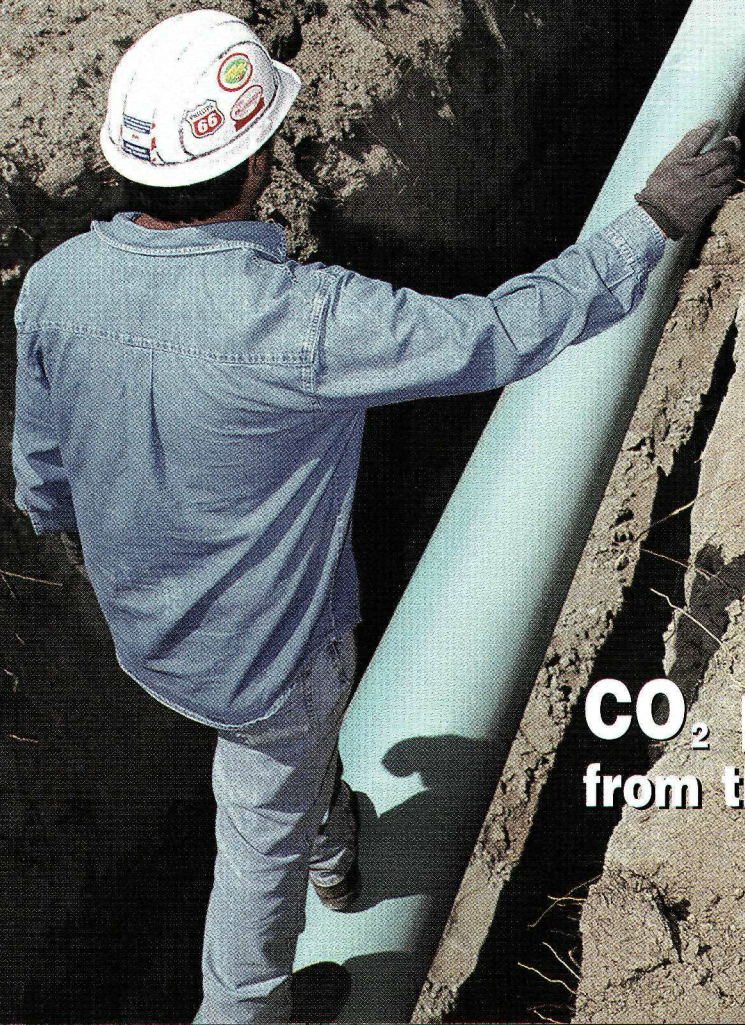


AUGUST 1999

BASIN TODAY

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE



**CO₂ pipeline update
from the trenches**

Dear readers,

Basin Electric is now 38 years old and we're all rapidly proceeding to the Year 2000. I



think it's a good time to reflect on the people this organization has been serving all these years

through its member systems. Basin Electric is just old enough to have served at least three generations, so Basin Today is looking for suggestions from you about people we should feature.

We're looking for suggestions of families of member-system consumers (two or three generations) that have operated

a family business throughout our history or longer who would make great photos and/or stories for our annual meeting video, Basin Today and the 1999 Annual Report.

From a previous request, we have received several responses from the Dakotas, but I'm challenging members from the rest of the states Basin Electric serves to contact us with their suggestions. We have received one tip from Nebraska, two from Iowa, but none from Colorado, Wyoming, Montana or Minnesota.

We are specifically looking for more suggestions including women. Do you know of any family farms, ranches or

businesses that are mainly operated or carried on by grandmothers, daughters or granddaughters served by a Basin Electric member system?

We have also received many suggestions of family farms and ranch operations, but would like to include some other types of family businesses too.

Please send your suggestions to me by phone, e-mail or regular mail at the addresses or phone number listed below. We hope to be visiting a co-op family near you in September.

Cover Photo:

A Haines Construction Co. employee helps direct a side-boom operator as the pipe for the carbon dioxide pipeline is lowered into the ditch.

BASIN TODAY is published 10 times a year for member cooperatives, Basin Electric employees and retirees, their families and others.

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**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone EnergySM Partner 

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck, ND. We operate electricity-generating plants for 119 member systems in eight states, serving approximately 1.5 million people. Basin Electric also has subsidiaries that provide Internet service and produce natural gas, chemicals, fertilizers, and lime.

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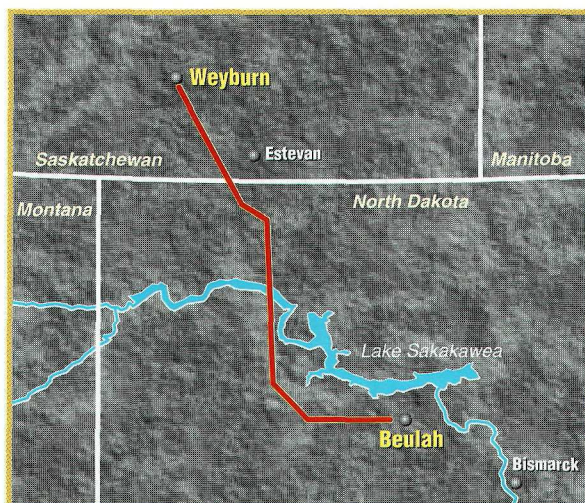
Web site: <http://www.basinelectric.com>

Letters to the editor are welcome. We will consider for publication any letters that are signed. Please include a phone number for verification.

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CO₂ pipeline construction report – from the trenches

Al Lukes, vice president and chief operating officer for Dakota Gasification Company, reports that much progress has been made on the construction of the 205-mile carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline. The pipeline being built from the Great Plains Synfuels Plant to an oilfield near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, will transport CO₂ for use in tertiary oil recovery by PanCanadian Petroleum Limited. Since the May 12 groundbreaking, an assembly-line operation has been moving along at about two miles a day. As of Aug. 2, 60 percent of the pipeline construction in the United States was completed. The entire pipe is expected to be in the ground by Oct. 1. A period of hydro testing will follow to check the pipeline for leaks. Then the line will be dried to a dewpoint of -50 degrees F to prepare it for placement into service. A story in pictures on pages 2 and 3 shows the assembly line at work and describes how a pipeline is built.



One contractor is building the 167-mile U.S. portion of the CO₂ pipeline in three spreads (stages) in the United States. The 38-mile Canadian portion of the pipeline is a separate spread that will be built by a different contractor. Construction of the Canadian portion of the pipeline is scheduled to begin Aug. 18.

continued

From clearing, grading, ditching and stringing...



1) Clearing, grading, ditching, stringing

After the clearing and grading of the right-of-way, backhoes dig the five-foot-deep ditch and the 'stringing' crew lays or 'strings' out the pipe for installation. The pipe sections average 60-feet long. The stringing crew above is unloading pipe for the project.



2) Pipe bending

The pipe is bent on-site to conform to the meandering trench (both horizontally and vertically) by a machine designed for that purpose.



4) Firing line

The firing line welds the pipe joints together.



3) Pipe gang

The pipe gang prepares the pipe for welding. They set the pipe on wooden supports for ease of handling and then solvent wash the pipe ends to rid them of dirt, mill scale and rust. They align the pipe and make the initial weld, tacking the pipe in place for the firing line to complete the weld.



5) Quality control

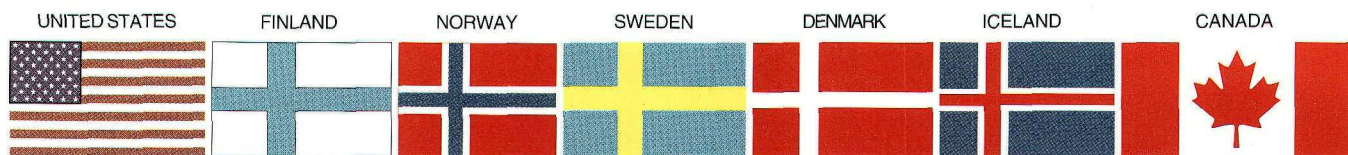
Each weld is x-rayed to ensure quality. If flaws are revealed, the defective weld is cut out and the pipe is beveled. Then the joint is welded and x-rayed again. The x-ray films are kept for the life of the pipeline. A crew follows to apply a layer of fusion-binded epoxy coating to each weld to prevent corrosion and to touch up any nicks in the coating.

... to reclamation



6) Burying the pipe and route reclamation

The pipe is lowered in the ditch with side-boom tractors using slings. Where rock is present in the ditch, shields or screened dirt is placed around the pipe to protect it. The trench is backfilled, the topsoil is replaced and the right-of-way is returned to its original contours. Revegetation is done to specifications.



Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center will debut at Norsk Høstfest



Hilsen fra Norsk Høstfest '99.
(Greetings from Norwegian
Autumn Festival '99.)

Touchstone Energy® will be in the spotlight Oct. 12-16, 1999 at *Norsk Høstfest*, the largest Scandinavian festival in the United States. Electric co-ops across the region are sponsoring the Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center where the message of electric cooperatives' — reliable power and customer service at affordable prices — will take center stage. From a small, one-time festival that began in Minot, ND, in 1978, the *Norsk Høstfest* has grown into an annual international celebration of Scandinavian history and heritage.

Cooperatives sponsoring the Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center include Great River Energy, Minnkota, Central Power, Tri-State, District 9, Arizona Electric, East River and Basin Electric.

"The Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center is an opportunity for rural electric cooperatives to have a platform for reaching people from every state in the union," says Steve Aadland, Basin Electric Strategic Support vice president

and a member of the Touchstone Energy® Executive Council. "Internationally known performers and government officials and dignitaries from Europe and the United States attend *Høstfest* each year." The event is listed on the Top 100 events for tour buses in the United States.

"*Høstfest* is a great place to meet people," Aadland adds.

Norsk Høstfest is a sprawling complex of halls and pavilions each unique to a Scandinavian country and its culture. But *Høstfest* isn't just about Scandinavians and their heritage — the festival is designed to provide attendees with maximum entertainment, dining, and social activities. Some events are targeted for people who travel to *Høstfest* in recreational vehicles (RVs). These activities include a Men's Pro Indoor Rodeo, Cowboy Breakfast, Cowboy Church, Buffalo Feed, and a Honey-smoked Pork Chop Party with dancing.

Høstfest '99 will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Leif Eriksson's North American landing. This year festival goers will see a renovated Reykjavik Hall and a new lobby christened



Høstfest artisans wear traditional costumes called *bunader*.

