



Keyes retires from 47-year career with Southern Pine

John K. Keyes, of Collins, is enjoying retirement after serving 47 years as Southern Pine Electric Power Association's attorney.

Keyes is native of the Old Taylorsville community of Smith County. While a high school student in Taylorsville, Keyes worked on his grandfather's farm and grew his own cotton crop each year. He sold his first bale for \$60, or 12 cents per pound.

Keyes attended Jones County Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi. On March 27, 1942, he married Molline Mayfield and three

months later was drafted by the U.S. Army. In 1943, he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps. By the end of World War II, Keyes was a B-29 navigator assigned to Tampa Air Force Base (McDill), in Tampa, Fla.

After his discharge, Keyes was a mathematics instructor at Mize High School before enrolling in the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he graduated in 1948.

Keyes started a law practice in Collins, then left to accept other employment before returning to Collins permanently in 1951. His general law practice, including civil and criminal cases, continued until his partial retirement around 1995.

During his law practice years, Keyes served twice as interim mayor of Collins. He also was attorney for the Covington County board of supervisors.

Southern Pine's board of directors hired Keyes in April 1959 to fill in for an attorney on medical leave. In July, he accepted a permanent position as Southern Pine's attorney.

"My obligation was to attend the board

meetings and take care of whatever legal work Southern Pine had," Keyes said. "Any time they needed legal advice, they called me."

Keyes represented Southern Pine before the Public Service Commission on various legal matters. "They usually ruled in our favor," he recalled. "They knew what we were trying to do and their decisions showed they approved."

Keyes said working for the electric cooperative was a good experience. "It's been a pleasure working for Southern Pine—not just for the work but for the people I've worked with."

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—John Keyes

Keyes also served as counsel for South Mississippi Electric Power Association, Southern Pine's wholesale power supplier, from 1968 until 1992.

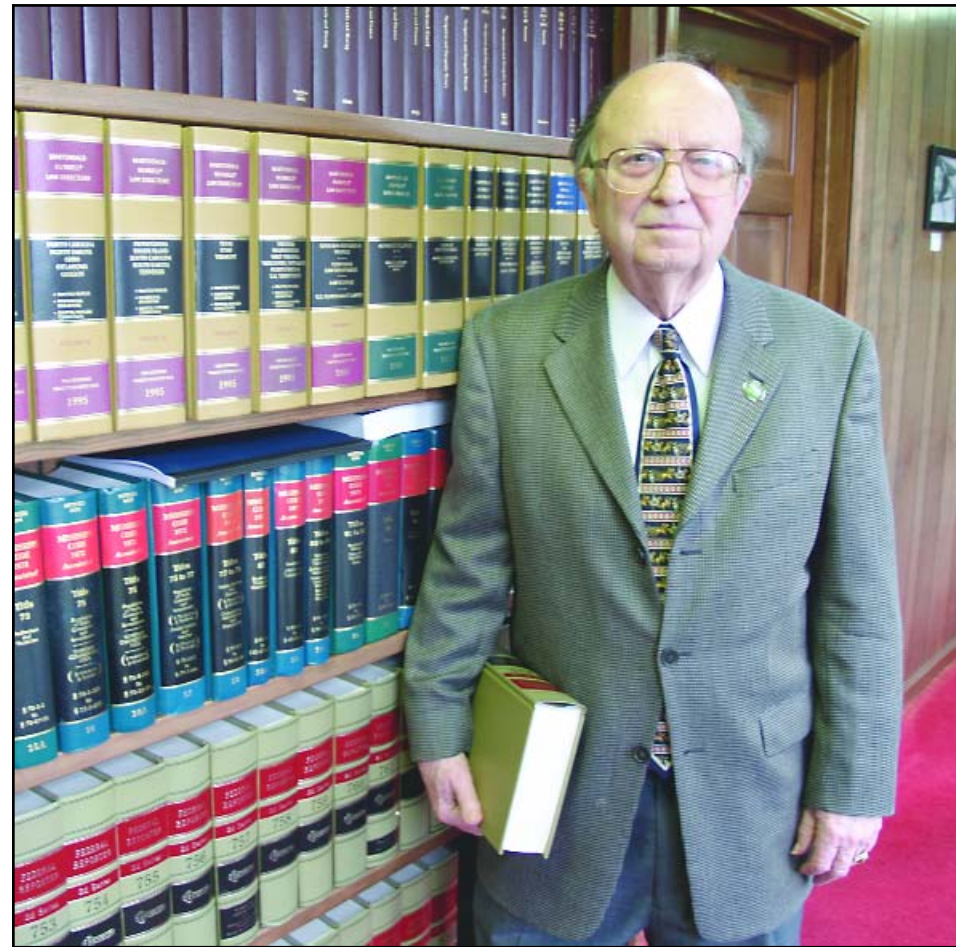
He has served on the boards of trustees of the USM Foundation and William Carey College. He is active in First Baptist Church of Collins, where he served many years as chairman of the board of deacons and was a long-time teacher of the men's Bible class.

Keyes and his late wife reared three daughters: Dr. Patricia Keyes, Charlotte Alday and Shauna Garrett. Patricia died in 1992. Charlotte, who lives in Kennesaw, Ga., has two children; Shauna, who lives in Baton Rouge, La., has one child.

Keyes married Virginia Wagnon in 2004.

Southern Pine is grateful for John Keyes' long and dedicated service, and his effective legal representation. The association wishes him a healthful and happy retirement.

