



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

VOL. 43 – NO. 12

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

OCTOBER 2008

Operation Round Up® grants total \$10,500

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 17 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$10,500.

Since its inception in 1993, Operation Round Up grants totaling \$312,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 90 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

Four area emergency services providers received grants. The Goodridge Fire and Rescue received \$2,000 for purchasing a CPR rescue dummy and an imaging camera to aid in rescue and fire calls. The Thief River Falls Fire Department received \$500 to purchase new communication equipment. The Red Lake Falls Fire Department received \$1,020 to purchase new paging equipment. The

Polk County Mounted Posse Search and Rescue Unit received \$600 to help replace batteries in their portable radios.

Area youth will benefit from Operation Round Up grants made to the following organizations: Thief River Falls and Pennington County Safety Camp received \$500 to help carry out their program which will teach children safety concepts (3209001.06 Mike and Dawn Archibald) in a hands-on learning environment; Early Childhood Family Education of Plummer received \$250 for their 3rd annual health fair; Red Lake Falls Early Childhood Family Education received \$300 for handouts at their annual safety camp; Little Brother/Little Sister program of Marshall County received \$300 for their youth program activities which involves pairing positive adult role models with children in need of their support; and the Thief River Falls public library received \$480 to help them purchase multi-sensory learning kits for children in grades 3-5.

The First Care Medical Hospice of Thief River Falls was granted \$1,000 for hospice services provided to terminally ill patients. A \$300 grant was made to the Strandquist Area Food Shelf to purchase food for the needy. Boy Scout Troop 59 of Thief River Falls received \$500 toward three Eagle Scout projects that will collectively work toward the completion of a Veterans' Memorial Garden Park in Thief River Falls.

Three holiday gift programs were each given grants to purchase Christmas gifts for needy children and adults. Marshall County Social Services received \$500 for Christmas gifts for needy children and food baskets for the needy. \$500 was given to Red Lake County Salvation Army for Christmas giving to needy children in Red Lake County, that was formerly administered by Inter-County Nursing Service. Christmas for Pennington County received \$500 for their gift giving to needy children program.

The Violence Intervention Project in Thief River Falls received



Goodridge Area Fire and Rescue was the recipient of a \$2,000 grant from Operation Round Up funds. The grant will be used to provide continuing education for first responders and fire fighters. A CPR rescue training dummy will be purchased and an imaging camera will eventually be purchased to aid in fire calls. Accepting members of the Goodridge Fire and Rescue squad are, front from left, Doug Horachek, fireman; Heidi Horachek, first responder; Renae Marquis, first responder; back, the late Doyle Nelson, assistant fire chief and board chairman; Dale Hanson, fire chief and first responder; Brian Jones, fireman and first responder. Ninety percent of Red Lake Electric Cooperative's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly electric bill to provide funds for the Operation Round Up program. Since 1993, Operation Round Up grants have totalled \$312,000 to area community and non-profit organizations.

\$750 for their Umbrella Tree program that provides supervised child visitations. Early Childhood Family Advocate Program of Thief River Falls received \$500 to assist in their work with families who have children who are at risk for abuse or neglect.

The Red Lake Electric Trust

Board (3813013.05 Bruce Larson) of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September.

Serving on the board are Kim Swanson of Thief River Falls, president; Bonnie Cote of Trail, vice president; and Rodney Hoffinan of Goodridge, secretary and treasurer.

Ex-officio directors are Henry Wieland and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.



First Care Medical Service Hospice Fundraising Coordinator Kelley Rogalla, left, accepts a \$1,000 grant from Kim Swanson, president of the Red Lake Electric Trust. First Care Medical Service will use the grant for travel expenses for staff and volunteers to deliver hospice care in patients homes in Marshall, Pennington and Red Lake Counties. Red Lake Electric Trust awarded 17 grants to area non-profit and community organizations totalling \$10,500.

