INTRODUCTION
LOCAL COOPERATIVE HISTORIES

With these short sketches of each cooperative, the story is by no means told. As authors often say, “time and space does not permit” the recording of the ups and downs experienced by the volunteer workers; the trials and cares of resident engineers and project superintendents; the unselfish service of those who represent the STATEWIDE office; the almost endless, tireless toil on the part of all concerned.

When a project is designated “complete” we SEE miles of towering poles and gleaming wires, and as evening comes, bright lights twinkling over the countryside, but we who have watched them materialize, KNOW that they represent a principle.

THE EDITOR

PROJECT
Wisconsin-40-Barron

Barron and Washburn Counties have a Cooperative with a membership of 608, which was incorporated September 5, 1936, under the name BARRON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

In the spring of 1937, Wallace H. Holman began his duties as resident engineer on the project. The Commonwealth Electric Company started construction in June. On the 19th day of that month the Cooperative sponsored a celebration, the main event of the day being the setting of the first pole. In solemn reverence it was dedicated to Mr. A. G. Bilodeau, the first president of the Barron County Electric Cooperative, whose death occurred the preceding month. Mr. Bilodeau had been an eager and loyal worker, who would have rejoiced that materialization of the plans was so far advanced.

The office of the Cooperative had been established in the City of Barron. This municipality is much interested in the electrification of the surrounding rural community and have enlarged their generating plant to afford them the capacity to sell wholesale energy to the Cooperative. Mr. Lawrence Toynbee is the project superintendent, assisted in the office by Miss Vesta Carpenter. The regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held at the office. Their names and addresses follow:

JOHN E. OLSON, President, Chetek
KNUTE KNUTSON, Vice-president, Cumberland
WILLIS JEROME, Secretary, Barron
NELS NELSON, Treasurer, Rice Lake
S. A. CARLSON, Chetek
WILLIAM GOHL, Comstock
HENRY PALMOUST, Barron
ALEX SCHNACKY, Rice Lake
OTIS BERGER, Hillsdale

The first section of 86 miles was energized November 22 with 125 connections. The entire 178 miles of the original project is now carrying energy and the superintendent reports connections are being made daily.

Interest has received new stimulus since construction began and a 168 mile extension is in the Washington office awaiting approval for additional allotment to allow construction to begin next spring.
PROJECT

Wisconsin-27-Buffalo

Under the able and energetic leadership of County Agent John Zahorik of Buffalo County, this community was among those to manifest an early interest in the rural electrification program as applicable to themselves. The Buffalo Electric Cooperative was a charter member of Statewide. The organization was reincorporated on January 30, 1937, and has the following Board of Directors and officers:

Frank H. Krampeter, President, Gilmanton
Edwin A. Haueser, Vice-president, Fountain City
Arthur Hitt, Secretary-Treasurer, Alma

Directors:
A. G. Benjamin, Nelson
Reuben C. Kaste, Alma
Elmer Steiner, Alma
Oscar Miller, Cochrane
Irwin E. Accola, Mondovi
Martin Hagen, Modena

Clayton Butler of Mondovi represents the Buffalo Electric Cooperative on the Statewide board.

The local office is located at Alma where the board meetings are held as needed. E. A. Haueser is Project Superintendent and Miss Katherine Jackson is office stenographer. The membership roll lists 850 members. Easement work was done chiefly by A. G. Benjamin and Edwin A. Haueser.

Fritz Ziebarth of Omaha, Nebraska, began construction early in May and has completed 264 miles of lines under the supervision of Statewide whose W. W. Benzel was resident engineer. This project presented some real construction problems, because of the hills and valleys, and will probably be unique in that it has some 900 foot spans. The substation just north of Arcadia on Unit I of the transmission lines will supply the power.

Mr. Frank Krampeter, President of the Buffalo Electric Cooperative, is also President of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, and Director Irwin Accola is on the Power Cooperative Board.

Since construction began in May, 1937, a temporary energy contract has been negotiated between the Buffalo Cooperative and the Municipal plant at Arcadia for purchase of power. About 100 members were served during the holiday season.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-19-Chippewa

In mid-summer, 1935, the people in the vicinity of Holcombe in Chippewa County organized and were incorporated as Chippewa County Light and Power Cooperative. There was at that time no Rural Electrification office in Wisconsin and their organization had been affected through direct contact with the Rural Electrification Administration at Washington. They also engaged engineers and attorneys.

On December 9, 1936, they reincorporated under the name Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative Association and have since become members of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Board of Directors and officers follow:
O. M. Enger, President, Holcombe
L. G. Bernier, Vice-president, Holcombe
W. L. Graf, Secretary-Treasurer, Cornell
Directors:
Oscar Anderson, Cornell
A. C. Hendrickson, Cornell
Matt Turecek, Cadott
J. Matsche, Jr., Cadott
W. A. Kleiner, Boyd

The office of the Cooperative has been established at Cornell with R. L. Cleaves as Project Superintendent and W. L. Graf as stenographer-bookkeeper. The Board holds monthly meetings on the first Friday of each month in Turecek’s Hall in the Town of Arthur.

