

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COMMENTS

Capital Electric Cooperative • Bismarck, N.D. 701-223-1513 or 888-223-1513 1-877-853-5928 Pay-By-Phone www.capitalelec.com AUGUST 201

LOVE AND LIFE, before and after the lights came on

Before there was electricity, farm families hauled water, milked cows, pitched hay and cranked the cream separator — all by hand. In this month's local pages, meet **Marvin** and **Marline Hochhalter**, who are Capital Electric Cooperative members from Wing, and learn how electric service improved their quality of life on the farm.

AUGUST 2014 IN THIS ISSUE

- Members share memories of life on the farm
- Celebrate North Dakota's anniversary
- Youth Tour recap
- •Meeting minutes ... and more

HARD WORK — AND A SENSE OF HUMOR —

eased the challenges of farming the 'old-fashioned way' BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Editor's note: North Dakota will be celebrating 125 years of statehood on Nov. 2. In honor of their heritage, Capital Electric Cooperative members will be sharing their history and memories in the local pages of North Dakota Living over the next several months.



In November, Capital Electric Cooperative members **Marvin** and **Marline Hochhalter** will celebrate 65 years of marriage. This photo was taken in 2006. Marvin still owns the tractor and drives it in the Wing parade.



Marline Hochhalter grew up in the city, and everything about life on the farm was new to her. Many times over the years when she was milking cows or making sausage, Marline says she thought the Lord had left her. This photo was taken in 1958.

arvin Hochhalter and Marline Schuh were born on farms northeast of Regan in the Capital Electric Cooperative service area. Their families moved to town in the mid 1930s and lived close to one another, and the kids became friends. Marvin hung out with Marline's brothers, and as she recalls, he was rather mean to her and her girlfriends. She would later marry him to get even.

Marline's parents, Henry and Helen Schuh, moved to Oregon with the family when she was in the third grade. Her father took a job with the Works Progress Administration (renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939), the largest and most ambitious American New Deal agency that employed millions of people to carry out public works projects.

Marvin's parents, Dave and Mary Hochhalter, returned to farming in the 1940s, and Marvin farmed with them until he was 23 years old. He remembers when the linemen worked their way out to the farm, setting poles and stringing power lines. The farm was energized around 1949.



This old chicken coop behind the Hochhalter house started as a homestead shack.

"I remember when the lights came on. Across the countryside, you could see everybody had a yard light. It kind of all lit up," he says. "And now, it's dark again. The farms are few and far in between. There have been a lot of changes."

Marvin says electricity changed nearly everything about farming and greatly improved their quality of life. Prior to getting electricity, they carried lanterns wherever they went, and everything was done by hand, using a pitchfork and scoop shovel.

"Farming was not easy because everything was done the old-fashioned way," he says.

The bathrooms were outside. Marvin says a person didn't spend much time out there in the winter.

The Hochhalters milked cows by hand, and made cream and butter that they stored in the well to keep cool. Marvin says the first appliances the family bought when they got electricity were a fridge and deep freeze.

That same year, Marvin and some friends decided to visit friends in Portland and Salem, Oregon. Marline jokes he should have stayed home.

The two reunited and married, and returned to North Dakota to farm. But only two weeks later, Marvin left for the military. He served in Korea for two years, starting in 1950. He returned to the farm and to his bride,

who was missing life in the city. Marline says everything about life on the farm was new to her, and she didn't know how to do anything.

The couple moved to their current farm north of Wing in 1957. While the farm had electric service from Capital Electric Cooperative, the couple still milked about 15 cows by hand until they eventually got milk machines. Marline learned to milk the gentlest cow.



Greg Hochhalter, son of Marvin and Marline, took rides on the family's washing machine during spin cycles, the city.

"Every morning they'd come in, and then I couldn't remember which cow I was milking! They all looked the same to me," she laughs.

From milking and getting slapped with a sloppy tail to watching a mother lick a newborn calf, to learning how to butcher and make sausage, life on the farm was often overwhelming for Marline.



The **Marvin** and **Marline Hochhalter** family include children, from left: **Steve**, **Diana**, **Susie** and **Greg**. They also have 11 grandchildren and more than 20 great-grandchildren who like to hear stories about what life was like growing up without electricity.



Winters on their farm north of Wing were especially hard. There were many years with an abundance of snow, but Marvin and Marline Hochhalter say they didn't have many power outages. Living just a few miles from a Capital Electric Cooperative substation has its benefits.

"I thought the Lord forgot me," she says.

She persevered, and the couple had four children: Steve, Diana, Greg and Susie.

