



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

RR 6, Box 502

Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502

**304-624-6365**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners



www.harrisonrea.com

## Right-of-way herbicide treatment program completed

Harrison Rural Electric Cooperative's summer herbicide treatment of right-of-way (ROW) is now completed.

HREA's right-of-way contractor, Line Clearance Inc., sprayed 231 acres of ROW this past summer. This annual process is a long-term investment for the Cooperative and is critical to the future reliability of the distribution system. Not only does this herbicide treatment provide unrestricted access to the Co-op's power lines and equipment, but it also allows for a quicker, safer response to maintenance and emergency repair situations.

Vegetation management done with chemicals provides long-term results since root systems are eliminated. This year, Line Clearance treated vegetation with high-volume hand spray application. When mechanical mowing and cutting are the only programs

used, regrowth of foliage will be a problem again in just a few years. We all know that, depending on the species, an untreated stump often sends out 10 to 20 stems or suckers. Additionally, with growth rates exceeding three to four feet a year (again depending on the species), a side-trim or topping of a tree can cause problems in just two to three years.

Many homeowners have chemicals in their homes that are more toxic than the chemicals that we use on our rights-of-way. All chemicals used in the herbicide treatments are safe, environmentally sound and EPA approved. They are applied only when wind and weather conditions are optimal. The goal is zero drift or runoff of the product at all times. All chemical application is done by professionally trained personnel who meet all licensing requirements for the state of West Virginia. Also, the products that are used **do not kill grass.**

Your Cooperative wants to be a

### Manager's Corner

By  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



good neighbor. We provide notification of impending spraying to each landowner, giving information on the type of chemical to be used and when the spraying will take place. This gives the landowner the opportunity to inform us of any area that is **"not to be sprayed."**

Please be sure to call the operations department of Harrison Rural Electric if you have any questions and ask for Harold Gains, right-of-way manager.

Our long-term goal is to prevent as many electrical outages as possible with an aggressive and well-managed vegetation program.

### Board of Directors

Michael Cross, Dist. 7 .....President  
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Darrell Powell, Dist. 6 .....Secy.-Treas.  
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Gary L. Jackson, General Manager  
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Alan Cox .....Operations Manager  
Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer  
Nada McNemar .....Editor

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.



As people pause to share this joyous time of year with family, Harrison Rural Electrification will be closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 to allow our employees to be with their families.

HREA also will be closed Jan. 1.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# America's rural electric story

*History of rural electrification PART I  
From the Youth Programs office of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

Today, rural America is a land made bright and thriving by an industrious, imaginative people, a people who have created Cooperative institutions to improve their lives and to enrich and increase the productivity of a nation.

The glimmering tapestries of light that set the nights aglow throughout all of rural America are testament to perhaps the most singular and stunning of these Cooperative achievements — the bringing of light and power to the land.

It is a story that begins in darkness, then comes alive in the radiant light of hope and promise that lives within the human spirit. It is the story of how these hopes and stirrings were translated into vital and imaginative action, into a unique partnership struck by the federal government and rural people in their determined effort to electrify the land and “get lights” — realized through loans and technical assistance from a little agency the people called “the REA.” How they successfully built their Cooperative institutions to achieve the light and power, how new generations of rural Americans have nurtured and carried forward their early work, is a magnificent and intensely human story of struggle, trial and triumph.

Today, as those early struggles stand many decades distant, the early organizing experiences and triumphs of rural electrification's pioneers are told and celebrated against a backdrop of folk legend and lore. But the old power and magic persists in present-day rural electrification. Those early, moving experiences are beacons and guideposts to the present, enlivening and enriching and inspiring legacy which rural electric people continue today. The rural electric experience is never-ending. Here is that story, America's rural electric story:

## **The beginning of hope**

Because there was no electricity, life and work for most rural Americans in the 1930s was fixed in a cycle of hardship and drudgery, little changed from decades before. Only the most affluent of farmers and ranchers or those near towns could get “the electric.” The majority of rural people, nearly 90 percent, lived and labored in a dark and powerless land.

But, beginning in 1935 there came hope. The federal government had a plan for the rural people to help themselves and bring the power into their lives. They could organize cooperatively and there would be loans to electrify the rural areas. The electrifying message swept the land. It was the beginning of the full-scale electrification of America, a partnership of the people with their government. Folks called it “the REA.”

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) with an executive order signed in May of 1935. With this action there was the recognition that if rural America was ever to become electrified, there was need for government involvement. But it was the involvement of the rural people themselves that became the true catalyst. After it became apparent that private utilities were not going to construct electric lines with REA loan funds under the agency's plan for area-wide rural electrification, it was the farmer-owned Cooperatives, many newly-organized for the REA loans, that came to the forefront. Their applications flooded the REA offices in Washington, DC. By 1936, the movement for Cooperative rural electrification became a groundswell of popular support that swept the land. Congress passed legislation making REA permanent with provisions for Cooperatives. Meanwhile, rural electric organizing meetings increased and intensified.