In point of mileage this project is small containing approximately sixty miles, now complete. The organization is a member of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, and is located along the lines of Unit 2 of the transmission project. Mr. R. L. Cleaves is on the Power Cooperative Board and on its Executive Committee.

 PROJECT
Wisconsin-29A-Clark

Long weary months of relentless labor in organizing two and one-half thousand people, the discouragements and disappointments are being forgotten now that the Clark Electric Cooperative owns 702 miles of lines that are ready to carry the current to their homes.

The construction progress made by the Ulen Contracting Corporation is phenomenal, and due to this progress, which the contractor says would have been impossible except for the fine cooperation with the engineers, the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association and their representatives, Resident Engineers Woolridge and Truax, the project was built in less than the time set forth in the contract. Mr. Landry, the Clark County Agricultural Agent and Leader states that this fine record has been very beneficial to the life of the cooperative, and that it has greatly stimulated interest and confidence in the ultimate success of this enterprise.

The Clark Electric Cooperative was incorporated on March 24, 1937. The office was located at the County Agent’s office in Neillsville, during the construction period, with W. A. Dallman of Colby as Project Superintendent. Here the Board met regularly, bi-monthly, every alternate Tuesday.

The officers and directors are:

Vern G. Howard, President, Grantham
Martin Klarich, Vice-president, Willard
Wallace J. Landry, Secretary-Treasurer, Neillsville
Carlyle Baldwin, Willard
Ed. Klein, Spencer
Rex Copper, Withee

During the first part of January the Cooperative’s office was moved to Greenwood by vote of the Board of Directors.

Wallace Landry is on the Wisconsin Power Cooperative Board and Executive Committee and Vern G. Howard is a member of the Board of Directors.

Clark County is on Unit II of the transmission line, and the substations are located at Longwood in the north central part of the project and at Spokesville in the eastern section.
PROJECT

Wisconsin-31-Columbia
Wisconsin-31B-Columbia

The second group to get their project into the construction stage was the Columbus Rural Electric Cooperative, which was incorporated on April 9, 1936, represented by Mr. John Crombie, they were among the charter members of Statewide.

An office has been established at Columbus, Mr. F. H. Roob is manager of the Cooperative and Miss Eula A. Wright the bookkeeper.

The Board of Directors meet regularly in Columbus the second Monday of each month. Their names and addresses follow:

J. A. Bennett, President, Randolph
Lawrence Cole, Vice-president, Waterloo
Clarence Ninabuck, Secretary-Treasurer, Columbus
John Crombie, Columbus
Alvin Derr, Marshall
Everett Gilmore, Rio
John Hartt, Columbus
Wm. Meacher, Randolph
Bruce Nashold, Doylestown

Construction was begun on this project by the Donovan Construction of St. Paul on September 28, 1936, the first pole being set on that day. In connection with the pole setting ceremony, which was attended by Mr. M. O. Swanson, Chief Engineer of the Rural Electrification Administration and State officials, an electrical fair was held to acquaint the prospective consumers with appliances which they could now study with a view to ownership. Mr. Orland S. Loomis, who was at that time Director of Rural Electrification in Wisconsin was the chief speaker.

Much and various kinds of delay have occurred to retard construction progress, and the original project was not completely energized until September, 1937. An additional allotment was granted in the same month and the extension for which it was requested is now completed and the entire 300 and some odd miles of the Columbus project is carrying energy. At this writing there are approximately 600 consumers with new connections being made almost daily.

Several men have worked as resident engineers on the Columbus project. Mr. V. L. Anderson, the present representative, having been in charge since August, 1937.

The municipality cooperated with this group of farmers to the effect that negotiations were made for the wholesale purchase of energy at a satisfactory rate through the facilities of the city of Columbus.

Smooth sailing has not been the lot of this group to date, but obstacles have been met and conquered, and being that they possess the persistence and courage typical of our cooperative farmers we prophecy ultimate success for the Columbus Rural Electric Cooperative.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-8049-Dunn

The latest electric cooperative to sign an engineering contract with Statewide is the Dunn County Electric Cooperative which was incorporated April 22, 1937. Up to December 1st two partial allotments had been awarded for the construction of approximately 140 miles of line. (The total project includes 573 miles and 1,858 customers.)
During the first part of December a survey preliminary to preparation of Plans and Specifications, was taken by E. L. Cartwright, Chief Draftsman of the STATEWIDE staff.

The DUNN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is located on Unit 3 of the transmission line and their power contract with the Wisconsin Power Cooperative has been approved by REA. The foundation for the substation which is located about five miles north of Menomonie on Highway 25, has been set. Construction activities on the distribution lines will begin in the spring.