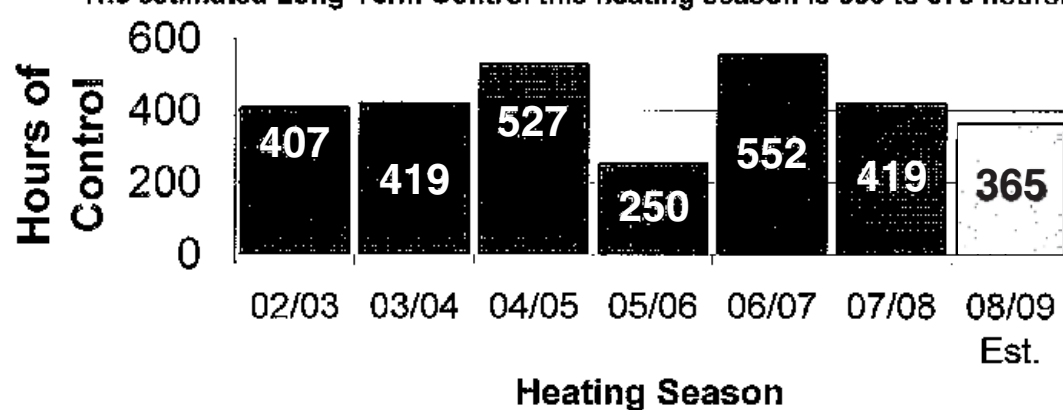
QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The chart below shows the amount of Off-Peak control time for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's customers over the past six heating seasons, and the expected control time for this winter. Off-Peak loads are controlled when the demand for electricity exceeds generation capacity. This load control system has enabled the Minnkota Power Systems to better utilize its electric generation facilities and avoid costly generation to cover peak loads. In turn, Red Lake Electric Cooperative has passed these savings on to its customers. The amount of load control is expected to be less this winter because of additional wind generation capacity added to Minnkota Power Systems generation resources.

Off-Peak Long-Term Control Hours

The estimated Long-Term Control this heating season is 300 to 375 hours.



The Red Lake Falls Volunteer Fire Department recently received a \$1,020 grant from Operation Round Up. The money will be used to purchase new paging equipment. Accepting the grant is fire chief Chad Schmitz, left, and fireman Paul Knott.

The co-op difference: owned by our members, committed to our communities

Cooperatives have a special commitment to helping their members and their communities adapt to the times. That's because cooperatives, unlike many businesses, are locally owned and operated through a democratic business structure. Red Lake Electric Cooperative has operated under this principle for 70 years.

Cooperatives are motivated by service to their mem-

bers, not by profit. Cooperatives return surplus revenues, known as margins (income over expenses and investment), to (3726007.05 Troy W. Bates) members proportionate to their use of the cooperative, not proportionate to their ownership share. Red Lake Electric Cooperative members share in the distribution of capital credits.



In recognition of Co-op Month, Red Lake Electric Cooperative will award five \$50 energy credits. A random drawing of all members' names will be conducted Oct. 31. Energy credit winners will be notified.



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck

October is Cooperative Month

The plentiful rain our area has received of late had me thinking of a postcard I once saw of a husband and wife seated in a small boat, fishing together in the rain. The wife, apparently unhappy about being in the boat, quips to her husband, "Please remind me again of how much fun we are having, I keep forgetting." Those words of the fishing spouse were words of encouragement to me to write something about Cooperatives this month, even though most of us have heard the story before, a time or two.

October is "Co-op Month," a time of year our country has set aside to recognize and celebrate, if not remind our selves, about the benefits of the Cooperative way of doing business. It is also an opportunity time for us who are seasoned in the Cooperative way of doing

business, to share the Co-op story with our younger folks; tell them why there is a Red Lake Electric Cooperative and other Cooperative businesses throughout the country.

We can tell them that Cooperatives play an important role in providing services in areas where no other business was willing to provide that service. Electric Cooperatives got their start in the early 1900s when (5015003.02 Korydon C. Chervestad) investor-owned utilities deemed these rural areas not profitable enough to serve. Rural Electric Cooperatives across the country serve, on average, fewer than seven customers for every mile of power lines; RLEC serves even less than that; less than two customers per mile. By comparison, investor owned utilities serve, on average, 34 customers for every mile of power lines and pub-

licly owned (municipal) utilities are at 44 customers per mile.

Revenue generated per mile shares a similar story line; Cooperatives collect \$8,500 in revenue per mile, investor-owned collect \$59,000 and publicly owned are at \$72,000.

Currently there are 865 rural electric "distribution" cooperatives across the U.S. like Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Electric cooperatives cover 75 percent of the U.S. land mass and deliver energy across 2.3 million miles of power lines to 36 million members/customers in both rural and urban America. These totals represent about 12 percent of the U.S. population in the 47 states where electric cooperatives have a presence.

