

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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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.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Electric bills reflect weather patterns

Minimizing movement of conditioned air can cut costs

ELECTRIC BILLS VARY with the seasons, driven by weather and energy-use patterns.

Weather matters. When it's cool outdoors, family members generally want the house warm. When it's warm outside, air conditioners make living areas pleasant.

How much weather affects your electric bills depends on many factors, including your home's original construction materials, insulation, and air

leaks. Personal comfort plays a role, too, as does the difference between the thermostat setting inside and temperatures outdoors.

Your thermostat

We recommend making sure you carefully select the 'heat' setting on your system and that you keep your thermostat as close to 68 degrees as possible to maximize energy savings and comfort. If you're chilly, put on a sweater or an extra layer of clothing. You should do whatever you can to keep your heating system from running for long periods of time.

The amount of energy used, called consumption, by furnaces, heat pumps or baseboard heaters is directly related to how long they run. Because they are connected to a thermostat, they run when the temperature drops a



few degrees below the thermostat set point in your home. When the outside temperature is colder than normal, more heat is lost through the ceiling, walls, floors, and openings such as windows and doors. The thermostat senses this extra heat loss and operates the furnace more often to keep up with the heat loss. The longer the unit operates, the higher the energy consumption, which results in a higher electric bill.

Spikes in energy consumption due to colder weather can have a significant impact on your total bill, especially if extreme temperatures continue for several days.

James P. Howle

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

Powerful tools

THERE ISN'T MUCH anyone can do about the weather, but we can each take control of our energy use.

So there won't be a complete surprise when the bill comes after a cold snap, we encourage members to access their account to view their personal energy use through MyEnergy Online, which can be found on horryelectric.com.

In addition to being able to view your daily energy use, you can analyze your bill. The tools provide immediate feedback, and you can proactively take action to alter your behavior and make changes before daily energy use adds up to a big electric bill. Questions? As always, call us at (843) 369-2211.



More Horry Electric members opting to assist neighbors

MEMBER PARTICIPATION in Operation Round Up, Horry Electric's charitable-giving program, grew last year, with more than 5,000 accounts opting to round up their bills to the next dollar to help neighbors in need.

That's roughly 21 percent of the co-op's accounts, which currently number about 71,400. In 2014, when Horry Electric had approximately 70,000 accounts, owners of about 19 percent of those accounts allowed their bill to be rounded up.

Member donations through Operation Round Up are administered by the Horry Electric Trust, a volunteer board. A recent year-end

review of the trust's grants for 2015 showed that Operation Round Up funds assisted 220 individuals in need with food, shelter, clothing and health care. Grants totaled \$43,035.36.

The Horry Electric Trust received and reviewed about 20 aid applications a month in 2015.

Nine trust members from around the county serve. Before each meeting, they contact aid applicants from their areas to determine needs and help fellow board members determine eligibility.

Participation in Operation Round Up is simple and convenient: Co-op members' bills are rounded to the

next highest dollar each month. The collected money goes into the trust fund.

The average member contributes about six dollars a year. Contributions are tax-deductible.

All funds donated through Operation Round Up stay in Horry County. The program reflects HEC's adherence to the Cooperative Principle of Commitment to Community.

All new co-op members are automatically included in Operation Round Up when they sign up for service. If a member does not wish to participate, they can simply contact the co-op.



Remodeling complete at Socastee office

THE REMODELING project at Horry Electric's Socastee office is complete.

"We appreciate the patience of our members who use this location as we worked to make some needed improvements to provide the service expected and deserved," says Penelope Hinson, HEC spokesperson. "Thanks to HTC for sharing space with us in their facility while we worked on our office."



CHRIS TEEMS

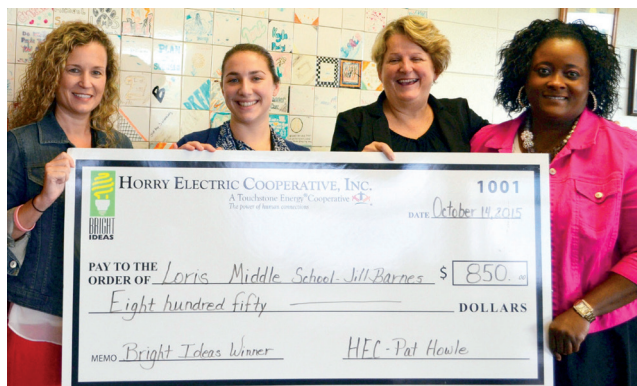
Horry Extra

Changing of the guard

Operations Manager W.I. Jones (right), along with fellow Horry Electric veterans Mitchell Ray, Glenn Skipper and Kenny McDowell, recently retired with 133 years of service between them. Fret not, HEC members: Jones is certain the co-op will run as smoothly as ever. Read why in this month's Horry Extra section, on page 20B.