Leif Eriksson Millennium Hall. Thor Heyerdahl, the *Kon Tiki* voyager and renowned anthropologist, will be at *Høstfest* as will an impressive array of top-name entertainers such as The Oak Ridge Boys, The Statler Brothers, Louie Anderson, Tony Orlando, Debbie Reynolds, and Williams and Ree. In the Great Hall of the Vikings, entertainment by choirs and bands from Scandinavia and performances by Charley Pride, Myron Floren, Kerry Christensen, Bjarne Anderson, and Bjørro Haaland occur hourly.

Strolling musicians serenade shoppers in the stalls at the Viking Market. Each hall at *Høstfest* features demonstrations by world-renowned craftsmen – every aspect of culture, history, music, and social life is shared by festival goers. Home-cooked food and Scandinavian delicacies prepared by celebrity chefs are available all

day long. For those who like to kick up their heels, nightly dances are held from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Touchstone Energy® will receive 16 separate promotional opportunities. These include exposure in 50,000 *Norsk Høstfest* Visitor Guides; logo identification in 240,000 issues of a preview magazine; \$100,000 worth of advance TV, radio and print advertising; a video advertisement; a feature story in *Norsk Høstfest* magazine; a full-page ad in the Minot Daily News; and the Touchstone logo on the festival's official Web site.

Touchstone Energy® advertising will run on the Great Hall promotional screens before performances by top-name entertainers.

Come to the Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center at *Norsk Høstfest* '99 and see the power of human connections at work.

Hjertelig velkommen!
(A hearty welcome!) ✍

by Julie Slag



Touchstone Energy®

Other activities slated for the Touchstone Energy® Heritage Center

Viking Village – an encampment of Viking tents to showcase interactive demonstrations, e.g., woodcarving, utensil making, knifemaking.

North House Folk School – a school devoted to teaching the arts, crafts, and cultures of the North. Exhibit is similar in format to the Viking Village.

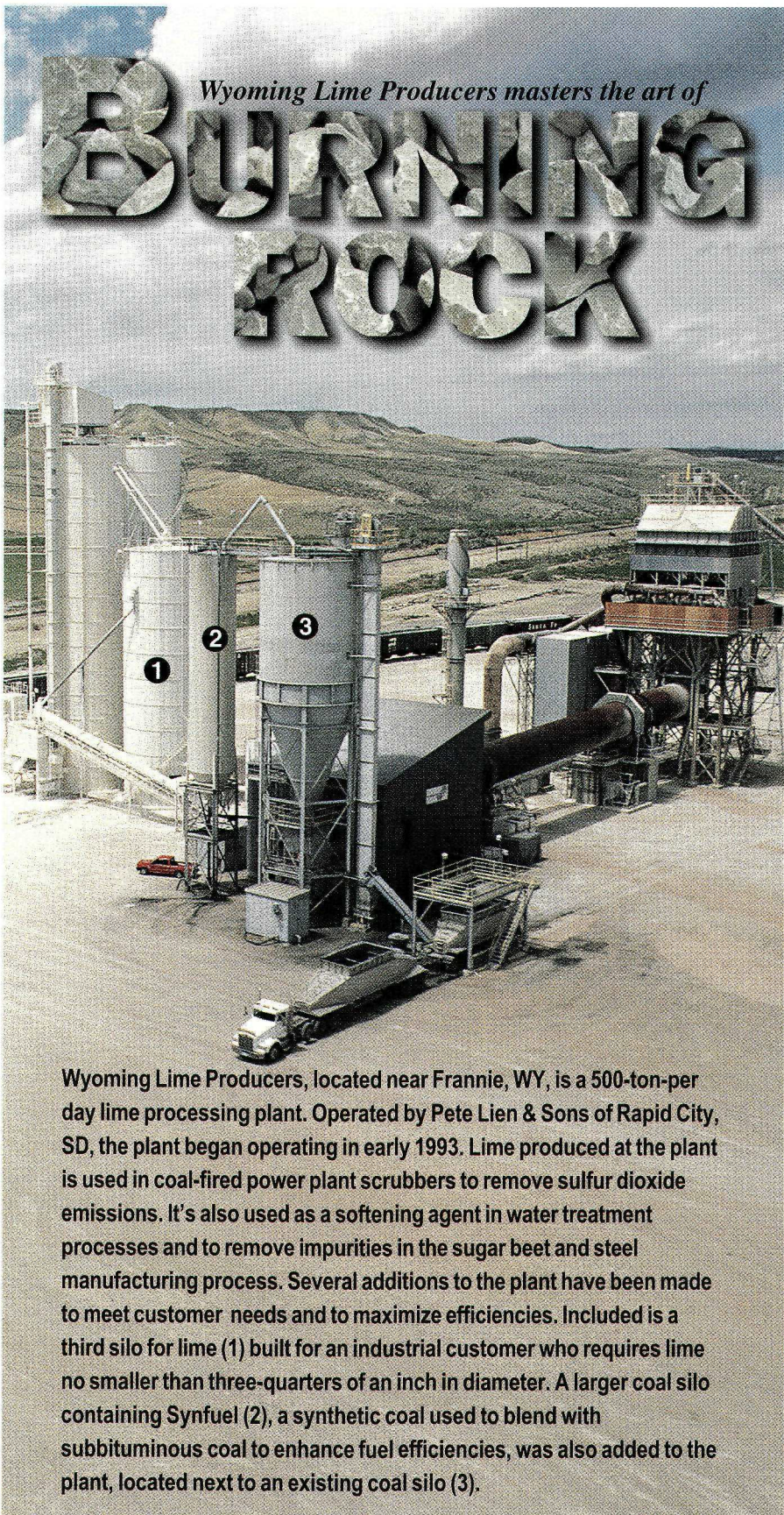
Høstfest in the Schools – appearances in area schools by creative artists and performing ensembles, and 'relatives' from Minot's Norwegian sister-city, Skien, Norway.

Hans Christian Andersen-Life and Art 1805-1875 - a national traveling exhibit, featuring 20 printed walls that illustrate the writer's life in text and images.

STARLAB production of The Sami Sky – a Sami (members of Scandinavia's indigenous population, also known as a Laplanders or Reindeer people) will guide visitors through this celestial encounter.

For information:

- Write to Norsk Høstfest, PO Box 1347, Minot, ND, USA 58702
- Ticket office hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at **701-852-2368**
- Housing information: **701-857-0500**
- Web site: www.hostfest.com
- RV Hospitality Center with coffee and donuts open Saturday, Oct. 9, noon - 5 p.m., Oct. 10-16, 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Høstfest urges RV travelers to make reservations early to secure a campsite.



Wyoming Lime Producers, located near Frannie, WY, is a 500-ton-per day lime processing plant. Operated by Pete Lien & Sons of Rapid City, SD, the plant began operating in early 1993. Lime produced at the plant is used in coal-fired power plant scrubbers to remove sulfur dioxide emissions. It's also used as a softening agent in water treatment processes and to remove impurities in the sugar beet and steel manufacturing process. Several additions to the plant have been made to meet customer needs and to maximize efficiencies. Included is a third silo for lime (1) built for an industrial customer who requires lime no smaller than three-quarters of an inch in diameter. A larger coal silo containing Synfuel (2), a synthetic coal used to blend with subbituminous coal to enhance fuel efficiencies, was also added to the plant, located next to an existing coal silo (3).

Seven years ago, construction of a limestone calcining plant began near Frannie, WY. Basin Electric built the plant so it would have access to a reliable, economical, long-term source of lime, a reagent used in scrubbers to remove sulfur-dioxide (SO_2) from coal-fired power plant flue gas emissions. Today, Wyoming Lime Producers has not only fulfilled its mission, but it has performed beyond expectations.

Owned by Dakota Coal Company, a subsidiary of Basin Electric, Wyoming Lime Producers division has proven that a devoted staff committed to excellence, safety, and plant cleanliness cultivates success in the lime industry.

Getting started

Bob Bartosh, vice president and chief operating officer of Dakota Coal Company, says the plant's operations have steadily become



Bob Bartosh

more efficient. "It took a while to understand and master the art of burning rock," he says. "We've finally arrived at how to maximize the

output of the plant by gaining new technology and by making mistakes along the way and correcting them. We're about as efficient as we're going to get."

One of the initial problems facing the plant was a reoccurring ash buildup, caused by dust left behind from the coal combustion and limestone calcining process. The dust reacts with heat and other

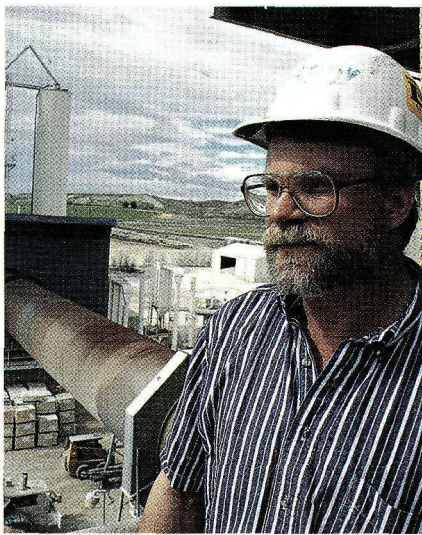
materials in the kiln, causing it to stick to the walls, eventually clogging the kiln and other process areas “The kiln was supposed to run continuously. With the ash deposits, however, we’d have to frequently shut the kiln down and clean it,” Bartosh says.

Bartosh and Randy Banning, plant manager, explored options for minimizing the ash buildup and found that changing the fuel would be the best option. “We started blending subbituminous coal, which has a high sodium content, with a synthetic manufactured coal (Syncoal),” Banning says. “Syncoal has the water stripped out and a lower sodium content. Blending the two coals has really helped our operation. We’ve shifted the location where the ash deposits.” Bartosh adds, “Now we’re able to manage the ash and have even established a continuous run record of 220 days.”

Like any new company, Wyoming Lime Producers, serviced by Big Horn Rural Electric Company of Basin, WY, has grown into its success. “We started slowly production-wise because we hadn’t achieved full market share, but we’ve been increasing our pace ever since,” Banning says. “Today we are virtually sold out.”

To maximize production, several support facilities have been added to the plant:

- Sampling systems
- A silo for oversized lime (built for an industrial customer who requires lime no smaller than three-quarters inch in diameter)



Randy Banning, Wyoming Lime Producers plant manager, says he’s really proud of the employees and their safety record.

- A larger coal silo to enhance fuel-blending capabilities
- Dust enclosure building
- New safety rails/platforms
- Additional baghouses for dust control

About 240 trees have also been planted as a fugitive dust control measure. A combination of aspen trees, cottonwood, and Colorado blue spruce were recently planted on the south and east sides of the plant. “It’s a difficult climate and soil to grow trees, but we’ve set up an irrigation system. They’ve certainly improved the appearance of the plant,” Banning says. Plans to expand the shelterbelt are in the future.

