



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

March 2021



1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop



Craig Gates
General Manager/CEO

CEO March Message

In last month's article I discussed the unique history of HCE and cooperatives in general. This month I am going to delve a little deeper into how and why electric cooperatives came to be.

In the mid 1930's, 9 out of 10 rural homes did not

have electricity. They relied on kerosene lanterns for light and wood stoves for heat and cooking. Before the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was formed, electricity was found mostly in towns where larger populations made it more feasible and profitable for power companies to provide service.

In the first five years after the REA was formed in 1935, they provided millions of dollars in loans to survey areas, place distribution line and wire homes in rural America. According to one study by the Nation Bureau of Economic Research, with the help of REA loans, cooperatives' miles of distribution lines surpassed those of the five largest private utilities in the country between 1935 and 1940. After World War II, the number of rural electric systems doubled and by 1953 over 90 percent of U.S. farms had electricity.

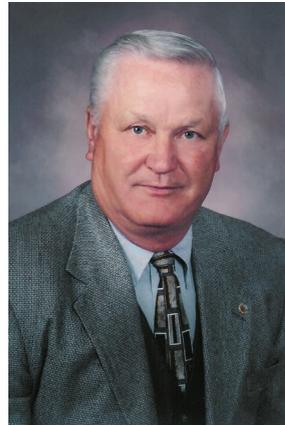
None of the Investor-Owned Utilities (IOU) during 1935 to 1940 took out loans from the REA. They had no interest in building out their networks to serve rural areas. Had the IOU's taken out REA loans, our power systems may look very different, resulting in a centralized system with just a few companies in the U.S. having control of the electric industry. Fortunately, this did not happen. Today, there are more than 900 consumer owned electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the United States.

HCE is a distribution electric cooperative serving our members, both residences and businesses. HCE purchases electricity through Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (CMEPC). CMEPC purchases the electricity to meet their members' needs from generation and transmission Power Marketing Administrations (PMA's) such as Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and cooperatives like Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin). WAPA delivers power created from hydroelectric plants across their transmission lines to cooperatives like HCE. Basin has both generation plants and transmission lines so they can create and deliver the power to HCE.

HCE is proud to be a cooperative and proud to serve our members across the Hi-Line.

In Memory of Fritz Keller

The Hill County Electric Board and HCE members lost a great champion for our cooperative. Fritz Keller passed away unexpectedly on January 19, 2021. He was a champion of the cooperative business model having served on the HCE Board for the past 42 years. Fritz gave so much to our community serving on many local cooperative boards, at his church, throughout the Havre community and across the state. Our condolences go out to Fritz's family. He will be missed.



HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 13,420 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

	10,975
Weather	
	2,026
WAPA/NWE	
	141
Planned Maintenance/Construction	
	172
Equipment/Material failure	
	49
Underground Faults	
	47
Maintenance	
	7
Misc or unknown	
	2
Wildlife	

This compares to 1,280 hours one year ago.

HAPPY TO WORK ALL NIGHT.

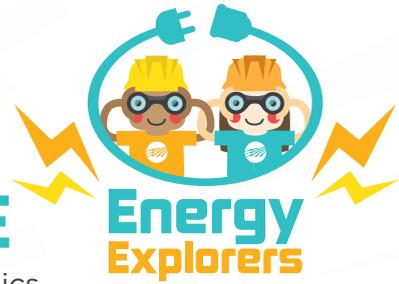
If it means getting the lights back on for even one family, we are glad to do whatever it takes. We're not your typical electric company, we're a local not-for-profit electric cooperative. That means our customers are our members and our top priority.

To learn more about the cooperative difference, visit [TouchstoneEnergy.com](https://www.TouchstoneEnergy.com)

