

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."

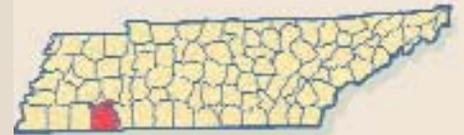


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Pickwick Electric Cooperative

**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.



Employees receive promotions

Donnie 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.

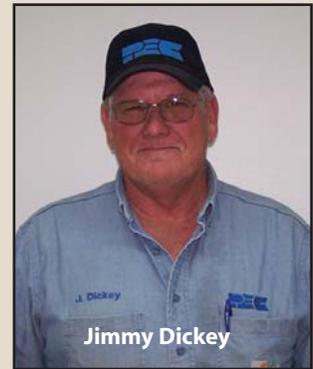
David and his wife, Roxanne, live in Selmer and have two children, Ashley and John David.



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

As 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	Inman Brothers Wrecker Service	Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative
Mary Frances Wright	CFC Member Center	Barloworld Truck Center
Ellis Brothers	Allen, Summers, Simpson, Lillie &	Regions and AmSouth Bank
Billy and Frances Hill	Gresham PLLC	Briggs Inc.
Jimmy and Patricia Hill	Fayetteville Public Utilities	Mountain Electric Cooperative
James Edward Wright	Maudene Dancer	Upper Cumberland Electric
Ed and Frances Wright	The Selcat Office and staff	Membership Corporation
Bobby and Teresa Stanford	Pat and Helen Montgomery	MidSouth Utility Consultants LLC
Alcorn County Electric Power Association	Ruby Lambert	Estel and Mary Ruth Mills
McNairy County Adult Education Staff	Middle Tennessee Electric	David Hutch
Almae Chappell	Membership Corporation	Hood Patterson & Dewar Inc.
The International Brotherhood of	R.A. Phillips	T.C. Kennedy
Electrical Workers Local Union 474	Forked Deer Electric Membership	Town of Milledgeville
City of Michie mayor, aldermen and	Corporation	Faye Kent
employees	Tennessee Valley Authority	Doug and Judy Raines
Kenny, Rhonda and Courtney Lambert	Plateau Electric Cooperative	Terry and Charlotte Stackens
Service Electric Company	Jennie Sloan	Ruffin & Associates
Better Source Supply Company	Kenny Foust and family	Bobby and Shirley Johnson
Caney Fork Electric Cooperative Inc.	Cumberland Electric Membership	Harold and Frankie Finley
Tommy and Connie Willcutt	Corporation	Younger & Associates
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative	Electric Power Services Inc.	Sandra Brush and family
Health Partners Work Partners	Mike Reppert	Holston Electric Cooperative
Employer Services	Allen & Hoshall	Tennessee Valley Public Power Associa-
Patterson & Dewar Engineers Inc.	Southwest Electric Company	tion Inc.
Central Service Association	Tennessee Electric Cooperative	Davis H. Elliott Construction Co., Inc.
Volunteer Energy Cooperative	Association	Mid South Utility Consultants LLC
Torco Testing Services Inc.	Ray and Shirley Milford	Red River Specialities Inc.
Pennyrile Electric	Jerry and Belle Jarrett	Robert and Dortha Williams
Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative	Dynamic Lighting Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Babiec
Member Services	Cooperative Response Center Inc.	United Way of West Tennessee
Doyle Weeks and family	Hopkinsville Electric System	EDS*PAY
Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation	EnergyNet Service	Duck River Membership Corporation
Alvine Boyd	Carolyn, Dennis and Danny Cotner	Leon and Eyvonne Maness
Appalachian Electric Cooperative	Junell Moore	Fugitt Rubber & Supply Co., Inc.
Paris Board of Public Utilities	Jerry Clausel	Memphis Light, Gas and Water
Utilicor	Jackson Energy Authority	Advanced Automotive Equipment Ser.
David and Carlean Gray	Paul and Marie Willis	Evelyn H. Mitchell
Gibson Electric Membership Corporation	Fisher & Arnold Inc.	Carina Technology Inc.
Teen Challenge Memphis	McNairy County Soil Conservation Dist.	Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee
United Utility Supply	Sunguard EXP	Bill and Brenda Beavers
4-Way Electric Inc.	Mary English	Humboldt Utilities
Williams, Jerrolds, Godwin &	Lonnie Garner	CoBank
Nichols PLLC	Community South	Larry and Teresa Grimes
Barbara Martin	Utility Equipment Service	Don and Nevella Smith
Carl and Virginia Crabb	McNairy Health & Rehab Center	Betty and Ernest Reece
Bobby and Lorena Browder	Paducah Power System	Joe and Donna King
Nashville Electric Service	Powell Valley Electric Cooperative	Grand Harbor at Pickwick
McWhorter & Franklin Engineers	Buddy and Joyce Waddell	Glenn McCullough family
Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative	Barbara Brock	Verble Nixon
Tri-County Electric Membership	Joe Brock and family	David, Karen and Autumn Barbee
Corporation	Tony Garner and family	Glenn and Jan English
John E. and Phyllis Ann Dunwoody	Engineered Plastics of Pickwick Inc.	Marie Sanders
The Kellen Henry family	Southern Wood Preserving	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.