A clean plant for the community

Banning says community response to the plant has been favorable. “We’re a quiet plant. We may not be a huge employer — we employ

13 people — but we’re a good employer. We pay taxes and do other good things for the community,” he says. “We try to do as much business as we can locally to support the Park County area,” Bartosh adds.

The community’s positive reinforcement may also be attributed to Wyoming Lime Producers’ goal to keep the plant clean. “I’m really proud of what the employees have done to control the dust,” Bartosh says. “Lime dust is so fine — it’s like flour, and you can imagine what the Wyoming winds do to that.”

Banning explains, “Once lime hydrates, it turns into fine material, like flour. You try to pick it up with a bucket and it runs in front of the bucket, just like water. It’s just the nature of the beast — a really dirty beast. There are several lime plants where it’s knee-deep lime all over the facility.” But not Wyoming Lime Producers.

“We’re fortunate because we have a clean plant. When you have people with the right attitudes and strong work ethic, it’s not impossible — it just takes hard work,” Banning says.

From dust to dollars

The plant’s kiln dust is stored in an enclosed building until it is shipped to a landfill in Powell, WY. Hauling the dust to the landfill is a substantial expenditure, but a request from Montana and Wyoming for kiln dust may change that. Both states recently started requesting kiln dust from lime or cement kilns for soil remediation.

continued

Plant facts

- The kiln processes limestone from a nearby quarry at Warren, MT, into lime through a heat calcination process.
- Lime storage capacity is 2,600 tons.
- The plant has two coal silos – one silo holds 400 tons of raw coal; the other holds 120 tons of Syncoal.
- The plant is scheduled to run 24 hours per day, 345 days per year.
- The plant produced a record 147,000 tons of lime last year
- 13 individuals staff the plant
- Automatic samplers are located throughout the plant. The plant lab constantly analyzes the lime samples to ensure that high quality standards are met.
- Nine industrial customers purchase lime from the plant, including Colstrip (MT) Power Plant, operated by Montana Power Company, Butte; Rocky Mountain Steel, Pueblo, CO; Coyote Station, Beulah, ND, operated by Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, MN; Stanton (ND) Station, operated by Great River Energy, Elk River, MN; Craig (CO) Station, operated by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Denver; sugar beet processing plants in Montana and Wyoming, operated by Western Sugar and Holly Sugar; and Antelope Valley Station, Beulah, ND; and Laramie River Station, Wheatland, WY, both operated by Basin Electric.

Bartosh and Banning are excited about the cost-savings potential of providing kiln dust to Montana and Wyoming. "We incur an expense to haul about 15,000 tons of dust per year to the Park County Landfill," Bartosh says.

In Montana, the State Abandoned Mine Lands Division oversees several Superfund sites. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is using millions of dollars to reclaim certain sites in Montana. "The kiln dust from Wyoming Lime Producers is purchased by a broker and trucked to a depository near Butte (MT), so we are already avoiding several dollars of expenses," Bartosh says.

Though the EPA is the primary source of funding for the reclamation projects, Montana oversees the projects. Bartosh says Montana is proceeding slowly, but he's confident that the market for kiln dust will increase. So far, at least one company has expressed an interest in using lime to reclaim a Montana area, according to Bartosh.

"I'm just waiting for the dam to burst," he says. "There is 26 miles of creek area that needs to be reclaimed in the Butte area, which is being done a mile at a time. Additionally, there are miles of creek flood plains throughout Montana that need to be restored. Wyoming also expects to use kiln dust to neutralize oil sludge resulting from an oil processing plant at a site near Frannie. I'm

predicting these reclamation projects could last between 50 and 60 years."

Most of the reclamation sites throughout Montana were former sites of copper and other metal mines. The acids used for processing metals severely damaged the soil, leaving no opportunity for growth. Lime, a high-pH base, neutralizes the acids and metals in the soil, allowing future vegetation growth.

Bartosh and Banning's ultimate goal is to sell all of the kiln dust, so the plant doesn't have to pay for disposal. "We hope the call for the kiln dust will grow, and that there will be a year-round call for the dust," Banning says. "There's another lime plant in Montana, and all its kiln dust is sold out, so that brings us into play."

Inside the NO_x box

Despite the plant's compliance with all other environmental standards, nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions are not in compliance.

"Right now, we're in a 'NO_x box,' but the way out is two-fold," Banning says. "First, we've submitted a permit amendment that will raise the allowable NO_x for this facility. Second, we are in the process of installing a Continuous Emission Monitor (CEM) that will let us know how much NO_x we're putting out at all times."

Banning says Wyoming Lime Producers' NO_x limit is significantly lower than other lime plant's in the United States. Once the plant started producing lime at



A kiln window allows plant employees to view the lime falling into the cooler. Scott Allred, electrical/maintenance, reports to the control room that the kiln is running fine.

full capacity, Banning and Bartosh realized the NO_x limit had to be raised. "Had we more knowledge about NO_x emissions generated from lime kilns, we would have the level where it needed to be," Banning says.

Bartosh and Banning expect this matter to be resolved by early fall.

Thinking safety

Banning and Bartosh agree there are several reasons to be proud of Wyoming Lime Producers, but safety needs special recognition.

"We've had two lost-time accidents in the six years the plant has been running," Bartosh says. "I'm really proud of the workers and their safety record." Banning

adds, "We have an excellent group of employees — that's where the safety comes from. They have an excellent work attitude — just a great group of folks."

Perhaps a sticker on a hard hat worn by one of the employees best sums up Wyoming Lime Producers' attitude toward safety: "Safety is contagious. Catch it."

Wyoming Lime Producers' future

Bartosh and Banning hesitate to plan too far into the future, but they haven't ruled out expansion.

"Expansion won't happen today, because there is an excess supply of lime in the market. What could

change that, however, is the Clean Air Act," Banning says. Industries have milestones to hit within the next few years. Billings (MT) is currently tied with Pittsburgh for having the most SO_2 concentrations in the United States. "If the companies that need to reduce their SO_2 emissions start purchasing lime as a reagent, that could justify an expansion," he says.

Regardless of whether or not the plant expands, there is little doubt of its present success. "Wyoming Lime Producers has been a tremendous asset to the Basin Electric family. It fulfills the purpose for which it was intended very nicely," Banning says. ✍

by Mary Klecker

Lewis & Clark Center makes great stopover to power plant tours

Perry Oberg is an important electric co-op connection

Member systems and others planning tours to the Basin Electric North Dakota power plants should consider a stop at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center near Washburn, ND. It's a combination museum and highway rest stop and it's right on the way to the power plants for anyone coming from the south.

The Center, which opened June 1, 1997, is near Fort Mandan, where the Lewis & Clark expedition spent the winter starting in 1804. As the 200th anniversary of the journey's start approaches in 2004, thousands of visitors to the Center are expected. Fort Mandan, a mile-and-a-half north of the Center, has been reconstructed and can also be visited.

And there are electric co-op connections. McLean Electric provides the power to the 5,000 square-foot, all-electric Center and Perry Oberg, a master electrician that works for the co-op, has served on the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation

since its inception 12 years ago. He had been mayor of Washburn for about one year and self-employed at the time he was asked to be on a committee to explore the possibilities of an interpretive center.

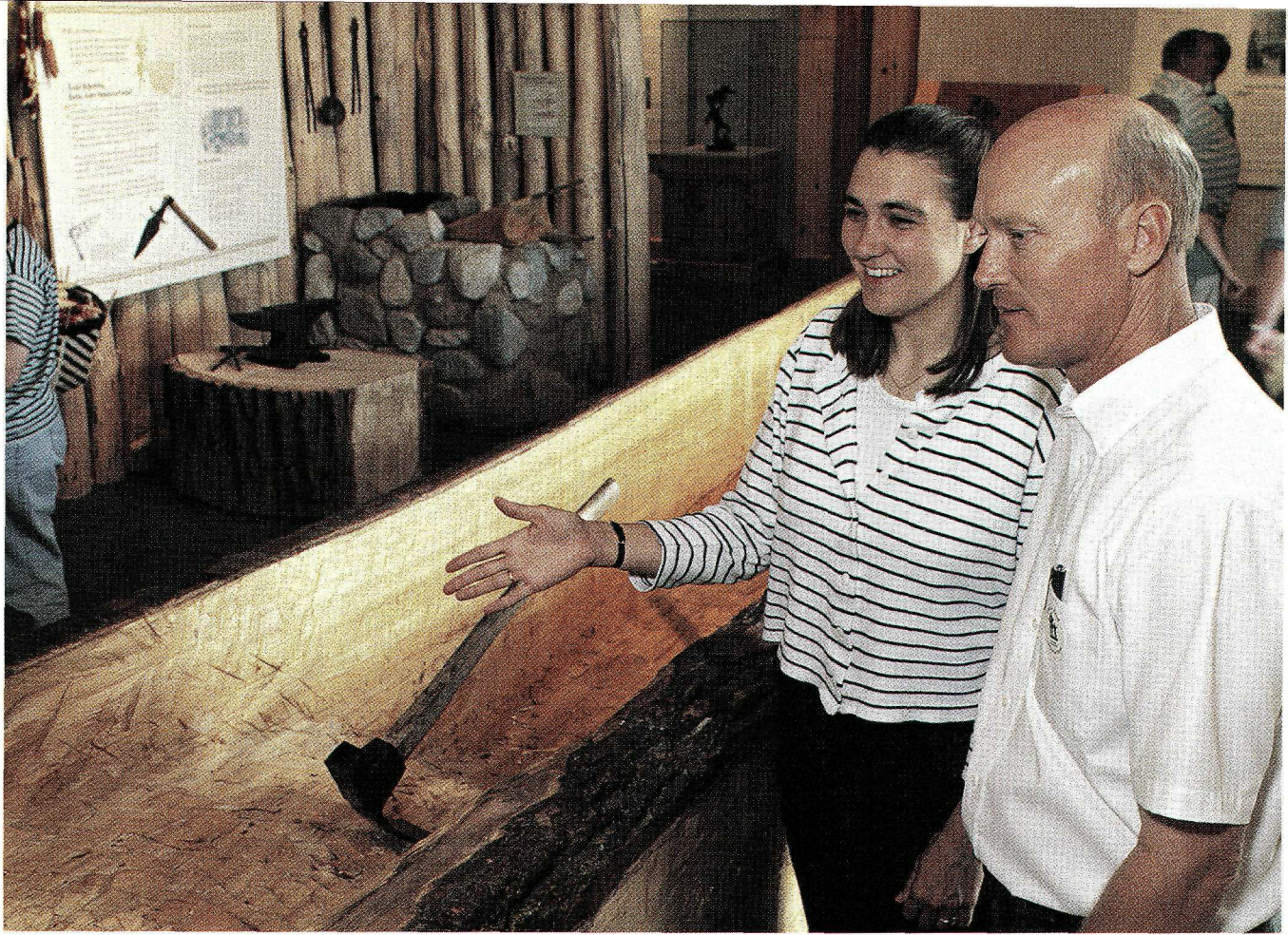
Initially the Center was planned at Fort Mandan, but as the idea evolved, a highway location became more attractive for drawing in traffic. Oberg personally prepared a picnic for 60 to 70 people to kick off the project. He said the North Dakota Tourism Department was the catalyst, although the State Parks and Recreation and Highway departments and others were asked to get involved because the small community group knew it couldn't do it alone.

