

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

[www.horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com)

### Main Office

P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119

**Conway Office: 369-2211**

**Socastee Office: 650-7530**



(to report power outages only)

**369-2212**

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### Co-op Connection Editor

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**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## Happy belated Valentine's Day!

**MANY OF US** in Horry County missed Valentine's Day. We were too busy.

The sentiments expressed in the hearts, candy and cards sold for Valentine's Day 2014 paled in



comparison to the expressions of love we saw and heard about in Horry County as crews worked to restore power after Winter Storm Pax packed a wallop and delivered it to our service area in the form of ice, broken poles,

torn services and power outages.

Horry Electric line crew workers don't work alone on our power lines. Whether they are climbing poles, restoring power, or clearing tree limbs to prevent future outages, they are never far from the hearts of their families and friends who love them. After seeing many of the comments on our Facebook page as they worked to restore power last month, they're in the hearts of our members, too.

If the lights go out, the families and friends of line crew workers send their loved ones out into the elements. When other electric cooperatives are in trouble after devastating hurricanes, tornadoes, fires and floods, our line workers have traveled as far as Virginia, Louisiana and Florida to bring the lights back on for complete strangers. Each time these brave folks leave home to help those in need, their families are left behind, praying for a safe return.

This time, it was line crew workers from sister cooperatives who came to our rescue. We were very glad to see crews from York Electric Cooperative in South Carolina, South Kentucky Electric Cooperative, Lee Electric, as well as T&D Solutions when they rolled into town.

Working with high-voltage electricity, line crew workers find themselves in life and death situations

on a regular basis. That's why Horry Electric focuses on safety first. The emphasis on safety directly benefits members in quicker outage restoration and cost savings; it also helps our employees get back home safely to their loved ones. We know spouses, children and friends of our line crew workers appreciate that!

Marrying into this profession isn't easy. Line crew workers are often on call and must be ready to respond at a moment's notice if our community needs them. This makes children's sporting events and family get-togethers hard to pull off sometimes. But our crews who keep your power flowing do it because they know, without their commitment, many of the things we've come to expect—refrigeration, lights, appliances, entertainment—wouldn't be possible. By devoting their lives to working on utility lines, they connect all of us to a better way of life.

I'd like to thank everyone who openly expressed appreciation for the work these folks did after the ice storm through our social media outlets, by making a quick phone call to the office or by taking the time to write a note to me and our board of trustees. I'd also like to thank everyone for the prayers said for our line crews whenever they have to work long hours, no matter what the weather, to make necessary repairs and keep power flowing to our homes each and every day.

Whether it is your spouse, your parent, your child, your friend or your neighbor, we thank you for putting your love on the line—we're committed to making sure they return home safe and sound.

**James P. "Pat" Howle**  
*Executive Vice President and CEO*



## Save money just horsing around

**RIDING HORSES** is their passion at Consign for Equine. Helping others enjoy the pastime—without going broke—is their cause.

Owner Jean Parisi first hit the trails two years ago. “I got a horse and fell in love,” she says.



Parisi also fell for the first saddle she bought. How did her horse like it?

Not so much.

“It got a bruise,” Parisi says. A riding pal told her, “You’ll never use this saddle again on that horse.”

“I thought, ‘What do people do when they buy

Jean Parisi (left) and Kathy Hardee at Consign for Equine, where horse lovers can find everything from tack to child-size cowboy boots to spurs to stallion candlesticks—and at a discount.

a saddle that doesn’t work for their horse and they’ve spent their last penny?”

A light bulb came on. Fast forward to May 31: Consign for Equine opens for business across from Palmetto Chevrolet.

It’s catching on. “People love to come here and find what they need. We keep prices low,” says Parisi, who is cutting prices even more for fellow HEC members with a Co-op Connections discount.

“When people come in with a child who has never ridden before, my dream is to outfit them from head to toe,” she says, beaming.

Shop manager Kathy

## Local discount

Get 10 percent off your total purchase

Where: **Consign for Equine**

1111 Fourth Ave., Conway

Phone: (843) 438-8029

Email: [ConsignForEquine@gmail.com](mailto:ConsignForEquine@gmail.com)

Hours: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday–Friday; 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Saturday

Co-op Connections® Card

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Hardee, a Loris native who sat in her first saddle at age 6, knows her stuff: “If you’ve got it in the barn, somebody can use that tack. That’s why we’re here, to get it out to the public.”

