

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

Main Office  
P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119  
369-2211



(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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Penelope D. Hinson  
penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com

**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Resolve to modify energy use

## We provide the tools; you take advantage

### IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR

and, according to a study conducted at the University of Scranton, 40 to 45 percent of the American adult



population make one or more New Year's resolutions. After one month, only 64 percent are keeping their resolutions and, by July, that number drops to 46 percent.

Statistically speaking, only 8 percent of folks who make a resolution, actually end up achieving their goal. Actually making a resolution is the first big step. Keeping a resolution is not always easy. You need to have the right tools and support system.

### A resolution to modify

Some resolutions can be pretty dramatic, and they are usually associated with stopping something you like, but that is bad for you. They can also involve starting something you don't really enjoy, but will be good for your health and well-being.

I'm proposing a different sort of resolution for members of Horry Electric in 2015. It isn't one that involves stopping or starting something. It's a resolution to simply modify how and when you use energy.

### We provide the tools

The MyEnergy Online member service portal, which is available to all members of Horry Electric, is a virtual service representative that is available 24 hours a day . . . 7 days a week . . . 365 days a year. Weekends and holidays are included.

The member portal is a single point of access to a variety of options including account maintenance, bill

payment, energy use monitoring, plus account and billing history. Members can even set up alerts and reminders for their account that can be delivered by email or text message.

Always on the go? No worries, with our mobile apps and mobile web app, members can view their bill, sign up for alerts and reminders, view their payment history, pay their bill and more! Just look for the Horry Electric name in the App Store or Android Market.

Want to analyze your energy use for your home? Tap into the power of our HomeEnergyCalculator. To get a comprehensive report, all you have to do is enter your account number and then answer a few questions about your home. Using the data from your individual billing history, the program can provide you with information on where your energy dollars are going, and it offers suggestions on changes you can make to lower your energy costs.

### Not just online

We have a variety of printed materials for members who don't have Internet access. Members can also take advantage of information published in *South Carolina Living* magazine each month. James Dulley is a regular contributor and, of course, we feature our own programs and services in the local content we provide each month.

**James P. "Pat" Howle**  
Executive Vice President/CEO

## Juniors: Apply now for a trip you'll never forget

### HEC 2015 Washington Youth Tour

Application/Nomination Form  
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ONLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

HEC Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Congressional District: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents'/Guardians' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Guidance Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about 2015 Youth Tour? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Recommended/Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet of paper, please list academic and athletic school activities as well as civic and church activities. All applications must include a summary of the student's activities. All qualified applicants will be required to take a written test and participate in a personal interview. No essays will be accepted. Applications are open to all high school juniors, regardless of class rank or grade point average. Send completed application forms to Toni Gore, Youth Tour Coordinator; Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Post Office Box 119; Conway, SC 29528-0119

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEB. 27**

**HORRY ELECTRIC** is offering an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 13-18 to four Horry County high school juniors.

Students selected for the Washington Youth Tour also have a shot at a \$5,000 college scholarship.

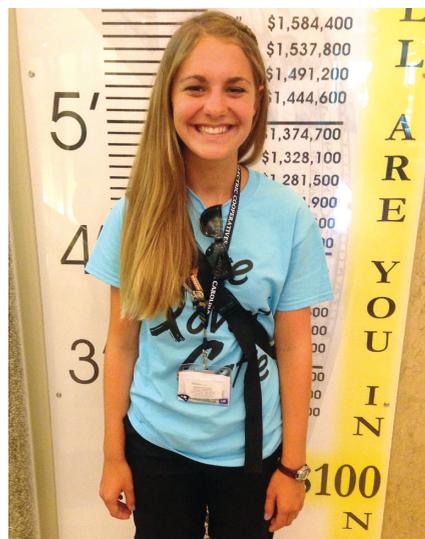


Interested? Apply by Friday, Feb. 27.

Selected students tour historic sites, learn about our nation's government and have fun shopping, dining out, seeing a play and cruising the Potomac at sunset.

Info packets have been distributed to Horry County schools. A quiz and interview are part of the selection process. Nominated students receive study materials well in advance of the date of the selection process. Grade-point averages are not a consideration. Two alternates are selected.

Applications, made available to guidance counselors in January, can also be found at [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com). Or contact HEC Youth Tour Coordinator Toni Gore at 369-6359 or [toni.gore@horryelectric.com](mailto:toni.gore@horryelectric.com).