G. David Garner replaces Keyes as attorney for Southern Pine.



John K. Keyes, of Collins, served as attorney for Southern Pine Electric Power Association from 1959 until his retirement in December 2006.

Mark your calendar...

Magnolia Beef and Poultry Show

April 12, Smith County Ag Complex, Raleigh

The Magnolia Beef and Poultry Expo will present a trade show and offer educational seminars for beef and poultry producers. The event is sponsored by the Mississippi State University Extension Service; Jasper, Newton, Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Smith counties; and Community Bank. For an agenda, contact your local Extension office or Community Bank.

Okatoma Festival

May 5, Collins

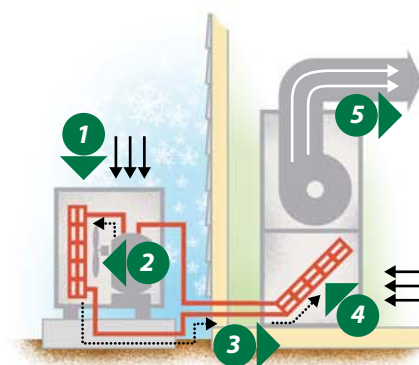
The 18th annual Okatoma Festival will feature Baltimore Ravens quarterback Steve "Air" McNair and a full day of fun activities beginning with a 5K run/walk at 8 a.m. Admission to the festival is free. For details, contact the Covington County Chamber of Commerce at (601) 765-6012.

Interested in lowering your electric energy bill?

Whether building a new home or replacing an old heating and cooling system, consider an electric heat pump. A heat pump may cost a little more up front, but its efficiency saves you energy dollars in the long run.

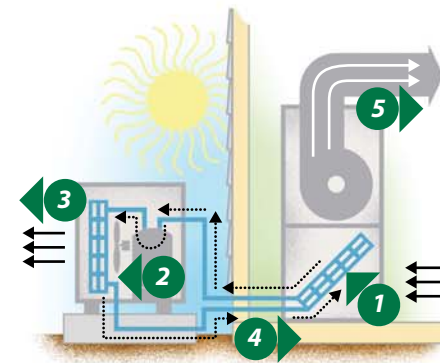


It may be called a heat pump but it's a cool pump too! Here's why:



How a heat pump heats your home

1. Heat pump draws heat from outside air
2. Heat is added to refrigerant
3. Refrigerant heats coil
4. Coil heats indoor air
5. Heated air is released inside home



How a heat pump cools your home

1. Coil removes heat from indoor air
2. Heat removed from refrigerant
3. Heat is discharged to outside air
4. Refrigerant cools coil
5. Cooled air is released inside home

How does a heat pump work?

Have you ever felt the warmth that comes from the coils on the outside of your refrigerator? The heat that you feel is captured from the cold air inside your refrigerator and is released to the air inside your home. An electric air-to-air heat pump works much the same way. It is reversible for heating and cooling.

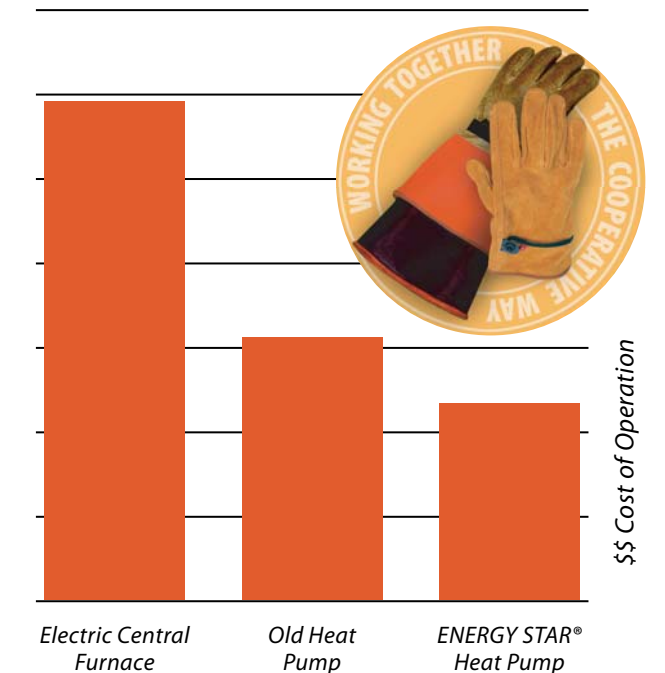
Why should I choose an electric heat pump over another type of system?

A correctly-sized heat pump removes humidity as it cools and uses less energy for operation. Also, heat pumps can produce as much as three times more heat than an electric furnace, using the same amount of energy, and are becoming more efficient as technology improves.

What should I look for when purchasing an electric heat pump?

Look for the ENERGY STAR® logo. ENERGY STAR heat pumps are 20 percent more efficient than other systems. Remember SEER and HSPF when purchasing a heat pump. The Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) rates the cooling efficiency of the unit. A 13 SEER is the minimum in the market now. The Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) rates the heating efficiency. HSPF ratings range from 7.7 to 9.5 or more. Higher numbers for the SEER and HSPF mean more efficient systems.

Heating Cost Comparison



Here's an easy way to tell if you have a heat pump or a central electric furnace.

Set your central thermostat to heat, making sure that the air conditioner is turned off. When your central heating system turns on, check to see if the outside unit is operating. If the outside unit is operating, you most likely have a heat pump. If it's not operating while the inside central heat is on, you most likely have an electric furnace or you are heating with a different fuel, such as propane or natural gas.