Parisi adds, “If you can’t use it, you can put it up for sale here and get what you need.”



WALTER ALLREAD

## Saving you almost \$681,000

Members of South Carolina’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives saved a whopping \$2,715,086.82 on prescriptions last year by using their Co-op Connections discount cards. It’s part of a (very) grand total of \$12,110,422.27 saved since other Palmetto State co-ops introduced the program in 2007. Horry Electric members, who pocketed \$102,511.25 in Rx savings in 2013, are now on track to rack up more than \$681,000 total since we got “connected” in 2009. Click the Co-op Connections link at [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com) to find more Healthy Savings Discounts.

Co-op Connections® Card: By the Numbers

**\$12.1 Million**

Saved on prescriptions by S.C. co-op members since 2007

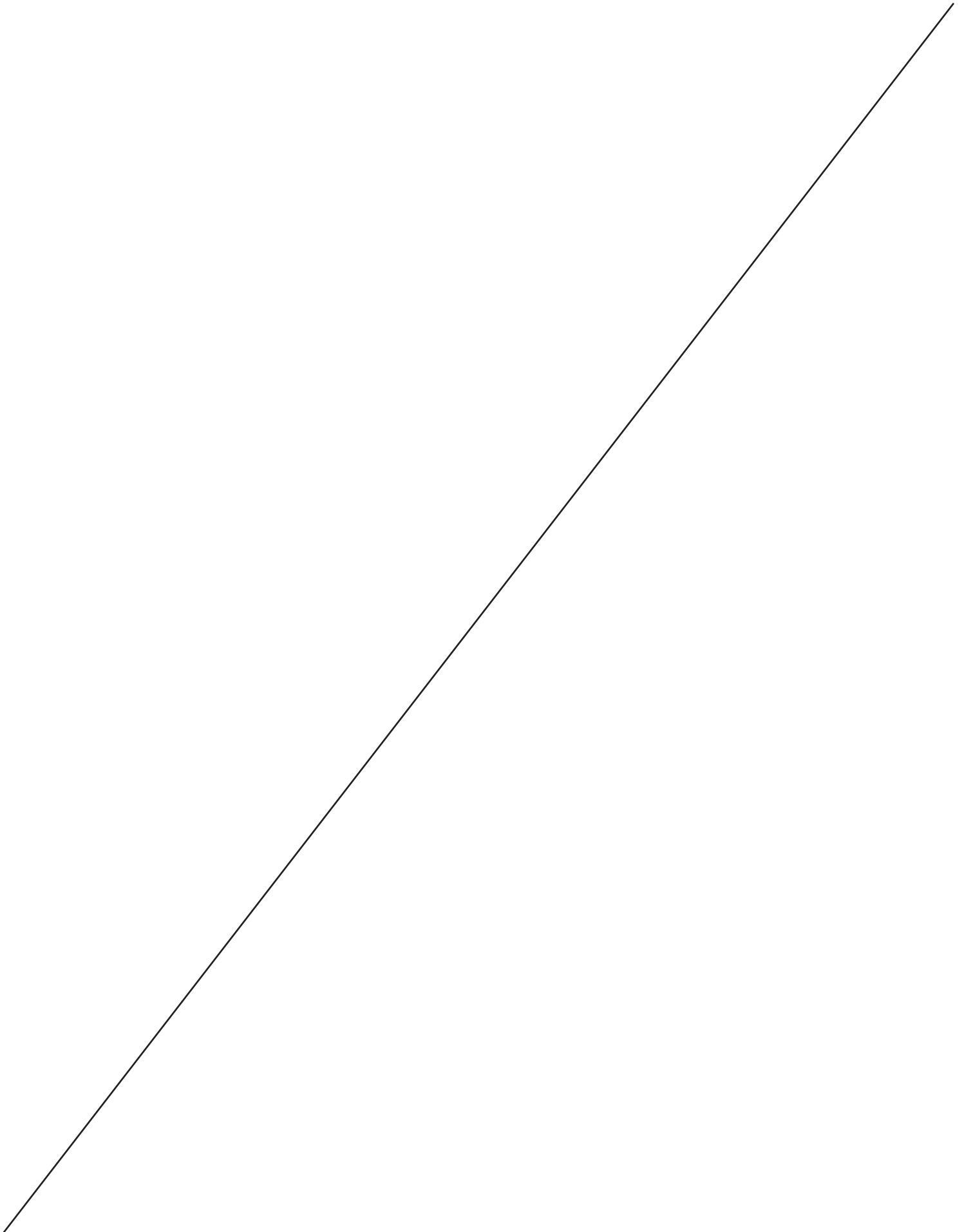


## Earn cash back—as easy as 1-2-3!

With Co-op Connections’ new Cash Back Mall Shopping Assistant, you can earn cash back on purchases of more than 300,000,000 products from more than 5,000 leading online merchants. It’s as easy as:

1. Visit HEC’s Co-op Connections page through the link at [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com).
2. Download and use the free Shopping Assistant for your browser, using popular search engines like Yahoo, Google and Bing.
3. Shop directly from the same sites you’re already visiting—and save more with Co-op Connections!







