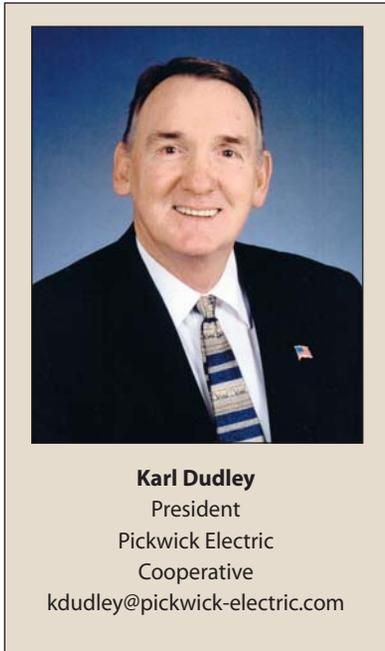


# Electric Cooperatives are dedicated to safety on their lines and in their towns

The importance of electricity in our lives is invaluable, and few would likely argue the point. It powers our very lives, and the notion of living without it is one we can barely imagine in this day and age. But with this great power comes great responsibility, and it is this responsibility — to provide your electricity safely and reliably — that we at Pickwick Electric Cooperative take very seriously.



As part of our ongoing commitment to the issue of safety, Pickwick Electric Cooperative does a great deal to promote consumer education about how electricity works and how to prevent electrical accidents. Throughout the year we conduct educational programs and electric safety demonstrations in schools and at other community events as we consider it a primary responsibility to make sure our members respect electricity and know how to be careful around it.

The electric lines that deliver electricity to you are built and maintained under extremely strict procedures and guidelines. Your co-op has in place maintenance plans, line inspection programs and line patrol procedures. Co-op workers check each pole, bolt, insulator, tie wire and transformer to make sure it meets strict guidelines for safety. As part of this program, your co-op also makes sure that objects such as grain bins, antennas and towers are a safe distance from power lines. Through our vegetation management

programs, we make sure that trees are a safe distance from power lines.

All of our employees, especially the outside crews, go through extensive and ongoing safety training. Your co-op makes sure they are educated about and accountable for safe procedures. PEC personnel are prepared to assist in an emergency by being certified in first aid and CPR.

Electric co-ops' national organiza-

tion, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, administers a rigorous safety accreditation program. This program promotes the highest standards of safety among electric co-ops and concerned utilities nationwide. Pickwick Electric is in the process of receiving this accreditation, which must be renewed every three years. Cooperatives that apply for accreditation undergo a complete on-site facility inspection, answer a series of questions about 22 safety and compliance recordkeeping areas, and finally submit random document samples for verification.

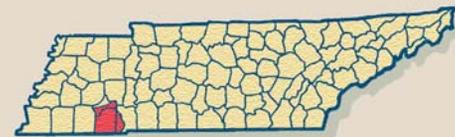
We all have a role in practicing electrical safety, but we wanted you to know the ways in which your electric co-op is delivering you safe and reliable power each and every day and also the ways in which we are teaching the community to use electricity safely in the home.

If you would like an electrical safety program for your organization, please give us a call.



## 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

Electric Cooperative.



# Electric Cooperatives...Going Beyond the Wires

By Jordan Gillentine, area winner of Pickwick Electric Cooperative's writing contest

As Jake snuggled down into the cover of his bed, he couldn't help thinking about all the excitement the next few days would bring. Christmas Eve would finally be here! Families everywhere would alter their schedules. Workers would have some time off to relax with friends and family. Everyone would be in "the Christmas mode" as if some switch had been flipped, transforming our hectic world into one that welcomes rest and relaxation. The coming days would be gift-giving frenzies for all his family and friends, and no one would have to report to work. With such peaceful thoughts in his head, Jake drifted off to sleep, knowing that he would awaken to the aroma of baked goodies, the sounds of breakfast being prepared, and other scents of the season filling the air. He definitely hoped for a Christmas he would never forget!

As daylight began to appear through his blinds, Jake raised his head, wiped his eyes, and looked about, puzzled. The beat of his stereo's music couldn't be heard. His bedside lamp was no longer glowing. There was no smell of baked goods or bacon frying. Could it be that everyone had overslept? Eager to determine what was going on, Jake bounded from his bed, down the hallway, and into the kitchen where he found his mom sipping her coffee. She offered to heat some water in the fireplace if he wanted to join her for a cup.

Jake asked, "Why would you want to heat water over the flames? Why can't you use the coffee pot?"

Mom began by explaining to Jake that temperatures had dropped during the night. The forecasted rain had become freezing rain. The power was off because of ice-coated trees that had broken and downed the power lines. Outside was a winter wonderland.

"That explains why there are no smells of cakes baking or bacon frying," said Jake. He couldn't understand why Mom was not upset about this. Didn't she realize that this would mean that there would be no Christmas at their house? Frantically, Jake asked questions. He could not believe that his mom was so calm about the overnight events and how everything had changed.

