Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

VOL. 49 – NO. 2 | RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750 | NOVEMBER 2013

Off-peak members should expect average winter control hours

Members who enjoy the value and convenience of off-peak electric heat should plan for an average number of load management hours this winter season.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, estimates that normal weather conditions, low wholesale market prices and reliable power plant operations will produce an estimated 245 hours of load control.

The primary events impacting load control hours this winter are planned power plant outages near the end of 2013 and in March 2014. Another factor is the delayed completion of Minnkota's new 250-mile transmission line from Center, N.D., to Grand Forks, N.D., which means additional power resources won't be distributed into the region until the latter part of the heating season.

"If our power supply resources perform well, we will have power to serve our loads at almost all hours during the winter season," said Todd Sailer, Minnkota energy supply manager. "The challenge comes when we have unplanned outages or during extreme cold periods, when the demand for electricity is high."

An off-peak system consists of an electric heating source as its primary component. A supplemental heating source must operate several hundred hours or more during the winter season. Sailer said members with a well-maintained backup heating system should not notice a difference in comfort level when their off-peak heating system is controlled.

"The transition between the two systems should be seamless," he said.

The ability to interrupt the flow of electricity to the electric portion of your off-peak system allows Minnkota to operate its generating plants more efficiently and avoid making costly power pool purchases. By voluntarily enrolling in the program, the savings are passed on to (2624001.02 Ronald D. Foss) you through the low off-peak electric rate, which is approximately half of the regular retail rate.

"The ability to manage costs and plan for the heating season is one of the many benefits of the off-peak electric heating program," Sailer said.

Before using the load management system, Minnkota first looks to purchase energy from the market if it is available at an affordable price. But there are many times when affordable power isn't available. By utilizing load management in those cases, Minnkota avoids making costly energy purchases that would force an increase in its regular rates.

"The cost to purchase and deliver power to the associated systems can change at a moment's notice," Sailer said. "The load management program protects consumers from the volatility of the market and prevents the need to build new power plants just to serve peak loads."

Millions of dollars have been saved due to the successful operation of Minnkota's load management system over the past 36 years.

"Load management is a vital tool for Minnkota and the associated systems to use to keep wholesale power prices competitive and winter heating bills low for retail consumers," Sailer said.

In this month's *Volts and Jolts*

Gentilly Creek substation energized September 17

Minnkota Power Cooperative's substation crew did all of the construction work on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's recently energized Gentilly Creek Substation. The substation is located between Polk County Highway 11 and US Highway 2, southwest of Gentilly. Three years passed from the time planning began until the substation was energized Sept. 17.

After extensive study and planning, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's (RLEC) newest substation was energized September 17. The Gentilly Creek substation is located SW of Gentilly and serves RLEC members in the townships of Crookston, Gentilly, Fairfax, Kertsonville Russia, and Onstad all in Polk County.

For several years RLEC has known that one day a new substation would have to be constructed in the Gentilly/Crookston area to better serve the electrical needs of the area members. To make this a reality, it would mean working with Red Lake Electric's generation and wholesale electrical supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC) of Grand Forks, ND.

"RLEC came to us in late 2010 with a request for a new substation to improve electrical service, both from a supply and voltage support standpoint, in the Crookston area, " recalled Grant Gunderson, senior manager transmission engineering at MPC. "This started the justification process. We need to be prudent in justifying the investment to assure financing from Rural Utility Services (RUS)."

"The need for the substation versus alternatives is explored in great detail to satisfy RUS, " reiterated Jennifer Johnson, engineering services supervisor with MPC.

Once the need was determined, MPC transitioned into the design stage and began the environmental studies. The environmental assessment is also needed for RUS financing."This study gets to be long drawn and challenging," stated Johnson. "MPC operates within two (2832003.01 Richard Jorde) states, North Dakota and Minnesota, and it is always more of a challenge when working in Minnesota."

"The positive with the environmental study is there was no wetland mitigation required," exclaimed Gunderson.

Additional challenges included land acquisition and right-of-way easements. This took some time also. It was challenging to find a viable location for the substation and then to find a land owner who was willing to sell approximately a three acre parcel. Once a property acquisition looked positive, the next step was to get easements from adjacent land owners for the transmission feeder line.

In the meantime MPC personnel were also working with Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) of Fergus Falls to get approval to tap its transmission line for the substation feeder.

OTP and MPC have an integrated transmission agreement that allows each to tap the other's transmission lines when it seems to be a viable option financially. This does require additional studies. This was the final piece to fall into place, taking about one year, to give the green light for the substation project to move forward.

MPC oversaw the substation construction. The earth work was contracted with Thygeson Construction of Thief River Falls, a member of RLEC. This work was completed early this past summer. Minnkota Power's substation crew constructed the substation and its line crews built the feeder line extension. RLEC crews did everything associated with the distribution side of the substation.

The substation is equipped with a 2500 KVA transformer and three distribution bays. If the need arises, the substation can be expanded for additional output and an additional bay.

The original targeted date for completion of the substation was June of 2013. It became reality in September. MPC had budgeted $851,000 for the costs associated to the transmission side of the substation. When all costs are accounted for, it is expected that the total will be just under $900,000.

"The take away is – when a Cooperative determines a need for a substation, it should expect approximately three years before it is finally energized," stated Johnson. "The studies, the environmental and governmental regulations that need to be addressed, along with dealing with land owners, all take time."

MPC is a generation and transmission cooperative supplying electricity to 11 distribution cooperatives across NE North Dakota and NW Minnesota. RLEC is one of the eight cooperatives in Minnesota. MPC has 236 substations throughout its service territory with nine of them serving power to members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

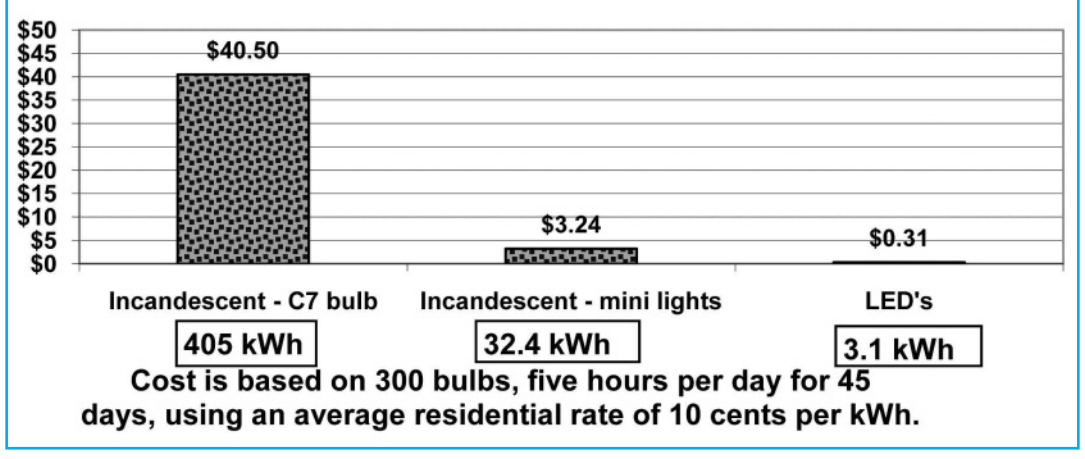
The December issue of the "Volts and Jolts" will have a story associated with the distribution side of the substation.

