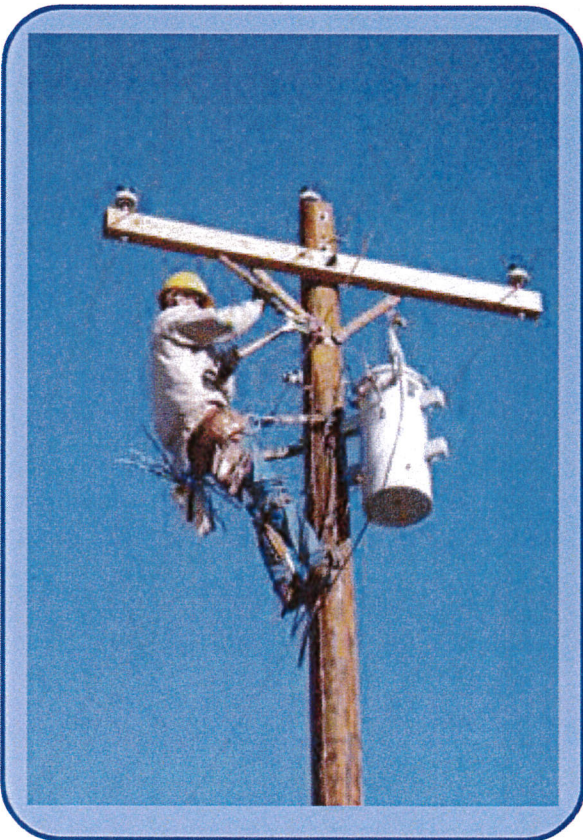


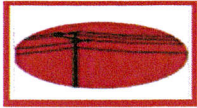
Polk County Rural Public Power District

*Celebrating
76 Years
of Service to Area
Customers*



*The power of human
connections®*





The power of human connections®



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Company Mission Statement:

***“Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing,
safe, reliable, economical energy now and into the future.”***

Thank you for joining us for the celebration of Polk County Rural Public Power District's 76th anniversary. We hope you enjoy our open house as you recollect the past, enjoy today and look to the future. Our directors and employees look forward to providing you with the best service possible for many years to come.



Introduction and Overview



Introduction

Welcome to our special, 75th Anniversary Celebration of providing electricity to rural and urban customers in Polk County and surrounding communities. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the employees of Polk County RPPD, we would like to thank you for attending our open house celebration. We hope you enjoy your visit and learn a few things about your district, safety and electricity.

We wish to express a thank you to our forefathers for working so diligently to bring electricity to the rural area. What life must have been like without electricity!

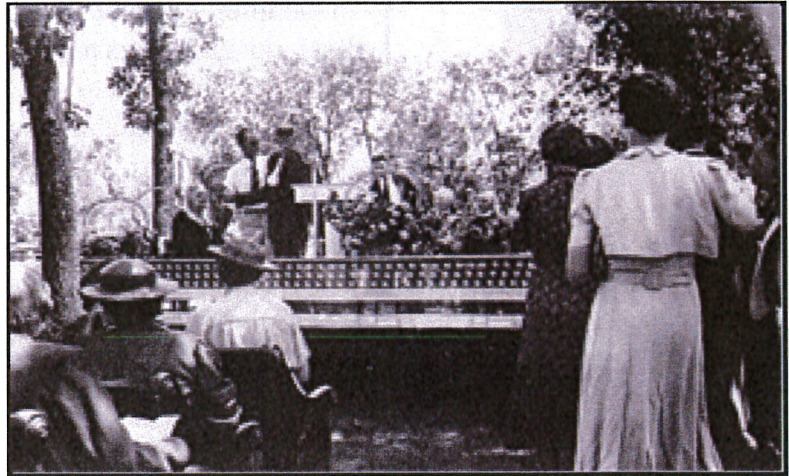
Overview

Electrical service, which we all accept today as a way of life, was not available to most farmers and ranchers in the early 1930s. Even the smaller communities had no electric service unless they generated their own.

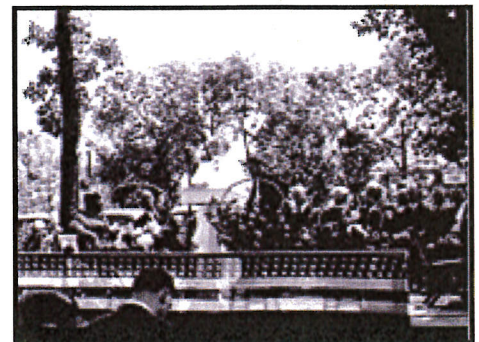
In the spring of 1935, the Council of the Swede Home Church appointed Petrus C. Nelson and Alex Adelson as a committee to see if enough people in Polk County would be interested in organizing a Public Power District. A meeting was held in the Swede Home Church parlor on May 6, 1935, and as a result a district was organized. Petrus Nelson was elected president of the new district and Agvall S. Torell was elected secretary. Swede Home was chosen as the place of business for the district.

Nine directors were elected to the board, one from each precinct as follows: Petrus C. Nelson, Maurice G. Lindburg, C. B. Knerr, Victor Thelander, George H. Bond, William Kosch, Albert Schulz, Fred

tendent, and in June 1938 the energization of the lines was celebrated. Mrs. Milo Austin had the honor of closing the switch, which started the electricity flowing in the lines.



Swede Home, Nebraska, June 2, 1938 Mrs. Elsenia Austin, at age 89 and the oldest pioneer living in Polk County, pulled a switch that sent electricity surging through the lines to 325 farm homes. Right: nearly 200 people attended the formal dedication ceremony where the switch was pulled starting a new concept of "lighting up the rural countryside."



Cockson, and Adolph Grossnicklaus.

A loan in the amount of \$367,500 was approved by the Rural Electrification Administration in October 1936 for the construction of the first lines. In April 1937 Sandberg & Johnson Construction Company was awarded a contract to build lines. Mr. G. E. Ekstrand was employed as Project Superin-

The City of Stromsburg connected to the lines of the new District in November 1941. The District's offices, which had been located in the lower level of the Stromsburg Bank building since 1937, moved to its present location in 1950. A dedication ceremony was held in December of that year.



A Message from the Board President



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Polk County Rural Public Power District, we are pleased



Board President, Mardell H. Johnson

to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our district with our customers.

This is a milestone for us as an organization. As board president I appreciate the commitment and dedication of our board in serving the needs of our customers. Our newly remodeled facility was constructed to enhance operational efficiency and customer service. This new facility is something everyone in the district can be proud of whether it is customers, employees, or the Board of Directors.

The dedication of our employees to serve the district well is the major reason for our success. This in turn ensures reliable service.

Employee and public safety is one of our highest priorities. Safety education is an ongoing, continu-

ing program for the employees. The district is always working towards safety achievement.

Keeping rates as low as possible is important to our board. Even with the necessary rate increases to cover the rising costs of purchasing power and investments in facilities, equipment and power lines, our customers pay only what it costs their district to serve them. Maintaining rate stability is one of our goals.

It is interesting to note how Polk County Rural Public Power District has grown through the years! From 1990 to 2011 total services in place have grown from 2,573 to nearly 4,800 with the realignment of the communities of Clarks, Osceola, Shelby and Silver Creek. The number of irrigation

services has grown from 674 to nearly 1,215 and from 32,500 horsepower to nearly 55,000 total horsepower. Kilowatt-hours purchased went from 54,970,828 to 104,982,233 and total plant valuation increased from \$6,074,298 to \$24,445,254 in this ten year period.

Our industry continues to become more complex. The Board spends time each year on continuing education and is knowledgeable about the complexities and issues of our industry and the challenges ahead.

The District's purpose statement is "We are committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable, economical energy now and into the future."



System engineer, Jim Hirschenbach indicates areas for construction in the four year work plan. From left: Attorney, Jim Papik; Director Gary Allison, Bob Lindburg and Greg Kuhnle analyze information to make good business decisions on behalf of the district.



A Message from the CEO/General Manager



From the Great Depression to the Great Recession, through all kinds of weather, Polk County Rural Public Power District has been here for our consumers.

Due to the depression and WWII Polk County RPPD got off to a slow start. Financing and material to build lines and substations was hard to come by! In January of 1939 Polk County RPPD sold 34,600 kilowatt-hours and provided service to 345 customers. In January of 2009 PCRPPD sold 9,303,818 kilowatt-hours and provided electricity to 4,800 services.



General Manager, George Lyons meets with Shelby residents in 2005 to explain why rate adjustments are necessary.

Building service to irrigation wells was minimal until the late 1970's, and now we have 1,215 wells. Load management started in the early 80's and has saved several millions of dollars on power costs. Wholesale power is about 75 percent of our total cost of doing business, so any amount we save in load management adds up in short order!

Having been born in 1946 I have to rely on what I have been told over the years. The problems and trials faced by our predecessors were common problems, that is why we banded together and formed associations like the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and the Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission. To help establish rural electrification nationally, more specifically to be heard by members of Congress we joined the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Our roots are deep in organizations like the Grange and the Farm Bureau, since rural electrification was the topic of discussion at many of their meetings. Many early public power district directors were also directors of these and other farm organizations.

In the early years lines were placed for easy extensions and to try and minimize disruption with farming and other land use patterns. Today we have to think about what bug, bird or rodent might be in the area where we want to construct our lines! The size and versatility of our equipment has increased, no-longer can two men with a 'banjo', "spoon and pike" poles, build line. It takes more than two levers and a foot pedal to operate modern line construction equipment. The same is



General Manager, George S Lyons

true about the equipment used to keep the power flowing down the line to your meter.

The board, staff and employees of Polk County Rural Public Power District have done a good job of keeping educated and informed to be able to provide the level of service our customers want and need. The business will probably not resemble the current type and structure, but as in the past Polk County RPPD will be there to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy now and into the future!

Technology and modern electronics allow us to do many things quicker, better and faster and power quality becomes more critical than ever. Today, the blinking digital readout on clocks and electronic appliances tell you that we had a blink or voltage change on the line, which can be a nuisance for us all.

Change is apparent. One thing is certain, PCRPPD will grow with change and do its best to provide the best possible service for future generations.



Service Area and Customer Base



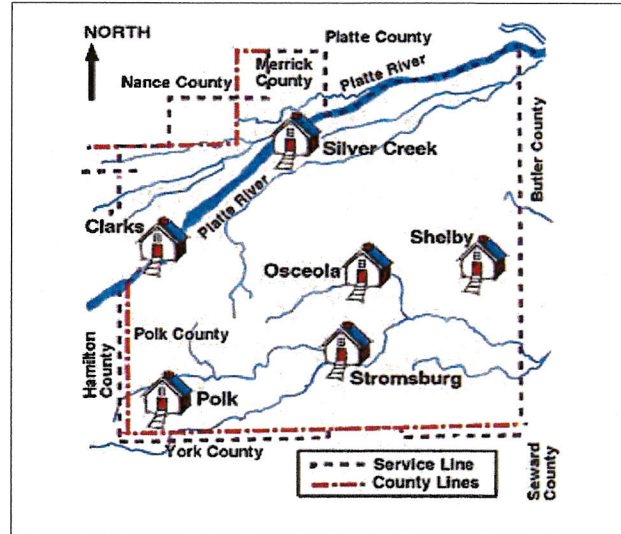
The District serves rural Polk, parts of Merrick, Butler, Nance and York counties in addition to the communities of Clarks, Osceola, Shelby and Silver Creek. The City of Stromsburg purchases their power from Polk County RPPD. Polk County RPPD purchases their power from Nebraska Public Power District. We provide service for nearly 4,800 meters.

The 1,215 irrigation services total 55,000 connected horsepower. Most irrigation customers participate in a load management program where wells can be shut down during high peak use periods. Eighty-five percent of the connected horsepower load is controlled when requested from our power supplier. Through the years, load manage-

ment has saved the District and its customers millions of dollars by deferring or shutting down irrigation, air conditioning and water heater loads during high summer peaking times.

