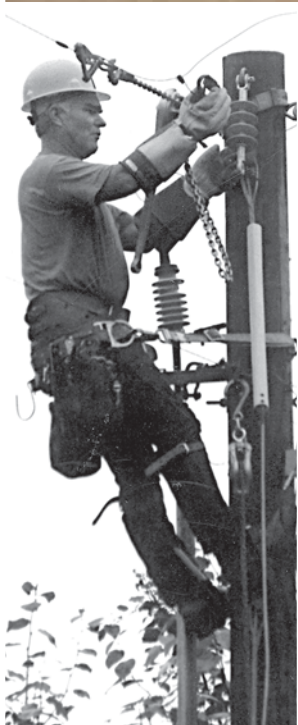


A Service of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

July/August 2012

# Michigan COUNTRY LINES



## Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

75th Anniversary  
Commemorative Issue



1937 - 2012







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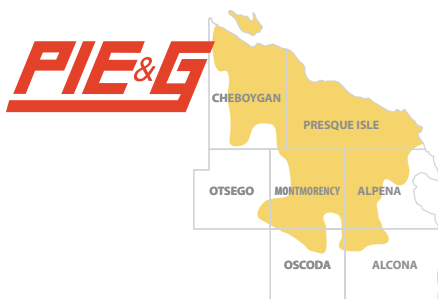
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# Michigan

COUNTRY LINES



It was 75 years ago that Presque Isle Electric Cooperative, a rural electric provider, came to life under the cooperative business model—owned

by its members and guided by member-elected directors—to provide electric service to places and people that could not get electricity from investor-owned utilities of the day.

We are celebrating this event with this commemorative issue, reviewing the rich history that made us what we are today and show-casing how far YOUR cooperative has come.

From our humble beginnings 75 years ago, in a farmer's home with a few determined men and a County Extension agent, to where we are today—we recognize all the hard work and dedication it has taken to build a Co-op providing service to 35,500 electric meters and 9,000 natural gas meters with annual sales of \$40,303,746.

Thank you to all our members. This is your history.

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Michigan's Electric  
Cooperatives  
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# The First 25 Years 1937-1962

**P**resque Isle Electric was the first cooperative in Michigan to build an REA-financed power line.

This was only possible because of the actions taken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933. Pledging a “New Deal for the American people,” he moved swiftly to bring relief from the Depression by creating projects to put people back to work, which helped restore their dignity. He signed the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Act on May 18, 1933, signaling the start of action, not only for economic development and thousands of new jobs, but for a new and vast source of electric power. The TVA Act provided that “preference” would be given to “states, counties, municipalities and ***cooperative organizations of citizens for farmers, not organized for profit but primarily for the purpose of supplying electricity to its own citizens or members.***”

On May 11, 1935, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037, establishing the Rural Electrification Administration or “REA,” which provided low-interest

government loans to build electric systems based on the cooperative business model, one that farmers had been familiar with for years. Before the REA, only people who lived in the city or were on a main road could get electric service (Detroit Edison was founded in 1903, 34 years before rural cooperatives began appearing in Michigan). Even then, installation costs were unaffordable. Investor owned companies believed the expense to serve rural farms would not provide sufficient revenue to offset the cost.

Across the nation, County Extension agents began working with farmers to organize electric cooperatives. In our area, Jack Brown, the county agricultural agent, was instrumental in the birth of Presque Isle Electric Cooperative. It was at a meeting at the home of Allen Taylor in February 1937 that the first board of directors was chosen. They were a determined group of men who worked tirelessly to bring electricity to the rural citizens of northern Michigan. Presque Isle Electric Cooperative was incorporated March 22, 1937.



Once loans were secured, Laird Construction began to build the first 70 miles of distribution line. The original line extended from the Norway Dam on the Thunder Bay River in Alpena to Moltke. Towns along the line included Cathro, Bolton, Posen, Metz, Hawks, Petersville, and Hagensville. By Christmas-time 1937, electricity had arrived to 82 farm families who no longer had to live in isolation and darkness. Electricity was a reality.

While some saw the new “electric” as a Christmas present, the men who had spent countless days and nights in meetings, driving hundreds of miles on dirt roads to reach the next farmhouse, knew what an REA employee in Washington said was true: “The best project in the United States is no bed of roses.” A myriad of problems and obstacles confronted the electric co-op pioneers, starting with the skeptics who wouldn’t sign a membership and those

who didn’t want to grant a right-of-way for fear of losing their property to the government.

