

From the president's desk:

# A birthday celebration

**H**appy New Year. We at Pickwick Electric Cooperative look forward to the opportunity we have to serve you. This year is a special year for us. It marks the 70th anniversary of providing electric service to this area.

PEC was born on a cold December night in 1935. That night in an old store building in Adamsville, a group of concerned citizens from McNairy and Hardin counties gathered for a special called meeting. The purpose of that meeting was the organizing of an electric cooperative.

I'm sure these people were excited as they packed into that little store building. Little did those people know what a profound effect the action taken that night would have on the citizens of these counties. This one event probably did more to change the lives of local citizens than anything else during the 20th century because it allowed rural areas to have the luxuries of modern living.

Your electric cooperative was founded on seven principles that are still practiced today: Voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives and concern for the community.

It's hard for us who live in today's high tech electronic age to understand the struggles of those days without electricity. People were anxious to get their homes wired for electricity. They

became excited as the lines stretched farther and farther into the countryside. When electricity became available to homes, a single drop light from the ceiling was usually all that was installed. There were no provisions made for appliances, which were virtually unheard of in 1935. Electric appliances such as refrigerators, electric stoves and washing machines would come later.



**Karl Dudley**  
President,  
Pickwick Electric Cooperative  
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Not many people living today can remember when the lights were turned on. One gentleman who was interviewed a few years ago had a vivid memory of that day. He said, "When I pulled that chain to turn on the lights, I felt as though I had been living in the dark all of my life. Electric lights gave us so much more light than our kerosene lamps, and we didn't have to smell the smoke." Gradually, one by one, electricity brought an easier way of life to our rural folks.

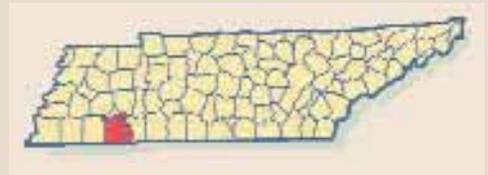
The organization of your electric cooperative has made a tremendous impact on the business and economic life of the counties we serve. It has served as a constant beacon, lighting the way to better things, as people gradually raised their standard of living throughout the 20th century.

So, this year when you flip the light switch or select any other use of your electric service, please remember the folks with vision who made the choice to create their own electric co-op — a vision that proved wise for all these 70 years.



## 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**

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**(731) 632-3333**

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**Web site:**

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

**These five pages contain local  
news and information  
for members of Pickwick  
Electric Cooperative.**

# Looking back to past school days

This picture of the 3rd-4th grade class at Stantonville School was taken in the 1961-62 school year. The school was located on the property where the Stantonville Civic Center now stands. If you have old school pictures you want to submit, call Bobby Barnes or Larry Gage at 645-3411, Ext. 223 or 224. We will run the pictures as space becomes available.



First row, from front: Stanley Dickey, Pam Vinson, Judy Elam, Judy Rickman and Mary Virginia Stevens. Second row: Hazel Vinson, Cheryl Michael, Bobby Hornbuckle, Ronnie Forsythe and Donald Hill. Third row: Peria Carroll, Mike Kiddy, unknown, Judy Tillman and Debbie Wyatt. Fourth row: Kenneth Hubanks, Judy Smith, Judy Steele, Juanita Campbell and Joyce Rickman. Fifth row: Carolyn McIntyre, Randy Sweat, Aubrey Rinks, Walt Stevens and Charlotte Shelton. Standing: Johnnie McDaniel, teacher. (This photo and names were submitted by Edna Hill.)

## New Year's resolutions

Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time.

Call a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Share a funny story with someone whose spirits are dragging. A good laugh can be very good medicine.

Find time to be kind and thoughtful. All of us have the same allotment: 24 hours a day. Give a compliment. It might give someone a badly needed lift.

Think things through. Forgive an injustice. Listen more. Be kind.

Try to understand a point of view that is different from your own. Few things are 100 percent one way or another. Examine the demands you make on others.

Lighten up. When you feel like blowing your top, ask yourself, "Will it matter in a week from today?" Laugh the loudest when the joke is on you.

Walk tall and smile more. You'll look 10 years younger. Don't be afraid to say, "I love you."