The names and addresses of the Board of Directors follows:

W. E. OWEN, President, Downing
ED. BASKIN, Vice-president, Eau Galle
PAUL TIETZ, Secretary-Treasurer, Menomonie
ED. RUUD, Menomonie
C. F. SUTLIFFE, Boyceville
CLEM CATT, Rock Falls
ARNOLD GILBERTS, New Auburn
ED. KARNE, Menomonie

PROJECT

Wisconsin-8043A-Grant

One of the newer members of STATEWIDE is the GRANT COUNTY COOPERATIVE RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION which was incorporated April 6, 1937. A loan contract has been signed with REA for $180,000.00 which is to build about 170 miles. The entire project has approximately 442 miles.

The Board of Directors follow:
C. J. JARRETT, President, Livingston
E. J. STONEMAN, Vice-president, Platteville
J. C. HENDRICKS, Secretary-Treasurer, Hazel Green
JAY P. MARTIN, Bagley
MARTIN WIELAND, Lancaster
RAY DI VALL, Fennimore
JOE TRECEK, Boscobel
JOHN RYAN, Glen Haven
LOUIS UPPENA, Cassville

Mr. Earl Raisbeck has been appointed project superintendent, Miss Hilda M. Hazen is the stenographer-bookkeeper. The Board of Directors meets regularly the first Monday of each month in the office of the Cooperative which has been established in Lancaster.

Many County Agents of the state have been of great assistance in the formation of these electric Cooperatives, and the farmers of Grant County feel that in their County, Ben H. Walker deserves special mention.

It is anticipated that the original part of the project for which the contract was let to L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, will, under normal progress, be completed in June, 1938. Energy is to be purchased from the Interstate Power Company at their substation south of Lancaster.

The GRANT COUNTY COOPERATIVE RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION engaged the services of WRECA within a few days following incorporation. L. E. Parkyn represents STATEWIDE as resident engineer on the project.
PROJECT
Wisconsin-16-Douglas
Wisconsin-8016B-Douglas

The region around Superior has been called the principal center of Consumer's Cooperation in the United States. So it is wholly consistent that they were among the leaders in establishing electric cooperatives. Mr. George Halonen, Sr., an active leader in the cooperative movement, was one of the incorporators of Statewide.

The original allotment of money was made in June 1936, and the group was incorporated as the Head of the Lakes Cooperative Electric Association on July 12, 1936.

Active construction began in November, the contract being awarded Arft-Kiloren Electric Company of Appleton, Wisconsin, who in turn engaged the Cooperative Services, Incorporated, of Maple to do the greater part of the construction work. This is probably the first instance of an electric cooperative having its lines built largely by another cooperative.

Despite the slowness of winter construction, the project was energized on May 24, 1937, at which time a celebration was held at the Worker's Hall in Superior. A radio broadcast was arranged and the throwing of the relay switch at the hall was broadcast in detail. The switch which sent the "juice" flowing through the lines was thrown by H. A. Johnson, the oldest member of the Board of Directors.

The members assembled at this meeting also approved a twenty-four thousand dollar wiring loan from the REA.

One hundred six miles were energized at this time and by January 275 consumers were connected. The Association has 423 members.

This fall, the Douglas project was granted an additional loan of $54,000. Bids were opened on this on December 21, but were rejected. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to do this work on force account or else bids will be called for again on summer construction.

Power for this project is being purchased from the Superior Water, Light and Power Company.

The Board of Directors meets regularly the third Wednesday of each month at the Association's office, Room 108, 1314 Tower Avenue, Superior.

The following men serve on the Board at this time:

H. G. Gross, President, South Range
H. A. Johnson, Vice-president, South Range
Leonard Pleski, Secretary, South Range
George C. Terrell, Treasurer, Station B, Superior
C. B. Olson, South Range
Arvid Kuvaja, Wentworth
P. A. Thompson, Patzau
Ed. Osborne, Foxboro
Victor Tenhunen

George Halonen, Jr., is Project Manager. He is assisted in the office by Lois Gronquist, stenographer-bookkeeper. Russell Hendrickson is a part-time linesman.

During the construction period, Nelo Lundeen, a cooperator born and raised in that area acted as resident engineer representing the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Generally speaking, cooperation is the keynote of all activities of this project, even including the construction and engineering of the lines. Cooperative education is considered first in all activities on this project since the success of the entire cooperative movement in the area has been
entirely dependent upon the vast amount of educational work done. This cooperative realizes that cooperatives must be able to match the efficiency of private business. To do this, it need not resort to false economy or the lowering of employees’ living standards, but rather by the use of good management. By these means, this Cooperative plans to conduct the enterprise for use rather than for profit. One of the reasons for the success of this Cooperative is the fact that the members take a keen interest in cooperative affairs and constantly work for its progress. This cooperative also realizes the value of working with other cooperatives and has taken and will continue to take a keen and active interest in the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association of which this Association was one of the organizers.