QUICK TAKES

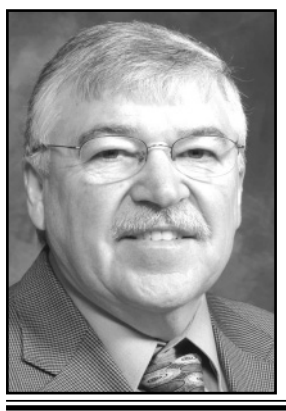
A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Consider buying light emitting diode (LED) Christmas lights this year. They are superior to standard bulbs for holiday lighting. LED's use 10 times less energy than mini-lights and over 100 times less energy than C-7 bulbs. LED's have an ultra long life - up to 100,000 hours. LED bulbs are good for all weather, unbreakable and water resistant-good for indoors and outdoors. If one LED burns out, the others stay lit. LED's are safe; cool to the touch and fire resistant. Many LED lights can be connected end-to-end without overloading a typical circuit. Although LED lights may cost more than standard lights, they quickly make up the difference in energy savings as indicated by the chart below.

Holiday lighting - LED's are the best choice!



Cost is based on 300 bulbs, five hours per day for 45 days, using an average residential rate of 10 cents per kWh.



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck

Electrifying the world… one village at a time

A few years back I received a letter from former National Rural Electric Association (NRECA) CEO Glenn English, who started his letter by asking: Can you imagine a day without power? A week? How about a lifetime?

It is hard to imagine a life without electric power yet there are more than two billion people worldwide that do not have access to electricity. And we know from the news of typhoon Haiyan's destruction in the Philippines that life without power is not the worst that can happen. Some two million people in that country have been affected in ways we can only imagine. No home, shortages of food, clean water, and the list goes on.

NRECA annually sends a request to rural electric cooperatives across the country asking for a donation to NRECA's International Foundation; a half-century old organization partnered with U.S. Electric Cooperatives, set up to help bring electricity to less fortunate parts of the world. The mission of the NRECA International Foundation is Electrifying the World…One Village at a Time. The response by your Cooperative to these annual letters of request from NRECA has been an annual donation of $500.

Red Lake Electric's annual donation to the NRECA International Foundation has helped bring electricity to impoverished communities, and in turn, improved their standards of living. The help not only brings electricity, it provides people more access to primary health care, clean water, and education; improving the lives of generations to come.

Rural Electric Cooperatives across the country have also donated equipment and electrical supplies through the International Foundation. Other Cooperatives have sent crews of volunteer lineman to help build rural electric distribution systems and provide hands on training to local utility staff and crews in places like Guatemala, Haiti, Costa Rica, Sudan, Bolivia and the Philippines.

In just a few days, I plan to be seated around the dinner table at home celebrating Thanksgiving. As is our family tradition, we will each be given a moment to mention something we are thankful for. Being I won't get a chance to sit around the same table with all of you, I'll take this opportunity to say thanks for a few things here. Thanks Members for your constant business that you bring to Red Lake Electric; thanks for the directors you have elected and, among their other good works, who have generously supported on your behalf the NRECA International Foundation. I give thanks for the dedicated group of employees we have staffed to serve you, sometimes doing their work at inconvenient hours of the day and in unpleasant conditions. I give thanks for our bountiful country and the many services we have in our part of the world, including an ample supply of food, clean water, medical care, good schools, electricity…and the list goes on.

Have a happy Thanksgiving.

How smart appliances interact with the grid

By Brian Sloboda, Cooperative Research Network

"Smart appliances" promise consumers greater control of home energy costs while giving electric co-ops a new way to bolster energy-saving programs. While not-for-profit electric cooperatives are at the forefront in testing these devices, smart appliances have a long way to go (4304005.04 Steve Wegner) before they will be a useful addition to modern life.

First of all, what makes an appliance "smart?" Manufacturers are beginning to add communications modules inside some appliances, such as dishwashers, as well as in wall outlets that can use a home's Wi-Fi to send and receive simple messages from a connected home energy network.

Through these networks, you can monitor energy consumption, turn devices on and off, and change the setting on your thermostat.

The cost of a "smart" dishwasher might not be worthwhile if you aren't able to use it to its full savings potential. If you don't have a high-speed Internet connection, for starters, your money might be better spent on a highly efficient appliance, such as those rated by the federal ENERGY STAR program.

Working with electric utilities

Many electric co-op members around the country let their hometown cooperative cycle their HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system or electric water heater on or off during times of peak demand, when electricity is most expensive. Called "demand response," these programs result in electric-bill savings for all of the cooperative's members because it avoids the need to purchase expensive power on the open market or even delay building additional power plants. Adding smart appliances to the fold could help control power costs even more.

Electric co-ops are conducting a handful of pilot projects in the area of home energy networks, most of which are in an early stage of development. Some of these programs tell consumers when peak demand is approaching so they can take action like curtailing electric use. Others offer special pricing for electricity at various times of the day.

Current applications of home energy network technology are wide-ranging and can be best understood by looking at their capabilities: limited, basic, and advanced.

Limited approach

Limited applications of home energy networking give consumers access to detailed information about their monthly electricity use. Data is collected and provided to the consumer via an in-home display or password-protected website. Enhanced information and graphs may also be included. Demonstrations of limited-capability systems have consistently resulted in energy savings of between 6 percent and 11 percent.

A co-op also may be able to suggest further energy-saving opportunities specific to the consumer's home, appliances, and electricity use.

Basic applications

Basic home energy networks provide consumers with the same detailed information and offer increased control over HVAC systems and major appliances to take advantage of time-of-use pricing. With time-of-use rates, the cost for electricity varies according to the time when it's used. Consumers also gain the ability to set home comfort levels and operating preferences remotely via a mobile app, and optimize performance under available rate options.

Such basic systems have been shown to shift energy use out of peak periods and reduce a consumer's demand contribution by as much as 50 percent. However, if a consumer does not pay attention to grid signals that alert to higher or lower electric rates, he or she could end up paying more for power.

Advanced applications

Home energy networking becomes most attractive when configured to both minimize a consumer's bill and a co-op's underlying cost of service. These advanced applications incorporate a variety of devices, ranging from simple in-home displays and websites to advanced apps on a smartphone or tablet.

Overall, this allows homeowners and their local electric co-op to control certain aspects of HVAC, lighting, and major appliances. Such fully enabled home energy networks—in which both can modify settings and operating schedules and control in-home equipment under time-of-use rates—can provide co-ops a meaningful and costeffective means to defer the need to build new power plants while saving individual consumers money.

November is American Diabetes Month

American Diabetes Month is a time to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. In the United States, more than 25 million people are living with diabetes and 79 million more are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Over time, if it's not controlled, type 2 diabetes can cause serious health problems like (3601001.02 Leland R. Nelson) heart disease, stroke, and blindness. You may be at risk for type 2 diabetes if you:

- Are age 45 or older
- Are overweight
- Have a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes
- Are African American, Hispanic or Latino American, American Indian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander
- Have had diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes)
- Have had a baby with a birth weight of more than 9 pounds
- Have high blood pressure or cholesterol
- Exercise less than 3 times a week

You can do a lot to lower your chances of getting type 2 diabetes by:

- Watching your weight
- Eating healthy
- Staying active

Closed
THANKSGIVING DAY

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Thursday, November 28 for Thanksgiving.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number, **218-253-2200**.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Electric bills rise in the winter for lots of reasons—holiday parties, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Take little measures to help control costs like turning down the thermostat, washing clothes in cold water, swapping out lightbulbs for high-efficiency bulbs, and using microwaves or toaster ovens to cook. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills, the minimum late payment charge will be $1.00.

