



United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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From the President & CEO



Safety above all else

By Brenda Swartzlander

“SAFETY” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small, as well as companies across all industries, are committed to safety. Sports leagues at every level take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes, and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

For United Electric Cooperative, safety is the No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, United Electric has created a culture of safety by putting our employees’ safety and that of the community above all else. United’s mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members. Equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

United Electric follows the highest national safety standards. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. United Electric has a safety committee in place to assure our focus remains on keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and continue to follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. Our lineworkers are required to wear specialized equipment when working with power lines, and there are specific protocols our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they review all aspects of our operations from a safety perspective. They monitor and

track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share “lessons learned” and improve in the future.

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. United Electric conducts electrical safety demonstrations for school-age children and for community events. We also supply electrical safety materials to teachers for use in the classroom.

September is National Preparedness Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to prepare yourself and your family for electrical encounters.

Don’t attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects or overload your outlets. Steer clear of and report downed power lines, unlocked substations, or padmount transformers to United Electric. Never go near or get out of any vehicle that has downed lines on or near it — stay in the vehicle and dial 911 immediately. Contact United Electric for more electrical safety tips. If you want a safety demonstration at your school or community event, contact Kristy Smith at 1-888-581-8969 (extension 8507). Always keep safety in mind when it comes to electricity.

Until next month,
Brenda

Rustic Views

Looking forward to September

By Glenn Schuckers

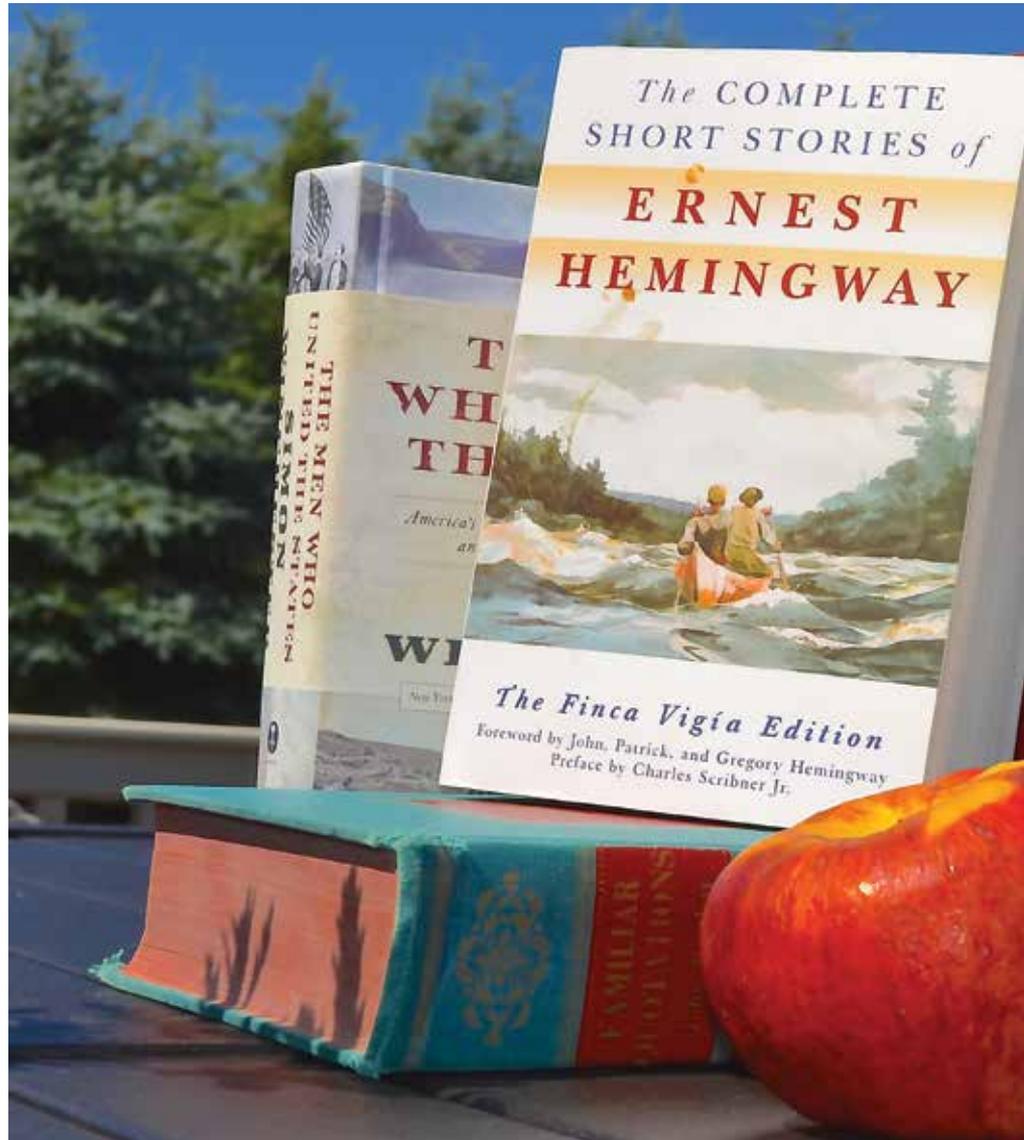
I HAVE always looked forward to September for a lot of reasons, not the least of which was starting the apple harvest at our orchard. That meant we could start actually making some money instead of just spending it as had been the case for the six months leading up to then.

So with varieties like September Rambo, Duchess and Wealthy getting ripe, we had some products to sell.

A lot of folks thought the old-fashioned variety called Wealthy made some of the best applesauce of the year. They would cook down quickly, which meant the flavor was not lost by boiling, and the skins had just enough color to give the sauce a pleasant hue. About their only drawback was that they did not typically get too large and the apples tended to drop off the tree if they were not picked soon enough.

