

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

[www.horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com)

### Main Office

P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119

**Conway Office: 369-2211**

**Socastee Office: 650-7530**



(to report power outages only)

**369-2212**

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### Co-op Connection Editor

Penelope D. Hinson  
[penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com](mailto:penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com)

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



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## 'Cutting back' on potential outages

**BEFORE A STORM** ever hits, Horry Electric Cooperative acts to prevent outages. We take a proactive approach through a year-round process of maintaining our rights of way.



We are constantly cleaning, clearing, and trimming brush and debris away from our power lines.

Why? When wind, rain, ice or snow push or weigh down trees, their limbs—sometimes the entire tree—can fall onto power lines, causing outages.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance helps ensure safe, reliable electric service. You have probably seen our maintenance contract crews' vehicles with telescoping boom and saw-type cutter heads trimming trees, mowing or using chain saws to clear corridors beneath our power lines. Did you know that vegetation, trees, shrubs and brush growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment leads to approximately 15 percent of power interruptions?

Since we can't cut our entire ROW every year, trees may grow 6 to 10 feet by the time the crews return. It's a job that's never done—when the crews finish trimming activities along our almost 3,000 miles of overhead distribution lines, vegetation is growing back at the starting point.

Another key reason for keeping the ROW clear is safety. Accidents happen so quickly. Kids climbing trees

can be a tragedy if they touch a limb in contact with an energized line or touch the line itself. The result can be severe injury or even death. Adults also are at risk if working around lines in trees. Power lines can carry up to 34,500 volts—even a touch can be deadly.

Trees beautify our property, help cool our homes, provide privacy screens, and even sometimes increase our property value if placed properly. Unfortunately, trees and power lines are not a good mix. Trees growing into lines can cause blinks and power outages. (Even those vines that grow so fast in spring and summer can cause "line loss," or power lost in transmission, if the vines give the power a path to the ground.)

Before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall they may grow and how wide their branches may spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties with care and plant with power lines in mind.

Thanks for your cooperation—that's what makes Horry Electric Cooperative work!

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

## STEM Workshop for K-8 Teachers

# Energy and the Environment

A free one-day session for K-8 teachers featuring an energy and economic education program developed for South Carolina schools and aligned to state standards.

Sign up Online for our Local Workshop

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. February 22 at  
Horry Electric Cooperative,  
2774 Cultra Road, Conway

