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M A G A Z I N E

October 2003



The Washington Youth Tour delegate from Amicalola EMC

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PLUS:

- Alan Jackson, Newnan's native son, *page 16*
- See Rock City, then and now, *page 28*

AMICALOLA

BEACON

"Owned By Those We Serve"

October 2003

Shannon Tompkins, AEMC Washington Youth Tour Representative, Returns from Washington, D.C.

Shannon Tompkins, daughter of Lamar and Jackie Tompkins of Canton, was one of the 83 teens who represented Georgia and Amicalola EMC on the Washington Youth Tour in June, and Peggy Moore, who was selected by GEMC as a teacher/chaperone, was also a representative from Amicalola EMC.

Shannon says, "The 2003 Washington Youth Tour, to me, meant the opportunity of a lifetime. The tour not only presented an unforgettable educational experience, but also unforgettable friends and memories. While in Washington, D.C., we visited many monuments and memorials that impacted my former frame of mind. Some of my favorite sites included the Iwo Jima Memorial, Lincoln Monument, and the Arlington National Cemetery.

"Before seeing these inspirational places, I never realized the struggles and sacrifices made for our country and for our freedom. Without the tour, I may have never had another opportunity to visit Washington or to view all the amazing places there. Without the tour, I definitely would not have had the privilege of touring the White House. That was truly an



Shannon (left) with two of the many new friends she made on the Youth Tour.

amazing experience. The tour granted me the educational and historical experience of a lifetime.

"Even more important than the educational opportunity of the tour was the opportunity to earn lifetime friends. While on the trip, I became close to many different people. The diversity of the people on the trip challenged me to face new cultures, races, ethnici-

ties, and religions. This diversity changed me as a person. Every individual on the trip was so different, yet we were all so much alike. The trip caused me to become more aware of the different types of people in the world and made me realize that although their backgrounds and lives were different than mine, that they were really no different than me. Never before have I met so many great people and learned so much about others in so little time. If I took anything away from this trip, it would have to be my broadened frame of mind and my 82 new friends. The 2003 Washington Youth Tour was an opportunity I will never forget and an experience I will always cherish."

Peggy says, "For some it was a return trip shared with new friends; for others it was a new experience; for all it was an opportunity to grow. We joined 1,300 youth from throughout the country to see the nation's capital at work and to listen to today's leaders encourage tomorrow's. Those who shared the Washington Youth Tour made lifelong friends who will forever connect us to our heritage and commit us to a future of positive leadership."

Storms are Cause of Major Outages

The third week of July brought with it devastating lightning and torrential downpours. Amicalola EMC's distribution system took a tremendous beating from lightning strikes and flooding. Although the damage was scattered system wide, there were two areas that were extremely hard-hit, Lumpkin County and the west end of Pickens and Gordon counties.

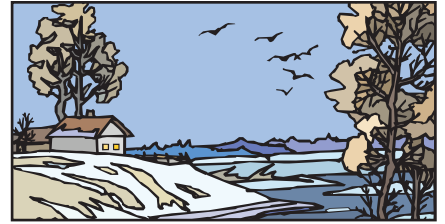
The Lumpkin County outage was due to the failure of the power transformer in the substation located just off Black Mountain Road. The power transformer steps the transmission voltage of 115,000 volts down to 7,200 volts so it can be distributed along Amicalola EMC lines to each individual customer. The cause of the failure was lightning shorting some of the coils inside the transformer. Power transformer failure is rare. In fact, to the best of Amicalola EMC employees' knowledge, the system has never had, in 63 years, a power transformer failure prior to this one. The outage affected some 6,000 customers.

The outage in Pickens and Gordon counties was of a completely different nature. On the evening of July 16, torrential rains flooded

parts of southern Gilmer and northern Pickens County. Talking Rock Creek rose to an all-time flood record. Twenty-thousand cubic feet of water per second flowed down its path at the peak time.

The main three-phase feeder line that feeds western Pickens and Gordon County is located near Talking Rock Creek. The high floodwater washed out several poles on the main feeder. The floodwaters made access and repairs impossible. The next day, pending making those repairs, we restored service to the affected customers from alternate sources. The additional loads stressed the system to such a point that we had to keep switching between alternate sources to try to keep the lights on. Finally, on Friday the floodwater had gone down enough that our crews were able to make repairs and get the main three-phase feeder energized. This outage affected some 4,000 customers.

Severe weather stresses electrical distribution systems and often results in extreme damage. Please understand that Amicalola EMC is always there making every effort to restore your electric service as quickly as possible.



Don't Be Left Out in the Cold!

With cold weather coming upon us, now is the time to make your home more energy efficient. Amicalola EMC can help you out by providing financing for your weatherization and energy-saving projects. Energy Resource Conservation (ERC) loans are available from Amicalola EMC at a very low 5 percent interest rate, financed up to seven years. ERC loans can be used to finance energy-saving devices and systems like heat pumps, dual fuel systems and central air conditioning systems. Plus, loans are available for weatherization improvements like:

- Attic Insulation
- Floor Insulation
- Wall Insulation
- Water Pipe Wrap
- Duct Wrap
- Duct Sealing
- Caulking and Weather-stripping
- Ground Cover for Crawl Space
- Attic Ventilation
- Window/Door Replacement
- Storm Doors/Windows
- Shade Screens
- Minor Repair Work Associated with Installation

To qualify for an ERC loan from Amicalola EMC you must maintain a good payment history with Amicalola EMC. Your credit will be checked through Equifax Credit Services. Your residence must be a permanent foundation home with a house-type roof, and Amicalola EMC requires a deed to secure debt.

To obtain additional information about our ERC loan program, contact Stacey Fields or Tom Evans at (706) 253-5200.



