## Central **Electric** Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Partner ooperative Connections

VOL. 18 NO. 3 **IIIIY 2017** 

**Small Towns Give Unique Twists to** 

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Column

## Appreciating a Penny



Ken Schlimgen General Manager

Manager's

I am barely old enough to remember when you could actually make a purchase with a penny. Important things like Bazooka Bubble gum and Tootsie Rolls. Today many of us won't stop to pick up a penny on the sidewalk and some will even leave the copper change at the cash register for the next customer like it has no value.

The penny does still have many uses. For example, you see pennies used in photos to demonstrate how much tread is left on tires. You can also use a

penny as a makeshift screwdriver or to stabilize that old vase that has a crooked bottom.

#### About the only place I can think of where you can invest your penny and get something of value for it is with your electric cooperative.

What is the true value of a penny these days? About the only place I can think of where you can invest your penny and get something of value for it is with your electric cooperative. Fortunately for you, Central Electric offers a couple of options where your penny delivers true value.

The first is electricity. To prove my point, Central Electric's residential electric kilowatt hour rate varies from 5.7 cents for electric heating to 11.2 cents. So for easy math, let's say the average price for a kilo-watt hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime. It's enough to power a 9 watt LED light bulb for 11 hours, all for a penny.

Where else can you get that kind of value? How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee or gasoline?

Gasoline has come down from its higher price levels of several years ago, but there is no comparison to the value of electricity. For example, if a gallon of gasoline costs \$2.50 and your car gets 25 miles per gallon, you can drive 176 yards or about two blocks on a penny's worth of gasoline.

The value of electricity is just as evident when you power other appliances. One penny will fully recharge your smartphone more than 18 times. You can charge it every day of the year for about 20 cents. For that same penny, you can watch television for 2.5 hours on a 32" LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75" LED mega TV.

The examples are endless which brings me to the second option offered by your cooperative where your penny returns great value. I am talking about our Operation Round-Up program where members voluntarily round up their monthly bill by pennies to the next whole dollar. Those pennies are placed in a fund to be donated towards projects in our communities that make our quality of life better. Projects like helping to purchase equipment for our local fire departments, ambulance services, parks, playgrounds, and summer youth programs.

Operation Round-Up was launched in October of 2015, and since that time I have witnessed firsthand how these pennies have made such a difference for so many.

We are fortunate that electricity is such an excellent value because we rely on it so much, and we have a pretty large appetite for using it. There are so many things we can do with electricity. It allows us to be more productive and without it, many could not work or even live in our rural areas. Unfortunately, we don't often stop to think about the value we receive for the money.

Your electric cooperative was started in the late 1940's

when the price of a kilowatt hour of electricity was very close to a penny. A lot has changed since then. Wages and the cost of living today are much higher than they were 70 years ago. But one thing has not changed and that is the value of reliable electric power delivered to your door.







(USPS 018-963)

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Managing Editor - Courtney J. Deinert Assistant Editor - Patrick Soukup

President - Duane Wolbrink Vice President - Todd VanWalleghen Secretary - Bernetta Burghardt Treasurer - James Headley

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Our office will be closed Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independance Day.

In case of an outage, call our after-hours dispatch at 800-477-2892.

We wish our members a safe holiday!





#### **Employee Years of Service**

**Tim Harrington** July 2 - 33 years **DuWayne Moore** July 5 - 10 years

n is an equal

Thank you for all you do for the cooperative and our members!

Office Hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Mission Statement Provide Reliable Energy & Services with a Commitment to Safety and Member Satisfaction

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## Electrical Safety Tips for the 4th of July

**It's finally summer** and in just a few days, the biggest holiday of the season arrives: the 4th of July! As you prepare for back-



yard BBQs and poolside fun, there are some important things to remember to make sure it's a safe holiday.

Whether you are hosting or heading over to a neighbor's or relative's house to celebrate, we

have a few safety tips to share with you so that your friends and family enjoy your time together and avoid accidents:

#### **Summer Holiday Poolside Electrical Safety Tips:**

Spending time in and around the pool is a big part of summer and celebration during the warmest months of the year. Regardless of whether you are hosting a get-together at your home or someone else's, make sure the chances for accidents are minimal by following these simple safety steps:

• Never run electrical cords over or alongside the pool. Water and electricity don't mix!

