

UPPER CUMBERLAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

The management and staff of the UPPER CUMBERLAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION welcome you and thank you for choosing to visit us. We hope your visit will be pleasant & informative. <http://ucemc.com/> - 2004 - Tennessee

The UPPER CUMBERLAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION (often shortened to UCEMC) is an electric power distribution cooperative. UCEMC is owned and operated by its members and distributes electric power through more than 4,100 miles of lines to more than 43,000 members located primarily in Jackson, Overton, Putnam and Smith Counties and northern DeKalb County. However, several members are served in the fringe counties of Clay, Fentress, Macon, Pickett, White and Wilson.

A board of nine directors elected by members from the membership directs UCEMC. A general manager, employed and directed by the board, manages operations of the cooperative with a staff of 142 employees.

UCEMC had assets of \$90.7 million at the end of FY 2000, June 30, 2000, financed with 50 percent equity and 50 percent debt. Operating revenue from the sale of 865.6 million kilowatt hours and other revenue totaled \$61.4 million from which it paid TVA \$43.1 million for the power sold and \$14 million for operating expenses and debt expense. The remaining margin of \$4.3 million is being used to help finance new construction.

Bustling residential, commercial and industrial communities flourish in the Upper Cumberland Region of Tennessee due in large part to abundant and economical electric power distributed by the UPPER CUMBERLAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION.

<http://ucemc.com/>

FIRST MEMBERSHIP OF THE COOPERATIVE

The Upper Cumberland Region of Tennessee like most of the USA was depressed economically and had little electric power in the mid-1930's. Most of the region's population lived and worked for survival on family farms. Public employment was limited to businesses consisted of general stores in rural areas and family own shops located in the region's towns. Little manufacturing existed in the region.

Certain economic recovery agencies and programs instituted by the federal government began to impact the region. Among the agencies were the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) created by an act of Congress and Presidential signature in 1933 and the Rural Electric Administration (REA) created by executive of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 11, 1935, and confirmed and extended by an act of Congress and Presidential signature on May 20, 1936.



(Pictured: 1948 Annual Meeting held at the Smith County Fairgrounds)

The TVA was created to improve navigability and flood control along the Tennessee River, to provide or promote reforestation, to promote proper use of marginal lands, for agricultural and industrial development in the Tennessee Valley, for a national defense project in Muscles

Shoals, Alabama, and "for other purposes." One other purpose was authorization by the TVA Act "to sell surplus power to States, counties, municipalities, corporations, partnerships, or individuals."

The REA, (now Rural Utilities Service, RUS), was created to loan federal money to rural electric cooperatives formed by rural people to provide to themselves electric power and to assist in the development and operation of such cooperatives. Rural electric cooperatives were to be owned and governed by the people served by them. Tennessee and other states adopted state enabling legislation to complement the federal law and to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the development of electric cooperatives.

The Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, UCEMC, was formed by citizens of the Upper Cumberland Region led by R. W. Royster, H. W. Kemp, J. W. Jellicorse and Lee Harris from Smith County, J. B. Cassetty and Guy Maddux from Jackson County and Solon McDonald from Putnam County. They with Attorney DeWitt Fisher met in the spring or early summer of 1938 in the Carthage office of County Agent C. L. Simmons to discuss the strategy and procedure to form an electric cooperative. The results of the meeting and subsequent actions by the group caused the cooperative to be incorporated on July 1, 1938.

The Tennessee Electric Power Company, TEPCO, provided power to citizens and businesses in towns in the region and to a few customers along its lines between the towns. However, TEPCO would not provide power to rural people generally because it was not considered profitable or because rural people could not pay the exorbitant cost to construct lines to serve them. The TVA Act authorized TVA to purchase private power companies in the Tennessee Valley. UCEMC, through authority given TVA, purchased the assets of TEPCO. UCEMC began distributing electric power to former TEPCO customers on August 16, 1939. At the end of its first fiscal year, June 30, 1940, UCEMC was serving a total of 2,951 consumers. It had sold 3.2 million kilowatt hours and had received \$93.5 thousand for the power sold. It directed by a board of nine directors representing Jackson, Overton, Putnam and Smith Counties and had 18 employees.