— Ann Landers

# Looking for the right stick



**Brown inspects the root base of this sumac tree to see if it will be suitable for a good walking stick handle. Brown says sometimes you go through all the trouble of finding the right tree only to discover it doesn't have the right root base.**

light and not very strong. But the sumac is the perfect wood for making walking sticks," Brown says. "I use the sumac to make walking sticks more than any other type of wood."

"Until I started hunting for the sumac, I didn't realize there are two different kinds. There's a soft-centered species that makes a very light walking stick and a hard-centered one that is really strong. Usually, I only cut other types of wood if there is a vine growing around it."

Brown does most of his stick hunting during the fall and winter months when the leaves are gone, the sap is down and the snakes and yellow jackets are gone.

**D**uring late fall and winter, you'll find most outdoorsmen hunting for deer and turkey, but not James Brown of Selmer. You'll find him searching for the right tree to make a staff or walking stick.

Brown got into making walking sticks 16 years ago. He worked with a friend who, in his spare time, cut special shaped limbs from trees to carve walking sticks. Brown thought this would be an interesting hobby and decided to give it a try. He began looking for limbs and did carve a few walking sticks.

One day while visiting with his pharmacist, they began to talk about wood carving. Brown explained that he had started a new hobby of making walking sticks. His friend told him that the sumac (pronounced, shoo'mak) was a good wood to carve and he might want to give it a try.

As Brown continued searching for the right limbs to carve walking sticks from, he began to pay more attention to the sumac. On one such outing, he noticed that the roots of the sumac run parallel under the ground. When Brown dug around the roots, he realized that if the root was cut off properly it would be ideal for a walking stick handle. That's when Brown started cutting sumac as the preferred wood for making his walking sticks and stopped carving. Through the years, Brown has perfected the art of finding and making walking sticks.

"Most people don't think the sumac is good for anything. That's what I used to think. I always thought the wood was too

On each hunt, Brown only cuts five to six sticks. He says that's about all he can handle at one time.

Once Brown has found the right stick, the first thing he does is peel the bark off and scrap it with a knife. "The duller the knife the better," says Brown. "A dull knife keeps you from cutting a deep gash into the wood."



**Besides being used for a walking crutch, Brown's sticks are also great for decorating the home.**

Brown says the sumac has a real sticky sap under the bark, and it's important to get all of it off. If you don't, it leaves the stick with a yellowish look, dark spots and takes forever to dry.

After cutting the sticks, Brown hangs each one on a wire in his garage and allows a drying process of two to four weeks.

When the sticks have dried, Brown does a final trim and rough sands each one. He then does a final sanding, stains and hand rubs three to five coats of high gloss tongue oil on each stick. When this process is completed, the ends of the sticks are trimmed and fitted with a rubber tip. "Altogether, I spend about two hours on each stick," Brown says.

When asked what was the most unusual stick he had made, Brown says, "All of my sticks are unusual to me. For instance, look closely where I cut the root off of this one and you'll see the face of a baboon. On the flip side it looks like a baby chicken."

Picking up another cane, Brown points out that the bald eagle was probably the most unusual one he had made this year. "See the eye and beak of the eagle. I added red mahogany stain on the bottom to make it look like eagle feathers. My daughter once told me that I could see anything I wanted to in my sticks. I guess she is right."

Not only does Brown make walking sticks, but he also makes canes and staffs and what he calls "Indian war clubs".

When making canes or staffs, Brown uses different types of wood such as hickory, cherry, oak and dogwood. "The first thing I look for is a tree with a vine growing around it, Brown says. "When the vine is cut out, the impression of the deep grooves really leaves it with a neat look. I add a pre-drilled ball to the top of all my canes. The balls fit so snug that it appears as if it was carved out."

In addition to canes and staffs, Brown made 11 Indian war clubs last year. "My children got every one I made. I didn't get to keep any for myself," Brown says.

Brown's three children get most of the canes, staffs and walking sticks that he makes. "Years ago, when I finished a batch of sticks I would tell my children they could have some. The child that came home first got the choice picks. This did-



**At one time or the other, James Brown's grandchildren have gone with him to hunt sticks to make staffs and walking sticks. Brown has shown each of them the process of making walking sticks. From left: Joshua Farris; Maia Farris; Seth Brown; Jenny Kiestler; Stephanie Brown; Samantha Brown; Amber Sappington and James Brown.**

n't work very well because they began to fuss over who got the best sticks. So now when I finish a batch I lay them out in piles and number each pile. My children draw a number and match that number to a pile. So now they can't fuss at me," Brown says with a smile.