PROJECT
Wisconsin-8046-Lafayette

In point of incorporation the Lafayette Electric Cooperative, which was incorporated on February 26, 1936, is just a few weeks older than the neighboring Grant County Cooperative. Construction activities in the two projects are at approximately the same stage.

The Lafayette Cooperative maintains an office at present in the County court house on North Main Street. Mr. Edward J. Paska is project superintendent and Miss Mary Hancock, office secretary. Here the Board of Directors meet to discuss and solve the problems of the group which has entrusted them with the responsibility of guiding them through this new enterprise. The following men were elected to the Board:

Sam Byrne, President, Mineral Point
M. O. Monson, Vice-president, Gratiot
M. C. Helm, Secretary-Treasurer, Darlington
W. R. McCarville, Darlington
Leon Andrews, South Wayne
R. D. Teasdale, Shullsburg
Newton Thomas, Shullsburg
Albert Neff, Warren, Illinois
D. T. Stuart, South Wayne

The contract for the construction of the lines of this project has been awarded to the C. A. Hooper Company of Madison, who started digging holes December 15. The terms of the contract set the completion date at July 15, 1938.

Local organization work was begun under the direction of County Agent R. V. Hurley, who later transferred to Dane County. His successor LeRoy Reese, is also much interested and has given valuable assistance.

The municipalities of Shullsburg and Argyle have offered their assistance in furthering the progress of the organization.

A power contract is being negotiated with the village of Argyle as it has the facilities to furnish the wholesale energy and the cooperative spirit prompting them to do so at a reasonable rate.

Although construction is just getting under way, the membership roll of this group numbers more than 400 owners of prosperous farms in the rolling land of Lafayette County.

The representative of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, as resident engineer is H. M. Durnin, who has just completed serving in like capacity on the Rock County Project.
PROJECT

Wisconsin-25-Monroe
Wisconsin-25B-Monroe

One of the few projects to receive a 1936 allotment was the OAKDALE COOPERATIVE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION, so incorporated on April 24, 1936. This Cooperative is a charter member of STATEWIDE and was represented at the organization meeting by Mr. W. E. Rabe, president of the Oakdale Board of Directors. Other members of the Board are:

C. E. CHRISTENSON, Vice-President, Camp Douglas
R. E. DUNLAP, Secretary, Tomah
I. A. FROHMADER, Treasurer, Camp Douglas
F. HABELMAN, Camp Douglas
ALBERT FREI, Camp Douglas
ARTHUR C. SCHULTZ, Mauston

Regular meetings of the Board are held at Oakdale on the last Thursday of the month. The office of the Cooperative has been established at Oakdale.

Mr. Lloyd McCaskey of Camp Douglas has been appointed project superintendent and Mrs. I. B. Niebuhr of Oakdale is stenographer and bookkeeper.

Construction was started in January, 1937, on these lines in Monroe and Juneau County, with the A. A. Electric Company of Cicero, Illinois, as Contractors. N. L. Lundeen was STATEWIDE's resident engineer. Due to frost and other various delays, the first section was not energized until July 14—the project being completed the latter part of the month. Eighty-six miles, which is the entire original project, has now been energized. On December 31 there were 221 consumers and they expect to reach the full three to the mile in a few weeks.

On September 27 of this year the REA approved the allotment of $72,000 for an addition to this project. This second section lies chiefly in Juneau county. The bids were opened November 16 and the contract was awarded to Holond and LaPage of Sheboygan, who have been notified to start construction early in January.

A great deal could be written about the pioneering spirit of this group of farmers. Immediately alert to the possibility the new program had to offer, they were the first group to invite the Director (Mr. O. S. Loomis) to lay the plan before them. Undaunted by obstacles and setbacks, of which they had at least the average share, they carried their plans to realization.

The community spirit of the Oakdale group was very evident at the Dedication and Utilization Meeting which was held on October 18. The City of New Lisbon, which had cooperated by installing an additional Diesel Unit to be able to furnish power from its municipal plant, gave their High School band a day off that they might lead the parade and add their music to the festivities. Various speakers representing REA, the Coordination office, and STATEWIDE were heard. The main address was given by the Honorable Orland S. Loomis, Attorney General of Wisconsin. The Community Club served a chicken dinner at noon and in the evening and the Homemaker's Clubs presented original entertainment which indicated that their people are wide-awake to their new advantages, and deeply appreciative of the new design on which their daily living may now be patterned.

To visit the OAKDALE COOPERATIVE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION, is to
know that this typical Wisconsin farm community take their Cooperative seriously, and are ready to continue their splendid voluntary efforts that the ultimate result may be a successfully operating distribution system.

PROJECT
Wisconsin-14-Oconto

In the Green Bay region lies a project of about 300 miles of distribution line which was originally incorporated as NORTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and reincorporated on January 18, 1937, as the OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE. Construction, the contract for which was let to L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was begun in July and the lines are now completed and serviceable. G. W. Wallace has been the STATEWIDE resident engineer.