Life got easier as they added appliances to the home. They bought their first fridge with a motor on top, and still have it in their basement today. They traded their coal stove for a gas cook stove. Marvin remembers driving to the mine east of Wilton to get coal, and buying enough to last for part of the winter. He says it was a dirty job; one he doesn't miss.

The couple built their current house in 1965. In addition to farming, Marvin drove the school bus for many years.

Fourteen years ago, Marvin and Marline retired and

moved to Bismarck. They frequently return to the farm during the warmer months, to cut the grass and enjoy the peace Marline has come to appreciate.



Some of the couple's first appliances included a refrigerator and range. Marvin says they were purchased around 1953.

After they moved to Bismarck, people would often ask Marline if she misses the farm. Her answer was always, no — not really.

"I think it's because I know the farm is still ours," she says.

Capital Electric Cooperative thanks Marvin and Marline Hochhalter for sharing their love and lives.



Celebrate North Dakota's 125th anniversary

Join us for two statewide signature events on Saturday, Aug. 16, and Sunday, Nov. 2, the state's official 125th birthday. The August event will be held on the Capitol grounds and will showcase the best of North Dakota with home-grown entertainment, food, fine arts and games. Entertainment includes Tigirlily, Chuck Suchy, The Burning Hills Singers, The Blenders, Mitch Malloy, Robby Vee, Jessie Veeder, Dakota Air, Keith Bear, Kevin Locke and Greg Hager.

For a complete list of events, visit http://history.nd.gov/ northdakota125.html. **CEC**



Capital Electric maintains outpost in Wing

Capital Electric Cooperative's service center in Wing has been a vital link in providing fast and efficient electrical service to our membership in Burleigh and Sheridan Counties. Rural consumers from McClusky to Wing rely on the linemen stationed there to respond quickly if there is an outage. While the line crews from Bismarck are always available if needed, the Wing two-man "crew," including Lead Lineman Rick Gieser and Apprentice Lineman Jesse Goehring, are always nearby to take care of line construction, maintenance and outages.

CAPITAL CREDIT CLAIMS

Listed below are the names of former Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June of the year 2008. These checks have been returned to Capital Electric Cooperative by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Capital Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. any time during the year 1992 and your name is on this list, please contact our office. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. any time during the year 1992, please have them contact our office at 701-223-1513.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it, and clear up our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2014. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2014 will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

AMYOTTE, MYRA ANDERSON, DAVID W. ANDERSON, GARY ANDERSON, KAREN BAKER, PAULINE BAKER, RICHARD BARNHARDT, BRENDA BAUER, JASON N. BEAUCLAIR, MICHELLE M. BECKER, TED BENDER, BRUCE **BENJAMIN**, GLADYS BLOOM, JOYCE M. BONINE, BRET J. BONINE, KIMBERLY S. BOOTH, JUDSON M. BORCHERT, AUGUST BRAATEN, DUANE D. BRADLEY, GARY BROWN, FRANK N. BROWN, JOAN BUCHAN, EVERETT BUS SERVICES INC. CBA WHOLESALE CHRISTENSEN, JEAN COHAN, DAN CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATES IN CORNOG, MARCIAA. CREATIVE PRODUCTS DAYSPRING BAPTIST DEMSKY, G.A. DEMSKY, KATHY DENGEL, HARLAN F. DEWALD, MONICA DIETZ, DEAN R. DINIUS, GEORGE L. DINIUS, MARILYN M. DIZAYEE, AHMED EADES, JIMMY D. ENGELHARDT, JERRY A. FAITH INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHUCH FARRELL, KEITH FIRST TRUST COMPANY

2ND NOTICE – AUGUST 2014

FONTENOT, JOHNNIE W. FRANK, GENE FREADHOFF, KIRK FRENCH, CRAIG ALAN. FROHLICH-MILLER, KIM GARRETT, DANAE L. GELLNER, EDITH J. GELLNER, MARTIN A. GLASS, LESLIE GOYNE, DAVE P. GRUBB, TERRI HALL, LORI A. HALVORSON, LORA HARTMAN, REUBEN A. HAYDEN, GARY HILKEN, MERWYN HORNBERGER, MARLYN HOUSTON, ADELINE HUNNICUTT, MARY HYTTINEN, KATINA J M C INVESTMENTS JENSEN, MARK JOB, MARK J. JONES, JANET M. **K/J ENTERPRISES** KELLERMAN, KAREN L. KEMP, FRANK W. KESSLER, SHARON KIRBY, JAMES A. KIRKEY, WALTER KLUTH, EDWARD W. KUNTZ, ED KUNTZ, MICHELLE KURIHARA, CATHERINE M. KVEUM, LEONA LANDGREBE, LORI LANG, TOM LERVOLD, VIOLET J. LICHTENWALTER, ANGELA R. LICHTENWALTER, ERNEST R. LINCOLN CABLE TV LIND, RICHARD M & M PIZZA FACTORY MARTIN, GEORGE A.