Oberg says it's unusual to have a rest stop on the edge of a city's limits in North Dakota. Most of the time a rest stop is miles out-of-town because local businesses want passersby to come into town for that stop. He says the Highway

Department had to be convinced that the community really wanted a rest stop at the edge of town.

Oberg says because the Interpretive Center has attracted so many visitors and the artifacts and displays have outgrown the facility, the building is going to be doubled in size.

Kristie Frieze, executive director of the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation, says the expansion will include a Ft. Clark Wing, which will enhance the artwork display of Karl Bodmer that is currently shown at the Center. Bodmer's artwork chronicled the Plains Indian life and landscapes along the Missouri River, three decades after Lewis & Clark's journey. "His work is considered the most accurate portrayal of Upper Midwest Indian culture," Frieze says. The wing will also include an auditorium, more storage, display and office space and a larger gift shop. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2000.



Perry Oberg, director of marketing and member services for McLean Electric and Kristie Frieze, executive director of the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation, admire a replica of the dugout canoes the Lewis & Clark expedition used on their journey up the Missouri River. A community group of 15 people including Oberg, made this one in about two-and-a-half months as their schedules allowed. Frieze says Lewis & Clark's 40 men at Fort Mandan made six of these canoes in 22 days.

Frieze says metal sculptures of Lewis and Clark and Sheheke' (also known as Chief Big White) by artist Tom Neary of Washburn, are also in plans to be added to the outside of the Center. "Sheheke' was the Mandan Chief that lived across the river from Ft. Mandan," Frieze said. "He is the one that said, 'If I eat, you shall eat; if I starve, you must starve also.' That's quite a gift to give 40 men. I mean I wouldn't offer to feed 40 men anytime — let alone a whole winter in 1804 — especially Lewis & Clark's men. They ate five- to seven-pounds of buffalo meat per guy per day. He was also a chief

Lewis and Clark took to Washington, D.C. to meet the president."

All of these new additions are scheduled to be completed by 2001. The Foundation will be kicking off a fundraising campaign to finance the expansion. A large portion of the project is already funded by an \$800,000 grant of federal transportation enhancement dollars. The foundation also received \$100,000 from the North Dakota Legislature.

The Power of Human Connections

Oberg said the Interpretive Center and other community efforts have been a major part of his life long before he joined McLean Electric. However, community involvement is an important part of his job as director of marketing and member services for the co-op. Besides his work on the Interpretive Center's board and as Washburn's mayor for eight years, Oberg serves as a:

- board member of North Dakota One Call, the organization that enables contractors to make "one call" before they dig,

continued

- staff member of McLean County Emergency Operations, and
- firefighter on the Washburn Fire Department.

He also owns or is a partner in three local businesses and recently completed his bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, and would like to pursue a master's degree. He formerly served on the ambulance squad for 10 years.

Reg Rudolph, McLean Electric general manager, says Oberg and other employees' involvement in the community is a great benefit to McLean Electric.

"The employees of McLean Electric are involved in more than 40 different organizations in the county. We have employees that live in or near every town in the county and that helps the cooperative stay in touch with the entire membership, not just the headquarters area," Rudolph says. "Perry is very active in the Washburn area and has helped us keep track of the members in southern McLean County. Perry's involvement in the Lewis & Clark venture has been a great experience for him and I think the Interpretive Center has gained tremendously from his contributions."

Oberg says that working on the project has helped him develop friendships he might not have otherwise made. This spring Oberg was invited to a War Bonnet Dance by the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa and



The 5,000-square-foot, all-electric Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center opened June 1, 1997 and has had more than 55,000 visitors. All-electric is the energy choice for museums because it is less drying and therefore is more preserving of valuable museum pieces than forced-air gas furnaces. President Thomas Jefferson's original draft letter of instructions to Meriwether Lewis that got the expedition started is on display through Labor Day. A rare William Clark letter is also on display.

Arikara at which he was presented a blanket in friendship.

"With the Interpretive Center and the new Sakakawea dollar, they (Native Americans) feel they are making great strides in getting recognition for their part in history."

Oberg admits it takes a lot of perseverance to not lose interest when you're a volunteer and you have a lot of other activities going on in your life. "It's really easy to throw your hands in the air and say 'enough is enough,'" he said.

However, he definitely thinks the efforts of all the people involved in the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center were devoted to a worthy project.

"When I look back 10 or 12 years ago when we talked about what we we're going to have, this has

gone way beyond that," he says in a very modest, yet proud way. "It's good for the community, but it's also good for the state and the region."

The Interpretive Center is at the intersection of U.S. Highway 83 and North Dakota Highway 200 A. The Center is open year round with hours of 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., the rest of the year. The general admission fee is \$2 per person and \$1 for students (kindergarten through college).

Call Daryl Hill at (701) 223-0441 to schedule power plants tours. Let him know if you would like to include the Interpretive Center into your tour schedule. There are several other interesting attractions he can also suggest. ✍

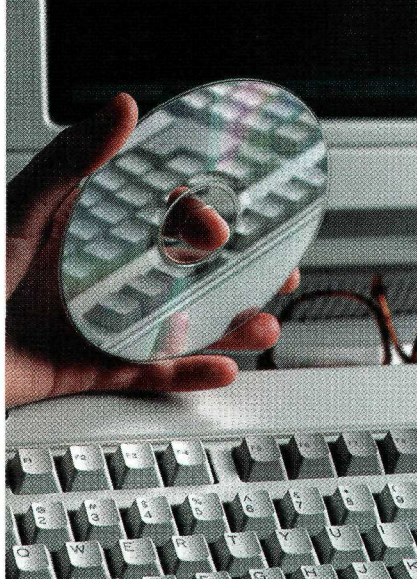
by Kathi Risch

Mike LaLonde, headquarters training and safety coordinator, and Ron Griebenow of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Simulator and Training Center in Kansas City, MO, presented "Computer-based Training (CBT) One Year Later – Progress, Problems, and Pitfalls" at the Western Utilities Training Advisory Board (WUTAB) meeting in Durango, CO, on June 16. Rob Barden, Laramie River Station (LRS) safety/training coordinator, also attended.

Basin Electric has been in the forefront of developing CBT for power plant operations. LaLonde, who is a member of WUTAB, has been working with EPRI and six other utilities since 1997. The process involves working with a software development firm to write interactive programs and produce graphics for specific plant sites.

In 1998, the Antelope Valley Station (AVS) at Beulah, ND, successfully completed its custom pilot site program for computer-based training. LaLonde said employees that used custom CBT felt "it was challenging – even for experienced operators." LRS is currently working on custom CBT for its turbine and the Leland Olds Station (LOS) Unit I turbine. Work on the project has been steady with only a few pitfalls and minor problems. Basin Electric is also working on building a version for LOS Unit 2.

"We will be involved as a partner in future product development with EPRI and other utilities," LaLonde



Basin leading the way in computer- based training

says. "Basin Electric will experience a major turnover in employees in the next 5-10 years, due to retirements, and needs to be prepared to train new staff."

LaLonde adds that employee response to CBT has been "very positive, even though some older employees are computer shy. But that changes once they work on the training." He said employees think the computer-based training is more effective than reading technical manuals. Some operators would like all plant systems put on custom CDs.

The Durango conference was a first for Barden, who coordinates CBT development with LRS plant

operations staff. Utility representatives from across the nation attended the conference. "It's always good to discuss these issues with other utilities," he says. "When Basin Electric talks about CBT, other utilities listen. I also learned a lot from other utilities' mistakes and successes, and we continue to exchange information via e-mail. They help us out and we help them out. We have the same goals and the same purpose."

Although LRS just got involved in this program, he says operations staff is about 70 percent done with the first CBT. The intention is to enhance training for operators and supervisors and make it possible for entry-level employees to learn to adapt to the environment at LRS faster. He says "the way technology is going, it changes every five years, so you need to upgrade everything, including how you do the job. It all has to be represented on that CBT."

Barden also believes CBT is a great 'refresher' tool for operators. "Anytime you increase the knowledge of your workforce, you vastly improve productivity and safety."

LaLonde and Barden agree that Basin Electric is at the forefront of safety and training its employees. "You have to tip your hat to Basin," Barden says. "They're really doing a very good job. After listening to problems the other utilities have, and where they're at with their programs, Basin Electric has done very well – no question about it." ✍

by Julie Slag

THE BRIEFS

Basin Electric notified of suspension

Based on a decision by a U.S. District Court Judge, Basin Electric has been issued a Notice of Suspension and Proposed Debarment. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued the Notice.

Claire Olson, Basin Electric's assistant general counsel, said the action is based on a power sales contract between Basin Electric and DOE that ended nine years ago. That contract was the main issue of a lawsuit brought against Basin Electric on behalf of the U.S. Government by a former Cooperative employee, Robert Norbeck. The suit charged Basin Electric with false claims and the judge ruled that Basin Electric should pay up to \$47.2 million in damages to the federal government.

Olson said under federal regulations, organizations charged under the false claims act in connection with federal government contracts can be prohibited from bidding on new federal contracts. He said the notice does not affect existing government contracts. "However, Basin Electric is suspended from entering into any new contracts, until this is resolved," he said.

"As a routine matter, when any federal judgement is filed with the Department of Justice, other

federal agencies are notified," Olson said. "The judge's decision in the Norbeck case apparently triggered the DOE's initiation of this process."

Basin Electric has responded to the notice. "It is very important that the DOE have full confidence in the responsibility of the companies with which it contracts. It is understandable that DOE would make an inquiry of Basin Electric in circumstances such as this," Olson said. "We have already visited with the DOE about its proposed action, and we provided a full submission and additional information on July 21. We believe that the DOE will agree with us that debarment is not appropriate to this situation."

The District Judge's ruling was issued Mar. 26. Following the ruling, Basin Electric asked the judge to modify or amend the decision. Olson said the judge did make some corrections to his calculation of damages, reducing them by about \$4 million. "But the judge didn't change his ruling on the finding of liability," he said. The case will now be appealed to the 8th Circuit Court.

