

Line Patrol and Meter Checks



Dean Nelson
Operations Manager

This is the time of year you may see a West Central Electric truck or 4-wheeler about anywhere as the crews have been working on line patrol and meter checks, along with their normal duties.

Each year the Co-op patrols a minimum of 1/3 of the system, and if time permits, even more. The crews look for defects or conditions which pose a hazard or can cause a future outage. Maintenance which is come upon is

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generally repaired on the spot. If the problem requires additional men or equipment a maintenance ticket is filed and the work is scheduled for a future time. Some of

the repairs may require us to deenergize the line to complete the repairs, resulting in a planned outage. In all cases we try to notify you in advance if an outage is required. We appreciate your patience at these times.

Along with line patrol, all meters are read at this time as well. The recorded readings are forwarded to our billing people who compare the "field" reading with the reading electronically sent in by your (Turtle) meter. There are cases where these readings differ and these cases are reviewed and addressed accordingly.



From the Mailbag

Thanks for trimming the trees in our back yard. Thanks again.

Wanda Sweeney, Presho

Thank you for choosing me as one of your scholarship winners. I am excited to attend Mitchell Technical Institute.

Tanner Prince, Fort Pierre

Thank you so much for sponsoring me on the 2007 Youth Tour to Washington, DC! It was so much fun! It was awesome to meet all the kids from South Dakota and all of the other states. Meeting Georgia was my favorite! I was able to make a lot of new friends that I am staying in touch with. Everything in DC was beautiful! I am so glad I got this chance to go! There were some really interesting things there! My favorite part of the trip was going to Mt. Vernon. I thought it was so fascinating! I really liked being able to walk the fields that he did. I also really enjoyed the Holocaust Museum. It was so interesting to see what the German Nazi's did to the Jews. It was a real awakening to what happened. My favorite monument was Iwo Jima. It was so mesmerizing to see. What was really cool was when our bus driver drove slowly around it the flag appeared to be going up and that the guys were lifting the flag straight up in the air. It was fun to go on the Potomac cruise. I got to sit with a bunch of kids and talk to them. We got to eat at some very nice places! We ate at the fish market and Philips, which were both fish places. Even though I'm not a fish eater I found other really good food like Chicken Alfredo! I also loved the Hyatt, the hotel we stayed at! The beds were so comfy! The minute you laid down you were asleep. The trip was so fun and I really appreciate getting to go and getting to see all the wonderful things and getting to meet all the people and getting to see the way of life there!

Sierra Anderson, Fort Pierre

Thank you for the rebate we received on our new electric heat.

Corky & Inez Hayes, Murdo

Thank you for featuring Milesville's Centennial BBQ on July 4th in your "Events of Special Note" section. We appreciate that extra touch, and it carries over into the excellent service you provide to your customers also. Thanks again and God's blessing.

Carla Smith, Milesville Hall Board

Your generous donation is greatly appreciated and will go toward keeping the memory of the fallen heroes of this area alive. We were very pleased to receive your nice gift. It certainly helps us to achieve our goal for this worthy memorial. It is located at the west end of Pine Street by the American Legion Hall.

Hans Hanson, Corwin Thorson, Floyd Bendickson, John Kangas & Greg Weber, Philip Living Memorial Directors

Joe Connot Hosts 2nd Thanksgiving Feast

For the second consecutive year, Joe Connot, West Central's Member Services Director, again demonstrated his spirit of Thanksgiving by hosting a community feast for those alone on Thanksgiving or families with no special plans for the holiday.

"No one should have to have Thanksgiving dinner alone," said Joe.

In 2006 Joe planned, prepared and invited everyone to join him for a Thanksgiving meal, and 50 community members took him up on his offer.

This year Joe's Thanksgiving plans caught the attention of journalist Andrea Cook who featured him in a November 21st article in the *Rapid City Journal*.

At noon on Thanksgiving Day over 75 guests joined Joe at the Jones County School lunch room. Joe's menu included three turkeys equaling 55 pounds, a special dressing using his mom's recipe, lots of corn and gravy, and 35 pounds of potatoes all prepared by Joe the previous evening and Thanksgiving morning. Community members responded to the comment "Joe doesn't do pies" in the *Journal* article by contributing not only a wide assortment of pies, but heaps of salads, a large variety of vegetables and dinner buns to add to the banquet.

Joe's meal was set up family buffet style and guests were invited to come and go. "They can come get a plate and take it home or eat with the group," said Joe.

This year's group included a couple who traveled from Pierre after reading the *Journal* article and a mixed group of all ages from Murdo and surrounding communities.

"It's a hoot to do and I love to do it.," Joe said. "I like to cook and I like to see people eat."

Joe has booked the Senior Citizens Center in Murdo for the next two years and plans to make it a Thanksgiving tradition. "I'll continue to do it as long as I'm willing and able," Joe said.

Read Joe's article on the *Rapid City Journal* Web site at: www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2007/11/21/news/local/doc4743cdb27318f457494799.txt



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WCE Completes Open Houses

November 27-30, West Central Electric held eight capital credit open houses throughout its service area to meet with the members and hand out capital credit checks.

"We look forward to holding these open houses each year," said Joe Connot, West Central's Member Services Director. "With continued success we hope to continue holding the open houses for many years to come."

Following are pictures from some of the open houses:

Kadoka



Philip



Presho

