

# ENERGY for Generations

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1998
ACTIVE SERVICES:	896	6,166	10,273	16,743	28,376	44,474	57,298
MILES OF LINE:	319	1,321	1,903	2,401	3,064	3,834	4,665
NUMBER OF MEMBERS:	936	7,717	11,759	16,213	22,140	38,021	46,881
TOTAL kwh SOLD:	353,305	6,903,022	36,844,407	113,534,961	270,754,548	506,031,55	740,732,373

## 1942

• "Praise the ~~Lord~~ Ammunition." BEMC joins 850 other REA co-ops to collect scrap metal and rubber for defense purposes. The Tell-O-Watt informs members that one tire equals eight gas masks; one radiator equals an aerial bomb; scrap rubber is used for tires on jeeps and trucks.

• Members are asked to conserve electricity to provide for defense industries. "Food for Freedom" encourages the citizenry to utilize energy for conservation and production of food. Victory Gardens are established in backyards across the country to maintain a year-round supply of food.



## 1935

• President Roosevelt creates the Rural Electric Administration for the generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy in rural areas.



## 1952

• New headquarters building constructed on Village Point Road in Shallotte.

## 1958

• Oak Island lighthouse is completed. It stands 169 ft. high. The main light is a 4-light rotating fixture using 24 inch parabolic mirrors and 1000 watts. 120 vac quartz bulbs focus light over 24 nautical miles 4 times every 10 seconds.



## 1962

• The Gold Medallion Homes program begins, promoting all electrical living. The first of such homes on BEMC lines was in Clarkton and featured flameless electrical heat and air conditioning, modern electric appliances and lighting.



## 1971

• New BEMC logo first appears.  
• BEMC installs its first computer, and begins computer-based billing.

## 1973

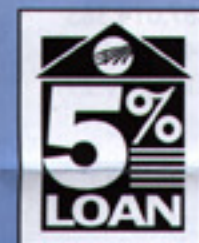
• 15 miles of underground cable have been installed since the beginning of underground installation three years ago.  
• Energy Crisis! Supplies of oil and natural gas for electric power generation are curtailed sharply. Situation leads to a discussion of load management in 1975 with the NC Utilities Commission. Long lines at the gas pump are commonplace. Talks of nuclear energy, conservation, better overall energy efficiency begin in earnest.

## 1976

• Brunswick Memorial Hospital opens

## 1980's

• Load Management is the "Topic of the Decade" Members are encouraged to "Beat the Peak" and sign up for Load Management programs with the first load management switch installed in 1984 on Sunset Beach.  
• Microwave ovens introduced (1983)



## 1988

• 5% Loan Program started by BEMC to help members finance energy saving home improvements. As of 1999, BEMC has loaned members \$ 2,500,000.

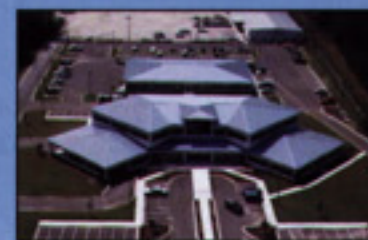


## 1991

• BEMC initiates the Bright Ideas educational grants. In 1994, this program was embraced by the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation and expanded to all 28 cooperatives in the state.

## 1997

• Discussion of electric utility deregulation suggests the possibility of competition for all electric cooperatives. State legislatures across the country, including North Carolina, debate and delay any changes.



## 1996

• BEMC's new headquarters building opens on Ocean Highway.



## 1939

• E.D. Doc Bishop serves as General Manager until 1966. He named the Co-op BEMC, and notorized papers for incorporation in March.  
• At the first BEMC Board of Directors meeting, initial construction of 138 miles of line was approved. The lights came on just before Christmas.



## 1951

• Willie Wired-Hand is introduced as a logo and mascot for National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Willie's name represents the farmers' desire for a hired hand who never tires.  
• Whiteville district established.



## 1954

• Hurricane Hazel devastates area beaches on October 15 with winds of 125 mph. At a cost of a little over \$24,000, service was restored. It is estimated that a storm such as Hazel would cost in excess of \$20 million today.

## 1966

• Robert G. Hubbard begins 15 year tenure as BEMC's General Manager, retiring in 1981.

## 1968

• CP&L announces plans to build a nuclear plant in Southport.  
• (1969) BEMC purchases all electrical facilities on Caswell Beach from the town of Southport.

## 1980

• Brunswick Technical College opens in Supply  
• The Federal Trade Commission introduces the yellow and black Energy Guides to be required on seven types of household appliances which account for 80 percent of the energy consumed in American homes.

## 1981

• David Batten begins his term as BEMC's general manager.  
• Heat Pumps are introduced as an energy efficient, economical alternative to gas and oil heat.  
• N.C. Electric Membership Corporation acquire a portion of the Catawba Nuclear Generating Plant near Charlotte, N.C.  
• N.C. Oyster Festival is initiated in Shallotte.



## 1992

• Power Stat "Pay As You Go" is introduced. BEMC is the first electric utility in the United States to offer this option to its members.



## 1999

• BEMC joins the national marketing alliance of Touchstone Energy. This alliance of local, cooperatively owned utilities provides a unified voice of more than 550 energy cooperatives serving more than 5,600,000 households and businesses across the country.