Load management has also limited the amount of rate adjustments when an adjustment has been implemented and postponed operational construction of plant facilities that would have been overloaded had we not been able to reduce loads.

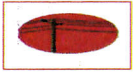
There are 2,388 residential services with nearly 50 percent urban (Clarks, Silver Creek, Osceola and Shelby) and 50 percent rural.



The board and management periodically have a “Cost of Service Study” done which calculates the rates for the various types of services based on the operational cost of providing service to that particular service type.

The chart at the left shows a current, monthly, average number of kilowatt-hours and costs for providing service for different services combining rural and urban rates.

Type of Service	Number of Services	Average kilowatt-hours	Average Cost in Dollars
Residential (monthly)	2,388	1,450	\$145
Seasonal (bi-annually)	660	493	\$347
Irrigation (bi-annually)	1,215	10,260	\$2,092
Commercial 1,000 kVa or less (monthly)	521	38,206	\$3,787
Commercial over 1,000 kVa (monthly)	3	189,383	\$14,857
Public Street and Highway Lighting (monthly)	12	6,547	\$596
Sales for Resale (City of Stromsburg)	1	998,487	\$54,480



The History of Rural Electrification - 1935



Pioneers in Rural Electrification - U.S. Congressman & U.S. Senator from Nebraska for 40 Years

Former Senator George W. Norris from Nebraska was known to many as “The Father of Rural Electrification”. He was a true pioneer and statesman who took the lead in bringing electricity to rural areas.


It is with permission from the Nebraska State Historical Society that we boast of this historical, Nebraska statesman.

George Norris was born near Clyde, Ohio on July 11, 1861. Norris’ father died when he was four years old, only months after his brother died in the Civil War.

Like any young man, George thought he should work to support himself, his sister and mother, however; Mary, George’s mother, encouraged him to receive a proper education. While in college, Norris earned money by farming and

teaching. Sometimes he would have to take entire semesters off from school so he could work.

With a deed for 80 acres of land from his mother and a loan of \$300 from his sister, Norris moved to



Norris instrumental in passage of the Rural Electrification Act - 1935

Norris was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1902, and married Ellie Leonard in 1903. He served five terms with the House.

He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1912, where he also served five terms until 1942.

“The Father of Rural Electrification”

GEORGE W. NORRIS, OF NEBRASKA
Norris as a newly elected U.S. Senator.
Source — NSHS.


Norris had great skills for debating and graduated with a law degree from Indiana State Normal School in Valparaso, at the ripe age of 19.

Beatrice, Nebraska in 1885. He later lived in Beaver City where he served as the local prosecuting attorney before moving to McCook, Nebraska in 1899. As a judge, he

witnessed the impact of farm foreclosures and made a way to postpone these taking into consideration the harsh weather of those years. Norris understood the hardships of rural farm families and knew there had to be a better way of life. He had a vision, the vision of bringing electricity to the countryside.

George W. Norris: U.S. Legislator from Nebraska 5 of 7

Tennessee Valley Authority



Senator Norris is credited with planning the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which provided flood control and created electricity in the region drained by the Tennessee River.

The TVA provided a series of dams, which brought flood control, water to farmers during drought, and electricity to those who could not otherwise afford it, especially in rural areas.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Tennessee Valley Authority Act in 1933.
Source — NSHS.



The History of Rural Electrification - 1935



From the "Next Greatest Thing" 50 Years of Rural Electrification in America's "12 minute memo"

What is the task?

Of the six million farms in the United States over 800,000 are "electrified". But only about 650,000 have "high line" service. The balance have individual Delco plants, expensive to operate and limited as to use. Over 5,000,000 farms are entirely without electric service. Estimates as to the number of these which can now economically be given service range from one to three million.

Unless the Federal government, assisted in particular instances by state and local agencies, assumes an active leadership and complete control only a negligible part of this task can be accomplished. Except in sporadic instances, such as where power is a by-product or an irrigation or flood control project, rural electrification is the responsibility solely of the private interests.

Electrical systems are developed by attaching new construction to those already existent, in large measure because of technical considerations. But it is done also for political advantage, to secure exclusive control of a given territory. So strong is this urge for continuity for having all of a company's territory and lines tied into an integrated system that in Pennsylvania to connect widely separated areas under common ownership, there are strips of chartered territory 200 feet wide where for mile after mile transmission lines are carried with-

out the right of the owner to take off current. Discontinuity or division of the property into isolated segments is taboo within any given system. Hence no private company is likely to create a new center of power production simply in order to serve a rural area.

Advantages of Rural Electrification

Both for the farmer and his wife the introduction of electricity goes a long way toward the elimination of drudgery. The electric refrigerator will affect a considerable change in diet - more fresh vegetables and less salt and cured meats. The inside bathroom made possible by automatic electric pumping, brings to the farm one of the major comforts of urban life. Electricity will be a strong lever in keeping the boys and girls on the farm, encouraging reading and other social and cultural activities. As we go into "part-time agriculture" the demand for rural electrification will probably become more insistent.

"The possibility of diversifying our industrial life by sending a fair proportion of it into the rural district is one of the definite possibilities of the future. Cheap electric power, good roads and automobiles make such a rural industrial development possible."

Having recognized the advantages of rural electric service and reaching the conclusion that only under Governmental leadership and control is any considerable

electrification of "dirt farms" possible, the obvious obligation is to get it done. Perhaps the start should be through an allotment of \$25,000 to \$50,000 to make a survey. But an allotment of \$100,000,000 actually to build independent self-liquidating rural projects would exert a might influence. This plan calls for entering territory not now occupied and not likely to be occupied to any considerable extent by private interests. The proposal has only become possible recently through the marvelous development of the Diesel engine.

Source of Power for Rural Services

In the public development as here outlined, whether connecting up with existing private or public generating or transmission systems. Perhaps when first getting under way the preference would be given to connecting up with existing lines where fair prices for current can be secured. Independent sources of power might well be kept in the background.

But, if it is decided to create a new source of power, there are everywhere and always available Diesel engine installations and frequently local, or reachable, hydroelectric development sites. The electric current itself, in any case, can be made available to the rural population at a figure considerably below what is charged for it on existing rural lines. We assume that the current can be made available at 2 cents or less per K.W.H.



The History of Rural Electrification-1935



Distribution Lines

The cost of a mile of “high wire” line naturally depends on a number of variables, most important among them, under normal conditions, being the number of customers per mile and the method followed in doing the work; whether for instance it is piecemeal or large scale construction. The cost of the line with transformers and meters included for one to three customers will range from \$500 to \$800 per mile. To amortize this cost in twenty years at four percent involves a cost to each of the three customers on a mile of line of about one dollar a month.

Rates, distance between farms to spread the costs over, financing of the lines were all taken into consideration. The answer: form a Rural Electrification Agency. It was proposed to set up in the Department of the Interior a section, manned by socially minded electrical engineers, who, having standardized rural electrification equipment, will cooperate with groups within the several states in planning appropriate developments. In many instances no Federal financing will be required. Where such schemes are self liquidating financing in whole or in part may be provided.

The possible bearing of proposed municipal power developments on rural electrification might properly influence allotments during the life of the Public Works Administration. In fact the proposed Rural Electrification Section should take an active hand in planning out the rural use of current from such developments as Grand Coulee, Ft. Peck, Benneville, Boulder Dam, Tygart Dam, etc. Cooperation with the Electric Home and Farm Authority would be an important function of the Rural Electrification Section.

This is a portion of Morris Cooke's famous “12 minute memo” which was written in 1933 as he, along with Norris pushed for a rural electrification program. However; there were too many New Deal brainstorm and projects clamoring President Roosevelt's attention. The REA would be formed soon and Morris Cooke would become the first administrator of the organization.

Executive Order 7037 and REA

On May 11, 1935, Franklin D Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037, which created the Rural Electrification Administration.

'He Stands Forth as the Very Perfect, Gentle Knight of American Progressive Ideals'

The above words were spoken about George William Norris by Franklin Roosevelt on September 29, 1932, in McCook Nebraska. They echo the conclusion of history and of his colleagues: Norris is honored as much for his character and human qualities as for his accomplishments.

On another occasion, Roosevelt perhaps came as close as anyone to assessing Norris' qualities when he told the Senator:

Senator Norris, I go along with you because you follow in their footsteps. You are radical, like Jefferson, a demagogue like Jackson, an idealist like Lincoln, a theorist like Wilson, wild like Theodore Roosevelt. You dare to be all things.

Rural Americans are indebted to Norris because he “dared to be all things” - and because he dared to dream the great dream of bringing the light and power to the land.

He was the principal author of the legislation creating the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933, a forerunner of rural electrification in America. And, although he is marked in history as one of America's truly great and progressive national legislators, the people of rural electrification remember him today as the legislative “father” of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.





The History of Polk County RPPD



From the files - this insert comes from history files in 1995 - 60 year celebration

The electric service, which we all accept today as a way of life, was not available to most farms and ranches in the early 1930s. Even the smaller communities had no electric service unless they generated their own. In the spring of 1935, the council of the Swede Home Church, appointed Petrus C. Nelson and Alex Adelson as a committee to see if enough people in Polk County would be interested in organizing a Public Power District. A meeting was held in the Swede Home Church parlor, May 6, 1935 and as a result, a district was organized. Petrus Nelson was elected president of the new district and Agvall S. Torell was elected secretary.

Swede Home was chosen as the place of business for the district. Nine directors were elected to the board, one from each precinct as follows: Petrus C. Nelson, Maurice G. Lindburg, C.B. Knerr, Victor Thelander, George H. Bond, William Kosch, Albert Schulz, Fred Cockson and Adolph Grossnicklaus. Mr. Grossnicklaus resigned later in 1935 and Bruce Pickett was appointed in his place. Nellie G. Benson replaced Mr. Pickett in 1937. Mr. Knerr also resigned and August E. Anderson took his place. Mr. C.A. Sorensen was engaged as attorney for the district, and Mr. H. H. Henningson as engineer.

A loan, in the amount of \$367,500, was approved by the

Rural Electrification Administration in October 1936, for the construction of the first lines. In April 1937, Sandberg & Johnston Construction Company was awarded a contract to build the lines. Mr. G.E. Ekstrand was employed as Project Superin-

In 1995, Mr. Lindburg was the only director, from the original board, still living. He served as board president from January 1943 until his retirement in 1980. Eugene Kosch of Shelby is currently the board president. Former man-



Board of Directors, Front; Nellie Benson, M. G. Lindburg, George Bond. Back; George Buchta, Willard Anderson, Manager, Agvall Torell, Bill Kosch and James Reagan

tendent, and in June 1938 the energization of the lines was celebrated. Mrs. Milo Austin had the honor of closing the switch which started the electric current flowing through the lines.

The City of Stromsburg connected to the lines of the new district in November 1941. The present headquarters building was dedicated in December 1950. Prior to this, the office had been located in the lower rooms of the Stromsburg Bank building since April 1937.

ager, Willard L. Anderson, was originally hired as a bookkeeper in July 1942, became acting manager in February 1946, and was approved as general manager 2 years later. He served as manager until retirement in 1980. At that time, Merlin W. Steele was promoted from line superintendent, and was hired by the board to serve as general manager. Upon Steele's retirement in 1996, George S Lyons was hired as the Polk County RPPD's general

Continued on Page 9



The History of Polk County RPPD



Continued from Page 8

manager. The district has grown steadily through the years, with the greatest growth in electrical irrigation services. In 1996, a seventh distribution sub-station was constructed to effectively provide for growth in the district. There are currently fourteen employees and a seven member board serving the people of rural Polk County for over sixty years.

Organizing and Sign Up

During World War II and depression times these leaders knew it would not be an easy task. They saw the potential and carried the message, once they got started there was no stopping them. Working without pay, they went from farm to farm encouraging neighbors and friends to "get lights". Sometimes it would be easier to convince the farmer's wife of electricity than the farmer. She could picture her children studying by light and having an electric refrigerator. Once word got around that an organization was formed, people began to believe they would actually get electricity. Meetings were held often, farmers were signing up left and right. Nevertheless; there was a lot of doubt in some minds. Did they really believe they could benefit from the same luxu-

ries as the city folks?