MAT PAC WRESTLING CLUB MCILROY, SHELLIE MCKAY, DALINDA MEAD, EUGENE D. MEIDINGER, ANN MEREDITH NEW HERITAGE MEYER, DEBRA MISSOURI VALLEY SPEEDWAY MOHN, DENIS J. MORRISON, LLOYD G. MOSBRUCKER, PHILIP MUELLER, DEAN A. NEIL-URBAN, SHERRY NELSON, CARRIE NELSON, MICHAEL ODERMANN, NANCY OKSENDAHL, JOANN M. ORTH, TOM OVERSON, CLAUDIA PIETZ, DAWN PIETZ, RICHARD POLIVODA, NADEZHDA POLIVODA, VASILIY PRICE CONSTRUCTION PRICE HAULER INC. RAUGHT, ARLENE RAYGO, BEATRICE RAYWALT, KELLY REISENAUER, LAURA RENSCHLER, BRENDA S. REUPPEL, DIANNE M. RHONE, KATHY RITTENBACH, KELLY ROBERT'S INC. ROBINSON, MARK D. ROBINSON, WM A. ROEDER, JAMES SAFEAIR SYSTEMS SCHERR, ALVINA C. SCHILL, DAMUS L. SCHILL, ELIZABETH SCHMIDT, BRIAN SCHMIDT, VALENTINE

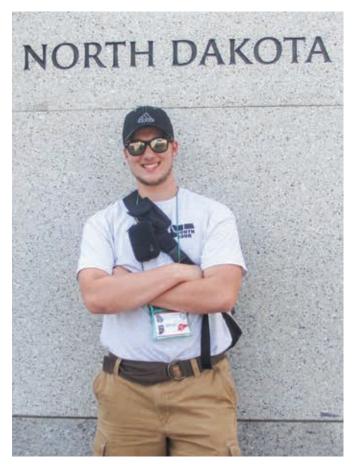
SCHNEIDER, DAVID M.

SCHNEIDER, NADINE SCHNITZLER, ALLEN SCHNITZLER, CAROL SENNIE, DELLA SHAFER, DANIEL J. SHAFIR, GLENN J. SHULTZ, LORRAINE SMITH, CARLA J. SODERFELT, AL SPERLE, JOE STUART, RUSSELL THIBERT, DELENA US WEST NEW VECTOR GROUP VANDERBILT, MONICA VANDERBILT, STEVEN VETTER, LINDA F. VONDAL, LORI WALL, LEN WHITE, LONNIE C. WHITE, SHEILA M. WILDROSE PROPERTIES WILHELM, DAN P. WILSON, DONALD J. WILZ, WILLIAM J. WUNDER, JOHN WYNSTRA, BETTY ZUBROD, TOM

OF ND

'PUTTING EVERYTHING TOGETHER' Youth Tour enhances classroom learning

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Ben Strombeck represented Capital Electric Cooperative on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., in June. He is the son of co-op members Lynn and Kathy Strombeck, Bismarck.

f at first you don't succeed, try again. Last year, Ben Strombeck entered the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour essay-writing contest, and hoped to represent Capital Electric Cooperative on the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. The co-op received several thoughtful essays, and another student won.

An upcoming senior at Bismarck High School, Ben was encouraged to enter the essay-writing contest again by his father, who read about the tour in the local pages of his *North Dakota Living* magazine last fall. He did, and this time he won — and earned an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., courtesy of his family's co-op.

The son of Lynn and Kathy Strombeck, who are Capital Electric members from south Bismarck, Ben wrote an essay addressing the following question: "Many North Dakota electric cooperatives are or will soon be celebrating their 75th anniversaries. Describe how rural electrification and rural electric cooperatives have contributed to the quality of life in North Dakota and your local community."

In his essay, Ben wrote that North Dakota has some of the richest soils and hard-working people who rely on electricity to make a living on their farms and ranches. He wrote, "A farm family in North Dakota no longer has to worry about our brutally cold winters, early calving, lateseason harvests that need drying and more, because rural electrification has eased those burdens considerably for today's farm and ranch families."

Ben also described how jobs in the energy industry are in high demand; many of which offer good pay and a secure work environment. He also discussed how rural electric cooperatives are serving the oil patch in western North Dakota, and provide vital power that keeps moving an industry and economy forward.