Mom explained, "The guys from the power company have already been out here. I saw them pass early this morning. They are working on the lines now. Before you know it, we will have power." Jake chuckled because he

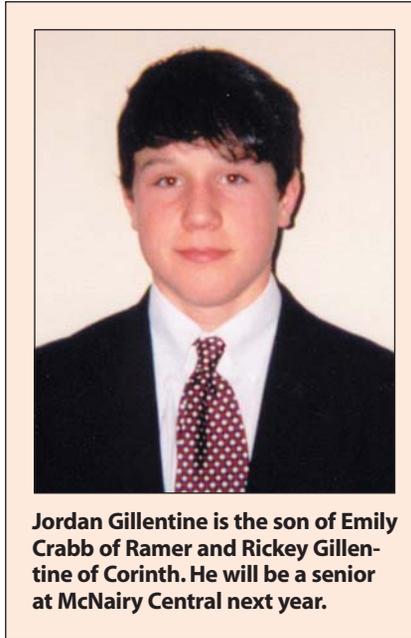
knew his mom must be imagining things. After all, it was Christmas Eve.

He said, "Mom, you know it's Christmas Eve. All the workers will be with their families. They won't be worried about our power! There is no time to waste here. We need to be bringing in firewood and digging out old candles from the closet shelf. It's going to be a Christmas we will never forget, all right! We're going to be cold. Candles will be our only lights, and unless we can roast a turkey in the fireplace, I guess we'll have heated soup."

Jake was unaware of the commitment of his local power cooperative. For his 16 years of life, he had learned to recognize the trucks belonging to the electric cooperative. With the trucks always came the friendly, well-groomed employees who manned

them. He knew that the power company helped provide electricity to his home and others surrounding it. He knew his family received a monthly statement, billing them for each month's kilowatt-hour usage. He knew all he needed to know about his local cooperative — or did he?

The electric cooperative in Jake's rural area has the power to do many things. Mom decided it was time to explain some things to Jake. She told him, "The local electric cooperative has the power to light buildings, heat and cool homes, and provide electricity to the families across the countryside. They also have the power to impact lives in so many ways. That type of power is what an electric cooperative is all about. Since the availability of electricity to rural America in the early 1930s, nothing has impacted our nation like the signing of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act, which gave the possibility of affordable electricity to rural America. Within the following seven years, Tennesseans formed 22 electric cooperatives, all owned by those they serve. They are in the people business. They provide numerous services to enhance the



Jordan Gillentine is the son of Emily Crabb of Ramer and Rickey Gillentine of Corinth. He will be a senior at McNairy Central next year.

(Continued on Page 18)

**Going Beyond the Wires**

*(Continued from Page 17)*

lives of their members. As a group, they organize community events, contribute to the United Way, award scholarships, encourage leadership development and educate the public in methods that are energy-efficient, cost-effective and people-friendly. They have the power to make a difference in our lives.”

Jake was amazed! All this time, he had thought that the only power his local cooperative had was the electric-

ity that flows through his home, providing all the modern conveniences he enjoys. He had no idea that the service of his local cooperative means going beyond the wires. For his cooperative, service means going above and beyond the call of duty. It means dedication to being in the people business — even on a holiday.

Just as Jake thought of some more things he wanted his mom to explain to him, the lights flickered and then came on to stay. There was no time to waste. Jake began helping Mom. Thanks to the local cooperative, this could indeed be a Christmas he would never forget!

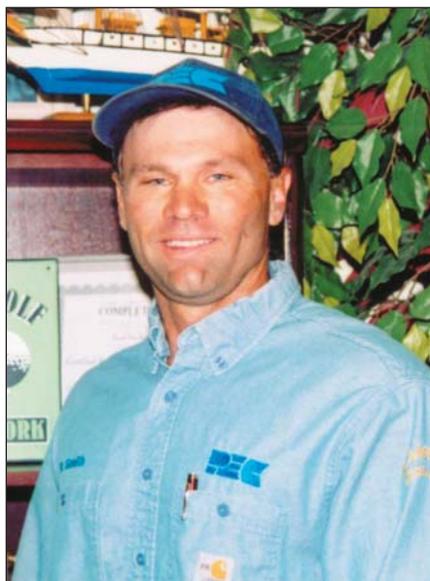
## Employees receive promotion

When a job opening becomes available at Pickwick Electric Cooperative, employees are given the opportunity to advance or change positions if they meet the qualifications. Due to the retirement of James Griffin, an open position was created. Darren Smith was promoted to construction foreman on April 18. Prior to his promotion, he was journeyman lineman, a position he held since 1997.

Darren came to work for the cooperative on July 6, 1989, as a groundman, and he completed the apprenticeship lineman correspondence course offered by the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association prior to his promotion to lineman.

Darren and his wife, Regina, have three children and live in Selmer.

Eddy Warren was promoted to foreman-hot line bucket truck on April 18. Previously, he was a journeyman lineman, a position he held since 1985.