Difficulty in getting their homes wired is perhaps the reason that the fully paid up membership was only 361 in early November. However, the manager, Mr. Earl G. Redman, reports that following the energizing of the first section late in October, a general stimulation resulted, and this problem was greatly lessened; new members were accepted and several connections made daily from then on. The office bookkeeper and stenographer is Arnold M. Truhenbach.

The OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was successful in obtaining satisfactory wholesale rates from the local Union Falls Power Company at Oconto Falls.

The men who were chosen by their neighbors to guide the policies of this new venture in their community are named here. They meet the latter part of each month in Oconto Falls.

Officers:

John Magnin, President
Oscar Gilbertson, Vice-President
Charles Koslowsky, Secretary
Wm. Procknow, Treasurer

Directors:

John Magnin, Lena
Oscar Gilbertson, Cecil
Charles Koslowsky, Coleman
Wm. Procknow, Gillett
August Christopherson, Lena
Orner Virtues, Little Suamico
E. A. Wians, Gillett
John Bartz, Suring
Wm. G. Wilke, Underhill

Mr. Oscar Gilbertson represents the Cooperative on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and is one of the incorporators of STATEWIDE.

PROJECT
Wisconsin-32-Pierce

In a particularly scenic part of our state, with the Mississippi river and beautiful Lake Pepin on its western border, we find a project of about 318 miles of lines, which will upon their completion in the spring of 1938, become the property of the PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

N. C. Anderson represented the Pierce Cooperative as an incorporator of STATEWIDE. This Cooperative was reincorporated on February 23,
1937, as the Pierce-Pepin Electric Cooperative. The original membership was 982 farmers. Since the construction started in September, new members have applied daily, seventy-five being received by November. County Agents John Seyforth of Pierce County and O. G. Woelfel of Pepin County have been of very great assistance to their farmer groups.

The City of Ellsworth is quite central to all sections of the project and is the location of the Cooperative's office. Here, on the last Wednesday of each month, the following men, who have been elected to the Board of Directors, meet for their regular business meeting.

_Sidney Peterson, President, Hager City_
_Roland Johnson, Vice-President, Pepin_
_Walter M. Leonard, Secretary-Treasurer, Ellsworth_

_Directors:_

_Nicoli Johnson, River Falls_
_Paul Johnson, Ellsworth_
_Manley Olson, Beldenville_
_William Butel, Beldenville_
_George Andrews, Bay City_
_Almon Vandebeg, Prescott_

The duly chosen and approved Project Superintendent is A. M. Anderson of Ellsworth. He is assisted in the office by Wanda E. Birkel as stenographer and E. C. Brown as Head Easement Solicitor.

The contract for the construction of these lines in Pierce and Pepin counties was let to L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, who is building under the supervision of STATEWIDE. In spite of frost and snow it is anticipated that construction will proceed to completion within the term of the contract which closes April 1, 1938. G. L. VanFleet is resident engineer.

The Pierce-Pepin Electric Cooperative is a member of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, their Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Leonard, being also Secretary-Treasurer of the Power Cooperative, and on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Wm. Butel is also on the Board of Directors of both organizations.

The substation from which the lines of this community will be fed is on Unit 3, or the west leg of the transmission line, and is located at Ellsworth.

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**PROJECT**

**Wisconsin-35-Richland**

**Wisconsin-35B-Richland**

On the second day of May, 1936, a telegram from Washington announced the first allotment of REA money to Wisconsin. The Richland Cooperative Electric Association was one of the two recipients, the Columbus Cooperative being the other group to be made happy.

The Richland Cooperative Electric Association incorporated their cooperative on January 20, 1936. They became the first project for which actual construction plans were made and the first to begin construction.

The low bid for this 232 mile project was presented by the Industrial Electric Company of New Orleans, Louisiana, who moved to Richland Center and made preparations for starting construction early in September, 1937.
A three day celebration was staged in Richland Center, Sunday, September 7, being the momentous day. Thousands of people gathered from near and far to witness the setting of the first REA pole in this state. The President of the Cooperative, Mr. A. Vernon Miller, very ably conducted the ceremonies. Among the speakers were Mr. Boyd Fisher, who represented the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration of Washington, our own Director Orland S. Loomis, and many other people who had been instrumental in bringing Wisconsin’s program to the stage where actual material results were to replace the plans of the preceding months.

H. H. Stofen, who served as resident engineer during the construction period, was approved as Manager of the project. He reports 700 consumers as of December and states also that connections are being made almost daily. Bernard Beranek has employment at the office which is located in the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, Richland Center.

