

*There are no rivers
With currents so fast
As the stream of time -
With years swiftly past.*

*In order to savor
A taste of that stream,
To capture moments
Ere gone like a dream,
Histories are written.*

This one is of Hancock-Wood.

- HRB

May 1985

Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Introduction

If the lights and TV or radio goes off - there's a brief feeling of panic, of disbelief.

We simply don't consciously think about electricity. It's just there. At every switch. Refrigerator. Freezer. Washer. Dryer. Can opener. Toaster. Just plug it in. If it doesn't work -our world stops!

Not that long ago, millions of Americans didn't even have electricity. If you didn't live in a town, chances are your lighting was done by kerosene lamps.

Most H-W members today probably don't remember that. They've grown up having electric lights, TV, radio, indoor plumbing. Consequently, there's little reason for them to reflect on how electricity came to be at every switch.

1985, however, is the 50th anniversary of the dawn of electrification for rural America. It seems a propitious time to look backward at some earlier days and to review the gradual changes that have occurred during the journey to 1985.

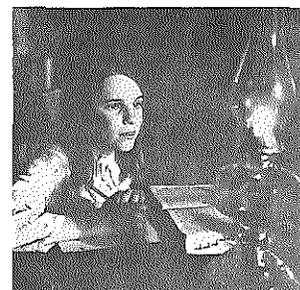
The National Scene

The first central station generating system went into service in 1882. Yet, until 1935, only 10.9% of the farms in the United States had obtained electricity.

The main problem was that of getting electricity at a cost that farmers and other rural people could afford. Some electric companies were willing to extend service to them, but usually at a prohibitive price. It was not uncommon for farmers to be asked to pay \$2,000 to \$3,000 per mile for construction of the lines to their homesteads. On top of that heavy investment, rural people usually had to pay more for the electricity they used than did their neighbors in town.

Studies published in 1933 indicated it was possible to build rural lines from \$300 to \$1,500 cheaper per mile than power companies claimed they could be built.

But it was evident to some that rural people in 1935 would not get central station electric service at rates they could afford without the Federal government lending a hand.



The Rural Electrification Administration was created by Executive Order of the President on May 11, 1935. Numbered 7037, the order granted powers to an REA Administrator to "initiate, formulate, administer and supervise a program of approved projects with respect to the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy in rural areas."

A succeeding regulation, also issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established REA as a lending agency somewhat resembling a bank. It created an orderly program of loans on an interest-bearing, self-liquidating basis. It made rural electrification a national business investment.

If Morris L. Cooke, the first REA Administrator, expected a flood of applications from electric companies in the first year of the new agency, he was disappointed. The few applications that did come in from power companies proposed such high rural rates that Cooke felt he could not seriously consider them. His first four loans went to three electric cooperatives and a municipality.

Subsequently, a committee representing a preponderant section of the private utility industry conducted a national survey to determine the outlook for rural electrification.

The committee questioned the need for an all-out rural electrification effort. "The problem of actively promoting rural electrification has received serious consideration of utility companies for many years," it continued. "As a result, there are very few farms requiring electricity for major farm operations that are not served."

At the time, 87 percent of U.S. farmers were without central station service.

Recognizing the apparent reluctance of power companies to further the agency's aims, the Congress adopted the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Besides extending the life of REA and stating purposes for which loans were authorized, it also directed preferences for loan fund recipients. They included "States, Territories, and subdivisions and agencies thereof, municipalities, people's utility districts, and cooperative, nonprofit, or limited-dividend associations..."

The 1936 act:

- Set annual loan level of \$40 million;
- Stated loan purposes for consideration;
- Defined rural areas;
- Permitted 25-year loans;

- Geared interest to rate paid by government on its long-term securities;

- Provided for Administrator to be appointed by President, confirmed by Senate;

- Required Administrator to certify reasonable adequacy of loan security and repayment capability;

- Required REA be administered on nonpartisan basis.

John M. Carmody succeeded Cooke as Administrator in February 1937. Carmody made it clear that rural people must take the initiative in getting electricity for their communities. To become eligible for a loan to construct their own electric system, groups of these people had to incorporate and organize under the laws of their State.

They had to prove to REA that their project could operate successfully and that they could repay the Government loan -with interest -within the required period.

They had to retain an attorney, elect directors and officers, sign up prospective members, and have the project designed by engineers.

REA employed a number of people equipped to give local guidance to prospective REA borrowers. They showed farmers how to organize and design their projects. Gradually REA staffers were assembled for engineering, legal problems, electric utilization and management advice.

And now it was up to the farmers and other rural people of the nation.

From the time that Hancock-Wood was formed, written records have been kept. Board minutes, some letters, newsletters and accounting records were stored.

What follows is a sort of diary-history, extracted from the records, of this electric cooperative. It's a collage intended to give the reader a sense of the Co-op's travels and travails through the years.

[...] are editorial insertions.

H. Robert Bradner, Editor

The Hancock-Wood Story

In the summer of 1936, C.C. Doyle and Herman Ackerman were asked by the Farm Bureau to represent Wood County, while Ed Shoop and A.S. Pifer were selected from Hancock County to lead in the organization of a rural electrification project in these counties. It was to be known as the North Central Farm Bureau Electric Cooperative. (North Central because the proposed project included several counties east of Hancock and Wood.)

Headquarters for the organizers were, successively, at Upper Sandusky, Findlay, Tiffin and eventually at Attica.

Mr. Doyle began securing members for the new organization by holding meetings and selecting solicitors in each township. Mr. Doyle held the first such meeting in the auditorium of North Baltimore High School. After explaining the plan, Vernard Apple and Julius Bils came up and laid down \$10 bills, thus becoming - as far as is known - the first to sign membership applications in the Hancock-Wood area.

During the spring of 1937, Doyle, Shoop and Pifer continued attending North Central board meetings (Tiffin). Mr. Ackerman dropped out about this time and Carl Hamlin went several times in his place.

In the meantime, membership solicitation continued with L.C. Ridenour having charge of this work in Hancock County. Trontous Amos was selected in Montgomery township (Wood Co.) - one of many leaders doing this pioneering work. Others were Nina Henning, Curly Dennis, Ralph Camel and Ray Sterling.

At the outset, in order to be considered, a project was required to have at least three members per mile. This was later changed to a volume of business basis. Subscribers were given a form and asked to check off appliances expected to be used.

A bit later in 1937 electric lines were started in Seneca and other eastern counties of the project, while Hancock and Wood counties looked on. It was suggested by Edwin C. Tingley, North Central attorney, and Walt Cutnaw, engineer, that the west half of the project consider splitting off and organizing separately.

The need to move quickly was evident because of Ohio Power and Toledo Edison activity. Here, and across the country, power companies began building lines to farms perceived as the most lucrative prospects and these efforts were termed, "spite lines."

One loyal Co-op woman threw her arms around an Ohio Power pole and held on tightly until the lineman agreed to quit working on that particular spite line. The site was saved for the Co-op and friends of the woman bought her a box of candy.

1938

In March, with plans for the split from North Central ready, a mass meeting was held at the East Lincoln Street office of the Farm Bureau in Findlay. Poorly advertised, only a few people showed up and Ernest Collins of REA said the project was hopeless if only those few were interested.

Another meeting was set for April 4 at the same place. Good publicity and newspaper coverage resulted in an overflow crowd (estimated at 1200), so that hundreds never got into the meeting. Collins said it was the largest demonstration of the sort he'd ever seen.

After Collins' talk, the group divided into sections and chose seven directors - three from Wood and four from Hancock County. Selected from Wood were Trontous Amos, C.C. Doyle and Carl Hamlin. Hancock chose G.W. Dick, V.C. Miller, J.E. Shoop and Victor Sink. The Cooperative was named at the mass meeting that night.

Following the meeting, the directors met and named Shoop as president, Doyle as vice-president, and Hamlin as secretary-treasurer.

The board met in Findlay on April 11 and selected Tingley as the Co-op attorney. On April 15 board members signed incorporation papers and selected North Baltimore as the future meeting place of the board.

On April 20, incorporation documents were filed with the State of Ohio and, in the legal sense, the Board of Trustees met for the first time. At this meeting a code of regulations was approved.

April 22 the Board met again to consider office sites. Then on April 30 the Board held its final meeting of that hectic month, this time in Attica following a meeting of the North Central board and agreed to accept \$6613.06 as the unspent portion of the membership fees of 1,000 Wood and Hancock county applicants. Hancock-Wood's trustees formally resigned from the North Central board.

Subscribers were notified by a May 2 letter that a pre-allotment survey was in process and would soon be submitted to Washington. "Therefore, if there are any in your neighborhood who desire this service and have not as yet signed an application and paid their membership, impress upon them the importance of coming in with you, or calling in person at our office North Baltimore within the next week or ten days so their location may be placed on the map and the necessary papers covering their request for current sent into Washington with the maps and other records by May 15th."

Members were also advised not to proceed with wiring houses and buildings until they secured requirements to be met to pass REA inspection. "All wiring must be inspected and passed before current will be turned into the premises."

Even before any loan funds had been obtained, the Board was responsibly concerned about debt retirement. Consequently, to encourage prompt use of electricity when it became available, the Board adopted a resolution on June 20. In effect, it said that "any member who has not wired within six months after energization will thereby forfeit his membership and revert to the status of any non-member."

Also in June, Doyle resigned from the Board when its members nominated him as Project Superintendent. (He had been acting as temporary superintendent since April.) REA approved him in July and Emery H. Jimison was named to replace Doyle on the Board.

A loan contract for \$333,000 was signed with REA on August 10 and another for \$181,000 on October 10.

In a letter to members and prospective members, dated October 11, Doyle noted that right-of-way men and people to explain wiring requirements would soon be visiting members. Doyle said REA requested 100% right-of-way securement and 75% of the wiring contracts to be signed before a road could be staked for electric service.

The Board selected the engineering firm of Gibbs and Hill, New York City, as project engineers. Staking of the first line, called the "A" project, began with a December 9 celebration ceremony. The first stake was driven on the Edna Clark farm in Liberty township, Hancock county, northwest of the Dixie highway-Jenera road intersection.



December 9, 1938 Setting first stake ceremony.

J.C. Shoop holds stake. C.C. Doyle with hatchet. From left (immediately behind Shoop): Trontous Amos, Emery H. Jimison, Carl Hamlin, Victor Sink, G.W. Dick, V.C. Miller, A.S. Pifer.

[Site was near present H-W West Findlay substation]

A ceremonial first pole was set on December 31 at a point along the Dixie highway five miles southwest of Findlay, with 200 persons present. Representatives from REA, the extension service and engineering department from Ohio State university, H-W directors and Rev. Smith of North Baltimore - who gave the invocation, addressed the crowd.

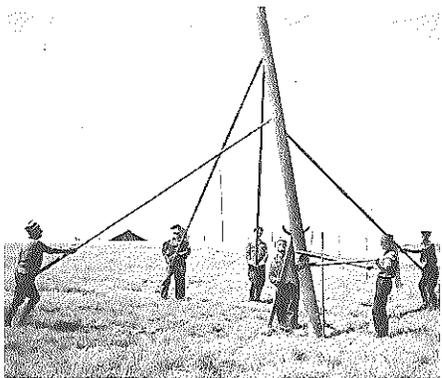
The pole was ceremonial because actual construction could not start until 100 miles of the project had been staked, and only about 50 of them had been completed.

During 1938, besides Doyle, other employees were Elaine Baird (bookkeeper) who started in May, Winifred Stephens (stenographer) began in September and A.J. "Jack" Phillips (right-of-way man) in October.

Those who had already "signed up" for electricity anxiously waited for the lines to be built and energized. Appliance dealers welcomed the growing volume of interest in their wares. And the membership solicitors continued up and down roads and lanes, explaining what the ten-dollar membership fees promised. The dawn of modern living was about to break for folks out in the country.

1939

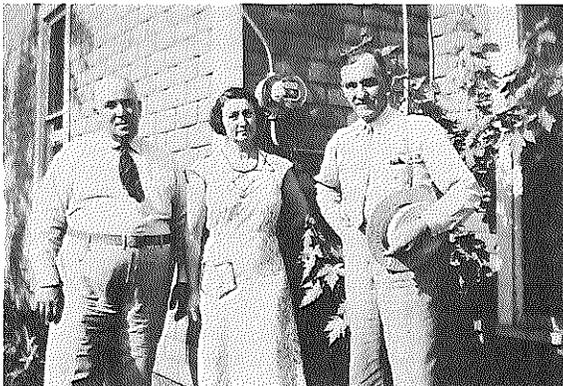
The Davis-Hydaker firm of Spencerville, Ohio, had been hired to construct the lines. On February 14 the work began as crews and machinery moved in. In a letter to members, Doyle said much of the material had arrived while more poles, wire, transformers, etc. were on the way. Pole holes were being dug and poles set and a tree trimming gang was also working. Some houses had been wired, more were in process and all were urged to get theirs ready for electric service.



R.M. "Pert" Hindall, maintenance man, joined the employee force in 1939, as did Walt Burner, lineman, and Paul Hutchison and Emery Jimison (not the trustee) as lineman helpers.

An energization celebration was advertised and held in North Baltimore on August 25 and 26 with a cooking school as a highlight. Electric stoves and roasters were featured. In the evening of the 25th, with the "Master switch to be turned on," C.C. Doyle chaired the event with "Judge Carl V. Weygandt, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court" as one of the speakers.

On August 26, Pert Hindall set the first meter at Ober Apple's in Henry Township of Wood County.



1939 and the first meter set. From left: C.C. Doyle, manager; Mrs. Ober Apple; George Lush, wiring inspector.

The next several months were witness to a number of events of change, as line building, house wiring and member solicitation continued.

