

Electric co-ops rise to the occasion in times of great need

As we enter the holiday season, our electric cooperative colleagues here in the South are still figuring the toll of the devastating blows dealt to the Gulf Coast by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During that horrendous time, we witnessed Mother Nature at its worst and human nature at its best.

Nowhere was the spirit of giving, sacrifice and cooperation more evident than in the community of electric co-ops that responded to the widespread destruction.

They demonstrated what cooperatives are capable of doing during times of great need, offering assistance where it is needed, not only near their own communities but to communities hundreds of miles away. Co-op crews arrived in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in only the time it took them to gather supplies and drive to the devastated areas, bringing food, water, equipment and hope.

Among the crews arriving in Mississippi and Louisiana were crews from Pickwick Electric Cooperative. Wes Ashe, Phillip Burns, Robert Davis, Jimmy Dickey, Logan Doyle, Jay Durbin, Donnie Gibbs, Larry Hall, Kenny Lambert, Terry Pearson, Tommy Price, Matt Rickman, Darren Smith, Tony Smith and Randall Tay-

lor all volunteered to help restore power to the storm ravaged area.

Never mind that diesel prices skyrocketed in the days following the hurricanes and the crews traveled to unfamiliar territory with few available hotel rooms, often living in churches or in tents, without phone service and limited food and fresh water.

This wasn't the first time electric co-ops rose to the occasion in a time of great need. Following floods, tornadoes, wildfires and ice storms, we've demonstrated time and time again that we have more resources

than even the biggest power companies when it comes to recovering from disasters.

Electric cooperatives' standard engineering design plays an important role in recovery efforts. But our greatest resource is the dedicated people who, often in the midst of great personal loss, trudge through waste-deep water to repair lines, and those who prepare meals or keep the offices running.

Our cooperative mission energizes us during trying times. We show that the cooperative spirit cannot be dimmed. It shines brightly even in the face of darkness and despair, and for that, we are truly thankful.

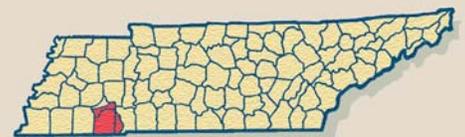


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Pickwick Electric Cooperative

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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(800) 372-8258

Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Install electric water heater and receive rebate

If you need to replace your water heater, consider installing an electric unit. Why? Because electric water heaters generally use less energy than fossil-fuel types. Gas-fired heaters cannot be insulated on the bottom, which is where the major heat exchange takes place between the gas flame and the metal tank. Electric water heaters have the advantage of being fully-insulated on the top, bottom and sides. That means you typically lose less heat when in standby, so the energy you use to heat your water is used more efficiently and less of your water heating dollars are wasted.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative will pay a \$50 rebate when our customers replace an old electric water heater with a new one. Replace a gas water heater with a new electric one and receive a \$100 rebate. If you build a new all electric home and install an electric water heater, you will be eligible for a \$100 rebate. Install an electric water heater in a new gas-heated home and receive \$50. For details call (731) 645-3411, Ext. 223 or 224.

The PEC office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 for Thanksgiving. Should you have an emergency we will have standby crews available. Have a safe and happy holiday.

NOTICE

Effective Jan. 2, 2006,
PEC will only accept electric
bill payments by one of the
following methods:

1. Bank draft*.
2. Mail-in using an envelope provided to you.
3. In person at the PEC office.
4. By phone or Web site using credit card.

Local banks will no longer accept electric bill payments.

*For a limited time PEC will give you a one-time \$5 credit on your electric bill if you sign up to pay by bank draft. Call the PEC office to inquire: (731) 645-3411, (731) 632-3333 or (800) 372-8258.

PICKWICK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Statement of nondiscrimination

Pickwick Electric Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Brad Howell, director of Human Resources. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization or write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



The Dodds House is the last remaining reminder of what once was a thriving town of Purdy, former county seat of McNairy County and home of Purdy College and numerous businesses and residences. Efforts are underway to restore the Dodds House and preserve this piece of McNairy County's colorful history. This photo was taken in 1988.