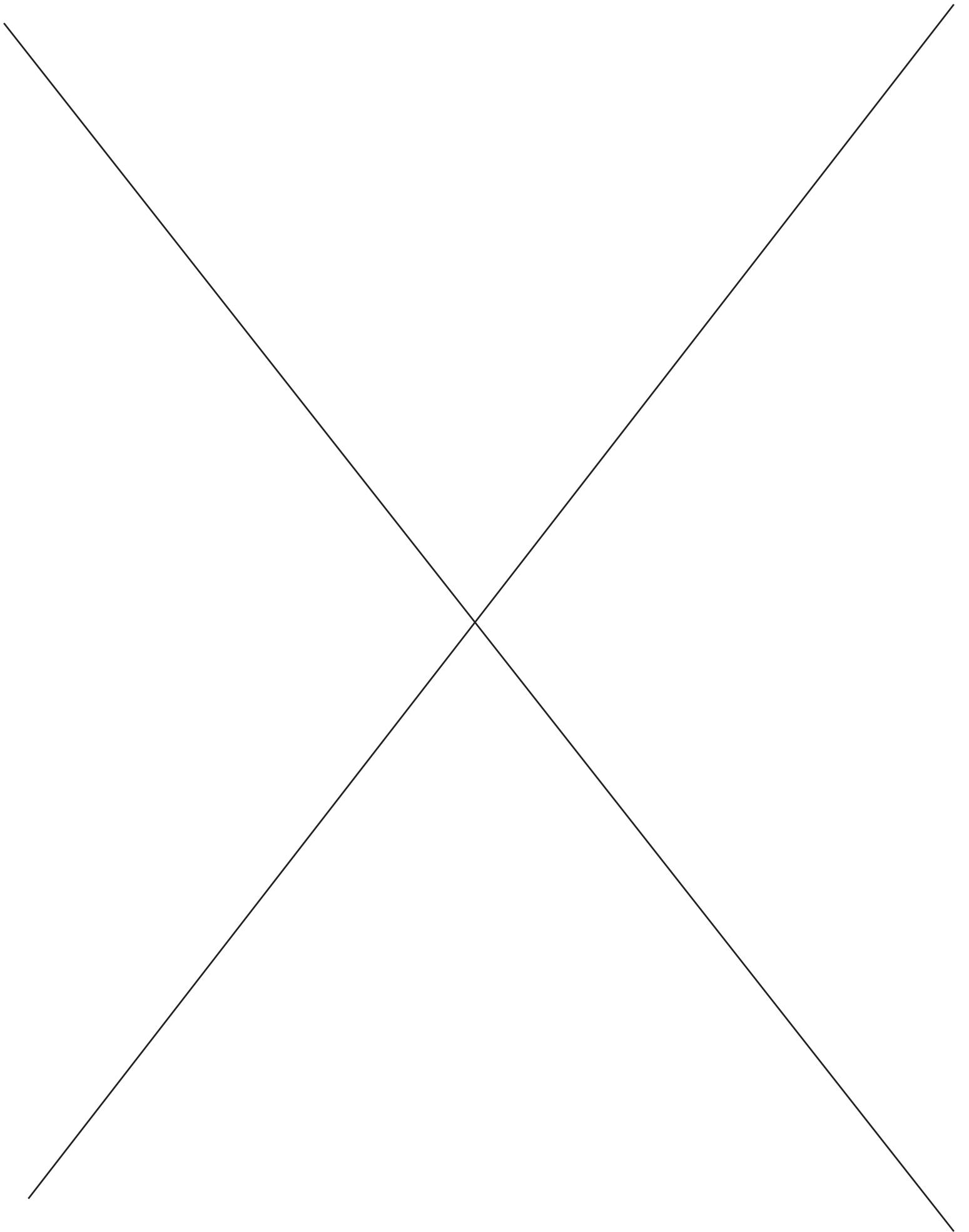
### Workshop Attendees will Receive

- \* 6 credit renewal points
- \* Access to grade-appropriate lessons and activities
- \* Lunch

For more details or to register,  
visit the "Upcoming Events"  
section of  
[www.enlightensc.org](http://www.enlightensc.org)

**enLIGHTenSC**<sup>TM</sup>  
Energy-focused education





## Scholarship opportunity

WIRE offers \$2,500 scholarship for women

**WOMEN INVOLVED IN** Rural Electrification (WIRE) is a statewide community service organization established in 1981 through the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc.

Each year, the group solicits applications from women who may not have been able to attend college when they graduated from high school, but who now want to further their education.

“From among the pool of candidates of electric cooperative members across South Carolina, one lucky woman will be awarded a \$2,500 one-time scholarship,” says Susan Brown, executive assistant

and coordinator of the WIRE group at Horry Electric Cooperative. “In 2011, the recipient of the scholarship was Lisa Duvall, who is a member of Horry Electric.”

The WIRE Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship is designed to help women who are out on their own, working a job, taking care of a family, to have a chance to improve their future through education. This scholarship is awarded based on financial need and personal goals.

Applicants for the scholarship must be a member of a South Carolina electric cooperative; must have graduated



from high school or have earned their GED at least 10 years ago; must obtain acceptance into an accredited South Carolina college or university and must demonstrate financial need. Please note, proof of registration/enrollment may be requested. Women who have previously obtained a four-year college degree are not eligible. Applicants may have previously earned a two-year degree or some college credits. ☺

### Deadline for applications is June 2

Applicants may send completed applications via mail or fax to Susan Brown, Horry Electric's WIRE coordinator, OR directly to the WIRE Scholarship Committee.

