The pioneer years

Electricity changed almost everything for Donald and Curtis Jungling. While it didn’t stop the runaway horses, it did bring the “potty house” inside. It also brought the girls.

In this month’s local pages, a family in the Capital Electric Cooperative service area shares memories about what life was like before electricity — and how the co-op’s "juice" made life quite a bit easier and more enjoyable.

NOVEMBER 2014
IN THIS ISSUE

- Some ‘rough times’ before electricity
- Browser updates for SmartHub
- Little Free Library
- Youth Tour opportunity
- Heating assistance available
- Meeting minutes … and more!
Electricity
‘A heck of a big change’
BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Editor’s note: North Dakota celebrated 125 years of statehood on Nov. 2. To commemorate this milestone, Capital Electric Cooperative members Donald and Curtis Jungling are sharing some of their family history and memories.

Reinhold and Alvina Jungling moved from Bismarck into a rudimentary home north of town in April 1948. They bought 80 acres of land for $65 per acre to farm and raise Holstein cows. They leased additional land from some neighbors.

Their teenage sons, Donald and Curtis, caught a ride with neighbors to attend school in town. Before and after school, the brothers helped with chores. Before their family moved to the farm, the boys were used to the comforts and conveniences provided by electricity, as the city’s utility company served the large loads found in urban areas. But the service didn’t extend to rural areas, so the farm was still without power — and all chores were done by hand.

The boys milked cows twice a day. Reinhold strung a wire in the barn to hang kerosene lanterns for light. On Fridays, Alvina sold the sweet cream and eggs.

Food was stored in a wooden refrigerator, and kept cold with chunks of ice and an old radio battery. The brothers hauled coal and wood for fuel and heat. They pumped water with the windmill and carried the water to the house for cooking, cleaning and bathing. During the cold months, the water splashed out of the pails and onto their legs as they walked. “Our pants would freeze down the sides,” Donald recalls.

They heated water on an old stove to take baths, and trekked outside to use the “potty house.” “It was rough times!” exclaims Donald.

That winter was especially difficult. The family didn’t have a telephone, so if they had an emergency, they had to go to the neighbor’s house to use a phone. During one particularly bad storm, the wind ripped the top of the windmill off and it stopped working. Reinhold rigged the windmill with a gasoline motor to make it work, but the family was ready to have electricity again.

In 1949, Capital Electric Cooperative started setting poles and stringing line in the area. Reinhold paid his $5 membership and signed up for service.

Curtis remembers the first days and weeks after their farm was energized. “When you got that juice, there was a big difference, I’ll tell you that!”

Electricity, and the purchase of appliances, slowly improved their...
quality of life. The family was once again able to appreciate running water, a working sewer, and no more trips to the potty house.

“It was a heck of a big change,” Donald says.

Electricity brought about convenience. It also brought the four neighbor girls. After one shopping trip in which Reinhold got a deal on some televisions, the girls started walking over.

Donald confesses that even though he and Curtis were afraid of girls, they sure enjoyed watching television and going on hay rides together.

“Oh my God, we had fun,” exclaims Donald. “It was cold; below zero. But we were younger and we didn’t mind.”

Electricity certainly changed their lives — and so did the purchase of a tractor. Prior to their father buying an old Twin City tractor, they used a horse mower and dump rake to make hay.

Donald remembers cutting hay on several occasions when the team spooked. One time, Reinhold climbed off the mower to oil some equipment. The horses heard the clinking of the can and took off, and there was, “one hell of a runaway.” The team busted the mower running back to the barn, and their father ended up walking home.

Another time, Alvina drove to the hay field to bring the boys lunch. The horses heard the rustling of prairie grass under the car, and the team startled and lurched into a fence line and posts. The rake dumped Curtis to the ground, and with fence posts cracking, the horses fled.

“It’s a good thing he fell off the rake, or else he would have gotten dragged,” Donald says.

The Junglings farmed and ranched for about 40 years.

Reinhold passed away in 1962. In 1978, Donald, Curtis and Alvina moved into a more modern house on their property, and it’s where they live today. Donald, now 81 years, and Curtis, 80 years, still make hay for a small herd of cows. Alvina recently turned 104 years old, and still lives on the farm with assistance from her dedicated sons. The land the family once purchased for $65 an acre is now worth at least the same amount — per square foot. The brothers confess they’ve had various offers to sell.