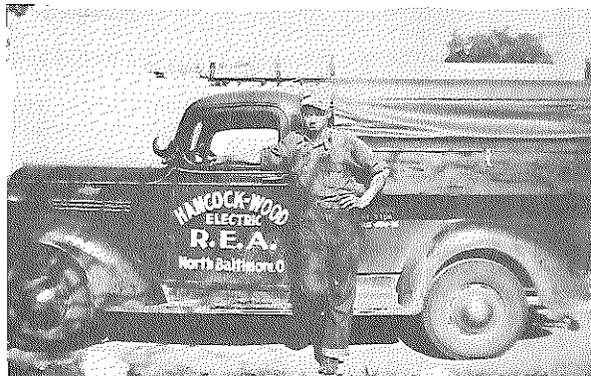
On September 18, Doyle resigned and A.J. Phillips was hired as temporary manager. At the October 9, 1939 annual meeting of members in North Baltimore's school auditorium, Trustees Trontous Amos, G.W. Dick, Carl Hamlin, V.C. Miller and Victor Sink were re-elected. New Board members elected were Earl Dick and Byron Routson. An additional loan was signed with REA, for \$194,000. And at the Board meeting on December 19, Deitz and Wolfrey's bid was accepted for construction of the "B" project with Putnam-Woolpert of Dayton as engineer. R.P. Luse was hired as manager at this meeting and Paul

Miller was named to become attorney for the Cooperative.

At the close of 1939, Hancock-Wood had a 450-KW substation (north of Van Buren), 452 miles of line, 873 consumers and the year's electric revenue was \$4,838. It was a beginning.

1940

Concerted efforts were made to get more to sign up along the "A" project lines. Special meetings were held for all members who were asked to bring neighborhood non-members along. In early March these meetings took place in West Millgrove Schoolhouse, Hoytville Schoolhouse, Black School (junction of Routes 69 [235 today] and 103), and Mt. Blanchard Schoolhouse.



Emery Jimison, Jr. - one of H-W's early linemen.

As manager Luse wrote in the newsletter announcing these meetings: "Every member can serve his cooperative in this drive by assisting in procuring new members on the line. Remember this is YOUR Cooperative. Get out and help put it across."

The "B" project lines were built and energized. On March 12, a service crew in charge of Pert Hindall set the 1000th meter at the farm home of George Vollweiter in Pleasant Township, Hancock County.

A survey of REA Cooperatives revealed that 84% of members now used an electric iron. 82% had radios, 59% had washing machines, 32% had refrigerators, 31% had toasters, 21% had vacuum cleaners, 19% had hot plates, 18% had water pumps, 18% had one-horsepower motors and 14% had cream separators.

One man near Cygnet wired his sheep barn and used all 75 or 100 watt bulbs "making the barn as light as day at any time during the night when the attendant comes to the barn, which he does several times each night during the lambing season."

Another fellow, near Forest, was "very enthusiastic over his electrically heated hot-water tank. He has it set at 140 degrees which heats water hot enough to use in washing clothes without additional heating, cutting down the time and equipment needed to do the washing," an account stated.

In May members began reading their own meters on H-W lines. [A practice still in effect for most in 1985.] Since it was an innovation, members were assured that "Every few months the office will call to check the meter officially."

In June began the issuance of certificates as evidence of membership in H-W.

"Kitchen Parties" were held in homes of some members to demonstrate the possibilities offered by electric cooking. An REA Home Specialist did the cooking and three such neighborhood affairs drew 75 people.

Lacking a quorum, the annual meeting of August 12 was adjourned and rescheduled for October 14. As an inducement for attendance, free pancakes and sausage were to be served after the meeting. All supplies were donated by area businesses. Attendance was greater than expected. Harried cooks were kept hopping and the eventually sticky, gooey operation developed one resolution - don't do it again. It was not repeated.

Routson and Hamlin were re-elected at the meeting.

George Gillen started working for H-W this year.

During 1940, "electric schools" for farmers were held on a regular basis at about eight different locations; the "C" project was begun; employee-trustee teams competed in signing up new members; and more than 400 meters were set on the "B" project. By the end of the year H-W had 670 miles of line and 1,576 consumers in service. Electric revenue that year hit \$43,726.

1941

To encourage members to join up, new members got one month's free electricity and those who put electric ranges in use got 100 kWh free.

"Mother's Day Is Refrigerator Day" said an ad sponsored by nine area dealers.

Using electricity for the first time caused problems for some folks. For instance, "fast meter" complaints from motor users were not uncommon. Investigators found the meters working ok but that motors were wired with small sized wires - lamp cords in several cases.

More people began installing water systems. Electric pumps provided a key for indoor plumbing and toilets inside the house were causes for celebration by new owners.

It was noted in April that the "D" project was being started, 18 miles had been approved to bring service to 60 more members, and in late May construction began. The contractor ran out of wire the first of July and several weeks passed before new supplies were received and work began again.

The attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, had worldwide implications and had its effect on H-W, too.

At its December 12 meeting, H-W's Board voted to buy \$5,000 worth of Defense Bonds. H-W members were urged to buy bonds, sell their junk metal for the war effort, increase food and meat production, and to pray for the fathers, sons and daughters who were or would be in the armed services of our country. Members were offered an opportunity to buy defense stamps along with their electric bills. The Co-op would keep track of individual contributions and when stamps totaled \$18.75, a bond would be purchased and sent to the owner.

On December 17 the 2000th meter was set at the farm residence of William Ashcraft, four miles west of Arcadia in Cass Township, Hancock County.

At year's end, the Co-op had 704 miles of line and, with around 50 farms disconnected because tenants or owners had moved, served 1,960 members.

1942

In February manager Luse told members: "So far as we can see there is virtually no chance of any power shortage in this area. Central Ohio Light and Power Company, from whom your power is purchased, has just completed a large addition to its Bluffton Plant."

The War Production Board placed a 250-foot limitation on new construction and with wiring contractors already short of materials, very little wiring extension work was done. The WPB also froze stocks of electric ranges. Both of these shortages, it was argued, offered more good reasons to sign up for Civil Defense, invest in war bonds, sell your scrap metal, don't hoard sugar or other scarce items, help China Relief, support the Red Cross, USO, etc. - all to hasten the day of our victory and the end of the war!

A newsletter article pointed up a number of ways co-op crews waste time, gas and rubber. Among them: "When you report something wrong with your meter and we find you have your refrigerator backed up in the corner next to your wood range"... "When you require us to make a special trip on Saturday which we could have taken care of when we were in your neighborhood Friday. (Our line crew does not work regularly on Saturdays.)"

On December 29, H-W got 1500 new members and 330 miles of line as the result of an arrangement put in motion in early 1941. Over some years, a business tycoon had acquired a number of electric companies under a "holding company" status. Under orders to the tycoon to divest himself of the utilities, manager Luse learned of it and got some action going. H-W and seven other northern Ohio co-ops bought three of the companies with the intention that each get properties within its present co-op area. Some old General Utilities Company lines were in H-W's area. Though H-W plans had been to rebuild these lines, materials restrictions required they be operated "as is" until the war's end.

The ladies in the office continued to knit for the Red Cross. The office also stocked and sold War Bonds.

Also in 1942 Earl Dick switched from director to employee and John Sander was named to take his place on the Board.

Year end score: 3540 consumers, 1050 miles of line.

1943

This year began savagely. An ice storm of January 3-4 caused 700 wire breaks and 150 broken poles; particularly hard hit were lines acquired just a week earlier.

In February, the listing of members' relatives serving in the armed forces - which had started in 1942 - was stopped. So many were involved that newsletter space limits prohibited it.

But also in February came the first rate reduction. While the monthly minimum stayed at \$2.50, the first 30 kWh now cost 7¢ when before it was 7.5¢. The next 30 cost 5¢ per kWh as before, as did the next 140 kWh at 3¢ each. All over 200 kWh cost 1.75¢ each on both old and new rates. The highest average monthly use was on the order of 87 kWh.

In May the War Production Board issued permission to add capacity to the Substation north of Van Buren. The news was welcomed because on several occasions the sub had been considered overloaded. [Permission for any service extension or nearly every appliance purchase first had to be approved by an appropriate war board.] The sub capacity was increased by 100%, to 900 kW. Much of the work required having the current off in the sub. Since it was the only substation, it meant everyone was off when it was. The job was completed August 29.

One lady wrote: "I think the blackout you had to give us one Sunday evening about a month ago makes all of us appreciate our good electric lights more than ever. Maybe my little old oil lamp might have looked a little brighter when I had no other. But really, that evening it reminded me of a lightning bug when I compare it with real lights."

H-W brought its War Bond holding to \$10,000 and also brought its prepayments on indebtedness up to \$85,000.

The worst year for storms in the Co-op's brief history saw many power outages. Trees in lines were a main cause, compounded by lack of regularly scheduled trimming due to the manpower shortage.

On October 16, shortly after 1 a.m. a Central Ohio Light and Power Company transmission line failed. H-W, Bloomdale, North Baltimore, Van Buren, Cygnet, Rudolph, Portage and Jerry City were out of power until 10:30 a.m. when C.O.L.P. found and repaired the line - returning power to over 6,000 homes.

1944

A list of people who allowed H-W to cut down trees under and along lines began to appear in the newsletter. The outages caused by trees could have been reduced if more "tree lovers" allowed trimming, members were told.

Wiring supplies continued in short supply but some electrical contractors occasionally got some and advertised the fact widely.

H-W stopped offering bill credit for adding electric ranges or brooders.

Late in April, a girl from Fostoria landed her small plane on the top wire of an H-W line south of Findlay. Miraculously, neither girl nor plane was seriously damaged but about 65 miles of line was out of commission for more than an hour.

Electric welders were coming into use by some H-W members. Side effects of their use - flashing lights, radio interference, reduced power factor for H-W - was cause for serious study. Finally it was ruled that problem welders should be exchanged for types that didn't cause trouble, within nine months of notice to do so. Failure to comply meant a higher electric bill for the offender.

Since 1940 H-W had been selling power wholesale to Tri-County Co-op of Napoleon. In 1944 it was by far the largest single consumer H-W had.

At the end of 1944 the Co-op had 3,647 consumers and 1,078 line miles. Members were informed that 33¢ of every dollar paid the Co-op was being used to pay interest and principal on H-W's debt to REA.

1945

1945 started with snow. Then it snowed some more - and more. Many roads were blocked and outages took "forever" to remedy.

An acute coal shortage prompted the WPB to order all outside lighting for advertising stopped February 1. Saving coal used in power generation was the aim.

March 20 marked another rate cut. Manager Luse said 90% of all Co-op consumers would benefit. Greatest reduction occurred for uses of above 100 kWh per month. Provided an inducement to help sway people thinking of going to electric cooking. Now it would be even more attractive. Clamor for electric ranges and water heaters rose despite knowledge that most manufacturers, under war restrictions, had no production.

Many members commented appreciatively on the rate reduction. A few thought rates should have remained up until the REA debt was paid. The Board felt increased kWh use of cheaper electricity would bring more dollars to pay on the debt.

Some authorities forecast sales of a million home food freezers would result within two years after materials for manufacture became available. The large number of locker plants established around the country was thought to be stimulating public interest. Reams were written on how to freeze various foods.

Both wars ended this year and the love of peace was probably never stronger.

With the war years' restrictions lifted now, wiring materials and appliances were again becoming available and things looked good. Wiring contractors were in great demand.



Line crew and manager with the 1945 fleet of trucks.

From left: Alva Bhaer, lineman; Arlene Bonner, asst. bookkeeper; Jack Phillips, groundman-clerk; Sylvester Herr, lineman; George Gillen, lineman; Lois Boyer, asst. billing clerk; Clell Flowers, Sr., groundman; Harold Richmond, lineman; Winifred Stephens, billing supervisor; James Sterling, groundman; Walter Roth, groundman; Dale Sprague, lineman; Elaine Newcomer, bookkeeping supervisor; Earl Dick, lineman; Ruth Richmond, asst. billing clerk; Dowling Hamman, groundman; R.P. Luse, manager; Frank Dick, meter reader.



A Reader's Digest article pointed out the almost certain trend of city people building their homes in the country after the war. With good roads, good cars and rural electrification, it seemed a reasonable projection.

Story appeared about a man from a neighboring State who wrote the Rural Electrification Administration inquiring how to avoid burning his hands. It was found that although his house was completely wired, the man had only one bulb which he patiently screwed and unscrewed as he went from one room to another.

Something like the H-W man who asked both a banker and one of H-W's directors to telephone H-W about his having been out of service for several days. A service truck and two men were sent there. Without much delay the men discovered the only trouble was a burned out light bulb in the kitchen.

Some lines in West Millgrove and its area (old G.U.) were rebuilt. Because they had to be de-energized, it meant an eight hour day's work outage. The main substation near Van Buren was enlarged to 1600 kW capacity and necessitated a whole system shut off for a couple of hours on a very early Sunday morning.

12/31/45 saw H-W with 1100 miles of line and 3800 consumers.

1946

In January, employees were kept busy changing services as over 100 new electric ranges and water heaters had showed up since Christmas. Regular hookups used two wires for 110-volt service. The 220-volt appliances required a third wire be brought in and the meter changed.

Forty-five farmers in Sandusky County got a pretty good deal in February. Toledo Edison had a road-to-house construction charge and a \$10.50 per month minimum charge (for four years). Last summer these farmers came to H-W requesting consideration of its service. Engineering, planning, meetings took place and H-W was ready to start building lines in February, though the whole 12 miles couldn't be done at once because of a strike at H-W's transformer supplier. TE dropped the road-to-house charge and lowered the minimum to \$3.50 per month. They had all materials and were ready to do the whole shebang at once. They got the business. H-W lost its investment in time, etc. but the 45 farmers benefitted.

Five of the seven directors represented the Co-op at the National Co-op Convention in Buffalo this March.

