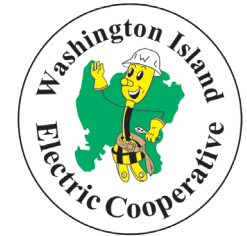




Robert Cornell,
Manager

FORWARD PROGRESS



As we move into the summer and continue our “changed” operation, we are making progress on several fronts. Mary Andersen and I have been training, via Zoom meeting, on the new accounting system. You will recall that our old system was installed in 2003 when we essentially moved up from red and green pencils and ledger books to the computer age. Seventeen years later, it seems as if we got our money’s worth.

Once this new system is in place, we then will integrate it with the automated meter reading system and will be working with a company such that we will be able to accept credit cards, allow payments directly from accounts, and utilize other features that have been available in other places for a fair amount of time now.

Once fully implemented, this system will not only be easier on us here at the cooperative, but certainly add a level of convenience to the member. It also means, if all goes well, seasonal accounts and bills will go away and everyone will become a monthly customer.

One thing that will be critical for all of us though (and it has always been important) is timely payment of bills. If bills are not paid by the due date, the new system will automatically add penalties and it will not be so easy to remove them.

If we do not already have your email address, please get it to us. Cell phone numbers as well. If you want, we will not only be able to email you your bill with the new system, but we’ll be able to send it via text as well. There will be much more information coming out about the upcoming changes. We hope to have the accounting and automated meter reading system up and running by

the end of July and the payment/bill service in operation sometime this fall. It remains to be seen if it will work best to wait until January to switch seasonal accounts to monthly.

In addition to all this, by the time you read this issue, we should have received our first \$1,000,000 reimbursement for costs incurred during cable replacement and we will hope for the second payment to not be too far into the State of Wisconsin’s next fiscal year. As you are already aware, we have already reduced

Once fully implemented, this system will not only be easier on us here at the cooperative, but certainly add a level of convenience for the member.

our monthly base charge by \$10 (from \$51 per month to \$41 per month) because of disaster fund payments that we received last year and in anticipation of the first check.

The review process of all checks written and receipts for what has been over \$4,000,000 in expenditures over the last two years is very detailed. We are eligible for 70% reimbursement on the cable replacement part of the project up to a maximum of \$2,000,000. Once everything is finalized and the state determines our eligibility for the second payment AND we receive that check, another reduction in the base charge of \$5 per month is expected.

On top of all this, it has been good to see our members returning for the summer!

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

With the Lion’s Club Island Fair cancelled and the Death’s Door Barbeque still in limbo, it looks as if the annual meeting will be scheduled for one of the first three Saturdays in August.

More to come!

Washington Island Electric Cooperative *Scholarships*



Like many Island organizations and groups, each year, the cooperative awards scholarships to members of the graduating class of the Washington Island School. The scholarships are \$1,000, awarded in \$500 increments for the first two semesters (or equivalent) successfully completed by the recipient.

This year, in spite of all that has happened to somewhat dampen the community recognition of our Island graduates, our participation in this publication allows us to point out our two recipients this year. As there are two graduates this year, they represent not only our scholarship recipients, but the entire graduating class of the Washington Island School.

Rylee Lux was born in Nanchang, China. Shortly after birth, she was placed in an orphanage and then transferred to a foster care family for the first eight months of her life. In December of 2002, Rylee was adopted by Hans and Beth Lux and brought to America, becoming an American citizen. Throughout her education, Rylee excelled in her ability to learn and earned a 4.0 grade point average each year. She has also been continually active in volunteering in the community for many different causes. At Washington Island School, Rylee was the editor of the school yearbook, president of the Student Council, and captain of the girls' basketball team.



Rylee will be attending UW-Madison in the fall working towards a medical degree. She would be following in the footsteps of her mother and older sister, both of whom are physicians.

Evan Lux lived in an orphanage in Shenzhen City, China, for the first 10 years of his life. The orphanage was not able to afford sending Evan to school, so his schooling started later in life. Evan became an American citizen after he was adopted in December of 2011 and joined the Lux family. Starting his schooling in the fifth grade, Evan took to the challenge and learned the English language and tried to make up for the years of schooling lost. Although it was a struggle for him, Evan was able to earn his high school diploma. He has been active in volunteering in the community for many different causes. At school, Evan participated in cross country, basketball, golf, and was part of the Gibraltar/Washington Island Baseball team. He also was a member of the Student Council.

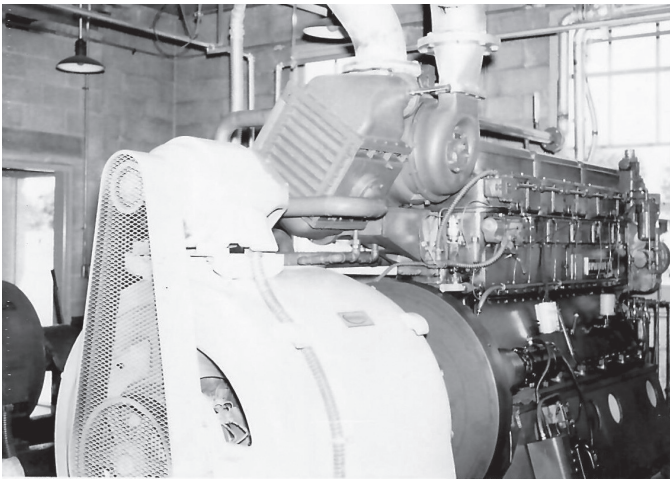


Evan recently became a member of the Washington Island Fire Department and will be attending NWTC to earn a degree as a fire technician and seek employment as a firefighter.