Bens says he was surprised — and thrilled — to learn he earned a seat on this year's Youth Tour. While on the weeklong trip this past June, Ben says seeing the monuments and memorials exceeded his expectations. He had been to Washington, D.C., for the National Boy Scout Jamboree a few years ago, but wasn't given the opportunity to sight-see. This time, he says his days were 100 percent packed with walking, exploring and networking.

The Smithsonian museums were one of his favorite stops. Ben says he's learned a lot about history by watching the Discovery and History channels. But touring the museums and actually seeing the "different mysteries behind articles" made history become reality.

Another highlight was seeing the actual offices within the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The group met Sen. John Hoeven, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp and Rep. Kevin Cramer, posed for photos and visited about issues affecting North Dakota. Ben says Sen. Heitkamp spent the most time with the students, and discussed a variety of topics including oil and coal.

"She left the conversation open to students, and we asked the questions," he says.

The group shared concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency and emissions from coal-fired power plants. They all agreed the nation needs to look to the future, but to stay in touch with what is feasible and affordable now.

"She told us we need to start pushing more math and science careers, so we can start figuring out these challenges for the future," Ben shared.

Students from across the nation also attended a rally. Each state was recognized, and when the state of North Dakota was announced, Ben says his group exploded with cheers.

"It was really cool to see how everyone was here for the same reason. They all participated in a similar contest and got selected," he describes. The students sat through two presentations, including an inspirational speaker who suffered from a disability, and another who described the cooperative business model and how co-ops work together to keep power affordable and reliable.

Overall, Ben says the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour was "pretty amazing."

"I expected what I got — and more," he says.

Ben expressed gratitude to the Capital Electric Cooperatives board of directors and membership for supporting the program and giving him a once-in-a lifetime opportunity on the Youth Tour.

"It was definitely life-changing. It was probably one of the most amazing trips I've been on, as far as meeting new people, coming together and learning a bunch of things," he says. "My junior year, I took a history class and filled out worksheets. This summer in Washington, D.C., we went to the [Smithsonian] museum and saw exhibits of all the things I learned in class, from the Watergate scandal to the JFK assassination. It was awesome to see. The Youth Tour helped me put it all together." **CE**

Meet **Ben Strombeck**

An upcoming senior at Bismarck High School, Ben Strombeck participates in many extracurricular sports and activities including wrestling, track and Spanish Club. He is currently finalizing his Eagle Scout ranking, which has been one of his long-term goals, and working for Bismarck Parks and Recreation, monitoring open gym and an afterschool program for grade-schoolers called BLAST. Ben plans to attend North Dakota State University next year, and major in a form of engineering.



Youth Tour celebrates 50 years

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour celebrated its 50th anniversary June 14-20, and North Dakota's electric cooperatives sent a record 15 students. For the first time, Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, Edgeley and Milnor, sponsored a student. Cass County Electric Cooperative, Fargo, sponsored two students. The group traveled to Washington, D.C., and joined 1,600 students from across the nation to learn about America's government, history and electric cooperatives.

While on the annual tour, students participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump-started their national peer network and toured Washington, D.C. New to this year was a partnership with Points of Light and generationOn to launch a student service-project grant program. One winner from each state will be selected to receive a \$500 grant to fund an existing service project or jump-start a new one.

Education is a fundamental principle of electric cooperatives. Boards of directors and managers say they believe it is imperative to help students understand the democratic process and gain the skills necessary to become tomorrow's leaders. By sponsoring the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. North Dakota's electric cooperatives are helping high school students experience government firsthand by visiting Washington, D.C., meeting their representatives and senators, and building a better understanding of our country and their role as engaged citizens.

For more information about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, visit www.ndyouthtour.com or www.youthtour.coop. **CEC**

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CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE board minutes report

Board minute excerpts June 23, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, June 23, 2014, at 9 a.m. at Capital Electric headquarters in Bismarck.

Minutes and agenda: President Wrangham called the meeting to order. With two corrections noted to the minutes and without objection, the agenda and the minutes as corrected at the May 23, 2014, board meeting were approved.

The Chairman welcomed new member Bill Patrie to the board.

Financial review (May 2014): Prior to the board meeting, Directors Hilken and Kramer reviewed the May 2014 check register and expenditures. Hilken reported that all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the May expenditures in the amount of \$2,813,489.10.