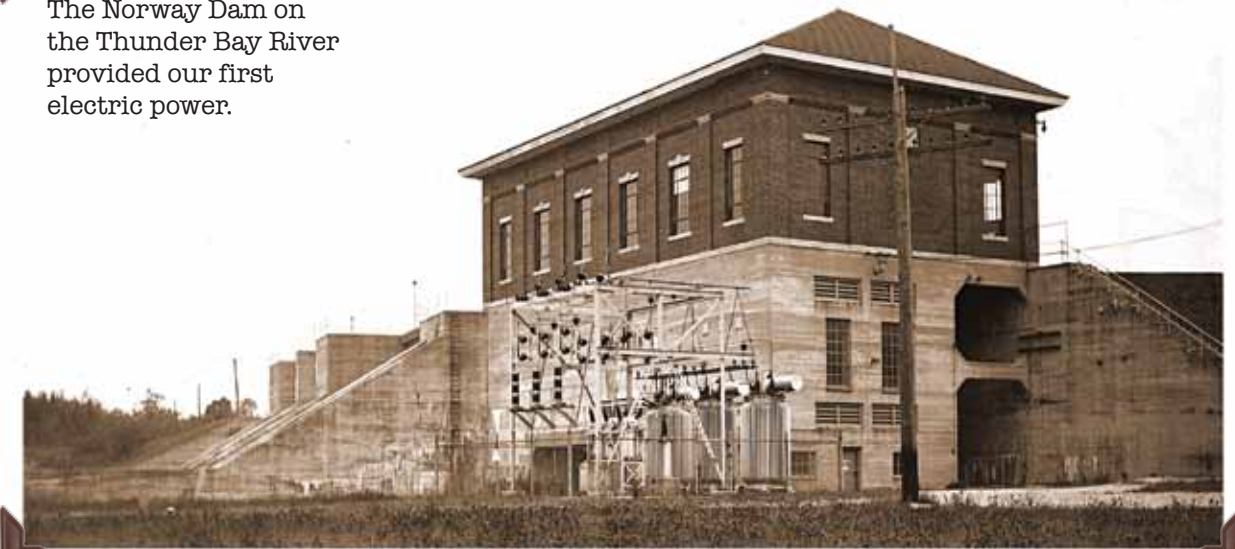
A formal dedication ceremony was held in Posen on September 22, 1937, where the first REA-financed power pole was set. (A historical sign marks the location today.) Posen was also the location of the first two offices for Presque Isle Electric Cooperative.



**First Board of Directors:** Standing Left to Right - Leonard Poch, Charles Sorgenfrei, Herbert Paull, County Extension Agent Jack Brown. Seated Left to Right - Otto Grambau, Frank Smith, Edgar Rembadt, Hilmer Olson.



The Norway Dam on the Thunder Bay River provided our first electric power.



At the pole-setting ceremony, U.S. Rep. John Luecke spoke along with Joseph Donnelly of the Michigan Public Service Commission and Philip K. Fletcher, from Alpena Power Company. It was Alpena Power's Norway Dam that provided our first power supply. At the ceremony Fletcher said, "We of Alpena Power are in the project because we are interested in the development of our

part of Michigan...for four generations we have tried to help along the same lines. Let's put it all into one pot today—power company and you people—to make northeastern Michigan and our area the best in Michigan."

Donnelly also praised Alpena Power for its cooperation which, he said, "is of a type not usual in southern Michigan," where he said Consumers Power had held up progress of the cooperatives. Jack Brown was also praised at this ceremony for all the guidance he gave to the fledgling cooperative. He worked closely with the board for the first few years, including right-of-way issues and design of the electric rates.



Speakers at our pole-setting ceremony in Posen, September 22, 1937.





The newly acquired generating plant in Tower, MI.

as labor and material shortages would permit. But with new customers, we also needed to secure power supply.

Presque Isle Electric Cooperative purchased the Onaway Light and Power Company April 2, 1941. This purchase included their office on the corner of Maple and State streets in Onaway, and the Tower Hydro generation plant. More than half of the power in the early 1940s came from the Tower hydro plant. Demands for electric service continued from Cheboygan and Montmorency counties, so lines were built as rapidly

So, other generation plants were acquired, including one in Atlanta. The Cooperative constructed a new hydro power facility three miles downriver from Tower Hydro, naming it the Kleber



Another generation source was the plant we acquired from Atlanta Light and Power in Atlanta, MI.



The new hydro power facility built by Presque Isle Electric. It was named the Kleber Dam after Gustave Kleber.

Dam, after retiring manager Gust Kleber. This addition met power demands for a few more years.



Electricity to the rural farms changed everything. It was a revolution in rural living. To help those who couldn't afford it, REA offered special programs for wiring and equipment loans through the cooperatives. Co-ops also had to educate their new members on use and function of the new electric appliances that were now available to them. Demonstrations were given to show members how to use electric milking equipment and new clothes washing machines and dryers.