*When you see Rylee and Evan, congratulate them on their graduation and wish them the best in the future.
When you see Hans and Beth, congratulate them on raising two great kids.*

WASHINGTON ISLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Last month's installment of "How Electricity Came to Washington Island" by Ray Krause was the last one. When I moved home and started at the cooperative in 2002, I pestered Henry to use a bit of his free time to continue where Ray had left off. Unfortunately, he passed before he was able to complete the task. I will do the best that I can, using minute books, photographs, and a few childhood memories, to fill in some of the gaps and get the highlights. It won't be quite as comprehensive as Ray's history, and the loss of Henry's institutional knowledge will limit it a bit, but I will do the best I can!



Enterprise #1 after being fitted with Turbo and new generator set.

1963 435 members comprised the Washington Island Electric Cooperative, which is roughly half of our membership today. Eighty-six members attended the annual meeting that April, which is on a par with the number that attend annual meetings today. Oliver Bjarnarson was president, Marvin

Andersen was vice president, Norbert "Okie" O'Connell was secretary/treasurer, and Arni Richter, Conrad Anderson, Steve Ellefson, and Percy Johnson made up the balance of the board. We were beginning to have problems with Enterprise #1 and it was overhauled. After the overhaul, it began to use excessive oil and was being watched closely. Later, a representative of Enterprise came and the problem was repaired.

1964 The Superior needed repairs and so the decision was made to uprate Enterprise #1 with a turbo in order to increase its capacity. The cooperative borrowed \$34,000 in order to build 5 miles of line serving 32 new members. The East Side Subdivision of the Washington Island Land Company was staked out and construction on this line began as well. Door prizes at the annual meeting were authorized, totaling \$80 this year.

1965 The State of Wisconsin requested that the cooperative investigate providing power to Rock Island either through overhead lines crossing "the cut" or through a submarine cable. This proved later to be a nonstarter because the cooperative requested to be paid a minimum flat rate of \$1,400 per year with usage to be added on top of that.

1966 Our current electric heat rate was instituted in order to help with firm power and consistent load throughout the night in the winter.

1967 The cooperative authorized the manager and engineer Carl Crane to begin investigating additional generation. Bids for the 1949 Superior, a 500KW machine, were accepted and the process, which would take until 1969, was begun. The cooperative purchased additional land for expansion of the generating plant.



Left: Ariel photo of downtown Washington Island showing the cooperative prior to expansion. Photo by Bob Bell, Dr. Charles "Pike" Imig, pilot. Right: Construction of addition for Engines 5 (Superior) and 6 (Enterprise) in 1968. Fritz and Dale Bjarnarson, Bob Young, and Rich Reiss were the crew.



Meet Your Director

Hoyt Purinton

Hoyt was first elected to the cooperative board in 2006. He was born in Shirley Atkins' home right here on the Island. He is a fifth-generation Island resident and the grandson of former cooperative board member and board president Arni Richter. He is also the grand nephew of Herman Leasum, who was the original corporate counsel for the cooperative and about whom you have read about in Ray Krause's history.



Hoyt has a Business Administration Degree that he earned at Carthage College after graduating from the Washington Island School. He has held a United States Coast Guard Master's License for over 25 years and is currently the president of the Washington Island Ferry Line.

Hoyt has been a member of the Washington Island Fire Department since 1999, has served on the boards of the Passenger Vessel Association, The Door County Visitor Bureau, the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, The Washington Island Foundation, and the Door County Land Trust – Island Committee.

He is married to Kirsten and along with his boys, Aidan and Magnus, enjoys hunting and being on and in the water.

Hoyt has been a strong advocate for cooperative board compensation, meaning more of Patty's cookies.

You will remember that Hoyt took it upon himself to not only locate the 1981 submarine cable, during 2018's failure, but he also brought the diver out to the site in order to pinpoint the actual fault, officially known as the \$4,000,000 hole.



2018 Actual Cable Fault
(visit the website for a video of the "thumping" process of locating taken by Hoyt)

When you see Hoyt, thank him for his many years of service to the cooperative and the Island Community.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

With a renewed interest in gardening and planting in general, we thought this would be an opportune time to remind everyone out there digging new holes in order to plant trees or vegetables to call Digger's Hotline and also to pay attention to where your own private lines are buried. You might be shocked (literally and figuratively) at how much that tomato plant or fruit tree actually costs if you dig up a phone or electric line by mistake. Digger's Hotline will contact both the phone company and your electric cooperative and if we have buried lines in the area, we will come out and mark them. You are responsible for your private lines. Digger's Hotline can be reached online at www.diggershotline.com or by dialing 800-242-8511 or simply 811.

Also, when you are planting those trees, please look up and consider where they will grow! Those overhead electric lines are not there as a guide so you can plant the trees in a straight line!

Robert Cornell, Manager

1157 Main Road, Washington Island, WI 54246
920-847-2541
info@wiecoop.com
Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