• If you are decorating the backyard, string party lights a minimum of three feet away from the pool or any water source.

• Store and activate fireworks as far away from the pool as possible.

• Never use a floatation device to support an electrical appliance (fan, etc.).

• Never cross the pool exit or towel storage area with electrical wires.

• Always use safety caps on electrical outlets near water.

• When possible, use GFCI outlets to protect yourself and your electrical appliances outdoors.

#### **Electrical Power Line Safety Tips:**

Power lines run through neighborhoods and can even pass through overgrown trees. They're often the most dangerous when you don't even notice they're there because you either see them all of the time or they are covered by tree canopies. Stay mindful and remember these safety tips when you're spending time in the backyard or outdoor neighborhoods:

• Never let kids (or adults for that matter) climb trees that are near power lines.

• Make sure your trees are trimmed and out of the way of power lines running through your yard or near your home.

• Never attempt to touch a downed power line. If there is one in your yard, call your local electric cooperative immediately. There can still be current running through the line and an active line is highly dangerous.

Source: www.allstarelectrical.com

#### **Beat the Extreme Heat**

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.



**Stay Informed:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.

**Stay Cool:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours. Call your local health department to locate heat-relief shelters in your area.



**Stay Hydrated:** Drink (nonalcoholic) fluids regularly, regardless of your activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.



**Don't** leave anyone (or pets) in a closed, parked vehicle.

**Do** check on elderly friends and neighbors.

## A

#### Heat Stress: Who's at Risk?

Adults over the age of 65, children under the age of 4, individuals with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease and those without access to air conditioning. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Never use a fork to get your toast out of the toaster."



#### Atoya Howey, 9 years old

Atoya is the daughter of Valerie Howey, Hill City, S.D. She is a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Custer, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.



## Delectable **Desserts**

#### **Easy Cake Dessert**

1 spice cake mix 1 can apple pie filling 3 eggs

6 T. sugar 2 tsp. cinnamon 1/2 cup chopped nuts

Combine spice cake mix, apple pie filling and eggs. Pour half the batter into a 9x13-inch greased pan. Mix together sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle half over batter. Add remaining batter; top with sugar mixture and nuts. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes. Top with ice cream or whipped cream.

#### Carolyn Saugstad, Alcester

#### **Bourbon Peach Cobbler**

2-1/4 cups plus 1 T. flour, divided	8 T. bourbon, divided
2/3 cup plus 1/2 cup sugar,	1 T. baking powder
divided	12 T. butter
2 (16 oz.) bags frozen peaches,	3/4 cup half-and-half
6 cups	1 large egg

Butter bottom and sides of 9x13-inch baking dish. Combine 1 T. flour, 2/3 cup sugar, 4 T. bourbon and peaches in a medium bowl. Spread mixture evenly in bottom of baking dish. Whisk together remaining flour, sugar and baking powder. Melt butter in a medium bowl. Mix in half-and-half, egg and remaining bourbon. Stir the butter mixture into the dry mixture (add cinnamon if desired) and whisk until smooth. Drop dollops of batter over peaches evenly. Bake at 375°F. for 50 minutes or until top is golden and toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Serve with ice cream.

#### **Cortney Reedy, Tea**

#### **Raspberry Poke Cake**

1 white cake mix

1 (3 oz.) pkg. raspberry jello 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping

1 cup hot water 1 (3 oz) carton raspberry yogurt 2 (10 oz.) boxes fresh raspberries

Prepare and bake cake according to package directions in a 9x13-inch pan. Remove from oven and poke holes in cake while warm with a wooden spoon handle or knife handle. Mix together jello and water, stirring until jello is dissolved. Pour over holes in cake. Cool. Mix whipped topping and yogurt together until blended; gently fold in raspberries. Spread evenly on cake. Refrigerate.