Winners of 2015 Bright Ideas grants included Loris Middle School, where educators (from left) Jonna Dougherty, Amy Delloiacono, Jill Barnes and Dr. Tracy Bellamy accepted our really-big check. Barnes' classroom project was Making Models/STEM and Technology.



MICHELLE LEWIS

Teachers, turn on your brights!

Submit your most creative ideas by June 1 to win a grant

FROM A "GATOR ROBOTICS" project to a "Faces in the Crowd" student literary magazine to a school news show studio, Horry Electric helped fund some super-creative classroom projects last fall.

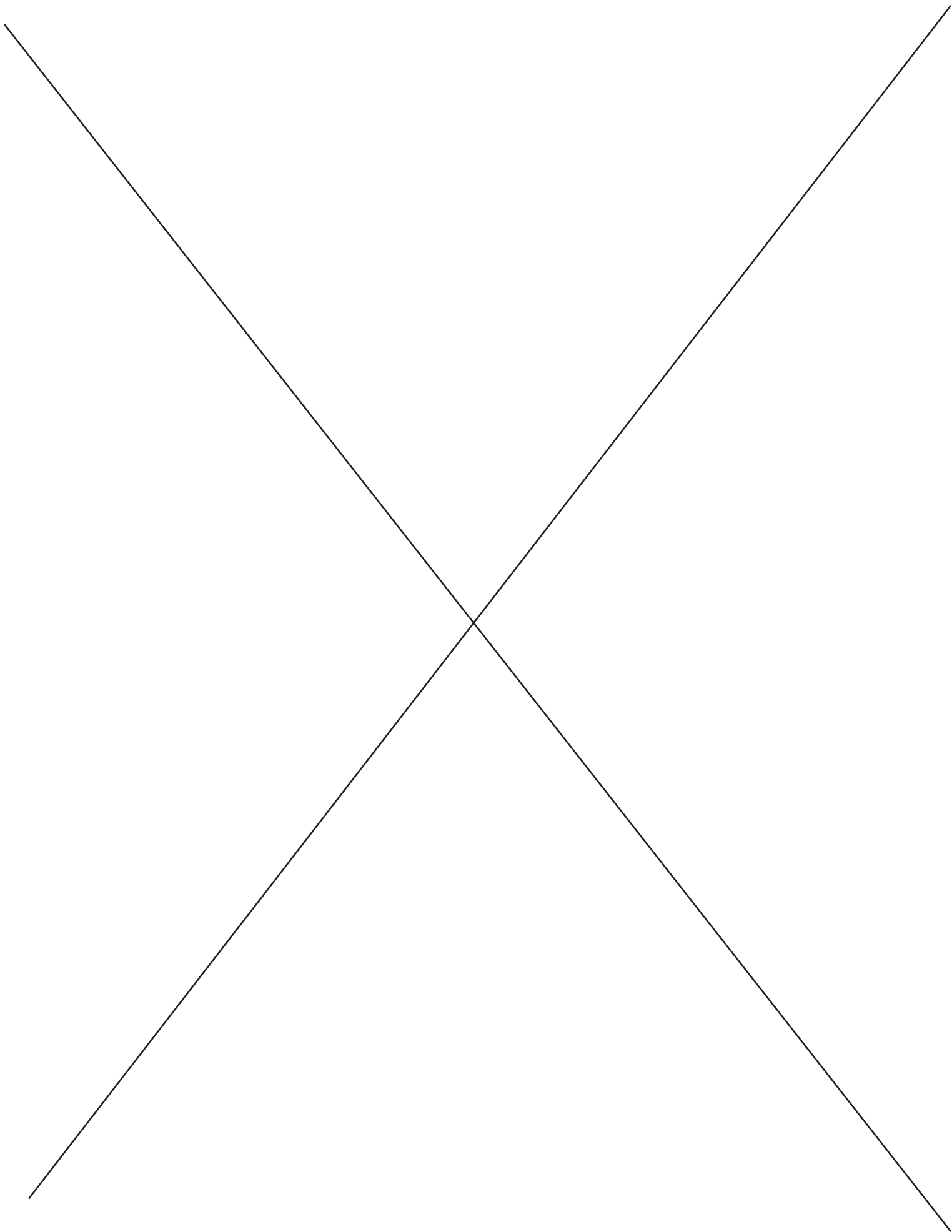
Now, the Cooperative is ready to help local educators again. HEC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas, a grant program that provides funding for innovative classroom-based education projects.

