

Still Talking Missile Sites



Dean Nelson
Operations Manager

Elsewhere in this edition you will find an article relating to an interview, West Central's Member Services person, Becky Pol recently had with George and Sandy Gittings in regard to their venture in converting a Launch Control Facility to a bed and breakfast. I will reflect a bit on how the Minuteman Missile project impacted the co-op years ago and how it continues to today.

During the Cold War, 150 Minuteman missiles were deployed in western South Dakota and remained in place for nearly three decades. In the very early 60's West Central was contracted by the Air Force to supply three phase power to two Launch Control Facilities and 27 Minuteman Missile Sites (silo's) which were planned within the co-op's service area. This took place well before my time, but heard tell of the challenges the co-op faced with the short construction time frame and the severe winter in which much of the construction took place. The combined sites had a total load of approximately 1,550 KW, which required nearly 200 miles of three phase line, most which required new construction. The Air Force was a major energy user for the co-op for many years (6 million KWH's annually) but by the late 80's, it was clear that the nearly 45 year-long Cold War between the world's superpowers was coming to a close. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty reflected these changes and as a result, the Air Force began deactivating

the Nations entire Minuteman II force, including those of the 44th Missile Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base. West Central disconnected service first to the individual missile sites and then shortly after to the last two Launch Control Facilities in September of 1993.

Once the Minuteman facilities ceased to exist the need for much of the area's three phase was not required, so a plan was put into place to systematically convert sections to single phase. Items taken into consideration with this plan were long range loading, system losses, and present/projected loads in this area with special consideration for three phase loads. About the time of the deactivation the Mni Wiconi and West River Lyman Jones rural waters systems were making great strides in providing rural water to customers throughout the West Central system. With rural water comes pump stations, of which many require three phase. Much of the conversion has taken place over the years and as time goes on and the design of the rural water system gets to its final stages, it is quite evident where the remaining three phase to single phase conversions should take place. One of the last pump station's location and power requirements was recently finalized and nearly 12 miles of vintage missile line will be placed back into service northeast of Philip.

The main benefit in the conversion to single phase is the reduced physical load on the poles as two of the four conductors are removed along with the crossarms. This makes a major difference during wind and/or ice conditions.

As a side note...the National Park Service offers tours of an actual launch control center and a missile silo located near Cactus Flats which is midway between Kadoka and Wall on I-90. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the Minuteman Missile headquarters at 605-433-5552.

From the Mailbag

Thank you so much for the scholarship that I received. I plan on attending Black Hills State in the fall. With your help, the road of life is a whole lot less bumpy, and I seem to be a lot more sure about which direction I'm headed. Thanks for your support!!!

Ashley Weber, Draper

Thank you very much for selecting me as a recipient of your scholarship. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The scholarship money will be great to have while moving to Brookings and purchasing books for my classes. This is

a wonderful opportunity for me, and I thank you for it. Your service to the communities is wonderful. Thanks again for selecting me for this great opportunity.

Marchelle Brodrecht, Presho

Thank you West Central for giving me the opportunity to receive your scholarship and also for choosing me as one of your recipients. Everything you've done for me over the years is just about too great for merely a thank you. Thanks again for helping me get through college. It doesn't seem so tough anymore!

Josie Andrews, Murdo

I would like to thank West Central Electric Cooperative for sponsoring me to attend the 2007 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, DC. It was an incredible experience. I learned so much and met many new people. I especially enjoyed visiting the majestic National Cathedral, job shadowing the South Dakota Senate offices and listening to Mike Schlappi, a two time paralympic gold medal winner and inspiring motivational speaker. Thanks again for the incredible experience.

Whitney Stoeser, Fort Pierre

Where Are They Now?

The following names are from capital credit checks that have been returned to West Central Electric because of insufficient addresses. If you know the address or the next of kin of any of the individuals listed here please contact our office at 1-800-242-9232 or e-mail capcredits@wccenet.com. **If capital credits are not claimed by December 31, 2007 all credits will be forfeited to the cooperative.**