There are all types of cooperative businesses, but the most common thread among them is that of



member control. Folks who benefit from the services of a cooperative have some say in what happens at their cooperative. Each member has a vote in the director elections and other issues brought to a vote of the membership. Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service area is made up of nine director districts and each year, director voting is held in three of the districts. Members in these three districts elect a director to represent their district on the board.

Each year at these Cooperative district meetings, members have an opportunity to meet with their neighbors and cooperative employees, ask questions, learn about issues facing our cooperative business and share information on how we (6914001.02 Jeff Genereux) can manage these concerns. Voting, we know, is both a privilege and an obligation. I invite you and encourage you to participate at your cooperatives membership meetings held each year. I also encourage you to get out and vote on the upcoming general election Nov. 4.

Statement of Ownership

Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, July 2, 1946, and June 11, 1960 showing the ownership management and circulation of Volts and Jolts published monthly at Red Lake Falls, Minnesota for October 1, 2008.

- The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are: Publisher, Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota; Manager, Roger Johanneck, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota (No member or stockholder holds more than one percent of the total amount of capital stock.)
- The owner is: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., Red Lake Falls, Minnesota (No member or stockholder holds more than one percent of the total amount of capital stock.)
- The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: Rural Electrification Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

/s/ Kevin W. Reich
Manager of Member Services

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of October, 2008.

/s/ Kathy LaPlante, Notary Public
Red Lake County, Minnesota

My commission expires Jan. 31, 2010

Energy efficiency tip of the month

This season, decorate with LED holiday lights, which consume 90 percent less energy than traditional miniature lights, operate 30



times longer and stay cooler (meaning increased safety when used on wreaths and trees).

From the mailbag

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you so much for the great trip to the Milton R. Young Station. It was very informative and we gained a greater appreciation and understanding of what is involved in getting electricity to consumers.

Thanks again,

John and Myrna Erickson
Red Lake Falls

DEAR RLEC:

We would like thank you for the Red Lake Electric Power Plant trip; the hospitality; the informative guides - you were awesome!!

Rudy and Helen Rude
Thief River Falls

DEAR RLE TRUST:

The Thief River Falls Library send our sincerest appreciation for the generous donation. We have just sent in the order and are very excited to assemble the Discovery Kits. We could not have done this without Operation Round Up!

Sincerely,

Thief River Falls Library Staff

DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you for donating \$500 to the Early Childhood Family Advocate program. This program helps families who have children ages 0-5 in Pennington County. ECFA will use the funds towards home visiting/family advocacy to enhance the well-being of participating families by continuing to provide additional resources. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Roxanne Zeruas, MSW, LGSW
Early Childhood Family Advocate

DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you for the \$750 grant from Operation Round Up. We will use these funds to help continue the work of "Umbrella Tree Children's Safety Center", our parent time center. Every dollar given to our work at VIP is much needed and greatly appreciated. Again, we thank the customers and the Board

of Directors of Red Lake Electric Trust, Inc. May you have a successful and safe year of operation.

Sincerely,

Sandi Bently, Executive Director
Violence Intervention Project
Thief River Falls

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the \$300 grant from Operation Round Up funds. We do appreciate your help for our Little Brother/Little Sister Program of Marshall County. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Marshall County Social Services
Norma Hvidsten
Volunteer Services Coordinator

DEAR RLE TRUST:

Thank you for the grant of \$500 which we received for the Marshall County Christmas projects. It will be used for this purpose as set forth in our application. This will certainly help our Christmas project succeed.

Sincerely,

Marshall County Social Services
Norma Hvidsten
Volunteer Services Coordinator

DEAR RLEC:

We want to express our gratitude for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's support of our week-long drug-free campaign activities during Red Ribbon Week, October 26-31.

Sincerely,

Margo Peterson
Safety Coordinator
Red Lake County Central Schools

DEAR FRIENDS AT RLEC:

Thank you for your generous \$2000 grant to support the ongoing work of the Goodridge Fire and Rescue Squad. Your help means a lot to us. We humbly accept the financial support and assure the members who donate to Operation Round Up that the gift will be used wisely.