The following Board of Directors serve in the interests of the Richland Cooperative Electric Association:

A. V. Miller, President, Richland Center
Ronald Ferguson, Vice-president, Bloom City
Theron Janney, Secretary, Richland Center
Otto Stanek, Treasurer, Yuba City
Wencil Stanek, Bloom City
Joe Seep, Casenovia
Jay G. Sheaffer, Sr., Richland Center
Ed. Keller, Richland Center
Earl Eaton, Richland Center

Another “first” must be claimed for this cooperative, first to energize, the long looked for event taking place on May 7, 1937, when 267 miles were energized.

These interested people promptly set about organizing another group who desired REA service, and a new allotment for the construction of approximately 150 additional miles was awarded in February of the next year. The contract for the extension was awarded to the Arft-Killoren Electric Company of Appleton, who plan completion early in 1938, sixty-five miles being energized in December. Clare V. Wells is serving as resident engineer on the extension job.

This project when present plans are complete will contain nearly 400 miles of line and more than 1,200 consumers. The city of Richland Center enlarged their municipal power facilities to be able to furnish energy to the cooperative.

Construction on this project went forward rather slowly, as all procedure was new and many solutions to problems must be evolved as the need arose. Opposition was keen and persistent, small scars still being visible, but when hundreds of people work with the same aim, under leaders who have courage, successful achievement is very likely to be the result.

A school district in this county financed the building of a line through permanently enjoined territory to the nearest REA service, and the owner of a large blacksmith shop moved the building approximately a quarter of a mile to reach a point where his objective could be realized.

Incidents of this type are cited to show the determination which is
characteristic of this group of people, who allowed no obstacles to stand in the way of fulfillment of their cooperative purpose.

PROJECT
Wisconsin-38-Rock

One of the first sections to become interested in REA electricity after the introduction of the program in Wisconsin was the very excellent farm territory in Rock, Jefferson and Walworth counties. A large cooperative was formed and incorporated under the name ROCK-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION. A temporary organization was also effected in neighboring Walworth county.

The private utilities in the territory became very active, the Wisconsin Power and Light and the Wisconsin Gas and Electric. The latter named company reduced their rates to $4.00 for 80 KWH and abandoned their assessment of construction cost charges. They also agreed to electrify the territory in which they could build, on an area basis. The farmers of Jefferson and Walworth accepted this proposition, but Rock County, in the Power and Light area continued to perfect their Cooperative and proceeded to organize according to the REA plan.

On April 24, 1936, they incorporated under the name, ROCK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION. With a paid up membership roll of 1,200, they became one of the charter members of STATEWIDE, their President, Mr. Grant S. Rice being elected to its Board of Directors and to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. R. T. Glassco, County Agent, an active energetic leader in Rock County was also a participant at the meeting.

Officers and members of the present Rock County Board of Directors are:

GRANT S. RICE, President, Milton
H. A. HARIED, Vice-President, Edgerton
W. J. FLORIN, Treasurer, Avalon
J. B. DYBEVIK, Secretary, Brodhead
ED. MAHLUM, Beloit
EMMET YALE, Milton Junction
RALPH MEECH, Beloit
GEO. BALLMER, Janesville
GEO. KOPPLIN, Janesville

Monthly meetings are held by the Board, at the office of the Cooperative at 101 East Milwaukee Street, Janesville.

In December, 1936, H. M. Durnin, of the STATEWIDE office, started staking crews, and made other preliminary arrangements as Resident Engineer, preparatory to the construction work that was to be begun shortly by the A. A. Electric Company of Cicero, Illinois.

On July 15, 1937, the first 122 miles of line were energized. In November the entire 402 miles were energized and service was being rendered to 627 customers with an average of six new connections daily, reaching 742 by December 31.

To tersely state construction progress on this project is not giving the whole picture. The fighting spirit, adherence to principles, the courage, the hard work and liberal sprinkling of patience necessary in overcoming obstacles and keeping opposition at bay are the truer reasons why comple-
tion is a real achievement.

Mr. Frank W. Gates, recently of Elkhorn, is Manager of the Rock County Electric Cooperative. Miss Veronica Thom was office secretary until prevented from returning to her position by a serious injury received while on vacation in Colorado. Mrs. Elizabeth Agnew is now bookkeeper and office secretary. Two servicemen are at present employed by the Cooperative.

This Cooperative is purchasing its energy from Fairbanks-Morse Company of Beloit, the substation being located there on the property of the Company.

The manager reports that satisfaction with their electric service is practically general throughout the project, and that all bids fair for successful operation.

From J. O. Woodman, who was the first to be connected in July, to the last connection made, there is a brightening of faces and a lift of tired shoulders, that express the thrill of gratefulness with which these farm residents view the realization of the hopes that have made possible for them by the construction of their REA electric lines.

PROJECT
Wisconsin-21-Taylor

The seven hundred members of the Taylor County Electric Cooperative which was incorporated January 18, 1937, expect their 218 miles of line to be complete before the first anniversary of their incorporation.

Their local office has been established at Medford. Paul J. Fleischmann is the Project Superintendent and Miss Hildegarde Ruprich of Dorchester, the stenographer.

