

Educational Activity

Cooperation—the act of working jointly together—was the underlying principle in calling the first meeting of the STATEWIDE staff. Employees were located throughout the state and a closed acquaintanceship was deemed beneficial to the organization and to individuals.

Participation was very general and as the spirit of the meetings developed we experienced a consciousness of a unified purpose, solved joint problems of field and office, evolved procedures, and gave to far communities a more pronounced feeling of membership.

During the season while gathering scattered groups from scattered places was feasible, five meetings were held, the last two at the invitation of the local cooperatives:

APRIL 29, 1937—PARK HOTEL, *Madison*

JUNE 23, 1937—ISLAND RESORT, *Juneau County*

JULY 31, 1937—HOTEL CRANDALL, *Wisconsin Dells*

AUGUST 28, 1937—*Arcadia*

OCTOBER 9, 1937—*Westby*

An outgrowth of a suggestion presented at the first staff meeting, is the monthly bulletin of information issued under the title, "Contact".

News stories of projects, announcements from the office, staking costs, construction progress, charts and graphs are published.

About 200 copies are distributed to employees, local cooperative board members and to educational cooperative organizations and interested individuals. The total monthly cost to date averages less than four dollars.

Each issue is filed, thus providing a permanent month-by-month record of progress and activity of STATEWIDE's ever-growing membership.

Conclusion

The preparation of the first year book of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association has gone forward with a three-fold purpose:

1. To assemble for member cooperatives a concise report of their organization;
2. To provide a record for posterity of the part played by STATEWIDE in this epoch making program of building rural electric lines, and
3. To strengthen the cause of cooperatives and to stimulate interest by the faithful recording of the activities of this fast-growing member of the family of cooperatives.

Material for graphs and reports has been compiled from office records; in the case of department reports, we are indebted to department heads whose signatures appear; to the assistant secretary of the Board of Directors for the summary of the records of their meetings; and to each project superintendent or secretary for his reply to the questionnaire on which we based the history of the local cooperatives. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the above mentioned people and all others who have so willingly participated in the preparation of this report.

Perhaps we have omitted information that would have been of interest and value; if so, it was not done intentionally and we hope that our readers may gain from the study of this little book, a wholehearted respect for the cooperative farmers of Wisconsin and for the work of the Builders, the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

CHRISTINE QUAMME, *Editor*