Thanks again,

Rena Marquis
Goodridge Fire and Rescue

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for your recent gift to the Kim Knaack Music Fund. This fund is a key partner in the Northwest Minnesota Foundation's mission to make our region a better place to live and work. Thank you for supporting the mission of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the Kim Knaack Music Fund.

Sincerely,

Ritchie Houge
Vice President for Philanthropic Services

Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Bemidji

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

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



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ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

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Robert Finstad, Steven Linder, Joyce Johnson,
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Subscription Rate **\$2.50 per year**

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (99-99-99-999-99 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.



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 \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 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:

- Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
- Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
- 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 \$15 to \$21 month
First 500 KWH 8.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) 5.7¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) 6.5¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$16/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$8/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$6/month; high pressure sodium, \$7/month; mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$3.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 3.5¢/kWh long-term control, 5.0¢/kWh short-term control.

Recipe corner

Cinnamon Brownies

3/4 c. baking cocoa
1/2 tsp. baking soda
2/3 c. butter or margarine, melted, divided
1/2 c. boiling water
2 c. sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1-1/3 c. all-purpose flour
1-1/2 to 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
1 c. (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
Frosting:
6 tbl. butter or margarine, softened
1/2 c. baking cocoa
2-2/3 c. confectioners' sugar
1 to 1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/3 c. evaporated milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract

In a mixing bowl, combine cocoa and baking soda; blend in 1/3 c. melted butter. Add boiling water, stirring until thickened. Stir in sugar, eggs, vanilla and remaining butter. Add flour, cinnamon and salt. Fold in chocolate chips. Pour into a greased 13" by 9" by 2" baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes or until brownies test done. Cool. For frosting, cream butter in a mixing bowl. Combine cocoa, sugar and cinnamon; add alternately with the milk. Beat to a spreading consistency; add vanilla. Add more milk if necessary. Spread over the brownies. Yield: 3 dozen.

Cheesy Italian Bread

This tasty dish uses less sugar, salt and fat.
1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
1-1/4 c. warm water
2 tbl. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. garlic salt
1/2 c. grated Romano cheese
3 to 3-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
Cornmeal

In a mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Add sugar, salt, garlic salt, cheese and 2 c. of flour; beat until smooth. Add enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 68 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Punch dough down; divide in half. Shape each half into a 14" loaf. Place on an ungreased baking sheet that has been sprinkled with cornmeal. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 45 minutes. Brush loaves with water. Make three diagonal slashes about 1/2" deep with a very sharp knife in each loaf. Fill a 13" by 9" by 2" baking pan with 1" of hot water and place on the bottom oven rack. Preheat to 400 degrees Bake loaves for 20-25 minutes. Remove to wire racks. Yield: 2 loaves (16 slices each).

Creamy Potato Sticks

1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1-1/2 c. milk
1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of celery soup, undiluted
1/2 pound process American cheese, cubed
5 to 6 large baking potatoes, peeled
1 c. chopped onion
Paprika
In a saucepan, combine flour and salt; gradually whisk in milk until

smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; whisk in soup and cheese until smooth. Set aside. Cut potatoes into 4" by 1/2" by 1/2" sticks; place in a greased 13" by 9" by 2" baking dish. Sprinkle with onion. Top with cheese sauce. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 55-60 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Sprinkle with paprika. Yield: 6 servings.

Cream of Tomato Soup

This tasty dish uses less sugar, salt and fat.
2-1/2 c. diced peeled tomatoes
1/4 c. diced celery
1/4 c. diced onion
1 tbl. vegetable oil
2 tbl. all-purpose flour
1 c. evaporated milk
1 tsp. salt, optional
1/8 tsp. pepper
3 tbl. sour cream
3 tsp. minced fresh parsley
In a saucepan, combine tomatoes, celery and onion; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring often. Cool for 10 minutes; pour into a blender. Cover and process until smooth. In a large saucepan, heat oil; stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add milk; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Gradually stir in tomato mixture. Add salt if desired and pepper; heat through. Top individual servings with sour cream and parsley. Yield: 3 servings (3-1/2 c.).

