

Electricity

The next greatest thing

It was just before Christmas in 1935 that community leaders in Hardin and McNairy counties came together to form a corporation under the laws of the state of Tennessee.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative was organized Dec. 16, 1935, meaning this year marks the 75th anniversary of your co-op. PEC, like other electric co-ops across America, is a not-for-profit organization that's owned and controlled by its members. Our goals remain

unchanged after all these years: to provide electric service at the lowest possible cost, consistent with sound financial management.

In 1935, fewer than 10 percent of the rural homes and farms in the United States had electricity, while in the state of Tennessee and McNairy County it was fewer than 1 percent.

When PEC was formed, a few households in Savannah, Adamsville, Selmer and Bethel Springs were receiving electricity from the Tennessee Electric Power Company. Shiloh National

Military Park was served with electricity from the Alcorn County Electric Power Association (ACE). PEC purchased these facilities in 1936 from ACE and



Karl Dudley
President
Pickwick Electric
Cooperative
kdudley@pickwick-electric.com

from the Tennessee Electric Power Company in 1939. About this same time, all the PEC service area east of the Tennessee River in Hardin and Wayne counties was sold to a newly formed Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative in Savannah.

The original PEC headquarters office was located in Adamsville. In 1940, it was moved to downtown Selmer until our present headquarters was built in 1954. We have electric plants in six counties and have been able to operate from one central location.

The same year PEC was organized, the newly formed Tennessee Valley Authority began construction of a dam in Hardin County at a place called Pickwick Landing. Though Pickwick Dam was the third major dam construction project undertaken by TVA, it was the first designed for flood control and



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 Ave.

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone Numbers:

731-645-3411

731-632-3333

1-800-372-8258

Web site:

www.pickwickec.com

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



electric power generation. We are often asked the question, "Was PEC named after the Pickwick Dam?" PEC was formed before the dam was built and the name "Pickwick" was given to a United States post office at that location in 1883 by Postmaster Richardson K. Byrd. He liked the name because of the works of the famous poet/author Charles Dickens, who wrote the story "Pickwick Papers." This information is taken from a very interesting book titled "Pickwick People and TVA," written by Russ Roberts in 1985. Roberts was a longtime resident of Pickwick, an employee of TVA and a PEC director. John Roberts, his son, currently serves as a PEC board member.

There is no doubt that the introduction of electric power to our area was a major, life-changing event. There is a story that a TVA field engineer visited a country church in the 1930s and heard a farmer proclaim, "Brothers and sisters, I want to

tell you that the greatest thing on Earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house." Speaking as someone who spent a lot of time in my youth at my grandparents' house in Bucksport without electricity, I can say a big AMEN to the farmer's testimony.

You may not have experienced life in the early days of rural electrification, but you may remember your parents and grandparents talking about the changes this newfangled thing called "electricity" brought to their world. In the months to follow, we will continue to run old pictures in *The Tennessee Magazine* that will reflect the history of PEC.

If you have a story to tell or old pictures you are willing to share, please give us a call at 731-646-3786 or 646-3825. We may use them in a video we are preparing for our 75th annual meeting.



At left, farmers help clear a right of way. Below left, a PEC crew sets a pole in the early years. Below is Mr. N.V. Bullman of Finger. In 1948, as the lights came on, he said, "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 gave me so much more light than my kerosene lamps, and I didn't have to smell the smoke." Before his death, he built a new home with all the modern-day conveniences afforded by reliable electric service.



Adamsville Junior/Senior High School Band demonstrates 'Pure Energy'



Above, Adamsville Junior/Senior High School color guard members Amanda Roberts, left, and Elizabeth Kee proudly display their green attire. The band's "Pure Energy" theme is all about going green. Its props display renewable energy ideas such as solar panels, wind turbines and hydropower. It's time for each of us to get serious about the roles we play in conservation.

As band director Frankie Congiardo and members of the Adamsville Junior/Senior High School Band staff prepared for the 2009-10 school year, they racked their brains for a theme that would not only be eye-catching on the field but gain an award-winning performance. That is exactly what they achieved when they came up with "Pure Energy." The band brought home a total of 42 trophies this season and were Division I state champions.

"Designing the Pure Energy program was really fun," says Congiardo. "Even the title gave us an opportunity to share a concern about the economy, the environment and an awareness by our young people that things can be different and better for our future. At the same time, we could pres-

ent an entertaining, energetic and aesthetically pleasing field show.

"Students learned that the results of hard work can pay off in many ways. Placing second by three-tenths of a point in last year's championship was on the mind of each student during every show we performed this season.