If your payment is not received by the 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a $60 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a $60 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a $120 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A $15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped.

OUTAGES

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, there is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable $27 to $35 month
April-December . . . . . 9.5¢ Kwh
January-March . . . . . 9.9¢ Kwh

Multiphase users add $22/month cost of service charge.

Standby, $12/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light: high pressure sodium, $8/month; mercury vapor, $9/month; water heater flat credit, $7/month (January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, $5.50/month per heat meter; off-peak energy rate: 5.5¢/kWh long-term control, 7.5¢/kWh short-term control.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

AFTER-HOURS OUTAGE PHONE 218-253-2200

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
VOLTS & JOLTS
(USPS 663-400)

Published monthly by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430, in the interest of its members and others. Periodical Postage Paid at the U. S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com

Subscription Rate$2.50 per year

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with $5 on your electric bill.

Recipe Corner

Wild Rice Salad

2 c. cooked wild rice
4 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
1 c. cubed cheddar cheese
1/2 c. mayonnaise
1/4 c. sliced stuffed olives
1/2 c. chopped pecans

In a bowl, combine rice, eggs, cheese, mayonnaise and olives; mix well. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Just before serving, add the pecans and toss.

Yield: 6 servings.

Raspberry Delight

2-1/4 c. all-purpose flour
2 Tbsp. sugar
3/4 c. butter *or* margarine, softened
FILLING:
1 pkg. (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1 c. confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt
2 c. whipped topping
TOPPING:
1 pkg. (6 ounces) raspberry gelatin
2 c. boiling water
2 pkgs. (10 ounces *each*) sweetened frozen raspberries
Additional whipped topping and fresh mint, optional

In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; blend in butter with a wooden spoon until smooth. Press into an ungreased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking pan. Bake at 300° for 20-25 minutes or until set (crust will not brown). Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over crust. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in raspberries. Chill for 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Spoon over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares; garnish with whipped topping and mint if desired.

Yield: 12-16 servings.

Cranberry Nut Bread

2 c. all-purpose flour
1 c. sugar
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 c. butter *or* margarine
1 egg
3/4 c. orange juice
1 Tbsp. grated orange peel
1-1/2 c. fresh or frozen cranberries
1/2 c. chopped walnuts

In a bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Beat egg, orange juice and peel; stir into dry ingredients just until blended. Add the cranberries and walnuts. Spoon into a greased and floured 8-in. x 2-in. loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 65-70 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

Yield: 1 loaf.

Chocolate Orange Cookies

1 c. butter (no substitutes), softened
3/4 c. sugar, *divided*
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 c. finely grated orange peel
1 c. (6 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and 1/2 c. sugar. Add egg and vanilla. Gradually add flour and salt; mix well. Cover and chill for 15 minutes. Roll the dough on a floured surface to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with a 2-in. cookie cutter or shape into 2-in. x 1-in. rectangles. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Combine orange peel and remaining sugar; spread over cookies. Bake at 350° for 14-16 minutes or until the edges just begin to brown. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. Decorate cookies with melted chocolate.

Yield: about 3 dozen.

Apple Coffee Cake

Cream:
1/2 c. shortening
1 c. sugar
Add:
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 c. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 c. sour cream
Fold in:
2 c. chopped apples

Grease and flour two 8-in. square pans. Fill each with half of the batter. Top with 2 Tbsp. soft butter, 3/4 c. brown sugar, 1 tsp. cinnamon and 1/2 c. nuts. Cover and freeze. Bake from frozen state at 350° for 1 hour.

Turkey-Crouton Hotdish

3-4 c. turkey or chicken, diced
1 c. diced celery
1-9 oz. box crouton stuffing
1-1/2 c. water
1/2 c. chopped onion
1/4 lb. margarine
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can sliced mushrooms
1 can sliced water chestnuts

Layer meat and croutons in 9 x 13-in. pan. Next, layer sliced water chestnuts and mushrooms. In saucepan heat 1 cup water, margarine, celery and onion until margarine melts. Pour over other layers. Blend soups with 1/2 cup water and pour over top of all other mixture. Bake 1 hour at 350°. Turn off oven and let stand in oven 15 additional minutes.

Yield: 10 servings.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

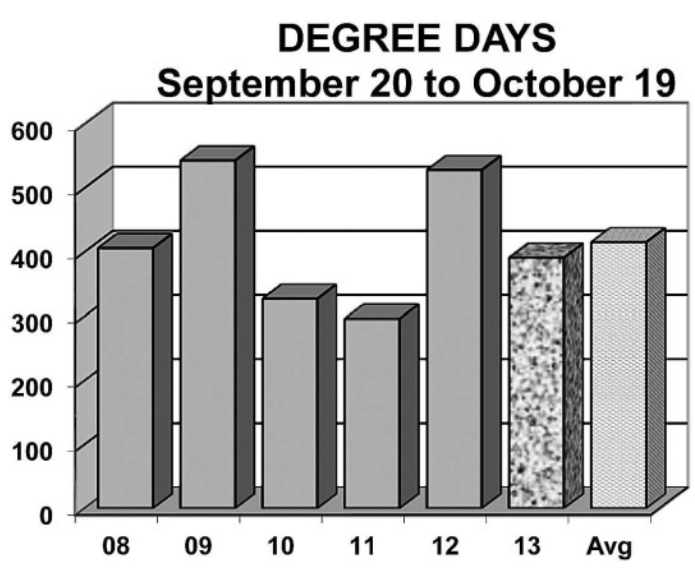
	SEPT 2012	SEPT 2013
Total Revenue	$ 909,792	$ 1,025,888
Total Margins	$ (27,128)	$ 18,620
Cost of Power	$ 683,362	$ 729,364
KWH's Purchased	8,252,453	9,550,054
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	$ 4,169	$ 2,895

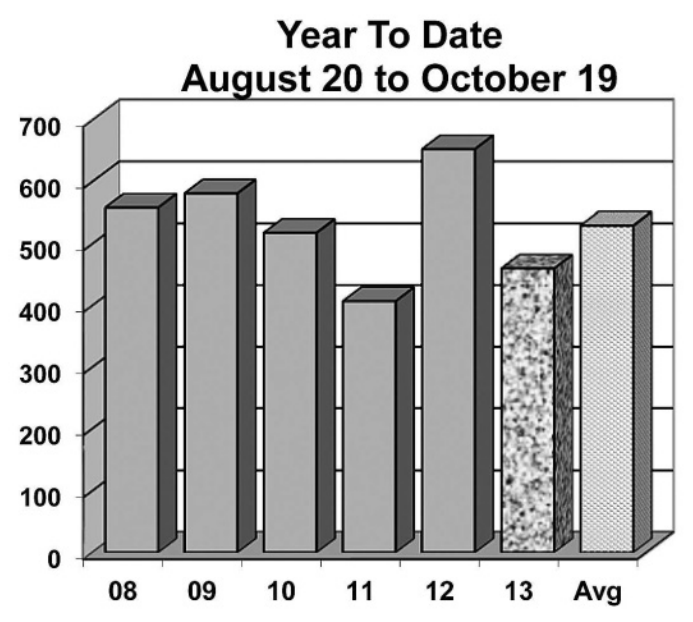
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	SEPT 2012	SEPT 2013
Total Revenue	$9,771,033	$10,240,194
Total Margins	$ 615,869	$ 1,051,820
Cost of Power	$7,028,195	$ 7,084,006
KWH's Purchased	94,064,215	98,648,938
New Service Connections	29	27
Customers Served	5,216	5,251
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	$ 75,102	$ 90,191
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,323	2,324
Underground	249	256

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.





