

Pickwick Electric Cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 12, McNairy Central High School

Activities start at 4:30 p.m.;
the business meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Displays, food,
entertainment, door prizes

Party jumpers for the kids;
Free hot dogs and soft drinks

Entertainment will be provided
by MCHS Jazzcats and the Step-N-Tyme Band
starting at 5 p. m.

Each of the first 500 members
to register will receive a 25-foot extension cord.

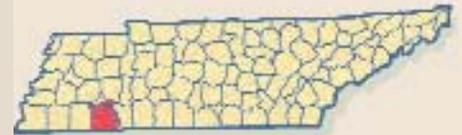
We invite everyone to attend and help us
celebrate 71 years of service to our community.

Scenes from last year's annual meeting



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

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Notice of Annual Meeting

Members of Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3.01 and 3.03, of the bylaws, as amended, the regular meeting of the members of the above cooperative will be held Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006, 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; and
- (3) Any other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

This the 11th day of August, 2006.

Secretary

Annual Meeting Program

- 4:30-7 p.m.....Registration
- 5-6:45 p.m.....Entertainment by MCHS Jazzcats and the
Step-N-Tyme Band
- 7 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 of prizes.



A clean sweep

Martin showcases old-time broom-making



Jack Martin uses a broom press to make the unfinished kitchen broom flat. Many of Martin's tools are handmade and used specifically for his style of broom-making.

Jack Martin's goal in life is to carry on the old family tradition of broom-making, much like his great-great-grandfather, Wick Hockaday, did.

Martin, who makes his home in Selmer, is known as "Jack the Broom-Maker." He sold his first broom in 1982 for \$6. Martin thought this was a small price to pay for something that will last from six to 10 years, but he often recalls that his grandmother said, "What an outrageous price to charge for a broom."

Martin's wife, Virginia, is the person responsible for seeing the Hockaday Handmade Broom not just as a tool but as an art form, more specifically folk art. Like many old traditions, the art of making brooms by hand has fallen by



Martin explains that the first broom handles were made of a wood called ramin, but now various types of wood are used.

the wayside, according to Martin. In an effort to keep folk art alive, the Martins have demonstrated broom-making to more than 700,000 children.

The handmade brooms are fashioned from broomcorn, stalks of earless corn grown on the Hockaday farm. They plant from one to seven acres per year, which matures in about three months. The Hockaday family has been growing broomcorn since the early 1900s. The cornstalk has a long piece of straw that grows out of the top. Martin gathers the straw and then allows it to dry for about a month. He then combs out the seeds, which he uses for next year's crop or sells. It takes about 200 stalks of broomcorn to make one broom.

Martin says, "It takes five months and 45 minutes to make one broom — five months to grow and dry the broomcorn and 45 minutes to make the broom."

Martin makes several types of brooms. The most popular are the kitchen broom, light kitchen broom, heavy kitchen broom and a variety of round brooms. Brooms can be personalized for an additional fee.

Martin and his family are planning the 11th Annual Hockaday Broomcorn Festival. In years past, the festival took place on the Hockaday farm, but this year for the first time it will be held at the Selmer City Park. The date is Saturday, Sept. 16, and the hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival is a family event and will feature a variety of live music — including bluegrass, country, gospel and R&B — and many folk artists of other trades.

Martin has support from family members, friends and volunteers to put on the festival but is always



Martin uses an old paper cutter purchased from a local printing company to trim the broomcorn on each broom.

seeking additional volunteers.

Martin is also teaming up with the McNairy County Chamber of Commerce to make this year's event the largest in history. The anticipated events will include buggy rides, basket-making, broom-making, pottery, chair-making, spinning and weaving, quilting, blacksmiths and many more folk artists. There will be concessions available and music throughout the day.

The 2006 Hockaday Handmade Broomcorn Festival stands to be the best thus far, so if you would like to see great folk art demonstrations, don't miss this year's event.

To order brooms or to get more information about the festival, call Martin at (731) 645-4823 or visit online at www.hhbrooms.com. Brooms can be shipped anywhere in the continental United States.

