



BIG FLAT NEWS

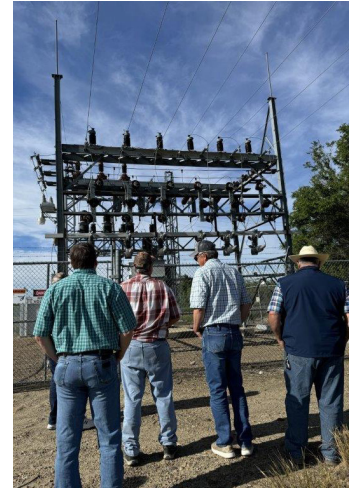


August 2024

www.bigflatelectric.com



The Big Flat Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and key staff pose in front of the Zortman Jail. From left: Patty Quisno, director; Gretchen Boardman, general manager; Roger Solberg, vice president; Alan Van Voast, director; Duane Klindworth, director; Alan Wasson, president; Darren Demarais, line superintendent; Kari Hammond, office manager. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



The BFEC Board of Directors tour the Wagner Substation. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



DIRECTORS DAY

Big Flat Electric directors, staff tour some of the service territory

EVERY year near the end of June, the Big Flat Electric Cooperative (BFEC) Board of Directors and key staff spend a day touring various areas of the service territory.

This year they started the tour at the Wagner substation where they checked out the newly installed compact modular reclosers (CMR). They then traveled around the Ester Lake area and through Lodgepole and Hays. In Hays they toured the Island Mountain Development Group headquarters with James Flansburg, where they learned first-hand

how the operations run and the positive impact the company has to the Ft. Belknap Indian Reservation.

Many thanks to IMDG for this unique opportunity to learn about their organization. After a stop for lunch at the Miner's Café in Zortman, the group traveled back to Malta on the Dry Fork, Midale and Regina country roads.

With the vast and diverse service territory BFEC covers, Directors Day always gives great appreciation for all that surrounds us. RM

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC STUDENTS TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE



Blaine Downing. | COURTESY PHOTO

Grateful for the bonds and friendships created

By **BLAINE DOWNING** | For Big Flat Electric

"YOU'RE so lucky; Washington, D.C., is a trip of a lifetime," a statement relayed to me recurrently over the last few months. As I've witnessed our nation's capital in person, these 11 words resonate even more with me. If there is one take away from my experience, Washington, D.C., has provided me with a new-found sense of pride to be an American, along with a more refined sense of pride to be a Montanan.

Experiencing such sites as the Korean War Memorial, WWII Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Arlington National Cemetery can really tug at the heartstrings. It's difficult to visualize the true sacrifices given for this amazing country, especially to those my age, but seeing these pieces of history in person gave me the ability to do so, and I'm certain my fellow Youth Tour peers would say the same.

While remaining patriotic and educational, this trip also included many wild activities in which I've created life-long memories. The mixed emotions of experiencing the WWII Memorial to watching a live medieval battle while feasting on "baby dragon" allowed my group to develop a certain togetherness I've only ever experienced in sports.

I'll never forget Mark riding a mechanical bull or Hunter forcing Dawson to apologize in front of the whole group for accusing him of being a "horrible pin trader."

I was able to bond with some of the brightest students in our beloved state. I'm most grateful for these bonds and the friends that have been created out of this experience, friends I still talk to daily. They made the trip exceptionally entertaining, and I am confident that whatever path their future takes, it will be a successful one. **RM**



ABOVE: Dawson Hammond, left and Blaine Downing were the two students representing Big Flat Electric Cooperative on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. **BELOW:** The Montana delegation on the 2024 Youth Tour. | COURTESY PHOTOS





Dawson Hammond. | COURTESY PHOTO

Trip of a lifetime

By **DAWSON HAMMOND** | For Big Flat Electric

THE National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., can be best described as the trip of a lifetime, with the most outgoing, interesting and amazing group of people.

All in all, it was one of the most special opportunities I've ever been a part of. The monuments were amazing, the tours were outstanding, the places were incredible, but most of all, the people were exceptional.

I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to tour the Washington, D.C., area with. The new friends, the memories and the adventures will stick with me for the rest of my life. I am so blessed to be able to say that I won a trip to D.C. with 31 other small-town kids from Montana.

This trip wouldn't have been possible without our caring chaperones. A huge thank you to Mark, Josh, Houston, Leanne, Chelsey and Kate, without them none of this would have been possible. Finally, thank you Big Flat Electric Cooperative and Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association for making this week a reality. I will forever feel blessed for everything that was provided and planned out. I hope many more kids are able to experience this trip of a lifetime in the future. It will not disappoint! RM

Committee will meet to nominate directors

EVERY year members have the opportunity to vote for directors at the annual meeting. Directors serve for a three-year term and can be re-elected to serve additional terms. The director up for re-election this year is Duane Klindworth - District 1 (Hogeland area). Big Flat Electric Cooperative's bylaws allow for director nomination by committee or by petition prior to the annual meeting.

Big Flat Electric holds a committee meeting once a year to nominate directors for the upcoming election. A meeting of the nominating committee delegates will be held on September 5, at 4:30 p.m. in Turner. This year's nominating committee members for District 1 are Dalton Cornell, Shane Jones and Lorin Krass.

Being nominated at the nominating committee meeting is one of two ways names may be printed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. If the nominating committee has already met, a member may turn in a petition, signed by at least 15 members, to the cooperative office not less than 15 days before the Annual Meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

77th ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2024

MALTA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

REGISTRATION: 9 a.m.
MEETING: 10 a.m.

FROM AUGUST 1965: BFEC NEWSLETTER

Arnold Hendrickson Owns 200th Security Light Installed



George Hoynes, Power Use Advisor, fills out the 200th Security Light Agreement for Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hendrickson, while they examine the light.

Outages Saturday, July 10

A severe lightning and wind storm hit the rural communities served by the Big Flat Electric, causing extensive damage to the lines.

Lightning hit poles on the O'Rourke farm, KRM ranch and the Vern Mangis place.

Three poles were broken off north of Wagner and one south of Wagner, apparently by a twister.

Fuses were blown on transformers in various areas of the county.



Mrs. William McEwen

Marcella Andrews Married July 31

Marcella Marie Andrews, cashier at the Big Flat Electric Co-op. office, became Mrs. William McEwen at a wedding ceremony in Malta Saturday, July 31.

Marcella is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Andrews of Loring and William McEwen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McEwen of Malta.

After a trip to Glacier park, the young couple returned to Malta to make their home. Marcella will continue working for the Big Flat and Bill is engaged in farming with his father.

Along Our Lines

August 1965 - BFEC Newsletter

The Turner hotel is sporting a new roof. Clyde Price and Orville Sather were the installers

Henry Goll is repairing damage done to the Turner teacherages by the recent hailstorm.

Kenneth Kegel of Turner has been named trustee of the Yellowstone Boys Ranch at Billings.

Mr. and Mrs. John Doney have purchased the Julia Hagen residence in Zortman.

An addition is being added to the Robert King log house at the foot of Bear Gulch near Zortman.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hutton of Turner visited Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hutton one evening recently.

Among new consumers on our lines are Nellie Snell, Lodgepole; Emil Jacobson, Turner; and Jamed D Tyler, Landusky.

Mr. and Mrs. Chick Warren have moved to the Roy Fouts home. Formerly occupied by the Richard Foote family of Turner.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Neshiem have recently returned to their home in Turner, having spent the past two months visiting in Norway and Sweden.

The Big Flat Electric now has 201 security lights installed on its lines. Lights have recently been installed for Frank McArthur, Landusky; Clair Henderson, Loring; Arnold Hendrickson, south of Malta; and Gordon Carter, Turner.

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



BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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