As applicants for line extensions kept mounting, a set of priorities was developed. Class I (first priority) would go to ex-GI's moving to places where no service exists; Class II to farmers moving to Co-op lines from other Power Company lines, and Class III to people who had lived for some time along the line and now elected to take service.

Co-op employees were offered a raise in wages to compensate for reduced regular hours (5 instead of 6 work days per week).

[This narrative now begins to contain some diary-like entries, using present tense verbs. Ed.]

A cement block warehouse and garage is being built in North Baltimore to house Co-op trucks and equipment. Estimated cost is \$13,000. It is needed since we now have a fleet of seven - two line trucks and five service trucks.

Half an acre was purchased in Eagle Twp., Hancock County for a substation site. This second sub will be of 1000 kW capacity. It is to cost about \$15,500.

H-W has a training program approved by the Veterans Education Service. In June four employees qualified for the program: Paul Hutchison, Robert Kelly, Walter Roth and Theodore Caldwell. Two other veterans on the line crew plan to enroll in college this fall, being Melville Nielson and William Lloyd.

Note from July newsletter: "Our linemen are supposed to call back to the office every two hours to see if there are any trouble calls or urgent requests that have been reported for their areas. We want to again thank all you good people who have so generously allowed the men to use your phone.

"While on the subject of phones we wish to say that making good connections on the long distance lines is quite a problem these days. We talk of installing an FM radio outfit such as police radios and some power companies are already using."

[Line crews were assigned to different areas of the system. Each crew was to phone in at specified times for late developing news. It was reported that on occasion - when crews in adjacent areas finished their assigned tasks - they met for a few recreational hands of cards.]

Reiterating the Board's goals for H-W, at the October 14 annual meeting president Trontous Amos listed 1) Good Service, 2) Cheap Electricity and 3) Financial Security. He then announced the third rate

reduction for the Co-op, to be effective November 20. The first 25 kWh per month will be 6¢ each, next 25 at 4¢, next 50 at 3¢, next 100 at 2¢ and all over 200 per month at 1.5¢. The \$2.50 minimum remained on this Farm Rate. Amos said it would save about \$1,000 per month on members' bills and would benefit 95% of the members.

The year closed with 4,039 members served along 1,122 miles of line. [April's use had been 140 kWh, highest ever.]

1947

Yet another year began with severe weather as two early January ice storms in quick succession broke lines and poles. Crews from six central Ohio co-ops showed up to help. A large number of H-W members pitched in, too. Power was off for only a couple of hours for some, but some of about 3,000 were off for as much as five days. Ice-laden trees were a main culprit, bending into lines, then when some trees were freed of ice they sprang up into lines.

Then the worst blizzard in the Co-op's history struck March 25. Five foot drifts, stalled cars on roads and a shortage of highway snow plows compounded outage time. Then the power supply to the substation was lost by the Power Company. Of the four worst storms experienced, three had occurred within 90 days.

The "avalanche" of new electric ranges and water heaters continued. Crews were kept busy building in 220-volt services. Other electric additions continued: refrigerators, hay and corn dryers, milking machines. It was reported that someone saw one of the new automatic clothes dryers. Thought to be something lots of people will do without for awhile.

I'm 83
So you can see
I've done a lot of bakin'
First coal and wood
Then oil I stood
But all I have forsaken

A rural Cook
Could write a book
Comparin' things departed
But I'll just say
God bless the day
ELECTRIC cookin' started.



—Above is Mrs. Olive Hermon, R.L. McComb, her electric range and the poem she wrote about electric cooking.

Books on how to build your own home food freezer were made available to members.

The West Findlay substation went into service in August. Until now, H-W's electric system had been like the letter "H" - with the Dixie substation (north of Van Buren) at the crossbar. Now the system was more like an "O" with the Findlay sub at the southwest segment of the "O". This new system promised better voltage, fewer outages and more power for members' use.

Marshall Wells, radio station WJR Farm Editor, was a featured speaker at the October 13 annual meeting of members. An unprecedented 2,500 to 3,000 people showed up to see and hear him. The North Baltimore schoolhouse auditorium, downstairs and up, was first filled; then the gymnasium, next the nearby Methodist church, all its available rooms and choir loft were packed. Hundreds of others went home or to local restaurants and theater. Wells addressed the people in the auditorium, then went to the church. Folks in the gym were inadvertently overlooked. After the meeting, 3,027 cups of ice cream were consumed.

In October our General Electric FM radio outfit for office-to-trucks communications was being installed.

1948

1948 began with two "I'd be happier without it" situations. Early New Year's Day an ice and sleet storm affected some 1500 homes. Most were restored to service by about 10 p.m. by hard working crews.

Then on January 20 rates were increased by approximately 10% due to increased costs of coal being passed on by our power supplier and other drastically higher costs. [And 1947's operation had ended slightly in the "red."]

Without warning, a 75 mph storm struck northwestern Ohio on March 19. Estimated damage to farm property, machinery and livestock was in excess of \$5 million. That Friday H-W had 2800 out of service shortly after 1 p.m. when the high winds hit. With help from men and trucks from Belmont and Northwestern electric co-ops, 2500 had power restored by midnight Sunday. Crews worked 15 to 18 hours per day from Friday through Tuesday. The emergency generator we had at the new warehouse was started and gave enough power to operate the office to truck radio when power at the warehouse went off Friday. We were able to assess damage from reports from the field and deploy crews.

April: "The recent windstorm caught several of our Co-op friends out in very small buildings. Some of the upset structures trapped users inside when the building was blown over on the door side. Numerous solutions are being offered to prevent recurrence of this serious hazard to rural serenity. The best answer seems to be to make an inside bathroom out of the West side of the North bedroom."

Some H-W members are buying television sets.

Line crews spent lots of time trimming trees grown and growing into power lines. Trees in wires cause more power outages than any other single thing. Using lines for target practice also means outage -sometimes delayed until rain or ice causes short circuiting. Shooters put themselves and others in real danger of electrocution.

Infantile paralysis in epidemic proportions in this part of Ohio had everyone concerned. One doctor thought it important to insist on plenty of rest for children, and to avoid chilling. Though not definitely known, he said, it seems likely that excessive fatigue, chilling and other exposures make the child more susceptible to infection.

H-W went to the Hancock County Fair to give information about and show switch box equipment for yard power centers. For several years we have been advocating this arrangement so house and barn can be turned off but water pump left on to fight fire.

Efforts continued at trying to dissuade women from washing only on Mondays. The big "draw" of electricity on Mondays puts a strain on the Co-op electric system.

We have the three-phase line completed, starting at the Van Buren sub and extending west to the Hancock and Shawtown elevators. These were old lines bought from General Utilities, in bad shape, and until now consumers along it had poor electric service.

The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., six days a week. Also when bills are due from the 20th to the end of the month, H-W's office is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The Co-op's family now numbers 4298 spread along 1151 miles of line.

1949

January marked the month when average use hit a new peak, 242 kWh.

A survey form was sent H-W members, partly aimed at planning future system needs. Members were asked to mark whether they had these electric items: range, refrigerator, home freezer, water heater, pressure water system, bathroom, motor on stove or furnace, dairy water heater, welder, milker, hay drier. And what they planned to add in the next five years.

H-W serves the Amanda Auto Theater, open Sundays and Mondays. *Duel In The Sun* is scheduled for May 22 and 23.

"More than half of our members have pressure water systems and inside bathrooms. Civilization marches on!" 71% have telephones; 46% said their telephone service was satisfactory. [Some of the results of the survey mentioned.]

August 26 marked the 10th anniversary of the first meter set at Ober Apple's. Pert Hindall, who set the meter and was now working in Toledo, wrote a letter to manager R.P. Luse. Part of it said: "I do not recall who the next ones were to receive Co-op electric service, but I do recall that there were very few instances where the folks acted ungrateful when we plugged in their meters and said "try your lights." Usually they gave us a doubtful grin and snapped a switch expecting nothing to happen, but when the lights came on, they acted like they had received a gift from heaven." [Others whose meters were set that first day included H.O. Burrell, Frank Withrow, Don Burrell, Don Foust, Forrest Archer, Mrs. T.J. Chase, Frank Claybaugh, John Newlove, Henry Matthes and Charles Matthes.]

A revolutionary new electric heat - glass panels. Co-op board member Carl Hamlin is building a new home in North Baltimore and is

seriously thinking of heating it with the glass panel system. [It was.] Ed Mauk, Portage Twp., Wood County had radiant glass heat installed.

August 8 marked the incorporation of Cooperative Power, Inc. Organized by 16 electric co-ops in northwestern Ohio, main intent is to produce electricity by generation or to purchase it and sell to member co-ops, municipal corporations and other governmental agencies or corporations. Failure of existing power companies to offer assurance of an adequate power supply and at reasonable rates is said to be the reason for forming the new corporation to aid northwest Ohio. A similar group, Southeastern Power Cooperative, had been formed two years ago.

The capacity of the Van Buren substation was increased to 2100 kVa and the new Portage sub went into service with 1000 kVa. Aside from the additional capacity needed for growing needs, the H-W system now has more "outage insurance." If one sub fails for some reason, consumers could be temporarily "fed" from the other ones, reducing outage time, insuring greater continuity.

1950

After establishing headquarters in three separate places in North Baltimore over the years, H-W bought 3½ acres of land on the Dixie Highway, half mile north of the B & O overpass. Tract included 60 x 60 concrete block building and 24 x 67 frame building. All for \$15,000. Present plan is that Co-op will build office building on the new site, sell the present warehouse in N.B. and, thus, consolidate office, warehouse and pole yard at one centrally located point.

The Board feels the Co-op should have someone whose job would be to counsel members on wiring, equipment, high use or voltage problems - generally help members with electric and cooperative problems. Hired: Philip Vanderhoof. Suggested titles are "memberman" or "member's man." Van the Memberman.

In June came the first retirement of Capital Credits. Of 49 checks, 24 went to heirs or executors of deceased members' estates. 25 checks went to former Co-op patrons who preferred to accept 20% in cash as full settlement, rather than wait for 100% retirement.

Members at the annual meeting approved some amendments to the Code of Regulations. One increased director districts and number of board members from seven to nine and allowed for their nomination and election by mail. (Previously a nominating committee was used and voting was done at the annual meeting.) The Code was also amended to limit tenure of Board members to two successive three-year terms. Another proposed amendment was defeated. It would have removed a restriction which prohibits township trustees, county commissioners or other elected, salaried officials from becoming a Co-op board member.

Through the year manager Luse continues a campaign to get schools to teach young people how to drive cars safely, citing reductions in teenage accident involvement when schools do offer such training. A survey: four area schools now teach driving, nine plan to, twelve have no such plan, two are opposed.

Your Co-op has some services available that aren't entirely "regular" but which members might wish to use on occasion. One: two portable generators (1½ kW and 3 kW) for emergency or temporary use. Two: air compressor, along with air hammers, drills, etc. (must be operated by Co-op lineman and work must be done evenings or Saturdays). Three: Co-op crew members are trained in First Aid, can give emergency treatment. Four: Co-op office has list of blood donors, by blood type, who can be called upon in case of emergency. Five: Co-op has a couple individuals who can speak on electricity and related matters. "Neither of the individuals is any prize winner but they might do in a pinch."

It was noted that one H-W member had a Frigidaire unit installed in his egg storage room. He maintained a cool even temperature in the hottest of weather with it.

It appears certain that Ohio Power will take over Central Ohio Light and Power from whom we buy electricity.

1951

Hay dryer installations are increasing as are yard meter poles.

At each Co-op board meeting two directors bring a young Co-op member as a guest. The guests learn more about the problems of running an electric co-op and give the co-op the advantage of the younger members' counsel.

Van the Memberman noted that near Bowling Green he'd found 9 electrically unserved homes within a 2-mile radius. None were far from a power line though not a Co-op line. Most of the folks mentioned electricity was nice but to "hook up" would cost a high minimum for 3 or 4 years. In effect they'd have to pay for building the line to them. Van observed it was odd to see hand pumps and scrub boards in use.

The widening of the Dixie up towards Bowling Green is giving H-W fits. Blasting, cranes in wires and the like are knocking out Central Ohio Light and Power service to our Portage sub. Several outages have affected our members. An April 28 windstorm took down COLP's transmission poles and involved the sub, too.

In spring H-W held a Mow Cured Hay meeting for interested members. July saw people installing Hay Fans "all over the place." The 5 h.p. to 7¼ h.p. motors used have caused lots of yard meter poles to be put in and larger transformers to meet the added load.

Top lineman rate is \$1.50 per hour. A June 25 Board-approved increase of 10¢ per hour is to go into effect. However, approval for the raise has not been received from the Wage Stabilization Board.

The Co-op board announced a new service entrance policy. H-W will now wire to the meter at no charge. Before we only came to the "point of contact" on the consumer's structure. Estimated this will save consumers about \$10 when putting in or changing entrances.

Electric blankets are the most popular Christmas appliances being purchased, according to a survey of dealers. Electric driers are next with television sets a close third.

There are now 1162 miles of line with 4365 H-W consumers being served.

1952

A small rate cut was approved by the board of directors. If consumer uses 356 kWh, show 350 and pay for 350. Or use 999, pay for 990. Began using "even 10's" billing method.

When our North Baltimore office rent of \$40 per month was raised to \$100, and the owner wouldn't settle for \$60, the office was moved to the warehouse site on the Dixie Highway. We hope the new office building will be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of the year. It will be heated and cooled with heat pumps using well water as the heating/cooling medium.

Board members receive \$10 per monthly meeting plus 6 cents per mile for their cars.

Our long effort at removing trees from our right of way is coming to a slow down. With over thirty thousand trees, over six inches in diameter, cut down and removed in the last six years, we hope for better service and lower operating costs.

