



06.1985.1, 06.1985.2 Boone County REMC
Boone County
Marker Text Review Report
02/03/2012

Marker Text

The Boone County REMC built Indiana's first electric cooperative line¹ to the Clark Woody farm² 5 miles west of this site with funds borrowed from the Rural Electrification Administration, July 22, 1935.³

Report

Current IHB guidelines require primary documentation to support all information on a marker. These markers have been reviewed because IHB had no sources on file. Further research confirms that the text of the marker is accurate; however, the text does require some clarification, as it is misleading:

- The *Lebanon Reporter* suggests that the loan was *approved* around the date listed on the marker,⁴ with funds actually becoming available in November of that year. The Boone County REMC project was the first to request a loan from the federal government the first REMC in Indiana to have its loan approved. By November 1935, it was the largest project submitted and would have funds dispersed.⁵
- The first electrical pole was actually erected in January of 1936.⁶ According to a four-year report in the Boone County REMC's *Power, Heat and Light*, May 1940, the Woody farm was the first electrified site in the state later that year.

Learn More

To learn more about topics of local interest, like the Clark Woody farm or the local Rural Electric Membership Cooperative, IHB staff recommends exploring local resources, such as public libraries, historical societies, and museums. [Boone County REMC](#) shares documents relating to its founding and early years, including an [excerpt](#) from [Power to the People](#) and "[A Decade of Co-op Power](#)," a relevant article from the 1946 issue of *Co-Op Power* magazine.

For more general information about New Deal initiatives in the U.S., including electrification, see:

[Rural Utilities Service](#) (successor to the Rural Electrification Agency) on Wikipedia

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum's [Interactive Periodic Table of the New Deal](#)

[Records of the Rural Electrification Administration](#) from the National Archives

¹ "Boone Gets First Electric Project in United States," *Lebanon Reporter*, November 5, 1935 and [Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives](#), accessed December 15, 2007.

² "Fourth R.E.M.C. Anniversary," *Power, Heat, and Light*, Boone Country Rural Electric Membership Corporation, Vol. 2, No. 4 (May 1940): 1.



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³ First National Bank of Danville, "Boone-Hendricks Counties Indiana: Plat Book and Index of Owners" (LaPorte, Indiana: 1970), 22 and State of Indiana, Indiana Transportation Map (Indianapolis, 2003).

⁴ Morris L. Cook, "Millions for Rural Electricity," (*New York Times*, May 19, 1935, p. E11) announces the federal program to aid rural areas in electrification. By mid- July 1935, some applications were "already approved" and being referred to an advisory committee for fund distribution. "Farm Power Plan Pushed at Capital," *New York Times*, July 11, 1935, p. 3.

⁵ "Boone Gets First Electric Project in United States" and [Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives](#), accessed December 15, 2007.

⁶ "Boone County to blaze new rural trail says Cooke," *Lebanon Reporter*, January 9, 1936, p. 2.