At 8 p. m. on the second Tuesday of each month the Board meets at the office to discuss the problems and set the course of their Cooperative.

Andrew E. Hetland, President, Whittlesey
John Ockerlander, Vice-President, Dorchester
Henry Bergmann, Secretary-Treasurer, Goodrich

Directors:
Charles Paar, Medford
Herb Janke, Athens
Albert Bischoff, Dorchester
Carl M. Nelson, Medford
Albert Pinsch, Medford
Julius Miller, Medford

Staking and construction supervision was begun on this project by C. A. Jorgenson who was later transferred to Bangor. He was replaced by F. R. McFarland. The Contractor is L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The Taylor Cooperative is a member of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, Paul J. Fleischmann representing the Taylor group on the Board of Directors. The substation for their project is near Stetsonville on Unit 2 of the transmission line.

If the interest and anticipation present among the members can be taken as indicative, the Taylor County Electric Cooperative will be strong and successful.
PROJECT

Wisconsin-37-Trempealeau

When representatives of electric cooperatives assembled to discuss their mutual problems, at the meeting which resulted in the incorporation of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the TREMPEALEAU COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was represented by Mr. E. R. Finner. The group reincorporated, dropping “County” from the name, on February 12, 1937.

The farmers of Trempealeau County hold in reverence the memory of County Agent R. V. Larson, deceased, whose initiative and leadership played so large a part in the early life of the cooperative.

The officers and directors are as follows:

E. R. FINNER, President, Dodge
E. N. KLEVEN, Vice-President, Strum
CLARENCE KAAS, Secretary-Treasurer, Osseo
A. C. HAGESTAD, Etrick
JOHN HUSLEGARD, Independence
E. H. SCHROEDER, Whitehall
JULIUS HEGGE, Etrick
INGVALD MYHERS, Strum
H. A. HARDIE, Galesville

Manager M. J. Lawrence reports that the Cooperative has about 900 members at present but expect to increase this materially as soon as their project is energized. The local office is in Arcadia and Miss E. G. Brownlee is office secretary.

Trempealeau and its “twin” project, Buffalo, were both allotted 1936 funds, but due to wholesale rate negotiations beginning of construction was delayed. The Trempealeau contract was awarded to Snyder & Johnson, Inc., of Humboldt, Iowa, who began construction in May, 1937. Mr. L. E. Parkyn was placed there by STATEWIDE to represent them as their resident engineer. Early in November, 1937, the project was inspected by a representative of REA, and the construction approved.

Within a few weeks after the first of the year, it is expected that the transmission lines and the generating plant of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative will be completed and the long awaited current will be flowing through the lines to these hundreds of homes. The TREMPEALEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is on Unit I and will get its energy from the substation north of Arcadia, which also feeds the Buffalo Cooperative. E. R. Finner is Vice-President of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative.

The neighborly spirit of the Trempealeau Group was manifested in their invitation to the STATEWIDE staff to be their guests for their August meeting. The office and field staff, easement men and directors and wives from neighboring projects were stimulated to new efforts by the interest and activity of the Trempealeau Cooperators, and a new feeling of unity prevailed as a result of this friendly gathering.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-41-Vernon

One of the Charter members of WRECA, represented at the organization meeting of Mr. H. O. Melby, was the VERNON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, which reincorporated, omitting the word “County” from their name on February 8, 1937.

An office has been established in Westby and the heartiest of coop-
ervative relations exist between the City and the Cooperative, giving rent-
free offices in the Bank building, being an example of the city's attitude.

STATEWIDE's president, Mr. H. O. Melby, of Westby is President also
of his local Cooperative. Other officers and directors are:

RAY CLARK, Vice-President, Cashton
MELVIN E. OLSON, Secretary, Viroqua
C. V. GORMAN, Treasurer, Viroqua
NICK DORScheid, LaFarge
R. M. GRIMSRUD, Westby
OTTO G. HENRY, Viroqua
JOE HORA, Hillsboro
A. J. RISTOW, Genoa

Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month at the office of
the Cooperative.

The contract for the building of the lines, which before deletion
included 519 miles, was let to C. A. Hooper Company of Madison, who
started construction in August and expect to complete the lines, ready for
energizing the last part of January. Power is being purchased from the
Northern States Power Company.

Mr. N. F. Leifer, the Project Superintendent, reports a membership
list of 1,620 members. Miss Pearl Hanson is office stenographer. N. L.
Lundeen is resident engineer, representing STATEWIDE.

The Cooperative has held no special celebration, but they were the
sponsors of a large electrical exhibit at the Vernon County Fair which
was held in September, and due to the fine attitude of the dealers much
educational benefit was derived by prospective consumers. County Agent
Orrin Johnson and his predecessor, Julius Aasen, have given abundantly
of time and effort, wherever they could aid Vernon County farmers in
this new enterprise.