The deadline to apply is June 1.

HEC launched Bright Ideas in 2007 and has since funded dozens of classroom projects. Bright Ideas grants are intended to fund projects outside normal public school funding parameters and can be made available to all disciplines in grades K-12 in Horry County. A school may submit an application, and teachers are limited to one application per year.

Bright Ideas applications are available on HorryElectric.com. For details, contact Toni.Gore@HorryElectric.com.





The right tree in the right place

LIKE THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION, Buddy Parker encourages thoughtful practices that help preserve community trees while also benefiting electric co-op consumers.

"It's very beneficial to have canopy trees," says Parker, Horry Electric's right-of-way coordinator. "You want them in the landscape for shade and for other reasons." Trees can help cool your home and neighborhood, break cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees can lower line clearance costs for utility companies, reduce tree mortality, and result in healthier community forests.

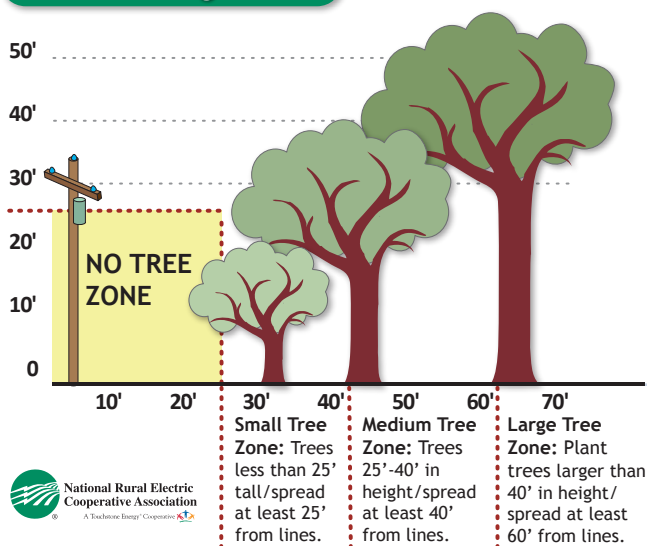
Unfortunately, trees and overhead power lines just don't mix well in close quarters. Lightning, high winds, ice, heavy rains or even extremely dry weather can send trees to the ground and limbs into lines, knocking out power. Then, crews have to be dispatched, electrical equipment has to be replaced, and members are without power until the work is safely completed.

"We have a tree-trimming program to reduce the potential for outages related to trees and limbs, but keeping up with growth in Horry County is a challenge," says Parker.

Member cooperation in right-of-way maintenance is crucial, he notes. "Right of way has to be managed and maintained for the sake of all these benefits to members and the general public." Parker notes, "It affects everybody—safety, reliability, system-improvement jobs."

To learn more about which trees might work best in your yard, visit ArborDay.org. And visit HorryElectric.com to learn more about landscaping around electrical equipment. Look under Storm Central, then Safety and Reliability.

Tree Planting Guide



Just one job where good right-of-way maintenance paid off

WALTER ALBRECHT

RIGHT-OF-WAY SCHEDULE

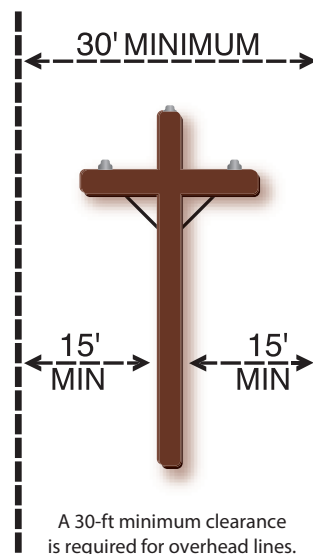
CLEARING RIGHTS OF way helps lights stay on. Here's our current schedule:

Allsbrook—From Hwy. 19 to Hwy. 45 and southwest to Hwy. 410 and surrounding areas. Northeast on Hwy. 45 toward Live Oak and areas near Loris. Also down Hwy. 410 north down Cane Branch Road and nearby.