The winner will receive the scholarship for the Fall 2014 or Spring 2015 Semester, which must be used during this specific time frame. The scholarship funds must be used in the Fall or Spring Semester within the same school year it is awarded. The scholarship will be paid jointly to the winner and the college of choice.

#### Susan Brown

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 119  
Conway, South Carolina 29528  
Fax: (843) 369-6040

#### WIRE Scholarship Committee

Attention: *Bobbie Cook*  
Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 417  
Aiken, SC 29802  
Fax: (803) 641-8310

#### About WIRE

WIRE was created as a nonprofit organization to foster interest in and understanding of the rural electric program and to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

The efforts of WIRE members go beyond scholarships and fundraising to touch the lives of many people across the Palmetto State.

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Statement of nondiscrimination

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, the admission or access to, denied benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Abigail Lewis, human resources coordinator. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or write USDA, director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call, toll free, (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8399 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice users). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



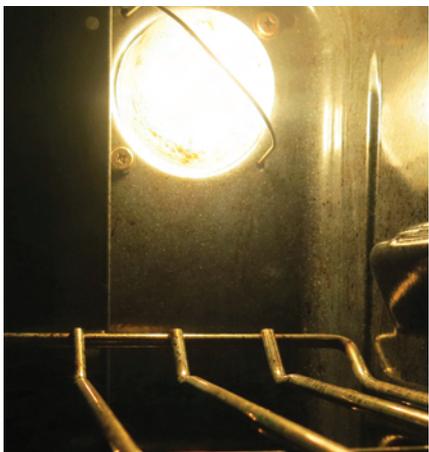
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## Warning: Don't bake all bulbs

**OVEN LIGHTS ARE HANDY.** Curious if a casserole's ready? Flip the switch; no need to open the oven and release heat to get a baking update. But be careful when replacing this little light. Never put a bulb in the oven that's not built for high heat.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) use less energy than classic incandescent bulbs, but they're not safe in extreme temperatures. Most lighting labels designate safe temperatures, but warnings may be in fine print. Need to replace your oven light? Look for appliance light bulbs. Found at Home Depot, Lowe's, and other retailers, these bulbs are designed for extreme temperatures in ovens and refrigerators. The hardy bulbs are here to stay; 40-watt appliance bulbs are exempt from federal lighting efficiency standards.

Why won't CFLs work? Instead of heating a filament until white-hot to produce light like an incandescent bulb, a fluorescent lamp contains a gas that produces ultraviolet (UV) light when excited by electricity. The UV light and the white coating inside the bulb result in visible light. Since CFLs don't use heat to create light, they are 75 percent more energy efficient. But the technology that cuts energy use doesn't stand a chance in an oven's 400+ degree heat.



Use caution when replacing an oven light.



A co-op member scraped this melted CFL bulb off the side of his oven. Replacing general-use lightbulbs with efficient CFLs or LEDs saves energy, but not every bulb works under extreme temperatures.

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

CFLs are good for the pocketbook but not perfect in every situation. Keep these tips in mind:

- ▶ **Don't dim unless it's dimmable.** Buy a specifically designed CFL for a dimmer switch application.
- ▶ **Don't flip too fast.** CFLs work best if they are left on for more than 15 minutes each time they are turned on. Older bulbs take 30 seconds to three minutes to reach efficient operation. Frequently switching them on and off shortens bulb life. Newer CFLs feature an "Instant on" capability; look for that on the lighting label if you expect frequent flipping.
- ▶ **Give them air.** CFLs may be used in enclosed fixtures as long as the

enclosed fixture is not recessed. Totally enclosed recessed fixtures create temperatures too high for CFLs.

- ▶ **Protect CFLs outside.** Look at the package or bulb for temperature restrictions before using a CFL outdoors.
- ▶ **Don't shake.** Don't use CFLs in vibrating environments such as a ceiling fan or garage door opener.
- ▶ **Do the twist.** Always screw and unscrew the lamp by its base. Never forcefully twist the CFL into a light socket by the glass tubes.