Work on the new substation south of Arlington has now started.

R.P. Luse and three other Co-op managers visited Kelleys Island to see how service was. Martin Electric Co., a small private company, serves the 2,900 acre island. Residents pay about 12¢ per kWh, compared to the 2½¢ H-W people pay. Lightning and trees over lines cause two to four day outages. With lines in terrible shape, about 130 have electric service, 50 or 60 do not. Consensus: the ramshackle diesel generating plant should be junked and power brought from Lakeside by submarine cable.

Asked for bids on three large transformers for a new substation planned for the Hatton area. All five bidders had the same price: \$4,139.08.

A \$10,000 penny was exhibited at this year's annual meeting. The penny had been put behind a fuse and caused a barn to burn down.

1953

By January 20 the new office building will be completed and in full use. We hope everyone will want to come in and look it over. It is the members' building, theirs to use as an educational center, electrical research lab and Community Center as well as for office and storage needs.

A week long "open house" was held at the new building in March. Separate topics were treated at afternoon and evening meetings. Among the topics: home lighting, hay drying, yard center poles, electric range demonstration, house and milk house heating. Coffee and donuts were available. Over a thousand people stopped in.

The new Co-op Headquarters was formally dedicated on April 20, the fifteenth anniversary of the Co-op's incorporation. Preceding a dinner meeting of present and past trustees and wives, four silver maples were planted in memory of deceased directors: V.C. Miller, Ed Shoop, G.W. Dick and Carl Hamlin.

About 7 p.m. on Monday, June 8, a killer tornado smashed its way from Deshler to Wayne. Seven of our co-op people died, 20 were injured, 12 members' homes were destroyed and over 50 damaged. We had about 12 miles of line torn out, up or down. At our call for help, 14 electric co-ops (one from Michigan) quickly sent men and equipment. Our work force of 12 with five trucks grew to 44 people and 23 trucks by 1:00 a.m. Tuesday. At 7:20 p.m. Monday 1,250 consumers were out of power. By 8:00 p.m. Tuesday all but 3 had power restored.

We plan to have the new Hatton substation in operation by fall. This will be the fifth sub - needed to meet growing loads with adequate supplies and to help assure continuity of power supply.

Long time lineman Sylvester "Shorty" Herr died July 5, about three days after contacting a 7200-volt line east of West Millgrove.

This marked the first year that all directors were "mail elected." Though the Code was amended in 1950 to accomplish this, with three districts electing each year - this completed the cycle.

1954

Another small rate reduction went into effect with March bills. First 100 kWh will cost \$4.00; had been \$4.25.

The drive-in pay window at our headquarters building is most used during the night of the last day to pay bills without penalty.

Tip from Van the Memberman: "When you use heat lamps if they are where stock can reach them be sure to use the red glass bulb, they won't break if stock touch their wet noses on them."

We are very happy to note little housing tracts being located in several places along H-W lines.

Manager Luse observed that his gas bill went from \$22 to \$30 when the new gas rates went into effect. Said, "we'll soon be heating with electricity at that rate."

On July 12 the Board adopted the 100 amp. entrance as the new minimum standard for new wiring installations, including "change overs."

The concrete work was finished at the new East Findlay substation in October and steel for the structure is on order. It will be the Co-op's sixth substation. It is expected to be in operation sometime in December and will serve most of the Co-op's members who live between Findlay and Mt. Blanchard.

This year we installed a number of "street lights" that are turned on by photo electric cells. [Later we would call them "Security Lights." Operated on a "you lease, we service" basis. Thought to be a first ever arrangement.]

The year's operating revenue was \$528,879 from 4,556 members living along 1,188 line miles. All were highest ever. Average use for the year was 4,899 kWh per consumer.

1955

WBBG, the new Bowling Green radio station, is served by Hancock-Wood and is the first station "in the world to be heated and cooled with a heat pump."

The lower purchase price of large three-phase motors and their operating efficiencies have seen their adoption by quite a few members along our over 100 miles of multi-phase lines. Most of these are what might be called industrial loads. Brough Quarry, McComb Sand & Gravel, King's Saw Mill, Hancock and Shawtown elevators and Brandman Metal Co. are some of them. Brough's largest motor is 75 h.p., the next four have 50's and Brandman's is a 20 h.p.

Several promotions this year included 200 kWh free during June, July and August for any consumer adding a room air conditioner; 200 kWh free during any three months of 1955 for any consumer who installs a Hay or Grain Drying fan (5 h.p. motor or larger); and 100 kWh free for July, August and September for any consumer who installs an irrigation system (2 h.p. or larger).

A new mapping system was completed this year. Every member now has a number that is uniquely his. Employees with these maps can get to each location quickly. The system was developed by John Cheney who came to work here last year.

Van's building a house to be heated and cooled with a heat pump. Special research is planned to utilize solar and septic tank heat to assist the heat pump in its job.

About 3,500 checks were sent to present and former members to retire Capital Credits for the 1943 year. Checks ranged from 1¢ to \$167. This cash settlement was one of the first general settlements to be made by any electric co-op in the United States.

Effective with December 20 bills - another rate reduction. Designed for the many people planning electric heat for their homes, all kWh over 1,000 per month will cost 1½¢ each. Had been 1¾¢.

1956

At times we "retire" old electric meters that are beyond repair or are too small for growing loads (most from old General Utilities Co. lines). We offer these as great things for 10-12 year old boys to tinker with - take apart to see how they work.

The new radar range electric cooking, on the market but not yet mass produced, offers real time saving. A beef rib roast that takes 25-30 minutes cooking time per pound on standard ranges, takes 4 minutes per pound the radar range way. This electronic method is now too rich for the ordinary fellow's wife but in a few years may be priced lower.

Electric tapes and heat lamps offer protection against frozen pipes and drains.

"How are the Co-op office heat pumps working?" is often asked. Perfectly marvelously, Luse said in July. On the 2nd, with his outdoor thermometer showing 92 degrees, his desk thermometer said 74 degrees. I'm almost ashamed to be so comfortable, he wryly observed.

Area dealers offer substantial discounts on air conditioners and the Co-op offers a \$15 rebate to members who go to electric cooking and ditch bottle gas ranges. Some other dealers are actively promoting electric heating for homes.

An automatic sun-controlled street light will be installed for you for \$3 per month. Connected ahead of the meter, its electric use is included in the \$3.

In September another substation, Shawtown, was completed and it has been added to the Power Supply Contract with Ohio Power Co. Contract covers all substations up to January 1960 with a 5-year renewal provision after that date.

With December bills - another small rate reduction. On the Residential/Farm rate, all kWh per month over 500 will cost 1½¢, instead of those over 1000. "The reduction doesn't amount to much but is in keeping with the Co-op's policy of steadily pushing rates downward." Mgr. Luse said these continual reductions are because "every body and his brother" are using more power year after year.

Statistics show the Co-op will soon be 50/50 farm and non-farm residential. In 1939 it started out 99% farms. Another sign of the changing times.

An October 17 barn fire in Findlay burned down some Ohio Power transmission lines, knocking out their Cory St. substation. Besides the north part of Findlay, North Baltimore and Cygnet being out of power, so were H-W's Van Buren and Portage substations. Moving quickly, H-W crews got most of affected Co-op members back on by switching the load to the West Findlay and new Shawtown subs.

Co-op consumers of 1944 got checks from H-W as that year's Capital Credits accumulations were settled. 3,000 checks, totaling \$18,505 were mailed.

Literally hundreds of new washers and dryers are coming on our lines this year.

1957

A \$10 bonus is now offered any H-W member buying his first electric pressure water heater of 52 gal. capacity or larger.

Interest in electric heating is growing.

Years of pleading with people to allow trees under and near lines to be cut have fallen on some deaf ears. Dutch Elm disease is killing thousands of trees and now we're bombarded with requests to cut down dead trees "right now."

August 8: Co-op service number 5000 went to Harry Kemenah, Jr., living 1½ miles northeast of Risingsun.

4000th meter went to Elmer Babcock, 12/11/45.

3000th meter went to C.A. Luman, 12/29/42. (He'd had service previously from General Utilities Co., but when H-W took over, his was our 3000th.)

The number of members installing electric heat in new houses surprises us. Even some existing homes are being converted to this heating method. True, we've promoted the economy, safety, cleanliness, and flexibility of electric heat for some time, but the rate of adoption still surprises us.

1945 Capital Credits refund checks were mailed November 1. 2,913 of them, totaling \$15,131. The percentage of our margin (difference between what comes in and what goes out) for 1945 was 10.6%. If you paid the Co-op \$50 that year, your account was credited for \$5.30 and that's what is being returned to you. Margins for Capital Credits have run 10% to 14% in recent years.

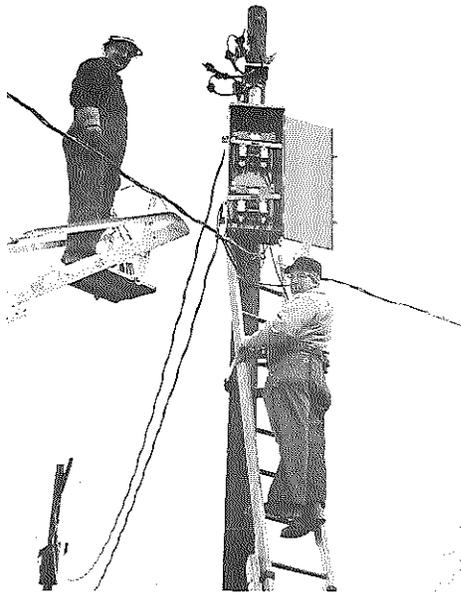
Not that long ago (1954) 100 amp. entrances were made the minimum standard. With ranges, washers, dryers, freezers, water pumps, refrigerators, air conditioners and, now, electric heating being added - we recommend 200 amp. entrances. Even make available a 200 amp. meter base and breaker combination so two 100 amp. main circuits are centered there. Ideal for yard meter pole installations and for electric heat additions.

1958

To counteract the national business slump, the Co-op launched a self help "Buy Now" drive to encourage members to increase cash flow into the economy. H-W led the way with increased orders for truck and line materials.

A special meeting of members was called June 13. Purpose: along with the first in-first out retirement of Capital Credits, allow for retirement of parts of all Capital Credits on a percentage basis to members. The Code amendment was approved by the members and in July about 5,000 checks, representing 8% of Capital Credits of record, were mailed. Thus, even the newer members witnessed a return of some of their capital investment in the Co-op. The average check was for about \$8.

As interest in electric heating of houses grows, we begin to really emphasize the importance of proper insulation. This not only reduces heating bills, it means less heating equipment needs be bought.



September 1 marked the start of a 100-day pump promotion to stimulate members to install pressure water systems. The Co-op Board authorized a \$15 bonus payment to those installing their first such system.

Three-phase lines are being built to Buckeye Pipeline, the new Elmwood school and Fostoria's new reservoir.

The first woman ever to serve on the Co-op Board, Mrs. Marjorie Meyer was elected from District 2.

At year's end, along 1,217 miles of line an average of 4,758 consumers had been served and 57 of them had whole-house electric heating. The average consumer used about 6,581 kWh this year.

1959

Over time lots of other electric co-ops and some power companies have visited H-W to get the lowdown on our Security Lights. We've learned since that one power company got an award for "introducing" these lights. Others are adopting them and it's estimated that over 100,000 are in operation across the nation. Hundreds more go in every day. The "sun-controlled" light idea has caught on.

Two of H-W's men helped the Findlay Fire Dept. pump out basements there February 11 and 12. Flooded conditions in that city have many without heat or pump power.

The 1958-59 winter, consistently cold, was the worst since the '42-'43 season.

A July 11 hail storm severely damaged some crops but H-W lines suffered only minor harm.

In earlier times 110 voltage was standard. More recently voltage is nearer 120 to 125; we aim for 122. So we recommend 125-volt light bulbs be used. The 110-volt variety don't last long with the higher voltage now common.

Security Lights are dropped to \$2.50 per month with the December billing.

The Co-op introduced another "first" - insurance for members and their visitors against accidental death from H-W electricity. \$2,000 coverage for adults, \$1,000 for persons under 19. H-W will pay one cent per meter per month for it.

1960

The Lakota School Board chose H-W to provide electric service for the new school building. Toledo Edison was the other competitor for the business. Shortly after the school's decision, TE announced a 15.5% rate increase and no doubt Lakota people felt their judgment vindicated.

We are interested in offering our service to the Riverdale school people, too, another consolidation.

The Board named nine people, one from each district, to a Resolutions Committee. The group is to propose some resolutions for consideration at the next annual meeting. The need for more "grass roots"

participation by members is thought necessary for a truly cooperative operation.



Another across-the-board refund of capital credits on a percentage basis was made, with checks varying from a few cents to a few hundred dollars. This brings cash retirements to date near \$250,000.

As in 1959, H-W again offered members low prices on electric blankets. In beige or blue, twin size is \$13.91; double with single control is \$17.26; double, dual control is \$24.47 - all prices include tax.

110 homes now have electric heat. All 4,811 consumers presently served used an average of 7,332 kWh this year.

1961

Mercury vapor lamps are now used in our Security Lights. Use less electricity, give more light, last longer than incandescents. All present lights are planned to be converted to m.v. New requests for these lights have exceeded our supply - of lamps and of time - making us less prompt in filling orders than we'd like.

The Riverdale School Board voted for Hancock-Wood electric service. Both H-W and Ohio Power submitted proposals to the board. The school is to have electric heating.

It is a practice of long standing to provide certain electric appliances for use in Home Economics classes, a sort of standard procedure with electric suppliers. H-W innovation at Riverdale: provide \$1,000 worth of electric powered shop equipment, too. (Retroactively, Elmwood and Lakota will get same consideration.)