Heat wave increases electricity prices

The high temperatures, combined with power plant outages, led to power sales in excess of \$2,000 per megawatt hour (MWh) July 23.

As a result, Basin Electric requested The Coteau Properties Company, owner and operator of the Freedom mine, to shut down both draglines and Dakota Gasification Company to interrupt 25 megawatts (MW) of load. "The actual duration of the high market prices was short, only about two to three hours," says Dave Raatz, Basin Electric's manager of marketing and power supply planning.

As of July 28, Basin Electric's oil-fired peaking plant, the Spirit Mound Station, Vermillion, SD, had been running everyday since July 19. Terry Johnson, Spirit Mound's maintenance supervisor, said the plant's two units ran at six- to seven-hour intervals. Spirit Mound produced 5,358 MWh during the July 19-26 period.

This marks the second time this summer Spirit Mound has been called on for surplus power. The first time occurred in June during the heat wave on the East Coast. Spirit Mound ran three days in June. So far this year Spirit Mound has produced 7,699 MWh through July 26 and has run 161 hours. The heat wave was continuing at press time. This compares to last year's production of 11,280 MWh through the end of July, when the plant ran 232 hours.

Basin Electric staff receive CREC awards

The Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) Awards Program recently announced that Basin Electric has won two 1999 "Spotlight on Excellence" awards.

Terry Diekman, multimedia specialist II in Strategic Support, received a first-place Award of Excellence in the category of Best Desk-Top Publishing Design for her design of the 1997 Basin Electric Annual Report, *The Power of Human Connections*. She also credits the contributions of Kathi Risch, writer/editor, and Steve Crane, photographer, to the overall style and design of the publication.

Dennis Gad, manager of media support in Strategic Support, accepted an Award of Merit for his team's work on the audio-visual production of a Tom Peter's seminar held in Bismarck on June 22, 1998. The event was a kick-off for a yearlong community leadership initiative. It was co-sponsored by North Dakota State government, many businesses and organizations throughout the state, Basin Electric and some member co-ops. Media staff sharing the award are Gad, Karen Will, Steve Crane, Olmstead Adams, Chris Volk, Kris Kracht, Chris Baumgartner and Bob Huber. The Council developed the awards program as an annual event to recognize top-rated performance

by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Electric communicators submitted 520 entries in the Spotlight on Excellence Awards Program now in its 11th year. Faculty members of the prestigious Columbia (MO) University School of Journalism judged the entries.

Co-op readies for September Y2k drill

Preparations are accelerating for the next North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Year 2000 industry-wide drill. On Sept. 8-9, 1999, the nation's generation, transmission and distribution organizations of North America will conduct a rehearsal of Jan. 1, 2000. The drill's goal is to simulate as realistically as is practical the implementation of administrative, operating, communications, and contingency response plans for the Y2k Dec. 31 midnight rollover.

Basin Electric has been following Y2k preparedness guidelines established by NERC. In May 1998, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) asked NERC to facilitate preparations of the electric power production and delivery systems of the United States for transition to the Year 2000. The NERC initial target date was to have mission critical electric power production, transmission and delivery systems Y2k ready by June 30, 1999. Basin Electric believes it has met this goal and has issued a letter to NERC stating that our mission critical systems, as defined by NERC, are Y2k "Ready".

The September nation-wide drill date was selected by NERC because of the numeric coincidence of the number nine (9th day of 9th month of 1999 or 9/9/99) and the small possibility this date could affect computer-based systems. In addition to the execution of drill scenarios (simulated problems), the drill will include a communication system test and the opportunity to practice contingency response procedures. When the drill work is complete, drill participants will continue to staff important generation and transmission facilities in the unlikely event that problems occur as a result of the 9/9/99 date.

Basin Electric's participation in the September drill will include responding to scenarios identified by the Western Area Power Administration in Watertown and Loveland and other scenarios developed by Basin Electric drill coordinators. Each Basin Electric facility has its own drill coordinator who will provide feedback to the Cooperative's drill coordinator. The drill team members include Bob Boettcher, Cooperative drill coordinator, and Curt Melland, Jerry Horner, Mark Kinzler, Jerry Stauffer, Randy Jones, Tony Skonhovd, Steve Mittelsteadt, Albert Weisbeck, and Warren Niska.

This is a year 2000 readiness disclosure statement. (Public Law No. 105-271).

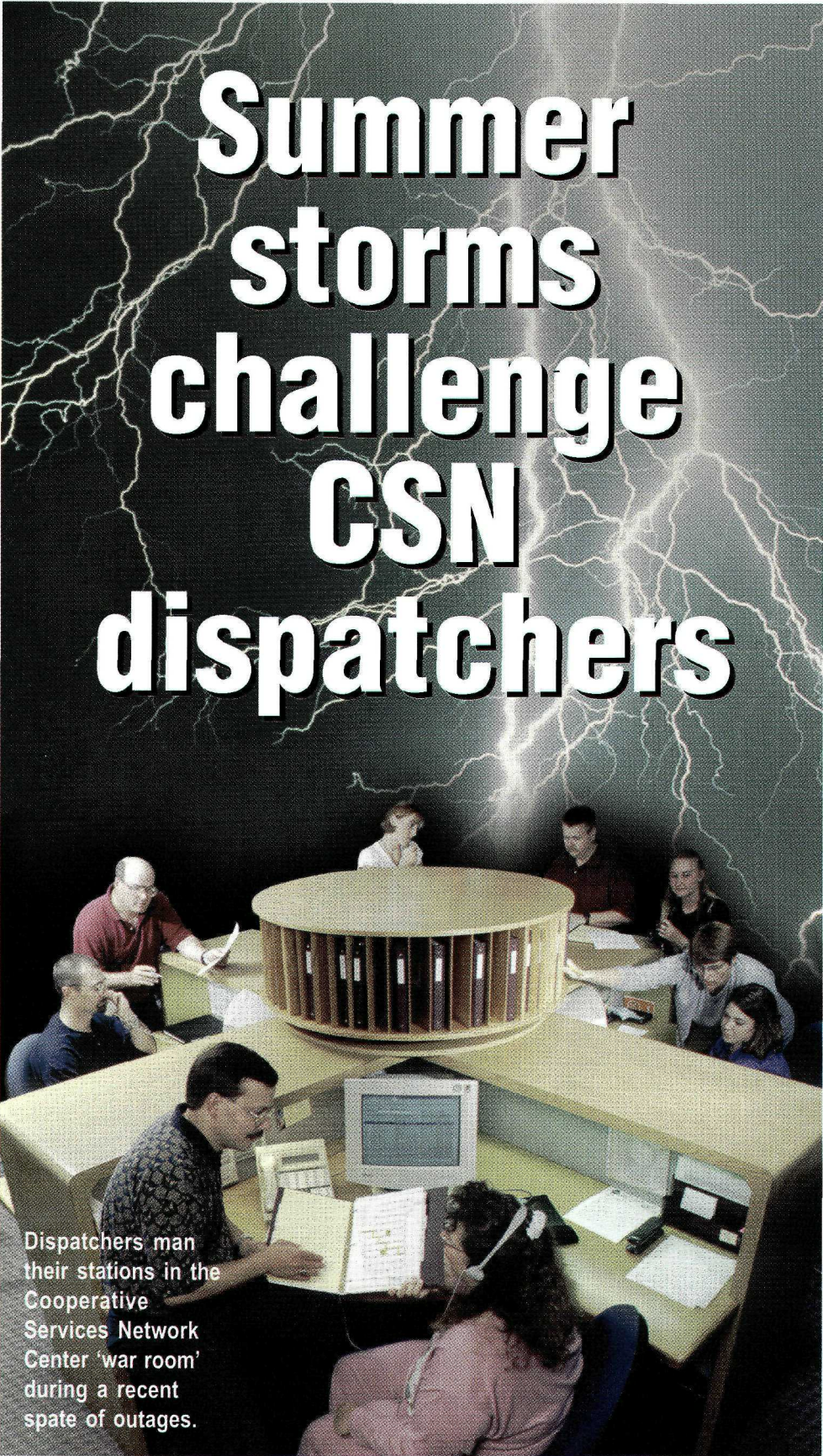
Summer storms challenge CSN dispatchers

"It was a dark and stormy night..."

Driving rain, gusting winds, and flying debris buffeted Basin Electric's headquarters building the evening of June 26. Inside the Cooperative Services Network (CSN) Center dispatchers were too busy to notice the storm raging outside. They were handling a deluge of consumer phone calls indicating wide-spread power outages across the region.

As 80-mile-an-hour winds began toppling utility and telephone lines, police and fire departments called the Center to report "live wires down, fire department at the scene." The magnitude of the outages prompted several co-op operations supervisors to return to their offices in the middle of the night. Until such time, however, CSN Dispatch held all the reins of the crisis – taking every phone call and deploying line crews.

Three CSN dispatchers dispatched numerous line crews and monitored their



Dispatchers man their stations in the Cooperative Services Network Center 'war room' during a recent spate of outages.

whereabouts. Five other dispatchers took consumer calls and recorded the outages. Most consumers that called that weekend didn't realize they were talking to Basin Electric's CSN staff because they answer each phone call using a co-op's name, such as "Good evening, this is Northern Plains Electric, may I help you?" By Sunday night, consumers from each of CSN's participating co-ops in eight states had called the Center to report outages or leave messages.

Dispatchers are an almost invisible workforce at Basin Electric. Like power plant employees, their job is shift work – 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. or 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. every other weekend off, and they always work holidays. Summer is a peak dispatch season because storm systems roll in, wreaking havoc with co-op transmission poles, lines and substations. The Center's busiest time is from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. as each co-op office closes its doors and consumers' calls are forwarded. Much of CSN Dispatch work is performed when everyone else at headquarters has gone home.

On that wild weekend, some dispatchers worked 14-hour shifts. More than 2,600 consumer calls were answered. By Sunday evening, the number of dispatch calls to linemen, consumers, co-op personnel, and other parties totaled more than 6,000.

Everyone who worked that weekend has stories to tell.

CSN was anticipating trouble on Friday afternoon, says Raylette Sitter, a veteran dispatcher. "When there's a tornado warning or a severe thunderstorm watch, a box usually pops up on our radar. Those boxes started appearing so we knew bad weather was coming. Dispatch has a system similar to the one pilots use, so we can check for hail, cloud cover, etc. We watched the storm move across the radar screen and hit Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, then Capital Electric and Northern Plains service areas."

Sitter became involved with co-op dispatching through a high school program at Capital Electric, headquartered in Bismarck. "I grew up working for a co-op and I've seen how co-ops use CSN dispatch service. We rarely have a dull moment. The 12 hours get to be a long shift, but there's always something going on. I really love what I do."

