

Presidents comments:

Annual meeting time

This year at our annual meeting, we will be celebrating 70 years of service to our members.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative was organized in 1935.

During those early years, PEC played a vital role in bringing the farm and rural areas into the 20th century. Today, PEC serves the community and its members in such a way that our rural areas are becoming attractive to many people who have left crowded, metropolitan cities for a better, less hectic life.

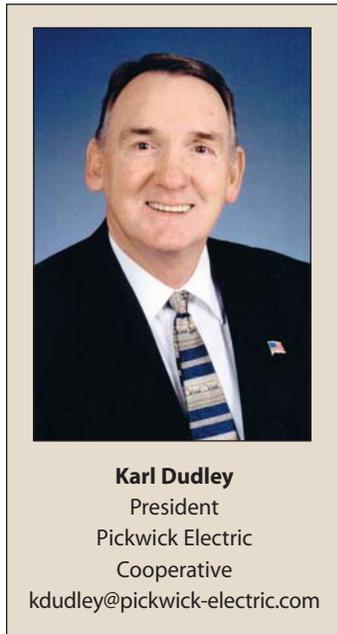
Your electric cooperative system is often cited as an excellent example of the cooperative way of conduct-

ing business. Each year we hold district meetings to elect members of the board of directors from our membership. We cap off these

meetings with an annual meeting of all the members to conduct the business of the cooperative.

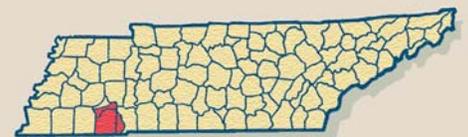
The PEC membership is an excellent example of people working together to fulfill common needs, better their way of life and improve their communities. We're proud of our history and achievements, which we think have made a substantial contribution to our rural area.

Please come and be a part of this special celebration.



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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Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.

In memory



William M. Roberts (1913-2005)

William M. Roberts, retired general manager of Pickwick Electric Cooperative, passed away July 24. He served as PEC manager from 1949-1979.

Roberts is known throughout the country for his pioneering work in the Rural Electrification Program, having worked for the Rural Electrification Administration, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Administration in the Philippines and at Pioneer Electric Cooperative.

A memorial service was held Aug. 7, at the First Presbyterian Church in Selmer.



Notice of annual meeting

Members of Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005

Pursuant to Article III, sections 3.01 and 3.03, of the bylaws, as amended, the regular meeting of the members of the above cooperative will be held Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005, 7 p.m., at McNairy Central High School, Selmer, Tenn., to take action on the following matters:

- (1) Report of officers, directors and committees.
- (2) Announce results of elections held at district meetings.
- (3) Any other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

This the 11th day of August, 2005.

Secretary

Annual meeting program

4:30-7:00 p.m.....Registration
 5:00-6:45 p.m.....Entertainment by the Step-N-Tyme band
 7:00 p.m.....Order of business

1. Call the roll, or check registration, to determine if a quorum is present.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver of notice of meeting as the case may be.
3. Reading of the unapproved minutes of the previous meeting of members and the taking of necessary action thereof.
4. Presentation and consideration of, and action upon, reports of officers, directors and committees.
5. Report by Karl Dudley, president.
6. Announce results of elections held at district meetings.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Adjournment.
10. Drawing for prizes.

Cooperative celebrates 70 years of service

In today's high-tech world we tend to take our dependable electric service for granted. Without thinking, we flip a switch and enjoy electricity's comfort and convenience every day. With so many modern-day electrical gadgets in our home, it's hard for us to imagine living in a time when electricity was unavailable.

Those days without electricity meant drawing our drinking water from a well, reading by a coal oil lamp and cooking our meals on a wood stove. Farmers would work from sunrise to sunset because natural light was the only thing available. Today, this drudgery is gone, thanks to the organization of electric cooperatives.

For people in this area, the formation of Pickwick Electric Cooperative on Dec. 16, 1935, brought with it the magic of electricity. With the formation of an electric cooperative, the people began to wire their homes to receive electricity. In one home, as the lights were turned on, an elated farmer was overheard to say, "When I pulled that chain to turn on the lights, I felt as though I had been living in the dark all my life. Electric lights give me so much more light than my kerosene lamps, and I don't have to smell the smoke." Another Tennessee farmer, when asked to give his testimony at a local church, stood up and said, "Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you that the greatest thing in this life is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your home." No other venture, before or since, has made such a change in the lifestyle of those living within PEC's service area.

The early days of PEC were difficult ones. Only two or three employees were available to do the work, and

on several occasions a loan had to be secured from a local bank to meet payroll. Many times area farmers would pitch in to help build the lines.

The first cooperative office was located in Adamsville. It stayed there until 1940 when it was moved to Selmer to be closer to the railroad. The office was located near Holmes Brothers car lot but was later moved to Houston Street where True-Savers Hardware is located today. In 1954, a new headquarters building was erected, and



PEC annual meetings have always drawn large crowds. The annual meeting above was held at the Adamsville City Park in the mid-1950s.

PEC moved to its present location on Mulberry Street.

PEC's first board members were Ralph Smith of Chewalla, Lester Hamm of Ramer, John R. Harris of Finger, J.E. Deford of Savannah, M.R. Lott of Morris Chapel, Glen Hassell of Enville, E.A. Churchwell of Milledgeville and Allen McCoy of Eastview.