**Darren Smith**

Eddy joined PEC on Oct. 22, 1973, and worked with the Right-of-Way Department before becoming a groundman and taking the apprenticeship lineman correspondence course.



**Eddy Warren**

Eddy and his wife, Charlotte, have three children and one grandchild. They live on Roy Seay Road in Selmer.

## New fees for electrical permits

The Tennessee Legislature amended the state law on May 20, 2004, increasing the fees for electrical permits for those doing wiring requiring electrical inspection. This law goes into effect on July 1. The

new fees are as follows:

0-30 amps.....	\$ 32
31-60 amps.....	\$ 32
61-200 amps.....	\$ 32
201-400 amps.....	\$ 45
401-600 amps.....	\$ 55
601-1,000 amps.....	\$ 95

Rough-in.....	\$32
Re-Inspection.....	\$32
HVAC.....	\$32

Temporary service and service release permit fees are based on the size of the service.



## Old PEC membership certificates

We are in the process of finding the oldest membership certificate issued by Pickwick Electric Cooperative. We would like to display a copy of this certificate at our 70th annual meeting to be held in September. The certificate of membership to Pickwick Electric Cooperative shown above was issued to Joe Neal Weaver on Aug. 9, 1945. It was submitted to us by Maxie Martin, the son-in-law of Joe Neal Weaver. If you have a certificate that was issued before 1945, please submit it to us. Call Larry Gage at 645-3411, extension 224 or Bobby Barnes at extension 223.

**Maxie Martin of Milledgeville shows an old PEC membership certificate, which is dated Aug. 9, 1945, to the PEC office.**



## Visit PEC's web site

Pickwick Electric's Web page contains information for our members and potential customers. You can find out about the cooperative's history, organization structure, billing, special services, *The Tennessee Magazine* articles and a host of other member-related topics by visiting [www.pickwick-electric.com](http://www.pickwick-electric.com).

A visit to our Web page provides members with billing information such as electric bill amounts, meter-reading, date the meter was read, and how many kilowatts were used. A

member wishing to access his or her account by a personal computer will need a user name and password. This can be obtained by filling out the information sheet on the back of your electric bill or by calling PEC at 645-3411, 1-800-372-8258 or 632-3333, extension 223 or 224.

We encourage you to visit our Web site and give us your input on areas where we can improve. You can make comments by filling out the survey under the Race for Quality topic.





Front row from left, Brittany Carroll, Caroline Gray and J. T. Spears. Back row, Hayley Edmondson and Anna Johnson.



Front row from left, Jordan Martin, Kelsey Martin and Tanner Garrison. Back row, Isabella McBride and Olivia Johnson.

## Students compete in safety poster contest

Each year, elementary school students throughout Pickwick Electric Cooperative’s service area are taught how to be safe around electricity through the Louie The Lightning Bug Program and High-Voltage Demonstration. Larry Gage, director of member relations, was this year’s instructor.

Among items discussed in the safety program were:

- Before climbing a tree, check for power lines. Never climb a tree if power lines are nearby or run through it. When pruning trees, watch where you place your ladder. If in doubt whether you can trim your tree safely, call PEC.
- Before flying kites or model airplanes, check to see where the power lines are. Never try to remove kites from power lines. Do not use metallic string or anything metallic when constructing your kite. Always fly kites in clear weather, in open fields, away from power lines.
- Antennas and power lines don’t mix. Choose a location where assembly, carrying and installation can be done safely. Make sure your antenna is secure and is located on the side of the house where it will not fall into a power line. If your antenna is in a dangerous location, PEC will remove it at no charge.
- If you are on the scene where someone has received an electric shock, cut the power off as soon as possible. Use a rope, dry board or stick to push or pull the victim away from the power source. Never use a

metal object to move a victim. If the victim is not breathing, give artificial respiration until help comes.

There are many areas inside the home that could potentially pose danger. Never use an electric appliance in areas that are damp or wet such as swimming pools, bathrooms and kitchens. Unplug small kitchen appliances when they are not in use. Don’t run extension cords under rugs or carpeting, and never use extension cords that are frayed or worn. Infants and young children don’t understand the danger of tampering with electric sockets. Use snap-in plastic covers when outlets are not in use.

Following the Louie The Lightning Bug presentation at Adamsville Elementary School, the classes of Lesa Plunk, Tracy Milford, Melinda Johnston and Toni Hardin participated in an electrical safety poster contest. This year’s winners were Brittany Carroll, first place; Caroline Gray, second; J. T. Spears, third; Hayley Edmondson, fourth; and Anna Johnson, fifth. Honorable mention ribbons were given to five students who had excellent posters: Jordan Martin, Kelsey Martin, Tanner Garrison, Isabella McBride and Olivia Johnson. All other students were given participant ribbons.

If your school or club is interested in a safety program, call Larry Gage or Bobby Barnes at 645-3411 extension 224 or 223.