“They’re after us!” exclaims Donald. At this time, they are content to remain on the farm where they have so many vivid memories.

Capital Electric Cooperative thanks Alvina, Donald and Curtis Jungling for welcoming us into their home for a visit, and hopes Alvina had a very blessed birthday.
Cooperative files appeal with District Court on PSC decision

BY WES ENGBRECHT

Every consumer pays. That’s the message Capital Electric Cooperative took to the N.D. Public Service Commission (PSC), and is now taking to the N.D. District Court. Duplication of electric services and unnecessary build-out hurts the pocketbooks of each and every consumer, regardless of the utility company, because they cause unnecessary expenses.

At the September board meeting, the Capital Electric board of directors voted to appeal the Sept. 17 PSC decision to grant service rights for the Menards facility near McKenzie to Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU). The appeal was subsequently filed with District Court on Oct. 15.

“It is about keeping utility rates as low as possible,” says Dwight Wrangham, board president for Capital Electric. “It is also about the crossing of another utility’s high-voltage facilities, which has long-been held to be a public safety hazard.”

The PSC received an application from MDU to provide service to the facility in November 2013. A hearing was subsequently held on May 2 to decide the issue. The commission ruled, in a 2-1 vote, in MDU’s favor on Sept. 17. The Capital Electric board of directors believes the facility is located in the cooperative’s service area, and should be served by the cooperative. The co-op has been providing electric service to a pumping load during construction, and has sufficient capacity to serve the site from its Menoken substation. The co-op also serves other properties surrounding the area.

In order to serve the site, MDU will have to extend its service across existing power lines owned by Capital Electric, as well as significantly upgrade its substation in the area. It was found by the PSC that both Capital Electric and MDU could provide reliable service to the site.

The North Dakota Territorial Integrity Act, as enacted by the 1965 Legislature, was put in place to prevent investor-owned utilities such as MDU from interfering with the state’s rural electric cooperatives in providing electric service to rural areas. The main purpose of the act is to prevent a duplication of services that cause unnecessary expenses. Capital Electric, like all electric cooperatives, has made significant investments into facilities that provide electric service to rural areas for more than six decades, and has been efficiently serving the large consumers that are building in those areas.

“Not crossing facilities and orderly build-out were the main factors in the Territorial Integrity Act,” Wrangham says.

It was noted in the dissenting opinion by PSC Commissioner Brian Kalk that granting service to MDU would result in a “checkerboarding” effect of the rural area. In his opinion this would “serve to create future conflict between the electric suppliers and further interference with Capital Electric’s system.” He focused on “public convenience and necessity” as the driving factor behind his opinion that Capital Electric should serve this particular site.

At the time of publication, the District Court had not yet set a date for the hearing.

---

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

Write a winning essay and win a FREE trip to Washington, D.C., courtesy of Capital Electric Cooperative!

If you will be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2015, and your parents or guardians are members of Capital Electric Cooperative, you qualify for the essay-writing contest!

Here’s the topic: If you were asked to influence other students your age to become more actively involved in their electric cooperative, including attendance at the electric cooperative annual meeting, what would you tell them, and why?

For the contest rules and deadline, visit www.capitalelec.com and click on “Community” and “Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.” Or, call Wes at 701-255-1513 or email wese@capitalelec.com. If you want to go on a trip-of-a-lifetime, NOW’S the time to apply!
ALWAYS ON TIME …
With the Bergstad’s Little Free Library

Everyone has a favorite book. What’s yours? Is it a Stephen King novel? A book about history? A Dr. Seuss book, or a book about cooking? Imagine those books in a library that is little and free, located just down the street. This is now a reality for the neighborhood of Driftwood Lane in Bismarck.

Capital Electric Cooperative members Bradley and Renee Bergstad had a Little Free Library installed in their yard this fall. A Little Free Library is a box full of books to be shared with anyone who would like to take a book or leave a book. “We thought it would be a nice way to connect with our neighbors,” Renee says. “It’s a neat concept to be able to invite them to stop by and take a book.”