**Caitlyn Penter stacks up to \$1.5 million—if you measure her height in stacked \$100 bills—during a visit to the Bureau of Engraving. She was one of four students representing HEC on last June's Youth Tour.**



**WIRE's annual Cake Auction  
Nov. 10, 2014**

TONI GORE

At WIRE's annual Cake Auction, Trustee Ronald Floyd, a licensed auctioneer, co-op employees and some very tasteful bidders raised \$1,850 for a scholarship and other causes.

## \$1,500 scholarship available from HEC WIRE

A **\$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP** is up for grabs for co-op members and dependents of members, courtesy of HEC's Women Involved in Rural Electrification.

The award is for one academic year for a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Technical College in the fall. The recipient will receive \$750 for the first semester; they must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPR at the end of the semester to receive the other \$750. An essay is also required.

Applications must be received by March 1. Mail to:

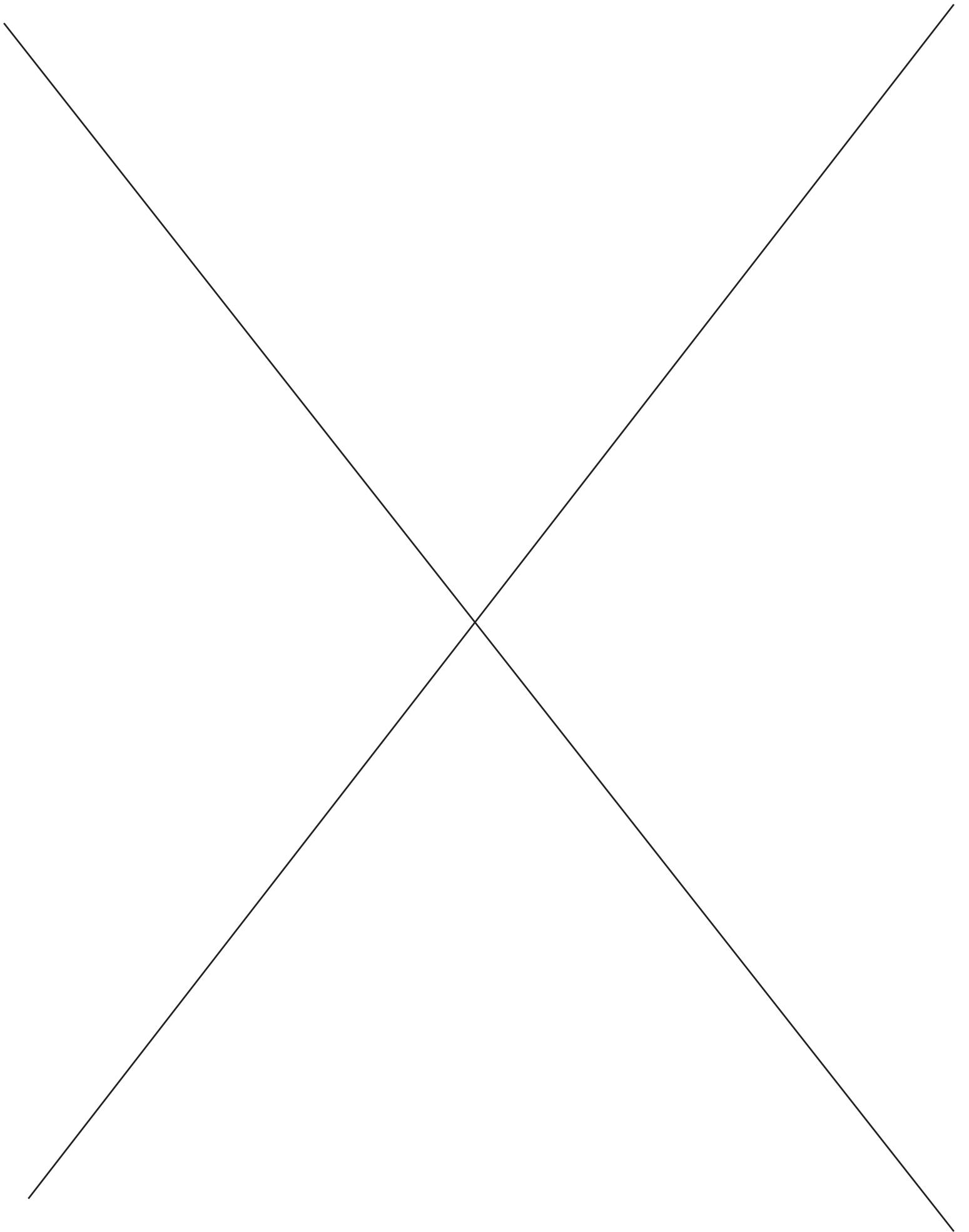
**Mrs. Susan Brown**  
**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 119**  
**Conway SC 29528-0119**

Details: 369-6323.