Barbara Angerhofer, Hendricks, MN



#### S'mores Pie

**Graham Cracker Crust:** 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs 7 T. butter, melted 1/3 cup sugar

Filling: 3/4 cup heavy cream 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, chopped 2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon 1 T. plus 1 tsp. McCormick® Extra Rich Pure Vanilla Extract, divided 1 (7 oz.) jar marshmallow creme 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, softened 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping

**Please send** 

vour favorite

salad, garden

pasta recipes

to your local

electric coop-

dress found on

Page 3). Each

recipe printed

into a draw-

in December

entries must

include your

name, mailing

address, tele-

phone number

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produce or

For the crust, mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Press into bottom and up sides of 9-inch pie plate. Set aside. For the filling, bring cream just to boil in small saucepan. Pour over chocolate in medium heatproof bowl. Let stand 1 minute then stir until smooth. Stir in cinnamon and 1 tsp. of the vanilla. Pour into prepared crust. Refrigerate 30 minutes or until chocolate is firm. (Freeze 15 minutes for faster chilling.) Beat marshmallow creme, cream cheese and remaining 1 T. vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Gently stir in whipped topping until well blended. Spread evenly over chocolate layer in crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until ready to serve. Garnish with chocolate curls or toasted marshmallows, if desired. Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 600, Total Fat 36g, Sodium 267mg, Cholesterol 75mg, Carbohydrates 65g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 4g

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections** 

#### Easy Rhubarb Dessert

1 cake mix (strawberry, white, vellow or lemon) 3 cups sliced rhubarb

1 cup chopped walnuts, divided 3/4 cup brown sugar

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Fold in rhubarb and 1/2 cup chopped walnuts. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch glass pan. Sprinkle top with brown sugar and remaining walnuts. Bake at 325°F. for 30 to 40 minutes. Serve with lemon sauce, whipped topping or just plain.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis** 

#### French Coconut Pie

- 4 T. butter 2 eggs 1 T. all-purpose flour 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup milk 1 cup or 3-1/2 oz. can shredded coconut 1 9-inch unbaked pie shell

In a large bowl, combine melted butter, eggs, flour, sugar, milk and coconut. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 400°F. until firm, about 45 to 60 minutes.

Lynn Holzerland, Waubay



### News

# OPERATION ROUND-UP



The application deadline for funding is May 1 and November 1 of each year. The Board of Trustees meet shortly after the deadlines to review applications and award funds. A check is distributed to the organization/individual after each has provided proof of purchase or plans to move forward with

### May 2017 Meeting:

Applications Reviewed	19
Applications Approved	6
Total Amount Awarded	\$11,500.00

100% of your donation stays local! Thanks for making a difference! the approved project.

To enroll, withdraw, or request additional information about Operation Round-Up, visit www.centralec.coop or call our office at 800-477-2892.

### **Program Lifetime Totals:**

Average monthly contribution:	\$0.49
Membership Participation:	80%
Total Program Income:	\$36,782.50
Applications Approved:	16



into

Change!



### News

## Viereck and Koupal Join Operations Part-time

Central Electric welcomes two utility workers to assist the operations department this summer. Chris Viereck and Daniel Koupal began on May 16 and will work 1,000 hours with the cooperative.

Viereck and Koupal will be based out of the Mitchell office but will assist all crews as needed. Summer season is a busy time for construction, and their assistance will be very beneficial for the cooperative. This will also be an educational experience for them and allow them to use these hours towards their apprenticeship.

Viereck is originally from Chamberlain, SD. His parents are Kelly and Patty Viereck. He graduated from Mitchell Technical Institute in May 2016 with his diploma in Power Line Construction and Maintenance and an additional two years in Power Sports Technology. Viereck previously worked for Schulte TA Inc., a contractor out of Gillette, WY, and also done some substation work for the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Viereck stated that working for a contractor can be extremely fast-paced, so he's looking forward to gaining a better understanding of what the equipment is and how it works during his experience here.

Koupal is originally from Mitchell, SD, and his parents are Bill and Pam Koupal. He simultaneously completed his diploma in Power Line Construction from MTI alongside his senior year of high school, and recently graduated in May



Left-right: Chris Viereck and Daniel Koupal will assist Central Electric operation crews as 1,000 hour employees.