Home energy-saving tips

Computers, printers, air conditioners, televisions, VCRs, DVD and CD players, fax machines, blow dryers, microwaves ... We're more "plugged in" than ever before. By 2015, consumer electronics and small appliances will account for almost 30 percent of all household electricity use. As the cost of energy continues to increase, the cost for being so plugged in will become more apparent.

Average households will spend more than \$5,000 on energy in 2006 to power their homes and vehicles, projects the Alliance to Save Energy.

Forgetful? A programmable thermostat automatically coordinates indoor climates with your daily and weekend patterns. And you don't have to remember to

turn the air conditioning or heating off when you leave home.

Look for the ENERGY STAR label, the symbol for energy efficiency, when shopping for room air conditioners, other heating and cooling equipment, major appliances, lighting, home office equipment, windows and electronics. Find retailers near you by checking online at <http://www.energystar.gov>.

Install appropriate insulation for your climate and seal air leaks to increase your comfort, making your home quieter and cleaner.

Do online "window-shopping" at www.efficientwindows.org. Discover how high-performance ENERGY STAR windows can increase comfort and reduce heat-



ing and cooling costs by as much as 30 percent.

Here's more:

When refinancing your home, consider including energy-efficiency home improvements.

Switch to cold water washing of laundry and save up to \$63 a year.

Close blinds or shades on the south- and west-facing windows during the day or install shading devices such as trellises or awnings.

Turn off everything not in use like lights, TVs and computers.

Many additional tips and free resources for all types of home and vehicle energy use can be found on the Alliance to Save Energy consumer Web site: www.ase.org/consumers.



Jerry Jernigan retires after 33 years

In November 1972, at the young age of 21, Jerry Jernigan began his career at Pickwick Electric Cooperative.

Jernigan was hired to work on the right-of-way crew for a generous wage of \$1.99 per hour. Proving to be a valuable employee, within a year he moved to the groundman position and advanced into the apprentice lineman position the following year.

To fulfill the journeyman lineman position, Jernigan was required to complete a four-year lineman's program with on-the-job training and several correspondence courses. "It takes dedication and commitment to complete this process," says Jernigan.

As a member of the line crew, Jernigan recalls the long hours and impossible weather that occurred during the tornado of 1991 and the ice storm of 1994. He always answered the call to duty no matter the circumstances, even if it meant working around the clock to restore power.

With several years of training and education, Jernigan continued to move up the ladder. In 1997, he accepted a supervisory position as right-of-way foreman. With this job came a lot of responsibilities but also a lot of rewards.

In Jernigan's early years of employment, PEC had one bucket truck and two farm tractors with bushhogs to trim trees and clear rights of way. As times changed, so did the equipment and personnel. PEC has added the most efficient bucket trucks and digger derricks available to



Jerry Jernigan

better serve our community and to keep the lights on.

With the continuing changes in personnel occurring, in September 1998, Jernigan assumed a new position as construction foreman. He held this position until March 2003, when he was seriously injured in an accident on the job.

As Jernigan looks back on the accident and the time that it has taken for him to recover, he feels very fortunate to be alive today.

"Whether you work the line crew or the right-of-way crew, you deal with danger on a daily basis; you never know what tomorrow will bring," Jernigan comments.

Jernigan is a 1969 graduate of Selmer High School. Prior to PEC, he was employed by McNairy Farmers Co-op. He lives in Selmer and has two children, Gina and Tyler. He has been blessed with two grandchildren, Anna Kate, age 5, and Cole, age 3. He looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren as he retires and may even do some babysitting when needed.

When asked what he most enjoyed about his job, Jernigan replied, "The people I worked with." From time to time, he meets the crews for lunch or a quick break.

"Jerry has been a great asset to PEC, and we truly appreciate all that he has contributed," says PEC President Karl Dudley.

As for the future, Jernigan says he plans to take life easy, sleep late, do some hunting and ride his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.



Although Jernigan (right) was the construction foreman, he says that working together is what it's all about.



Jernigan's crew replaces a pole for Southwest Tennessee EMC that was downed when tornadoes swept through their service area in 2003.