Relief arrived in the middle of the night. "When I came in at 3 a.m. we already had 425 outage reports with Capital Electric," says dispatcher Randy Brewster. "Normally, we fax outage reports, but US West had lost Capital's incoming telephone lines, so I ran the outage reports up to their office. We were swamped, even with all the help we had the next day. The red light indicating call waiting never went out until noon

on Saturday. At 8 a.m., we gave Capital Electric another 250 outage reports and later another 150 reports."

Avie Peterka came in on her day off to help take phone calls. "A tornado hit Wheatbelt Electric in Nebraska that same weekend, so we contacted their linemen, and unfortunately both the linemen that we contacted had damage to their homes. So we called their operations manager. We took calls for the Nebraska co-op until the operations staff got to the office."

Dispatchers are discreet and professional when asked about customers and clients, but they often refer to co-op linemen as "our guys" or "our linemen." The Center has a dedicated technician line just for line crews, so that no matter how busy the Center is, their calls take priority.

Sitter says that good communication among dispatchers and linemen is crucial. "When lines and trees are down, we try to keep everyone in the loop, from a safety standpoint. Our procedures are set up so that we know who belongs to each crew. If there are two guys from the same crew, they are more than likely together; if not, they are in constant radio communication."

Safety of the linemen is of paramount concern to dispatchers. "We have crews that sometimes work alone and they're required to tell us that they're opening a

continued

DISPATCHES

Profile of a dispatcher

"A well organized person who doesn't get upset with chaotic moments like when a whole substation goes down. You have to be able to designate work to other dispatchers. One person can't do it alone, you have to have people working together. It's a big team effort to make it all work smoothly."

– *Avie Peterka*

On being invisible

"It's beneficial to learn all about what Basin Electric does. Since I work such different shifts, I don't know many employees' faces. Working switchboard in reception allows me to meet people, find out what they do and where they work, and put names to faces. It's nice because they get to know who you are, too. Otherwise, we're invisible people, and that's the hard part. We're in a back room on evenings, weekends and holidays."

– *Avie Peterka*

Pride in serving others

"Basically, I have a lot of pride in doing the job I do here. I've been here a long time, but it's still a good feeling. We get calls from people listed as a critical account, like people on dialysis machines. We call the line crew and say, 'We have a priority - we have a medical situation here.' Then we get the crew out there as quickly as possible and get power restored."

– *Randy Brewster*

More than just dispatchers

"CSN assists many departments at Basin Electric after-hours and on weekends, and has helped all departments at one time or another. We're much more than a dispatch or security section." – *Randy Schramm*

Best part of the job

"I would say working with the different linemen and the different consumers. You get a lot of funny stories told to you; a lot of funny experiences happen. You get to the point where you have a personal rapport with some of the linemen. It's just fun talking to them."

– *Raylette Sitter*

breaker or closing a breaker,"

Peterka adds. "We document it in our database. Why? Because when a lineman from one particular co-op crawls up a pole, if he's not back down in 10 minutes, we have to notify somebody immediately – he could be hurt."

There have been instances where a lineman has been injured.

Dispatchers refer to this as a May Day situation. "We ask questions and then contact the co-op operations manager and the general manager. We also make sure that the injured person is stable and call an ambulance, if needed." A problem can arise if the injury occurs on a weekend, and co-op officials are out-of-town or on vacation.

At the end of his first shift, Randy Brewster went home to discover his lights were out. "I went 20 hours at my house without power. I felt kind of lost – no electricity! I didn't have anything to do, so I cleaned house."

Consumers are asked to always call their co-op to report an outage, not Basin Electric. Brewster and the other dispatchers, however, got to talk to many Basin Electric headquarters employees who called Capital Electric to report outages at their homes. "My sister-in-law called in from Mor-Gran-Sou Electric in Flasher, ND, and I happened to take her outage call," says Raylette Sitter. "She said, 'Oh! I'm talkin' to you!' and I said

'Yup.' It was so funny. A man from South Dakota called in and one of the dispatchers happened to be his nephew, "Oh! What are you doing there?" he asked. Yes, we get calls from people we know."

It just proves that when you call your local rural electric cooperative, you usually get someone you know.

Cooperative Services Network programs

24-hour co-op power outage and dispatch service

The Cooperative Services Network Dispatch Center at Basin Electric responds to emergencies including power outages. Staff is here 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays. Consumers' phone calls to 27 participating cooperatives are transferred to the Dispatch Center. The Center also handles hundreds of messages for co-ops each month. When co-op customers call the Dispatch Center, they get a professional dispatcher who knows about power outages and electrical problems.

Main Street Messenger (MSM) personal alarm service

MSM phones and alarm pendants are ideally suited for disabled people and senior citizens, latch-key children and single parents, or anyone requiring assistance or alternative contact options. The phones/pendants are placed in private homes, nursing homes, retirement homes, seniors'

residences, home offices, professional offices (doctors), and used by snow-birds.

Security services

CSN's security service monitors the following types of sensors: door and window, recessed door, sound, shock, glass guard, freeze, rate-of-rise, fire-pull, motion, smoke, and panic buttons; and detectors for power failure, water, humidity, and temperature are available for home or business. CSN handles alarms for all the sensors and detectors listed above for participating cooperatives.

Headquarters security, reception, and additional services

CSN handles the Basin Electric headquarters telephone switchboard during regular office hours, after-hours, weekends and holidays. More than 1,500 telephone calls and 50-60 headquarters visitors are processed daily. CSN also assists both Basin Electric and DGC with after-hour emergencies; monitors equipment for Power Marketing data acquisition, Transmission Systems and Maintenance (TSM) microwave; Telecommunications and Technology Transfer (T&TT) phone system and Internet; Facility Management heating and cooling and other environmental equipment.



Randall Schramm, foreground, and his security/dispatch lead personnel. From left to right, Rory Van Wyk, Gene Giesen, Wade Felton, Rhonda Fritts, and Darren Stastny. Seated: Raylette Sitter, service dispatcher.

Crisis management: effective leadership and teamwork

Randall Schramm, CSN supervisor, manages the co-op dispatch, personal and security alarm monitoring, and headquarters security and reception programs. His responsibilities include overall systems' functionality and integration, quality assurance, and customer service for participating cooperatives and Basin Electric core functions. He hires, oversees training and schedules security personnel, dispatchers and switchboard operators, assisted by lead personnel.

Schramm grew up on a beef and dairy farm south of Bismarck, so he empathizes with co-op farmers when electricity goes out. "I know what it feels like to be faced with the question of dumping 2,000 gallons of milk because of an

extended weather-related power outage," he says. Schramm has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sam Houston University, Huntsville, TX, and has trained at the North Dakota Law Enforcement Academy. Schramm recently completed a master's degree in management from the University of Mary, Bismarck.

His previous job as a Burleigh County deputy sheriff put him in the line of fire. He has also worked as an armed security officer, resuscitated the injured and attended to the dying at accident scenes. "I know what it's like to be at the other end of a dispatcher's call – I've responded to 911s, distress calls, and alarms. The whole secret to effective dispatching is teamwork among all the parties involved."

What kind of phone calls from staff wake him up at 3 a.m.? "Anything under the sun," he says. ✍

by Julie Slag

Goodbye paper cuts

HELLO

**AUTOMATED
TIMESHEETS**



What do stacks of timesheets and the Berlin Wall have in common?

They're both history.

This summer marks a milestone in Basin Electric history. By the end of July, all Basin Electric and Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) employees had tossed the old timesheets in the recycle bin and welcomed a new institution: The automated time sheet. Gone are the days of filling out timesheets with a pencil. Now, with a few taps of the keyboard and clicks of the mouse, your computer does the work.

"It's a fun thing," says Sue Vinje, Basin Electric intermediate accountant. "I think everybody is happy to be rid of the actual timesheets."

For Antelope Valley Station (AVS), Leland Olds Station (LOS), Laramie River Station (LRS), and Dakota Gasification Company (DGC), automated time entry is old news. The plants started using automated timesheets five years ago.

"Plant employees complete daily timesheets, so the Basin Electric payroll department would have as many as 5,000 timesheets to input each pay period," says Jim Lundberg, Basin Electric applications project manager. "We

viewed the automation of plant timesheets as a way to get rid of the majority of the department's paperwork."

Last year Basin Electric's Information Services & Technology (IS&T) Department tested the plants' time entry systems for Y2k compatibility, and realized they were not compliant. The inevitable system conversion eventually paved the way for automated timesheets at headquarters. "We had always planned on automating the timesheets at headquarters, so we figured we may as well automate

"A lot of analysis went into the system. The hardest part was trying to develop a system that met everyone's needs."

— Jim Lundberg

administrative employees' timesheets at the same time we were converting the plants," Lundberg says.

Basin Electric administration established a time entry team to devise a single Y2k-compliant system that was appropriate for all Basin Electric employees, including DGC and plant personnel. The time entry team developed the bulk of the new system in-house and consulted with Legacy Solutions, Bismarck, to design the online portion of the program. The team comprised individuals from

headquarters and a representative from each plant: Blair Mitzel, Basin Electric payroll supervisor; Jim Crawford, DGC accounting coordinator; Robin Brucker, Basin Electric compensation administrator; Sandy Bieber, Basin Electric programmer/analyst; Glenn Strom, recently retired programmer/analyst; Ken Hermanson, LOS maintenance service coordinator; Mark Nygard, AVS maintenance planning and schedule supervisor; Larry Schulz, Mandan TSM substation superintendent; Joe Fabian, LRS maintenance planner/scheduler; Marlys Steckler, Basin Electric systems analyst, and Lundberg.

"A lot of analysis went into the system," Lundberg says. "The hardest part was trying to develop a system that met everyone's needs. We just continued to work on prototypes, until we came up with something we thought would work."

Blair Mitzel agrees. "Unless one totally understands the compensation, overtime call-out, absenteeism, labor reporting, hardware and business system interface procedures required, it is very hard to explain how complex a project like this can be," he says.

But a year later, and after several brainstorming sessions, the team presented Basin Electric employees with a uniform, user-friendly time entry system able to meet the diverse needs of supervisors throughout the company.

continued

Mary Johs, Sue Vinje and Paula Schroeder celebrate the demise of paper timesheets.



Jim Lundberg says developing one time entry system for 1,800 individuals was a challenge, but he's pleased with the end result.

So far, Lundberg says employees seem happy with the new system. "Most people have reacted very positively about the system, but with any new system that you develop, you get negative comments. Change is difficult. However, I've found that after two weeks of any new system implementation, most people would never go back to the old system."