## Restoring service after the storm

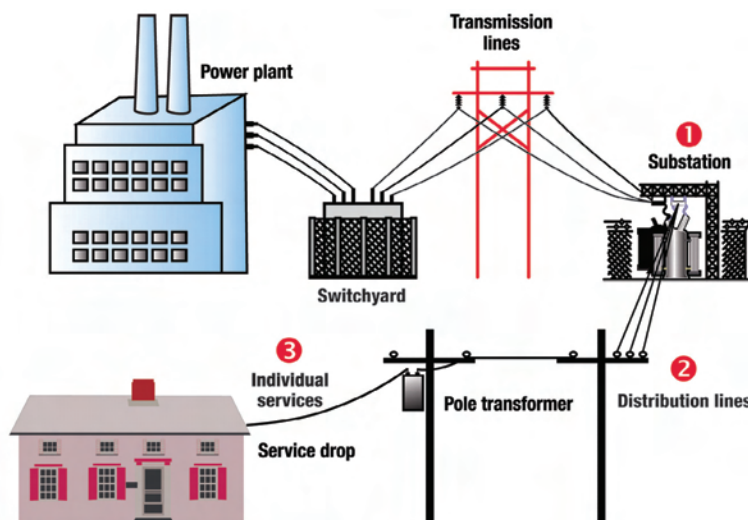
Goal is to get lights back on ASAP

**RESTORING POWER** after a major outage is an enormous undertaking that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to safely restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Keep in mind if there is damage to power plants, switchyards or transmission lines, those facilities must be repaired by our power supplier before we can restore your service. Transmission lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by lightning, ice storms, tornadoes and hurricanes. Tens of thousands of people could be served by a single high-voltage transmission line.

When those facilities are working, problems in your co-op's electric distribution system can be corrected. Three primary areas of our system must be addressed.

**1—Substations are repaired first.** A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.



**2—Distribution lines are repaired.** Main distribution supply lines are checked next, if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of customers, such as a subdivision. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

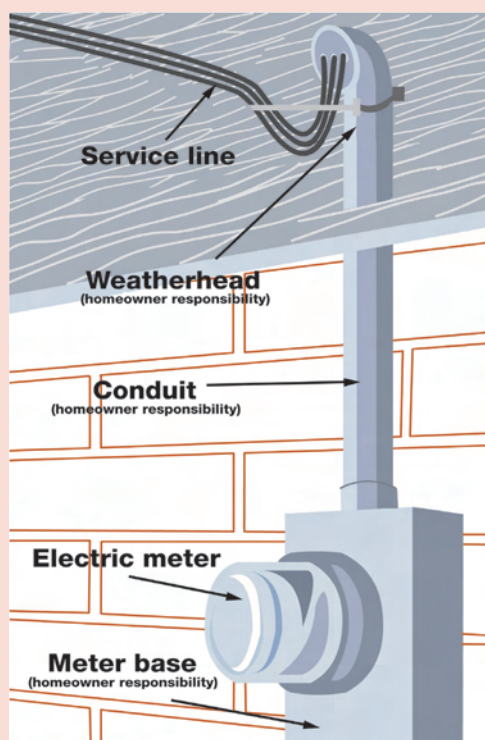
**3—Individual services are restored.** The final supply lines, called service lines, carry power from the transformer on utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This may explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage, so a service crew can repair it.