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 M.C. Northington, the first general manager of CEMC. “We had scores of meetings, knocked on hundreds of doors, 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 home of W.C. Jackson in Cheatham County.

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.

**See Stories by Sam Denny: he wrote articles for Current Lines of Upper Cumberland Electric Newsletter. I became interested in Sam Denny when Carolyn Shanks Huddleston showed me some articles that Sam Denny wrote for the Current Lines of Upper Cumberland Electric Company. They used to put out a*

community newsletter about the local areas submitted by local people. I laughed at some of the stories that Sam wrote especially the one about "The Deceased Wife Pays A Visit".

I called the Cumberland Electric Company looking for more stories but they told me that they might have some of the old issues in some files but didn't know for sure. They told me to come visit them when I was in the area and I could search for them. They told me that the company publishes a new magazine called "The Tennessee Magazine" - - Communication for Electric Cooperative Consumers. I subscribe to this magazine but it is of modern tastes and not like the old issues. Not enough "local history and favor of the small community". Not like the stories that Sam Denny wrote and other people but a nice magazine to learn about Tennessee. The Tennessee Magazine: P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.

My grandfather, Virgil Timothy Denny and his son, my father, Tim Denny both belonged to the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. When I sold the house my parents lived in at 22483 Tuscany, East Detroit, (now called Eastpointe), MI 48021, I found two old certificates of membership in the Upper Cumberland Electric Corporation. I thought there could be some historical interest in the future to see what they looked like so I am posting them here for viewing.

I am sure that when electricity finally made it to my grandparents home in Silver Point, near Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN on Hopewell Rd. prayers had been answered for some modern conveniences that we take for granted every day. My great grandparents and grandparents used other means for lighting, cooking and generating power in the old days. I for one my grateful for modern utilities.

The certificate for Virgil Denny was #978 issued 21 May 1940 the one for Tim Denny was # 16309 issued 13 December 1949.

Audrey J. Denny Lambert, granddaughter of Virgil Timothy Denny and daughter of Tim Denny & Geraldine Loftis. 2-11-2004



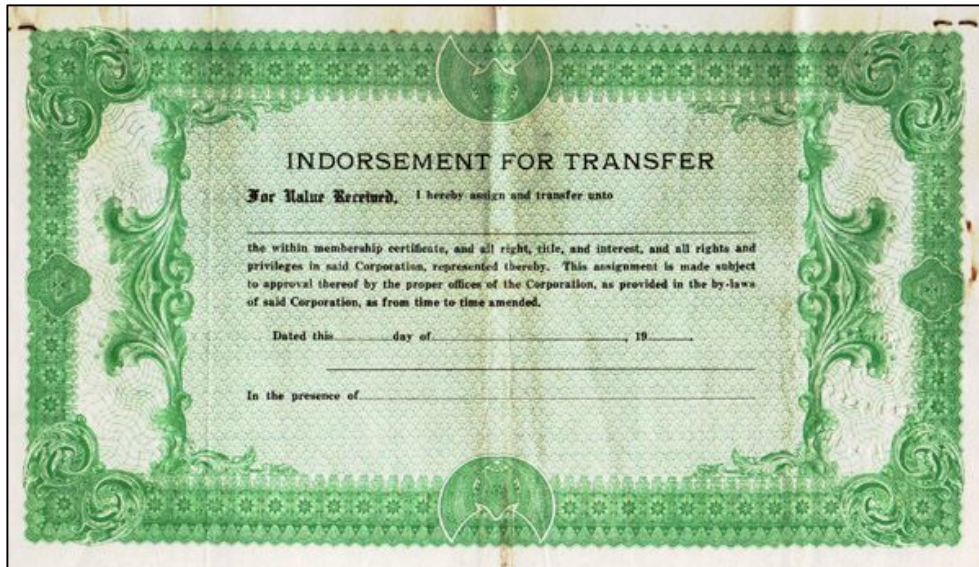
CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE

UPPER CUMBERLAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

This is to Certify That Virgil Denny is a member of the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, a Tennessee Corporation, and is entitled to all the rights and privileges and is bound by all the duties and obligations of membership therein, as defined and set forth in the charter and by-laws of said Corporation as from time to time amended.