From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC,

I would like to extend a special thank you to all the Red Lake Electric members who voluntarily round up their electric bill each month. By doing this it allows our 4-H After School Enrichment Programs extra funds to purchase physical activity incentives for the students. Thanks much.

Tammie Malwitz
Community Nutrition Educator
Pennington/Red Lake Counties

Dear RLEC,

Thank you so much for the Century Farm article featured in the October *Volts & Jolts*. Also thanks to Ms. Heather Blodgett who came to our house and interviewed us. She was friendly and very easy to visit with.

We would like to clarify an important piece of information. The article said my grandfather, etc. emigrated from Sweden, when in actuality our forefathers came from Norway. (No offense to the Swedes.)

It was interesting to see the picture of the bit and brace as well as the wooden peg and log taken from the farm house during a remodeling project several years ago. The other piece of equipment pictured was a mechanical potato cutter used in slicing spuds for planting each spring.

Thank you to Kevin Reich for taking so many pictures of the old farm as well.

Sincerely,
Howard and JoAnne Rokke
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for the grant money of $1,000. This money will be used to purchase wildland firefighting gear that is needed by our firefighters. We realize you receive many requests for your grant money and we feel very fortunate to be one of the recipients of this grant and all the grants and support we've received in the past. Thank you again, and remember to keep checking your CO and smoke detectors.

Sincerely,
Thief River Falls Fire Department
Barry Newton, Co-Fire Chief

Dear RLEC,

A sincere thank you for the grant in the amount of $750. which will be applied to the cost of replacing the brick fascia on the south wall of the Goodridge Senior Citizen Center. Goodridge will celebrate the 100 year Centennial in July of 2015, so our plan is to complete this project during the summer of 2014. The continued support and generosity of RLE customers and the Trust Board is very much appreciated. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Gordy Henrickson
on behalf of Goodridge Senior Center

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for your donation! Because of your support, you have helped make the purchase of our new ambulance possible.

Oklee Ambulance Crew
Oklee

Cooking Efficiently

■Control energy costs while preparing holiday feasts

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

Don't peek. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.

Turn it down or turn it off. For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.

Give your burners a break. For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.

Don't neglect your slow-cooker. Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.

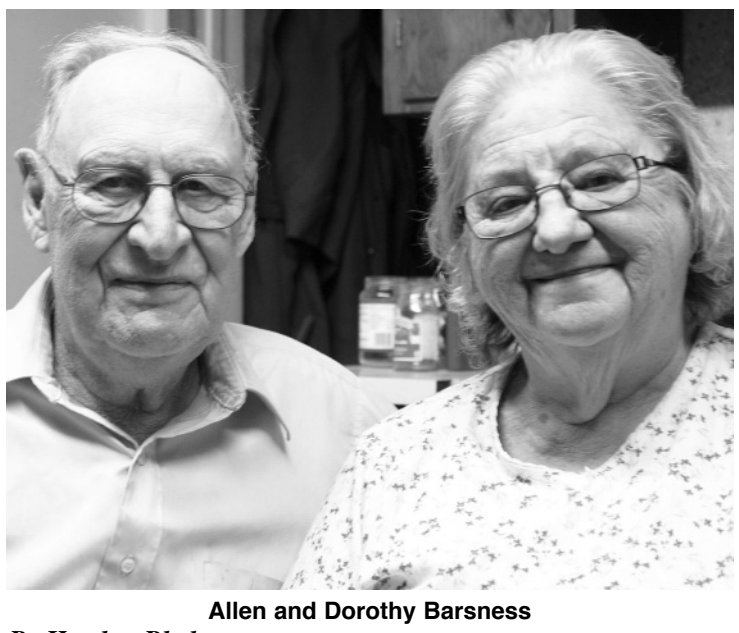
Give your furnace the day off. If your next party involves a lot work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the (4508011.03 Dan J. and Lori Johnson) oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.

Make contact. Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Barsness and Hamrum families celebrate Century Farm status



Allen and Dorothy Barsness

By Heather Blodgett

Dorothy and Allen Barsness were honored as owners of a century farm for 2013. Allen's Grandfather, Peder Barsness, started the farm in 1912.

Peder came to Wisconsin from Norway when he was eighteen years old and married his wife, Anna, several years later. The couple lived in several areas across Wisconsin and Minnesota before settling near Oklee with their five children. Arriving in March, and the deep snow, made it difficult to get established but the family moved into the larger of the farm's two buildings, leaving the smaller shelter for cattle. As soon as the snow melted, the family worked to clear the land of rocks and ready it for crops, as it had never been cultivated. That first summer a five-room home was built for the family on the property. A few years later their sixth child, Lovina, was born.

Their second-oldest son, Melvin, was 13 at the time of the move to Red Lake County. At the age of 21 he returned to Wisconsin to work with his uncle. There he met his wife, Ella. After Peder and Anna passed away, Melvin and Ella bought out Melvin's siblings for the farm, but rented out the land and remained in Wisconsin.

Their son Allen, married Dorothy in 1954 and the couple moved to the farm in 1955, where they have lived ever since. Soon after, Melvin and Ella followed to reside in Oklee.

Allen and Dorothy added running water to the home in the late 1950s and installed a kitchen sink. Later they remodeled a bedroom to create a bathroom in the house and built and addition to replace the bedroom space lost on the remodel.

The couple had dairy cattle for many years. In 1966, Allen went to work at Detroiter, now Homark, in Red Lake Falls and continued to farm. Dorothy did most of the milking during that time. Four years later, the couple traded dairy cattle for beef cattle. Over the years they also had chickens, pigs and sheep to round out the operation. Fourteen of those years Dorothy also spent working off the farm at a Windsor Products Co. Lefse Factory in Gonvick. The couple retired in 2002, sold their livestock and began renting out the land.

The couple has three children, Lila, Keith and Dewlton. "We've raised our family here," says Allen. "We've always lived in the country and we don't know anything else. We both grew up on farms." Dorothy likes to raise and pick raspberries in the summer and the couple feels at home on the family farm. They enjoy the quiet that country farm living gives them. Simply put, "We enjoy living here," says Allen.

A vintage gasoline meter stands near a hearty oak tree in the yard of the Dorothy and Allen Barsness Century Farm.

The Hamrum Century Farm is home to the Margaret and Lowell Hamrum family. The group takes a moment for a family photograph on the front porch with their K9 companion.

By Heather Blodgett

The Hamrum family farm, located near Brooks, has been named a century farm for 2013. The farm is owned by siblings Lowell Hamrum and Sue Bailey. Bailey lives in Delta Junction, Ala. while Hamrum and his wife, Margaret, and their children live on the farm.