## Horry Extra

### A tale of two rivers

Two authors paddled the entire Little Pee Dee and part of the Lumber River, meeting lots of Horry County folks along the way. Read about their books on page 24D.



## Heat and air and savings to spare, just for co-op members

**LEE LEWIS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING** has a generous Co-op Connections discount for members of Horry Electric and other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



Office Manager Lisa Hiltz is ready for your call.

Actually, three discounts, you might say.

Members get to take their pick: If you're building a new home and choosing a system, replacing an HVAC in your current home, or you need service on your unit, you can get 10 percent off by flashing your discount card. There's a \$500 limit on the first two options, but that's not outside your comfort zone, is it?

Speaking of comfort, Lee Lewis Heating & Air Conditioning recommends homeowners have



Ah, heat! Back in the summer, Chris Chagon was nice and toasty while installing a new HVAC unit outside Conway.

regular maintenance on their HVAC systems to avoid breakdowns and to lower heating and cooling costs. Contact them for details about their

### Local discount

#### 10 percent off, one of three ways:

- 1) 10 percent off new home installations, up to \$500 per home, or
- 2) 10 percent off change-outs, up to \$500 per home, or
- 3) 10 percent off parts for service calls.

Where: Lee Lewis Heating & Air Conditioning  
3586 Hwy. 501 West, Conway  
Phone: (843) 365-9950

Co-op Connections® Card

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



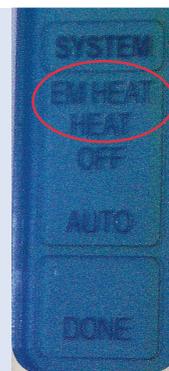
preventive maintenance program, which includes a separate 20-percent discount on parts and labor. Just tell them Co-op Connections sent you! ☺

### 'E' is for 'Expensive,' energy advisor cautions



WALTER ALLREAD

**ENERGY ADVISOR** Garrett Gasque reminds HEC members to be careful switching their thermostat settings this winter: "It's easy to accidentally activate the 'emergency heat' setting," Gasque says. "Selecting 'emergency heat' actually turns off your heat pump and turns on strip heating, which uses a lot of power, especially if it's left on for a long time." Instead of EM.HT, Gasque jokes, the setting should be labeled EE.HT—"for Extra Expensive." His advice: Carefully select the 'heat' setting and keep the thermostat as close to 68 degrees as possible to maximize energy savings and comfort.



HEC's Garrett Gasque shows how heat settings on both older and newer thermostats can be close together.



## Hooray for Hollywood!

A touch of Tinseltown in Tabor City helped their teen romance take root in Green Sea

**A NORTH CAROLINA GIRL AND SOUTH CAROLINA BOY**, Lillie Pucket and Devon Powell met—as teenagers often did in the 1950s—at the movies.

Devon first laid eyes on Lillie Pucket at a drive-in on Hwy. 904. They soon went on their first date at the Ritz Theater in Tabor City. The feature that evening? “April Love,” starring Pat Boone and Shirley Jones.

“She’s probably still got that little old ticket,” he says.

As the song goes, “Hooray for Hollywood!” Some of that Tinseltown razzle-dazzle helped two country kids connect. It wasn’t always easy, you know: As Devon says he’s told Lillie, “I’m glad you came to town ’cause I’d never have found you down there in those woods.”

### ‘Down yonder’

Lillie, 77, hails from Columbus County, N.C. “I was raised down yonder on the Waccamaw River,” she

says. “My daddy was a woodsperson. He hunted. We ate out of them woods. He’d always bring us in a mess of fish, and turkey and ducks.”

The ninth child in the Pucket bunch, Lillie was a spunky kid. Just listen to her describe a caper involving her “baby brother,” a nephew just a few years younger than she:

“I was a little thing,” Lillie recalls. “My sister and mother wouldn’t let me hold that baby. So one day she and Momma was in the kitchen. That baby was in there in the bed by himself. And I got that baby and here I go with that baby—I like to scared them to death! They said, ‘What are you doing?!’ I said, ‘I’ve got him now!’”