Paula Schroeder, Basin Electric associate accountant, and Vinje appreciate the time the new system saves them. "We used to input every timesheet that came in, which took an hour or two," Schoeder says. Vinje adds, "Then we would proof them, which took time. The new system has edits built into it, so it often catches

errors before employees even submit their time."

LOS was the first plant to go online with the system. Lundberg says the plant has adjusted well to the new system. Headquarters went online next, followed by AVS. LRS and DGC were the last of the plants to switch to the new system. Though DGC's time entry is the same application as the other plants, it has additional screens for capturing data due to management requests.

Lundberg says the consolidation of time entry systems is good for Basin Electric in the long run. "Our whole goal was to create something very user-friendly," he says. "We built the prior time entry

systems on the fly — we didn't have the necessary individuals involved in the planning and design phase. We actually ended up with three different systems in three different formats: We had a system for DGC, a system for Basin Electric plant employees, and a system for headquarters. Now we have one system that shares a common data format." Mitzel adds, "If everything turns out the way it's supposed to, Legacy Solutions and the IS&T staff are to be commended for a job well done. They designed, programmed and configured the whole system, saving the Cooperative a lot of money by not having to purchase packaged software that would have to be modified to fulfill our requirements."

Lundberg says he is not only pleased with the new streamlined system, but he has also learned a lot just by being part of the diverse team. "We had some meetings that were frustrating because we didn't think we'd ever come to a consensus. We aren't used to developing systems that interact with 1,800 employees, but we accomplished what we set out to do. The new system will buy us a lot in the future because it will be easier to create a warehouse of information accessible to supervisors ... I think we did it right this time." ✍

by Mary Klecker

Editor's note: Since this story was written, Paula Schroeder has been transferred to liabilities as an accountant.

Former resolutions committee member accepted into Peace Corps

For Harris Davis, former Basin Electric resolutions committee member and director for East River and Sioux Valley Southwestern electric cooperatives, retirement means travel — but not the leisurely travel usually associated with retirement.

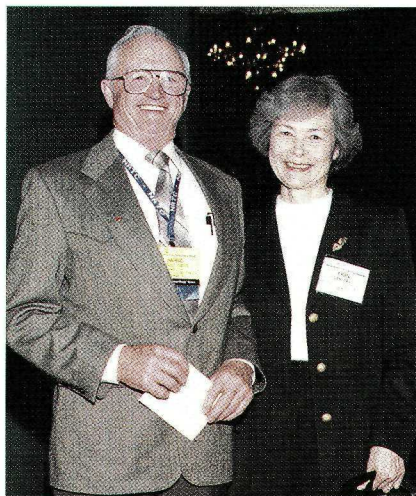
He and his wife, Fran, joined the Peace Corps.

“Fran and I have raised our children, and I’ve given up active work on our farm,” Davis says. “We’ve really been fortunate — we’ve raised 11 kids without tragedy. We both figured it was time to give something back.”

After visiting with a Peace Corps recruiter, they started the application process. Two years later, and after a lot of paperwork and interviews, they were accepted on April 29.

They weren’t given much notice; they left on June 25 for Chicago where they completed required forms before leaving the next day for Morocco. After they arrived in Morocco, they started a 90-day training program, most of which will be in language. Upon completion of training, they must pass a written test before they start their two-year assignments.

“I’m not sure what our assignments will be, though I



Harris and Fran Davis want to help people help themselves.

suspect we’ll work in agriculture,” Davis says.

Though he and Fran will be away for two years, they aren’t worried about what they’re leaving behind. “It’ll be tough to leave our family and all of the people I’ve worked with over the years. However, both my farm and the cooperatives are in good hands. Two of my sons are running the farm, and the cooperatives’ managers, board members and employees are doing a fantastic job,” he says.

Davis says their children were initially unsure of their parents’ decision. “The kids realize we’re old enough to know what we want to do. Fran and I are both committed — they see that and are happy for us,” he says.

Davis says he’s looking forward to becoming a part of Morocco. “I just want to be at home in Morocco — eat and live with the people, and do what we’ve set out to do there. I don’t expect to change the world. All we can do is our best.”

He admits he is nervous about what lies ahead, though he maintains an optimistic outlook. “Everyone has doubts before they make a major life change, but I’ve learned that change is a good thing. It helps broaden a person’s horizons. We’ve visited with people who used to be in the Peace Corps, and they told us that we’ll never be the same after our experience.”

During the application process, they were asked what they hope to gain from joining the Peace Corps. Davis’ answer was simple: “I’m 73 years old. I’m not doing this to add a line to my resume. My goal is plain and simple — to help people help themselves.” ✍

by Mary Klecker

Davis served on the Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s board for 24 years, until he recently resigned. He was also a director for East River Electric Cooperative for 14 years, and served on Basin Electric’s resolution committee several times throughout his involvement with rural electric cooperatives. Fran is a former president of both the South Dakota Rural Electric Women’s Association and the National Rural Electric Women’s Association.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Fishing derby becomes tradition

The 17th annual International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 612 Fishing Derby was held at Grayrocks Reservoir near Wheatland, WY, on June 19-20. The reservoir is the principal water source for the Laramie River Station (LRS). Registration began at 6 a.m. on the boat ramp with a shotgun start an hour later. This year 117 adults and 13 youth in 45 boats competed.

Scott Obertal, a mechanic/welder at LRS since 1980, won both the largest walleye (6 lbs. 5 oz.) and most pounds of walleye per boat, an award he shares with Steve Anderson, a LRS welder/mechanic. Winners of the latter event were chosen by calculating total weight of the walleye per boat divided by the number of people in the boat. Obertal and Anderson hauled in 26 lbs. 12 oz. of walleye. The total catch of the walleye tourney (121 walleyes) was a whopping 236 pounds.

The tournament is open to all Basin Electric employees, their families, associated vendors, and local Wheatland, WY, business people. Obertal says the fishing tournament "started with just a bunch of guys and has increased tenfold ... everybody attends, everybody looks forward to it." The tournament is usually held when a plant outage has been completed.

This year's outage ended on June 13 so the derby was held the next weekend. Local merchants donate the door prizes. Trophies and door prizes are standard awards, but this year Bill Porter, brother of LRS employee, Herb Porter, donated two plaques each for the three top teams and for the largest walleye for adult and youth.

The IBEW 612 Fishing Derby is really two tournaments: the Walleye (day) Tourney, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., followed by the Die-hard Catfish (night) Tourney, 6 p.m. until 7 the next morning. This was the first year the Die-hard Catfish Tourney was open to the public. Doug Kinsley, a former LRS employee, shared first place with Tim Moran, husband of LRS employee, Cindy Moran. Tim

Moran also caught the largest catfish.

Originally, the competitors had a fish fry. Now vendors cater a barbecue and more than 250 people attended this year.

"A fine group of employees and family members make our annual IBEW 612 Fishing Derby a success. A big thank you and a tip of the pole to Greg Masle and family; Mike Nordeen, Bonnie Portwood, Connie Lewis, Steve Conley, Jon Lewis, Tom Pindell, John Henion, Jeannie Bullock, Wayne Klatt and family; Patty Obertal, Kelly Atterbury, Donna and Doug Kinsley, John Wells, Lee Modesitt, John E. Johnson, Sam Barnsly and anyone else I may have forgotten." – *Scott Obertal*

Winners of the walleye-catch-per-pound/boat were:

1st	Steve Anderson and Scott Obertal	26 lbs. 12 oz.
2nd	Kevin Monson and Stuart Bjelkevig	25 lbs. 1 oz.
3rd	Allen Cochran and Mary Kernan	24 lbs.

Individual winners by age group were:

Adult	Largest Walleye	6 lbs. 5 oz.	Scott Obertal
Adult ^{2nd}	Largest Walleye	4 lbs. 2 oz.	Bill Porter
Youth	Largest Walleye	3 lbs. 5 oz.	Jeremy Porter
Youth ^{2nd}	Largest Walleye	3 lbs. 4 oz.	Angie Nash
Adult	Largest Perch	6 oz.	Rick Pierce
Youth	Largest Perch	7.5 oz.	Michelle Francis
Youth	Largest Carp	4 lbs. 7 oz.	Andrew Klatt

Die-hard Catfish Results

Five 2-person teams fished all night and the winners were:

1 st Place	Tim Moran and Doug Kinsley
2 nd Place	Skip Whipple and Steve Anderson
Largest Catfish	Tim Moran

Teenagers tour for college credit

Four Mandan, ND, teenagers toured nine European cities for three weeks in June and received college credit for doing so. Touring with 33 other students were Chad and Kristen Schuchard, son and daughter of Greg Schuchard, information services and technology customer support manager at headquarters; Jenny Frohlich, daughter of Rita Frohlich, headquarters senior receptionist, and Jessie Massey, daughter of Sheryl and Mike Massey, headquarters government relations assistant, and DGC headquarters lead purchasing agent, respectively. The purpose of the trip was to experience art and culture.



Jenny Frohlich, Kristen Schuchard, Jessie Massey and Chad Schuchard pose by the Thames River in London.

What can you do to stay safe?

by Jeff McIlnay, Leland Olds Station, safety and administration supervisor

Who is responsible for your safety? The only person that can be responsible for your safety is you. Developing a safety attitude is a strong first step in accepting that responsibility.

The reasons for working safely are many, but the greatest incentive is to remain unhurt and in good health. No one decides to come to work to have an accident. Serious on the job injuries can affect more

than work, it can create serious family hardships.

Another important aspect of a good safety attitude is watching out for your co-workers. When the whole workforce keeps safety in mind, the workplace becomes safer and more pleasant.

Awareness is an important ability to develop for work safety. You work in a three-dimensional world, so look in front, behind, left, right, over and under. Don't daydream. There are many ways to awaken from a dream, and an accident is not on anyone's top-10 list. Stay alert and don't get hurt.

Asking questions can help everyone involved with a job. Actively look for better ways to do

things. "We've always done it that way!" can be a pitfall. Ask; "How can I do this more safely?" and "What could happen to me if the unexpected happens?" When you get others involved in the questioning process, everyone learns something new, or affirms current methods.

Take the time to do the job safely. Suppose you take a six-foot stepladder out to do a job and discover that you actually need an eight-foot ladder. Take the time to get the right ladder, instead of unsafely standing on the top step. Don't 'next time' yourself into an accident.

continued

We all work in places where there are some hazards and risks involved. You can work safely by addressing those and protecting yourself, but don't forget there are risks at home and at play also. Keep working and playing safely.

