



Look for special pull-out section

By Don Jordan
General Manager

Included in this issue of *Today in Mississippi* is a special section with information about Southern Pine's wholesale power provider, South Mississippi Electric Power Association.

The cost of wholesale power makes up about 70 percent of your electric bill, so we think it's important that you understand the many issues surrounding its generation and transmission.

These informative inserts will appear regularly in *Today in Mississippi*. We hope they will help you learn more about the trends and developments that affect us all.

THE ENERGY EXPERT

What happens when the lights go out?

We take it for granted: When we walk into the house and flip a switch, the lights will come on. We never give it a second thought.

But when we flip the switch and the lights don't come on, we realize at that instant how dependent we are on electricity.

Southern Pine Electric Power Association and its employees work days and often nights to ensure good, reliable service to our members. But we have no way of knowing when our members' lights go out unless they tell us. Therefore, during a power outage it's crucial for members to let us know as soon as possible and provide us with as much information as possible.

Regardless of whether an outage

affects one house or several, we appreciate each call, and we try to respond to each with the same concern and efficiency. Southern Pine responds to calls 24 hours a day.

When a member calls to report an outage during normal working hours, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., a Southern Pine member-service employee responds and takes the necessary information. (For faster service, members should be prepared to provide the name on the account, address and account number.) The information is forwarded to a dispatcher, who contacts a serviceman to begin to search out the problem.

Southern Pine has an emergency dispatcher to respond to outage calls outside of regular business hours. Again, there is specific information needed, and it is vital that the information is an accurate as possible to save time in power restoration. The emergency dispatcher will alert the serviceman, who will use the given information to find the cause of outage.

Locating the problem on the power line may be easy or extremely difficult. The cause of the outage could be something as minute as a lizard, squirrel or twig on the transformer. Or, it could be a limb or tree that has fallen on a line. Other problems range from a broken pole caused by a car or truck accident to the numerous types of havoc caused by bad weather.

Once the Southern Pine serviceman had done the tedious job of finding the cause of the outage, he begins correcting the problem. He may call in a needed material list to the dispatcher, who notifies a crew to assist. This takes some time, because each crew member must be located and contacted, drive to the warehouse, load the needed materials and



By Joey White
Journeyman/Relief Serviceman

This can be extremely difficult, especially during stormy weather and/or after dark.

Sometimes, a member flags down the serviceman to tell him about a downed line or a tree fallen into a line.

For safety reasons, the serviceman and/or other Southern Pine workers make sure the line is not "hot," or energized. They also check to see if a line is down in someone's yard, in the middle of a road, etc. They guard the line to protect any police who may be nearby, as well as anyone else.

It is extremely important that absolutely no one goes anywhere near a power line that is down. Even we trained workers do not get near a downed line until we have opened the line and grounded it for our own protection.