The Funding

Each director was to secure a small conditional loan from the people of his precinct and was to raise \$150. Farmsteads of those who had signed up were plotted out on a county road map. An engineer, Mr. H. H. Hennings, was hired to figure out where the actual line would be and to come up with an estimate to propose a figure of funding to the United State Government.

A loan in the amount of \$367,500 was approved by the Rural Electrification Administration in October 1936, for the purpose of erecting and constructing rural electric transmission and distribution lines. The early start Polk County had made in applying for a loan paid off. The loan came through in

early 1937. Districts whose loans were applied for later in the year had to wait for World War II before much action could be taken in hooking up customers. In April 1937, Sandberg &

Johnston Construction Company was awarded a contract to begin construction. Mr. G. E. (Enoch) Ekstrand was employed as Project Superintendent.



Lighting Up the Countryside

It happened! On June 2nd, 1938, Mrs. Milo (Elsena) Austin, pioneer of the county since 1869 pulled a switch that sent power surging through the 217 miles of newly built rural electric lines lighting up an estimated 205 farm homes. It was quite a celebration. The band played, there were songs and speeches. Officials from the Rural Electric Association in Washington, D.C. were present. Governor R.L. Cochran was quoted in his speech saying, "The elements of a prosperous agriculture and higher standard of living are at hand. Electricity is the one thing which will do more than anything else to give the farmer a standard of living equal to that of his city cousin. It will bring to the people of our farms the advantage of city life, ease the labors in the farm home and make life on our farms even more desirable than it is today."





The History of Polk County RPPD



Pioneers in Rural Electrification

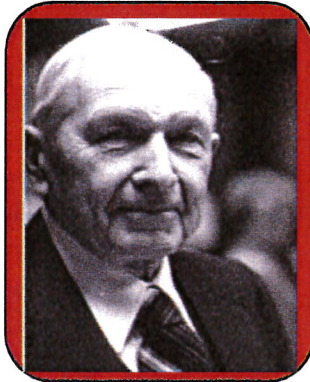
Mr. M. G. Lindburg was one of the District's original board of directors. M.G., as most in the county knew him, had a vision. He educated himself and knew the possibilities of bringing rural electrification to the countryside, not only to benefit the family's farming operation, but neighbors and friends as well. M.G. served on the board of directors for 46 years, most of those as the president until his retirement in December 1981.

Follows is a summary of an interview from Mr. Lindburg, which was taken on the 23rd of November 1982.

When the Polk County Rural Public Power District tried to get it all together in the beginning, around the mid 1930's, no one ever believed there would be rural electricity. Money was very tight and farmers didn't know how they would get their premises wired.

As these early electrical minded pioneers pushed so hard for rural electricity, they did have strong support from higher up officials. In the early 1930's, Senator George W. Norris, a Nebraska native, and Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas had a strong pull and a great amount of determination in getting rural electrification. Senator Norris had been clamoring for years to get electricity to the farm homes as he had seen the working hardships in

the farm families. These two men were the authors of the Norris-Rayburn bill which led toward passage of the Rural Electrification Act.



President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was all in favor of the idea of rural electric service. He was pressured by the Norris-Rayburn bill and with the help of others, the president signed the act and it became a law in 1936.

The provisions of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 were to organize and set aside funds for the REA. This money was to be used for farmers to organize a local REA district, get easements and wiring to their homes. Loans could be made for construction and operating of general plants, transmission lines and distribution lines to furnish electrical energy to persons in rural areas not already receiving central station service. Loans could also be made to finance home wiring and to purchase electrical appliances, equipment and plumbing.

As the District began to organize, a few interested people would travel to town on mud roads and meet at the Coop oil station. As they became more organized, a board was selected and Petrus Nelson acted as chairman for the first board. Vice-chairman was M.

G. Lindburg, Agvall Torell was secretary and George Bond acted as a treasurer. Mr. Enoch Ekstrand filled the seat of the first supervisor and manager. These men with the help of a few other interested volunteers, canvassed out precincts and began a long journey. First, they went around and inquired people about whether they were interested at all and to see just what their comments would be. Many of the farmers were hardly making it, let alone adding in the price of electricity, but little did they realize what its benefits would be.

They went farm to farm, door to door begging for money to hire an engineer to do the blueprints and for a contractor to start building the lines.

With this new law passed, the REA loaned our District \$40,000 dollars to loan to the farmers to wire their homes and have the wiring done. In turn the contractor through a government program would hire people, farmers or anyone who needed a job to dig holes for a dollar apiece. Through this program, they would do anything from digging holes to building lines and services. The climate was hot and the ground was hard, so digging wasn't so easy.

Lindburg recalls, "There were all kinds of stories: You are crazy for trying this. They'll never build lines into the country. \$3.50 for the first 50 kilowatt-hours is too much money."



The History of Polk County RPPD



Pioneers in Rural Electrification

Nellie G. Benson, Nebraska's "first lady of rural electrification" was instrumental in taking the oil lamp out of the window and putting in the light bulb. When a vacancy occurred on the board of the Polk County Rural Public Power District in 1936, Mrs. Benson's name was proposed. She ran for election and was elected to office by a large majority and continued to serve for more than two decades.

She resided six miles north of Osceola and was one of the first to receive power when the district's lines were energized in June 1938. It proved very gratifying to Nellie to look down at the lights in the valley at night when coming home.

Nellie was born January 2, 1879 in Johnstone, Ohio, to Tilton and Angenora Hill. In 1882 her family relocated to Nebraska where she attended primary school at Schuyler and secondary school at Silver Creek. At the age of 14, she took an examination for a teaching certificate and began her long career of public service at the age of 15. Some of the pupils were older but she kept her age a secret from them.

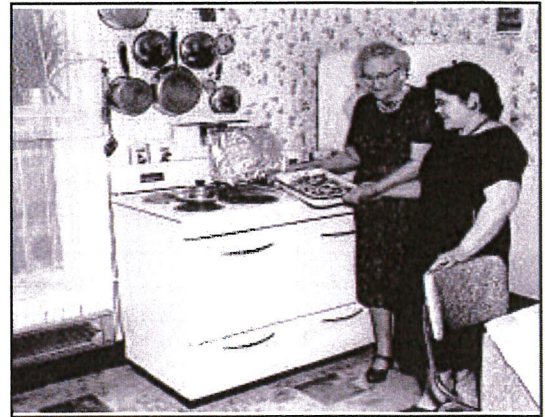
On June 3, 1903 she married DeAlton Benson of Silver Creek. They moved to the homestead of her father-in-law, John V. Benson. John had purchased this homestead from the government in 1878. This was also the place of DeAlton's birth on December 22, 1875. They raised three children.

DeAlton and Nellie Benson were among the first organizers of the Polk County Farm Bureau. She served as a member of the state board of directors for two years and was elected vice president from 1924 to 1925. From 1926 to 1929, she served as president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation. She served on the State Board of Control from 1929 to 1935. In 1939 she served as vice president of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) and in 1941 was the first woman elected as president of the NREA.

A true pioneer in agriculture organizations and a long advocate of electricity on the farm, this lady of two firsts stated that it was time women should know what is going on in the world. They should help make this country a better place for posterity and assume civic responsibility.

Thus, we sa-

lute this early leader in our organization. Thank you, Nellie Gray Hill Benson, for carrying the torch in the early years!



Above; Director Nellie Benson, left and Polly Gembica check out an entree prepared in her new electric oven. Below; General Manager, Willard Anderson visits with Mrs. Benson talking about the comfort of their electric heating system.



Benson, Nebraska's First Lady of Rural Electrification, and Gembica look at an article in the "Electric Farmer" magazine.



The History of Polk County RPPD



METER RECORD				TRANSFORMER	
NUMBER	SIZE	SET	REMOVED	NUMBER	SIZE
15143876	15 Amp	7/16/38		1628017	3 KVA

DATE	INDEX	Cons.	EXPLANATION	DEBITS	CREDITS	BAL.
FORWARD						
7/20	0828	712		1568		1568
7/26					1451	20
8/20	10116	634		1451		1451
8/26					1747	20
9/20	9482	831		1747		1747
9/25					1448	20
10/20	8651	632		1448		1448
10/25					1586	20
11/20						1586

In the early days of rural electrification a customer billing profile was a pretty simple piece of paper. The record simply consisted of a name, one address line, meter and transformer information. It was noted that an account number was not assigned until a few years later. Computers were unheard of and all billing records were hand written. M.G. Lindburg used less than \$20 per month to energize his farmstead in 1938.

As new applications were accepted daily, a simple four paragraph contract was completed.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICE Polk County Rural Public Power District

The undersigned (hereinafter called the Applicant) hereby applies for electric service to be furnished by the Polk County Rural Public Power District, a Corporation (now formed) hereinafter called the District, and the Applicant and the District agree as follows:

1. When the District makes electric energy available to Applicant, Applicant agrees to purchase from the District and to pay monthly to the District for all energy used on premises described below, now owned or occupied by the Applicant, in accordance with the rate schedule and rules and regulations established by the District and agreed upon by the Rural Electrification Administration of the United States of America. The minimum monthly charge for regular farm service will be approximately \$3.50 for which Applicant may use approximately 50 kilowatt hours. The cost of the second 50 kilowatt hours used will be approximately 4 cents per kilowatt hour; the cost of the next 100 kilowatt hours used will be approximately 2½¢ per kilowatt hour; and for all kilowatt hours used in excess of 200 the Applicant shall pay for at the rate of approximately 1½¢ per kilowatt hour.

2. The Applicant hereby grants to the District, the right and easement to construct, operate, repair and maintain on the premises hereinbelow described, and in or upon all streets, roads or highways abutting said premises; its electric distribution and service lines and appliances, and also the right to cut or trim trees necessary to keep them clear of all parts of the electric system.

3. The Applicant will cause his premises to be wired in accordance with wiring specifications approved by the Rural Electrification Administration. If, in supplying service to the Applicant, it shall be necessary to construct a service line in excess of 1,000 feet from the distribution line of the District, the Applicant will pay the District for the cost of such excess service line.

4. The Applicant will comply with and be bound by the provisions of the by-laws, and rules and regulations of the District, as may be adopted from time to time. The acceptance of this application by the District shall constitute an agreement between the Applicant and the District and the contract for electric service shall continue in force for one year from the date service is made available by the District to the Applicant, and thereafter until cancelled by written notice given by either party to the other at least thirty (30) days in advance.