Voices from the past **'Saving our history'**

Walk around the empty roads and fields of what was once the county seat of McNairy County and some say you can hear whispers in the wind. Voices — voices of Andrew Jackson, Davy Crockett and Sam Houston; voices of proud Cherokees sadly walking the Trail of Tears; voices of Johnny Reb and Billy Yank before and after the great battle at Shiloh — they all came to Purdy.

Purdy had its beginning in 1823, about five years after a treaty was signed with the Chickasaw Indians allowing settlers to claim this virgin Tennessee wilderness.

Arriving with this early group of frontiersmen were John Chambers and his wife. Working together, they saved enough money to pay the filing fee on their homestead. Later this home-

stead was sold to John Yount, who then deeded 50 acres for the establishment of a much-needed town.

On Aug. 4, 1825, government surveyor John Purdy, along with Benjamin Wright, laid out the boundaries of the town. Two streets 300 feet apart extended for more than a half mile, forming an oval at each end. Lots were plotted along these streets and later sold at an auction. The money raised was used to build a courthouse and jail.

The town was named in honor of Col. John Purdy, who also laid out the boundaries of McNairy County. Although the town bore his name, he never lived in Purdy or McNairy County.

Surrounded by plush rolling hills and plentiful forests, settlers found Purdy beautifully-designed and a delightful place to

Surrounded by plush, rolling hills and plentiful forests, settlers found Purdy beautifully designed and a delightful place to live.

live. They came in increasing numbers and the town filled very rapidly.

Purdy was the county seat of McNairy County from 1825 until 1891. In the early days, it was the crossroads of the old southwestern frontier. It was a crossroads because of its location. The town sat on the Tennessee Valley Ridge and was the intersection of two major travel routes. An 1827 map of Western Tennessee marks the north south road through Purdy as “the road to Natchez.” This was Glover’s Trace, known locally as the Old Notchey or the Western Natchez Trace. Purdy was also a major stop on the stage road that ran from Nashville to Memphis.

The traffic and commerce generated by these two routes turned Purdy into a boom town. Benjamin Wright, hero of the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and comrade of Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston, built the town’s first log house in 1825. The town became home to three newspapers; numerous shops, stores, inns and taverns; churches of several denominations; and a university. A circuit judge once called Purdy the “prettiest and most delightful town in the 11th Judicial Circuit with, a pretentious institute of learning and the finest private residences in West Tennessee.”

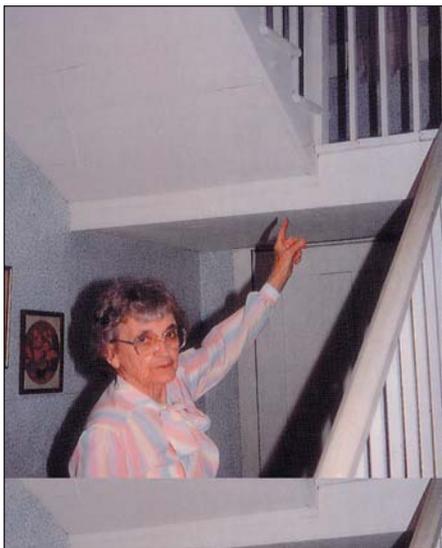
Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston visited their friend, Benjamin Wright, in Purdy on several occasions. These events always created a great deal of local excitement. It is said that the entire population would turn out to welcome them at the stage station.

In 1838, a group of about 600 Cherokees traveled through Purdy by way of the stage road on their way to Oklahoma. The American Indians were on foot while their escorts rode on horses or in wagons. The southern land route of The Trail of Tears ran through Purdy.

Davy Crockett and Adam Huntsman traveled up and down the stage road debating issues in their heated race for U.S. Congress.