In 1935, only the people in Savannah, Adamsville, Selmer and Bethel Springs had electricity. These towns were served by the Tennessee Electric Power Company. Alcorn County Electric Power Association, with headquarters in Corinth, Miss., had built a few miles of rural lines into McNairy and Hardin counties. They built a line along Highway 22 to Stantonville via Shiloh National Military Park, a line north along Highway 45 to Eastview and west along Highway 57 to Ramer. These lines were bought by PEC on April 21, 1936, with money borrowed from the Tennessee Valley Authority. At that time, there were 32 consumers in Adamsville, 23 in Bethel Springs, 161 in Savannah and 139 in Selmer. The remaining lines built by the Tennessee Electric Power Company's facilities in Tennessee were bought by the cooperatives, municipalities and TVA on May 12, 1939.



It was PEC's objective, from the beginning, to provide electric service to anyone who wanted it. This was finally achieved in 1949 when the cooperative had a total of 6,000 members and more than 1,100 miles of lines. Since then, it has grown at a rapid pace. In 1950, 6,500 members were being served. By 1960, this number had grown to 8,312. Today, PEC serves more than 20,000 customers with almost 2,100 miles of electric lines.

PEC has made a tremendous impact on the business and economic life in this area. It has served as a constant beacon, lighting the way to better things, as people gradually raised their standard of living over the past 70 years.

Since 1935, PEC has expanded and grown in order to meet the increasing needs of its consumers. We have seen many changes and no doubt there will be many more. Our members can rest assured that we will respond to these changes, and strive to provide the best electric service possible.



Pickwick Electric Cooperative is constantly upgrading and building new facilities to better serve our members. During the past 10 years, PEC has built three substations in Adamsville, Counce, Tulu and North Selmer. PEC is currently constructing a new substation in South Selmer. PEC employees working on the Red Sulphur Substation in Counce were, left to right, Keith Taylor, assistant technician special equipment; David Sims, technician special equipment; John Bowers, manager of operations; and Keith Johnson, manager of technical services.

Old membership certificates on display



Henry Lee Hyneman displays two certificates that were issued to his great-grandfather, James Henry Hyneman, on June 25, 1941. The certificate numbers are 575 and 576. Mr. Hyneman was the first in Acton to get electricity because his house was already wired and running on a generator. One certificate is for his house and the other for a gin.

In the May issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*, we asked our members to bring in old PEC membership certificates. We were searching for the oldest certificates so we could display them at our 70th annual meeting, to be held at McNairy Central High School on Sept. 15. We appreciate the members and relatives of members who brought old certificates to us. They are pictured left and below.



Maxie Martin brought in this 1945 certificate that was issued to his father-in-law, Joe Neal Weaver. It has a certificate number 2218 and was issued Aug. 9, 1945.



Adell Treece of Selmer has a certificate that was issued to his father-in-law, R. K Brewer. The certificate number is 486, and it was issued June 25, 1941.



PEC supports McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence

Several years ago, Pickwick Electric Cooperative and TVA began an alliance with the McNairy County Foundation For Academic Excellence. The foundation was chartered in 1996 and is a private, nonprofit charitable corporation. The goal of the foundation is to provide community support mechanisms to fund special initiatives and to provide positive messages about the importance of community support for education.

Each year the foundation awards grants to teachers who develop innovative programs and concepts to enhance the educational opportunities available for the leaders of tomorrow. Grants in the amount of \$500 each are awarded to classrooms based upon completion and merits of the proposal. These grants are competitive among teachers, and 15 were given this year. Each grant application is submitted to the Education Department of Freed Hardeman University for evaluation.

“We believe that education begins with a firm foundation, but students in today’s world need more than the basics,” says Gene He’bert, chairman of the McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence. “That’s where the foundation helps. The grants given to teachers provide funds earmarked specifically to underwrite the type of innovative instructional programs and teaching techniques that will give the students of McNairy County the edge in their fast paced, highly competitive world. The foundation was established to work for years to come and currently has over \$40,000 in our growing endowment. This endowment will continue to allow the foundation to spark excel-



From left: PEC President Karl Dudley, TVA Customer Services Manager Kerry Brannon and Gene He’bert, chairperson, McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence. He’bert accepted contributions from PEC and TVA to the foundation. The cooperative’s and TVA’s commitment to the education programs for young people throughout McNairy County is a priority for both organizations.

lence in our schools far into the future.”

The foundation also recognizes teachers and support personnel for years of service, retiring teachers and foundation grant winners. This is done during an appreciation breakfast held at the end of each school year. During the breakfast ceremony, eight outstanding McNairy County teachers are recognized, one representing each school in the county. From these eight finalists, one McNairy County Teacher of the Year is selected and awarded a \$1,000 classroom grant. This year’s Teacher of the Year honors went to Annette Whittington of Selmer Elementary School.

If you would like to make a donation or become involved in the foundation, please contact Gene He’bert at 645-3315 or 645-3255.



Photo by Russell Ingle Independent Appeal

Annette Whittington, McNairy County Teacher of the Year, received a classroom grant and plaque during the annual appreciation breakfast.