H-W tries another first - fire extinguisher sale. Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, FFA groups, Vo Ag classes and fire departments stock and sell extinguishers and alarms provided by the Co-op. Sellers earn \$1 per extinguisher sold and 50¢ per fire alarm. American La France extinguishers, from Feb. 20 to March 31, sell for \$9.70 plus tax and the company's Detexall battery-powered alarm for \$2.91 plus tax. (Regular price of extinguishers, in catalogs, is \$19.95 plus tax) In early March it appears 2,500 extinguishers will be sold by month's end. [2,700 were.] R.P. Luse thinks it was a step in the right direction to safeguard households.

Another small rate reduction ordered by the Co-op Board will take effect with July bills. Now all kWh over 500 per month cost 1½¢; beginning with July it will be all over 400.

Since the early months of 1960, U.S. 25 - from which many approach our office - has been under construction. A divided highway is being built, to be redesignated Interstate 75. Planned for completion sometime this fall, our office is getting harder to reach. Maps and directions on ways to get here will continue to be sent members until the job is done.

\$500 college scholarship awards will be made by our statewide association to one boy and one girl. Sons or daughters of H-W members may get particulars from the H-W manager.

The growing number of members in the Forest-Wharton area is causing plans to be made for a new substation somewhere in the Mt. Blanchard neighborhood.

Storm-related power outages make the use of emergency generators an option worth studying, particularly by dairy and livestock owners. H-W can't control the weather and some animals can't wait for necessities.

A Mt. Cory area substation will be operational when some interconnecting line work is completed.

Through a dealer network, H-W offers 1320-watt Manning-Bowman portable electric heaters to members for \$12.99, including tax.

1962

Emergency generators are stocked and advertised by more and more area firms.

H-W learned about 750 electric heaters had been snapped up by members during the recent sale.

January 20 began another rate reduction. The long-time minimum bill of \$2.50 per month became \$2.40.

The April 30 early evening windstorm will be in memories for a while. Worst in many years, about 400 H-W members lost power as trees, barns, parts of homes and some poles collapsed. Crews worked most of the night and the next day to restore service.

Over 1,000 Security Lights were operating along H-W lines on June 1.

The Co-op meeting room was used by the Emerson Electric Co. to conduct an 8-hour (over two evenings) electric heating course for 20 electricians. With so much member interest in this modern heat, installers need up-to-date information to do good work.

H-W continues to counsel members to uprate their house and barn wiring. It's not possible to safely install 1962 appliances and equipment in places with 1939-style wiring systems.

This fall Riverdale High School will open. In 1954 there were about 60 electrically heated schools; at the start of 1961 there were over 1,000.

Electric blankets are again available to H-W members. They sell, retail, for less than the dealers say they would have to pay wholesale.

For the third year, resolutions were prepared by an H-W member committee for annual meeting consideration.

1963

Another small rate decrease took effect January 20. It's expected to mean a savings of over \$4, average, per consumer per year. Tentatively, other rate cuts will occur after kWh sales reach certain plateaus.

Several special sales were tried this year. A first pressure water system bonus of \$10 was offered along with a dealer financing plan. Through dealers, air conditioners, window fans, steam irons, electric blankets, can openers and portable electric heaters were sold at reduced prices.

Cash bonuses were also offered for first electric range, water heater and air conditioner.

An expanded line of security lights was introduced. Different styles, light output, prices.

The Co-op Board adopted an all electric rate effective with March bills. All over 1,000 kWh per month will cost 1.2¢ (was 1.5¢). Reasons offered for the incentive rate included the increased kWh that electric heat brings which more than offset expenses, the more competitive with other heating systems electric heat will be and, therefore, the more attractive it will be for H-W members. At this time about 160 members are heating electrically.

Ever since 1949, when two separate groups of Ohio's electric co-ops had organizations seeking a long term source of electric power at reasonable rates, this activity had been simmering. In 1959 Buckeye Power was formed and became the "surviving corporation" for this effort. In October, Buckeye and Ohio Power announced plans for the construction of a coal-fired steam generating plant on the Ohio River near Steubenville. Final plans are not yet completed but the plant will supply electricity for all 30 Ohio electric co-ops who own Buckeye, itself a cooperative. R.P. Luse is one of Buckeye's directors and its secretary-treasurer and has been involved in the negotiations over the last 18 months. The plant's cost is estimated at \$125 million. Buckeye's half will come from private financing, not from REA.

1964

June and July marked the tenth anniversary of H-W's first security light installations. Back then they were called "street lights" and as lights they weren't great. But they had photo electric cells, they were non-metered, owned by H-W and cost \$3 a month. The Mitchells, Gonyers, Sylvesters, Howells and Brinkmans seemed to like them anyway as they were first installed.

Granted a 3-month leave of absence, H-W manager Luse went to Costa Rica as a member of a team to instruct three groups on how to organize electric co-ops as effective institutions. Selected by the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Luse's work was under the U.S. Dept. of State's Agency for International Development.

A December 4 ice storm had drastic effects on the northern one-third of the H-W system. About 750 consumers were out of power at one time. Three of our neighboring co-ops sent us help.

1965

Contractual arrangements and related plans for the Buckeye Power-Ohio Power generating plant's construction and operation were approved during a January 14-15 meeting in Columbus.

An ice storm on January 23 hurt H-W, mostly north of Rt. 224. Got help from 3 Ohio co-ops to hasten service restoration. Then we sent help to electric co-ops at Adrian, Mich. and Kelleys Island.

Another ice-wind storm hit February 24-26, breaking 61 cross arms, tearing five transformers from poles, causing 335 wire breaks, dropping 11 trees over lines, plus about 154 miscellaneous problems. Damages will be around \$15,000. Yet again, six two-man crews from other co-ops were sent to aid us.

John Cheney, H-W's engineer, has been requested to help assist in rural electrification work in Venezuela. NRECA and AID are involved as they were in Luse's Costa Rica work. John will be gone from mid-March to mid-June.

April 11, Palm Sunday. Between 9 and 9:15 p.m. a tornado ripped east by northeast from the Bluffton area. Houses, barns, trees, cars, poles, wires, transformers were turned into a disjointed jumble for about 10 miles in the southern third of the system. At least 800 members were out of power initially as 60 poles and five miles of line went down. Crews worked 27 hours straight, slept six hours and were back at it. With help from crews of two other electric co-ops, all but three who could use power were restored to service by the close of April 12. Temporary repairs were made permanent as repair work continued over the next several months.

Earlier on April 11, manager Luse left for Washington, D.C., enroute to South Vietnam for a feasibility study of rural electrification. Another NRECA/AID project, Luse will head a six-man team into the war torn country. The Co-op Board granted a leave of absence. Paul Hutchison will be acting manager effective April 11. [That evening the tornado struck. Paul may have thought: why me?]

The fifth rate reduction in four years took effect with June 20 bills. All over 3,000 kWh per month now cost one cent each.

Cheney's back from Venezuela, reporting - among other things - one district he visited has diesel generated power for five hours per day in the communities, not the rural area. One community had no power for 45 days. When power is on, most have two light bulbs and are charged so much per bulb per month.

Beechwood, east of Findlay, became the first subdivision served by H-W to have underground wiring.

All old incentives were cancelled July 15. But going to electric heating now means \$100 to consumer-member. Installing a pressure water system in an "old house" location means \$20 bonus.

The Vietnam preliminary study completed, Luse returned to H-W. At July 6 board meeting a one-year leave of absence was granted him to implement electrification projects for two co-ops already formed, with others in process.

H-W's office heating system is being changed. The water source heat pumps, after springing leaks that flooded the building, and the wear and tear of running 24-hours a day since early 1953 - are tired. They're being retired. Electric duct heaters will allow for control of seven zones.

The Blanchard substation was put into full operation.

As in recent years, another across-the-board retirement of Capital Credits is issued. \$38,061 is paid, representing 5% of all credits on record at the end of 1964.

At the end of this year our tally shows 286 all electric homes among the 5,042 served consumers. Average use per consumer this year was 8,760 kWh.

1966

The Board adopted a policy that allows the installation of underground electric service for members.

A 400-watt mercury vapor security light is now offered for \$3.75 per month. The standard 175-watt m.v. unit is \$2.50 per month. Response to the new light quickly strips us of supplies and orders for the lights begin to stack up.

Ohio Power explains to audiences why the November 9, 1965 blackout of the northeastern U.S. "can't happen here." Their interconnection network is the reason. H-W hopes that's right.

Paul H. Hutchison was named H-W manager by the Co-op Board at the July 5 meeting. The action followed receipt of R.P. Luse's resignation to continue his work in Vietnam.

H-W began to co-sponsor a news program on WFOB, Fostoria radio. Particular efforts were to be aimed at John Doe - to acquaint him with H-W. Later the effort was also expanded to Findlay and Bowling Green stations.

Arnold Hogrefe, a BGHS senior, won first prize in our statewide association's college scholarship contest. He was H-W's first boy winner. Slightly later, he accepted a 4-year scholarship from BGSU and yielded the \$2300 won in Columbus to the runner-up. (David Scoles of Cory-Rawson had been H-W's runner-up last year in Columbus.)

Three-phase lines are being constructed west of Fostoria to tie into a substation site there which we hope to have operational late this year [In mid-December it was. It was H-W's 10th sub.]

Inquiries about the adoption of electric heating, new houses and conversions of older ones, are mounting. Though Co-op expenses are rising, electric heat about doubles kWh usage from the average household. That additional revenue more than offsets expense and helps control rates for all consumers.

Wednesday, November 2, about 2 a.m., freezing rain and some snow began. So did up to 50 mph winds. Temperatures dropped to 26. Traffic jammed as roads slicked and snow drifted. Trees went into power lines, lines galloped and touched - blowing fuses. Line crews fought through drifts and around stalled cars to get to trouble spots. Wednesday night at 3 a.m., with six more inches of snow drifting, H-W had line crews stranded in four different places. Area folks gave them shelter. Office force was snowed in, stayed all night, answering phones, etc. Early Thursday the weather let up and work started up again. By 11:30 Friday night the job was about done. Through it, up to seven Ohio Co-ops sent crews to help us. Some had to circle the area and come in from the east because highways south and west were impassable.

H-W now counts 345 members who heat with electricity. 62 went that route this year. Of all, 230 are listed as new homes, 115 are homes converted to the new heating method of favor.

Residential consumers averaged 9,359 kWh each and paid 1.8¢ for them this year. (The national average was 2.19¢.)

1967

H-W had some problems in the January 26-28 ice storm. But Paulding-Putnam (co-op west of H-W) had a disaster. Some of their people were out of power for six days. Over 250 poles and 25 transformers had to be replaced. H-W sent four men to help. 18 other co-ops also sent help. In all, about 85 men worked there at one time. Ohio's emergency aid plan continues to be of great value.

The Board authorized the payment of \$1 per 1000 btu of air conditioning added during June, July and August.

A merger of Lake Erie Electric Cooperative and Hancock-Wood was approved. H-W members voted for it at a special meeting on June 14, while a June 17 meeting of the Kelleys Island people also had a majority in favor. The merger will take effect July 1. K.I. will become District 10 of H-W. Since H-W has a "winter peak" (greatest amount of use), K.I.'s "summer peak" will provide some "balance." About 90 people there are year around residents but several hundred vacation there between Memorial and Labor Days. Overall, H-W gained 337 members and 20 miles of line.

An appliance survey showed some members have "Armstrong," "water pressure," or "Hand" dishwashers and quite a number have "Sunshine" clothes dryers.

Between March 1 and May 1, any H-W member who bought and installed an electric range got a free radio.

October, November, December: buy electric water heater, electric clothes dryer and an automatic washer and H-W will give a 12-inch portable TV free. Get two of the three, get the TV for \$19.95. Get one and buy the TV for \$39.95. ("Regular \$89.95 retail value")

Results: 68 washers, 70 clothes dryers, 26 water heaters. And 126 TV's.

The Belmore substation went in this year.

Now there are 405 electrically heated houses on H-W lines. For some time electric heat additions to the list are named in the monthly newsletter to members. Every so often one is missed and the member, after being patient for a reasonable length of time, lets H-W know of the oversight.

1.78¢ was the average kWh price paid by our residential consumers for each of the 9,772 kWh they used, on average.

Operating revenue was slightly over \$1 million this year.

1968

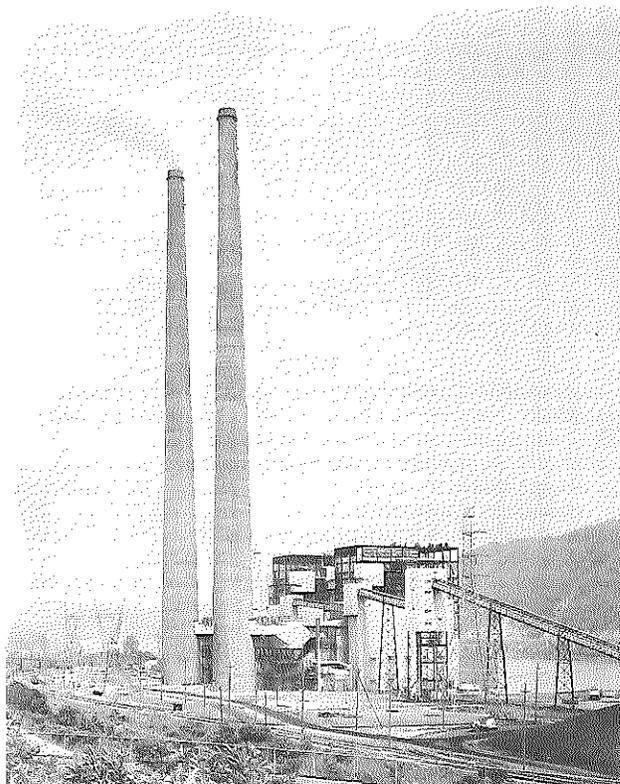
Humidifiers orders (\$47 each) pour in. 65 by January 19. They were offered in the late December mailing. We order them from West Bend and they're shipped direct to members.