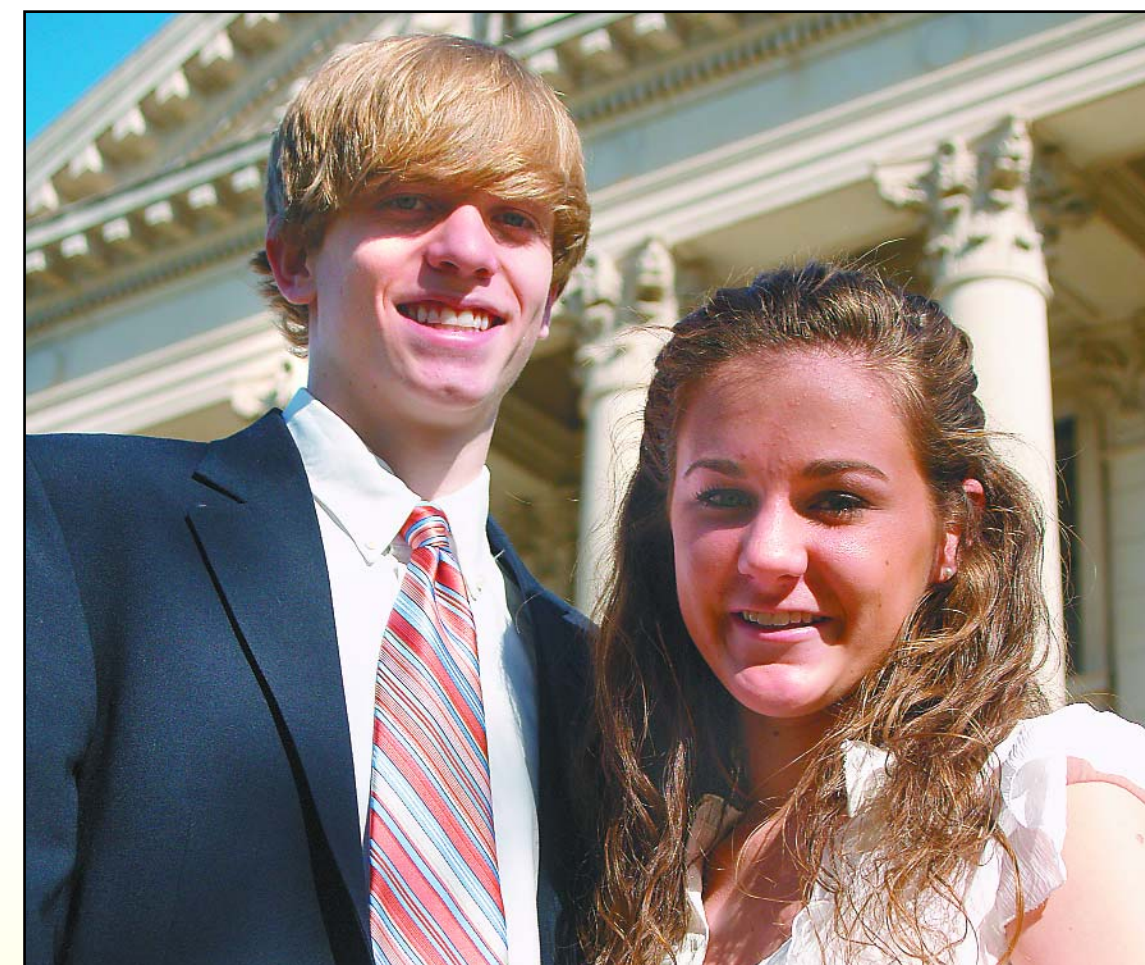
Since many of our power lines cross or run alongside roads, we have to work around a lot of traffic. We ask motorists to use extra caution and slow down while we work to repair a problem on the line before anyone gets hurt.

Our members are very important to us. We understand how you feel when your lights go out. After we learn of the problem, we begin the process of finding the cause and making repairs. Most important, we want to ensure your safety as we do so.

depart for the problem site.

In the meantime, the serviceman checks the breaker or fuse to see if the line is out. Then he "rides the line out" to search for the cause of the problem.

Students represent Southern Pine at the Youth Leadership Workshop



Jordan Ainsworth, left, and Jordan Walker at the state Capitol

Essay excerpts

From "Let There Be Light" by Jordan Ainsworth:

Let there be light! That phrase became very common at my grandparents' house in 1938. There was a new electrical company, and they were "shedding some light" toward Mississippi. They had been hearing many rumors of such things happening, but they never expected it to happen so soon... However, Papaw always said, "We do not need lights at night, because that is when we sleep." Deep down, he was very happy for the change."

From "1938: When Electricity Came to Rural Areas" by Jordan Walker:

Hearing my grandparents talk about what it was like not to have electricity and the excitement of having a light in their living room, a refrigerator with ice trays, a fan to stay cool and an electric stove to cook on made me realize how many things I take for granted. The things that immediately come to mind include: lights in every room, a microwave, hot baths, a stove, radios, TVs and most importantly, the electricity that makes all these things work. Talking to my grandparents and doing this research has helped me truly appreciate Southern Pine and the many ways I enjoy the electricity the company provides.