Hamrum and Bailey's grandparents, Iver and Josephine, came to the area looking for a farm. Iver found this property, which reminded him of his native Norway, and decided it was the right spot for his family. The farm already had a house for the family to move into, and the home has been lived in by all of the farm's inhabitants and still stands on the property today.

Iver and Josephine farmed dairy cattle and small grains. The couple had eight children. Of those eight, Art, was the only one who had children, Lowell and Sue, to pass the land to. Art was an accountant and didn't farm, so after Iver and Josephine passed away, two of Art's siblings, Selmer and Ida, managed the operation. Selmer farmed for many years, often with a very young Lowell by his side. As Lowell grew up in Brooks and the farm was just over a mile north, he spent a lot of time on the property learning how to drive tractor and do farm work. Selmer passed away while Lowell was in elementary school, so Ida continued the farm until Lowell graduated from high school in 1974 and could take over the family legacy. "Ever since I was little, that's what I wanted to do," says Lowell. "As a young child, I looked up to my uncle Selmer. I was out here all the time and you just become part of it."

Lowell married Margaret, an Early Childhood Readiness Parent Educator for Red Lake Falls and Plummer, in 1982. At that time, Ida still lived in the farmhouse, so the couple did not live on the farm during those early years. After Ida, her brother Oscar lived in the home before Margaret, Lowell, and their three children finally moved into the farm's original home. In 2006, the couple built a basement and entry area, and moved in a home from Plummer to be attached to that new structure.

Both a river and woods weave into the farm to give the place character. "The river is both a blessing and a curse," says Lowell. "You have to work around it and the rocks and hills, but its beautiful." Lowell tells how he would lead the cattle to the river twice a day to drink, even having to chop a hole in the ice with an axe so they could access the water.

Its important to the Hamrums that the farm has belonged to their family since Iver and Josephine found it. "It's been handed down ever since," explains Lowell. "We feel like it's ours to use until the next generation takes over." "We think of it as being stewards of the land," says Margaret. "When the generations before you have put their life into it, and you see that, you become part of it. To have bought it, this would have meant as much to me as growing up in it does. I have been engaged with this farm for over 50 years." Lowell even owns the first tractor he ever drove. It belonged to his uncle Selmer and Lowell can remember the day it arrived on the farm, brand new.

In 1990, the couple stopped their dairy cattle operation and began renting out the farm. Margaret continued to work with ECFE and Lowell began a custom saddle shop. They had always owned horses, so the shop began as a hobby and turned into a business. Over the years he also ran a horse breeding operation from the farm. Currently, Lowell works as acting postmaster in Oklee and still does some part-time work with his saddle shop on the side.

While most of the fields have been rented out to the same neighbor for over 20 years, the Hamrums still enjoy the property by farming corn and hay on a smaller scale. They still raise a few calves for butchering and a few horses for riding. The couple cleared trees from the property to have a beautiful view of the river. They enjoy the land for hunting and have large gardens where they like to try growing different things, such as rutabagas, turnips and popcorn. "I really enjoy that you can raise your own food," says Margaret as she explains they have strawberries, raspberries and fruit trees, and can often find wild grapes and chokecherries for picking.

"I enjoy the farm," raves Margaret. "I think it's always been in me. I enjoy the gardening and it's been nice to raise the kids out here. Lowell could spend more time with them because he was home with them."

"The kids went out to the barn with me all the time," reveals Lowell. "We've enjoyed farming, the horse business and saddle business. We've met a lot of people and we've had a lot of fun. We have great neighbors." The family has enjoyed how the land has allowed them to live. "I like the peace and quiet. On a farm it is as lively or as quiet as you choose to make it," explains Lowell. "It's just peaceful out here."

Iver and Josephine Hamrum shown here in an undated photo in front of the original farmhouse.

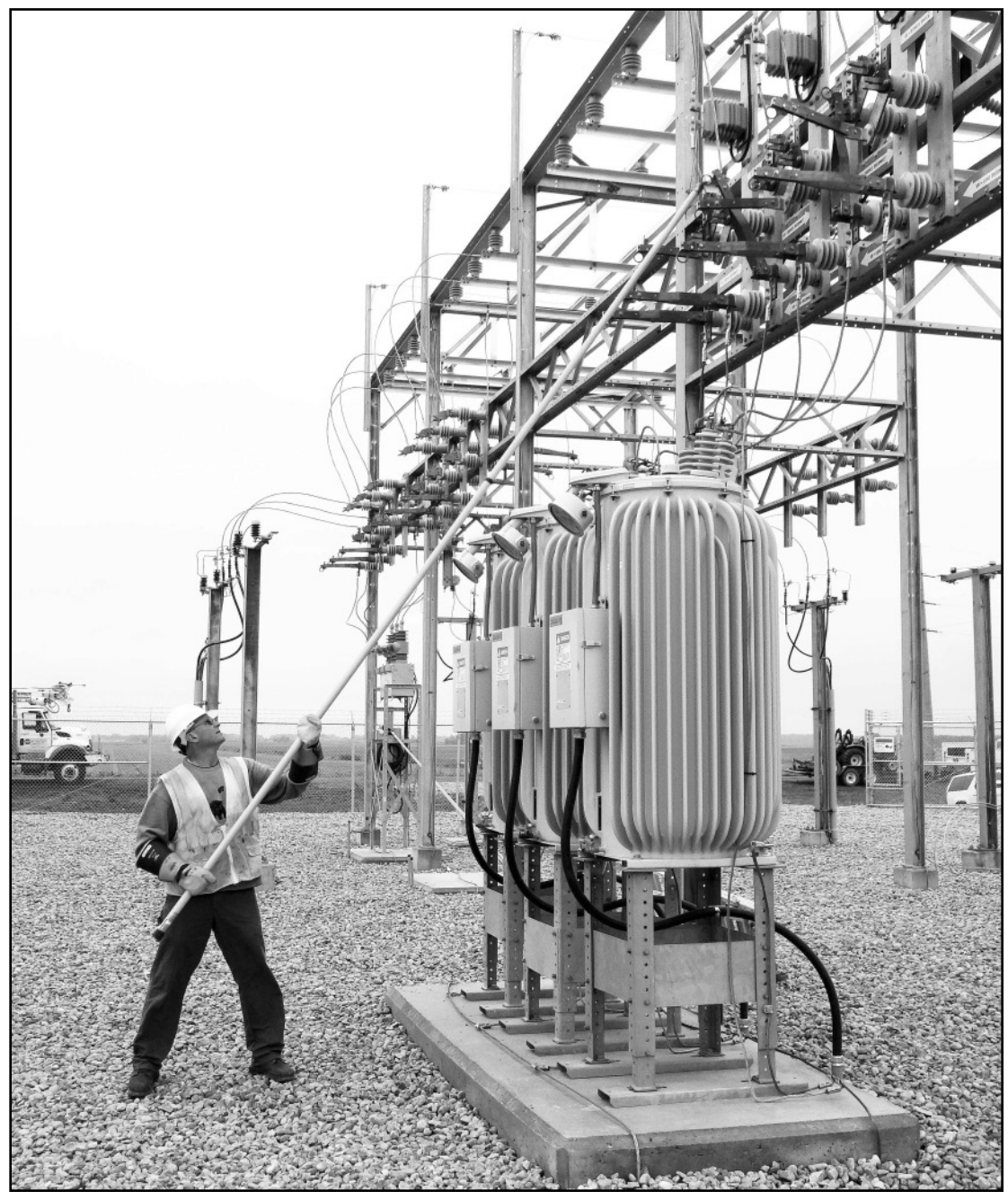
Gentilly substation constructed

Larry Schill, Minnkota Power Cooperative electrician, checks the blueprint for details associated to the construction of the Gentilly Creek substation. The substation was constructed over a three month period.

