

The History of the Cooperative

Citizens of the United States often think of this nation as being the world leader in most areas of accomplishment. In 1935, the United States was by no means the leading nation in rural electrification. Rural citizens of America were rightfully seeking to obtain electric service in order that they might receive benefits that their city cousins had enjoyed for years.

To help rural people acquire electricity, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created on May 11, 1935, by an executive order of the president. The purpose of the REA was to make long-term, low-interest loans to existing electric utility companies to construct lines into the rural areas. When rural people talked to the existing electric companies, their request for electric service fell on deaf ears. Because no one else was willing to serve the rural people with electricity, they organized their own cooperative corporations and served themselves.

On June 14, 1937, a small group of people from Boyle, Garrard, and Marion counties met in the Farm Bureau office in Danville and officially organized Inter-County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation for the purpose of making electric service available in the surrounding rural area.

The first lines of Inter-County's service were energized at the Perryville substation on June 10, 1938. The Garrard County substation was energized on August 25, 1938, and the Marion substation was energized in September 1938. From this humble beginning, Inter-County Energy Cooperative has grown tremendously to serve more than 28,000 consumers in 13 counties. Inter-County Energy Cooperative was organized to provide adequate and abundant central station electric service to all members in its boundaries at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business practices. This continues to be the objective of the organization today. At Inter-County's annual meeting on May 21, 1999, the membership voted to officially change the name of the cooperative to Inter-County Energy Cooperative Corporation.

Below: Mr Harry J. Achee, Inter-County's first manager. (1937)