Learning leadership skills that will serve them throughout life

Two high school juniors represented Southern Pine Electric Power Association at a three-day workshop designed to help prepare them for leadership roles in their schools and communities.

Jordan Ainsworth, of Magee, and Jordan Walker, of Brandon, joined 63 other juniors from across the state for the 22nd annual Electric Power Associations of Mississippi Youth Leadership Workshop, held March 5-7 in Jackson.

The workshop provided opportunities for students to meet state legislators, observe legislative sessions at the state Capitol, hear noted motivational speakers and take part in fun team-building activities.

The students earned their participa-

tion in the workshop by writing the winning entries in Southern Pine's essay contest.

Jordan Ainsworth, son of Dan and Staci Ainsworth, attends Simpson County Academy, where he is student council vice president. He is a member of the Honor Club, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, the quiz bowl team, the Magee Youth Council and Future Leaders of Simpson County Youth Program. He was named junior class president, class favorite, Most Spiritually Minded and serves as his school's HOBY representative. Jordan plays basketball and tennis, and he is a drummer in the band. He holds the rank of life in the Boy Scouts and is active in Goodwater Baptist Church.

Jordan Walker, daughter of Jeff and Julie Walker, attends Brandon High School. Her activities include

membership in the National Honor Society and Beta Club, church youth activities and volunteer work for the Methodist Rehabilitation Center. She is a soccer captain and a member of Diamond Girl Baseball.

Other students who competed in Southern Pine's essay contest are Conner Oakes, Lawrence County High School; Jeffrey Moreland, McLauren High School; Victoria Paige Sandifer, Florence High School; Meagan Ford, Presbyterian Christian High School; Minnie Keyes, Taylorsville High School; Casey Faye Risher, Brookhaven High School; Torrie Craft, Raleigh High School; Matt Gully, Sylva-Bay Academy; Conteria Martin, Prentiss High School; Donovan Belle, Mt. Olive High School; Tammy Blackwell, Magee High School; Lalisha Baker, Bay Springs High School; and Anas-



tasia Varenita, Copiah Academy.

Southern Pine congratulates Jordan Ainsworth and Jordan Walker for their winning essays. We appreciate the efforts of all participants in helping make our annual essay contest a success.

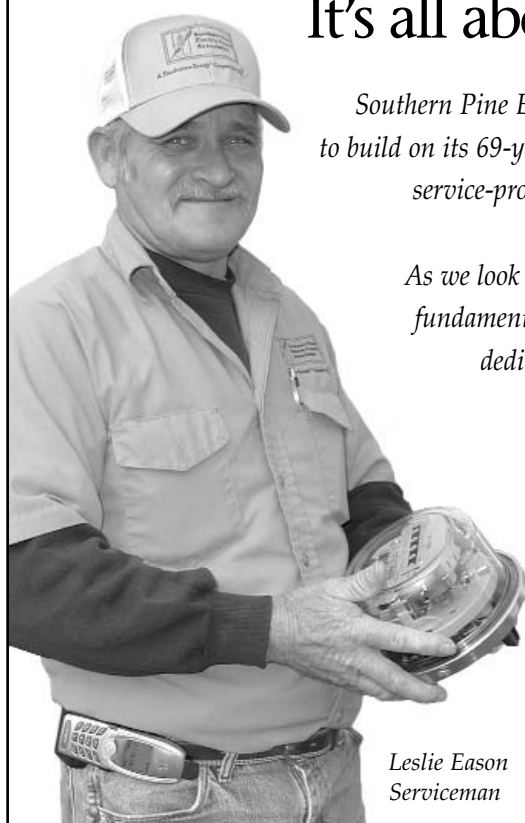
PEOPLE, PRINCIPLES, PERFORMANCE

It's all about Service

Southern Pine Electric Power Association continues to build on its 69-year heritage as a member-owned and service-proud association focused on delivering electricity to members.

As we look to the future, we are guided by three fundamentals: our commitment to **people**, our dedication to cooperative **principles** and our passion for **performance**.

We are committed to serving Southern Pine members



Leslie Eason
Serviceman