To learn more about using and recycling CFLs, visit [epa.gov/cfl](http://epa.gov/cfl).

Source: Empire Electric Association, U.S. Department of Energy

### Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

A searchable database is posted on [horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com) (<http://www.horryelectric.com/capitalCredits.aspx>). You can find it by using the Search Engine on the page or simply by selecting 'Capital Credits' from the myCO-OP tab on the home page of our website.

Horry Electric mails capital credit checks to members who have received service in past years. Many of these checks are returned to us by the postal service, and we are holding them for those listed on the website.

In order to claim funds, please contact Horry Electric Cooperative's main office in Conway between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at (843) 369-2211. Please reference your call as concerning unclaimed capital credits.

In addition to the online database, Horry Electric publishes the unclaimed capital credit list in *The Horry Independent* on an annual basis.



# 'Everything is a progression'

HEC retiree helped bring power to Horry County

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**LONNIE SMITH** doesn't just remember when electricity came to Horry County—he helped lay the lines that brought it.

Getting his start as a 15-year-old working running lines in the mountains of Kentucky for two years, Smith took a job in 1948 doing the same thing with Horry Electric Cooperative, a job he would hold—minus two years of service during the Korean War—until 1981 when he retired as a crew foreman.

"I remember I had been making 65 cents an hour," Smith said. "Then when I went to work for the co-op, I started out making \$1.10 an hour on a wire crew." Back then, he didn't have any chainsaws or anything to clear trees for lines, just hand saws.

"We'd mark lines with mules to put the lines up, and people didn't mind us coming through their property or fields, because they were happy to get electricity."

Smith, 83, who was born in Marion County in 1930, moved with his family to Socastee in 1939.

"What's now Highway 501 then was still a dirt road," Smith said. "Most roads were dirt roads then. We didn't have electricity, but that didn't bother us a bit because we didn't know any different.

"We thought we were fine. In fact we had one of those Aladdin-type oil lamps, and we thought it was great, because that was a step up from before. Everything is a progression.

"People who have grown up with



electricity have no idea what it was like back in those days."

Smith said one hazard of all the dirt roads in the early days was what bad weather would do to them.

"We helped a lot of cars out of ditches with the winch on our truck. We'd come across a car in a ditch with the owner gone, and we'd stop, pull it out for them, and move on.

"We did that a lot back then. I always wondered what people thought when they came back."

Smith has two sons, Bruce and Wendell, and a daughter, Peggy, with his wife, Beulah, and they currently manage an RV park to keep busy. He says the biggest difference between those days when he brought electricity to rural areas and now is people.