To report a power outage, call PowerTouch, 369-2212. ☎

### If your electric service is damaged

If there is damage to the equipment where the service drop enters your home, you may need to get an electrician to repair it before the co-op can safely restore your service. The weatherhead, where service lines enter the conduit leading to your home's electric meter, is the responsibility of the homeowner. So are the conduit and the meter base. The co-op can replace or repair damaged meters or service lines, but if you see damage to your home's weatherhead, conduit or meter base, contact an electrician immediately to get repairs started.



## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Statement of nondiscrimination

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, the admission or access to, denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Abigail Lewis, human resources coordinator. 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, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call, toll free, (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8399 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



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## When poles were ‘monsters’

HEC member was 12 when power came to her Horry County farm

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**THE ELDEST OF SIX** siblings, five of whom were girls, living in a four-room house her father built farming 29 acres of Horry County land, Lee Rabon came up knowing the value of hard work.

“My mother started me cooking at 9 years old, and by the time I was 11, I could cook a meal for the whole family,” says 78-year-old Rabon, an Horry Electric Cooperative member and a Conway Medical Center retiree. “I wish I had a dollar for each biscuit I made!”

“We had vegetables we’d put up, we had hogs and chickens. We’d even jar-up hog meat. We were poor, but we were proud!”

From their home near Aynor, Rabon remembers visiting relatives as a child, riding in the family wagon pulled by two mules. She also can remember when crews from “the REA”—actually the co-op, but back then, everybody called co-ops by the acronym for the Rural Electrification Administration—began running power



Her father, Neal Rabon, plays Santa Claus—country style.



Lee Rabon in front of the renovated “home place” where she was raised with five siblings. Her son, John, lives there now. She also has a daughter, Renee Roberts.



The Rabon home place shortly before it was renovated.

to rural Horry County.

“I was about 12 years old when they started, and I thought those big old light poles, they looked like monsters to me,” Rabon says. “It was probably 1946 or ’47. Everybody was tickled to death when REA started putting up power lines. I remember when they came in and wired the house, when you pulled that string and the lights came on versus kerosene lamps. Whew, it was bright!”

“My dad went out and bought us a radio, and boy, I loved that radio. Sometimes he’d make me cut it off and go to bed. I loved listening to the Grand Ole Opry. I wore that radio out!”

Like many small farmers, the Rabons bought new appliances only as

they could afford them.

“I came up with a wood stove, then we had a kerosene stove, then we had a gas stove, and then we finally got an electric stove,” she says. “My daddy didn’t believe in going into debt, and I’m the same way. We got what we could afford and nothing more. We didn’t even have a bathroom inside the house until after he died.”

Now, Rabon can look back over a life that’s seen a great deal of change, but one she’s thankful for with children of her own and, as she says, “a roof over my head.”

“The Lord blessed me,” Rabon says. “I think I’ve done pretty good.” ☺



Virga Lee Rabon in the eighth grade, around the time co-op power reached her family’s home.



# Another time and place

Lifelong farmer recalls years with 'no electricity ... no conveniences'

**BORN AND RAISED** in the Joyner Swamp area near Aynor, Horry Electric Cooperative member N.D. Hardwick Jr. was a boy of 16 when his family first got electricity in 1944. A farmer all his life, Hardwick Jr. remembers clearly what life was like before power came to rural communities in the South.