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aerial Contractors Inc | Flute, David | Larvie, Patricia A | Schooler, Margaret |
| Ahrendt, Ben or Mrs | Fosness, Noel C | Lewis, Barry D | Scott, Harry |
| Aldrick, Charles | Frederick, John Mark | Lewis, Donna J | Searby, Glenda |
| Anderson, Clarence | Gammon, Thomas or Shirley | Loney Estate, A Flesner S | Seaton, Robert or Mary Ann |
| Bad Horse, James | Glover, Gladys | Lowell Light and Assoc | Seguin, Estelle R |
| Bakarbessy, Louise | Godfrey, John T | Lunsford RT, T M | Seitz, Conrad |
| Baker, Chuck or Priscilla | Goodface, Catherine | MacDonald, Fred or Denise | Semmler, Brenda |
| Barber Transportation | Goodman, Ralph | Mack, Dorothy | Sherman, Craig A |
| Barr, James | Goodwin, Esther | Madsen, Wesley O | Sieler, Peggy |
| Beckett, Delmar | Gorder, Robert K | Marshall, Arlyne | Skinner, Robert M |
| Bendigo, Holly R | Griswold Jr, Loyd O | McCormick, Leo | Small Business Assn |
| Berja Investment | Haggar, Don | McGrath, Howard | Smith, Willard or Terry |
| Bingham, Paula M | Hairgrove, Stephen | Meland, Irene | Snow, Virdene |
| Blom, Rev Keith | Handcock, Ben or Patsy | Miller Estate, Vern | Snyder, Donald G |
| Brech, Doyl P | Hanson, C A | Mistereck, Richard J | Sondergaard, Rob't - Karen |
| Brunson, Charlie | Hargens, Daniel | Moore, Douglas E | Spears, Louise |
| Burns Brothers Inc | Harmon, Nancy | Murphy, Jeanette C | Stallman, Henry E |
| Canaan, Darren | Harry Estate, Clayton E | National Advertising A P | Stanley, Joe W |
| Carlson, Marjorie D | Harty, Mrs Leo | NEB NET WTCI | Sterling, Charles D |
| Chambliss Estate, Beryl | Hatheway, H Joe | Nemec, Virginia | Stites, Teresa |
| Chicago NW RR CO | Heigh, Scott or Paulette | Ness, Odean Lee | Theis, Henry |
| Chiu, Margaret | Hemenway, Lewis or Cathy | Nye Estate, Glenn | Theurer, Ruben |
| Clekal Inc | Hempl Estate, P C | Olson, Kathy S | Thomas, Ben or Dulcie |
| Collings, Joy M | Herman Farms Inc | Oscarson, W Donn or
Emma | Thomas, Margaret |
| Comp, Lynne | Hilmoe, Whitey | Oscarson, W Donn | Thomas, Tom or Mary Pat |
| Cornish, Nettie | Hodges, Rodger | Parish Baker Parish | Thor, Chan |
| Creal, David D | Hofer, Mildred L | Patterson, Gregory | Tracy, Beryl |
| Creamer, Randy | Hollifield, Walter R | Peterson Estate, Clare M | Tupa, John E or Rita F |
| Davis, Leny E | Huggins, Tim or Mary Lou | Pope Sr, Harley A | Turbes, Cheri |
| Davis, Loren H | Huntsman, Carolin G | Post, Frank | Tyson, James R - Catherine |
| Dawson, Carol | Ioof Hall | Rapid City Production | Urban, Patty |
| Desersa Estate, Clement | Jacob, Karen | Razor, Thomas | Valburg Estate, Helen |
| DeYoung, Harold | Jeffords, Max or Marjorie | Reed, Mark E or Colleen | Vaughn, A J or Doris |
| DeYoung, Richard | Jerke, Arlan G or Carol M | Reichert, H D or Bertha | Waddell, Bryce or Nikki |
| Donovan, James | Jones, Ed C | Reutlinger, Nancy | Walker, Wilbur |
| Dreyer, Jacquelyn | Joyce, Harold | Rilling, Kathy | Walters, Mervin |
| Duerfeldt, Dorothy | Julin, Jim | Rittel, Albert | Watson, Betty Rose |
| Duncan, Richard or Grace | Kerley, Terry | Roseth, Charlotte | Weber, Juanita |
| Ellis, Leonard or Nettie | Kerlin Estate, Thelma | Russell, Thomas or Nancy | White, Randy - Vickie |
| Emry, Carol | Kuchenbecker, John D | Ryan, Marvin J | White Feather, Charlene |
| Erickson, Adolph or Mary | Lafurge, Leigh or Donna | Sand, Dennis | Williams, Donald E |
| Farabee, Roy R | Lane, Chuck | Sassman, Christine | Winter, Karen |
| Fitzgerald, James | Langaas Estate, Carl | Schleder, Doug | Wordeman, Marie E |
| Flesner, Carson | Langdeau, Orville | | Yost, Dan |