Shell—Down Hwy. 19 and west on Hwy. 472 toward Kingston Elementary and surrounding areas.

Longs—Down Hwy. 905 from West Bear Grass Road to Hwy. 22, also down Red Bluff Road toward Daisy Crossroad and surrounding areas.

Horry Electric crews work on a line running along Hwy. 66 south of the Daisy Crossroad on Jan. 28. A clear right of way allows them to work unimpeded as they enhance service for circuits, like this one, out of the Goretown Substation.



Operations in good hands after changing of the guard

BETWEEN THEM, W.I. Jones, Mitchell Ray, Kenny McDowell and Glenn Skipper racked up 133 years of service to Horry Electric, each starting at HEC in the early '80s.

The decade saw co-op line crews using new equipment and techniques to improve service, the four recent retirees say. Today, HEC is as advanced as any electric utility anywhere, but one thing hasn't changed over the years, they note: the commitment that's required of linemen.

Skipper, an equipment operator on underground crews, recalls working around the clock to restore members' service in major outages: "I know my first Christmas here, when my daughter was born, I didn't even spend Christmas at home."

High growth—especially in subdivisions that required underground service—marked their time at HEC. Ray, an underground crew foreman for the last 15 of his 30 years, notes, "It really started taking off about 20 years ago."

McDowell, who retired as fleet manager, spent 27 of his 35 years at HEC on line construction work, including many as an overhead-line crew foreman. "When we started, I believe there were two bucket trucks here and three line trucks," he notes. "Right after I came, they got a little



W.I. Jones (left) with his successor, Burroughs Nobles. Behind them, an HEC crew sets a transformer using a material-handling bucket truck—one of the equipment upgrades Jones added to enhance safety and efficiency.

WALTER ALLREAD

electric bucket, which would reach up a 30-foot pole."

Today, the fleet—and the electric distribution system the crews build and maintain—have been upgraded to ensure the best, most-efficient service possible for Horry Electric members, says Jones. In over 32 years, the last 12 as manager of operations, Jones had a big hand in many improvements. He saw HEC progress rapidly after starting in 1983 as a meter reader. "When I came, there were 19,000 members. Today, there are 59,750," he said Jan. 28. "There were 2,587 miles of overhead lines; today, there are 3,221 miles. And this is where most of the growth has been: We had 97 miles

of underground line when I came, and, today, we've got 1,879."

Jones worked on underground and overhead line crews, later serving as an overhead crew foreman. Through it all, he put safety first.

"We look at it, as linemen, that we're our brother's keeper," he says. "If you see somebody doing something they don't need to be doing, it's your responsibility to stop him."

'Passionate about safety'

Burroughs Nobles, who has been promoted to operations manager, praises Jones: "He's brought a lot of good safety issues to the plate. He's very passionate about safety."



JESSIE HENDRICK

Member service still priority for new substation supervisor

Even though Jeff Spivey, in his new role as substation supervisor, now primarily focuses on technology, he hasn't forgotten what working for Horry Electric is all about: serving the cooperative's members.

"Here at Horry, we try to accommodate each member's needs as well as provide a cost-effective and reliable source of power," says Spivey, who has been employed at HEC for almost 21 years. He started as a lineman, later worked as a serviceman and line crew foreman.

"Over the years, I enjoyed working with our members in new service connects or power quality issues; however, I have found more gratification in the restoration of power to our members after a hurricane or ice storm," Spivey says.

Spivey and his wife of 19 years, Kimberly, have three children—William Walker, 16; Weston Daniel, 13; and Kensley Rebecca, 8. They live in the Cool Spring community, where they are members of Salem Baptist Church.

At 40, Nobles has 19 years with Horry Electric. He started on McDowell's overhead crew, later took over Jones' old crew as foreman and, last year, was promoted to overhead line superintendent.

Jones' leadership—and the team spirit in Operations—makes it easier to step into a management role, he says. “You go from managing five head on a crew to managing 20 head, to managing 44 head. It's a lot to keep up with, but he's trained me well and helped me a lot,” Nobles says. “Plus, we've got a group of good guys that work with us.”

A family man, Nobles knows well the importance of getting everyone home safe and sound. He and his wife of almost 19 years, Beverly, live in Cool Spring. They have two sons, Brayden, 16, and Mason, 12. The Nobles attend Berea Baptist Church.

