

THE CIRCUIT!

February 2019

A publication for our Members
in Atoka•Bryan•Choctaw
Coal•Johnston Counties



SEC Celebrates 80 Years of Service



First load of poles-1939

Since 1939, Southeastern Electric has been your reliable energy provider. 2019 marks the 80th year that the Co-op has strived to bring you the best electric service around and for the lowest cost possible.

In 1935, if you lived in a rural area of the United States, you were lucky if you had a central station for electric service. Only *one in ten* homes were equipped

with power and that number was even *lower* for those rural areas of Southeastern Oklahoma.

Across America, rural citizens could not get electric service, or at least at a price they could afford. Investor-owned electric utilities didn't have the means to extend their lines into the rural areas nor did they have a desire to find a way that would give them that ability. It would have required too much investment for farmers to only use a few kilowatts per month for lights. They doubted they would have made any money selling power to that type of customer.

Farmers knew better. They knew if there was an adequate supply of low cost power then they could produce even more food and fiber on their farms. Greater production could lower the cost of the crops, saving everyone in the long run. Unfortunately, only a few farms were able to get electric service

See Anniversary (pg.2)



Manager Bass Geren-1967

Anniversary

in the early 1930's. Those who did, had to pay high rates for each kilowatt-hour of power.

The answer to this "energy crisis" dawned on May 11, 1935. In an effort to fulfill the objectives of the government "doing for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but could not do for themselves in their separate individual capacities."



By the urging of Congress, the President of the United State issued an Executive Order, Number 7037, which established the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). REA was authorized to act as a banker for responsible organizations willing to take over the task of getting electricity into rural homes.

By the end of 1935, it was apparent the investor owned electric companies were not going to take the initiative in applying for loans designed to extend electric service to all rural people. It became evident that if there were going to be lights in rural America, the farmers and other rural residents would have to do it themselves. The enactment of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by Congress gave birth to the idea of using cooperatives as a means of bringing power

to the countryside.

With the promise of low interest loans (loans, not grants), farm leaders and groups such as the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Oklahoma Farmer's Union, and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service visited farm after farm to sign up members who would eventually form electric cooperatives.

The pioneers of the rural electrification program in southeastern Oklahoma worked long and hard to build a consumer-owned and controlled electric utility to provide themselves with the electric power they so desperately needed. Their efforts often met strong opposition, not only from the investor-owned utilities, but also from skeptical landowners. However, the fruits of their efforts paid off on October 4, 1939. Four long years after signing of the Executive Order, Southeastern Electric Cooperative (SEC) was ready to begin building line and received its first load of poles. The task of electrifying the rural areas had begun!



Today, the Cooperative has come a long way. Now in 2019, we celebrate our 80th year with the dedication and commitment to our Member-Owners stronger than ever before. Thank you all for your continued support in YOUR Cooperative!***

Pole Inventory and Mapping Project Begins

DAVEY Resource Group



Davey Resource Group (DRG), an industry leader in right-of-way management and consulting, will

conduct an inventory of equipment, meters and poles for Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

DRG will begin mobilizing their crews in late February and early March. Their focus will be on all SEC infrastructure coming off the Yuba substation. Once Yuba is complete, DRG will move to the Colbert area.

The information that DRG will be compiling will be used for our future engineering and outage management system at SEC. The outage management system will provide for an accurate inventory as well as integrated mapping system that will link our outage system to our customer information system.

DRG has extensive experience inventorying and mapping facilities for a variety of purposes, including an upgrade of a GIS (geographic information system), collection of information for load and engineering studies, and identification of maintenance and restoration needs. The team will use GPS (Global Positioning System) technology to precisely locate and collect data in the field, allowing for greater efficiency and accuracy to complete work orders and respond to emergencies.

DRG crews will be easily identified by their brightly colored vests. Their trucks and ATVs will clearly present the SEC logo and our Co-op name.

If you have any questions or concerns about this mapping project, please call our office at 580-745-9463. Be sure and watch our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information!***

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Youth Tour 2019



Youth Tour is in full swing here at Southeastern Electric! This all-expenses-paid trip is an annual, week long trip to Washington, DC, that is open to select high school students in the eleventh grade. The Washington Youth Tour is sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC), and Oklahoma’s electric distribution cooperatives like Southeastern Electric.

During November and December of 2018, SEC visited students at area schools who were interested in participating in the program. Two lucky winners and one alternate from our Co-op service territory will get awarded with a seat on the trip of a lifetime!

This month, the student presentations are due to SEC so that the judging can begin. Later during February, the six semi-finalists will be announced! In March, these six students will visit the Co-op for a formal interview and to submit their resumes. Then the winners will be announced at a Youth Tour Banquet held at the Cooperative. Finally, the winning students will be in Washington, D.C. June 14th thru the 20th!

Southeastern Electric is glad to be a part of Youth Tour 2019 since “giving something back to the community” is part of our business model. This program gives us the ability to do just that!***

LIKE and SHARE Our Facebook Page!

We need your help getting the word out to your friends and neighbors. Any time that you see a post from Southeastern Electric pop up on your newsfeed, simply LIKE and SHARE it so that we can reach the largest audience possible!

Why is it so important to follow our page? Since we know that our demographics are constantly changing and that the Cooperative is getting involved in more community and youth projects, we want to make sure that we reach all age groups of our Members. We will be using Facebook more in the upcoming months as a social “news” outlet to announce items such as scheduled line maintenance, updates on severe weather outages, area school involvement, Annual Meeting updates and other events happening at the Cooperative!***