Retirements



Richard Sparks

Richard Sparks retired July 6 from his position as an operations superintendent in wastewater and product loading. Sparks had been with Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) since July 7, 1982, almost 17 years to the day. His first position at DGC was as start-up superintendent in gasification. Other positions he has held include manager of Area 1, assistant manager of operations, and superintendent of wastewater and product loading.

Sparks says that the start-up of the plant and the commissioning of gasification was exciting. He also enjoyed the trip he took to SASOL in South Africa. He credits his success to supervisors and technicians. "In the last four years, Russ England, Jim Black, and the

technicians in wastewater/product loading have helped me tremendously," he says.

Sparks and wife Gail hope to play a lot of tennis and golf, as well as spend time with their three children and two grandchildren. They plan to spend the winters in a warmer climate and would like to spend much of their time doing volunteer work.



Bill Graney

Bill Graney retired from his position as process operations manager after 17 years of service to DGC. He spent four years as operations superintendent, four years as operations area manager, and eight years as process operations manager. He came to DGC from Platteville, WI, where he worked as a maintenance manager.

"It was very gratifying to be involved with the initial start-up of DGC, contributing to plant debottlenecking and getting rates to current levels, which made the

plant profitable." Graney credits his successes to having a supportive staff.

Graney has many plans for retirement, which include completing a lake home, golfing, and fishing. He and his wife Shirley also plan to tour the United States, visiting friends and family.



Doug Schroeder

Doug Schroeder, information services & technology (IS&T) special projects coordinator at headquarters, retired on June 25. A party honoring Schroeder was held in the office of Dana Dodd, manager of information services and technology. Dick Weber, vice president of administrative services, said that Schroeder was "a real plus to Basin Electric" and added "I appreciate your persistence, Doug, especially in working with you, you don't give up; if I've got something to do, you see that I get it done."

One of Schroeder's first careers was as a meteorologist in the Air Force. He says that he spent three years living "50 feet underground near a missile silo at Minot (ND)."

After surfacing into civilian life, Schroeder took a data processing position at Mutual of Omaha, NE. In 1980, he joined Basin Electric computer operations as a programmer. Says Schroeder: "I ran the payroll system and the old GAB (general accounting and budgeting) system when it was in its early evolution...that was an awful lot of work. Later I worked on specifications for the McCormack and Dodge system, and then moved into data security administration. From there, I was promoted to a technical management position."

Schroeder and wife will spend the first month of his retirement on a cruise to Copenhagen, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo, and Germany. They decided to take a cruise ship "so we don't have to keep packing and unpacking our suitcases." Before returning to Bismarck, they plan to spend time with family and relatives in Ohio and Wisconsin.



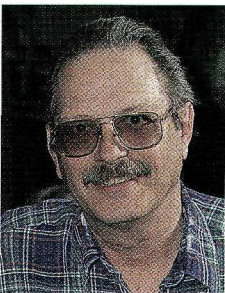
Jerry Koski

Jerry Koski, superintendent of coal, ash, and ammonia sulfate, retired after 17 years with DGC. He came

from Tower, MN, in December 1982, where he had worked for Reserve Mining Company.

Koski plans to spend much of his retirement with his children, grandchildren, and mother. He plans to build a lake home in Minnesota as well as travel throughout the United States. He also would like to give some of his time to volunteer work with the elderly and teenagers.

"My special memories revolve around the most special people I have known, my employees. These people have always been like a family to me. We have had many challenges, but each time they just dig a little deeper and get the job done. I will forever cherish the memories working with the most special people, my own. DGC could not have survived without them. I have full confidence they will carry on their tradition of dedication and hard work."



Ron Medwedeff

Ronald Medwedeff, electrical and instrument planner at DGC, retired in May after 15 years of service. Seven of his 15 years were spent as an instrumentation supervisor. He came to DGC from Cleveland,

OH, where he had worked as an instrument supervisor for Instrument Control Services. Medwedeff's most vivid memory of DGC is the fire of 1987. He also intensely remembers all the hours he has put in. Medwedeff and his wife Iris plan to move to Jacksonville, FL.

Marriages

Stephen Keller, LRS, married Gayla D. Mullin on June 17.

Jim Huncovsky and Karla Unruh, both of headquarters, were married on June 26.

Kim Sawatzke and Doug Biffert, both of DGC, were married on May 17.

Steve Horner (DGC) and Carol Schmidt were married on June 25.

Myles Dittus (DGC) and Shalon Parks were married on July 2.

Newborns

Abrielle was born to Richard and Tina Schantz (DGC) on May 12.

Logan was born Todd and Michelle Isaak (DGC) on May 24. He joins Megan, 4.

Lucas was born to Rod and Tanya Wetsch (DGC) on May 29. He joins Austin, 3.

Stetson was born to Brad and Rhonda Bergstad (DGC) on June 1. He joins Skyler, 1.

Safety Awards

The following Basin Electric plant employees reached personal safety milestones of 5 years or more without a lost-workday case:

Antelope Valley Station

20 years: John Jacobs, Peggy Geggelman, DeWayne Moran; 15 years: Kerry Vetter, Tim Otto, Lance Richter, Audrey Aipperspach, Charlie Brooks; 5 years: Lynn Aipperspach

Leland Olds Station

25 years: Don Smith; 20 years: Kahamane Hansana, Greg Heagle; 15 years: Ron Crowley, Mike Meier, Ray Laverdure; 5 years: Bryce Harring

Laramie River Station

20 years: Tom Saverine, Floyd Smith, Dale Rogers, Robert E. McLelland, Steve Keller, David A. Stenson, Mark Good, Joe Bowman, Ron Bosch; 15 years: Scott Addison, Albert A. Schibig, Henry M. Holst; 10 years: Roy Shmidl, Gary Lockman, Torey Hanks, Jack Eggleston, Kelly S. Laird, Kathy Jones, Ronald J. Johnke; 5 years: Barbara A. Maike, James T. Lund

Transmission System Maintenance

20 years: Jeffrey Busk, Reg Christian, Phil Wanner; 15 years: Bob Ferderer, Jim Larson

William J. Neal Station

20 years: Dale Holte

The Great Plains Synfuels Plant is proud of its safety accomplishments and those individuals who have made it possible. Congratulations to the following employees for safe service to Great Plains Synfuels without a lost time accident.

Great Plains Synfuels Plant

15 Years: Rick Ahlschlager, Ron Bartsch, Richard Boe, Don Buck, Brian Dschaak, Ralph Duttenehner, Mike Fisk, Mark Gerving, Joe Grimm, Travis Hallam, Bruce Herman, Roger Hoverson, Kevin Irwin, Dennis Jelleberg, Clyde Johnson, Greg Jorgensen, Ron Jorgenson, Ralph Kemmet, John Kessler, Al Kok, Garth Luer, Pat McClintic, Brad Meidinger, Ted Metcalf, Sheila Milbradt, Rick Mitchell, Dean Navratil, Tom Pfliger, Todd Sayler, Dennis Schaner, Merv Schonert, Lonnie Spotted Bear, Norlyn Swenson, Don Tittle, Ken Unruh, Kelly Wilhelm

10 Years: Angie Berger, Holly Dalen, Carrie Hafner, Steve Horner, Dave Layton, Gerry Netzer, Sonia Nybo, Jerry Rix, Orvin Rosaasen, Tom Sailer, Ken Sjaastad, Gary Theis, Calvin Wagner

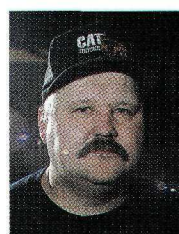
5 Years: Sandy Gappert

New Employees



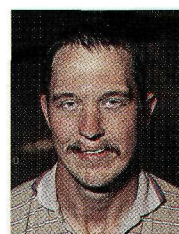
Duane Poitria, a native of Hazen, ND, was hired as a laborer at the Antelope Valley Station (AVS) on April 26. He has

also worked as a temporary laborer at United Power Association in Stanton, ND. Poitra is single.



Jim Vind was hired at AVS on April 26 as a laborer. Originally from Reynolds, ND, Jim

previously worked as a meat cutter at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen, ND. Jim is married to Audrey Vind, an administrative secretary/engineering clerk at AVS.



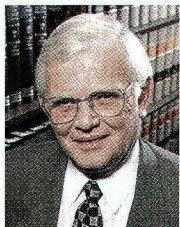
Scott Clooten was hired as a laborer at AVS on April 26. He has worked as a heavy equipment operator for Big

Valley Gravel, Mandan, ND, and was an apprentice electrician at Don's Electric in Bismarck, ND. Clooten is originally from Bismarck and is single.

Service Awards

25 YEARS

Headquarters



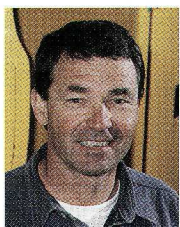
Michael Hinman,
vice president and
general counsel,
July 15



Samuel Keller,
purchasing agent,
July 21

25 years

Mandan, ND TSM



Timothy Fast,
lineman-lead,
July 1

25 years

Groton, SD TSM

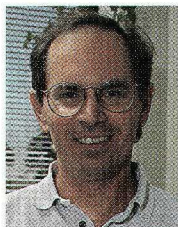


Robert Gibbs,
lineman-lead,
Aug. 26

20 YEARS

Headquarters

Glori van Huekelom, systems
programmer, Aug. 20



Michael Paul,
mechanical/
performance
engineering
supervisor, Aug. 8



Thomas Fischer,
human resources
manager, July 2

20 YEARS

Laramie River Station



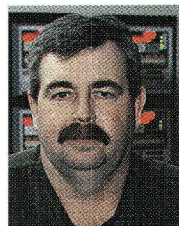
David Stenson,
control room
operator, Aug. 13



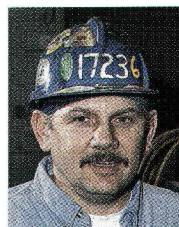
Joseph Bowman,
maintenance
planner/scheduler,
Aug. 13



Kelly Wilson,
assistant
mechanical
supervisor, July 23



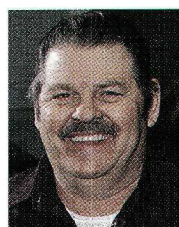
Michael
Mickelsen,
assistant shift
supervisor,
Aug. 13



Richard Falk,
welder/mechanic,
Aug. 13



Ronald Bosch,
plant operator,
Aug. 13

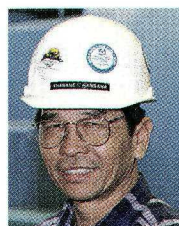


Stephen
Anderson, welder/
mechanic, Aug. 13

Mark Good, water treatment
operator, Aug. 13

20 Years

Leland Olds Station



Khamane
Hansana, plant
custodian, Aug. 6



Gregory Heagle,
control room
operator, Aug. 13



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