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Homer Mayes,
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CEMC Board of Directors

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Wesley H. Aymett,
Cheatham Co., Vice President
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Co., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.
Michael A. Mason, Robertson Co.
C. David Morgan, Montgomery Co.
Jerry T. Peacher, Stewart Co.
Carrol O. Poole, Montgomery Co.
Tommy G. Whittaker, Sumner Co.

Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

Celebrating 75 years

It began as a vision, the seemingly out-of-reach notion that folks living on farms and in rural communities could have the same opportunity and advantage as those living in larger towns — the luxury of having electricity in their homes. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation pioneers like M.C. Northington, M.D. Hudson and W.C. Jackson were determined to make this vision a reality for rural residents in this part of Middle Tennessee.

After the Rural Electrification Act was signed into law in May 1936, these gentlemen quickly gained the support of Farm Bureau members from Montgomery, Cheatham and surrounding counties to embark on the challenge of electrifying local rural areas. With great drive and determination, they initiated the task of forming a member-owned cooperative to achieve this goal.

"Forming the cooperative was a big job," said Northington, the first general manager of CEMC. "We had scores of meetings, knocked on hundreds of doors and surveyed miles of country roads but finally succeeded in getting a charter recorded with the state on April 22, 1938."

And so the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation came to life. Two days after recording the

charter, CEMC's first board meeting was held. Board members were elected, and the dream of bringing electricity to rural communities began to become a reality. Just shy of one year later, on March 19, 1939, the first CEMC meter was set at the W.C. Jackson's Cheatham County home.

This month, we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. A lot has changed since that first meeting was held, but one thing has remained constant, and that is our dedication to the

membership.

From the very beginning, the goal of CEMC has been to provide safe, dependable electricity for all at an affordable price. But we don't just stop there. We are also committed to supporting the communities we serve.

Whether it's sponsoring a community event, providing electrical safety education to school children or collecting warm clothing

and food for those in need, we are striving to make life better for our friends and neighbors.

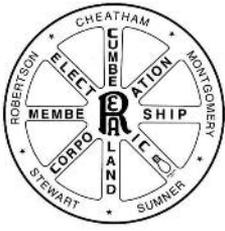
As we commemorate this milestone in the history of our co-op, we also want to pause to say thank you to each of our members. Without you and your support, we wouldn't exist today. We truly consider it a privilege to serve you.



Jim Coode,
General Manager,
Cumberland
Electric Membership
Corporation



Looking back



**CUMBERLAND
ELECTRIC
MEMBERSHIP
CORPORATION**

Then



Now



The first board of directors of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is made up of, from left, W.L. Taylor, North Robertson County; Marable McFall, South Montgomery County; J.D. Dickerson, South Sumner County; R.M. Felts, South Robertson County; O.L. Howell, North Stewart County; B.E. Lee, North Sumner County; and W.C. Jackson, Cheatham County. CEMC's first manager, M.C. Northington, is at right. Director George Nolen, Houston County is not pictured.



On CEMC's current board of directors are, from left, seated, K. Jean Beauchamp, Robertson County, assistant secretary-treasurer; Wesley H. Aymett, Cheatham County, vice president; Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner County, president; and Shela K. Williams, at-large, secretary-treasurer. Standing: directors C. David Morgan, Montgomery County; Tommy G. Whittaker, Sumner County; Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart County; Jerry T. Peacher, Stewart County; Michael A. Mason, Robertson County; and Carrol O. Poole, Montgomery County. Standing far right is Jim Coode, current CEMC general manager.

From 'ordinary' to 'extra fine'

Late CEMC member leaves timeless tribute to electricity



The late Elma Bumpus Lane

The poem below, written many years ago by the late Elma Bumpus Lane, was last published in this magazine in 1988 for the 50th anniversary of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. Ms. Lane was so amazed by the introduction of electricity in her home that she was inspired to write this poem describing the miracle of electric lights and appliances.

As CEMC celebrates its 75th anniversary this month, we felt it appropriate to resurface the poem and let Ms. Lane tell the remarkable story again — in her own words.