Apricot Angel Brownies

2 bars (2 ounces each) white baking chocolate
1/3 c. butter or margarine
1/2 c. packed brown sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1/4 tsp. vanilla extract
3/4 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1 c. finely chopped dried apricots
1/4 c. sliced almonds
1/4 c. flaked coconut
In a saucepan, melt chocolate and butter over low heat, stirring constantly until all of the chocolate is melted. Remove from the heat; stir in brown sugar, eggs and vanilla until blended. Set aside. In a bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in chocolate mixture. Combine apricots, almonds and coconut; stir half into the batter. Pour into a greased 9" square baking pan. Sprinkle remaining apricot mixture on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Yield: about 2 dozen.

Veterans' Day Closing

In observance of Veterans' Day, Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11. In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number, 218-253-2200.

Thank you to all military personnel, past and present, who have served and are serving this great nation, the United States of America.

Zucchini Cake

2-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 c. sugar
1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 c. vegetable oil
4 eggs
2 c. shredded zucchini
1/2 c. chopped walnuts, optional
Frosting:
1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/4 c. butter or margarine, softened
1 tbl. milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. confectioners' sugar
Additional chopped walnuts, optional
In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Combine oil and eggs; add 10 dry ingredients and mix well. Add zucchini; stir until thoroughly combined. Fold in walnuts if desired. Pour into a greased 13" by 9" by 2" baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool. For frosting, in a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, butter, milk and vanilla until smooth. Add confectioners' sugar and mix well. Frost cake. Sprinkle with nuts if desired. Store in the refrigerator. Yield: 20-24 servings.

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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

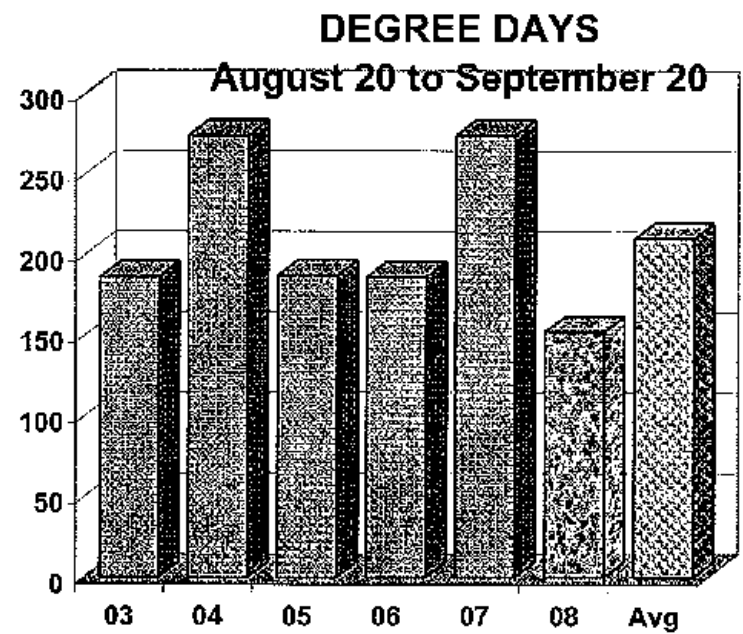
	AUGUST 2007	AUGUST 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 588,787	\$ 553,546
Total Margins	\$ (61,316)	\$ (68,141)
Cost of Power	\$ 391,359	\$ 401,686
KWH's Purchased	8,533,296	7,942,448
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 12,815	\$ 4,534

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	AUGUST 2007	AUGUST 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 5,323,858	\$ 6,057,200
Total Margins	\$ 655,303	\$ 834,508
Cost of Power	\$ 3,374,079	\$ 3,831,744
KWH's Purchased	85,035,408	93,055,635
New Service Connections	28	28
Customers Served	5,075	5,128
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 75,095	\$ 46,397
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,330	2,323
Underground	230	231

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.



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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Century farm features five generations of history

By Stacy Kleinwachter

In 2004, Edgar and Dorothy Miller celebrated with their family 100 years of their farm that Edgar's grandfather John started in 1904.

John Severen Moller (first generation) was born Sept. 24, 1879 in Stavanger, Norway. In 1894, John left Norway to come to America. The trip took three weeks. Upon arriving in America, John's name was changed from Moller to Miller to give it a more "American-friendly" name.

After months of working in shipyards in New York, John had enough money to move to Minnesota, where many other Norwegians had settled.

John married Alma Lee on Nov. 30, 1904. They lived in Thief River Falls, where they built two houses, before moving permanently to their homestead east of Goodridge. John and Alma bought land in Reiner Township for \$4 an acre.