2017. Koupal previously helped on the Gene and Craig Stahle farming operation, but stated this will be his first hands-on experience in the power line field. He's looking forward to diving in right away after graduation and learning more about the job.

## **Future Linemen Awarded Scholarships**

The South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association awarded its annual scholarships to students in the Power Line Construction program at Mitchell Technical Institute. Central Electric Manager of Operations Brian Bultje belongs to this Association and helps make the scholarships possible.

The \$500 Mark and Kathy Hofer Scholarship was awarded to Sean Kafka of Gregory. Hofer serves on the Central Electric Board of Directors and represents South Dakota on the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) Board. He and his wife, Kathy, have sponsored this scholarship since 2007.

The \$500 Larry Brink Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Michael Plaggemeyer of Sturgis.

Five students received scholarships sponsored by the Line Superintendents Association: Michael Plaggemeyer, Sturgis (\$1,000), Alex Caba, Tabor (\$750), Gage Neuschwander, Rapid City (\$750), Nick Jackson, Milbank (\$500), and Carter Jondahl, Groton (\$500). Recipients of the Line Superintendents scholarships are required to earn a 3.25 GPA, complete an application, an essay, and are interviewed.



Left-right: Lynn Kruse, Dakota Energy; Randy Borer, Cherry-Todd Electric; Nick Jackson, Milbank; Jon Christensen, Whetstone Valley Electric; Carter Jondahl, Groton, Jared Terhark, Codington-Clark Electric; Michael Plaggemeyer, Sturgis; Mike Kelly, Northern Electric; Gage Neuschwander, Rapid City; and Bill Brisk, Black Hills Electric. Not pictured: Alex Caba, Tabor; Sean Kafka, Gregory

## Unique Celebrations

Summer BRINGS A VARIETY HOMETOWN CELEBRA-TIONS to many Main Streets in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Some celebrate heritage and culture such as wacipis in many western South Dakota communities to those celebrating ethnic groups such as Czech Days (Tabor, S.D.), Danish Days (Viborg, S.D.) and Æbleskiver Days (Tyler, Minn.)

And then there's the celebrations that just seem truly unique.

In South Central South Dakota, the community of Burke opens its streets for a cattle drive of long-horned bovines as it kicks off its annual Burke Stampede and Rodeo July 14-16. In addition to rodeo performances, the celebration features a trail ride and cowboy cookout. Find out more at http:// www.burkestampederodeo.com/home.html

The town of Custer in western South Dakota taps into its historical roots when it hosts Gold Discovery Days each July.

The 2017 Gold Discovery Days, set for July 21 to 23 includes a Gold Nugget hunt for kids, the area's annual bed races and also daily balloon rallies.

For more information, go to www.visitcuster. com/chamber/events/custergolddiscoverydays/

Head north and east of Custer a few hours on July 23 and you'll encounter the 41st running of the Reva Turtle Races.

The races featuring the hard shell contestants bring dozens of people to the unincorporated town



Brenda Kleinjan



in eastern Harding County.

Be sure to check the event's Facebook page at https://www. facebook.com/Reva-Turtle-Races-124003867629956/ for more information.

In western Minnesota, the town of Tyler, Minn., proudly boosts its Danish heritage with Æbleskiver Days.

The town celebrates the little sphere-shaped Danish pancakes with three shifts of volunteers cooking up the treats throughout the event. The celebration will also include a kickball tournament on July 22 and also a Cruise-In Car Show during Æbleskiver Days from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Tyler.

A new addition to the town celebration this year is Rainbow Country Trolley. The 30-foot long trolley will be pulled by two Belgian draft horses. The owner/driver Gerry Buse will entertain with singing and music during the ride. The trolley will be available to ride from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The pick up and drop off sites are: the fairgrounds, the band shell, and Danebod. It will take roughly 30 minutes to go from the Fairgrounds to the Danebod, so please plan accordingly.

To learn more about the event, go to https://www.facebook. com/aebleskiverdays

The revving of lawn mower engines can be heard at celebrations across south central South Dakota as drivers

in the Pukwana Mower Races make appearances at events in South Dakota from April through October.