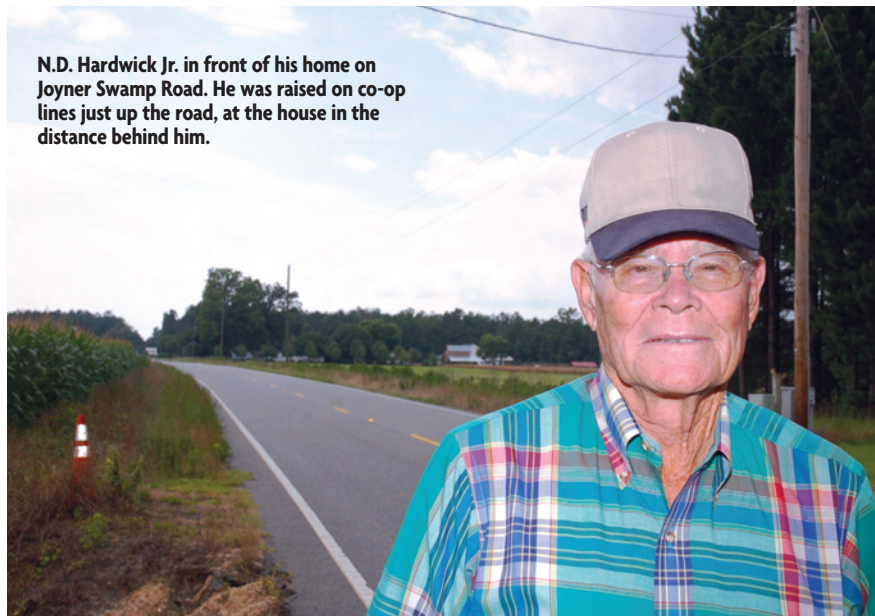
"Coming up as a child, we had no electricity, no electric lights, no conveniences," says Hardwick Jr., who had three brothers and three sisters. "We had a gas-engine washing machine; that was the only convenience my mother ever had.

"At my age then, we were only used to oil lamps. I'd have to learn my lessons by lamp light or lantern light. I didn't come home from school and go do my lessons. I had to work; you worked 'til as long as you could see, then you did your schoolwork.

"Before school I had to get up before dawn and milk three cows. If children today had to go to school like I had to go to school, I doubt many of them would go."

Hardwick's mother passed just after his home got electricity, but he still recalls the amount of the first bills the family got.

"The first light bill we got was a dollar-and-a-half," Hardwick says. "Then it moved to three dollars. I remember I had a gas stove and



N.D. Hardwick Jr. in front of his home on Joyner Swamp Road. He was raised on co-op lines just up the road, at the house in the distance behind him.

WALTER ALLREAD

electric lights, and it was wonderful. You could pay the light bill and the gas bill for less than nine dollars."

In the years that followed, he got married, began farming on his own and piece by piece purchased the conveniences most take for granted today.

"We were sharecropping for a Mr. Doyle and didn't have a refrigerator," Hardwick Jr. says. "He came one day and said, 'Go get you a refrigerator.' I said, 'Mr. Doyle, we don't have any money for that,' and he said, 'You go ahead and get it, I'll pay

for it for you. If you can pay for it this fall [when the crops come in], that's all well and good, and if you can't, you still have a refrigerator.' So that's how we got our first refrigerator."

Hardwick Jr., 84, says life is a lot different now than it was when he grew up.

"Back then, a dollar would go as far as \$50 now, it seems like," says Hardwick, who later served in Korea before returning home to farm tobacco and other crops. "It's a whole lot different now. I've seen a lot of change in my lifetime." ☺

## Remembering 'the day the lights came on'

Electric cooperatives across the country are celebrating their 75th anniversary. Aiken Electric Cooperative, formed in 1938, last year became the first of South Carolina's 20 distribution co-ops to reach that milestone.

Horry Electric Cooperative was organized April 24, 1940, and our system was energized January 7, 1941. We will mark our 75th anniversary in 2016.

Leading up to the celebration, we're interviewing co-op members and former employees who recall "when the lights came on."

Please let us know if you, or someone you know, might have bright memories of those days. And tell us if you have vintage appliances, electrical items, memorabilia or photographs from the early days of rural electrification.

Contact Gayle Addy at (803) 739-3032 (email [gayle.addy@ecsc.org](mailto:gayle.addy@ecsc.org)) or Campbell Shuford at (803) 739-5072 (email [campbell.shuford@ecsc.org](mailto:campbell.shuford@ecsc.org)). They are employed by The Electric Cooperatives of S.C., Inc., the state association of co-ops, including Horry Electric Cooperative.







# Working together, we can weather any storm.

Horry Electric Cooperative would like to thank all of our members for their patience, the community for its support and our line workers and office personnel who worked around the clock to restore power during this recent severe winter storm. The encouraging comments and phone calls we received warmed our hearts and kept us focused on the task at hand.

With your support, we put the power back in teamwork.

**Horry Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Conway: 843-369-2211

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