John and Alma had four children, Elmer, born 1905, Morris, 1908, Julia, 1911, and Leonard, 1912.

As the farmstead grew, many trips to Thief River Falls were needed in order to replenish supplies. It was a three-day trip by ox cart. John and Alma farmed five quarters of land, where they raised cows, chickens, horses, pigs, turkeys, sheep and small grains such as oats, flax and corn.

John helped to construct the Reiner Church. John, Alma and their family, have been members of the church since its construction.

John also built the barn in 1927 with the help of family, friends and neighbors.

In the early 1930s, John decided that the community needed a country store, so he purchased a gas pump, a cash register and supplies for it. The country store was a place to shop for items and a place for the neighbors to visit. Customers could buy gas, oil, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, coffee, candy and syrup. The small store and gas pump are still on the farm today but are now used as a well house.

Morris (second generation) would help his father, John, on the farm.

Morris married Signe Sjulestad Sept. 6, 1930. They lived one mile south

Edgar and Dorothy Miller, front, along with their children, back from left, Gary, Jack, Shirley and MariLou celebrated 100 years of the family farm in 2004.

Members of the Miller family, from left, Leonard, Alma, Elmer, Morris (Edgar's father), John S. (Edgar's grandfather) and Julia.

Edgar stands in front of the Reiner School house, which is now the Reiner Township Hall, located east of the Miller Farm.

of John and Alma's farm. They built a small house where they lived until 1938. Their son, Edgar, was born in the house with Mrs. Pete Larson as midwife with Alma assisting. His older sister, Delores, was born at John and Alma's house.

Morris and Signe built another house on their farm in 1939.

Morris and Signe had ten children: Delores, born 1931, Edgar, 1934, Marilyn "Lyn," 1936, Richard, 1938, Sharon, 1940, Norman, 1943, Judy, 1946, Joyce, 1950, Morrie, 1952, and Gene, 1955.

Morris, Signe and their family were members of Reiner Church.

On their farm, they raised pigs, cows, chickens and grain. In 1968, they moved to Thief River Falls and sold their farm to their son Richard and his wife Judy Miller.

John died April 12, 1955. Three years later, Alma moved to Thief River Falls in 1958. She lived with Morris and Signe for a few months. Alma died Nov. 13, 1968.

Morris died July 11, 1991. Signe died April 29, 2002.

Edgar (third generation) grew up farming, helping his father, Morris, and grandfather, John. He lived with his grandparents during the school year because the school house was just east of John's farm. The school house is now the Reiner Township Hall.

Edgar married Dorothy Coan June 28, 1957. They have lived at the Miller homestead, eight miles east of Goodridge, for the past 51 years.

Dorothy grew up by Highland. She started fifth grade in Goodridge and before that she went to Old Glory country school. She graduated from Goodridge High School in 1956.

Edgar and Dorothy had four children, MariLou, born 1958, Shirley, 1960, Jack, 1961, and Gary, 1963.

Edgar and Dorothy purchased John and Alma's farm in 1969 and built a

Edgar and Dorothy Miller with their 1957 Chevrolet.

new house in 1976.

MariLou now lives on Birch Beach and has been a teacher for over 25 years. Shirley, her husband Bruce Wegley and their family are Thrivent Representatives and live one mile south of Edgar and Dorothy; while Jack, his wife Jayne and their family live one mile west and Gary and his son live one mile north.

Edgar and Dorothy have ten grandchildren, three step grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren.

The farm originally started with 160 acres and over time, the family bought land from neighbors, increasing the three farms' acreage to 3,000. Jack and Gary (fourth generation) together with their father, Edgar, own the three farms where they grow soybeans, wheat and barley, spreading out the harvest season. Jack also raises beef cattle.

Jack's son, Lucas, 16, (fifth generation), is also farming with his dad and helps his uncle and grandparents. Lucas, a sophomore at Goodridge High School, enjoys sports and hunting.

Gary's six-year old son, Holden, (fifth generation) also enjoys farming.

Over the years, the farm has seen several changes. Additions include steel grain bins for the crops, pole sheds and a repair shop. The barn was also restored with a new roof two years ago.

Dorothy worked for ten years at Valley Home in Thief River Falls as a resident aide. Both Edgar's and Dorothy's mothers were residents at Valley Home while Dorothy worked there. In the late 1960s, Edgar worked for Arctic Cat for four years doing multiple jobs after harvest was complete.

