoor use and light duty. Appliance cords are usually round and have larger diameters because they are made using two layers of insulation over the copper conductors. The individ-



ual conductors are insulated, and a second layer of insulation, called a jacket, is also applied.

Keep these other safety tips in mind:

- Never run extension cords through walls, under rugs or furniture or across doorways.
- Never try to repair a damaged extension cord with electrical tape; replace it.
- Never overload an extension cord. If any part of the cord feels warm to the touch, the cord is drawing too much power and could cause a fire or shock hazard.
- Never cut off the ground pin to connect a three-prong appliance cord to a two-wire extension cord or receptacle. Always use a CSA-, UL- or ETL-listed adapter for this purpose.
- Replace older extension cords if one of the prongs in the plug is not "polarized." In a polarized plug, one prong will be wider than the other.
- Avoid placing cords where someone could accidentally pull them down or trip over them.
- Cover unused outlets on the extension cord to prevent children from making contact with a live circuit.
- Before buying any extension cord, check the product to ensure that a nationally recognized laboratory such as CSA, UL or ETL has certified the product.
- Outside the home, only use extension cords designed for outdoor use.

## DANGER

### DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE

Stay away from downed power lines. They can be dangerous. Touching a fallen or sagging wire can cause a strong shock that may seriously injure or even kill you. So never attempt to move downed power lines. Call us. That's our job.