Find out more about the schedule at http:// www.pukwanamowerracing.com/race-schedule. html

According to the Clark Potato Days site, "the potato is king in Clark, S.D., where local farmers grow bushels of the tasty tuber. That's why, each year, the town throws a party in honor of its favorite over-used, under-appreciated starch."

The site goes on to promote the eastern South Dakota's annual event by pointing out, "Mr. Potato Head is proud of Clark's celebration, and will be making an appearance at this year's festivities. The locals vie for top honors in a Best Decorated Potato

Left: Potato Wrestling is part of Clark's Potato Days celebration. Below: Custer's Gold Discovery Days feature bed races. Bottom: A variety of old tractors can be seen in use during the Twin Rivers Old Iron Festival in Delmont in September. Opposite page: Lawn mower races are featured in several communities. Cover: Longhorn cattle make their way into town for the Burke Stampede.

Contest. Past winners included an astronaut, farmer, race cars, and tooth. The Potato Dish Cooking Contests always bring out the best cooks in the county. And, the highlight of the celebration involves grown adults wrestling each other in mashed potatoes!

"Besides all the potato stuff, the event features those smalltown festival activities that keep families and regular folks coming back year after year," the site continues.

Among the events during the celebration is Mashed Potato Wrestling, which starts this year at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 17.

On Sept. 9-10, the community of Delmont, S.D., will host its Kuchen Festival and the Twin Rivers Old Iron Festival. The German dessert festival, which was first held in



1997, will be held Sept. 9 while the farm equipment festival is both days.

Find out more http://www.delmontsd.org/kuchen\_festival\_and\_twin\_rivers.htm

Be sure to check out other happenings in communities near you on the back page of this magazine.





## Safe and Effective Electric Fences

#### How does an Electric Fence work?

An electric fence controls livestock by delivering an uncomfortable current flow through the body for a sufficiently short duration so as not to cause injury to the animal. In order for this to occur, the animal must touch the fence wire and complete the circuit from the "hot" terminal of the fence energizer, through the animal to earth, and back to the "ground" terminal of the energizer (Figure 1).

#### **Electric Fence System Components**

There are three main parts to an electric fence:

(1) The energizer (fence charger) produces a high voltage charge that only lasts a fraction of a second.

(2) The fence is an extension of the high voltage terminal on the energizer. Types of fence material depend upon the animal to be controlled and whether permanent or temporary.

(3) The ground rods return the current to the energizer. They are necessary to complete the circuit.

#### **Selecting the Proper Energizer**

Most early fence energizers were high impedance (resistance) units that worked over short distances when they were weed-free. Dry soil conditions had little effect on the effectiveness of high impedance units.

Energizers today are generally of the low impedance type that deliver a very high current to the fence for a very short time. Even when some grass or other vegetation is touching the fence, the system can still deliver enough current

to control livestock. However, if you skimp on the number of ground rods with a low impedance energizer, the current delivered to livestock can be drastically reduced.

Choosing an energizer that is labeled by a testing laboratory is recommended. Caution should be taken to prevent small children from contacting high energy output electric fences. All individuals should take extra care to avoid electric fence contact with your head or neck.



Improving the grounding may be the lowest cost, most effective means of improving the operation of the electric fence system.

#### **Grounding Is Essential**

One of the most important aspects of making sure an electric fence system works effectively is proper grounding of the energizer. If an energizer does not control livestock, the solution is not necessarily a more powerful energizer. Improving the grounding may be the lowest cost, most effective means of improving the operation of the electric fence system.

• The grounding required by a fence energizer will vary depending on the soil type and moisture.

• For an average soil, it is recommended that a 5 Joule low impedance charger be grounded with three, 8-foot ground rods spaced at least 10 feet apart.

• Doubling the Joule output of the energizer would double the grounding needed.

One method to check the adequacy of the earth return system is to measure the voltage between the energizer ground rods and a connection to the earth a few feet away such as to a screwdriver stuck in the ground. If there is a perceivable voltage between these points with the fence wire touching the earth, the energizer grounding should be improved. This voltage can be measured with a tester designed to measure high voltage fences.