The program was brought by the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library to encourage reading within the community. Now, Little Free Libraries are scattered throughout Bismarck.

“Some people go by and have to do a double-take. I think a lot of them think it’s a bird house at first. When they realize it’s a library though, it’s interesting to watch them go open it up and look around and maybe even take a book,” Bradley says.

The Bergstads had to go through an application process and be selected before they had their Little Free Library installed. Currently, 12 other homeowners have been selected to host a library on their property. “I think we are a great location for one since we live close to an elementary school now. I’m sure we will have a lot more kids stop by, so I plan to fill it with more books for them,” Renee says.

“We hope it encourages kids to read. They’re not going to get late charges from this library and they don’t have to wait for a parent to take them. They can just hop on their bike if they want a book,” Bradley says. “It’s that easy for them.”

Please contact our billing department at 701-223-1513 to let us know that you are going to be gone. Without notification, we may estimate your meter reading, which could result in being over billed for several months. Thank you!

Become a fan on Facebook!

Capital Electric Cooperative has a Facebook page! Facebook allows us to communicate quickly with our member-owners, the media and the general public on important co-op issues. If there is a major outage, you can check our page for frequent updates. We also provide information regarding your co-op membership, energy efficiency, upcoming meetings, youth programs and much more. Go to www.facebook.com/capitalelectricnd to “like” our page and begin receiving information.
The heating season is here.

Is your electric meter breaker on?

Members, if your home or business has a sub-meter for an off-peak or all-electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel. If the breaker is off, your electric heat credit will not be reflected on your bill. Thank you.

Upgrade Internet Explorer for the best SmartHub experience

Through SmartHub, Capital Electric Cooperative members have the ability to pay their utility bill, check their usage and more, using a web browser or mobile application. For members who utilize the web version of SmartHub, it’s important that you are using the latest version of your favorite browser to ensure a safe and secure experience.

Starting in November, any of our customers who access the SmartHub tool through Microsoft’s Internet Explorer version 8 or lower will begin to lose some of the tool’s functionality. Internet Explorer 8, or IE8, is a version of the IE web browser that is more than five years old, and support for this version or lower of IE is being phased out gradually.

What can you do to avoid any drop in functionality? All you have to do is upgrade to the latest version of Internet Explorer or download the latest version of Google’s Chrome web browser or Mozilla’s Firefox web browser. All of these downloads are completely free, available online and take just minutes to complete. Visit one of the links below to get started and ensure you’re able to take advantage of all that SmartHub has to offer.

For a free download of an updated web browser, visit one of the links here:


LIHEAP provides energy assistance to eligible low-income households

If you need assistance paying your utility bill this winter, you might qualify for energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Federally funded and administered by the N.D. Department of Human Services and county social services, LIHEAP provides the following services for eligible individuals and families:

- heating assistance
- making your home energy efficient
- furnace and chimney cleaning
- emergency assistance
- furnace replacements
- minor repairs, and
- energy cost reduction devices

In 2013, more than 13,363 low-income households in North Dakota participated in the state program. Shari Vetter, billing coordinator for Capital Electric Cooperative, says 13 co-op members utilized the program.

Applications are accepted from October through May of each heating season. For information related to application for benefits, program eligibility or an existing case, contact your local County Social Services office. There is no cost to apply, but consumers will have to pay a percentage of some services based on their income.

To read more about the LIHEAP program, view frequently asked questions and apply for energy assistance, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/energyassist.html or www.nd.gov/dhs/ and click on “Services and Help,” “Public Assistance” and the “Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.”

To ask questions about the LIHEAP program, call 701-328-2065 or email dhseap@nd.gov.
Capital Electric Cooperative and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) visited Lincoln Elementary School in October and asked three students to share their thoughts about electricity: how it is made, how they use it, and why they are thankful to have it.

A short version of their answers appears in the story below. To see their complete answers in a video, visit the Capital Electric Cooperatives website at www.capitalelec.com. The video, produced by Clarice Kesler, e-communications manager at NDAREC, shows the students giving thoughtful, creative and smart answers! There are a few comical answers as well.

Capital Electric Cooperative thanks the families of Dylan Spiess, Cady Malmedal and Amelia Hassebrock for participating in the project.