Business department report: The Business Manager reviewed the May financial and statistical report with the Board. The total kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales for May 2014 were above budget by 6.0 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is up 9.3 percent from budget. Year-to-date, KWH sales are up from budget by 6.4 percent, and electric revenue is \$13,348,445 versus the budgeted revenue of \$12,441,756, over budget by 7.3 percent. The financial margin for May is \$37,208, versus the budgeted margin of \$377,366, below budget by 46 percent. The year-to-date margin is \$566,146, under budget by \$340,158.

In May, 89 new services were billed, bringing active services to 17,881 versus 17,196 at this time last year. This is a net increase of 685 accounts over the last 12 months.

The Business Manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses for the month of May and for the year to date through May 2014. Accounts receivable balances as of June 20, 2014, were reviewed.

Central Power Electric Cooperative consolidation: The attorneys for consolidation are working with management of both cooperatives to prepare modified paperwork, as it relates to selecting specific notes to be transferred.

Imaging system: We continue to progress in testing our National Information Solutions Cooperative Vault Imaging System, having tested service order and work order imaging.

Capital credits: 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:

Arthur Moldenhauer	\$350.84
Sheldon Adams	\$401.44
Nona Todd	\$290.12
Thomas M. Brown	\$1,245.01
Floyd Halverson	\$1,169.39
Joe Stein	\$336.49
Norbert J. Berning	\$1,076.78
Lorina Schantz	\$376.38
Marion Brunsoman	\$377.99
Todd Mueller	\$192.62
John & Bonnie Stiles	\$159.11
TOTAL	\$5,976.17

Engineering and operations report: The manager reviewed the written report from the engineering and operations department. This month 56 work orders were completed, adding 89 new consumers to the system.

Dueco Inc. was at Capital Electric the week of June 16 to 20 inspecting and servicing our bucket trucks.

Fisher Contracting and Third Generation continue line extensions, new construction cable and cable replacement.

Work has begun on both Wing and Erickson substations as we are putting up a building at both subs for SCADA control.

Member services department: ERC loan: There are no Energy Resource Conservation loans for review this month.

Photovoltiac pasture well project: A pasture well single-phase tap for north of Driscoll is floating in a lake this spring. Poles are down and the water is deep. We have considered bringing in a new overhead line from another direction, but at a cost of \$40,000. Another solution, with Verendrye Electric's help, is a solar-powered well. The plan is to replace the pump with a pump compatible with the solar array system to power it. A battery system may also be included to allow for pumping on cloudy days. While this project is still on the drawing board, we hope to get it up and running by mid-July. It is proposed that Capital Electric provide an operating installation, protected by heavy posts and corral panels, and using the well and existing tank. Maintenance on the arrays, storage tank and above-ground electrical would be the cooperative's responsibility. Maintenance on the submersible pump and corral panels surrounding the site would be the owner's responsibility. It was the consensus of the Board to move ahead and get this project done.

Communications and public relations department: Wes Engbrecht reviewed the written report from the communications and public relations department.

July 4th parade: The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives will again have an entry in the Mandan Parade on July 4.

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

Matt Hagen injured his thumb when a tree branch that he was cutting flipped over and hit him on the hand.

Menard's Public Service Commission (PSC) hearing: Oral arguments will be scheduled before the PSC. Issues to be discussed will be identified.

Central Power report: Haugen-Hoffart reported on Central Power matters. Some of the easement issues are being resolved.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative: The Board reviewed the written summary for the Basin Electric Board of Directors meeting. Highlights included the following: Basin Electric had a good month and margins are up from budget; proposed Environmental Protection Agency regulations are under review; and office space is becoming an issue.

The next Basin Electric Member Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 23 and 24, 2014. We anticipate hearing about rates at this meeting.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): No meeting until July. Capital Electric Annual Meeting follow-

up: The annual meeting wrap-up went well. The 2015 annual meeting date is reserved at the Ramkota for June 2.

Mid-West Electric: Reservoirs are being filled that give a better chance for generation. There are two new board members at Mid-West Electric.

RESCO: Election for the Director position will take place at the July NDAREC meeting. It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize Liuska to cast a ballot.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) regional meeting: The NRECA regional meeting is scheduled for Sept. 10 and 11, 2014, in Minneapolis, Minn. The following delegates and alternates were appointed:

NRECA regional delegate – Eckroth NRECA regional alternate – Liuska CFC delegate – Patrie CFC delegate – Olson

Federated delegate – Vilhauer

Federated alternate – Eckroth

NISC delegate – Hilken

NISC alternate – Wrangham

RESCO delegate – Olson

RESCO alternate – Eckroth

CoBank director election: Nominees have been selected.

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

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 4111 State St. N. Bismarck, ND 58503 Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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DAY-NIGHT-WEEKEND TROUBLE CALL: 223-1513