(Witness to Applicant's Signature)

M. G. Lindberg
M. G. Lindberg (Applicant)

Dated July 16th, 1938

POLK, Neb.
(Post Office Address)

Land Description: Acres located in SW Sec. 16 Twp. 13N Range 4N
Owner, Tenant

The above application for service accepted

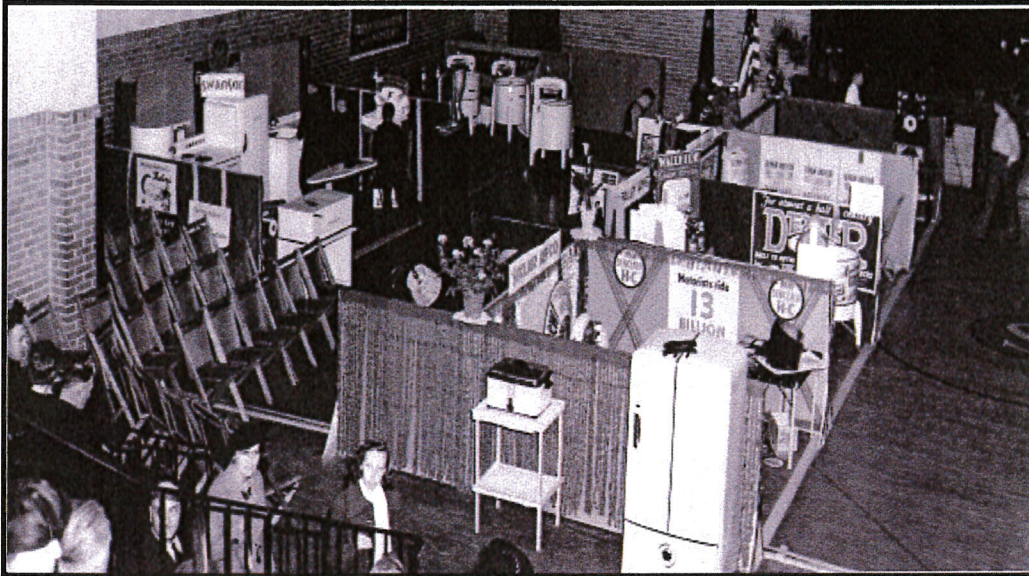
601.1
(Name and Address of Owner)

this 16th day of July, 1938

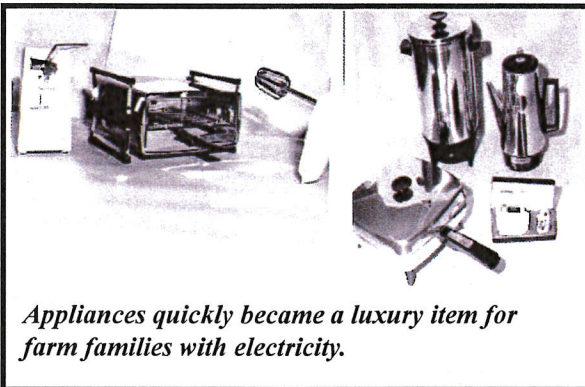
POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
By G. E. Ekstrand



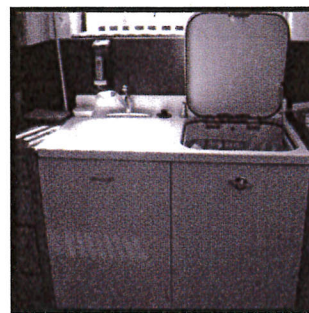
The History of Polk County RPPD



The Stromsburg Commercial Club, the City of Stromsburg and Polk County RPPD hosted an appliance home show to demonstrate to potential users the conveniences of 'modern day appliances.'



Bringing electricity to the rural home and the countryside.



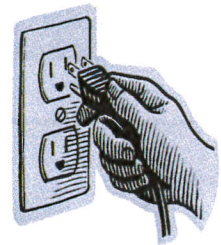
1950's Dishwasher



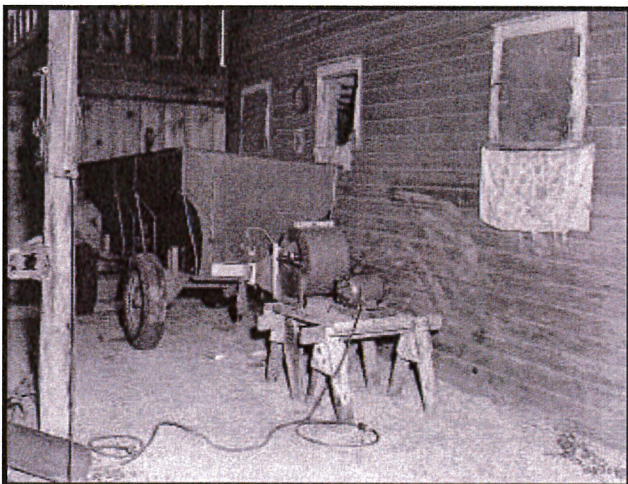
As farm families started to "see the light", they soon realized just how much easier electricity was making their lives. Many times, it was the farmer's wife who consistently pushed for the 'juice' to come on. Farm wives lives just got easier. Yet, at \$5 to \$10 per month, many thought it too expensive and impossible to get.



The History of Polk County RPPD



It used to be pretty dark across the countryside until the mid '60s when most farmers installed "yard lights" or stock lighting to brighten the area as they did their evening chores. Security lighting, livestock waters, heat lamps, feed augers, and electric motors quickly became common uses for this new found commodity.





The History of Polk County RPPD



Checking Out River Crossings

Board members tour the Loup River Crossing - June 1948



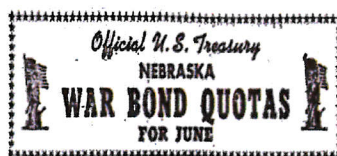
Stopped by Sokol Lakes, near Duncan, NE while on tour



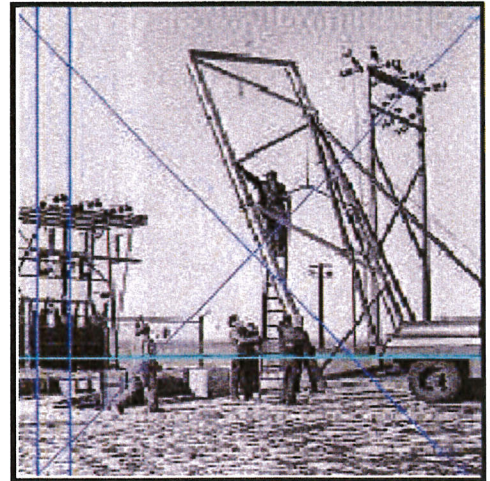
Discussing line construction near the Platte River Crossing



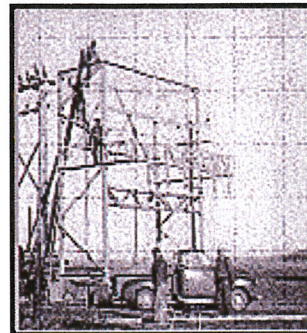
As the district continued to grow, irrigation for crops became eminent. Sometimes it was not easy planning a route to construct power lines. Note the dress attire of the Board of Directors touring the river crossings, white shirt, tie and slacks.



December 1949 - Construction of Substation Northeast of Stromsburg

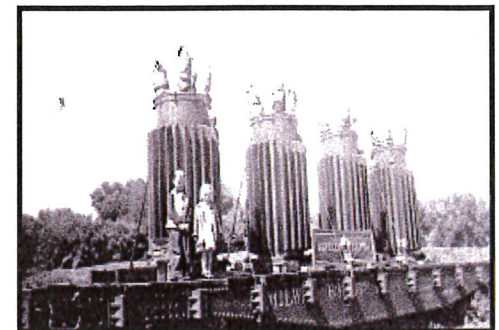


As the district grew more and more services hooked up creating more demand for electricity.



Through the years substations, such as this were built to meet the growing demand. This

substation was built in 1949 one mile northeast of Stromsburg. The entire substation was destroyed on July 30, 1968 by a tornado. A 27-ton transformer valued at 92 thousand dollars could not be repaired.





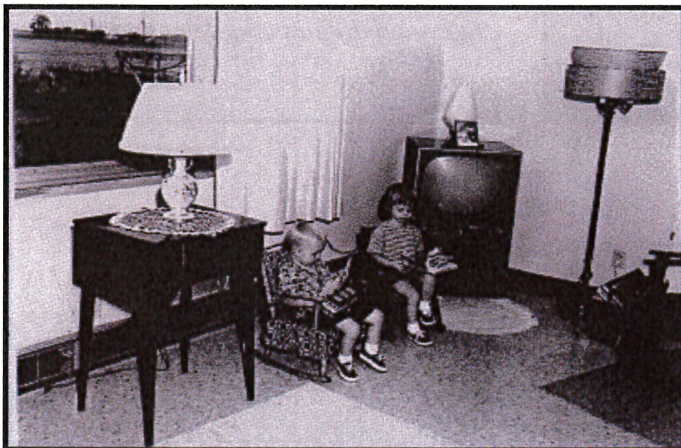
The History of Polk County RPPD



Taking Care of the Customer - That's our Job



Lighting up the countryside, one security light at a time. From top left: Marlyce and Jimmy Christensen do laundry (good bye wringer washers). Beautician, Arloa Yungdahl, demonstrates her new electric hair dryer while doing Mrs. Christensen's hair. Manager, Willard Anderson, and Richard Augustin discuss the performance of his new watering system. Melbourne Olson visits with lineman, Merlin Steele, about the thermostat for his new electric furnace. Mrs. Henry Schlondorf does laundry and prepares dinner in her new "all" electric home. All seems well in the Ronnie Miller home as children, Dave and Gloria, sit near their new baseboard heaters while reading a book. By the mid '50's most rural homes had electric appliances and conveniences like the city folk. In the '60's baseboard heating was popular in most electrically heated homes.





Polk County RPPD - New Headquarters



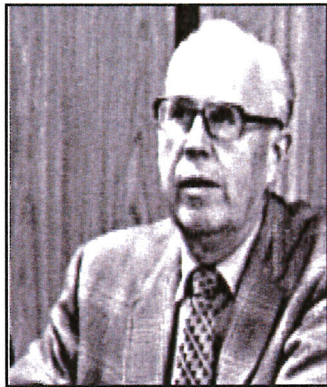
Solid Growth and Leadership

In 1939, Board President Petrus Nelson reported at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Association of Rural Public Power Districts that the county now had 340 consumers and 326 miles of line and “new customers being hooked up every day.”

Willard L. Anderson was hired by the board in 1942 as the accountant and in 1946 as acting manager and soon became the general manager, the position he held until his retirement in 1980.

Mr. Anderson was a very frugal manager and was a good businessman. His respect for others and dedication to the district made him

a good leader. It was under his guidance and management that many of the district’s policies and procedures were written.

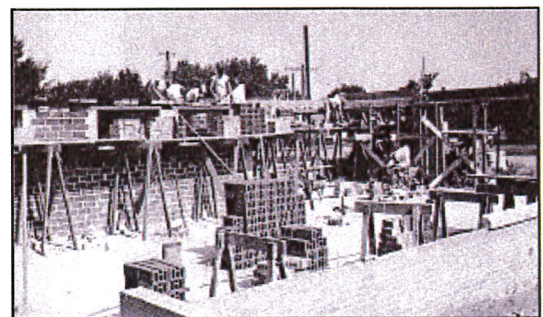


By 1950 the district had 690 miles of line serving 1,488 customers. With growth like this, the district had outgrown its office headquarters, located in the basement of the

Stromsburg Bank building. It was under Anderson’s leadership that the new headquarters was constructed and dedicated in 1950.

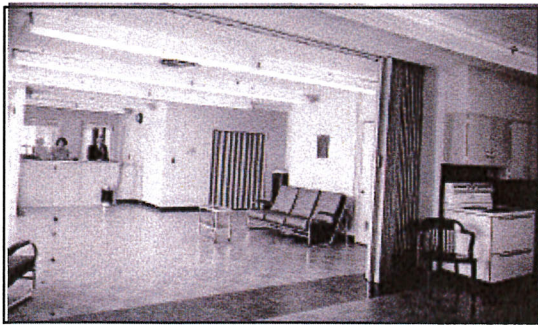
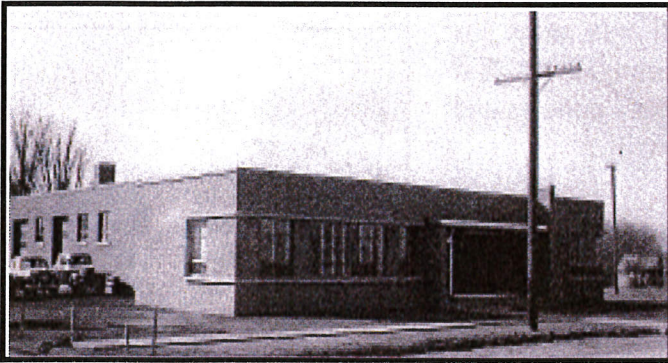


Construction of the headquarters was completed and an open house was held December 9, 1950. As the district continued to grow, so did the need for space. This facility had served its purpose until its demolition in 2010 when the current facility opened for business October 4th, 2010.





Polk County RPPD - Employees



1950-Photos of the new facility, line crew members: Ralph

Linkswiler, Cecil Bennet, Paul Steele, Arnold Peterson, Bob Sack and Lester Marsden. The office staff included: Gloria Austin, Myron Johnson, Hazel Sundberg and Manager, Willard Anderson.