Changes electricity has brought

I'm not sure that any of us appreciate electricity enough,
But one thing for certain; It is really good stuff.
So I decided I would like to make a rhyme,
And tell you the changes it has brought in my lifetime.
I can tell all of you that it brought changes a-plenty,
Although we didn't get it until I was past twenty.
But I shall never forget on the night I was ten,
For I was the most frightened I had ever been.
The horror of that moment I sure remember still;
We were halfway to Clarksville on Hilltop Hill.
When ahead of us in the black of the night
There seemed to be floating about a thousand lights.
I was positive that the world was coming to an end,
I started silently praying. I'll tell you my friend,
When I quit trembling and again could speak,
I asked the question, though my voice was weak:
"What are all those bright dots dancing around?"
My cousin, laughing, answered, "They're the lights of town."

I had been to town in the daytime and crossed the river
On a ferry-boat with my Dad in his old "flivver,"
But that was my first trip to town at night,
All of those sparkles made such an alarming sight.
I was visiting my cousins, Margaret and Mary;
They both lived out just past Greenwood Cemetery.
They had electric lights and a new cabinet radio;
I got to turn it on myself and listen to a show.
That may not sound very exciting now,
But I could hardly wait to tell my sisters how,
That you just turned a knob — that was real handy —
And got beautiful music and even Amos and Andy.
One summer power lines were strung across our land;
All of our neighbors sure thought that was grand.
And in October of the year nineteen and thirty-nine
Electricity was put in that home of mine.
Wire and labor cost \$70 and was done by Norward
Stokes.

That sure was a heap of money for us country folks.
Each room of the house got what they called a *drop light* —

A bulb coming from the ceiling on a green cord twisted tight.

So we no longer used our glass lamps filled with oil
With thin chimneys that the soot would always soil.

We put our one Aladdin lamp on a shelf upstairs,
For electricity had solved all of our lighting cares.

I hated to scrub clothes on a rub-board and boil 'em in a
kettle,

But with our electric Maytag, the laundry was easy to settle.

Our secondhand refrigerator kept milk and butter cool and
nice;

We no longer had to put it in the spring or by a block of
ice.

Some of our well-off neighbors even bought an electric
churn.

Mama said 'twould be a waste since we children could
take a turn.

Pulling the dasher up and down — oh, how we'd fuss and
sputter

Before the clabber in the churn would turn to buttermilk
and butter.

On hot summer days — it was simply grand
To have an electric breeze a-going instead of a palm leaf
fan.

All of our family enjoyed gospel music on the radio.
If we got up at 4:00 a.m., we could get it from Del Rio.

An electric pump on the cistern was a wonderful thing —
Much better than packing buckets of water from the
spring.

Water came pouring out when the faucet was turned on,
So the days of pumping water from the cistern were also
gone.

My Dad was a farmer; he raised tobacco and corn,
Worked his mules from sun to sun — sure as you are born.
So we couldn't buy all electric appliances at one time,
Because they cost big bucks, and farmers made nickles
and dimes.

My Dad liked to chop wood — he kept a roaring fire,
But swinging an axe sure wasn't my brother's desire.
So in the early fifties we put in electric heat —
It was both clean and warm — mighty hard to beat.
Then no more hearth-sweeping or taking the ashes out,
Electric heat made housekeeping easier without a doubt.
Later the cistern didn't supply our needs, so we got a well.
The changes with the electric pump on it — do I dare to
tell?

We no longer needed the little outhouse (maybe I had bet-
ter hush),
But it was replaced by an inside seat you could just sim-
ply flush!

For our two weekly baths we no longer needed the zinc
tub;

We had a porcelain one inside where we would soak and
scrub.

On the farm milking two cows by hand took half an hour;
In that same time three dozen can be milked with electric
power.

Long-ago farmers could not strip tobacco on a dreary day,
Because they couldn't see how to *sort it* just the right way.
But now the stripping rooms have plenty of electric light,
So if they choose to, they can strip both day and night.

They used to shovel and scoop so hard, it was almost a sin
To get the harvest stored away in the metal grain bin.

But now they have the auger tube that moves grain with
speed

With just one flip of a switch, that is all they need.

Electricity has made farming easier and given them thrills,
With air compressors, grinders, sharpeners, saws, and
drills.

To keep the yard in the summer, they have electric edgers
and mowers;

In the winter time they have electric torches and snow
blowers.

Fixing meals on the wood stove, we women used to slave,
Now it only takes a few minutes with the microwave.