At the invitation of the Cooperative, through its manager, the staff
of STATEWIDE held its October meeting in Westby. They were met with
the characteristic hospitality of the community, to the enjoyment of all.
The spirit of working together was very discernible on the part of officials
of the Cooperative and of the city, and the principle of neighborliness
with all communities could be felt in the attitude of both groups.

The rough terrain and winding roads of Vernon and its neighboring
counties in which the lines are laid, make it necessary to obtain private
right-of-way across the fields to build the lines as nearly straight as
possible. The VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has been saved consider-
able expense by the application of their neighborly principle at home in
willingness of the farmers to grant the desired private right-of-way.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-45G-Chippewa

The Cooperative idea among Wisconsin farmers has reached also
into the generating field. In the northwestern section of the state ten
rural electric cooperatives, because of their difficulty in obtaining reason-
able wholesale rates from existing utilities, met and organized the WIS-
CONSIN POWER COOPERATIVE on May 25, 1937. The Rural Electrification
Administration has appropriated to date (December 30) $705,000.00.
Contracts for various parts of the construction work have been let to low
bidders, approved by Washington and the entire project is expected to
be complete on or about February 1, 1938.

The 243 miles of transmission lines are divided into three units. Bids were taken by the engineers, the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Unit I is being constructed by Acme Construction Company and Martin-Wunderlich Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota; Unit II by Allied Contracting Company of Eau Claire, and Unit III by Holtz Brothers Electric Company of Chippewa Falls. Mr. E. L. Rasmussen represents STATEWIDE as resident engineer supervising the three units.

The Bannister Engineering Company has the contract for supervision of the building which will be constructed by Hoeppner & Bartlett Company of Eau Claire, and the generators which will be installed by the Busch-Selzer Bros. Diesel Engine Co. of St. Louis, Missouri. The switchboard will be installed by L. A. Kepp, Rochester, Minnesota.

Seven distribution Cooperatives have signed wholesale power contracts with the Power Cooperative.

**BUFFALO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
**CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
**CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
**DUNN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
**PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
**TAYLOR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
**TREMPEALEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Three cooperatives in Jackson, St. Croix and Eau Claire counties are members and will sign power contracts when their projects have been allotted.

The Board of Directors has fifteen members. Their names and addresses follow:

**FRANK H. KRAMPETER, President, Gilmanton**
**E. R. FINNER, Vice-President, Dodge**
**WALTER M. LEONARD, Secretary-Treasurer, Ellsworth**

**WALLACE J. LANDRY, Neillsville**
**IRWIN ACCOLA, Mondovi**
**W. M. RUTZEN, Glenwood City**
**CLARENCE KAAS, Osseo**
**VERN G. HOWARD, Granton**
**ANDREW E. HETLAND, Whittlesey**
**M. B. ROTNEM, Elk Mound**
**W. E. OWEN, Downing**
**ROY H. KUNZELMAN, Alma Center**
**W. M. BUTEL, Beldenville**
**R. L. CLEAVES, Holcombe**
**PAUL J. FLEISCHMANN, Medford**

**Executive Committee:**

**R. L. CLEAVES**
**WALLACE J. LANDRY**
**W. E. OWEN**

**FRANK H. KRAMPETER**
**WALTER M. LEONARD**

The generating plant will be built near Chippewa Falls and the office of the organization has been established at Room 4, Physician's Block, in that city. Mr. E. B. Wayts, formerly Chief Engineer of STATEWIDE is project superintendent, and E. F. Thornton is bookkeeper.

The Wisconsin Power Cooperative will be wholly owned by ten distribution Cooperatives. REA rate experts estimate that it will save
its members at least $30,000 per year over their best long term contract for power. When the federal loan has been paid off and it becomes their property, free of debt still greater savings can be effected by pooling of all operating and maintenance expense.

The first Cooperative electric generating unit in Wisconsin. May it succeed gloriously!

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**PROJECT**

**Wisconsin-8009-LaCrosse**

The Village of Bangor was allotted $60,000 on July 20, 1937, for the purpose of extending the distribution lines of their municipality into four towns of LaCrosse county to include approximately 170 new consumers. Though prohibited by the by-law limitations of STATEWIDE from becoming members, they engaged the WRECA to perform their engineering services at cost.

Honold & LaPage Company, Inc., of Sheboygan were the successful bidders who have been carrying on construction activities for several weeks and anticipate completion early in January. Representing the interests of STATEWIDE is resident engineer, C. A. Jorgenson.

Mr. Harold S. Johnson has been approved as Project Superintendent. The project was organized and is being directed and promoted by the officers of the village:

**HON. ORRIN FLETCHER, Mayor**

**E. O. MERLO, Clerk**

**ELMER H. SWERMAN, Treasurer**

Interested in municipal ownership and community welfare, Mayor Fletcher and his fellow citizens are happy that they are able to include their farmer neighbors in their plan of electric service, and thus serving the best mutual interests of all.