

REA History Is Recalled

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N.C., to determine if sufficient interest existed to justify applying for an REA charter. It did. An application was filed under the name Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation.

Less than a month later, the Board of Directors (elected during the January gathering) returned a collective list of 952 applications for membership in the co-operative. Linesmen set the first pole in December, 1945.

An office was rented in Hertford above the old Peoples Bank Building (now torn down). Archie T. Lane, Sr., a Perquimans Board of Directors member, served as manager until the arrival of Gilbert Whitley of Farmville, N.C.

In 1950, John Coston of Hookerton, N.C., followed Whitley. He remained as manager until his retirement in 1974. During his management, the co-op moved to larger quarters on U.S. 17 Business South of Hertford, broke even on its expenses by 1952, and in 1965 built a complex on U.S. 17 Business North of Hertford, its present location.

Edward E. Brown managed Albemarle EMC for nine years prior to the board's selection in 1983 of Dorris Byrum White.

Mrs. White, 62, a native of Hertford, attended Campbell University. She is the wife of Charles E. White, Jr., the mother of Martha, Frances, and C. Edmond White, III, and the grandmother of Charles and Henry White.

An employee of Albemarle EMC since December, 1945, she is the only woman manager now or ever of a N.C. REA Co-op. (There are 28 in the state.) She became the sixth woman in the nation to hold that position when she accepted the job. Currently, there are 14 women co-op managers in the U.S.

Mrs. White served as president of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives in 1987-88.

Questioned about periodic, governmental efforts to abolish the REA, she said, "We've had loan funds cut for the past 20 years. Whereas we used to get 100 per cent funding from the government, we now bor-

row less than half of our fund needs.

"A man, Walter Harrison of Georgia, once said 'The REA was born out of politics, and it would probably die out of politics.' Nonetheless, I don't expect any major changes in the REA in the next few years.

"As for Albemarle EMC, we have seen a drastic change in our type of members. In 1946, the majority of members were farmers. Today, only about 35 per cent are farmers."

Mrs. White stated that she believed Albemarle EMC was the first utility company in this area to install energy saving, load management switches.

The company, a \$10.5 million business still owned by its members, serves 7,600 families and maintains 943 miles of line.

Its 23 employees include Edenton and Chowan County residents Bob Brooks, Jimmy Keeter, Roy O'Neal, John Coston, Melvin Evans, Jr., Tony Byrum, Marvin Owens, and Glenn Parks.

Regarding museum exhibits, they do arouse nostalgia in younger generations.

For as children, perhaps merrily sailing from the top of a chicken coop in the wash yard, pretending to be Superman or Wonder Woman, they didn't recognize the lines etched on Granny's face as being marks of toil.

Instead, watching her stir a pot of boiling laundry, they interpreted the creases as wrinkles of mirth, amusement at their antics, her care-free grandchildren.

Without question, they accepted the fact of her love, evident by the frequent, concerned glances cast their way from one who had raised 10 children of her own.

As adults, their admiration joins remembrance; so does appreciation. Because of electricity, yesteryears' drudgery vanishes with the flick of a switch.

The accomplishment of electrifying rural homes truly materialized from the long-practiced concept of people doing together what one could not do alone. After all, that's the American way.



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- Microwave Pop Secret Pop Corn\$1.79
- 7 oz., Boil-in-Bag Uncle Ben's Rice89¢
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- 32 oz. Delmonte Catsup89¢

- 8 oz. Gulden's Brown Mustard2/\$1
- 46 oz., Orange, Grape or Fruit Punch Hi-C89¢
- 48 oz., Mauna Lal Guava or Pink Grapefruit Ocean Spray\$1.99

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- 20 - Count Compartment Plates
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- 12 oz. Banquet Family Entrees\$1.79
- 12 oz. Jello
- 1/2 Gallon Sealtest or Sealtest Free Ice Cream\$1.99

- 8 Quart Country Time Lemonade or Lemonade Punch\$1.69

- DAIRY
- 64 oz. Tropicana Orange Juice\$1.99
- 64 oz., Pure Premium\$2.79

- 12 oz. Merico Oat Bran Biscuits Buy 1 - Get 1 Free!
- 4 - 7 1/2 oz. Cans Camellia Biscuits79¢
- 1 lb. Qtrs. I Can't Believe Its Not Butter\$1.19

- 12 oz., Individual Wrap Borden American Cheese\$1.99
- 10 oz., Sharp or Extra Sharp Kraft Cracker Barrell Cheese\$2.49

- PRODUCE
- Thompson Seedless Grapeslb. 99¢
- Juicy Ripe, Freestone Peacheslb. 59¢
- Red Ripe Tomatoeslb. 49¢
- 10 lb. Bag, US #1 White Potatoes\$1.59

Weatherization Grant Funded

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storm windows on the homes of residents whose income does not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level (\$19,050 for a family of four).

Homes eligible for the program are evaluated to determine the most cost-effective measures to be installed. On average, the grant is expected to fund \$1,400 in energy conserving improvements to each home weatherized. This average cost per home weather-

ized includes the cost of materials and labor.

The Economic Improvement Council Inc. is one of 45 community action and public nonprofit agencies across the State of North Carolina which implements the Weatherization Program at the local level. The grant announced by Secretary Broyhill is expected to fund assistance to 70 homes over the next twelve months.

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