Lillie says she had a grand time playing in the woods with her brothers—especially Olen, who recently passed away, leaving her as the last surviving Pucket sibling. “I just loved him so much, and he would go anywhere with us. We knew them



Devon and Lillie Powell with a poster for “April Love,” the movie they saw on their first date in 1957. A friend gave them the poster as a 57th wedding anniversary gift.

woods, and we just rambled in them woods and enjoyed it so much.”

The Waccamaw was more than a river to the Pucket children. Especially in summertime.

“Mama, every evening she’d give us a bar of soap and a washrag and say, ‘Go get your bath.’ And we’d go to the river and get our bath,” Lillie says. “We enjoyed the river. We thought it was our own pool.”

As idyllic as it sounds, life in the country wasn’t always easy, especially in the cold of winter or, year round, the dark of night. Mention an oil lamp to Lillie and she says, “I hated them things!” The lights were dim, she says, and the globes always needed cleaning.

You see, back then electric service was something only the city folks could enjoy.



### ‘We had pretty good light’

Decades before co-op power, Devon Powell’s grandfather, Henry Chestine Powell, had a carbide lighting system built into the homeplace, constructed in the early 20th century.

Carbide lamps produce and burn acetylene, a gas created by the reaction of calcium carbide with water. “There was a big drum outside that had the mixture in it,” Devon recalls. “The gas was piped all through the house to about every room, so we had pretty good light.” They still used kerosene lamps “and the Aladdin lamp, which was a little brighter,” Devon notes.

In those days, coal miners used acetylene lamps on hardhats and carried acetylene lanterns. Acetylene lamps also illuminated lighthouse beacons and headlights for bicycles and early autos.



WALTER ALLEHEAD

### 'The biggest thing'

In North Carolina, electric cooperatives (called electric membership corporations there) were formed about the same time as Horry Electric and other co-ops around the country—about 75 years ago.

Lillie recalls the day, when she was about 6, that her family got co-op electricity: "Mama was standing at the door when I come home from school, and she never stood at the door. Whenever I walked in, she said, 'Look at the lights!' and she turned it on. Oh, it was the biggest thing we'd had in a long time!"

### South of the border

Across the state line, down in Green Sea, the power took a little longer to arrive on what's now called Powell Road. For Devon, that meant a lot of hard work. He remembers his father ordering him to cut and stack firewood all through the blazing hot, muggy summers. "I never could understand that," says Devon, now 78.

By winter, he understood: Rural families like the Powells fed the wood into the fireplaces and woodstoves almost nonstop.

It was especially frustrating since there was electric service nearby. "Another power company went up this road here, went up that way," says Devon, gesturing, "but they would not come to connect us.

"We would have never got lights if Horry Electric Co-op hadn't been formed."

### A deep 'refrigerator'

Before rural electrification, a refrigerator was literally a hole in the ground: The Powells dug one in middle of the smokehouse floor and lined it with sawdust. "They had an ice plant at Tabor City and one at Loris so about once a week a

man would come by, and he'd put a 100-pound block of ice in that sawdust, and we wrapped it in cloth sack material," Devon says. "It lasted about a week."

### Post-war progress

Because of the shortage of materials and manpower during World War II, Horry Electric lines didn't reach the Powells until about 1945. Devon's parents, Daniel and Elma, quickly made up for lost time.

"Daddy bought a Frigidaire," Devon says. "And a wringer washing machine. He got her whatever she needed."

They had electricity in a separate

put in the house, he got Momma an automatic washing machine," says Devon. His father even bought her an electric clothes dryer as early as 1952 or '53, he recalls.

### Still in bloom

Today, Devon and Lillie live just down the road from the old Powell homeplace, in a comfortable home full of modern conveniences, family photos, memorabilia from the old days—and ample proof that April Love still blooms.

Together, Devon and Lillie have both battled cancer in recent years. They've kept each other's spirits up.

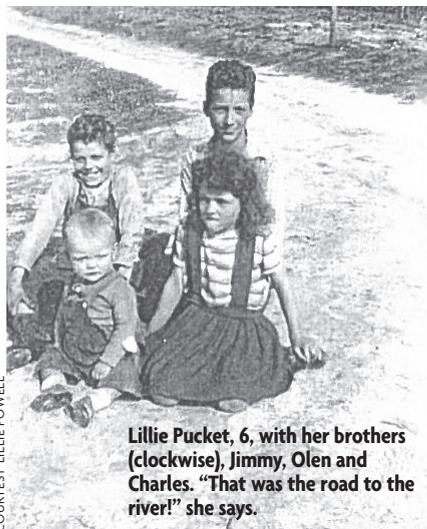
Seven years ago, Lillie summoned some of that country-girl spunk—and faith—to celebrate a golden opportunity.