#### Where to Install the Energizer

An energizer should be placed at a location where it is possible to maximize separation of the energizer grounding and electrical wiring system grounding. The best place for the energizer may be outdoors away from animal buildings and grounded equipment. If an energizer is installed indoors, the high voltage must be taken to the outside using high voltage lead cable (20,000 volt insulation is recommended). Electrical wire of the type used for the building wiring, with 600 volt insulation, must never be used for this purpose.

#### **Preventing Unintended Shocks**

An improperly installed electric fence system can result in unintentional shocks to livestock at grounded equipment such as at waterers, feeders or even in a milking barn. The most frequent cause is improper grounding of the energizer. The energizer must have its own grounding electrode located well away from any other grounds or metal object in the earth (50 feet minimum recommended, Figure 2). An energizer must never be grounded to the farm electrical system grounds, to the utility system grounds, to metal water pipes, or to metal objects

in a building such as stalls, fences, or dividers. Such improper grounding puts the metal objects and livestock in the electric fence earth return path.

#### **Types of Fence Circuits**

A standard fence circuit can use single or multiple wires with the animal contact made between the fence and the earth. In areas where the soil is sandy or dry, a path through the earth is not easy to obtain and a continuous ground fence circuit is recommended (Figure 3). The energized wire(s) are alternated with grounded wire(s) connected to ground rod(s) near the fence energizer and at other locations. When an animal touches both an energized wire and a grounded wire, the intensity of the shock will be greater than when touching the energized wire and the earth. Connect the grounded wire to ground rod(s) and use the earth as a part of the return path back to the energizer to reduce lightning damage. Achieving reduction of lightning damage may require additional steps





on both the fence and the power supply sides of the energizer.

Authors Robert J. Fick. Ph.D, P.E.; and Truman C. Surbrook, Ph.D., P.E., Biosystems Engineering, Agricultural Engineering Department; William M. Bivens, MSU Extension, Jackson County Michigan State University. Published in the Michigan State University Extension bulletin as funded by the Michigan Agricultural Electric Council.

## Engineering Early Electrification

### Retired REA Engineer Honored By South Dakota Governor

HERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE LEFT WHO REMEMBER what life was like in rural South Dakota in the late 1940s when the countryside was first electrified by cooperatives. However, Jim Duvall, who turned 100 years old on May 29, 2017, is the exception.

"I was one of the pioneers out there," Duvall recalled during a phone conversation in May from his Virginia home just days before his 100th birthday.

Duvall grew up in McIntosh, S.D., but moved away for college and later a job with the Signal Corps in Chicago, Ill., inspecting radar equipment for bombers during World War II.

After the war was over, Duvall started working as an engineer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Rural Electrification Administration. The centenarian knows the exact day he started his job with REA; he reported to the St. Louis, Mo., office on Nov. 19, 1945.

After spending a few months in St. Louis, Duvall was moved to Washington, D.C., and in 1947 he requested a transfer to South Dakota. He spent 13 years stationed in Aberdeen as a REA field engineer where he inspected new co-op lines that were being constructed and energized for the very first time following the war.

"The transformers and wire and everything became available and lines could be staked out and construction could start again (after the war)," Duvall said. "Everything is flat (on the Great Plains) and there aren't a lot of obstructions and a contractor could get a



#### Ben Dunsmoor



lot done in a day, so it kept me busy."

During his time in Aberdeen, Duvall oversaw electric and telephone line construction loans and building projects in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. He very likely inspected Northern Electric Cooperative lines as the first poles, wires and meters were energized starting in 1945 with construction continuing through the late 1940s and into the 1950s.

"A big part of my job was to make the final inspection and to make any modifications before the lines were energized and before the contractors got paid," Duvall said.

Following his work in South Dakota,

Duvall was transferred back to Washington, D.C. where he became the REA Chief Engineer for the southwest and western regions. In 1959, he was given a Meritorious Service Award for his 13 years of service in Aberdeen. Duvall was also honored in 1958 and 1959 as 'Engineer of the Year' for the REA.

This spring, South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard also honored Duvall for his role in electrifying rural America when he issued an Executive Proclamation proclaiming that May 29, 2017, Duvall's 100th birthday, be known as Jim Duvall Day in the state of South Dakota.