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

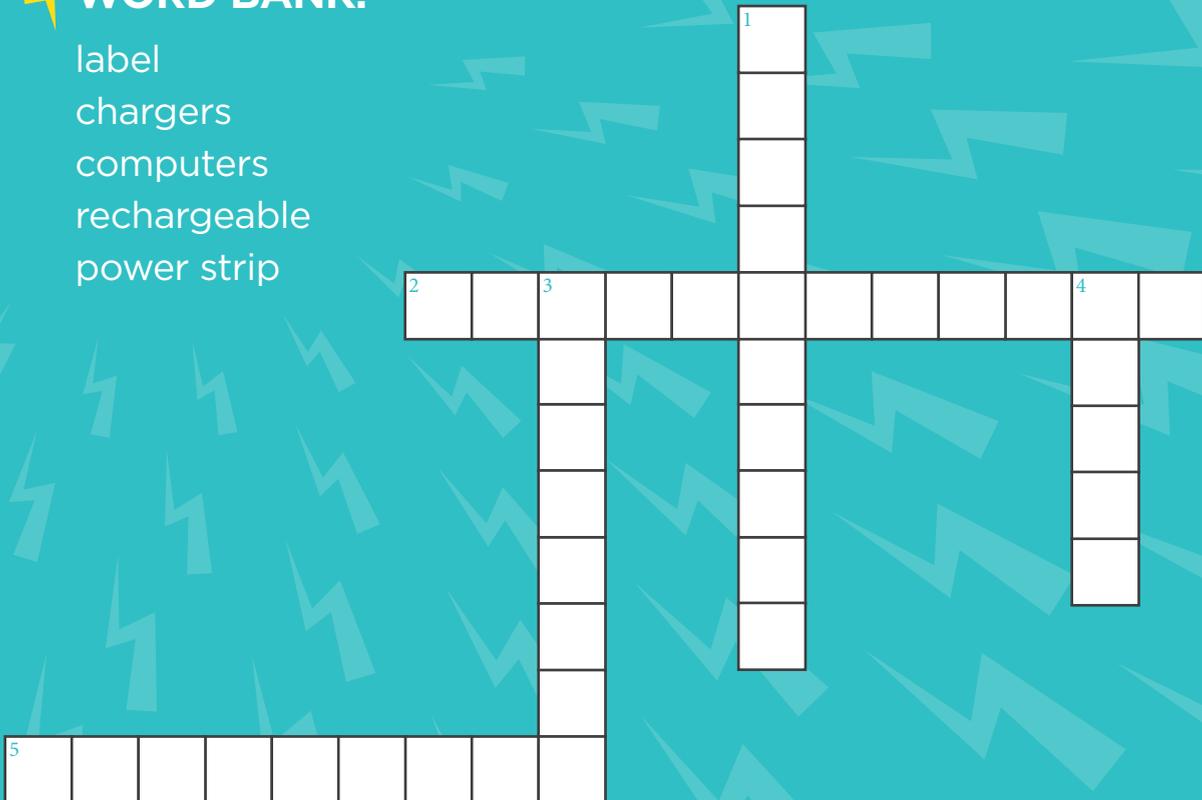
ELECTRONICS EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Did you know there are ways you can reduce your electronics energy use? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about electronics efficiency.

WORD BANK:

label
chargers
computers
rechargeable
power strip



1 DOWN: Use a _____ with an on/off switch when powering multiple electronics to easily manage energy use.

2 ACROSS: For devices that require batteries, use _____ ones, which are more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

3 DOWN: Unplug electronic products, like _____, when you're not using them.

4 DOWN: Electronics that include the ENERGY STAR® _____ are the most energy efficient.

5 ACROSS: Many _____ come with a sleep mode or power management feature, which can save \$30 on annual energy costs.

ANSWER KEY 1. DOWN: POWER STRIP 2. ACROSS: RECHARGEABLE 3. DOWN: CHARGERS 4. DOWN: LABEL 5. ACROSS: COMPUTERS

SWAP AND SHOP

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members!

Swap & Shop is a classified advertising section of the Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To have an ad included, simply enter all the pertinent information on the online form. An administrator will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will then appear. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the newsletters printed during that 60 day window. Triangle reserves the right to abbreviate ads and if the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis. If you're unable to enter your ad online you may mail or e-mail it to us using the contact info inside the front cover of this magazine. Happy swapping and shopping!

Wanting to Buy

1955-1958 Chevy car or pickup for project. Call 406.326.2287.

Toro Titan MX Mower

Model 6080 zero turn mower with rollover protection with 26 HP engine. Ready to go, call 406.378.3212.

Harlowton Home For Sale

Three bedroom home, one bath home for sale in Harlowton. Two-story with basement for storage, new gas furnace on a nice corner lot. \$88,000 firm, contact owner for more details and possible owner contract with a down payment, 406.632.5725.

Rentals in Harlowton

Multiple houses and apartments for rent in Harlowton. Prices vary, no pets, no smoking. Call 406.632.5725.

Delta Platinum Edition Unisaw

10-inch unisaw with 50-inch commercial Biesemeyer fence with mobile base. In good condition, includes extra accessories. Asking \$1,500 or best offer, call 813.453.1787.

2007 RAM Pickup

Has 2500 5.9L HO engine, ranch hand bumper and gooseneck. Excellent condition call 406.632.4447.

Misc Items

1985 Versatile 35.5-foot blade; pressure washer; portable contractor air compressor; receiving hitch; like new heavy-duty toolbox for size pickup and weight bench plus weights. Call 406.378.3212 for prices and more details.

Mayrath Grain Auger

27-foot, 6-inch Mayrath grain auger with 5HP electric motor. Call 406.378.3212

Cadillac Deville

1995 Cadillac Deville V-8, 4-door. Asking \$1,575, call 406.326.2287.

Property For Sale in Loma

Opportunity for small-town living with wildlife and fishing access. For sale at a bargain price, 4 lots and 4 buildings originally housing a second hand and antique shop. Call 406.739.4361.