Edgar enjoys playing the accordion and piano, listening to music, doing repair work in his shop and spending time with his family. He plays his accordion at nursing homes, senior citizen dances and family functions.

Edgar and Dorothy stated that their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are their main source of entertainment.

After so much family history, "God continues to bless our farm and family," the Millers said.

The John S. and Alma Miller farm in 1949.

The Edgar and Dorothy Miller farm in 2004.

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Bin services are on the rise

A number of electrical services for grain bins have been built this year. The demand for these services have increased as farmers construct bin facilities for on-site grain storage and aeration. A Red Lake Electric crew work to complete an electric service for grain bins.



Alan Cota, lead lineman, works to connect the service wires to the transformer at the bin site. The electrical needs for aeration bins can be great in terms of amperage but short in terms of duration. Often the need only lasts for one or two months following harvest.



Troy Schmitz, lineman, makes connections to the current transformers (CTs) in the terminal box for the electric service for the grain bins. The CTs measure the amperage of the electrical load which is recorded in kilowatt hours on the meter.



Once completed, the CT electric service is a nice and neat electrical setup.



The grain bins at this site are equipped with 10 HP motors on the aeration fans. There certainly has been a need for aeration, as of late, because of the wet conditions.

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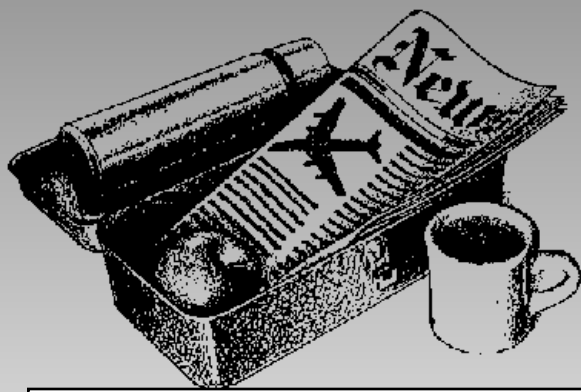
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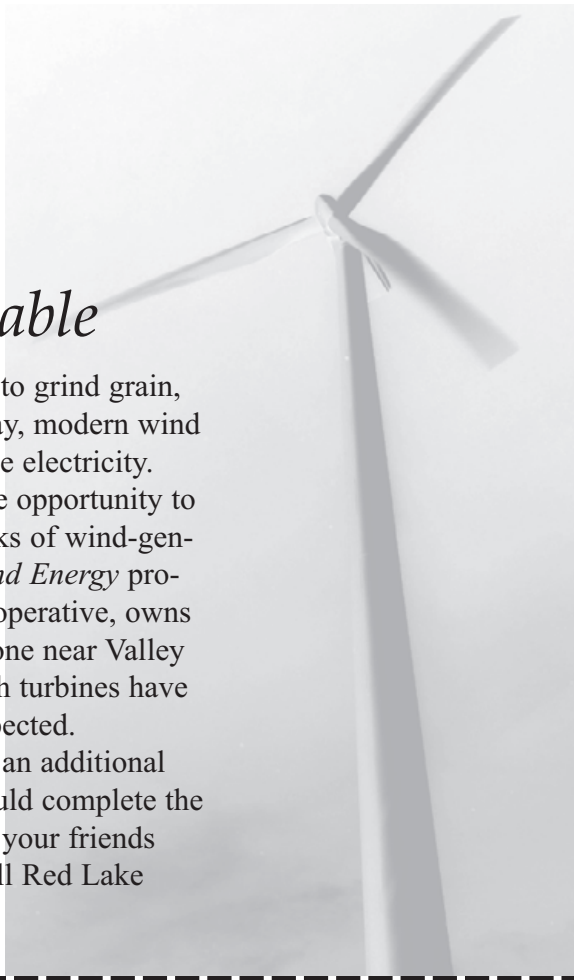


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2008  650 4x4 Auto Red, Lime, Black Starting At \$5,699	2008  700 EFI 4x4 Std. - Grn, Camo Starting At \$6,499 Special Edition Starting At \$6,699	2008  2-Rider Models 500 - G & R Starting At \$5,999 650 - Blk, R, L Starting At \$6,699	2009 PROWLERS  Most Models & Colors Available On Display!

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