Minnkota Power Cooperative's line crews work to string the wires on the transmission feeder line for the Gentilly Creek substation. The line is one-half mile in length.

Pictured is the in-line top structure that interconnects the feeder line for the Gentilly Creek substation. It taps OtterTail Power Company's 41.6 KV transmission line that runs along Hwy. 2 east of Crookston. The structure is laminated wood, with an increased base dimension, which eliminates the need for any guy wires, which reduces the footprint of the structure.

It was a dreary, cloudy day when switch 5063 was closed to energize the transformer in Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Gentilly Creek substation. This substation will supply electricity to Red Lake Electric's members in the southwest portion of its service territory, in Polk County.



Dean Swatlowski, Minnkota Power Cooperative electrician, uses a fiberglass extendo stick to close the switches on the regulators of the Gentilly Creek substation. Once the regulators were energized, voltage readings were taken to confirm that the regulators were working properly.

Informational Web Sites

The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: **www.esfi.org**
- Alliance to Save Energy: **www.ase.org**
- US Environmental Protection Agency: **www.epa.gov/greenhomes**
- Energy Star: **www.energystar.gov**
- Minnesota Safety Council: **www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org**
- Safe Electricity: **www.safeelectricity.org**
- Lighting Controls Association: **www.aboutlightingcontrols.org**
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: **www.cpsc.gov**

ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date_____ Account number_____

Social Security Number_____

Signature _____

To help commemorate Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary, clippings and pictures from past issues of the "Volts and Jolts" have been used at district meetings, the annual meeting and in the anniversary report and video. The Cooperative has had requests from members to re-publish and share some of these past publishings.

These pictures and informational items appeared in the October and January 1951, October 1953 and December 1953 issues of the *Volts & Jolts*.

INVENTORY

With the closing of 1950 and the opening of the New Year of 1951, most people are busy taking inventory of their business assets. No matter what the outcome is, wo vow to improve in the coming year.

But how many of us take an inventory of our manners in dealing with others, employers to employees, businessmen to patrons, friends to friends?

The best way to know ourselves is by reflection. "Reflect? I have too many other things to do!" Alas! How limited is the number of those who deign to think and take serious reflection upon themselves. Are you one? Can't you give yourself a few minutes of serious reflection daily to improve yourself?

On The Farm, A Pump Without A Pump House

Seems almost fantastic to even imagine that a pump can now be installed and used all the year round without a pump house.

A pump such as this has recently been ordered by one of our consumers and was installed the first week of November.

This consumer will never have to worry about heating the pump house all winter long, nor will he have to worry about not having enough water to operate his dairy farm.

This pump is known as the No. 1050-R Duplex Pitless unit, and it meets the standards of the Minnesota well construction codes.

Consumers who plan on going into a greater dairy business in connection with the farming activities should be interested in a piece of equipment which is as convenient as this pump.

The pump is installed above ground about 7', and has a "check valve" and "discharge tee" under the ground about 7'. The pressure tank is installed in the house. The water line would run under ground to the pressure tank and to the barn and to any other building where it would be desireable to have running water. The pump pumps the water to the level 7' underground and from that point to the pressure tank. It is then drawn from the pressure tank to the desired location.

The fortunate consumer on our project to place his order for the above is Thomas Koralewski of Thief River Falls. His location is section 31 of Rocksbury Twp. We hope to get pictures of this installation so that they may be shown in a later newsletter.

We have an illustration in our office which explains a little more in detail how a pump of this type operates. Anyone interested in seeing this illustration may stop at the office and we will be happy to show it to them. We only have one, so we are unable to enclose an illustration in each newsletter.

The Human Side

To err is human ...

We all make mistakes. That's why they put erasers on pencils.

But it's the hardest thing in the world for most of us to admit we've pulled a boner.

When anything goes wrong we automatically try to duck the responsibility.

We'll spend hours trying to prove we were right. We can think of a million excuses.

And we make others spend hours trying to convince us we were wrong. Even when we were wrong we hated to admit it.

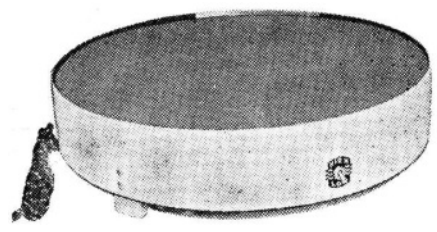
Most of us have a queer idea it's shameful ever to make an error. That's why when the finger points at us we try to get out from under.

The funny thing is, people really respect a man who admits his errors quickly. It's the mark of a big man and a capable man.

The fellow who can't admit a mistake gets known as pigheaded. The word gets around quickly.

We can't be right all the time. The man who is right only 60 percent of the time can be a howling success-if he's quick to correct his mistakes the rest of the time. To, err is human-not to admit it is foolishness.

Electric LEFSE Plate



First made by a Norwegian-born inventor, this hot plate has been improved, redesigned, and now manufactured by Bethany Fellowship.

It is now being advertised in National Scandinavian newspapers at the regular retail price of $14.95.

The improved Electric LEFSE plate is 18 inches in diameter and 4 1/2 inches high. High quality workmanship throughout and sturdily built. Just the thing for the home that has discarded its wood stove which was ideal for Lefse baking and now has an electric range. It is equipped with a 2-way switch to give low and high uniform heat.

Ideal for Lefse, Flatbread, Potato Cakes, Pancakes, French Toast, Grilled Cheese, Sandwiches, Corn Fritters, etc.-On display at the office.

What type of investor are you?

■ Why knowing the answer is important to your financial future

By Doreen Friel

When it comes to investing, you need to answer one question: What kind of investor are you? Think about how you feel about money and how well you sleep at night when markets are moving quickly, either up or down.

In general, there are three types of investors: conservative, moderate and aggressive. Conservative investors worry about short-term market volatility. They usually look to minimize risk (they don't want their investments to lose value, even temporarily) and desire safety of principal (they don't want their account value to fall below the original amount of money invested).

Moderate investors have some of the same concerns as conservative investors, but they are willing to sacrifice some safety for potentially greater returns. They can handle modest market fluctuations. Even though they are concerned with the safety of their principal, they are (5806001.09 Proulx Farms % Ben Nelson) willing to take on some risk in an effort to have their investments earn potentially higher returns.

Aggressive investors are different. They want to maximize investment returns and are willing to tolerate quite a bit of market volatility. They believe the risk is a small price to pay for potentially greater investment returns.

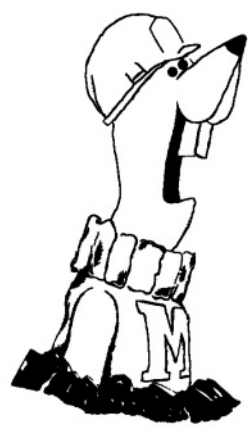
Retirement investors need to know how a client feels about investing, and how long the investments need to last, before they can decide which investments are right for them.