This certificate may be transferred and assigned under the terms and conditions set forth in the by-laws as from time to time amended.

In Witness Whereof, the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has caused this certificate to be signed, sealed, and delivered by its president or vice-president and its secretary this 21 day of May, 1940.



INDORSEMENT FOR TRANSFER

For Value Received, I hereby assign and transfer unto _____ the within membership certificate, and all right, title and interest, and all rights and privileges in said Corporation, represented thereby. This assignment is made subject to approval thereof by the proper officers of the Corporation, as provided in the by-laws of said Corporation, as from time to time amended.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS: 2013

From Humble Beginnings, USEMC Has Come A Long Way:

The Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will celebrate its 75th anniversary tomorrow, July 1, 2013. The Cooperative originated in the minds of a small group of local farmers with a common desire to improve the standard of living for them and their families and to provide electric power to the rural communities of the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Electric Power Company (TEPCO), a privately owned company, operated locally and sold its electricity in urban areas but would not provide electric power to rural areas. TEPCO served only the towns in the area and a few rural homes in close proximity to its distribution lines. Most residents did not live close enough to the distribution power lines to get electric service and if they did, the cost was unaffordable for most. This was the case for seven farmers, who would work diligently to form an electric cooperative in 1938. Their common interest brought together a group of rural residents, interested in getting electric power, to a meeting with county agent C. L. Simmons in Carthage in the spring or very early summer of 1938. These few sowed the seeds on that day for the future Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

The Rural electrification Administration (REA) was created by an executive order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 11, 1935.

The REA, subsequently passed by Congress, made the creation of the cooperative possible with low-interest loans provided by the U. S. government to electric cooperatives formed by rural residents. A committee was formed of local residents who were interested in receiving electric power. The committee consisted of R. W. Royster, H. W. Kemp, J. W. Jellicourse and Lee Harris from Smith County, J. B. Cassetty and Guy Maddux from Jackson County, and Solon McDonald from Putnam County. The committee sent attorney DeWitt Fisher to Washington to learn what measures would have to be taken to provide electric service to the rural areas in the Upper Cumberland region. Fisher brought the information and procedure back to the community.

The seven committee members became Incorporators. They and attorney Fisher filed Articles of Incorporation for the new electric cooperative named Upper Cumberland Electric membership Corporation

with the Tennessee Secretary of State. It was incorporated on July 1, 1938, under the Tennessee Electric membership Corporation Act of 1937. The Articles of Incorporation named Incorporators the first board of directors of UCEMC. The board of directors held its first meeting on July 6, 1938, in the office of attorney Fisher on the second floor of the now former Smith County Bank building on Main Street in Carthage.

The business of the Board that day was to place membership in the UCEMC, to elect officers, to hire an attorney, to adopt bylaws, to make plans to start constructing electric power lines and to increase the cooperative's boundaries. Each of the seven Board members paid a \$5 membership fee to become the cooperative's first members. (Membership fees are still \$5 in 2013.) The officers elected were: J. B. Cassetty, president; J. W. Jellicorse, vice president; and H. W. Kemp, secretary and treasurer. R. D. Fisher was retained as attorney. The board of directors met frequently with REZ and TVA representatives during several months on a project to build 103.6 miles of electric lines. An application was submitted to the REA for a loan to build lines. The REA loaned the Co-operative \$110,000 toward the extension of power lines. On March 6, 1939, the Cooperative and TVA entered into a contract to construct the first 90 miles of electric line to provide electric service to 320 customers between Beasley's Bend in Smith County and North Springs in Jackson County.