7000 Watt Honda Generator

Nice to have on hand for power outages. Electric start and 114 hours. Asking \$4,000, call 406.654.2756.

House For Sale

Two-story, 24'x36' house with 4 bedrooms and one bath to be moved. Call 406.654.2756 for price and pictures.

Gooseneck Trailer

Donahue 18-foot Gooseneck stock trailer. New paint and tires. Call 406.326.2287.

Wanting to Buy

Looking for a 1972 Chevy Cheyenne, 3/4-ton automatic 4x4 truck. The more original parts the better but will consider projects. Call 406.459.2074.

Handmade/Homemade Drift Boat

16-foot drift boat with solid oak, ship-lap floor out of an old schoolhouse. Built in 2004, has hunter green sides and big trout decals on the back. Asking \$2,570, call 406.669.3183.

2002 GMC 2500 HD Duramax Diesel

Crew cab 4x4, rebuilt engine, and drive train with receipts. Includes heated leather seats and mirrors, onboard air compressor with horns, 2-speed on-demand high idle, grill guard, trailer brake controller, and more. Also, have 4 studded snow tires, P235-50R-18 mounted on GM wheels. Call 406.390.0629 or 406.265.4026.

1962 Avion Trailer

Twenty-seven foot, 1962 Avion project trailer. Asking \$500, call 406.399.3620.

In Search Of

Wanting a large breed pup prefer less than six months old. Call 406.399.3620.

Wanted to Buy

Women's bike at least a 3 speed. Call 406.547.2266.

1967 Ford Thunderbird

This classic car runs great, has a clean interior, and is in good condition with some minor bodywork required. Asking \$8,000, call 406.357.4282

Stainless Steel Drop Visor

Two-inch stainless steel drop visor comes with brackets. Fits a 2009 Kenworth or newer. Asking \$150, call 406.357.4282.

1974 Versatile Tractor

1974 850 Versatile tractor serial# 850-050194 and 9N tractor with loader, non-running. Call 406.355.4298.

Indian Spirit Roadmaster

2003 Indian Spirit Roadmaster with 1500 S&S engine, Baker 5 speed transmission, and only 3,900 miles. Very well maintained, asking \$10,000 price is firm. Contact Larry at 406.239.3797.

Property For Sale In Harlowton

Within walking distance of Harlowton business district and schools. Seven improved lots, one with a concrete pad for trailer house. Nice lawn, shade, fruit trees plus a large garden area, and 653 sq. foot garage/shop. Asking \$75,000, call Larry at 406.632.5847 or 406.239.3797.

Buildings For Sale By Owner

Located in Harlowton, MT on the corner of Central Ave and Hwy 12. Property is made up of six lots (24,150 sq. ft.) with two buildings. Buildings #1 is a storefront, shop and warehouse totaling 4,248 sq ft. Building #2 is 1,246 sq. ft. Asking \$350,000 for all, not willing to split up. Will consider all reasonable offers. Call Larry at 406.239.3797 or message for more information and/or pictures.

Snow Dogg Snow Plow

Plow has a 7 1/2 foot straight blade, like-new condition. Equipped for a Ford 3/4-ton pickup but could be fitted to something else. Cost \$4,175 ten years ago, will take \$2,000. Call 406.378.3233.

1969 Chevy C-10 Long Box Pickup

Straight, original 92,500 miles with 396 engine. Has new wheels, tires, seat and carpet; minor rust. \$6,000 firm, call 406.572.3445.

720 John Deere Row Crop Tractor

Runs great, has Pony motor and two (2) brand new tires on the back (never used 15-5-38). Asking \$6,500, call 406.669.3183.

1997 Pontiac Bonneville

Well maintained 1997 Pontiac Bonneville, great road car. \$4,000 OBO, call 406.372.3276.

New Holland Baler

New Holland 1425 square baler and Ford 6 cycle motor for sale. Call 406.326.2287.

Onan Generator

Onan Marquis 7000m 6.8 KW generator-needs coil. Asking \$1250, call 406.547.2184.

Pop-up Screen Tent

Gazelle pop-up screen tent-portable protection for your picnic. Never used. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

Briggs & Stratton Lawnmower

12.5 HP Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine needs carburetor. Asking \$100, call 406.547.2184.

John Deere Combine

1989 John Deere combine 6600 spreader. Includes 22-foot header, diesel, hydro with 3424 hours. Good machine, will cut a lot of acres yet, also a lot of extra parts, etc. Call 406.355.4479 and leave a message (day or evening).

Wanting to Buy

1968-1972 1/2 ton Ford cab and front fenders. Preferably red, no rust, and in Sweet Grass county or surrounding counties. Call 406.932.5413.