So ask yourself: If the stock market dropped significantly and you invest primarily in stock-related funds, how well would you sleep? Would you disregard the volatility because you understand you are investing for a number of years and the market will likely bounce back, or would you fret all night over the money you think you've "lost," even if's only temporary.

Choosing strategies that are compatible with your outlook will help you have more confidence in your retirement investment choices.

Call Before You Dig

With the arrival of spring, many people have plans for digging and planting projects. To ensure your safety and the safety of others, before digging or planting, call Gopher State One Call, 1-800-252-1166.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and area contractors are reminded, if you are planning to dig deeper than one foot, you must call Gopher State One Call – it's the law!

A call to Gopher State will get all utility underground lines and pipes located and marked, free of charge, within 48 hours.

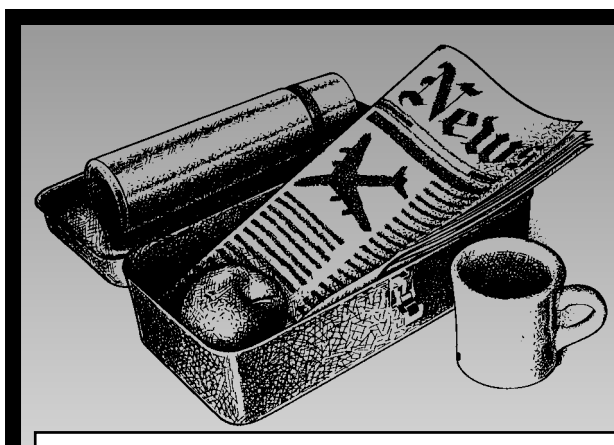
Don't take chances – mistakes cost lives.

CALL

1-800-252-1166

BEFORE YOU DIG.

LOOK UP POWER LINES MAY BE OVERHEAD



Your key to buy, sell or trade anything is the

CLASSIFIEDS

The members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

For Sale

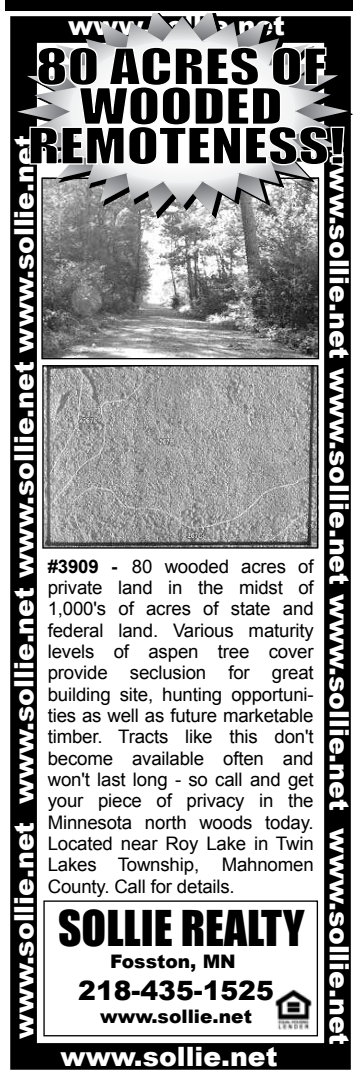
For Sale: Small square bales of straw stored inside. Call 218-686-1823 or 378-4610, evenings.

For Sale - one four wheels rubber tire farm hay wagon $350. Come over and see the wagon at 514 Red Lake Blvd, TRF or call 681-2109.

Business For Sale: Burns Welding and Repair. The business can be kept as is. Call 218-964-5487. Serious inquiries only.

Organic Rye For Sale: Call (218)498-2788 in Glyndon, MN

Real Estate



#3909 - 80 wooded acres of private land in the midst of 1,000's of acres of state and federal land. Various maturity levels of aspen tree cover provide seclusion for great building site, hunting opportunities as well as future marketable timber. Tracts like this don't become available often and won't last long - so call and get your piece of privacy in the Minnesota north woods today. Located near Roy Lake in Twin Lakes Township, Mahnomen County. Call for details.

SOLLIE REALTY
Fosston, MN
218-435-1525
www.sollie.net

www.sollie.net

✔ These Prices

'08 PONTIAC GR. PRIX, White, 3.8 V6, Moonroof, 110k, SALE.....$6,650
'04 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO, 4x4, 6 cyl, Charcoal, 121k, Nice SPECIAL.....$6,450
'03 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER TOURING Moonroof, Gold, 85k ONLY.....$3,750
'03 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX LE, 4 Dr., White, V6, AT, AC, PS, Alum Wheels REDUCED TO ONLY.....$3,650
'01 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO, 4 Dr, . 4x4, 6 cyl, 139k, Gray, Selectrac, SPECIAL.....$4,850
'01 FORD TAURUS, 4 Door, 110k, Red, 3.0 V6, Good Tires SPECIAL.....$3,150
'00 CHEVY MALIBU, 4 Door, 6 cyl, AT, AC,PS, Maroon, 135k SALE.....$1,950
'97 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT, 4x4, 6 cyl, Blue, 79k SPECIAL.....$3,650
'94 FORD F250 XLT PU, V8 w/Util Body & Fuel Tank, 113k SPECIAL.....$2,750

D & S Sales & Service
Hwy. 32 North, Red Lake Falls, MN
(218) 253-2940 • (218) 686-2459 (cell)
Please call to make sure I'm here!
DLR #21275

LUMBER
AND
Building Supplies

ASK ABOUT OUR COMPLETE BUILDING PLANS SERVICES!
We're glad to help you with any building problem you may have.

Oklee Lumber, Inc.
(218) 796-5131

DON'S MACHINE SHOP
ASE CERTIFIED REBUILDERS
ALL GAS AND DIESEL ENGINES

•Automotive •Industrial
•Marine •Agricultural
•High Performance
•Vintage Auto
•Heavy Duty Diesel

CALL FOR ESTIMATE!
INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

FOSSTON, MN
218-435-6379 or
1-800-448-1518

PRICE EXAMPLES:
•GM 350 $1,315 - $1,419
•GM 6.5 Diesel with new block $5,330
•Ford 7.3 Diesel Powerstroke $4,200
All prices are with exchange on a rebuildable core.

123 4 Sale Realty
www.1234sale.com 218-681-4321

Kittson County
5 parcels of Hunting/Farm Land CRP over 950 acres
Take your pick of any or all. Potential multiple usage.
Priced to fit your needs, starting at
$675/acre

Erskine
22379 380th St S – Beautiful Manor on almost 12 acres on Lake Bradley
Priced to sell @ $1,499,000
37854 210th Ave SE–Rare opportunity to buy a stately home overlooking Little Lake Sarah
A must see @ this price $299,000

Anne E. Nevin Broker/Owner 218-681-4321/612-702-3324

Joe McMullen AGENT 218-689-5760
Jerry Hoffman AGENT 218-686-0224
Sherri Owens AGENT 218-416-0904
www.1234sale.com

Let us help get you into the perfect property for all your needs. We Co-Broke and we represent both sellers and buyers! We specialize in short sales!