Crews replace a transformer that failed due to lightning damage.



David Kinser won the employees choice trophy at the car show with his 1955 Chevy BelAir.

Amicalola EMC's Relay For Life Team, Making a Difference

Amicalola EMC is once again proud to be a corporate sponsor for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life Event in Pickens County, and Amicalola EMC's Relay For Life team has been hard at work this year raising funds for the American Cancer Society. The year started off with a bang with planning for the car show to be held in June. Despite all the rain and rescheduling, approximately 45 cars, trucks and motorcycles participated in the car show that was held at Amicalola EMC on June 14. Other fund-raising events included a cruise-in, selling cookbooks (which sold out quickly) and a "Campers Delight" tent raffle with camping accessories, which was won by Wayne Young of Fairmount. After it was all said and done, Amicalola EMC's team raised more than \$6,000 for the American Cancer Society!

Water Heater Maintenance Program Available to Consumers

Amicalola EMC offers a water heater maintenance program to qualified customers. The water heater has to be in working condition before it can be accepted on the maintenance program. All homes have a 30-day waiting period before repairs will be made on your water heater. If the water heater is in working condition, it will be added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month. Under the maintenance program, Amicalola EMC provides replacement for 30-, 40- and 50-gallon standard and low-boy electric water heaters with a 5-year manufacturer's warranty. Singlewide mobile homes are not eligible for the program or under-cabinet water heaters. If a person owning an under-cabinet water heater will agree to a replacement of a low boy, they can be accepted on the program. If the water heater is in non-working condition, the customer has three options:

Option 1: Customer has repairs done, and is then added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month.

Option 2: If the water heater needs to be replaced, Amicalola EMC can sell the customer a water heater and then be added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month.*

Option 3: Customer buys a water heater elsewhere and is then added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month.*

*(Customer is responsible for installation of water heater.)

If you would like to sign up for the water heater program or have any questions concerning the program, please contact our Customer Service Department at (706) 253-5200.



Holiday Closings

The offices of Amicalola EMC will be closed for the upcoming holidays:

Thanksgiving: November 27-28, 2003

Christmas: December 24-25, 2003

New Year's: January 1, 2004



Give the Gift of Power

Amicalola EMC has gift certificates available for any amount requested. Once a gift certificate is purchased the amount is credited to the recipients account and the recipient will receive a card from Amicalola EMC indicating that they have received a gift certificate and from whom, or you can always choose to remain anonymous. Call (706) 253-5200 or stop by for additional information.





Veteran's Day Drawing Contest

Each year, Amicalola EMC recognizes the men and women who have served our country in the U.S. military with a Veteran's Day display. This year we would like to invite all children ages 12 and under to participate in our display. Children may submit an original drawing on an 8-1/2 by 11-inch page using any media (pencil, crayons, markers, etc.). The drawing should be patriotic in nature to relate to the Veteran's Day holiday. Name, address, phone number and age of child should be included with the entry. The drawing will be displayed in one of our three office locations for Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2003. A best drawing will be chosen from each of the following age categories: 6 and under, 7 to 9, and 10 to 12 years old. Winners will receive a silver U.S. Military Commemorative Coin. Deadline for submission is November 1. Entries may be dropped off at one of our district offices in Ellijay or Dahlonega or at our headquarters office in Jasper. Entries may also be mailed in to Amicalola EMC, Attention: Gail Stewart, 544 Hwy 515 South, Jasper, GA 30143.

Remembering August in October All Year Long National Co-op Month

For a couple of days in August, it seemed the whole world wanted to learn all it could about "the grid"—how it works, what happens when it doesn't, how to keep it from failing.

All of that education will serve a useful purpose if it succeeds in helping Americans understand they should never take for granted the reliability of electricity delivered to them, 24/7.

October is National Co-op Month and a good time to remember that reliable service is the foundation of the co-op's business.

Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC), the not-for-profit cooperative that transports electricity to 39 of Georgia's 42 EMCs, plays a key role in assuring high standards of reliability for all our customers. GTC invests an average of \$100 million annually in new and upgraded infrastructure. Such investments include new transmission lines, substations, and other state-of-the-art equipment. At the same time, the Tennessee Valley Authority makes significant investments in infrastructure on behalf of three EMCs in northwest Georgia.

Those transmission lines that crisscross Georgia are part of the Georgia Integrated Transmission System (ITS), a unique business arrangement, unmatched in any state.

Participating with GTC in the ITS are Georgia Power, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton. Although the lines and substations are owned and maintained by the separate ITS owners, they are operated as one system.

One irrefutable lesson from the recent blackout is this: *the nation needs adequate transmission infrastructure*. Citizen opposition to new lines, however, has often led to moratoriums against the construction of new transmission lines. Such roadblocks have delayed the construction of critically needed lines in some areas; in others, they have prevented the lines from being built altogether. In order to meet the future electrical demand of the state and assure a reliable transmission network, Georgia's electric utilities must continue to construct and upgrade necessary transmission facilities.

If Georgia keeps growing at its current rate, we'll have 10 million residents by 2010 and perhaps as many as 12 million by 2020. In the face of that growth, all of Georgia's utilities have an obligation to plan ahead to meet the new demand, and to build the infrastructure needed to continue the highest standards of electric reliability.

National Co-op Month is a great time to learn more about how your cooperative works, what it is doing to prevent disruption of power in your home and business, and perhaps what you can do to assist EMCs in their job.

The image of millions of people across eight states and Canada, stranded without power and, in some cases, simply walking home in August heat, left a lasting impression on all EMCs. That image is a reminder of the work we do every day to assure reliable service for our customers.

Your local cooperative renews its commitment to reliable service—not just once a year in October—but every day of every year.