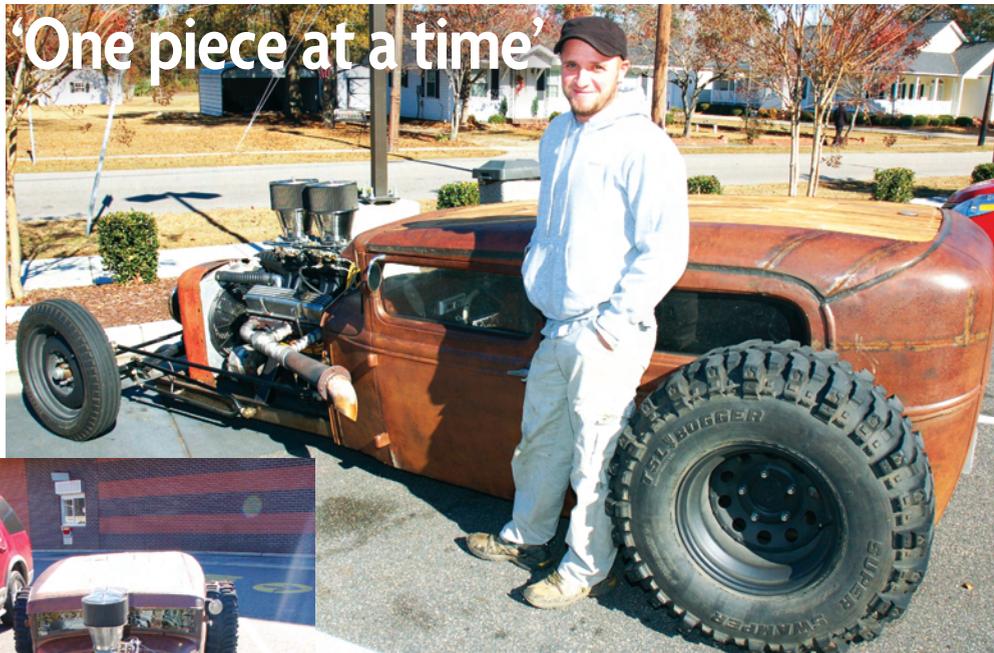
"People didn't gripe as much then

**Lonnie Smith (left) visits Barry Dunn in HEC's Dispatch office, where an electronic map outlines Horry Electric's distribution system—and shows how technology has evolved since Smith's earliest days with the co-op, back in 1948. The two men worked together for a few years near the end of Smith's career and the beginning of Dunn's.**

as they do now," Smith said. "People were more appreciative of things and didn't complain. If you needed a ride, someone gave you a ride. If your car was stuck, someone helped you get it out. I miss that."

He also misses the many people he worked with over the years who made his career with HEC special.

"It's a family, and it always has been," Smith said. "I worked with so many amazing people over the years, you look back and just are grateful you were able to be part of such a special place as the co-op." ☺



'One piece at a time'

**Ashley Johnson after stopping at the McDonald's in Aynor for lunch. He rides a little too low to use the drive-through.**

Chevrolet motor, Chevrolet transmission, Jeep brake parts, a grill off an old Allis-Chalmers tractor and an old Metropolitan milk truck."

Even the roof is unique—antique, even. It's made from old, leftover floorboards donated by his uncle, Tom Johnson, an Horry Electric line crew foreman.

"I worked on the car for around four years," he says. Classified as a "rat rod," Johnson's ride became street legal last spring, just in time for the Run to the Sun car show at Myrtle Beach.

Since then, he and his wife—also named Ashley—and their daughter, Amrie, have enjoyed taking it to car shows as far away as Daytona. Since she requires a car seat, Amrie can't ride in the rat rod, but the two Ashleys draw a lot of second looks in it.

"I get a lot of photo requests," Amrie's father says. Riding low, he adds, "I see a lot of [camera]

flashes going off at night."

The rat rod gets 12 miles a gallon, he notes. "I don't pass many gas stations!"

Everyone eventually asks: How fast were you run it? Johnson has a ready answer: "The speed limit!" ☺



## HEC member's eye-catching 'rat rod' includes Ford, Chevy, Jeep—even Allis-Chalmers—parts

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**JOHNNY CASH** sang a song, "One Piece at a Time," that Ashley Johnson knows firsthand.

For the 1976 hit, written by Wayne Kemp, Cash took on the persona of a Detroit autoworker who, frustrated that he couldn't afford his own "long and black" ride, builds his using parts for various vehicles. As the chorus goes:

*I'd get it one piece at a time  
And it wouldn't cost me a dime  
You'll know it's me when I come through your town  
I'm gonna ride around in style  
I'm gonna drive everybody wild  
'Cause I'll have the only one there is around.*

Unlike Cash's character, Johnson didn't get his parts free and "factory direct." He went "after-market" all the way, buying or collecting what he needed. "I'd pick up a part here and there," says the HEC member, a draftsman by trade.

He first drafted his do-it-yourself car project five years ago, starting with a 1930 Ford Model A body. "I chopped the top and sectioned and channeled it. It's all on a custom-built frame. It's got a

Johnson's "rat rod" has an Allis-Chalmers tractor grill in front of a 400 small-block '78 Blazer Chevrolet engine. "I built it up, it's got a cam and heads, and it's supposed to have about 450 horsepower," the HEC member says.



WALTER ALLREAD