Some promotions this year: February and March - buy/install electric range and get a 9-piece Teflon coated cookware set. April-May-June-July, get \$1 per 1000 btu of air conditioning added. September-October, buy/install electric clothes dryer - get steam and dry iron.

On June 27, Buckeye Power purchased Unit No. 2 of the Cardinal Plant from Ohio Power for \$66 million. Ohio Power had built two units, retaining No. 1.

The transaction gave Ohio's electric co-ops their own source of power supply and marked the largest bond sale in Columbus history, to that time - \$62 million. Buckeye got the money on the private money market.

Before this H-W had been buying electricity from Ohio Power under multi-year contracts - as had other co-ops been buying power from other suppliers. Now the co-ops have a long term supply of their own. It started flowing to us on June 28.



The 1968 Cardinal Generating Plant. Unit No. 2 at right.

A new submarine cable circuit between Lakeside and Kelleys Island was completed in August. Older cables put in over the years and broken several times by lake freighter anchors, ice and strain, are unreliable. Installing a 2½-inch cable weighing 6½ pounds per foot - over four miles of it - is a challenge. One 45-ton reel of cable was laid halfway out from Lakeside, another reel full from K.I. halfway. The two ends were spliced together on a ferry boat deck. The laying took two days. Five days of rough weather delayed the splicing operation. It was done on August 28. The circuit was energized in October and the island had a surer and larger supply of power. The cable was three-phase.

New types of electric heating equipment are reaching the market as are improved heat pump models. H-W hosts meetings for electricians/installers to learn more about the new stuff.

This year H-W's residential consumers used an average of 10,140 kWh each, about 4% more than the year before.

1969

The new Landmark substation, east of Findlay, went into operation. It makes the 12th point at which we get electricity from Buckeye, via Ohio Power transmission lines. By contract, most of the power companies in Ohio "wheel" power from Buckeye over their lines to co-op delivery points. OP Co. is the contractual agent and Buckeye pays them for "wheeling."

It's estimated that another \$400,000 will be put into H-W's system this year to increase its capability to meet members' increasing uses of electricity.

H-W and four other area co-ops jointly own a mobile substation and a mobile transformer, to be used if a substation goes out of service.

Winter kWh use keeps growing, summer uses don't - at least not in the same proportion - forming a "valley" or low point. We have the electrical capacity for winter but it's largely unused in summer. Not efficient. So air conditioning is promoted by offering \$100 to members who add central a/c. Add electric heat and central a/c - get \$150. Install a heat pump - get \$150. Less than central a/c added gets \$1 per 1000 btu. The Board "sweetens the pot" by offering dealers some incentives, too.

H-W members are offered dehumidifiers, electric BBQ grills, humidifiers - all at bargain prices. Our statewide association, Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (OREC) now stocks the humidifiers.

An August open house at the Cardinal Plant drew about 60 people from the H-W area. They saw the two massive generating plants that burn 10,000 tons of coal per day to make steam that runs turbines to generate 1,230,000 kilowatts. These units are operated mostly by Ohio Power people, but ownership is 50/50 between OP and Buckeye.

CFC (National Rural Utility Cooperative Finance Corporation) came into being, financed by electric co-ops across the country. This supplemental financing source is to provide some loan funds for co-ops since REA funding is increasingly under fire. CFC will raise funds by offering long term obligations to private investors.

Mgr. Paul Hutchison told the annual meeting audience that the members' price of kWh was down a little this year "while almost everything else has been going in the opposite direction." He said the only way to hold the line on the price of power is to sell more energy. "That's why we are constantly on the lookout for new accounts to be served, and for new ways in which you present members can use electric service to advantage."

Residential kWh sales increased 11.8% over 1968's use. Of 5,490 residential consumers, 533 have electric heat. 9.7%. The average residential kWh cost 1.72¢.

1970

In April H-W is exhibiting a rechargeable, battery operated tractor in its office. The General Electric ELECKTRAK will be used to cut grass, maintain grounds at the headquarters.

Some interest in house numbering is being shown in Hancock County. Would make it easier for fire departments, ambulances, deliverymen, etc. if systematic numbering were used.

The 5,000 kVa mobile substation owned by several NW Ohio co-ops came in handy. Was used to replace the Portage sub's load while sub capacity was being enlarged to meet members' growing needs. Also used for the Cory sub uprating.

Additional office-warehouse space has been needed for some time. Operations have expanded materially since moving into the place about 17 years ago. With construction costs rising, the Board has decided it's wiser to move on it now than wait and face higher prices. The office space will be increased by about 60%, the warehouse by 32%.

After months of preparation by operations manager John Cheney, another three-phase cable was put in to Kelleys Island June 17-18. To replace a single-phase circuit put in about 1953, the new installation took 22½ hours. In 1968 the splicing job alone took about 18 hours. Cooperative weather, skilled workmen (H-W linemen) and being the "second time around" made this a "text book" exercise.



John Cheney and Kelleys Island manager Harvey Einhart at work on 1970 submarine cable splice.

Inflation has been creeping up over the last several years. Rising cost of coal used at Cardinal is raising wholesale power expense from Buckeye. Average kWh price from Buckeye is nearly five times as high as when Buckeye began operations. And Ohio's gross receipts tax used to be 3%, now it's 4%. (Went up in mid-1969.)

When Cardinal was built, it had twice the capacity then needed by Ohio's co-ops. Not expected to be adequate forever, increased use of its capacity was estimated at 8-10% per year. Actually, the demand on its capacity has been nearer 20% per year. It will be outgrown earlier than thought at this rate.

Numbers of ways to reduce expenses were explored by the Board. A survey of H-W members indicated the majority favored eliminating the food that had been almost traditional at annual meetings. No food was served this year.

Since demands on Cardinal's capacity were growing, the Board decided it unwise to pay incentives which encouraged more demand. Accordingly, electric heat incentives were cancelled October 1.

The "fuel cost" increases in H-W's wholesale power purchases from Buckeye have been being absorbed by the Co-op. But as the cost grows, the Board decides to pass it through to members, based on kWh sales. An adder will be multiplied by each member's kWh use and that amount is to be a part of the month's total bill. It started with October bills.

Residential average kWh use hit 11,482 this year at 1.74¢ each. 608 families were heating their homes with electricity.

1971

The Co-op begins using electronic data processing equipment for billing and consumer records maintenance. Bills take on a new look. A few errors occur as operators learn to use the new tool.

Costs of everything have been rising for years. A rate study is being made and it's a traumatic about-face to be looking at a possible increase after years of rate cuts. But in 1970 revenue was 64.7% higher than in 1965, while expenses were up 78.4%.

One of the newer concepts in grain drying is that of using "low temperature" heat. Drying is slower but it is said to put less strain on the grain, making more of it marketable. Electric heat is used and has the advantage of adding no moisture in the drying process.

An open house is held August 14-15 to allow members to tour the office-warehouse addition recently completed.

Rate increases were scheduled to become effective September 20. President Nixon issued a wage and price freeze. This 90-day rule meant rate adjustments are being delayed.

As an economy measure, the Board ordered the discontinuation of cash incentives for water heaters and for air conditioning, effective September 30. Since air conditioning incentives began in March 1969, through 9/30/71 H-W made incentive payments of \$15,259.70 on the 581.1 tons added. 104 members had installed central a/c.

Phase 2 of the "August freeze" allowed rates to be adjusted. The increases were reflected on bills beginning with January's. [The rate increase, applied three months later than planned - resulted in 1971 ending up in the red. Total expenses exceeded total revenue by \$16,600. If the rates had been applied when originally scheduled, H-W would have been in the black by an estimated \$5,000.] In the rate changes, the all electric rate was discontinued. Now all residential consumers will have the same rate.

1972

January's bills showed the 175-watt Security Light now costs \$3 per month (had been \$2.50 since Nov. 1959). The 400-watt unit is \$4.50 (had been \$3.75 per month since its introduction in 1966).

Since 1970, the factor of "peak demand" is getting more attention. Peak demand is the one hour in a year when the total use of electricity by all H-W members is greatest. That demand on Buckeye's generating capacity is a factor in what H-W pays Buckeye for power. The peak occurs in winter but H-W has to pay for 75% of our "peak" all year long. Ohio co-ops' peaks are growing which means more generating capacity will be needed. Another generating plant is being planned.

When H-W trucks are backed up, a pulsating horn sounds. The linemen are not flirting. The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires the horns. They sound automatically.

Some power outages that would have happened - didn't. H-W contracted with a firm to check substations and three-phase lines for "hot spots." An infra red camera showed loose line connections, faulty equipment, etc. When these were replaced or repaired, potential outages were averted.

A color slide show on residential lighting is being well received by many groups who have requested to see it.

A growing number of members have emergency generators. H-W is concerned that they be properly wired so as not to jeopardize linemen or members. H-W offers to counsel and/or inspect for mutual safety.

The rate increase this year seems a "sign of the times" as increases are a national trend, the result of rapidly inflating costs. Coal used at Cardinal, for example, went from \$4.39 per ton in 1967 to \$7.44 in 1972.

1973

March bills showed a new item: Power Cost Adjustment. Rates cover expenses of providing electric service. One expense item is that of electricity bought for delivery to members. When that Buckeye expense rises above the amount allowed for it in rates, three options are open. One, do nothing and lose money as expense exceeds income. Two, raise rates - a time consuming and relatively costly process. Three, tack on the increased power expense as an "adder" to bills. The latter is most flexible and seems equitable to the Board. The PCA will be applied on a "per kWh" basis. If kWh expense goes below the amount allowed in rates, PCA will be a credit on bills.

The Co-op begins to encourage members to conserve energy - to help our nation and to help with wallet control.

The new REA Act, signed by the President May 11, will mean interest rates of 5% on REA loan funds for H-W. They had been 2%. Last December president Nixon had "killed" REA and the new Act passed by the Congress reinstated REA but increased interest rates.

The wet spring and early summer keeps us behind schedule for line work. However the Shawtown substation is uprated to 5000 kVa from 2500.

Dehumidifiers and humidifiers are again made available for members at special prices.

The importance of controlling peak demands continues a prime concern - to hold demand charges in check and to preserve generating capacity. Discussion zeroes in on water heaters as a main target. Shut off temporarily, a supply of hot water is still available, it is said. With, perhaps, 75% of members having electric water heaters, that could mean a material reduction in demand.

Several co-ops, including H-W, will join the Ohio water heater program to be coordinated by Buckeye Power. Control switches to be installed in water heater circuits will be activated by radio signals. H-W asks for members to volunteer to have these controls installed. Names of volunteers begin to roll in.

We now count 969 electrically heated residences; about 16.7% of the 5,815 residences served this year. Average residential use was 12,787 kWh for 1973.

1974

Last year the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) interrupted U.S. supplies of oil from the Middle East. Lines of cars waiting at gas stations for turns at the pumps, clearly highlights what energy shortages can mean.

Hundreds and hundreds of H-W members sign up for the water heater control program. A transmitter to send the radio signal to controls is built at the office and installation of the controls begins in July.

Years earlier H-W had acquired some land east of the office, across Grant Road. A portion of it is sold to a firm for the construction of an air reduction plant. Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. will make liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon for tank truck distribution to their market places. APCI will represent a desirable electrical load, having a 90-some percent load factor. That is, its kWh use relative to its kW demand will be very high. And its kW will not add to the H-W system peak demand since the plant will shut down when a peak builds. Construction starts and the plant is expected to be operable in 1975.

On July 8, ground was broken for a new building in Columbus. It will house Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Buckeye Power and Rural Electric Supply Corp. The present facilities are inadequate to allow for the desired centralization of their associated operations.

The gasoline shortage ended but the escalated price stayed. Rising prices affected clothing, groceries, hospitalization, etc. And electricity, too. 1974 compared with 1972 showed: revenue up 27.4%, expense up 32.2%, cost of purchased power up 44.2%, average cost per kWh delivered up 22.3%, average price received per kWh delivered up 17.8%, average residential use up 3.2% to 13,294 kWh.

By the 9th of December, 963 water heater switches had been installed.

On the 20th of December a rate increase of about 14% went into effect. It marked the third increase in the Co-op's history. The first had been in 1948, following an "in the red" 1947 because rates had been cut a bit much earlier in that year. The second was December 20, 1971. These followed 11 rate decreases.

1975

The controlled water heater program was thumped vigorously to try to control peak demands for power. An estimated \$25,000 in demand expense was averted for the year - kept from H-W members' bills - because of the water heater switches.

A welcome note from a consumer: People around here don't know how good they have it. I've compared your prices and service times with companies in Cleveland, Pittsburgh and New York City and you come out sunny side up. Your employees are courteous and responsible. I really appreciate your straightforward informed manner in this day of computerized forms, shifty eyed politicians and multiple tax returns. Don't let a few sour grapes get under your skin. Keep on plugging away.

An indication of cost escalation: in 1968 Buckeye Power sold power for .7¢ per kWh. In February 1975, .85¢ alone was the fuel adder. (Bills from Buckeye have three factors: Fuel, Demand, Energy.)

Buckeye's wholesale rate jumped .2¢ per kWh on April 1. When rates were set in 1968, coal cost \$4.50 a ton; now it's \$20.88.

To recognize the 1300-plus who have water heater switches installed, August 20 began a small rate reduction for them. A savings of up to 50¢ per month.

Some authorities' predictions of things to come include time of day rates, mandatory load management, inverted rates, automated meter reading, much higher kWh prices. By 1985: may see average kWh cost 8 to 9 cents each.

It's believed that 18 low temperature grain drying installations have been made on H-W lines in the past four years. They are off-peak users.