The organizing meetings grew larger, more serious. REA field men, meeting day and night, outlined procedures and principles to the rural leaders. It took a tremendous effort, a wagonload of patience and hard work, as these committed men and women went up and down the country roads, working from farm to farm to get the needed signatures of new members, obtaining the hard-to-come-by \$5 “sign-up” fees. Then began the long hours of mapping in electric lines with the engineers, acquiring land easements for the lines from their neighbors and, finally, preparing the loan application to REA.

Meanwhile, REA engineers and specialists in Washington worked at a frenzied pace to keep up with the demand. Yes, the REA was really coming.

## **Electricity for you!**

How the people, in partnership with their government, electrified the rural areas, is one of the greatest achievements of Cooperative and economic democracy this nation has ever known. In hundreds and hundreds of regions, there were the first hopes and stirrings, then the cooperative commitment to bring light and power into their lives, to “get the REA.”

The stories of the early days of rural electrification are all different, all the same...rural men and women petitioning, educating, organizing — for power. They met, they planned, they created their Cooperative institutions.

All over the country, the poles began to dot the landscape, and, overhead, new lines of power were coming into the lives of rural Americans. Line crews, often aided by eager members themselves, cleared rights-of-way and dug holes, while others came

(Continued on page 24)

# Carbon monoxide: It's odorless and deadly

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas that each year claims more than 2,100 lives, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Additionally, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports approximately 10,000 people annually seek medical attention for unintentional CO poisoning caused by a house-related appliance.

## Source of carbon monoxide

- Fuel-burning household appliances are potential sources of CO poisoning. Follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule for these appliances to be working properly.

- Do not leave your vehicle idling in an attached garage. The CO gas can seep into your home through doors and floorboards.



## Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning

- Dizziness, severe headaches, nausea, sleepiness, fatigue/weakness and disorientation or confusion.
- High concentration levels of CO can be fatal in a matter of minutes.

## Prevention

- Install CO alarms with a battery backup on every level of a home and in sleeping areas.
- If a CO alarm sounds in your home, never ignore it. Get your family out of the house immediately and open the windows to allow the CO to dissipate.

- Call emergency personnel from a neighbor's home or a cell phone once you are out of the house.

*Source: Kidde; U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Journal of the American Medical Association*

# What to give the person who has everything

You'll hear it a million times this month — "I just don't know what to get them, they've already got everything."

Why not give the gift that keeps on giving? Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) may not seem that exciting, but many of us already are past the age of Tonka® trucks and Barbie® dolls.

As prices for just about everything seem to keep going up, a CFL will help bring down the amount spent on the monthly electric bill.

Although more expensive than a traditional bulb,

between the energy savings and the longer life expectancy, CFLs pay for themselves over and over. They use two-thirds less energy to produce the same amount of light and last 10 times longer.

The average CFL is projected to save the user \$30 in energy and replacement costs.



# Don't send your hard-earned energy dollars up the chimney...

When you cozy up next to a crackling fire on a cold winter day, you probably don't realize that your wood-burning brick or masonry fireplace is one of the most inefficient heat sources you can possibly use. It literally sends your energy dollars right up the chimney along with volumes of warm air.

A roaring fire can exhaust as much as 24,000 cubic feet of air per hour to the outside, which must be replaced by cold air coming into the home from outside. Your heating system must warm up this air, which then is exhausted through your chimney.



## Director petition nominations due by Dec. 6

### REMINDER!

Those members living in either districts 3 or 4 who wish to run for election to the board of directors for Harrison Rural Electric must present their petition for nomination to General Manager Gary Jackson by the close of business on Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007.

Petitions must contain the name, address and account number of the petition nominee; the director position for which the nominee will run; the printed names, addresses, phone numbers, account numbers and original signatures of at least 15 members. **Hurry, the deadline is almost here!**

## America's rural electric story

(—continued from page 22)

behind with the poles and hardware. Last, came the crews to string the wire.

In the earliest days, erection of the lines was a sometimes primitive affair, but by 1936, REA developed assembly-line methods for line construction with uniform procedures and standardized types of electrical hardware. The results were lowered costs, which made electricity feasible for more and more rural people. The number and rate of REA projects accelerated. Rural electrification was on the march.

*(Next month, Part 2, "The New Hired Hand.")*

## Save on your energy bill this winter...

- Install attic fans in rooms with cathedral ceilings to bring the warm air that rises back down to the floor.
- Check your thermostat. Typical settings are 78 degrees for summer cooling and 68 degrees for winter heating.
- Arrange furniture and drapes so that all output vents and intake grilles are free from obstruction.



## Check it out, sophomores and juniors... Enter to win a trip! 2008 Youth Tour to Washington, DC June 13 to 19

See the treasures in our nation's capital. You can enjoy an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC June 13 to 19 as part of the electric Cooperatives' Youth Tour. Visit the Capitol, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Vietnam Memorial, Mount Vernon, cruise on the Potomac and see many other fascinating places.

You will meet and have a chance to talk with your congressional representative. Best of all, you'll meet other students your age from all across the United States.

Your local electric Cooperative will sponsor one or two students on this trip. To be eligible to compete, you must be a high school sophomore or junior.

For information on how you can be part of this trip, complete the form here and mail it to your electric Cooperative today.

Yes! I am interested in hearing how I can be part of the trip to Washington, DC this summer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sophomore  Junior  — Male  Female

Mail to:

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