Polk County RPPD - Growth is Strong



From the files of "The Headlight" 1950

The new REA office and warehouse headquarters building was the scene of great activity last Saturday, December 9, from morning until night. According to the guest register, about 900 people visited the building. Coffee and donuts were served in a very fine manner by the Dorcas Society of the Swede Home Lutheran Church. The merchants of Stromsburg and friends practically filled the building with beautiful bouquets of flowers which added very much to the event and interest shown. The Board of Directors and the employees were happy to tour the building with the visitors pointing out the purposes of the various rooms of this very modern and up to date building. There were visitors from five neighboring public power districts and the Loup River Public Power District. To all merchants and friends in Stromsburg and the surrounding community who presented flowers, the Dorcas Society of Swede Home Church who so ably served the lunch, and all guests, the District expresses their thanks and appreciation for the friendly interest and enthusiasm shown.

Flowers and congratulatory wishes were received from the following Stromsburg businesses:

The Gas Company, Olson's Furniture, Bailey Hardware Store, Barber's Service, Jim Branting & Son, C. Burgeson Co., Stromsburg Bank, Swan's Grocery, Sward Chevrolet Co., Stromsburg Cash Lumber, Gambles, S & G Store and G. A. Hartman & Sons.



*Headquarters
in 1950*



*Headquarters
in 1980*



Board of Directors - Minutes of a special meeting held January 18, 1950.

Upon bid letting for the new headquarters - be it resolved, that with respect to the proposals received by the District on January 18, 1950, for the construction of a headquarters building and garage, including furnishing of all necessary materials, machinery, labor and equipment, the following proposals be approved and accepted as the lowest submitted:

- 1) Proposal of Olson Construction Company, for General Construction \$51,722.00
- 2) Proposal of William F. McCormick, for plumbing, heating and air conditioning \$12,573.00
- 3) Proposal of Henry W. Miller Electric Company, a partnership for Electric Work \$4,281.00

These bids were accepted pending approval of the Department of Roads and Irrigation of the State of Nebraska and the Rural Electrification Administration.

By April 1st, construction had begun on the building. Interestingly, in mid May things came to a halt when brick layers went on strike for higher wages and walked off the job site for nearly three weeks.

Once the building was completed it became known as the "REA Office" to neighbors far and near.

The headquarters was a very nice and roomy facility and served the district's customers well.

The original heating system was water/steam registers which was very cozy; in the late '70's baseboard heaters were installed, windows were updated and the offices received a face lift. In 1992 geothermal heat pumps were installed.

Due to a shortage of space, an addition was built on to the offices and the warehouse.



Polk County RPPD - Honor Roll/Years of Service



Past Directors

<i>Petrus C. Nelson</i>	8
<i>M. G. Lindburg</i>	47
<i>C. B. Knerr</i>	1
<i>Victor Thelander</i>	7
<i>George Bond</i>	28
<i>Wm. Kosch</i>	28
<i>Albert Schulz</i>	8
<i>Fred Cockson</i>	4
<i>Adolph Grossnicklaus</i>	>1
<i>Bruce Pickett</i>	2
<i>August E. Anderson</i>	7
<i>Nellie G. Benson</i>	28
<i>Agvall S. Torell</i>	17
<i>George Buchta</i>	18
<i>James L. Reagan</i>	7
<i>Clinton P. Colby</i>	20
<i>Orville Hennings</i>	6
<i>Myron Jones</i>	16
<i>Dale G. Buchta</i>	6
<i>Raymond Bond</i>	13
<i>Robert Oberg</i>	18
<i>Douglas Jones</i>	7
<i>James Rosenquist</i>	2
<i>Louis Scow</i>	27
<i>Richard Teegerstrom</i>	7
<i>Eugene Kosch</i>	46
<i>James Lindburg</i>	23
<i>Vernon D. Peterson</i>	19

Past Attorneys

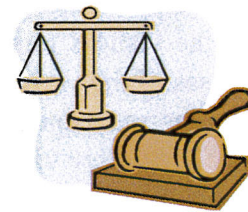
<i>C. A. Sorensen</i>	22
<i>Alex Mills, Jr.</i>	32

Retired Employees

<i>Lester Marsden</i>	10
<i>Paul Steele</i>	20
<i>Ralph Linkswiler</i>	24
<i>Cecil Bennet</i>	20
<i>Myron Johnson</i>	32
<i>Willard Anderson</i>	38
<i>Hazel Anderson</i>	31
<i>Hazel Vandegrift</i>	10
<i>Robert Mooney</i>	38
<i>Dale Dishman</i>	17
<i>Carolyn Ekstrand</i>	34
<i>Dale Lucas</i>	37
<i>Merlin Steele</i>	42

Present Board Members and Attorney

<i>Gary Allison</i> <i>Treasurer</i>	35
<i>James D. Carlson</i>	26
<i>Mardell Johnson</i> , <i>President</i>	22
<i>Vernon Kuhnel</i> <i>Vice-President</i>	18
<i>Eugene Urkoski</i>	8
<i>Bob Lindburg</i>	6
<i>Greg Kuhnel</i>	5
<i>Jim Papiak</i> <i>Attorney</i>	19



The first documented meeting of Polk County RPPD was May 6, 1935. On November 14th, 1935 Petrus C. Nelson, M. G. Lindburg, August E. Anderson, Victor Thelander, George H. Bond, William Kosch, Fred Cockson, Bruce Pickett and Albert Schulz moved to create and adopt the By-Laws of the District.

The slate of officers appointed were: President Nelson, Vice-President Lindburg, Secretary Torell and Treasurer was Mr. Bond.

It is these men that we salute for organizing and working so diligently to get the program 'up and running'. We can't imagine the

hours spent and strong belief they had in the rural electrification program to make it work. For this we thank them. As time goes on there are fewer and fewer customers or people who realize just what it meant to rural people and businesses. The importance of rural electrification was a great service.

It is with heartfelt gratification that we thank our former directors, attorneys, and employees for their hard work, dedication and commitment to Polk County RPPD. Because of them, we are a strong and stable service provider today and will be for many years to come.



Board of Directors and Managers



Memories of the Past



Left: This 1950 group photo was taken at the open house celebration. From left: George Buchta, Manager, Willard Anderson, Agvall Torell, William Kosch, Jim Reagan, Nellie Benson, M. G. Lindburg and George Bond.



1981-This photo dates back to M.G. Lindburg's retirement celebration. Back L-R; Attorney; Alex Mills, incoming president Eugene Kosch, Jim Rosenquist, Doug Jones, Clinton Colby, Manager; Merlin Steele. Seated: Gary Allison, M. G. Lindburg and Louis Scow.



Lindburg shares a laugh with Manager; Merlin Steele at his retirement dinner.



At his retirement celebration, Lindburg, an original member of the board, recalls the 'sign up', trying to get people interested in electricity. He has probably seen more history of the rural electrics than anyone else will ever experience. He was very active his entire 47 years, doing what he was elected to do, serving the customers of Polk County RPPD. At the age of 96, he was present for the district's 60th anniversary celebration June 5th, 1995.



Board of Directors and Managers



Memories of the Past

After 37 years as manager, on December 5, 1978 Willard Anderson prepared his last official report to the board of directors. With the changing of the guard, Merlin Steele was appointed to lead the district through the '80's and mid '90's until his retirement in June of 1996. Hazel, Willard and Merlin enjoy their time together at Willard's retirement dinner.



Atty. Alex Mills-32 yrs.



Clinton Colby-20 yrs.



August 1975, board members in session include from left; George Bond, Eugene Kosch, Clinton Colby, Bob Oberg, M. G. Lindburg, Myron Johnson, Attorney; M.A. Mills and Manager; Willard Anderson.

Vernon Peterson-19 yrs.



We recognize former, retired board members for setting a strong foundation and serving our customers with dignity, loyalty and by operating under the guidelines of the Rural Electric Administration and Rural Utility Services principles. You have shaped the future.

Louis Scow-27 yrs.



Jim Lindburg-23 yrs.



Bob Oberg-18 yrs.



Eugene Kosch-46 yrs.

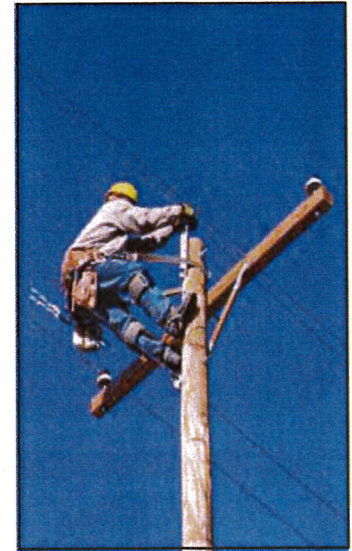




Directors and Employees



Top from left: Randy Reese, Todd Bailey, Phil Burke, Tim Teegerstrom, Scott Lindburg. Second row: Andy Roberts, Arnie Peplinski, Jeff Waller, Jim Heiden. Standing from left: Eugene Kosch, Vernon Peterson, Jodie Alvis, Jim Papik, Judy Rieken, Gary Allison, Grace Gerrard, Mardell Johnson, Pat Sundberg, Vernon Kuhnel, Carolee Coffin, Jim Carlson, George Lyons and Jim Lindburg.



*Keeping the
lights on.*

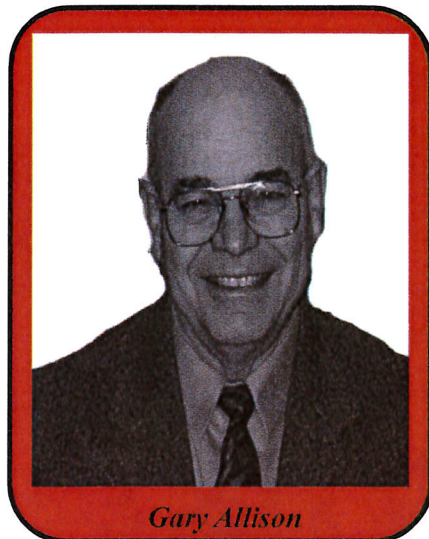


Back left: George Lyons, Vernon Peterson, Jim Papik, Vernon Kuhnel, Jim Lindburg and Eugene Kosch. Front left: Mardell Johnson, Jim Carlson and Gary Allison.