"As we added different effects of 'going green' throughout the season, we saw our goal of awareness being taken to heart by every crowd. Even if we had not brought home our fifth Division 1 state title, the members felt that this season was a tremendous success because they found that working together to achieve a common goal brings it closer, and actually reaching it brings a satisfaction that few people know.



"I'm so proud of each and every member, and now they have a lifetime to remember what we accomplished this year."

Twenty-seven bands from across Tennessee met and competed for the state title at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. After the opening performances, the 10 top-scoring bands were announced and selected to march in the finals. The director of each finalist drew for their band's performance order in the evening competition. Adamsville drew the seventh position — "really good news," Congiardo says.

When Adamsville's band took the field, it was clear the members had come to play. The "Pure Energy" theme produced their best performance of the year. They left the field knowing they had given their all, and, regardless of the outcome, they were excited about their last show of the season.

After "pass and review," when all bands marched past the stands and took their place on the field, the nerves started to show up on the faces of the hard-working band members and their directors. All participating bands were announced in performance

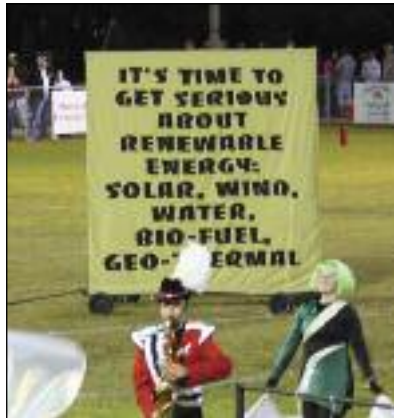
order. The Adamsville band received "superior" ratings in color guard, field commander, percussion and band. Then came the caption awards for preliminaries, followed by the finalist bands' scores and placements.

When the dust cleared and the scores were tallied, Adamsville High School was named the best Division 1 band in Tennessee. Its overall final score of 93.46 was the highest score registered since 1994, according to records.

"A lot of hard work went into this production," Congiardo says. "Without the dedication and support of the band members, AHS

staff members Brandon Salmon and Kelly Wilder and the parents, none of this would have been possible. Since July, the band members rehearsed an average of 15 to 20 hours per week in all kinds of weather conditions. Parents took time out of their busy schedules to build and paint the props and haul them to each event. It was a group effort, and it paid off."

Congratulations to the Adamsville Junior/Senior High School Band members and staff for a job well done!



Holiday closing

Pickwick Electric Cooperative

will be closed on

Monday, Jan. 18,

in observance of

Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

NOTICE

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, all new construction will require a service installation fee of \$150.

The primary overhead single-phase cost per foot will change from \$3 to \$1 per foot. The secondary single-phase cost per foot will be \$1.



PEC's policy in areas subject to flooding

When flooding threatens an area, it is necessary that measures be taken to safeguard against the perils of the unpredictable floodwater and its interaction with electrical facilities owned by Pickwick Electric Cooperative and our members. The cooperative shall make the determination as to when an area may flood based on available data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, county emergency management and other pertinent organizations. Once a determination has been made as to when a particular area may flood, within 24 hours prior to the anticipated flooding, the cooperative shall make an effort to remove all meters and shall de-energize the primary lines serving the area. The primary lines will remain de-energized until such time as the water has receded and complete access to the line has been restored. In the event that the data changes or the anticipated flooding has not occurred, a member may petition the cooperative to have electrical service restored. The cooperative will review any such petition on an individual basis.

When the floodwaters have receded and the areas served by the primary lines are safe to be re-energized, the cooperative shall restore power to the primary lines and make a determination at each member location if a meter can be set to restore power according to the following procedure:

The cooperative shall purchase electrical inspection permits and make arrangements with the state

of Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors to inspect all electrical services within the affected area. Prior to the electrical inspection, cooperative personnel shall visit each electrical service location to determine the potential flood damage and make a determination for electrical restoration as follows:

- A. If there are no visible signs that water has compromised any electrical equipment on the premises, the meter will be set and power restored. The customer shall be required to execute a release of liability, and continued extension of service shall be based upon the findings of the state of Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors.
- B. If there are visible signs that water has compromised any electrical equipment on the premises, the meter will not be set until such time as any repairs have been made and the state of Tennessee deputy electrical inspectors have deemed the installation safe to be re-energized.

The cooperative shall bill each customer a reconnect fee per the cooperative's operating policies and procedures.

The cooperative shall not be responsible for any loss, loss of use or damage resulting from the flooding, loss of electrical service or any other liability caused by this situation. The cooperative shall make a diligent attempt to limit the duration of electrical outage to a minimum but cannot be held responsible for its duration due to conditions beyond our control.



Happy New Year
from
**Pickwick Electric
Cooperative.**