



BIG FLAT NEWS



May 2024

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CAREER DAY AT MALTA HIGH

MALTA High School recently held a career day for High School students from Malta, Whitewater and Dodson. Various businesses and industries were represented at the career day.

Big Flat Electric Cooperative linemen Joe Hould and Nathan Veit, and Office Manager Kari Hammond presented information to the students on various career possibilities in the electric utility industry. They shared their educational experiences, training and job functions, and answered various questions.

Thanks to the students for your interest in learning more about the industry, and to Malta High School for organizing the event. RM



Nathan Veit and Joe Hould talk with students about the linemen trade. | **BIG FLAT PHOTO**



Big Flat Electric Co-op member Susan Meisdalen and General Manager Gretchen Boardman pose at Malta's annual Ag Day. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**

BFEC supports Ag Day

BIG Flat Electric Cooperative participated in Malta's annual Ag Day on March 22, and is a proud supporter of agriculture in our community. RM



REAL MONTANA

Co-op member participates in ag leadership program

STORY BY **SHAWNA MYERS** | BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

LEADERSHIP, learning and discussing Montana's natural resources with David Crasco, as well as listening to his experiences during his time with Resource Education and Agricultural Leadership (REAL) Montana, was time well spent.

This two-year program offered through the Montana State University Ag Department is designed to build, inform and engage people who have already been in leadership roles and want to further perfect their fields. It is a competitive application process, in which you complete a resume showcasing your leadership roles, among other accomplishments. David said it took him two attempts to be accepted into the program, but it was worth the wait. The selected applicants met 10 times in a two-year period, with one being on an international trip. The first couple meetings consisted of team building, communications and media-training skills. The other meetings were to learn about natural resources and industries, and how they interact with the state of Montana. There are scholarships available for the REAL Montana program to help with expenses incurred through travel and meetings.

I asked David what piqued his interest in REAL Montana. He said he's always wanted to be in a community leadership role, or at least be an engaged person. However, he didn't feel he had the communication skillset to do so, and hoped this program would give him the experience for future leadership roles and to handle any situation.

David admitted he didn't like to be pushed out of his "comfort zone," and generally could goof ball his way out of situations. REAL Montana has taught him how to move outside of his "comfort zone" by learning, with reasonable confidence, to speak in front of a group of people. The program also gives participants a great skillset.

David and the other participants toured and learned about many of Montana's natural resources. Their first meeting was in Bozeman, where they had a team-building



Rancher and Owner/
Operator of Crasco &
Crasco Construction LLC
David Crasco participated
in the Resource
Education and Agricultural
Leadership (REAL)
Montana program.



David Crasco touring a dairy farm in Bozeman, MT. | COURTESY PHOTO



The REAL Montana group visited a job site at a lumber mill in Kalispell (above) and a hard rock mine in Butte (below). | COURTESY PHOTOS





The REAL Montana group's international trip took them to Vietnam. One stop was a dairy farm. | COURTESY PHOTO

seminar and toured a dairy farm. The second seminar was in Billings, where they attended a media and communications seminar. The next seminar was held in Helena, to learn the aspects of state government. The next place was Washington, D.C., where they met with the Montana congressional delegation to learn about policy making and federal government. Great Falls was the fifth place visited for crop production, and a tour of a pasta factory. David said he didn't think of Montana as being a global producer of pasta. They then traveled to Kalispell to learn the importance of timber production for our forests and sawmills.

For livestock production, the group visited the Dillon area. Being a fourth- or fifth-generation rancher, he thought he knew everything there was to know about ranching. David said, "Boy was I wrong. I don't even scratch the surface on what ranches are doing or how they are doing it. It was quite impressive!" David told me a story of a guy explaining one way he cut costs on the ranch. That ranch owner turned to intensive/rotational grazing, which worked great. David said it might be something he would do if he had the ambition and will power to move electric fences every couple of days. Another item



REAL Montana visited a rice field in Vietnam. | COURTESY PHOTO

David learned about was high-altitude sickness in bulls. This is a sickness that producers in higher elevations deal with, as their bulls may not be able to perform due to low oxygen levels.


The sixth place on the list was Butte, to see and learn about hard rock mining, both underground and surface.