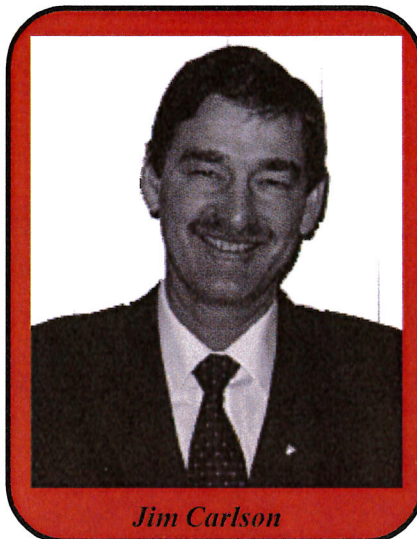




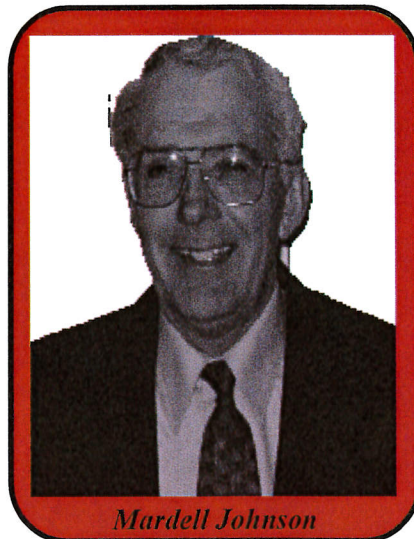
Polk County RPPD - Directors/Years of Service



Gary Allison



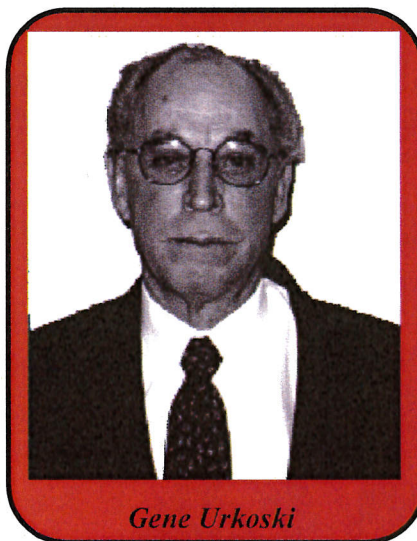
Jim Carlson



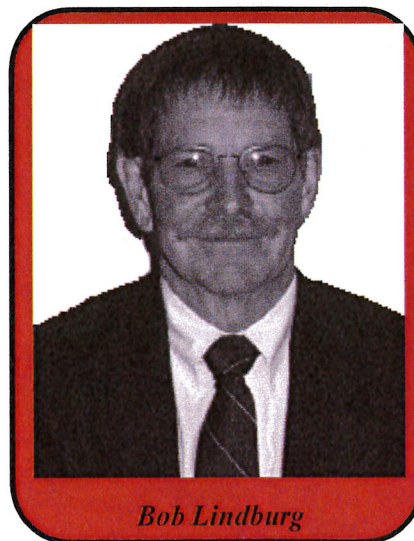
Mardell Johnson



Vernon Kuhnel



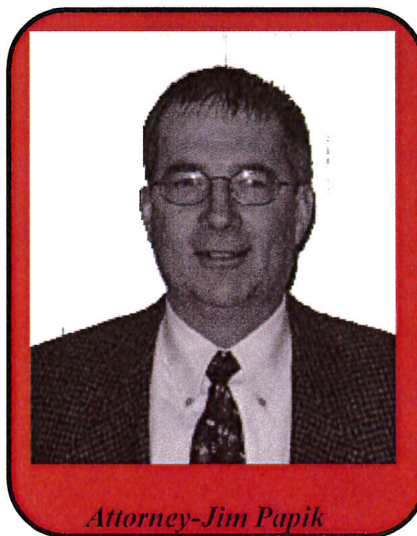
Gene Urkoski



Bob Lindburg



Greg Kuhnel



Attorney-Jim Papik

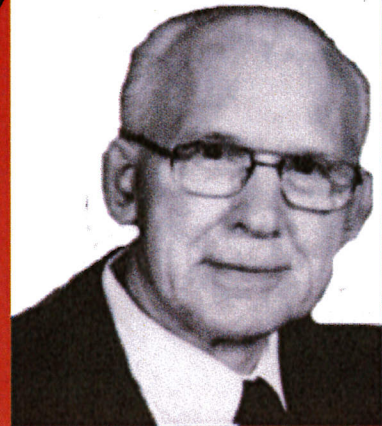
<i>Gary Allison</i>	35
<i>James D. Carlson</i>	26
<i>Mardell Johnson</i>	22
<i>Vernon Kuhnel</i>	18
<i>Eugene Urkoski</i>	8
<i>Bob Lindburg</i>	6
<i>Greg Kuhnel</i>	5
<i>Jim Papik (attorney)</i>	19



Retired Employees - Years of Service



Willard and Hazel Anderson, 38 yrs. and 31 yrs.



Myron Johnson 32 yrs.



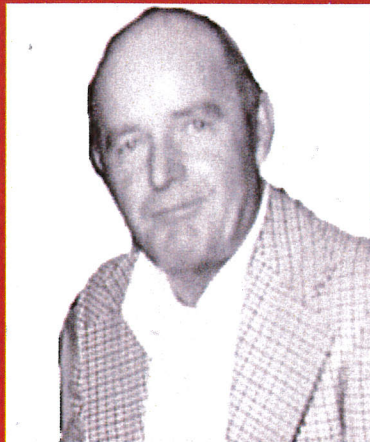
Dale Lucas 37 yrs.



Carolyn Ekstrand 34 yrs.



Bob Mooney 38 yrs.



Dale Dishman 17 yrs.



Merlin Steele 42 yrs.



Hazel Vandegrift 10 yrs.

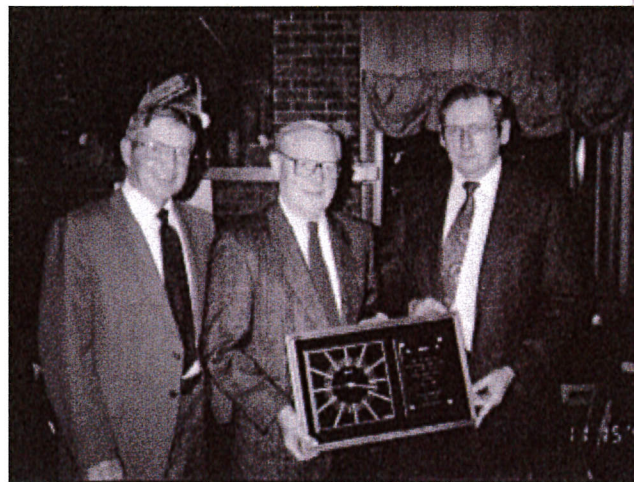
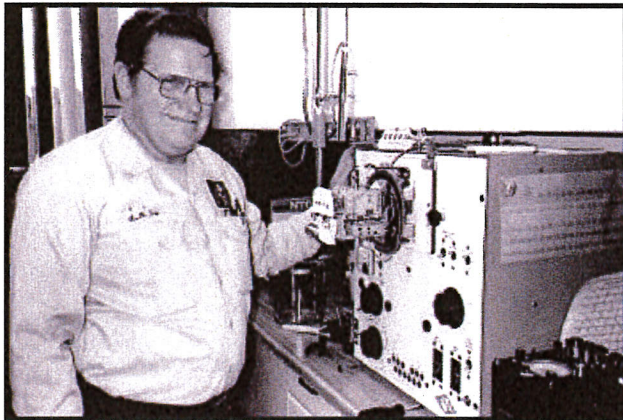


Retired Employees - Years of Service



Retired lineworkers and years of service, from left: Ralph Linkswiler-24, Cecil Bennet-20, Paul Steele-20, Arnold Peterson, Robert Sack and Lester Marsden-10 years.

On July 8th, 1958 Lester L. Marsden was working an outage during a thunderstorm. Les was standing on a steel structure in a substation when he was fatally electrocuted. Les was following safety procedures. At the conclusion of the accident report, it remained a mystery as to the actual source of the contact that caused this fatal accident.





Current Employees - Years of Service



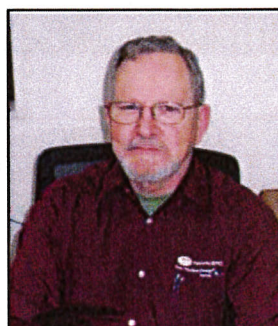
George S Lyons	General Manager	15
Grace Gerrard	Finance Manager	31
Phil Burke	Operations Mgr.	31
Judy Rieken	Customer Services Mgr.	35
Pat Sundberg	Billing Services	26
Jodie Alvis	Accounting	18
Dawn Anderson	Cashier/Receptionist	6
Cindi Perdue	Accounting	2
Barb Fowler	Technology Coordinator	14
Tim Teegerstrom	Crew chief/Safety Director	36
Randy Reese	Foreman	30
Scott Lindburg	Service Technician	21
Andy Roberts	Lineman	19
Jeff Waller	Lineman	17
Trevor Willhoft	Crew chief	15
Justin Sunday	Lineman	11
Mickey Berggren	Lineman	9
Glen Bartling	Lineman	9
Matt Meyer	Lineman	2
Nick Romshek	Lineman	2
Tony Schnell	Lineman	2

From top left: Andy Roberts, Jeff Waller, Bobby Riedel, Randy Reese, Glen Bartling, Trevor Willhoft, Scott Lindburg, Justin Sunday, Tim Teegerstrom and Mickey Berggren. Standing from left: Barb Fowler, Bob Lindburg, Judy Rieken, Jim Papik, Jennifer Kopetzky, Phil Burke, Dawn Anderson, Mardell Johnson, George Lyons, Gary Allison, Grace Gerrard, Jim Carlson, Jodie Alvis, Vernon Kuhnel, Pat Sundberg, Greg Kuhnel and Gene Urkoski.

Note: This photo was taken in 2007. Since that time Jennifer Kopetzky and Bobby Reidel have left the district. Cindi Perdue, Matt Meyer, Nick Romshek and Tony Schnell are full time employees not included in the photo. District employees have a combined 351 years of service.



Employees - Recognition/Memories





Employees - Recognition/Memories



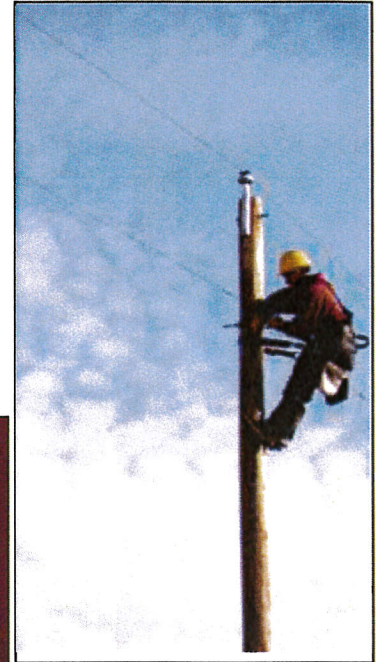


Employees - Recognition/Memories



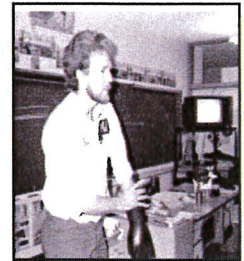
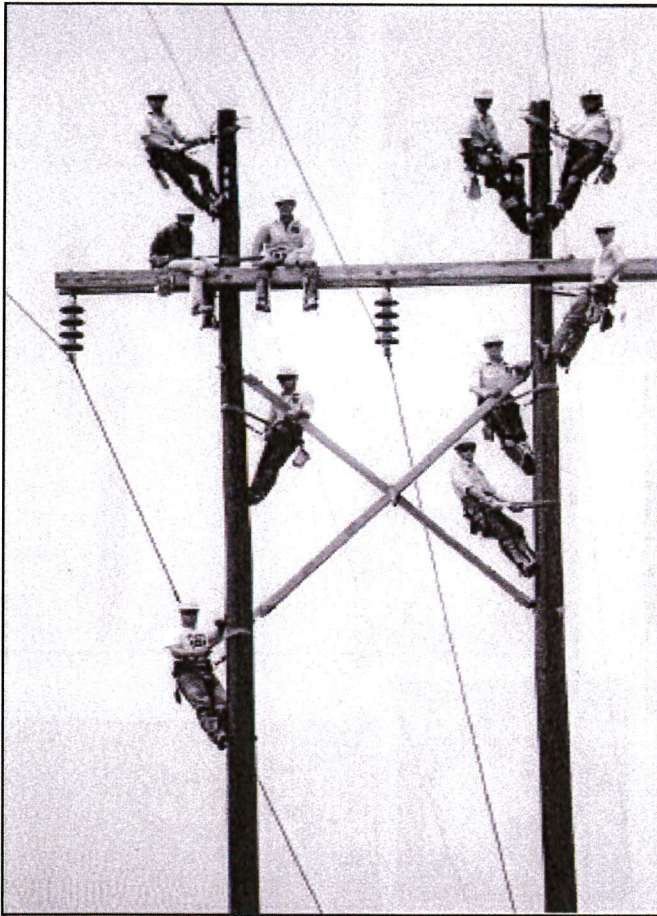