Only two of Brown's walking sticks have been sold. In each case, the money raised went toward worthwhile causes. One

walking stick sold for \$49.49 during a church yard sale. The money went to the church's building fund. Another was put in a silent auction at a church bazaar and brought \$20. Even though Brown doesn't personally sell any of his sticks, they are scattered across six different states.

Brown says you might be surprised at what you can do with a walking stick, cane or staff, other than using it as a walking crutch.

"Each of my children have 60 to 80 staffs and walking sticks. They use them to decorate their homes by placing them in containers throughout the house. One of my daughters even uses some of the long staffs to hang curtains on," Brown says.

"Making walking sticks is just a good hobby that I enjoy doing," he says as he peels the bark off another stick. "It's hard work, but it keeps me busy."



**Brown stains and finishes his sticks in an array of colors. Most of those above had a vine growing into them.**

# The switch is on

Pickwick Electric Cooperative gives its customers the opportunity to participate in the Tennessee Valley Authority's Green Power Switch Program.

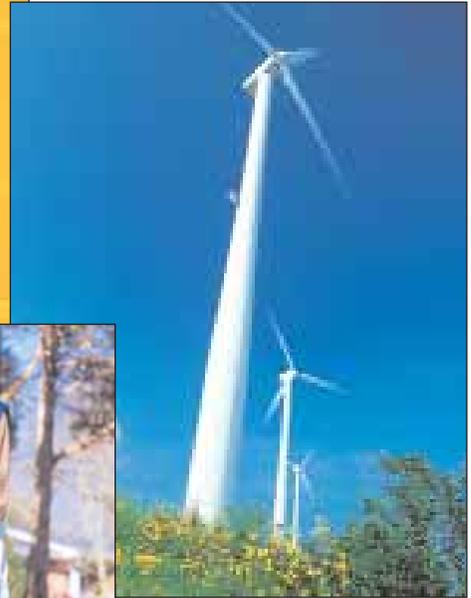
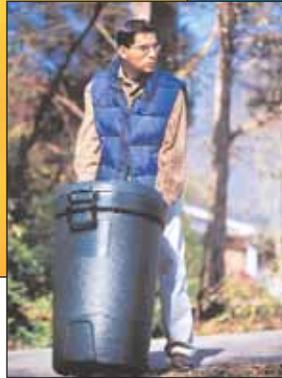
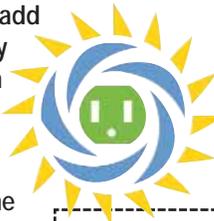
Green power is electricity generated by renewable and cleaner energy resources such as wind, solar power and landfill gas. Green power costs more because the technology used to produce it is more expensive than traditional power-generating methods.

Investing in the Green Power Switch program is an investment in Earth's future and in protecting our environment.

You can buy Green Power Switch in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks. Each block you sign up to purchase will add \$4 to your monthly PEC electric bill. You can buy just one block or as many as you like. The green power you pay for will be added to TVA's electric system as part of TVA's total power mix.\*

To make the Green Power Switch, just fill out the information at right, giving your PEC account number and the amount of green power you want to buy each month.

Mail it to: Green Power Switch, Pickwick Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 49, Selmer TN 38375. For more information, call (731) 645-3411, or visit us online at [www.pickwick-electric.com](http://www.pickwick-electric.com).



As people across the United States celebrate Earth Day on April 22 each year, you, too, can make a difference in our environment. You can make the switch to green power and sign up for the Green Power Switch program.

Your choice to make the Green Power Switch does make a difference. For example, buying two blocks of green power per month for a year equals recycling 15,322 aluminum cans or recycling 1,766 pounds of newspaper.

Started April 22, 1970, Earth Day celebrates the Earth and our responsibility to protect it.

## I want to make the Green Power Switch...

- 150 kilowatt-hours (\$4)
- 300 kilowatt-hours (\$8)
- 450 kilowatt-hours (\$12)
- 600 kilowatt-hours (\$16)
- 750 kilowatt-hours (\$20)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Harness the Power of Nature. Make a Difference. Buy Green Power.**

\* The Center for Resource Solutions (CRS), an independent, nonprofit organization, will perform an annual audit of Green Power Switch to verify that power from green power sources is sufficient to supply the amount of power sold.