"It was really a terrific surprise and I felt so honored," Duvall said.

The proclamation was issued after Jim Duvall's son, Don Duvall, called the offices of governors in the states his dad worked in during his career. Don Duvall asked the offices for a signed picture for his dad's birthday. Governor Daugaard's office instead reached out to Don Duvall and said they would like to issue a proclamation.

Opposite Page: In this January 1959 photo, Dave Hamil, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, presents Jim Duvall a Meritorious Service Award for his 13 years as an REA field engineer. Duvall would later become the REA's chief engineer. COURTESY PHOTO



"I said, 'wow, this is a super surprise - I'm amazed you would pick up the phone and call me,'" Don Duvall said. "The Governor was very pleased to help celebrate Jim's milestone in this way," Gov. Daugaard's Chief of Staff Tony

VenHuizen said. "As the proclamation said, South Dakota is a strong state today because of the contributions of people like Jim Duvall. It's hard to understate the transformative impact that rural electrification had on South Dakota."

Don Duvall said his dad enjoyed working for REA and took pride in overseeing early line construction for electric and telephone co-ops in rural South Dakota. Duvall said his dad would even point out his work during family vacations.

"Whenever we were in a rural area, he would pull over and say that's a REA line over there," Don Duvall said.

Jim Duvall retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1976 as a REA regional manager stationed in Washington, D.C., but he says his greatest memories and accomplishments came during his time as a field engineer in South Dakota.

"My best days were actually in the field. I felt like I was doing something. I had my hands on," Duvall said.

And, as Duvall celebrates his 100th birthday at his home in Virginia, that is what he will remember about a career that helped electrify and connect the countryside.

"It was interesting work and I enjoyed it."

Duvall says his greatest memories and accomplishments came during his time as a field engineer in South Dakota.



## **Operation Round-Up In Your Community**

#### **EMERY LITTLE LEARNER'S DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL**



Central Electric Cooperative awarded \$2,200 to the City of Emery for the Little Learner's Daycare and Preschool. Funds were granted through the Operation RoundUp program.

Funds will be used to aid in constructing a playground area at the daycare's new location. The project plans include rubber safety matting under equipment, a shaded play area, sandbox, and relocating their current jungle gym in addition to landscaping details and fence.

The daycare serves approximately 30 families and 40 children in the local area. The new facility and upgrades will now allow the daycare to serve over 50 children and provide local, reliable daycare for area families.

#### **CARTHAGE CAMPBELL STRAW BALE MUSEUM**

Central Electric Cooperative awarded \$3,000 to the Campbell Straw Bale Museum through the Operation RoundUp program.

Funds were used for the museum's recent roof replacement. The roof had previously been leaking and ruined the insulation.

As the first straw bale museum in the United States, this museum draws tourism into the area. The walls are lined with approximately 1,300 straw bales and is sealed with six tons of stucco, applied by the dedicated volunteers of the musuem. Everything in the museum has either been repurposed or restored and boasts the rich history of Carthage and surrounding area.





Above: Left to right, Shirley Stroud, Harriet Hattervig, Myrna Miller, Pete Miller, Norbert Moldan, Barbara Herne, Ken Schlimgen, Bernetta Burghardt

Left: "Truth Windows" allow visitors a peek at a few of the 1,300 straw bales that line the walls of the museum

#### Operation Round-Up



The Wessington Springs Baseball Association received \$2,500 towards the purchase of new equipment and field maintenance. Equipment purchased included bats, helmets, practicing nets, batting mats, game balls as well as chalk, drags and other necessary items for field maintenance. These updates will help replace some equipment that has been in use since the 1980s. Prior to the grant, certain equipment needs were being provided personally by the coaches.

In previous years, low participant numbers has prevented Wessington Springs from having a team. However, Coach Nathan Hainy states there is an increased number of students coming up through the program who are showing interest and asking for the opportunity to play. Spring league currently has about 23 participants, and summer league has about 29 participants.