After losing a close race to Huntsman, Crockett gave his famous “Hell and Texas” speech. It

Miss Bessie Dodds, the last resident of the Dodds House, where she lived from 1919 until her death in April 2003, points to a crease in the staircase made by a bullet during the Civil War.



Close-up of the crease a bullet made in the staircase during the Civil War.

appears he gave the same speech several times and there is still spirited debate as to the location of the original speech. It seems to have been Jackson, Memphis or Purdy.

During the Civil War there were numerous actions in and around Purdy. Major concentrations of Confederate forces at Bethel Station and Purdy moved on the stage road to Crump’s Landing and on to Pittsburg Landing to take part in the Battle of Shiloh. Five companies of Confederate troops were raised in Purdy. Five companies of Union troops were raised in other parts of the county.

All that remains of Old Purdy today is the Dodds House. The house was built in the 1850s by Col. Fielding Hurst who commanded the 6th Tennessee (U.S.) Cavalry in the Civil War. The Dodds family purchased the house in the early 1900s and family members occupied the house for many years. Today the house sits deserted and derelict. The windows are broken and the porch is falling. If the house is not saved, the final link to a rich and meaningful history will be broken.

An effort is underway to save and restore the Dodds House as a museum dedicated to the history of southwest Tennessee and to the two major transportation routes that fed the birth and growth of Purdy and the surrounding area. A cooperative effort between local government, public agencies and private citizens is under way to secure the necessary resources to accomplish this goal.

Anyone interested in additional information on the history of Purdy or who would like to assist with the project can contact Charles Lee Jr. in Selmer at (731) 645-6337.

Charles Lee Jr., an historian from Selmer and a person interested in seeing this piece of McNairy County history preserved, contributed to this story.

Local heating and air contractors earn NATE certification

Four local heating and cooling contractors on the Tennessee Valley Authority's Quality Contractor's Network (QCN) listing have earned their North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certification as service technicians for air conditioning equipment and systems. Those earning certification are: Armour Brothers Heating and Air of Selmer, Sid Burks Heating and Air of Adamsville, Harbin Heating and Air of Counce and Danny Roberts Heating and Air of Selmer.

NATE is an independent, third-party organization that develops and promotes excellence in the installation and service of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment by recognizing high-quality industry technicians through voluntary testing and certification.

To earn NATE certification, a technician must pass both a core and a specialty exam with a grade of 70 or higher on each. There are 50 questions on the core test and 100 on the specialty test. The exam reflects a consensus industry opinion on what the average technician should know in order to effectively install and service heating and air conditioning equipment and systems. These heating and air contractors took the test in Savannah on Aug. 24 and 25 while attending a two-day training school.

NATE certification is a requirement of TVA and all current QCN members must obtain certification and submit documentation of certification by January 2007. It is the only nationwide certification



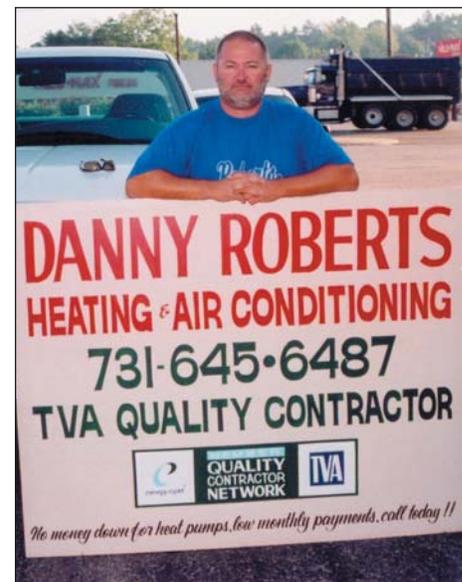
James Armour with Armour Brothers Heating and Air Conditioning.



Sid Burks with Sid Burks Heating and Air Conditioning.



Randall Harbin with Harbin Heating and Air Conditioning.



Danny Roberts Jr. with Danny Roberts Heating and Air Conditioning.

program accepted by the entire HVAC industry, contractors, manufacturers and the Air Conditioning Contractors of America.