Cady Malmedal, a kindergarten student, says electricity travels through cords. Some are connected underground, and others are connected high in the sky. She thinks maybe Santa Claus makes electricity because he has powers. Cady uses electricity to turn on the lights, play Leap Frog and Frozen on her Kindle, and to power the popcorn maker. Her mother uses electricity because those cords attach to the computer. Her father works in the oil fields. Cady thinks he uses electricity there, because he comes home very dirty. She is thankful for electricity, because the stove uses electricity, and her family uses the stove to melt chocolate — her favorite food.

Dylan Spiess, a first-grade student, says electricity is lightning. He uses electricity to turn on the lights. His mom uses it to make his lunch in the microwave and his dinner on the stove. Dylan also uses electricity to watch shows and play games on his Xbox. He knows it also keeps him warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Dylan’s dad also works in the oil fields, but Dylan does not think his dad usually needs electricity. Dylan’s mom uses electricity to fold laundry and to play with his baby sister. Dylan is thankful for electricity because it helps him play video games.

Amelia Hassebrock, a second-grade student, says electricity travels on power lines. Wood poles hold them up, and they are mostly everywhere until they stop. She does not know where they stop, and where the electricity goes after that. She thinks a little electricity comes from the sun and wind. But she does not think electricity comes from coal. Coal is what kids get for Christmas when they are naughty. Amelia’s dad uses electricity to make tie-dyed pancakes on the stove. Her mom uses electricity to talk on her phone, a lot. Amelia uses electricity when she uses the microwave and watches TV. She also takes swimming lessons, so she uses electricity to swim in a warm pool, and to wash the chlorine out of her suit with a washing machine. Amelia says she is thankful for electricity because it makes her life easier.
Board minute excerpts Sept. 26, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held Friday, Sept. 26, 2014, at co-op headquarters in Bismarck.

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Vilhauer and Eckroth reviewed the August 2014 check register and expenditures. Vilhauer reported all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve August expenditures in the amount of $3,213,213.83.

Business department report: The Manager reviewed the August financial and statistical report with the Board. The total kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales for August 2014 was above budget by 8 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is above budget by 5.6 percent. Year-to-date, KWH sales are up from budget by 2 percent and electric revenue is over budget by 4.5 percent. The financial margin for August is -$181,429, versus the budgeted margin of -$218,492.

Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, deceased members’ estates: payment of capital credits to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francis Antil</td>
<td>$681.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irwin H. Huff</td>
<td>$334.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Erdmann</td>
<td>$1,400.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert D. Hoskins</td>
<td>$1,088.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Eisenbeis</td>
<td>$937.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Roeder</td>
<td>$658.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Dockter</td>
<td>$2,260.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Myers</td>
<td>$21.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentine Schmidt</td>
<td>$278.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irwin H. Huff</td>
<td>$334.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Eisenbeis</td>
<td>$937.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert D. Hoskins</td>
<td>$1,088.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Erdmann</td>
<td>$1,400.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Antil</td>
<td>$681.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$5,244.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses for the month of August and for the year-to-date through August 2014. Accounts receivable balances as of Sept. 25, 2014 were reviewed.

Engineering and operations report: The Manager reviewed the written report from the engineering and operations departments. We completed 65 work orders this month, adding 216 new consumers to the system.

Fisher and The Third Generation continue to trench in cable around the Bismarck area. Our line crews installed the electronic reclosers at the Wing and Erickson substations. All that is left to do is wire up the RTU, and program our SCADA computer at our headquarters building so we can operate the breakers remotely.

The 2015 engineering and operations preliminary budget was outlined. Projected Capital Expenditures total $280,645 and the Construction Budget totals $51,171,350.

Wing Service Center building project: Construction costs for the Wing Service Center building have been established based on final design requirements. Changes were made to the building to incorporate taller service overhead doors required for our newer digger and bucket trucks. Final construction estimates for the project total $135,720 for 2015 construction.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the final design and budget proposal for the Wing Service Center.

South Meadows Addition: The South Washington Substation property has been included in the new South Meadows addition plat for the city of Bismarck.

Central Power Electric Cooperative consolidation: No status change. There will be a new administrator at Rural Utilities Service announced soon.