Besides color TVs, we have automatic washers and dry-
ers,

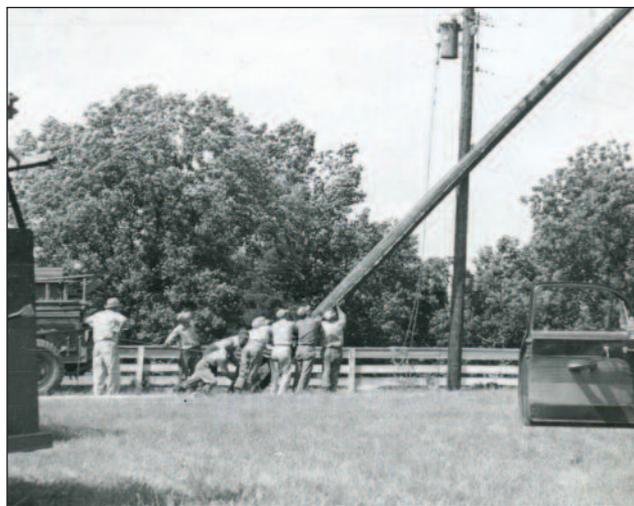
Electric skillets, toasters, mixers, also deep fat fryers,
Electric sweepers, blankets, and curlers and even electric
shavers —

Just all kinds of gadgets that are both work- and time-
savers.

In offices now they have electric key punches and com-
puters

That are used far and wide by all business sharp-shooters.
When I try to use the electric typewriter, I always mutter,
For the darn thing goes so fast my words look like I stutter.
How has electricity changed this life of mine?

Why it's changed it from *Plain Ordinary* to *EXTRA FINE!*
So one thing's for certain: Electricity is here to stay,
And none of us would ever want it any other way.



CEMC linemen work together to set a power pole by hand in the early days.



CEMC personnel in the early '50s admire the illumination provided by a newly installed security light.



Door prize recipients from CEMC's 1957 Annual Meeting show off their winnings.

CEMC pays \$3.4 million in property taxes

For the year 2012, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation paid a total of \$3.4 million in ad valorem, or property, taxes to local governments. This was a total increase of 4.68 percent over the cooperative's tax bill for 2011.

The payments represent taxes on CEMC's investment in power lines, buildings, substations and other items needed to distribute electricity to the co-op's 90,488 members.

Within the CEMC service areas, all but four communities received more taxes from the co-op than the previous year.

Local governments use these tax dollars for a variety of purposes, including education, road improvements and public safety, all of which ultimately improve the communities in which we live.



Sumner County Trustee Marty Nelson, right, accepts payment of CEMC's 2012 ad valorem taxes from Portland District Operations Supervisor Homer Mayes.

Comparison of 2011 and 2012 ad valorem taxes

	2012 taxes paid	2011 taxes paid	Dollar difference	Percentage change
Cheatham County	\$341,815.00	\$326,216.00	\$15,599.00	4.78%
Ashland City	13,789.00	13,604.00	185.00	1.36%
Dickson County	5,658.00	5,098.00	560.00	10.98%
Montgomery County	1,103,092.00	1,096,017.00	7,075.00	0.65%
Clarksville	100,554.00	103,498.00	(2,944.00)	-2.84%
Robertson County	805,192.00	763,825.00	41,367.00	5.42%
Adams	2,519.00	2,455.00	64.00	2.61%
Cedar Hill	682.05	647.97	34.08	5.26%
Greenbrier	15,220.17	14,694.77	525.40	3.58%
Springfield	7,175.00	9,372.00	(2,197.00)	-23.44%
White House	17,713.00	14,784.00	2,929.00	19.81%
Ridgetop	11,208.00	11,011.00	197.00	1.79%
Portland	7,848.44	6,374.94	1,473.50	23.11%
Millersville	2,870.00	2,778.00	92.00	3.31%
Stewart County	281,160.00	250,325.00	30,835.00	12.32%
Cumberland City	3,188.64	2,874.53	314.11	10.93%
Dover	36,543.00	36,770.00	(227.00)	-0.62%
Sumner County	606,888.78	558,164.75	48,724.03	8.73%
Gallatin	12,936.08	13,222.94	(286.86)	-2.17%
Hendersonville	14,073.00	12,748.00	1,325.00	10.39%
Millersville	3,584.00	3,379.00	205.00	6.07%
Mitchellville	7,111.28	6,917.65	193.63	2.80%
Portland	64,714.80	61,760.30	2,954.50	4.78%
White House	23,679.00	16,769.00	6,910.00	41.21%
Total Taxes Paid	\$3,489,214.24	\$3,333,306.85	\$155,907.39	4.68%