The power line was completed in mid-summer of 1939.

The new line could not be energized immediately because TEPCO refused to allow UCEMC to add an additional conductor known in the utility business as a neutral line on its poles between the South Carthage Substation and the new UCEMC line in the vicinity of Highway 80 and Smith Branch Road in Smith County.



TVA won a lawsuit with TEPCO relative to TEPCO's facilities in the Tennessee Valley. TEPCO ceded its lines and other facilities to TVA and UCEMC in accordance with the court settlement. TEPCO's local lines and facilities were transferred to UCEMC on August 29, 1939. The first home metered on that day was occupied by the J. U. Hackett family located in the Four-Way Inn Community of Smith County.

(This was the first house metered from a line built by the Cooperative. It was metered on August 29, 1939. The home located in the Four Way Inn Community of Smith County was occupied by the J. U. Hackett family. Pictured from left, are Willie B. Lowe, UCEMC employee; Mrs. J. U. Hackett; Mary Hackett Woodard; J. U. Hackett; Sam Torrence, UCEMC employee; and Carnelia Hubbard).

Upon transfer of TEPCO facilities, UCEMC transferred operations from its temporary offices above W. E. Waggoner's grocery store on Main Street in Carthage into the TEPCO office building beside Smith County Bank. UCEMC's first General Manager (then called superintendent) was W. E. Landers. By the end of 1940, 375 miles of line had been built to serve almost 3,000 members, with 3,791,506 kWh being purchased from TVA at the close of FY 1940. During World War II no power lines were constructed because the war effort made it almost impossible to purchase copper, steel and other metals necessary to construct distribution facilities.

During the period between 1945 and 1950, growth was rapid for the Cooperative. By the end of 1950, the Cooperative had grown to more than 12,600 active members in Smith, Jackson, Overton, Putnam and DeKalb counties.

Today, UCEMC has more than 4,500 miles of distribution line delivering electric power to more than 47,500 members with 1,022,675,589 kWh purchased from TVA at the close FY 2012.

The residential retail price of a kilowatt hour is 10 cents today compared to 3 cents in 1938. When one compares how much the cost of a kilowatt-hour has increased over the past 75 years to how much the cost for other items has increased since 1938, such as a loaf of bread at 9 cents, one sees that electricity remains a good value for the money.

As the 75th anniversary date since UCEMC's founding approaches, the original objective of the Cooperative has not changed, which was and is, to provide the best possible electric service at the lowest possible cost, consistent with sound management, to every person in the area who more requests it and chooses to become a member. Providing reliable, safe, low-cost electric power is the basic principle of how UCEMC has always operated and continues to operate today.



The Cooperative is truly a democratic organization. Each member has one vote at any meeting of the members. The regular annual meeting of the members is held in Smith County on the second Saturday in September. UCEMC is planning a special event to celebrate the Cooperative's 75 years of service at the upcoming annual meeting of the

members to be held Sept. 14, 2013.

(Pictured: This picture was taken on August 2, 1958. The building housed Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation from 1951-1979. It's now currently home to the Carthage newspaper).

The Cooperative is managed by a board of directors elected by the members form among themselves at district elections. There are nine members on the board. The term of office is three years. The day-to-day management of the Cooperative is the responsibility of the general manager, who is hired by the board of directors.

The general manager is responsible for staffing the organization with qualified personnel to accomplish the Cooperative's objectives. The Cooperative currently has 132 active employees. The Cooperative is bound and regulated by its contract with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

The Cooperative is headquartered in Carthage, with district offices in Cookeville, Gainesboro and Livingston.

Other than the loss of electric powers caused by storms, many people today have never experienced day-to-day life without electricity.

That was not so before the dream of seven men who acted to establish the Upper Cumberland electric Membership Corporation in that historic year – 1938.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 30 June 2013, pg. D-Business.