Employees - Recognition/Memories



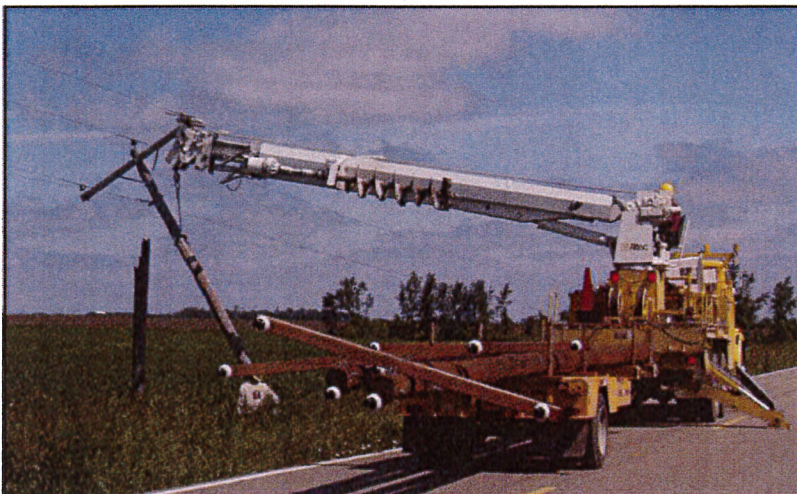


Employees - Recognition/Memories



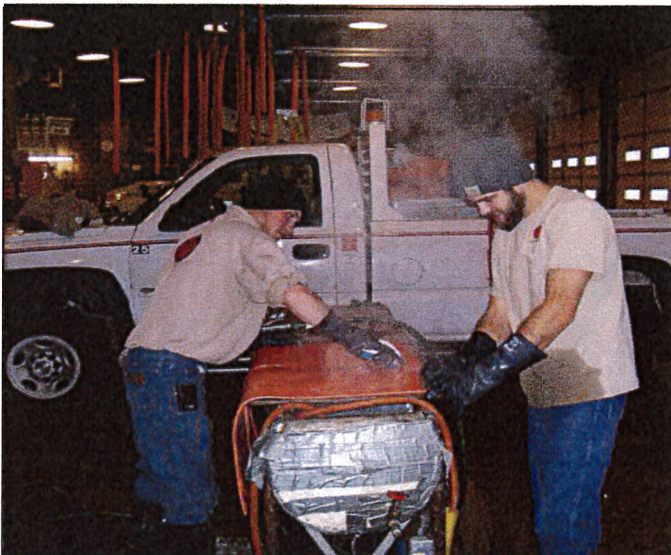
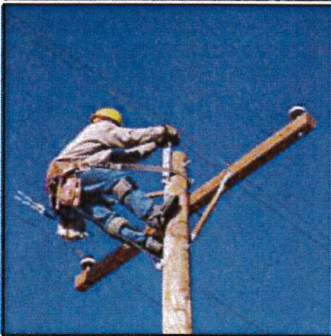


Employees - Recognition/Memories





Employees - Recognition/Memories

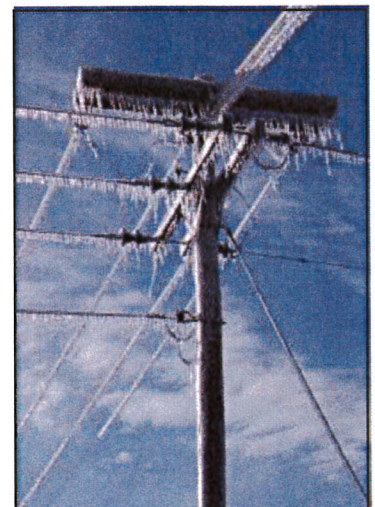
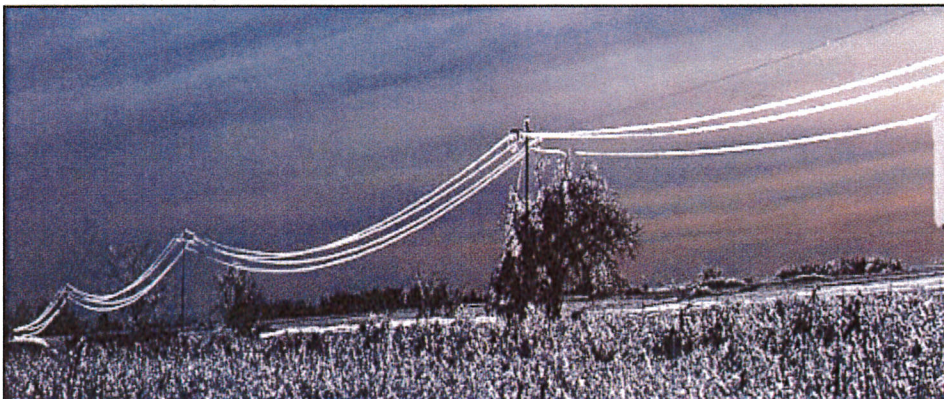
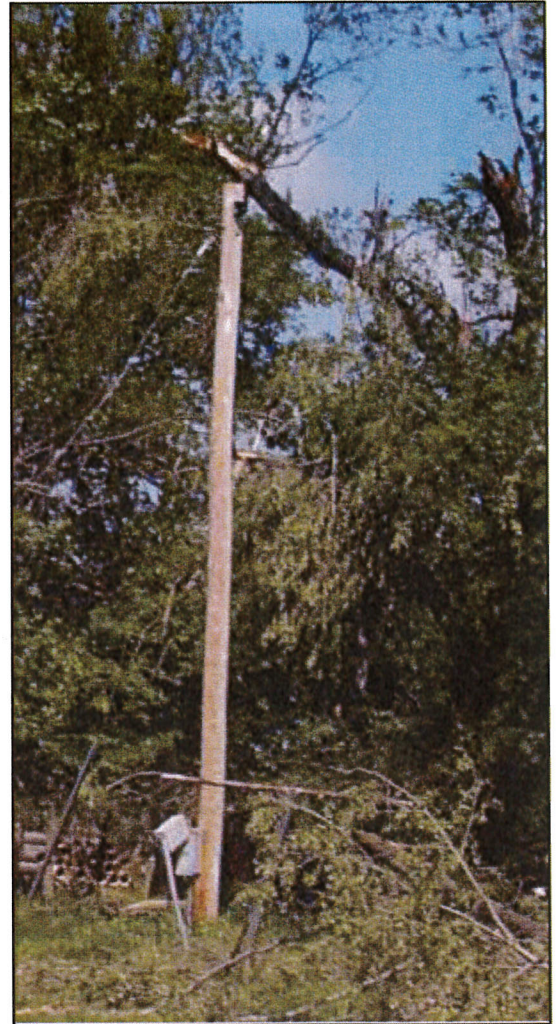




Weather's Impact on Power Lines and Equipment

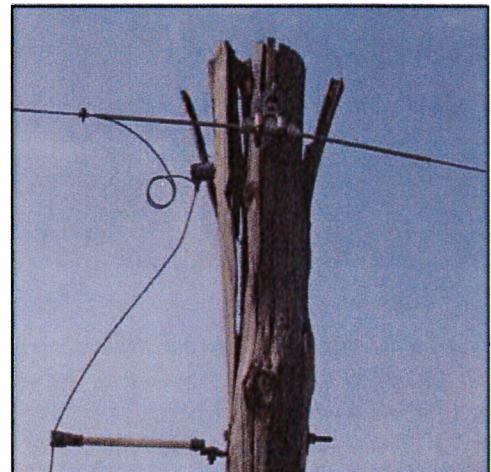


With the beauty that Mother Nature brings to us comes devastation. Polk County RPPD experienced one of the worst ice storms on March 28, 1976 where approximately 600 poles were lost. The district lost several hundred crossarms, braces and associated equipment. Estimated damage of storm repairs exceed \$700,000.00 and was thought to be one of the worst ice and wind storms to have struck this area of the state.



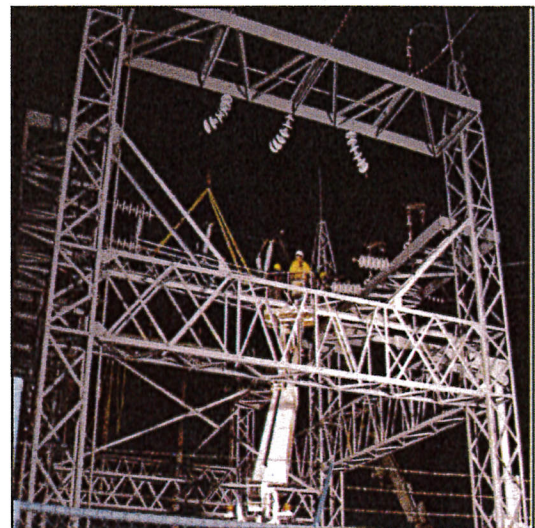


Weather's Impact on Power Lines and Equipment



Tornado photos, taken by John Sundberg on June 20th, 2011 show trouble headed towards the transmission line northwest of Stromsburg. The lower photo shows an arc when the funnel made contact with transmission lines. Several farmsteads were damaged. The district lost 44 poles and two, 2-pole transmission structures. They worked into the night untangling conductors, replacing poles and doing substation switching. Portable lighting makes the job a little easier.

On July 30th, 1968 one of several twisters in the area destroyed a power substation and the homes of farmers Earl Johnson and Norris Johnson, near Stromsburg. The twister toppled a 27 ton transformer worth \$92 thousand dollars.





Public Safety



Safety

The district's mission statement: "Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable, economical energy now and into the future."

Safety. Anyone reading this special edition observing 75 years of PCRPPD, probably doesn't realize that one of the company's many policies is titled, "Public Safety". Safety is stated first in our mission statement and there is a reason for that. The district's directors, management team and employees feel it is the most important factor in serving the public.

It is not only a practice, it is a responsibility to safeguard consumers and the general public from potentially dangerous electrical conditions. Since we can not be everywhere at once and circumstances change, it is not only our responsibility, but the public's responsibility as well to alert us to any unsafe practices or hazards.

Public Safety

Over the years, district employees have participated in numerous programs educating area youth and adults about the dangers involving this common, potentially dangerous commodity.

Providing electricity is a service. We flip the switch, plug it in, pull the main, whatever the means of energization - we often forget the potential hazards electricity poses if not respected and properly utilized.





Public Safety



Through the years several employees have taken part in public, safety education programs. Tim Teegerstrom and Judy Rieken have packed up gear going from school to school throughout the county educating hundreds of youth about electricity. Andy Roberts on prior page, does a great job of using the "Live Line Demo" to show the potentially, lethal affect of what happens when contact is made with an energized conductor. Using posters, equipment, signage and videos the presentations get the point across.



Safety Director, Tim Teegerstrom has developed a strong relationship with local fire departments, emergency crews, and law officials by doing mock Mayday drills. This event prepares everyone involved for "what if" scenarios. This has proven to be one of the most effective, public training programs to date.





Employee Safety



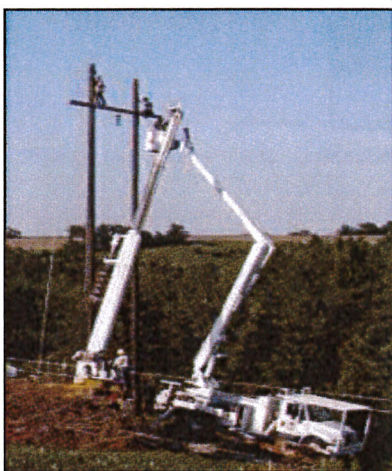
Safety

Accident. “An unexpected and undesirable event”. Accidents can happen regardless of the hours of education and training employees have, specifically line crews in preparing for an unexpected event.

Keeping crews safe, meeting national, state, and local standards is important, but the most important thing is to make sure each and every employee goes home to their family at the end of each work day.

Annual, monthly, weekly, daily or as needed inspections, training, tailgating and documentation is constant. Nebraska’s rural electric systems go through and meet standards to “be accredited”. Without going into a lot of detail, we will say it is a necessary and of most importance to work in the safest environment possible when doing each and every job.

Employees train in many areas, and linemen perform a lot of inspections on their equipment to make sure everything is working and operating at the maximum safety proficiency. There are no shortcuts!