The REAL Montana group visited the John McCain Memorial in Vietnam. | COURTESY PHOTO

The group's international trip took them to Vietnam, where they were educated on rice and lentils. One interesting site David experienced there was the memorial for John McCain built in Hanoi. He couldn't figure out why a memorial would be built for an "enemy of war" in Vietnam. A guy explained to him that McCain was very instrumental in negotiations and got trade agreements going between the United States and Vietnam. The last trip of the REAL Montana program will be to meet in Billings, then travel to eastern Montana for an energy tour. From there, they will return to Billings for graduation from the two-year course.

If REAL Montana interests you, contact David for information and to hear more of his personal experiences the past two years. He can be reached on Facebook Messenger, by phone or text at (406) 654-4133, or by email: crasco235@hotmail.com. If you send him an email, please text him and let him know you sent one, David said with a grin.

For more information on REAL Montana visit its website: www.real-montana.org and its Facebook page. 

FROM MAY 1965: BFEC NEWSLETTER

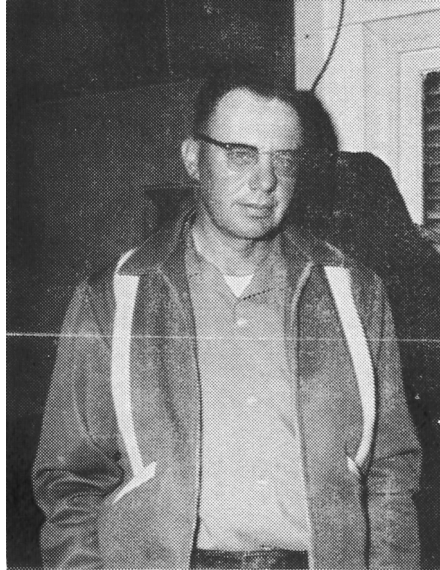
Ordell Klindworth Named Director Of Big Flat Co-op.

Ordell Klindworth of Hogeland was appointed a director of the Big Flat Electric Cooperative at the regular monthly board meeting in Malta April 15. He fills the vacancy created by the death of Guy Riffin of Harlem.

Klindworth was born and reared in the Hogeland area, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Klindworth who homesteaded land nine miles north of Hogeland in 1910. He graduated from Hogeland High School and attended Northern Montana. Mrs. Klindworth is the former Virda Harmon of Bainville.

The Klindworths raise grain and cattle on the original homestead. They have three children, Duane, 12; Daryl, 10, and Kathryn, 7, all of whom are attending their local school.

A 41-month veteran of army service in World War II, Klindworth served 37 months in the southwest Pacific. He is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Other activities include membership on the Hogeland school board, directorship in the Equity Cooperative Association of Harlem and the Silver Bow Grazing Association, hunter-safety instructor and membership in the Hogeland Toastmasters club.



Ordell Klindworth

WHO REGULATES RATE SCHEDULES OF RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVES?

Ever hear of two people — or a group of people — getting together to purchase a commodity or service on a “share the cost” plan?

The idea isn’t new at all — in fact it has had many, many applications in today’s modern society.

So it is with Rural Electric Co-operatives — a “share the cost” program for the distribution of electric power to themselves. Rates which are paid by the Co-operative members are regulated

DON'T THROW VITAMINS DOWN THE DRAIN

If you cook vegetables in lots of water and then pour the water down the drain, you may lose nutrients important to your health. Some minerals, vitamins C and the B vitamins are soluble in water. So cook vegetables only until tender in just enough water to prevent scorching, U. S. Department of Agriculture nutritionists suggest. And cover tightly. They say the so-called “waterless” cooking actually refers to cooking vegetables with only the water remaining after you rinse them, plus their own juice. This method does not permit quick cooking, however. And it does not conserve nutritive values any better than cooking vegetables quickly in a minimum amount of water in any utensil with a tight lid that’s heavy enough to prevent escape of vapor and steam.

by the members themselves, through their elected representatives—the board of trustees. Rate schedules must provide sufficient revenue to cover all operational costs as well as interest and principal payment on borrowed money.

Rural Electric Co-ops are the only electric utilities where the consumer has a direct voice in what the rate schedule should be. And the savings contribute to the state and local economy.

**For further information about REA and Electric Co-ops., write to:
Montana Associated Utilities, P. O.
Box 1306, Great Falls, Montana.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 1 Duane Klindworth
- District 2 Alan Van Voast
- District 3 Alan Wasson, President
- District 4 Betty Campbell, Sec. /Treas.
- District 5 Roger Solberg, Vice President
- District 6 Patty Quisno
- District 7 Kevin Koss

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman



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