



Memories of a member

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Virgil Hans lives in the home his grandfather, Adolph, built in 1900. It is a large farmhouse, west of Davenport, on the farm his grandfather, father, and then Virgil, farmed. Unlike many others that can remember the time of rural electrification, Virgil never remembers his family without lights. He remembers neighbors that didn't have electricity before the co-op came through around 1938, and he remembers his country school house without electricity.

"There were a couple shelves of glass batteries down in the basement. The Delco would charge the batteries and the electricity would run off the batteries. I remember sometimes the lights would get really dim and dad would go down and start the generator."

Power before rural electrification

The Hans family had power, before it was commonplace, because there was a Delco-Light plant generating electricity for the home. "There were a couple shelves of glass batteries down in the basement. The Delco would charge the batteries and the electricity would run off the batteries. I remember sometimes the lights would get really dim and dad would go down and

start the generator," Virgil remembered. Virgil assumes his grandfather had the home wired when the house was built because he doesn't remember it being wired in his time. The home was also built with an indoor bathroom, unusual at the time, Virgil thought. Also unlike the times, Virgil was not born in the farmhouse. He and his sister were both born in Fargo, with the assistance of a midwife. Virgil still has the Ford Model-T

that he rode home in after he made his debut into the world. His son is restoring it, and it is Virgil's dream to drive that car.

School,
farming and
family

When the country

school closed, Virgil attended school in Davenport. It was there that he met the girl who would become the woman he would marry. "We were both in the fifth grade. When the little country school closed we went to Davenport. Her family moved from by Leonard to near Davenport. When I saw her I thought that's the one for me! I can remember when she walked in... a little skinny girl with freckles," he recalled.

Virgil says he knew then that there was

something about her. It wasn't until they were juniors in high school that Virgil and Dorothea became a couple. Dorothea remembers what her farm was like before rural electrification. She too had electricity as a child. "Growing up we had a wind charger. On windy days we could turn on any lights and when it wasn't windy we had to conserve. When the electricity came you didn't have to worry about turning the lights off – you could leave a light on," she recalled.

Virgil's father fell victim to the polio epidemic of 1946 and was unable to farm. He rented out the farm for three years until Virgil got out of high school, at age 18, and was able to farm with his father full time. Virgil's father was passionate about farming and Virgil wanted him to be able to continue, so he farmed.

When Virgil and Dorothea were 21, they married and lived on the Hans family farm. At first they lived in a trailer. This is where Virgil remembers getting their first television. "It was fuzzy and snowy," Dorothea recalled. When the couple would leave their home, Virgil's father would often watch television there while they were away as they didn't have a set in the main house.

Memories of Cass County Electric Cooperative

After living in the trailer, the couple moved into the main home and had an apartment upstairs, with their own entrance to the





home. Dorothea recalls the inconvenience of having to walk through the house, to the kitchen to flip the switch on and off to control the yard light. When they'd come and go at night, it was disruptive to the household. It was then that the young couple called Cass County Electric Cooperative and paid them to install a yard light, one that stayed on. The yard light, although not the original, still stands in the same place in the yard.

After a few years, Virgil's parents moved out and the couple made the farm house a home of their own. It was there that they raised three children. Virgil farmed until it made

more sense to rent out his farm land. He then worked for a neighbor until his retirement. In the 1970s, the Hans' took advantage of CCEC's off-peak program. It was new and it saved them money. The same as it works today, the off-peak program turned their main electricity source off and they used a back-up system at a less expensive rate during peak usage times. Until this time, the home had a coal-fired furnace. To be able to take advantage of the off-peak rates, they installed a fuel oil furnace to use during the off-peak times.

Another memory Virgil has of CCEC is when they had an outage at Christmas a few years

ago. "Cass County Electric brought out a generator that ran from Friday until Tuesday when they got it fixed," Virgil remembered.

Now the couple continues to live on the farm. They've been married almost 58 years and talk about having a place in Fargo to live during the winter months, but they love the serenity and quiet that their farm offers. With a view of vast fields, a beautiful lawn and garden, and a home sheltered by trees, they find it peaceful and comforting.

It is home.





HOW TO BUY A... *refrigerator*

ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators are required by the U.S. Department of Energy to use 20% less energy than models not labeled with the ENERGY STAR logo. Choose a new qualified model rather than a non-qualified model and cut your energy bills by \$165 over the lifetime of your fridge.

Replace your old fridge for bigger savings.

If you still have a fridge from the 1980s, replace it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model and save over \$100 each year on your utility bills. Replace a fridge from the 1970s and save nearly \$200 each year!

Ask for an ENERGY STAR model.

When buying a refrigerator, request an ENERGY STAR qualified model to ensure it is energy efficient.

Check the yellow EnergyGuide label.

Use this label to determine the model's energy use, compare the energy use of similar models, and estimate annual operating costs.

Consider buying a refrigerator with a top-mounted freezer.

Models with top-mounted freezers use 10–25% less energy than bottom-mount or side-by-side models.

Purchase an appropriately sized refrigerator.

Generally, the larger the refrigerator, the greater the energy consumption. The most energy-efficient models are typically 16–20 cubic feet.

Consider skipping the ice-maker and dispenser.

Automatic ice-makers and through-the-door dispensers increase energy use by 14–20%. They also raise the purchase price by \$75–250.

Follow these guidelines to reduce the amount of energy your refrigerator uses:

Set the appropriate temperature.

Keep your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit.

Place your fridge in a cool place.

Position your refrigerator away from a heat source such as an oven, a dishwasher, or direct sunlight from a window.

Allow air circulation behind the fridge.