September Rambo apples, to me, were even better. They, too, cooked down quickly, and they had just the right blend of sweet and tart. Being large, they were easier to pick.

And speaking of that, picking September Rambo one late summer evening just about put me out of business. It was evening. Ann had cooked supper, and I wanted to have a few bushels of Rambo for the stand the next day. I knew a large tree below our pond had not been picked, so I decided to take the tractor and trailer down and get a



few crates filled before sunset.

I had picked three or four bushels and had a 20-foot pointed ladder set up to fill what I thought would be the last bag full. At that time, we had picking bags that had a strap over the shoulder and a rope that opened the bottom of the bag. I knew there was a limb near the top of the tree that had a lot of ripe apples just waiting to be picked. Just about the time I had the bag filled, I saw two apples just beyond my reach that would finish the bag.

I reached, reached again and stretched to get them. Just as I had them in my hand, you guessed it, the ladder turned over and instead of standing on top of it I was hanging under it about 15 feet off the ground

with that bag full of apples hanging around my neck. I dangled there for what seemed like an hour (more like a few minutes) and then started to swing back and forth.

I had to be careful because I really did not want to lose that bag full of apples, but I finally decided it was a choice between those apples and a broken leg. I dropped the bag and managed to swing back over the ladder and crawl down.

So I remember September as the month when I dang near broke a leg, as the time when we opened the stand and started selling apples and corn and tomatoes, and met long-standing customers we had not seen for about a year.

But September was special for an-



Glenn Schuckers, a longtime member of United Electric, operated Schuckers' Orchard in Luthersburg until the mid-1990s. He is a retired high school teacher and a contributing writer for *The Courier Express*.

We are pleased to have Glenn provide our *Penn Lines* readers with his take on rural life.



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

After I managed to get through that first year, or maybe while that year was going on, the school decided to adopt what we called “mini courses.” Each course was to be nine weeks long and students would be able (more to less) to choose four different courses for the year.

There were courses in American Literature, English Literature, poetry, mythology, grammar and Shakespeare, to name just a few. It seemed like a good idea at the time, and the three other high school English teachers and I were assigned various courses. One of us would teach ninth grade and the other three would teach the mini courses. Then the next year, the one who had been teaching ninth grade would move to the mini courses and one of the others would move to ninth grade.

All went well for a year or two. Then after about three years, I went in a week or so before school and discovered I would be teaching 28 different mini courses that year. It meant I would teach seven totally different courses each day and every nine weeks would start teaching seven new ones. It came to a total of 28 different courses in a year. At the end of the year, I asked the principal why I had had a schedule like that. His reply was, “We knew you could handle it.” So much for being competent!

other reason, too.

After being a full-time farmer for about 10 years, I had the chance to get back into teaching. Having been away for about a decade, I was not sure that I could or would be able to get back into a classroom. And I was not sure that I could continue farming if I started a job teaching. That was 1977.

The opportunity came when a neighboring school had an opening for a job teaching English, and I decided to try it. The superintendent was a little hesitant then and told me he was afraid I would be there for a year and then leave. I replied that if he wanted to give me a 10-year contract, I would be happy to sign it. He declined. I signed on, and stayed there for the next 32 years.

So for the next 32 years, I looked forward to September as a time to meet new classes and old customers. It would be hard to say which I enjoyed more.

I once heard someone say if you have a job you love, you will never have to work a day in your life. It was and is true, and I only wish everyone could be as lucky as I have been. I had two jobs I loved and never “worked” a day at either one. 🌞

**OFFICE CLOSING
UNITED ELECTRIC'S
OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED SEPT. 3
TO CELEBRATE
LABOR DAY.**

Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out? Store these items at home in case of an outage.

Water
Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



Tools
Flashlight and extra batteries, can opener, wind-up radio.



Food
Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.



First Aid, Medicine
First aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least a week's supply of medications for the family.



Documents
Include copies of passports, birth certificates, and insurance policies.

Learn more at
www.Ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Invest in 30 days of safety

September is National Preparedness Month

HOW prepared are you and your family for disasters or emergencies? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates National Preparedness Month as the time to assess and prepare for a number of possible situations: floods, wildfires, severe storms like tornados and hurricanes, and prolonged power outages from natural disasters.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), less than half — only about 46 percent of people — think a natural disaster is likely to happen within their community. The reality is that most people will experience the impacts of some natural event year to year.

- ▶ Remember, regardless of the specific disaster, reaching out for help and knowledge is the first step for staying safe. Do not hesitate to call 911 if you feel you are in danger, and stay engaged online for updates and information during a disaster.
- ▶ As many disasters result in the loss of power, generators can help restore electricity. Remember, generator exhaust contains carbon mon-

oxide, which can build up quickly and prove to be deadly. Do not run your generator inside the home or near windows.

- ▶ Prepare an emergency preparation kit so you'll have what you need in the event of an emergency. Keep your kit in an easily accessible location and include non-perishable food, but also necessary items like a weather radio and flashlight.
- ▶ Once your kit has been packed and verified, it's time to review your family's emergency communication plan and meeting place. As you're developing your disaster preparation kit, make sure that you're aware of how to best keep your pets safe.
- ▶ Keep up to date with current public health emergencies and make preparations. Know how to contact your local emergency service management agency so you can check in before, during, and after a disaster has taken place.

For more information on disaster preparation and electrical safety, please visit SafeElectricity.org.

Tips for a Safe Harvest

Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
- Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
- Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

A Touchless Energy Partner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov

Light Up The Night

OUTDOOR LIGHTING FROM UNITED ELECTRIC is the convenient way to light up the night.

Call us at:
1-888-581-8969