"Nobody in my family had ever lived to celebrate a 50th anniversary. I prayed so hard that God would let us live to see our 50th wedding anniversary and enjoy a pretty day. I prayed for a year that it would be a pretty day.

"I have prayed that He would let me live to see it. Well, that October, I had cancer and I told [the doctor], I said, 'I haven't got time for all this. My children have got a bed in my house full of stuff waiting for that 50th wedding anniversary. They're going to have a party.' He said, 'I hate to tell you, but the only party you're going to have is a chemo party.' And he was right. I was so sick. But the children came, and we decorated, and we had our party right here—and it was a beautiful day!"

They enjoyed another beautiful day on Dec. 18, when Devon and Lillie celebrated their 57th anniversary. A friend gave them an original "April Love" poster as an anniversary present.

Somewhere, Pat Boone and Shirley Jones are smiling. ☺



COURTESY LILLIE POWELL

Lillie Pucket, 6, with her brothers (clockwise), Jimmy, Olen and Charles. "That was the road to the river!" she says.

washhouse since there was no plumbing in the homeplace for several years after co-op power arrived. Devon's father had a water heater installed.

"Daddy found an old clawfoot tub somewhere or another, so he got someone to come install that clawfoot tub and build us a shower. In the afternoon when we got through working, we could go in that washhouse and take a shower. That was really something.

"After they got the waterworks

## Authors share an easy-flowing tale of two rivers

**AFTER RETURNING** from overseas to his native Pee Dee in 2012, William S. Walker promised his dying cousin, Ben Brown, to paddle the Little Pee Dee and part of its tributary, the Lumber River.

After Brown passed away, another cousin, naturalist L.L. “Chick” Gaddy, stepped up to help Walker keep his word—and rediscover the rivers that ran through his youth.

They could find no book to guide their 109-mile journey so Walker wrote *Down The Little Pee Dee—Paddling South Carolina’s Legendary Blackwater River*. His easy-flowing narrative details their 18 day trips down the tea-colored waterways.

He writes in detail about the Little Pee Dee, its health and its history but *Down The Little Pee Dee* is primarily about the people who live and play along the river. “Every person you met had a story,” notes Walker, a retired editor for



PHOTOS COURTESY WILLIAM S. WALKER, L.L. GADDY



**William S. Walker (left) and L.L. Gaddy** paddled the 109-mile Little Pee Dee River. Its southern reaches, they agreed, are among the most beautiful. At Russ Creek, a mile upstream from Punchbowl Landing, Gaddy pauses beside a massive cypress.

the Department of Defense newspaper *Stars and Stripes*. He netted a boatload of material. “I had taken so many notes on meeting

people that we decided we would split it into two books,” Walker says.

Gaddy, author of a fine book about the Congaree Swamp below Columbia, will be lead writer on their *Guide To The Little Pee Dee River*, which will appear next year.

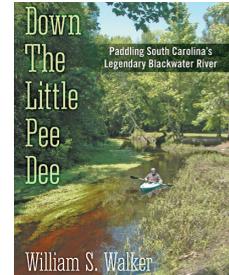
If *Down The Little Pee Dee* is an indication, the eye for detail runs in the family: “He’s sort of a human Google,” Walker says of the naturalist. “He’s the guy who knows the specific type of cypress, or fern—or snake!—you find on the river.” ☺

Read an excerpt of *Down The Little Pee Dee* online at [www.wswbooks.com](http://www.wswbooks.com).

### ‘I feel like I’m close to Quincey here’



One story Walker tells in *Down The Little Pee Dee* is about Horry native Joan Strickland, whose husband, Quincey, died of a cerebral hemorrhage while they were fishing on his favorite river. She still lives at Sandy Bluff. “I feel like I’m close to Quincey here,” she says. Their bedroom, overlooking the river, was just screened in when he was alive. “We used an electric blanket in the winter and put plastic over the covers when it rained.”



**Brian Carbino** of Myrtle Beach camps at Tanyard Landing, near the junction of the Great Pee Dee and the Little Pee Dee.



A famous tree house on Russ Creek, where former Horry Game Warden Gary Mincey is said to have survived a cold night, after his boat motor failed, by wrapping himself in a rug.



The authors also paddled part of the Lumber River. HEC member Mary Alice Thompson (above) is shown at the Revolutionary War site of Amis Mill, where Gen. Francis Marion once took refuge.