



May 8, 2019

Present day location of Sullivan County Rural Electric Coop. on Route 87.

Annual Dinner Meeting

The Annual Dinner Meeting this year will be held Thursday night, August the 8th at the Forksville Inn on Route 87, south of Forksville. The speaker will be Craig Harding on the inception and history of the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative,

headquartered also on Route 87, Forksville.

Craig Harding has been Chief Executive Officer of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. since September 1989. Previously, Craig was Manager, Engineering Services from Jan. 1980-Sept. 1989 at Tri-County Rural Electric Coop., Mansfield, PA. He has served as Board member and Advisory Board member of several national rural electric cooperative organizations including the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Herndon, VA from 2002 to 2008. He has also served President and Treasurer of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce. Craig is a Board member of the Sullivan County Industrial Development Authority and the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission. He is Chairman of the Northern Tier Workforce Investment Development Board.

A Pennsylvania native, Craig has an electrical engineering degree from Penn State University (1979), a business administration degree from Mansfield University (1986) and a Master of Science in Business Administration from Bucknell University (2003).

An Eagle Scout, Craig is active in the Valley United Methodist Church in Sonestown, Treasurer of the Eagles Mere-Laporte Lions Club. He is also a Past Master of Friendship Lodge #247, Mansfield, PA.

A piece from a newspaper clipping states "Twenty-four-hour electric service for Dushore, Bernice, Mildred and Lopez, became a fact at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon when the Sullivan County Electric Company turned on the power generated by the new dynamos installed in the plant here." The date was Jan. 1920!

Then from The Meter, an employee publication from 1954:

An electric line was built from Dushore to Mildred in 1912 and on to Lopez in 1914. A transmission line was built from Dushore to New Albany in 1920 and then on to Wyalusing in 1921-22.

The Dushore Electric Co. had a steam generating plant located along the Lehigh Valley Railroad near the trestle and was equipped with a 100 KW generator. To this was added a 125 KW generator from Tunkhannock and a 300 KW machine acquired from an apartment house in Wilkes-Barre. Dushore had only night service until Oct. of 1919.

The Sullivan County Electric Company No. 1 was formed October 16, 1919 by the merger and consolidation of the electric companies of Dushore, Laporte, New Albany and Colley, Cherry and Laporte townships.

The museum has a carbon copy of the Article of Agreement between Fred M. Rogers of Forksville and the Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the present location of the company's offices and storage area, dated Feb. of 1938.

The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. The speaker will start immediately after a short annual meeting at 7 p.m. Cost for the dinner is \$15.00 per person by pre-paid reservation only, to be into the museum by Sat., Aug. 3rd by 5 p.m. Reservation payment may be dropped off to the museum or mailed to the Sullivan County Historical Society, P.O. Box 252, Laporte, PA 18626.