Not only does the baseball program



provide a positive activity for the kids, but Coach Hainy stated it's important for the community. Many community members remember playing or attending baseball in past years. They value having a home team to cheer for and wellmaintained field to take pride in. Back, Left-right: Mark Reindl, Nathan Hainy, Jon Witte, Chandler Flowers, Trever Schmidt, Kyle Gerlach, Ken Schlimgen; Front: Noah Hainy, Coy Fastnacht, Clayton Dornbusch

#### **HOWARD CHILDREN'S CARE CORNER DAYCARE & PRESCHOOL**



Adults pictured left-right: Ken Schlimgen, Jan Torkelson, Bernetta Burghardt, Katelyn Kampshoff, Lisa Walker (kneeling), Macey Claussen, Lindsey Karlson

The Children's Care Corner daycare received \$2,000 towards the purchase of a large capacity washer and dryer.

The daycare's current washer and dryer were both noisy and slow, which did not meet the needs of a busy daycare. It would take days to just regularly wash blankets each week. Director Jan Torkelson stated, "Clean laundry is a timely matter," especially when kids are sick.

With an appliance sales and service department, Central Electric was also able to help with the purchase, delivery and installation of the news units.

The daycare currently serves approximately 27 families and 40 children in the Howard area. These families will benefit as the daycare now has reliable appliances and will save money on both repairs and energy efficiency. The daycare also employs about 20 local employees.

#### <u>Regional Dateline</u>

#### June thru September 23

Saturday

Farmer's Market and Flea Market, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Corner of 5th and Main St., Mitchell, SD, Contact Maria Payne 605-995-8048 www.facebook/MitchellMarket

#### June 23-24

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD Contact Howard Bich at 605-275-6891

#### June 23-25

South Dakota Scavenger's Journey, antiques, collectibles flea markets and more from Murdo to Plankinton Vendor space available www.scavengersiourney.com

#### June 23-25

Badlands Astronomy Festival Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

#### June 23-25

Black Hills Bluegrass Festival Sturgis, SD, 605-348-1198

#### June 24

Growing Berries and Growing Hops, Wagner and Armour SD, 605-254-5640 www.sdspecialtyproducers.org

#### June 24-25

Kite & Bike Festival Brookings, SD

#### June 30-July 2

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate 150th Annual Wacipi Agency Village, SD 605-698-8284



**Events of Special Note** 

#### June 24

"Keeping it in Kimball" Days Kimball, SD, Contact Anita Holan at 605-682-8166 or www.cityofkimballsd.org

#### July 14-16

Burke Stampede Rodeo Burke, SD, 605-830-5540

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

#### June 30-July 4

98th Annual Black Hills Roundup, Belle Fourche, SD 605-723-2010

#### Julv 1-2

Prairie Village Railroad Days Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

#### July 6-9

22nd Annual Hot Harley Nights, Sioux Falls, SD 605-334-2721

#### July 7-9, 14-16, 21-23

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, "Little Town on the Prairie" De Smet, SD, 605-203-0216

#### July 8-9

Summer Arts Festival Brookings, SD, 605-692-2787

#### July 8-9

Arts Expo, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. SD Hall of Fame Chamberlain, SD

#### July 9

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

#### July 11-16 3-Wheeler Rally Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174

July 13-15 Black Hills Corvette Classic Spearfish, SD

#### July 15

Growing in Greenhouses and Selling in Boxes, Midland, SD 605-254-5640

#### July 19-22

Senior Games, Rapid City, SD Contact Kristi Lintz at 605-394-4168

#### July 22

Holy Smoke Car Show O'Gorman High School Sioux Falls, SD www.holysmokecarshow.org

#### August 10

Meat Goats and Growing Tomatoes in a Greenhouse Custer, SD, 605-254-5640 www.sdspecialtyproducers.org

#### August 11-12

Senior Games, Huron, SD Contact LaRon Clock at 605-353-8533 or Howard Bich at 605-275-6891

#### August 11-13

27th Annual Old Fashioned Threshing Show, Bahnson Farm, Humboldt, SD 605-526-3459 or 605-251-9974

#### August 13

Czech Heritage Festival Bechyn, MN, 320-522-1218

#### September 15-16

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show Show, Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD 605-248-2526