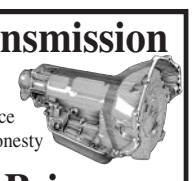
SCHAFER ELECTRIC

BRIAN SCHAFER 218-289-5430 CELLULAR
MIKE SCHAFER 218-289-5431 CELLULAR

16483 120th Avenue SW
Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750
Office 218-253-2497

COMMERCIAL TRENCHING RESIDENTIAL FARM

KM Transmission
And Repair



Quality • Experience
Dependability • Honesty

Fair Prices

Its all just that simple. Keith Moen

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sat. by appointment
(218) 681-4250
616 Davis Ave. N, Thief River Falls

Late Model Auto Parts
-National Parts Locator-
Toll Free 1-888-560-5321
Bus: 218-964-5321
WE BUY PARTS CARS!
20 Bakers St., St. Hilaire, MN
Jeff Brouse & Brian Bugge, Owners
B & B Auto Recycling, Inc.

TR SALVAGE INC.
702 Dawn Ave.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-8221 • 1-800-950-9917
Email: sales@trsalvage.com • Website: www.trsalvage.com
NEW AND USED FARM EQUIPMENT PARTS

Midwest Roofing
Residential and Commercial

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
FREE ESTIMATES

20061 Center St E
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
(218) 681-3879
(218) 686-4475

Carpet ETC. of St. Hilaire, MN
Flooring to Fit Every Lifestyle
Carpet, Vinyl, Ceramic, Laminate
Quality Flooring at a price you can afford.
310 Broadway • St. Hilaire, MN • (218) 964-5555 • M - F 9-5:30 & Sat 9-3 • Anytime By Appointment

HELP! HELP! HELP!
"My basement is wet! Who do I call?"

And for all your cleaning needs call 218-681-7679

We Buy Cars and Car Bodies
We Sell Welding Supplies
Roll-Off Boxes Available
We Buy Aluminum Cans
We Sell New Steel - Structural and Sheet
We Buy Scrap Iron and Metals

Evans Scrap & Steel, Inc.
218-681-3488 • Toll Free 1-800-906-3488
13203 190th St. N.E. • Thief River Falls, MN

Winter Hours:
7:30 - 4:30
Monday-Friday

Electrical Contractor

Shop: (218) 253-4123
Home: (218) 253-4127

KEN'S ELECTRIC, INC.
Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750
"We Service Our Work"

Contact Us For All Your Electrical Needs!

Allen Remick - Cell: (218) 689-0313
Jason Knott - Cell: (218) 289-5104

Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Want Ad Order Form

Use this handy form to submit your want ads.

PLEASE PRINT.

Mail or bring your ads to the RLEC office by the tenth of the month. Commercial ads are 10¢ per word with a minimum charge of $4 per insertion.

Member want ads are FREE. One want ad per member per month.

Please PRINT . . .

Your Name, Address and Phone Number. Mail with your power bill payment, if you prefer, or fax to 218-253-2630.

SUBSCRIBE TO Red Lake Falls GAZETTE

Save at least $23 annually over the newsstand price!

To subscribe just clip and fill out this form and bring it to the *Gazette* office at 105 Main Avenue in Red Lake Falls or mail to: The *Gazette*, PO Box 370, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

THE GAZETTE SUBSCRIPTION RATES . . .

In Red Lake County, $29 a year In Minnesota, $35 a year Out of state, $39 a year

Enclosed is a check for $_____ Send the Gazette to . . .

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ _____

AFTER-HOURS OUTAGE PHONE 218-253-2200

$100 DRAWING

DECEMBER 5, 2013

MEMBERS WHO USE AUTO-PAY ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED

Auto-Pay is the easiest, most efficient way to make and process your monthly bill payment at Red Lake Electric Cooperative and we want to show our appreciation to the 1,850 members who currently use it. If you are using Auto-Pay or sign up for Auto-Pay by Dec. 5, on Dec. 6 you are automtically entered in the drawing. Questions about Auto-Pay? Give Red Lake Electric Cooperative a call or e-mail redlake@minnkota.com. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

The real story about portable plug-in space heaters

You have heard radio ads, probably seen newspaper ads, and possibly received promotional materials marketing portable space heaters stating that you can reduce your energy bill up to 50 percent.

Buyer beware.

Their claims, usually found in (6923002.03 Jestin Gagner) small print, are based on the assumption that you would operate this portable plug-in space heater in the room you occupy at the time, while turning down the thermostat in the remainder of the living area allowing it to become much cooler.

It's true that any time you turn down your thermostat, you will use less energy to heat your home. However, in many cases, homeowners maintain the original thermostat setting and plug in the portable space heater only to be surprised that they actually used more energy in that particular month to heat their home.

The bottom line is that there are no "magic" plug-in space heaters that will reduce your electric use. Based on the above scenario, you simply sacrifice comfort in the rest of the home to reduce your heating costs.

Heat is measured in British Thermal Units (Btu). There are 3,413 Btu in one kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity. Electric heat sources are 100 percent efficient, no more, no less. The exception is the heat pump, which can achieve higher efficiencies, however, none of these small plug-in space heaters use heat-pump technology. You can achieve the same efficiency from an electric baseboard heater as you can with a plug-in space heater, and at much lower equipment cost.

Before you purchase an expensive space heater that claims an ability to lower your heating bill, please consider the potential operating costs of these units. You would be money ahead to take the $400 advertised costs of these "magic" space heaters and put that (128003.02 Carol J. Perreault) toward weaterization improvements to your home such as sealing air leaks or adding insulation.

If you have any questions about heating your home economically and efficiently, please contact our member services department.

Important notice for military personnel

Section 1. **[325E.028] UTILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL**

Subdivision 1. **Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules.** (a) A municipal utility. cooperative electric association or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

(1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility under which the residential customer pays ten percent of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or

(2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purpose of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subd. 2. **Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.**

(a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

Subd. 3. **Application to service limiters.** For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Subd. 4. **Income verification.**

Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subd. 5. **Appeal process.**

(a) The municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriate governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer's receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first-class mail notice in the United States mail.

(b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subd. 6. **Enforcement.** This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B.

Reels for the taking

Red Lake Electric Cooperative has several wood reels to be given away - Free.

The reels are on a first-come, first-get basis. They can be picked up at the Cooperative's headquarters, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If you have any questions, call **218-253-2168**

AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

AUTO PAY
SIGN-UP SHEET

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify RLEC in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow RLEC to act on it.

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # _____

NAME (PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

TELEPHONE # _____

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT # _____

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # _____

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE _____

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

Don't want to write a check? Want to save on postage?

Red Lake Electric has a new payment option to make paying your bill easy. This service is free. Sign up is simple. Go to www.redlakeelectric.com and click on the Bill4U icon.

Bill4U allows you to make your payments 24 hours a day directly from your checking or savings account eliminating the cost of the check and postage.
Bill4U allows you access to your billing statements at any time.
Bill4U allows you to view and compare your kilowatt-hour usage.
If you have any questions or need more information, visit our web site or call Red Lake Electric 800-245-6068.

Bill4U℠

An electronic bill presentment and payment service

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Phone	218-253-2168
Toll-free	1-800-245-6068
Fax	218-253-2630
After-hour outage	218-253-2200
Office hours	Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
E-mail:	redlake@minnkota.com
Web site	www.redlakeelectric.com

Call Before You Dig - Gopher State One Call • 1-800-252-1166

P. O. Box 430 412 International Drive SW Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430