Leave a few inches between the wall and the refrigerator, and keep the condenser coils clean if you have an older model. Read the user's manual to learn how to safely clean coils. Coil cleaning brushes can be purchased at most hardware stores.

Check the door seals.

Make sure the refrigerator seals around the door are airtight. If not, replace them.

Keep the door closed.

Minimize the amount of time the refrigerator door is open.

If you purchase a new refrigerator, be sure to recycle your old one.

ND STATE energy program

How is it working for ccec members?

Cass County Electric Cooperative is proud to work with its members to promote energy efficiency. This new state program is made available through the North Dakota Department of Commerce by funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the stimulus program. There are rebates available on ENERGY STAR qualified heating, air-source heat pumps, air conditioners, water heaters, insulation, lighting, geothermal heat pumps, and more.

The State Energy Program started on June 1. How has it been going? By all accounts, the program is working well. Through CCEC alone, there have been over 75 rebates submitted, totaling over \$64,000. These rebates have mainly been for qualifying residential air-source heat pumps, air conditioners, water heaters and lighting retrofits for commercial accounts. Many members are also coupling these state rebates with federal tax credits and utility incentives, all helping to decrease the initial install cost to the homeowner.

The process for members is simple. Members should contact their utility provider, about qualifying systems, along with the contractor doing the work. After the work is complete, the member and contractor both sign a rebate form; turn it in with an invoice along with the ENERGY STAR documentation to CCEC. CCEC will verify each system install and send the form to the state on your behalf. After we send the form in, members have typically been receiving their check in about three weeks.



For residential members, there is a \$5,000 maximum limit and for commercial accounts, there is a \$15,000 cap for qualifying systems. When looking to replace an old heating or cooling system and upgrading to a more efficient system, CCEC encourages members to call us for more information about the program details. As of August 23, there had been about \$200,000 in rebates paid out through North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. The fund started with over \$2.1 million in available rebates, and there is still quite a bit of money available for projects. The program ends December 31, 2011 or until all the funds have been depleted, whichever comes first.

With all these incentives, now is a good time to consider upgrading to a more efficient heating and cooling system. Visit CCEC's website at www.kwh.com or call us 1.800.248.3292 for program details.



Win a trip to Washington, D.C.!

June 11-17, 2011



Here's your ticket for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing/poster contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2011.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Cass County Electric Cooperative.
- Poster can be any size. Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½ - by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages. Poster or essay are to be created considering this topic:

Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a member-owner and future decision maker for your cooperative, describe ways in which new technologies and social media can be used to connect and communicate with you and other young adults.

- Submit your essay or poster in hard copy or electronic format to Cass County Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2011, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- The deadline is Monday, Jan. 24, 2011. E-mailed entries should be directed to cjoyce@kwh.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Cass County Electric Cooperative, 3312 42nd St S, Suite 200, Fargo, ND 58104.

If you have a question, contact Carrie Joyce, Cass County Electric, at (701) 356-4534.

Top 5 reasons to enter the essay or poster contest:

1. Winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Cass County Electric Cooperative
2. Get-acquainted cruise along the mighty Potomac River, with about 1,500 students from all across the country
3. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
4. Opportunity to share your ideas on how electric cooperatives can connect with young member-owners
5. A learning experience you'll never forget



TELL ME ABOUT MY CO-OP

Cass County Electric Cooperative employee Mike Mead, helps outfit the kids at the Red River Valley Fair after a safety demonstration.

fast FACTS

Sixteen distribution electric cooperatives serve 230,000 North Dakotans through 147,000 meters, which also:

- Sell nearly 50 percent of all retail electricity in North Dakota
- Own 61,000 miles of distribution power lines
- Have invested \$1 billion in distribution facilities
- Employ more than 600 people
- Operate as nonprofit, member-owned enterprises

Five generation and transmission cooperatives operate in North Dakota, which:

- Have invested more than \$5 billion in North Dakota's energy industry
- Own 4,200 miles of transmission line
- Directly employ more than 2,100 people in North Dakota
- Have invested more than \$800 million in environmental equipment and controls

LOCAL.
TRUSTED.
SERVING
YOU.

Neighbor helping neighbor. Cooperative helping community. Applying the basic cooperative principles, North Dakotans have worked together to help themselves, bringing the brilliance of light to homes, farms and businesses across the state.

As we observe Co-op Month in October, electric cooperative members should be proud of the success of the cooperative business model and the spirit of cooperation that these organizations promote.

What makes cooperatives special? Cooperatives are owned and controlled by those they serve. Each person has a voice and a vote in the co-op's activities. The cooperative way of doing business is a true example of grass-roots involvement and democracy in action. The power of the people is exemplified in all types of cooperatives.

NEWS COOPERATIVE

On August 22, CCEC sponsored a day at the Redhawks game for its members, giving away 1200 tickets and Schwan's ice cream to everyone after the game on a hot, hot day!

On July 28, CCEC employees painted Bowls for Babies. Bowls for Babies is a fundraiser for the March of Dimes. The bowls are painted by various companies and organizations throughout the community and later used at a March of Dimes fundraiser serving soup.

CCEC, along with United Blood Services, held a blood drive on July 20. There were 14 units of blood collected enabling United Blood Services to help 42 people.

CCEC held its annual contractor brat feed on July 21 serving 958 brats and hot dogs.

Mike Mead and Alison Slag gave safety demos for children at the West Fargo Police Department's Night to Unite joining together to promote safety in our communities.

CCEC generally participates in at least 12 parades around our service territory a year. On September 18, CCEC employees worked at the West Fargo WestFest parade and the Enderlin Sun Days parade.

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• please call (701) 356-4499 or
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