

Bookkeeper



Miss LaVerne Ward, above, is head bookkeeper in the Piedmont Electric Cooperative office in Hillsboro.

Paperwork Never Ends For Trio

Office work never stops for the office employees of the Piedmont Electric Membership Cooperative. Capably handling the work of billing, accounting, government reports, bookkeeping, typing, meter reading, and the thousands of other details of office work are Miss LaVerne Ward and Mrs. Fallie Gery. Miss Ward is bookkeeper and Mrs. Gery assistant bookkeeper.

Vance Martin is in charge of engineering, work orders and utilization.

All of the office force works under the direct supervision of F. E. Joyner, manager of the cooperative.

Miss Ward has been with the cooperative since 1941. Her duties are numerous; however, the most important are members accounting and government reports.

Mrs. Gery works as direct assistant to Miss Ward and her duties, too, are numerous, including typing, collecting, meter reading, and billing of accounts. She has been with the cooperative since 1944.

Martin has been with the cooperative for about 13 months, having started work shortly after his release from the Navy on December 6, 1945.

Manager Of Cooperative



F. E. Joyner, above, is shown at his desk in the office of the Piedmont Electric Membership Cooperative in Hillsboro. Joyner, a member of the Hillsboro town board of commissioners, and district Boy Scout leader in Orange county, is manager of the office and supervisor of all REA's activities in the six-county area of Orange, Alamance, Durham, Caswell, Granville and Person. He was employed by the board of directors as manager of the co-op in September, 1942.

ploy the manager, fix the rates and otherwise direct the business, reporting periodically to the membership.

The Rural Electrification administration provides technical advice that will help the local management to operate in accordance with the terms of its loan contract with the government. Engineering assistance, legal advice, a standardized accounting system and development of new electrical equipment are typical REA services to borrowers.

Most REA borrowers operate only distribution systems, purchasing power at wholesale from public bodies or commercial suppliers. In areas where the power supply is inadequate or borrowers cannot purchase power at reasonable wholesale rates, loans are made to finance generating and transmission facilities. REA loan approvals for this purpose amount to less than 10 percent of the total.

To finance the cost of wiring and plumbing installations and the purchase of appliances by consumers funds are lent to cooperatives, which in turn lend the money to individual members who need credit to wire their farms. These are the only REA loan funds that reach individual rural consumers. The demand for loans of this type has never been great.

REA believes that in any rural community every farmer who wants electric service is as much entitled to it as another. In carrying out this policy of area coverage, REA borrowers group farms in thinly-settled territory on lines with those in more populous areas. In this way, they are able to serve entire rural communities at uniformly low rates.

The experience of farmers in recent years in using electrical equipment to increase farm production and income has shown that electricity on the farm is not a luxury but an economic necessity that will more than pay its way. REA and its borrowers have taken the lead in encouraging farmers to make full use of electrical devices. Today, electrical equipment is playing a major part in all types of farm production and processing, and a variety of new electrical farm equipment is being developed.

In addition to benefiting farmers, rural electrification has greatly stimulated city and small town employment and trade. Experience has shown that for every dollar spent in building rural power lines, farmers spend two dollars for wiring, plumbing, equipment and appliance. Added to these direct business benefits is the ef-

Legal Adviser



At the beginning of the REA movement in this section the law firm of Graham and Eskridge in Hillsboro was retained for legal advice. During the past few years this work has been handled by J. Dumont Eskridge, above. A. H. (Sandy) Graham, former lieutenant governor and speaker of the house, is senior member of the firm and now state highway commissioner.

History

(Continued from page 1)

farmers in each community who were finally able to get the necessary right of way easements signed and membership fees paid in. A few of the men who gave generously of their time and energy during the organization period of the Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation were Gera Sykes, Clyde Roberts, and Zeb Burton. There were many other too numerous to mention who supported the movement with vigor and enthusiasm.

The Piedmont Electric Membership Corp., a REA Cooperative,

with headquarters at Hillsboro, N. C., is now operating about 400 miles of rural distribution lines in Orange, Caswell, Alamance, Person, Durham and Granville and is at present serving about 1,300 members. It has 150 miles of line now under construction to serve 500 new members. It also has money available to construct an additional 200 miles of line to serve 650 new members. F. E. Joyner, manager of the Cooperative, states that plans call for serving 3,600 members with about 1000 miles of distribution lines by 1952.

The dream of electricity on the farm has indeed become a reality.

Engineer



Vance Martin, above, is engineer for the Piedmont Electric Membership Cooperative. His duties also include work orders and utilization.

Assistant



The duties of Mrs. Fallie Gery, above, are those of assistant bookkeeper and entail many different jobs in a year's time.

Farms

(Continued from page 2)

lowance for repayment of the government loan. Interest and amortization are paid from operating revenue. When the loan is repaid, the member-consumers will be joint owners of the electric system. Meanwhile, the membership runs the business. Each member has one vote at business meetings. A board of Directors is elected once a year. The Directors em-

fect of rural electrification in increasing farm efficiency and income and thus contributing to community morale and prosperity.

The REA program is not resting on past laurels and achievements. New consumers are being added to REA-financed lines just as rapidly as materials for line construction become available. Between July 1, 1945 and June 30, 1946, the number of consumers served by REA-financed systems increased by more than 260,000. This was a larger one-year increase than had been recorded in any other fiscal year except 1940.

During the 1946 fiscal year, REA made loans of \$300,000,000. See (FARMS) on page 4.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

ON ITS EIGHTH ANNUAL MEMBERS

MEETING



Westinghouse Electric Supply Co.

Raleigh

Pole Line and Electrical Supplies

—For Your Co-op and Dealer—

THE 50 MEMBERS OF THE

HILLSBORO MERCHANTS

ASSOCIATION

Welcome

THE MEMBERS OF

The Piedmont Electric

Membership Corporation

TO HILLSBORO FOR THEIR ANNUAL MEETING

—Do Your Trading Here—

HILLSBORO MERCHANTS

ASSOCIATION

Read

North Carolina's

Prize-Winning

Weekly Newspaper

\$2.00 Per Year

Awarded First Place GENERAL EXCELLENCE

By N. C. Press Association in 1946 for weeklies

10 Pages or Less

THE NEWS Hillsboro, N. C.

Please Send THE NEWS of Orange County to:

Name

Street or Route

City and State

1 Year for \$2.00

6 Months for \$1.50

THE NEWS of Orange County

Phone 55

Hillsboro