2015 budget: The projected KWH sales, purchases and capital budgets for 2015 were reviewed. KWH sales are forecasted to increase 6 percent over the 2014 budget to actual sales (act through July). 2 percent over the 12-month period ending June 2014, and 3.2 percent over the 2015 load forecast.

Update on health care scenarios: Fitterer joined the meeting to answer questions concerning health insurance scenarios and anticipated costs of the various options. No action was taken.

Estate retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, it was moved, seconded and carried to authorize payment of capital credits to the following deceased members’ estates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raymond Myers</td>
<td>$21.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valentine Schmidt</td>
<td>$278.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Dockter</td>
<td>$2,260.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Roeder</td>
<td>$658.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Eisenbeis</td>
<td>$937.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert D. Hoskins</td>
<td>$1,088.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Erdmann</td>
<td>$1,400.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irwin H. Huff</td>
<td>$334.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Antil</td>
<td>$681.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$5,244.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Manager reviewed the member service written report.

Communications and public relations department: The Manager reviewed the written report from the communications and public relations department.

Safety report: There were no lost-time accidents this month.

Steve Paulson from Federated Insurance was at the shop on Sept. 4, 2014 for a safety and loss prevention visit.

The safety instructors from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) were here Aug. 28, 2014 to test the dielectric strength of our insulated bucket trucks.

N.D. Public Service Commission (PSC): The manager and attorney reviewed the PSC decision granting Montana-Dakota Utilities a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to serve Menards near McKenzie, N.D.

Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to appeal the decision to the District Court.

2015 budget: The Manager reviewed the 2015 preliminary budgets by department.

Central Power: Haugen-Hoffart reported on Central Power matters. The 2014 preliminary budget is under review. Haugen-Hoffart is serving in the union negotiation committee. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative 2015-2024 Financial Forecast was reviewed and discussed, as well as the forecast assumptions.

NDAREC: There will be no meeting until next week. The grand opening for the Heritage Center is scheduled for Nov. 2, 2014.

Mid-West: New members on the Resolution Committee are appointed. Nygren is running for re-election to the board.

Region IV: Topics of interest discussed at the Region IV meeting were reviewed, including new technologies and activities of neighboring states.

Director Vilhauer was awarded his Board Leadership certificate.

A motion was made to increase the Board per diem to $300 and financial review committee to $25, effective Oct. 1, 2014. It was seconded and the motion carried.

CoBank director election: The board will review the candidates for director and conduct a vote by email the first week in September.

Basin after hours: National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) and Basin Electric are working together to standardize the nightly data extract to Basin Electric for after-hours support for their mutual co-ops.

After an NISC data fix, we are in the process of testing this at Capital Electric.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.

C8 NOVEMBER 2014 ■ CAPITAL ELECTRIC NEWS

C8 NOVEMBER 2014 ■ CAPITAL ELECTRIC NEWS

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
4111 State St. N.
Bismarck, ND 58503
Website: www.capitalelec.com
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Dwight Wrangham, Pres. ..........Bismarck
Arlene Olson, V. Pres. ..............Wing
David Liuska, Sec.-Treas. ..........Wing
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Asst. Sec.-Treas. ..........Wing
Rodney Eckroth  ....Bismarck
Deon Vilhauer  ..........Bismarck
Ordean “Lars” Nygren, Mgr. ....Bismarck
NDAREC:
Website: www.capitalelec.com
NOVEMBER 2014
CAPITAL ELECTRIC NEWS www.capitalelec.com

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
4111 State St. N.
Bismarck, ND 58503
Website: www.capitalelec.com
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Dwight Wrangham, Pres. ..........Bismarck
Arlene Olson, V. Pres. ..............Wing
David Liuska, Sec.-Treas. ..........Wing
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Asst. Sec.-Treas. ..........Wing
Rodney Eckroth  ....Bismarck
Deon Vilhauer  ..........Bismarck
Ordean “Lars” Nygren, Mgr. ....Bismarck
OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday : 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Office phone: 701-223-1513
Toll-free: 888-223-1513
Pay-By-Phone: 1-877-853-5928
DAY—NIGHT—WEEKEND
TROUBLE CALL: 223-1513

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative