

North Central's News

Delivering a difference to parts of Knox, Antelope, Pierce, and Holt Counties Since 1945



Thoughts and Comments from General Manager, Keith E. Harvey



“Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavor on the Bedpost Overnight?”

- Lonnie Donegan & His Skiffle Group (1959)

This is one of those esoteric questions that sometimes just pops into my mind and really puts me at a loss when trying to come up with a correct and meaningful answer. There are many, many such questions that are associated with the electric industry in general and with North Central more specifically. Did you ever wonder what a “watt” is and exactly why do we have to kill them to make a kill-a-watt? Is a kill-a-watt hour a measure of how many watts something kills every hour? Since we all know from the movies that a “transformer” is a vehicle that turns into a super hero – why is it that all of North Central’s substation transformers just sit there, hum and never even attempt to save the world? And my biggest question is how does green electricity produced in Nebraska get all the way to Florida to be sold as green energy without getting mixed up with all the other colors of electricity? I would think that without green transmission lines it would end up in Florida looking like a kaleidoscope on LSD.

On a more serious note there are numerous situations that occur during the course of providing all of you with electricity that give rise to some very valid questions. One question which we seem to be fielding quite often is one that wants to know why North Central charges the customer so much when he or she wants to have us build or extend an existing electrical service. I have even been told that charging so much is not the tenet upon which this District was formed – it was built on cost-sharing for the benefit of all. I certainly won’t argue with that but I will remind everyone that was over sixty years ago. And I believe that sixty years ago cars were not \$35,000 and combines didn’t cost several hundred thousand dollars each. Times and situations do change. In 2008 North Central collected over \$400,000 in contributions from customers to go towards the construction of new services and the extension of services. Had this amount been charged to every customer instead of those directly benefiting from North Central’s building these projects every customer would have had to pay about \$77.00 per meter that they receive electricity through. Additionally, when North Central is extending a line we often upgrade that line to bigger conductor and often to larger class poles with shorter span lengths. This extra work for the upgrade is already being paid for by all the other customers so that the person



North Central is providing FREE compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in an effort to help customers reduce their energy usage. Customers are invited to stop in the office to pick up their free CFL while quantities last.

A CFL is an energy efficient light bulb that can replace many standard incandescent light bulbs currently being used. CFLs last up to 10 times longer and use about 75 percent less energy to produce a comparable amount of light as a standard light bulb.

Incandescent Light Bulb	CFL
60 watt equivalent	15 watt
75 watt equivalent	20 watt
100 watt equivalent	26 watt

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Peter E. Thomassen Scholarship awarded to Kuhlman, Tarr, Hanefeldt & Sokol

Michael Kuhlman, Jeremy Tarr, Garrett Hanefeldt and Cole Sokol have been awarded the Peter E. Thomassen Scholarship. North Central's Board of Directors selected these four recipients to receive \$1,000 each to use towards their academic tuition.

To be eligible to be considered for this scholarship applicants must be enrolled in the Utility Line Program at Northeast Community College (NECC) and must be a customer or a dependent of a customer of North Central's.

Michael Kuhlman is the son of Dale and Debbie Kuhlman of rural Creighton. Jeremy Tarr is the son of Kyle and Cindy Tarr of rural Plainview. Garret Hanefeldt is the son of Jerry and Dixie Hanefeldt of rural Center. Cole Sokol is the son of Jim and Linda Sokol of rural Verdigre. Kuhlman and Tarr are in their second year of the utility line program, while Hanefeldt and Sokol are in their first year of the program.

As our nation is facing a shortage of utility line workers, largely because the baby boomers are eligible to retire in the next five to ten years, it will be individuals such as these young men who have selected a career in the utility line field, who will keep the lights on.

In almost two decades North Central has awarded this scholarship to several recipients who have selected the electric utility industry for their career. This scholarship was established in 1990 in honor of the late Peter E. Thomassen for his dedicated years of service to the district. Thomassen served North Central for 36 years before retiring from his position of general manager.



Jeremy Tarr



Michael Kuhlman



Garrett Hanefeldt



Cole Sokol

Bedpost Overnight

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who is requesting this extension is only paying for the actual costs for the proportion that he/she requires.

As you look at your monthly bill from North Central you may wonder just what the heck a customer charge means. What kind of company charges someone to be a customer? Actually the customer charge on your bill includes the cost of billing, meter reading, meter operation and maintenance and customer-related costs of the distribution system. These are costs that the District has whether we sell a single kilowatt-hour or not – they are fixed costs. Just for your information the kilowatt-hour charges, kW charges (or horsepower charges) are used to collect the costs for substations, transformers, distribution lines and transmission facili-

ties. All of these various charges are calculated for North Central by a rate analyst with Utility Financial Solutions of Holland, Michigan.

Here's a good question for all of you out there enjoying the life-style of ample electricity at affordable rates: Before power districts or rural electric cooperatives were formed what was the biggest excuse why companies would not build electric lines into rural areas? It was, believe it or not, that they were afraid that the farmers could not afford to pay their electric bills. With electricity today in 2009 at about 9¢/kWh, take a guess at what the farmers were charged in the late 1930's and early 1940's per kWh? Typically it was 12¢/kWh to 15¢/kWh with it often going as high as 18¢ per kWh. And they made the customer pay for the full line build at \$5,000 per mile which was much

more than it cost to build. Finally, a very egotist congressman said in the 1930's that farmer's would NEVER be able to use more than how many kWh per month? If you guessed 40 kWh you would have been right on this question but dead wrong on the real answer. The average farm residence uses around 1,500 kWh per month and far greater than that if they irrigate. What would we do without so many bright and arrogant individuals in Washington? I'll leave that one for you to ponder on your own.

Have a good and safe month and do remember that while electricity makes all of our lives easier – it can also be dangerous or deadly. If you think you see a problem with any of our equipment please let us know and we will repair or replace it immediately. Until next month...

Energy Advisor reminds customers about Energy Efficiency Programs



North Central's Energy Advisor Linda Sokol would like to remind customers that North Central has several Energy Efficient Programs available. Sokol said, "we have efficiency programs for residential, commercial and agricultural customers". These programs can help customers operate more efficiently, using less energy, so they save money on their energy bill. We should all strive to keep our energy usage as low as possible and if customers take advantage of the

programs available this can be accomplished. The following is a list of the various programs available. For more information on these programs, please contact Linda, she will be happy to go over the energy efficiency programs that interest you.

Residential Programs include:

- CFL's (Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs)
- High-Efficiency Heat Pumps Incentive
- \$35 Refrigerator Recycling rebate
- \$40 Window Air conditioners Incentive
- \$30 Cooling System Tune-Up Incentive
- Low Flow Showerheads
- Water Heater Blankets
- Attic Insulation

Commercial/Industrial Programs include:

- Lighting
- Motors
- Drives
- HVAC

Agricultural Programs include:

- Lighting
- Irrigation

The Bargain Barn

For Sale: 1975 Ford grain truck, single axle, 18' steel box, 392 gas 5x2 transmission - \$4500 - Greg Walmer. Please call 402-893-3055.

For Sale: 12x24 Garage with steel roof; 10x12 brooder house in good shape; fiberglass water tank 48"x24"; 32 fence line feed bunk irons and two 200' cables. Please call 402-358-5511.

For Sale: 30 large round bales of prairie hay. Please call 402-668-7383.

For Sale: Electric shift transfer case. 97 Chevy GMC 1/2 ton with shift motor - \$250 or best offer. Please call 402-857-3675 and leave message.

For Sale: Bumper guard for a 2004 Ford pickup. Please call 402-358-5538.

Give Away: Farm kittens. Please call 402-358-5538.

Give Away: Three male crossbred puppies. Please call 402-358-5567 after 6:00 p.m.

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for something in particular? You can call, send or email (bargain.barn@ncppd.net) your description of what's for sale or what you are looking for into our office. We will run the ad in the Bargain Barn section free for one month. Please include name and telephone number.

From our homes to yours . . . Tried & Tasted Delicacies



South-of-the border chicken and pasta skillet

2 c medium sized pasta, uncooked
2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
(about 1 lb.)
16 oz. salsa (about 2 cups)
10 oz. frozen corn, unthawed

4 oz. Cream Cheese, cubed
1/4 tsp. ground cumin
1 c Mexican Style Finely Shredded
Four Cheese, divided

Cook pasta as directed on package. Meanwhile cook and stir chicken in large nonstick skillet sprayed with cooking spray on medium-high for 6 minutes or until done. Add salsa, corn, cream cheese and cumin; simmer on medium-low heat 6 minutes or until corn is heated through and cream cheese is melted, stirring occasionally. Drain pasta, add to skillet with half the shredded cheese. Simmer 3 minutes or until heated through. Top with remaining shredded cheese, cover. Remove from heat; let stand 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.



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Reporting Power Outage: 888-358-5112

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Delivering a Difference

Energy Efficiency - Tip of the Month

Windows provide great views of the outdoors, light, ventilation, and solar heating in the winter. Unfortunately, they also account for 10 percent to 25 percent of your heating bill. High-performance ENERGY STAR - labeled windows can cut your heating and cooling costs by as much as 30 percent.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Alliance to Save Energy

Meter Reading Reminder for Rural Customers



Please Call or E-Mail your meter readings into North Central's office between

October 20 and 28, 2009

**358-5112 • 1-800-578-1060 •
ncentral@ncppd.net • www.ncppd.com**

Meter Readings Must Be Received by
5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2009

RURAL CONSUMERS please read your meter between the 20th and the 28th. If you are calling your meter reading(s) into our office use our local or toll free "800" telephone number. If you call after our normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, you may leave your reading on our answering service. To e-mail your meter readings - log on to our web site at www.ncppd.com and click Submit Your Meter Readings. If you are unable to call your meter reading(s) into our office, you can mail your readings into our office by the date listed above.

Town meters are read by North Central PPD personnel.



Name: _____

Meter Number Meter Reading

Please use this section to record your meter reading before you call your reading into our office.