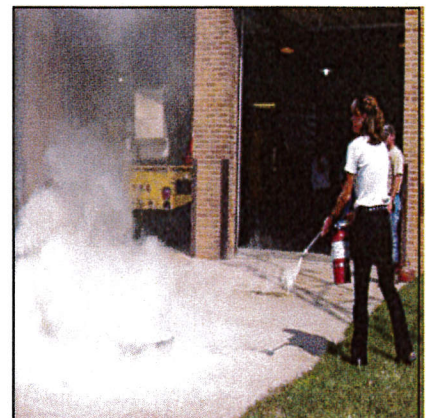
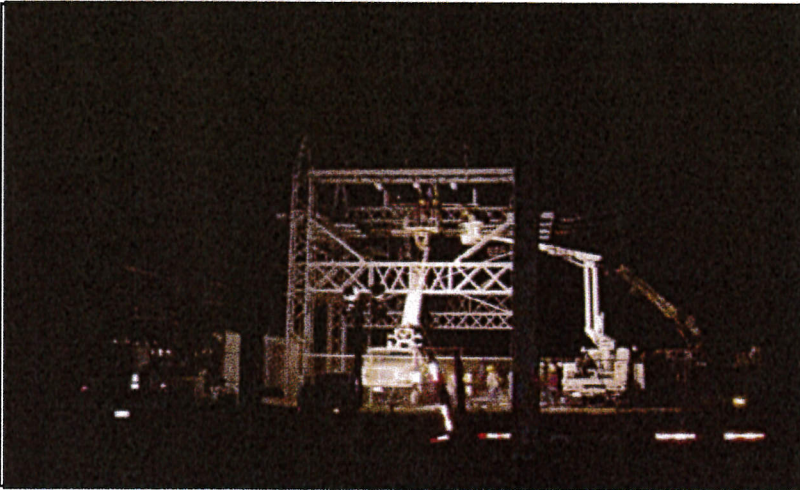
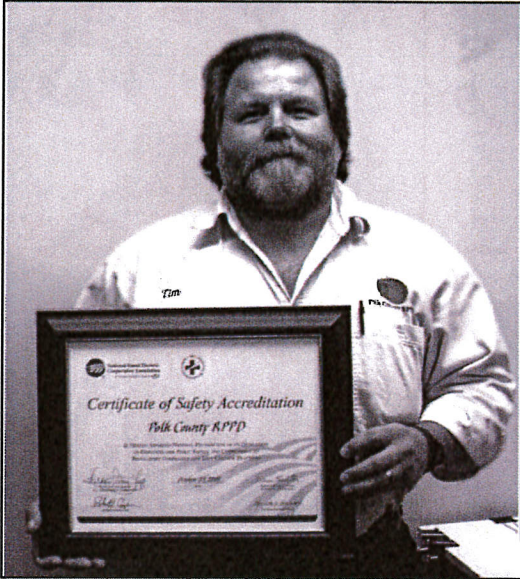




Employee Safety



We have an enormous amount of respect for our linecrew. They are a dedicated, hard working group of men. Through adverse weather conditions, day or night they restore power. Their safety is so important! PPE (personal protective equipment), a good fleet and equipment are important to management. Safety is not taken lightly and shortcuts are intolerable. God bless, watch over and protect our linecrews!





Customer Service Programs



Load Management

Load management is a very important factor in rate stability. Irrigation load management has played a key role in keeping rates as low as possible for Polk County RPPD customers. For nearly thirty- years the district has shaved hundreds of thousands of dollars off the system's high summer power bills by shedding load at high peak times.

Residential customers also play an important role in helping to maintain rate stability. Local electricians have installed load management switches allowing us to shut off electric water heaters and central air systems during times of high electrical use.

Central air systems and electric water heaters are under load management during the four summer months.

All load management programs are voluntary. Irrigation customers not only receive the benefits of helping the district maintain rate stability, but receive a lesser horsepower charge for program participation. Residential customers receive credit on their electric bill for

participating in this important program.

General Manager, George Lyons speaks with area ag producers about load management, demand loads and the impact on rates.



Communication is important, whether it is through personal contact, over the phone or electronically. It is important to us to keep customers up to date and informed about current issues in the industry.



Left; Lyons, Operations Manager, Phil Burke and Director, Vernon Kuhnel visit with area farmers about right-of-way requirements. Right; Manager Lyons signs Pro Agreement for realignment of services for Clarks and Silver Creek in 1999 and Osceola and Shelby in 2001.





Customer Service Programs



Customer Service

As we complete this history book, we hope that is exactly what it is to you. A bit of history that you can keep for years to come. It won't be long and for many of us, we will not know what it was like, not to have electricity. At least, we hope not!

What is customer service? This is where it gets personal. To me, customer service is treating the customer like I would want to be treated, with respect, loyalty and a nice 'personal touch'. Customer service can be internal (co-workers) and external (customers). Customer service is treating people like you are the business owner and how I treat you, depends on whether my business thrives.

Our employees are customer service oriented. We have high morals, strive to be efficient and productive, take pride in what we do and are satisfied at the end of a job, knowing that we made a difference.

Growing up on a farmstead in rural Sherman County, NE with my six brothers we always had electricity. However; I attended Austin Country School and had the pleasure of visiting the outhouse, pumping water, cold lunches, helping the teacher clean the two room school on Fridays and raising and lowering "Old Glory" daily.

Even though I am the young age of 54, growing up in an old farm house in the late 50's and early 60's didn't mean we had all the luxuries. I'm happy to say I know what it was like to milk cows by hand, feed the

hogs curdled milk, wash the separator and use a summer kitchen to bathe in and when we moved to



The power of human connections® - one handshake at a time.

grandma's farm house, I knew what the stack of catalogs in the corner of the outhouse was for, however; mom purchased toilet tissue.

Having worked for the district now for 35 years, I feel I am truly a part of the history. I clearly remember the first day I came to work through our Stromsburg High School (on the job training) program at 2 p.m., mid March 1976. There was such a hustle and bustle about. Many men were working out in front of the building, scrambling to find the right materials to restore power. The next day I had learned that just days earlier, one of the worst ice storms had hit Polk County. Some customers were without power for nearly five weeks. We lived in town, had power and knew no different.

I remember how bills were computed by the pull of a manual calculator and typed by a manual typewriter. Most records were hand written. The minicomputer (our first in

the district) consisted of a card reader that as you typed numbers and letters from a keyboard, a magnetic strip on each account holders file would retain information until updated. We thought this was quite a computer! Addressograph and stenographs were just being outdated. I am also thankful for my first real bosses (besides Mom and Dad) Willard, Hazel and Carolyn.

So much has changed in the operational and records keeping ends of the business. I could go on and on about my tenure at PCRPPD. I am so thankful for my job. It is a great place to work and co-workers respect one another and work as a team. (Incidentally, before long I will be working under my 4th manager). Time goes fast.

Polk County RPPD employees are dedicated to the communities in which they live and work. Most employees have served or are serving as EMT's, firemen, church council leaders or musicians, community leaders, youth group leaders, economic development or with various organizations. We are a local service provider and we care about our neighbors and friends. We want to preserve what our ancestors started back in 1935. We want to "enhance the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable and economical energy now and into the future."

Customer Services Manager,
Judy Rieken



Building for the Future



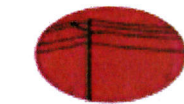
Customer Service Today and into the Future

The District has always been proactive when it comes to technology. Implementing technology sometimes comes with a hefty price tag. Our board of directors and management carefully review the cost effectiveness of implementing new programs and technology. Another factor that is taken into consideration is “what do customers want?”

Several years ago more and more customers wanted to be able to pay by credit or debit card. We reviewed costs involved and found it cost effective and important to offer this to customers. Today, through our website at www.pcrppd.com many customers pay on line, record readings, review payments, consumption history and can securely manage their individual financial payment portfolio.

Several customers are using email at pcrppd@pcrppd.com to request service changes, contact and address changes or miscellaneous service information. We also offer bank draft and recurring credit and debit card payments. If you have not yet been to our site, please check it out. This service is provided for you.

Load management has been a work in progress since the early 1980's. We purchase our power from Nebraska Public Power District. The power bill consists of several billing components including an off peak and on peak demand and an off peak and on peak consumption. It is critical that during designated hours during the summer months (generally 10 A.M. until 11



Polk County Rural Public Power District

P.O. BOX 465 115 W 3RD STREET STROMSBURG, NE 68666 (402) 764-4381

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We are committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable, economic energy now and into the future.

WE HAVE MOVED! OUR NEW ADDRESS IS 115 WEST 3RD STREET

POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
115 West 3rd Street, PO Box 465, Stromsburg, NE 68666-0465

Phone: (402) 764-4381
Toll Free: (888) 242-8266
Fax: (402) 764-4382
Email: pcrppd@pcrppd.com
Business Hours: 8 am to 5 pm
After Hours: (402) 764-4381



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P.M.) we reduce loads.

NPPD determines from our total system load an average of the four highest peaks set in the summer months of June, July, August and September. This average sets a new demand factor on our power bill which we pay for the next 12 months. By shutting down irrigation services during high use times and deferring consumption to evenings and weekends, the district has saved customers hundreds of thousands of dollars which has been a key factor in rate stability.

Technology changes are constant. We have installed electronic meters which measure demand, consumption and can give us valuable information when it comes to power

quality and monitoring.

Graphical information systems (GIS) have provided operations personnel tools that can help identify distribution equipment including metering and transformers while interacting with the (CIS) customer information system.

Through a SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition system) we can monitor substation equipment and loads that are critical to the overall performance of the system.

These programs all work together to give pertinent information for load and rate studies.

The district feels it is important to stay abreast of new technology and to be able to provide data needed for various studies and future planning.



Building for the Future



Customer Service Today and into the Future

Many customers may not realize, unless they visited our old headquarters building just how overcrowded we were. The original building built in 1950 had served its purpose and we simply outgrew the facility. Over the years the sixty year old building had a couple of major remodels to install double pane windows, a more efficient heating and cooling system, roof repairs (and it still leaked), and had been built on to.

So many things have changed since the inception of Polk County RPPD. The board of directors and management conclusively agreed that it was time to take the plunge and begin negotiations to construct a new facility. This was not an easy decision because we are always looking out for the rate payers.

The construction contract was awarded to B-D Construction out of Columbus, NE and was to be completed in three phases. The initial phase of construction was to build and relocate the office to the south side of the block since the district already owned this property, the second phase was to demolish the old office facility and construct a building for the truck fleet while the third phase was to remodel the existing warehouse. In addition to the old bowling alley was demolished to make room for a parking lot and the district owned building north of the headquarters building was renovated.

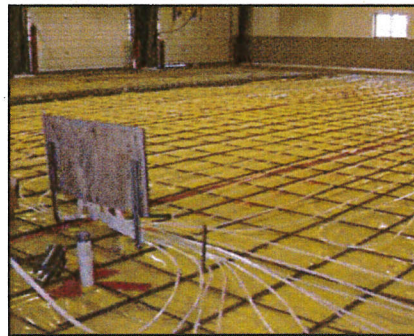
The financing for the building was done through bonds. We know

that this facility will serve customers for many years to come and is something we can all be very proud of.





Building for the Future



Phase one - demolition of the bowling alley, construction for new office building began in November 2009 amidst record snowfalls. Heat tapes were used to heat the ground so that footings could be poured. Construction continued throughout the year and our first day of business was conducted in our new office facility on October 4, 2010. Phase two - demolition of old office space began to allow for the fleet. Once this was completed the existing warehouse was renovated and heated flooring was installed. The generator and tower were relocated and the entire project was completed in the summer of 2011.





*Celebrating
76 Years
of Service to Area Customers
May 6, 1935 - May 6, 2011*

On behalf of the board of directors and employees, we wish to take this opportunity to thank you for attending our open house celebration. We are here to serve you and it is because of your support and need for such a valuable service that we are here today. We truly are committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable and economical energy now and into the future.