First and second loves

Jones plans to spend more time with his own family—wife, Nancy, daughter Angie, son W.I. “Will” Jones IV and his wife, Sophia, and grandsons, W.I. “William” Jones V and Braydon.

He'll also cherish time with his father, W.I. “Bill” Jones Jr., and mother, Eloise H. Jones. He credits his mother and grandfather for teaching him to work the land. Jones farmed, after hours, even after starting at the co-op at age 31. “My first love was farming, and my second was line work,” he notes.

Jones is returning to his old love now—or, as his mother recently told a friend, “He's going to play in the dirt.”

Jones says, “I actually bought me a good, used combine. I'll be planting the crop come March and in May,” Jones says.

Leaving is bittersweet, Jones says. “I have a love for line work. I started out as a lineman. I used to love to climb. I'd just as soon climb as work a bucket, but I've loved it all. I've



Efficiency pays off for members, new crew foreman says

Horry Electric's focus on safe, efficient operations means better service for members, says William Lambert, who was recently promoted to line crew foreman.

“Our technology played a big part in that,” Lambert says. He says material-handling bucket trucks, in particular, help linemen do their job more efficiently. “You went from having to have a line truck and a bucket truck set up everywhere to just the [material-handling] bucket in a lot of cases. You don't have to have near the equipment at every job,” Lambert says. But it isn't all about equipment, he notes.

“Since I've been here, I've worked with some very good people,” says Lambert, who has been with HEC for almost 19 years. After starting as a groundman on an underground line crew, Lambert spent about 10 years on Tom Johnson's crew, during which time he and fellow foreman Chris Lawson made first-class lineman in about four years. He also worked for foreman John Martin.

Lambert and his wife of 16 years, Tracy, have four boys: Tyler, 22; Martin, 15; Daniel, 12; and Isaac, 8. They attend Berea Baptist Church in Aynor, where they are very involved with youth activities.

enjoyed what I've done.”

Yet he's leaving with complete confidence. Jones notes, “I'm not worried, not in the slightest, about

leaving Operations in good shape.

These boys can get it done!” ☺

Visit HEC's Facebook page for photos, memories—and sage advice—from W.I. Jones.



Reading and lighting

'It was like heaven' when the old oil lantern went out for good

UNTIL SHE PASSED AWAY RECENTLY, Leona Floyd still enjoyed a good read, just like when she was a schoolgirl. She read every chance she got back then.

"Mostly magazines we got out of the mail," said Floyd, who died Feb. 29.

But for the 10 children of Wayman and Nora Cox, reading came second, after other priorities—namely, surviving.

"We knew what we had to do when we got home from school," said Floyd. "My mama—and my daddy, especially—had things for us to do, to get out and do some work in the field."



The Cox labor force picked peas, harvested corn and tackled other farm chores. Only afterwards did the children gather around a table with an oil lantern to do their lessons.

"I got my homework done with the lantern," said Floyd. "It wasn't a lamp. We did have lamps later on."

The words became considerably clearer when Floyd was about 10: That was when electric cooperatives brought rural electrification to areas including Tabor City, N.C., where the Cox family lived, and Green Sea, where she lived most of her life.

"It was like heaven," she said. No more dimming lights or running out of kerosene. "It was wonderful," Floyd told *South Carolina Living* in 2014.

She continued to learn after high school, attending a Miller-Motte vocational program, but soon married. She and her husband, the late Hoyt Floyd, were wed in 1949. They farmed and raised two children, Gayle and Ronald, now a member of Horry Electric's Board of Trustees.

The work ethic that her parents instilled served her own family well, too. Her son remembers his mama suckering and stringing tobacco alongside everyone else. "Mother would help until about 10 or 11 o'clock, and then she'd go home and cook dinner for us all," she says.

She spent many days nestled under a cozy throw in a comfy chair under the glow of an electric lamp, and those early times were just a pleasant memory, despite all the work. She said, beaming, "Those were the good old days." ☺



WALTER ALFREDA

Electric lights thrilled Leona Floyd: "It was wonderful," she said. An avid reader, she kept up with her electric co-op through *South Carolina Living* magazine. Demonstrating the Cooperative Principle of Education and Information for members, Horry Electric and other co-ops around the Palmetto State have made member communications a priority since the early 1950s. First came a member newspaper, *South Carolina Electric Co-op News*, published from 1951 through 1963. The first issue of *Living in South Carolina* magazine, published from 1963 to 2009, is shown below, including the local co-op pages for Horry Electric (lower left) from January 1963.