Members at the annual meeting amended the Code of Regulations to allow Trustees to serve up to three consecutive terms. (Had been two.)

H-W's office-warehouse heating has peak control switches. When water heaters are off so is H-W's heating.

Air Products and Chemicals went "on line" in September.

Buckeye Power is building a new generating station at Cardinal. It will be called No. 3 and will have the same capacity as No. 2. No. 2 cost \$68 million in 1968. No. 3 is estimated at \$292 million, and climbing. Inflation, more stringent environmental regulations, rising interest rates on borrowed money - all are factors in No. 3's growing cost.

Because of increased investment costs, Buckeye's wholesale rate went up almost .2¢ more per kWh in April. This will be reflected in the PCA on H-W electric bills.

In its fifth uprating, (total reconstruction, actually) the Van Buren substation was increased to 5000 kVa capacity. It was H-W's first and its initial 450 kVa was adequate for years.

The term "ripoff" is becoming popular, often directed at electric suppliers among others. Public frustration at rising prices, brought on by rising costs, is common.

This marked the first year that operating revenue was in excess of \$5 million. (\$5.371 million.)

At the end of December, 2199 H-W water heater switches are in place. Buckeye Power estimates that means over \$68,000 that will not appear on H-W members' bills because of avoided demand charges.

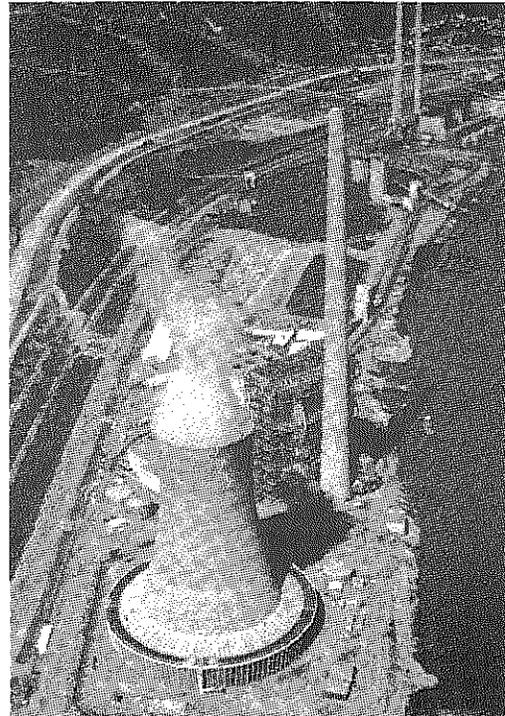
1977

Ordinarily, Dec-Jan-Feb account for around 60% of heating season expenses for homeowners. The long term average for the period is 3,483 heating degree days. The '76-'77 period totaled 4,171, nearly 20% colder.

The national concern for dwindling natural resources and consumers' concerns for wallet strain are causing increased interest in alternative heating options. Solar power, wind power, wood stoves - are getting more attention.

H-W continues to counsel insulation as a prime way of conserving energy. The controlled electric water heater program is a continuing promotion in the effort to control demand expense, and rates.

As Buckeye Power's new generating plant construction costs rise as do Buckeye's operating costs, their demand charge goes up June 1. Means an increase of almost .3¢ per kWh.



The 1977 Cardinal Plant. Unit No. 3 in foreground, Nos. 1 & 2 in background.

The Board's Rate Committee had begun meeting in March. Wholesale power increases, coupled with general inflation of all other costs, are leading to the inescapable conclusion that another rate hike will be needed. (May and June's revenue was \$38,000 short of meeting expenses.)

Valerie Sue Adler of Bowling Green was H-W's entry in the OREC scholarship contest. She won first prize in the girls division and \$1000 towards her college costs.

A jump in coal costs at Cardinal, along with the June 1 raise, made August bills from H-W show a 1.65¢ per kWh PCA.

Back in 1975 H-W began holding meetings for "concerned consumers." Idea: explain expenses affecting rates. Two meetings in '75 and three in '76 drew average of 10 members each. Only one showed up for an October 1977 meeting and the meetings were stopped.

A new Ohio law entitles limited income people, 65 years or older and the permanently disabled, to a 25% discount on winter heating bills.

On September 20 Cardinal Unit No. 3 went into operation. Its final cost will be around \$350 million, about five times the cost of No. 2 in 1968. Both plants are rated at 615,000 kilowatts capacity.

We count 2557 electric water heater switches in operation.

Patronage capital refunds to members totaled \$83,000 this year.

1978

The worst blizzard in Ohio's history began with heavy rains late on January 25. Then, about 3 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th, snow and winds gusting to 50-60 mph raged and temperatures dropped to 5° and the storm persisted. When it tailed off during Friday, roads were impassable as 20 foot drifts covered houses and at one time that day all H-W electric service was off. Storm damage to lines was severe. It wasn't until Saturday, the 28th, that all H-W linemen could report for duty. Whole substations were off as power company transmission lines went down. Two Ohio Army National Guard helicopters, snowmobiles, 4-wheelers and county and township road clearing crews were volunteered to help in service restoration work. One quarter-mile section of road took six hours to clear so crewmen could get to a trouble spot.

Something like 13 inches of snow fell during that will-it-ever-stop? onslaught of sustained hurricane-like winds. Despite heroic and nearly non-stop efforts by linemen and volunteers alike, it was late Monday afternoon before the last H-W consumer's power was back on. Those involved will never forget the '78 blizzard.

The coal miner strike which began in December 1977 was settled in March. Coal supplies at Cardinal had grown perilously low. Price of coal is headed up and will raise Buckeye's fuel cost and influence H-W's purchased power cost.

The blizzard, some glitches in the new data processing system and some reconsideration of the new rate schedules, delayed the start of the rate increase originally planned for January. Rate changes became effective March 20. They are expected to increase revenue by 6.8%.

New rates have a service charge and an "inverted tail rate." In "traditional" schedules, the last block of kWh are priced lowest. The more of this "tail rate" used, the lower the average unit price of each kWh. In the new rates, the last block is higher than the lowest block. Since kWh use is related to demand, aim is that larger users more nearly pay for the greater demand they represent.

When he signed Am.H.B. 577 into law on April 11, Governor Rhodes declared it "the best electric supplier territory franchise bill in the nation." The law establishes certified service areas for all Ohio power suppliers and was strongly supported by rural electricians.

After years of 20th to 20th billing cycles, in September H-W went to a calendar month billing cycle.

Appliance survey respondents: 89% have washers, 83% have electric ranges, 79% have food freezers, 78% electric clothes dryers, 77% electric water heaters.

When Cardinal Plant No. 2 was built, an electrostatic precipitator was installed though it was not legally required. A precipitator extracts particles from the smoke made from burning coal. The Environmental Protection Agency mandates a more efficient precipitator be installed. Cost will be \$45 million; in 1968 the whole plant cost \$68 million.

This year H-W's residential consumers averaged 15,084 kWh which was over 31% more than 1970's average and 106% over 1960's. In 1960 they paid 2.05¢ per average kWh, 1.74¢ in 1970, 4.11¢ this year. Coincidentally, last January Buckeye recorded its largest ever peak demand.

The 1978 Energy Tax Act allows deductions on IRA Form 1040 for certain energy conservation expenses incurred by individuals.

1979

A power line hazards demonstration has been developed by H-W's Ray Jameson, who advises members on efficient uses of electricity. Using real poles, wires, line control equipment-it graphically shows the need for safety around electric lines. Plans include demonstrations for the general public, with emphasis on school children.

People are installing wood stoves to reduce heating bills. Concerned about the potential for house fires, H-W uses monthly newsletter to advocate safety and periodically list booklets available from safety organizations.

H-W begins making free "energy audits" for residential members, evaluating houses for ways to make them more energy efficient.

A "peak alert" program is begun with area radio stations. When a peak demand is expected by Buckeye Power, the stations will be notified

and will start broadcasting requests for H-W members to conserve electric uses.

The Three Mile Island accident (March 28) is certain to put a crimp in plans for nuclear power generation for awhile in the U.S.

Energy conservation is the consumer order of the day. More fuel efficient cars, solar, windpower, insulation-all get growing interest. And uses of electricity are being curtailed as kWh prices are affected by the inflation of the times.

Buckeye Power, with rising expenses and a slump in power sales, lost \$3.5 million last year. It's announced that their wholesale rate will go up .25¢ per kWh September 1.

The Ohio Supreme Court rules as unconstitutional the Ohio Coal Consumption Tax. This tax, collected in compliance with that law by Buckeye Power, must be refunded to Ohio's electric co-ops. \$665,213 will be repaid by Buckeye over a six-month period through credits on Buckeye's monthly power bills. H-W's credit will result in proportionately reduced PCA charges to members.

Financing, litigation, inflation, legislation and regulation have caused a slowdown in construction of electric generating stations across the nation. Power shortage are forecast for some areas by the late 1980's.

Paul Hutchison, the general manager since mid-1966, retired at the end of the year. Paul began with the Co-op in 1939. The Board hired Terrence P. O'Horo to replace Paul.

A Resolutions Committee, made up of H-W members, last served in 1969. This year the concept was revived to get "grass roots" input for the Co-op's guidance.

Ohio law now prohibits disconnecting residential consumers during the winter for non payment of bills-unless certain exacting procedures are followed.

1980

Meetings for H-W members were held in April in schools at Hoytville, Elmwood, Cory-Rawson, Mt. Blanchard and Arcadia. Main purpose was to explain the need for a rate increase to be effective June 1. (A similar meeting was held on Kelleys Island August 2.) The new rates were designed to increase revenue by about 6%.

The increasing price of oil spurs research efforts at coal liquefaction and gasification. Recovery of fuel in oil shale and tar sands are other fields being explored. These processes are expected to produce relatively high cost energy but, at today's and maybe tomorrow's prices, they may be competitive.

The Powerline Hazards demonstration was exhibited at both Wood and Hancock County Fairs. In all, about 4600 people saw the safety show.

H-W's Board of Trustees adopts a policy that requires new consumers who are renters to make a cash deposit. After one year the deposit, plus interest, will be returned if consumers have kept bills paid. People "skipping" with unpaid bills prompted this action.

Changes in Ohio's energy assistance plans expand aid to low income families. Now some may receive help on November through March heating costs and home weatherization assistance is also offered. Applications are made through specified governmental agencies.

In past years, only H-W's consumers with electric heating have been eligible for budget billings. Now all residential members are extended this convenience.

Residential members averaged 13,730 kWh this year, nearly 9% fewer than in 1978. One reason is the kWh cost about 29% more than in 1978. 5.32¢ this year, 4.11¢ then.

H-W, Northwestern, Tri-County and Paulding-Putnam electric co-ops now jointly own a mobile high voltage safety demonstration trailer. Use of the equipment will rotate on schedule.

1981

Ohio's 4% tax on gross receipts of electric utilities has been raised to 5% for this year. So says the State. Last year's rate increase had the 4% built in, not 5%. The PCA will reflect the difference.

A concerted effort by members and rural electric leaders across the nation helped defuse plans the federal Administration had proposed for REA, that would have meant much higher interest rates for money borrowed by electric co-ops. That would have meant much more rapidly escalated rates.

Ground water heat pumps-which extract heat from well water-are said to have much lower operating costs than electric baseboard or ceiling cable. Add-on heat pumps-added to conventional furnaces-are also said to lower heating costs.

The increasing popularity of CB radios has been related to many fatal accidents. Antenna towers have fallen into power lines when antennas were being installed.

A new H-W garage-warehouse is to be built this year. It will replace the original structures-and some additions over the years-in use since

1952. The 80 by 140 foot building will abut the office. Growing repair costs of the old warehouses and the need for more space were among reasons the Board decided to go ahead. Over a year of study preceded the decision.

Terrence O'Horo resigned August 1 and John A. Cheney was named to replace him as general manager. Cheney was first hired in 1954 and had been the manager of operations.

For the second year in a row, the annual meeting was held at Findlay's high school. For the third year in a row, a Resolutions Committee functioned well. And for the second year in a row, H-W sponsored two high school students for the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. About 1000 young people from across the country go to Washington, D.C. to view their government in action and to visit landmark sites.

The Airport substation, near Bluffton, was built and energized this year. It makes H-W's 16th sub.

Operating revenue was \$10.879 million. (Expenses = \$10.528 million.)

1982

Two consecutive January weekends (9-10 and 16-17) proved what frigid means. On the 10th it was -12° with snow and 35-45 mph winds. That's when a bus bar broke in the Fostoria sub and, on the other side of the system, a line burned down affecting the Leipsic-Ottawa area. The 16th saw 28 mph winds and -14°. The water heater switch program and radio peak alerts were credited with forestalling a new peak demand for Buckeye.

Proposed Congressional bills to abate acid rain, if enacted, would add nearly \$500 million to Ohio ratepayers' bills by 1990, according to one estimate.

This year's district meetings for members were held at Arcadia, Elmwood and Cory-Rawson high schools and Kelleys Island. In 1981 these meetings were in Powell School, North Baltimore; the UCOA building east of Findlay; Cory-Rawson and K.I.

Another rate increase applied June 1. The Board took the action to shore up sagging revenues. Continued financial stability is important to lenders when funds are needed for system improvement, trustees say. Based on previous average use, "mainlanders" will see increases of about 6% in kWh costs; Kelleys Islanders will be nearer 11%.

H-W entries Stephen Robb and Lisa Thomas placed first and second, respectively, in their divisions at OREC's college scholarship competition. Steve won \$1000, Lisa got \$500.

240 people attended the June 13 open house at H-W headquarters. The new warehouse and the high voltage safety show were highlights.

About 1700 checks, averaging a little over \$50 each, were mailed in November. They represented refunds to members of capital credits through 1957. Margins from each year are allocated to members' c.c. accounts. The money is used by the Co-op for system improvements. When the Board authorizes, these funds are returned to members. Refunds for the year, including those to estates, were \$142,000.