Pictured: Members of the 1940 board of directors, from left, were H. W. Kemp, Smith County; Lee R. Harris, Smith County; R. W. Royster, Smith County; Solon McDonald, Putnam County; John B. Cassetty, Jackson County; R. D. Fisher, attorney; Guy Maddux, Jackson County; W. E. Landers, general manager; James T. Lansdon, Overton County; F. L. Tardy, Jackson County; J. W. Jellicorse. (inset) Smith County. Jellicorse, Kemp, Harris, Royster, McDonald Cassetty and Maddux were the incorporators of the Cooperative. *Herald-Citizen*, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 30 June 2013.

Roy Lee Cassetty Obt.

GAINESBORO -- Funeral services for Roy Lee Cassetty, 76, of Pleasant Shade, were held at 1 p.m. today, Wed., April 14, from the chapel of Anderson Funeral Home. Burial was in Rob Draper Memorial Cemetery in the Stone Community of Jackson County.

Mr. Cassetty died on Sun., April 11, 1999, at his daughter's residence in the Center Grove Community of Jackson County.

He was born on Oct. 3, 1922, in Jackson County to the late Peyton and Mattie Clark Cassetty. Mr. Cassetty was retired from the U.S. Corps of Engineers. He attended the Wartrace United Methodist Church and was a resident of the Wartrace Community of Jackson County. **Mr. Cassetty was a director of the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corp. for 33 years**, he served on the Jackson County Board of Education and was a member of the Tannehill Lodge No. 133, Free and Accepted Masons in Gainesboro. He also served in the Navy during World War II. On Oct. 25, 1947, Mr. Cassetty married the former Frances Blankenship, who survives.

In addition to his wife of the Wartrace Community of Jackson County, his family also includes a daughter, Mattie Vanhooser of Gainesboro; a sister, Moline Rushing of Houston, Texas; a special friend, Paul Birdwell of Whitleyville; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Tom, Todd and Lee Gore Cassetty, Tony Hunter, John Cason, J.B. Hestand, John McAlister and Charles Rushing.

Honorary pallbearers were LST 957 Shipmates.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by two brothers, Bradley and Burnley Cassetty, and a sister, Mabel Tardy.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society or the Wartrace United Methodist Church, by contacting the funeral home.

Bros. Kenneth Clayton and Comer McGuire officiated at the services.

Published April 14, 1999 12:11 PM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Donald Lee Denney Obt.

CARTHAGE — Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's longest serving employee, Donald Denney, 77 of the Pea Ridge Community, died at 11:25 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015, at the Sumner Regional Medical Center in Gallatin where he was admitted Dec. 26, 2014.

Saturday afternoon, Jan. 10, funeral services were conducted from the Carthage Chapel of Sanderson Funeral Home. Mr. Denney's former classmate, Bro. Dickie Johnson, and his nephew, Bro. Jerry Young, officiated at the 1 p.m. services. Burial followed in the Gordonsville Cemetery.



One of four children of the late James Elbert Denney and Ellen Paris Denney, Mr. Denney was born Donald Lee Denney in the Hickman Community on April 9, 1937.

Siblings preceding him in death were Robert "Cobb" Denney, Dalton Denney and Della Denney Albritton.

On Aug. 1, 1964, in McMinnville, Mr. Denney was united in marriage to the former Carolyn Inez Young.

Mr. Denney was a member of the 1955 graduating class of Gordonsville High School and in 1959 began employment with U.C.E.M.C. in Carthage. He retired from the position of purchasing agent in 2012 with more than 53 years of service.

He was a member of the Gordonsville United Methodist Church.

Mr. Denney proudly served our country with the United States Air Force.

Surviving in addition to his wife of just over 50 years are four children, Stephen Denney and wife Julie of Cookeville, Rachel Denney of Aurora, Ill., Sarah Baines of Pea Ridge, Paden Bain and wife Aspen of Utah; and five grandchildren, Mary Helen and Sarah Beth Bastian, Ava Grace and Parker Lee Baines, Daxton Bain.

The Denney family requests memorials to the Arthritis Foundation.

Sanderson of Carthage is in charge of arrangements.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>