This marked the 100th anniversary year of central station electric service. Thomas Edison's Pearl Street station began supplying energy on September 4, 1882.

Paul Hutchison died October 25. The former manager had retired in 1979.

On December 1, H-W began support of a dual fuel heating program. Two incentives for members of the Co-op: reduced heating bills and \$400 bonus. (Buckeye Power, manufacturers and H-W split bonus payment.) Program involves adding a heat pump to an existing automatic gas or oil furnace. Connected with the furnace, the pump heats in milder weather, furnace in colder times, automatically. This procedure utilizes the separate units when each operates most efficiently. A primary aspect of the program is the prohibition of heat pump operation in periods of peak demand on H-W's system.

Results of continuing energy conservation efforts by consumers are evident. The average residential consumer of H-W used 12,994 kWh this year, in comparison with the highest average of 15,084 in 1978. In '78 we counted 1677 electrically heated homes. This year the tally is 1915-but the average use is still down.

1983

H-W got good marks from an attitude survey of members. Among other things, 73% thought rates were reasonable and 71% thought rates were on a par with increasing prices for other commodities.

Five more district meetings for members were held this year. The power line safety show was put on at each.

Once again, members are invited to tour their headquarters facility. These tours are offered at any time convenient for members or groups of them. It's an opportunity to see all the materials they own in the

office-warehouse buildings. And, if during the day, to meet some of their employees and learn more of what the day-to-day operation entails.

This year the Bowling Green Substation went into service. It's our 17th.

Aimed at bolstering kWh sales without adding to peak demands, a water heater promotion began November 1. As long as H-W can install a peak control switch, any member who installs a new electric water heater of at least 50-gal. capacity gets \$40. A coupon form is required. Members with controlled water heaters get a rate that's up to \$1.50 per month lower than the regular rate.

About \$80,000 in patronage capital refunds went to members who were on the lines of H-W in 1958 and 1959. The Board hopes to get these refunds to a 20-year rotation cycle.

In the first year of the dual fuel program, 14 heat pumps were installed. The warmest August on record probably helped with some decisions. Members may have panted for the air conditioning phase of the heat pumps.

Since about 1973, H-W has been encouraging energy conservation, both in the national interest and for members' wallet protection. As rates rose, both inflation and electric, people payed more and more attention. The average kWh consumption per residential consumer showed that attention this year. It was 12,802 kWh; the lowest average since 1973's 12,787.

A really bright note closed out the year! Christmas Eve, all 24 hours of it, was cold. Minus 15 to 18 degrees with high winds buffeting the State, caused Buckeye Power to hit a peak demand of 912,349 kW. 55,607 kW over the previous peak of record in January 1978. Bright note? In 1978, H-W's demand was 35,238 kW but on Dec. 24 this year it was 34,801. The peak controlled water heaters (H-W had 3450 controlled) and response to the radio peak alert messages had to have done it! Because of a rate change triggered by the new peak, H-W's December power bill from Buckeye was \$46,000 lower than it might have been.

1984

Mother Nature has variety. January was 20% colder than average, February 32% warmer, March 23% colder. Fuel suppliers loved it, consumers didn't.

Most governmental programs have been geared to helping low income families. The State of Ohio has a new one aimed at middle incomers. For certain energy conservation measures, folks with up to 150% of median county incomes can apply for 5% loans. The newly formed Ohio Energy Action Corporation prepays the going rate down to 5% for approved lenders. That's what borrowers pay on up to \$2500 loans for prescribed ways to improve energy efficiency of homes. First step in the procedure is an energy audit. Something like 30 H-W members asked for that audit this year.

1984 took a heavy toll as two active employees and a former manager died. Susan Perry (office) died in her sleep February 17; Robert Rose (lineman) was electrocuted in a substation accident September 16; R. Power Luse (former manager) died October 3.

A series of line equipment failures and trees in lines due to high winds (50-60 mph), plagued line crews and members over a five-day span that began April 28.

H-W had a booth at the Findlay Community Showcase affair in late September. It was a chance to talk with folks about dual fuel and water heater control programs.

On October 1 a rate increase took effect. Expected to increase revenue by 4.2%. A larger amount was folded into rates for purchased power costs and to cover the Ohio gross receipts tax which is now 4.75%. Residential consumers who use around 1500 kWh per month will see about a 6% increase. Smallest users will go up about 3% and larger users from 1 to 4%. Security Lights (175-watt) went up 25¢ to \$5.50 per month.

During this year H-W went to the use of high pressure sodium lamps for use in Security Lights. Sodium lamps have much greater efficiencies. All new installations will use these and the conversion of existing lights began.

Members approved quite a few Code amendments at the November 12 annual meetings. The bulk of them modernized phrasing to reflect today's conditions. One changed the use of postcards to the use of envelopes in the mail election of Trustee process, to ensure privacy.

Again this year resolutions prepared by the committee were approved by the members. All are mailed a ballot and results are first announced at the annual meeting.

At that meeting, Robert Cleveland, Buckeye Power president, said present trends indicate an adequate supply of power until about the year 2000 when a new generating plant will be needed. He foresaw pretty stable wholesale power prices until then, unless certain proposed legislation on acid rain is adopted. A "worst case scenario" in that event

would cause 25-30% rate increases to cover the additional investments Buckeye would have.

\$150,000 in patronage capital refunds were paid to retire 1960, 1961, and 1962 accounts. About 2300 checks were sent.

Residential use rose over last year's average to 13,112 kWh. Members paid an average of 6.47¢ each for them, up .62% from '83's 6.43¢.

District meetings for members were held at five different locations, trying to "bring the Co-op to the neighborhood."

In this first year of the water heater program, 94 members installed new ones and got \$40 apiece.

1985

This year marks the 50th anniversary of REA. It marks the 47th of H-W. Both have come a long way. The job is far from done. As long as rural electric service is needed, it may never be done.

In Hancock-Wood's first few years, learning to meet REA loan and accounting requirements, staking and building lines, and trying to sign up more members to use them-filled the time.

World War II brought new restrictions and rules to be faced, and material shortages slowed things up . . . but the work and service continued.

For the 15 years following the end of the war, the Cooperative grew slowly and steadily. Members added various appliances, efforts were made to promote indoor plumbing, the Security Light concept was born-the rural area was becoming "civilized."

The 1960's were boom years. The Co-op's expenses rose gently but were relatively stable. To meet the slightly higher expense, the answer

was seen to lie in increasing kWh sales. These sales more than offset their expense and electric heating was a natural choice for promotion. A home with electric heat used about twice the kWh as one without it. Five rate reductions were made. kWh sales increased steadily. Further, in 1968, Ohio's co-ops obtained their own long term power supply.

In the early 60's, the average inflation rate for each successive year grew from 1 to 3%. Then in 1968, it jumped up 4.2%.

After that:

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1969 = 5.4% | 1973 = 6.2% | 1977 = 6.5% | 1981 = 10.4% |
| 1970 = 5.9% | 1974 = 11.0% | 1978 = 7.7% | 1982 = 6.1% |
| 1971 = 4.3% | 1975 = 9.1% | 1979 = 11.3% | 1983 = 3.2% |
| 1972 = 3.3% | 1976 = 5.8% | 1980 = 13.5% | 1984 = 4.3% |

With inflation ballooning, the 1970's began a new era. After 30-some years of steadily declining kWh prices, members saw that trend reversed. The introduction of a Power Cost Adjustment and six general rate increases have been seen since 1970 dawned.

Now we're in the 80's. After two horrendously inflationary years at the outset, a period of moderation has occurred. The average price of H-W's residential kWh mirrored that decrease. 1983's average price was up only 4.2% over 1982; 1984 up 6/10 of one percent over 1983.

What's in H-W's future? Improvements in equipment, planning, construction - will make for greater continuity of electric service for members. Members' best interests will continue to be the governing principle in directions the Co-op takes. Prices of electricity will be kept as near the cost of electric service as is financially responsible. Communicating openly with the members will continue a high priority. The Cooperative will prosper in a direct relationship with its support by its members.



H-W Managers

C.C. Doyle
Paul H. Hutchison

A.J. Phillips
Terrence P. O'Horo

R.P. Luse
John A. Cheney

A list of those who have served as H-W Trustees with their year of initial election.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Trontous Amos.....1938 | R.R. Smith1953 | Henry Beatty*1967 |
| G.W. Dick1938 | Robert McClelland1954 | Harold Block*1967 |
| C.C. Doyle1938 | Floyd Shafer1955 | Gilbert Gerdeman.....1967 |
| Carl Hamlin.....1938 | Don Roth1957 | Frank Haig*1967 |
| Emery Jimison.....1938 | E.E. Schutz.....1957 | Leonard Knapp*1967 |
| V.C. Miller1938 | Marion Inbody1958 | Louis Starkweather*1967 |
| J.E. Shoop.....1938 | Marjorie Meyer.....1958 | George Yoscovits*1967 |
| Victor Sink1938 | John Kieffer.....1959 | Paul Lee.....1968 |
| Earl Dick1939 | Lowell Miller.....1959 | Leslie Shafer1970 |
| Byron Routson1939 | Horace Pelton1959 | Clifford Tong1970 |
| Glenn Roberts1943 | Rex Brinkman1960 | Merritt Heldman1971 |
| John Sander1943 | Leonard Davis1960 | James Lewis1971 |
| Raymond Trout1944 | Russell Elzay1960 | Don Gerkens1972 |
| Francis Ensign1949 | Howard Reed1961 | Donald Harris1972 |
| Joseph Herringshaw.....1949 | Walter Sterling.....1962 | Howard Schoonover1972 |
| Frank Hartman.....1951 | Ralph Bishop.....1963 | Rev. Joseph Ehrbar.....1973 |
| Oscar Patrick1951 | Melvin Werner.....1964 | Donald Reed1973 |
| F. Lee Seiple.....1951 | Harold Gassman1965 | Richard Thomas.....1974 |
| Clement Suter.....1951 | Kenneth Hunker.....1965 | Charles Martin.....1979 |
| Hobson Kline1952 | John Rose.....1965 | Arthur Warren.....1979 |
| Eugene Metz1952 | Robert Marsh1966 | Erry Longworth1981 |
| Harry Brueggemeier1953 | Clair Montgomery1966 | |
| W. Bradford Martin.....1953 | Woodrow Smith.....1966 | |

*served for partial year following merger with Lake Erie Electric Cooperative (Kelleys Island). Starkweather was elected K.I. Trustee (District 10).

1985 Board of Trustees

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Donald Barker..... | | President |
| Paul Walters..... | | Vice President |
| John Rose..... | | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Janet Montgomery..... | | Assistant Secretary-Treasurer |
| Ralph Bishop | David Corbin | Clark Duncan |
| Roy Fox | Robert McClelland | Stanley Oren |

The following is a list of those who have been employed by Hancock-Wood for at least one year since 1938.

*Present full time employees

*Apple, Robert M
Ayers, Allie
Baird, Elaine
*Baltz, Stanley O.
*Barnhisel, Ralph V.
*Barringer, Claud W.
Beard, Jack E.
**Betzenheimer, Lawrence
Bhaer, Alva
*Bianchi, Dominic
Bonner, Arlene
*Bowers, Paul E.
Boyer, Lois R.
*Bradner, H. Robert
Braeckevelt, Lucy
Bretz, Margaret
*Bretz, Melvin D.
Burner, Walter
Bush, Alice
Caldwell, Theodore
Carpenter, Rosa
*Cheney, John A.
Clouser, Rodney
*Cunningham, Ralph E.
*Curry, Karen S.
Dearbaugh, Patricia
*DeVaul, Danny L.
**Dick, Earl
Doering, Ann
Doyle, C.C.
*Dukes, Douglas A.
**Einhart, Harvey
**Einhart, Nora
Elder, Martin
*Fausnaugh, Stephen R.

Ferrenberg, Allen
**Fitzpatrick, Winifred
**Flowers, Clell B. Sr.
Frakes, Deborah
**Fry, Wayne
Gildea, Bernadette
**Gillen, George
*Hamlin, Robert L.
**Hamman, Dowling
**Heilman, Earnest
Hendricks, Robert
Herr, Sylvester
Hindall, R.M.
**Hutchison, Paul H.
*Jameson, Raymond J.
*Judd, Michael R.
**Kaufman, Vernon
Kelley, Robert
*King, Bernadine
Luse, R.P.
*Mains, L. Paul
*McGuire, Lewis
McKenna, Ober
Merrill, Eddythe
Meyer, Marjorie
*Montague, Jerry H.
Mumy, Richard E.
*Myers, Catherine C.
**Northrup, Henry
O'Horo, Terrence P.
Oler, Helen
**Paden, Ruth M.
*Perry, Rebecca B.
Perry, Susan
**Phillips, A.J.

**H-W retirees

**Plocher, Harold J.
Price, Kent
Richard, Karen
*Richards, Dana W.
Richardson, Nancy
**Richmond, Harold
**Richmond, Ruth
*Rizor, Tamyra J.
Romey, Helen
Rose, Robert E.
Roth, Don Jr.
Roth, Michael
Roth, Walter
Savieo, Jane
Schell, Pearl
*Seibert, Stephen J.
*Sharninghouse, Ralph D.
Silvester, Sonja
**Smith, James
Snyder, Walter
Sprague, Dale
Sterrett, Gerald
Sterrett, Mary
*Swope, David I.
Vanaman, John
Vanderhoof, P.W.
*Waaland, Teresa J.
Walters, Dwight
*Watkins, Sheila R.
*Wickard, Tommie J.
*Wilkinson, Cheryl A.
Williamson, Nancy
Yoscovits, Carl
*Zernhel, Ruth E.
Ziegler, Dallas