Demonstrations were held to educate the farmer on how the new "electric" would make his life easier in the barn by using electric milking machines.



Appliance promotions were also a part of educating the member in the beginning.



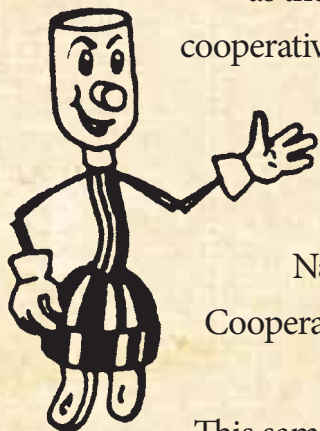
The Northern Michigan Electric Cooperative Boyne City Power Plant.

With the advent of World War II, rural electrification came to a virtual standstill from 1942 to 1945 when manpower and materials were scarce. After the war was over, expansion resumed steadily in 1947 and 1948. Harry Pauly, long-time employee and general manager, remembered hooking up about 1,300 new members in 1946.

By 1948, it became apparent that growing power demands would soon exceed the capacity of existing plants and the capacity available from Alpena Power and Michigan Public Service. The boards of three cooperatives—Presque Isle Electric Cooperative, Top O'Michigan and Cherryland Electric Cooperative—took formal action in 1948 to create Northern Michigan Electric Cooperative. Three directors from each co-op were chosen to



Our new  
“hired hand”  
on the  
farm, Willie  
Wiredhand.



serve on the board. Willie  
Wiredhand was adopted  
as the official electric  
cooperative mascot in 1951,  
created by Andrew  
McLay, a freelance  
artist working for the  
National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association.

This same year, Presque Isle  
Electric Cooperative began sending  
quarterly newsletters to members re-  
garding matters of the  
cooperative. By 1952, the publication



had a new name—“More Power to  
You.” The board of directors had chosen  
from 243 names suggested by members.  
O.E. Geppert, of Indian River, submit-  
ted the winning entry and received an  
electric blanket for his idea.

In 1952, it became apparent that due  
to rapid growth, we had outgrown  
our present quarters. Our office and  
warehouse facilities were insufficient for



Employees at the former Onaway Light &  
Power office on the corner of Maple and State  
Streets in 1949-1950. Left to right: Gust Kleber,  
Vivian Burkhart, Clayton Smith, Ardeth  
Rotarius, Arlene Smith, Lloyd Graves,  
Ila Merritt, and Michael O'Meara.

the economical and efficient operation  
of the cooperative. The Co-op applied to  
the Rural Electrification Administration  
for a loan of \$250,000 to construct a  
suitable facility with adequate office,  
warehouse and garage space.

Two sites were considered for the new  
headquarters building, both located east  
of the Onaway city limits. The first one,  
on the south side of M-68, was owned  
by Harry Glasier. The other, across  
the road on the north side of M-68,  
was owned by the Presque Isle County  
Road Commission. Manager Kleber  
received a commitment to purchase  
approximately 10 acres of land from Mr.





Construction begins on the new Presque Isle Electric Cooperative office at the new site at 19831 E. M-68 Hwy.



Building continues and the office is taking shape.



The new office as it looked after completion in 1955.

Glasier for the sum of \$2,500, and in 1953, Presque Isle Electric Cooperative began construction of the new office headquarters. The official open house was postponed until July 28, 1955, due to road construction on M-68, but PIEG actually began using the building in February 1955. The new office was built to give “adequate space to conduct

12,000 members’ business,” as quoted in the Co-op’s March 1955 “More Power to You” newsletter. At that time, PIEG had 9,500 members. Today, the Co-op services 41,000 accounts from the same building.

Presque Isle Electric Cooperative suffered the loss of an employee during working hours on November 16, 1956. Harold C.





Harold C. Taylor

Taylor, lineman, was involved in a deadly automobile accident while responding to an outage call that morning. A passenger car made a sudden turn in front of the truck Taylor was driving, while he was in the process of passing. To avoid a collision with the car, Taylor swerved, leaving the road and striking a pine tree. He gave his life to save another, leaving behind a wife and four children aged 15 years to 14 months old. The youngest child, James Taylor, is now a lineman working for the cooperative today.

In 1957 the Rural Electric Youth Tour program was launched by electric cooperatives in recognition that our youth are the future leaders: either in the



Teen Days participants from the 1980s.

classroom, on the playing fields, or in their community. These future leaders will guide and inspire others to contribute their best efforts in whatever they do.

Today, cooperatives continue to select member-students to attend the Youth Leadership Summit, held annually at the Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI. This experience helps students develop leadership skills, explore career opportunities in the electric industry, and learn how to be actively involved in the democratic process.

A national newspaper headline in 1961 reported that only one in six new “REA customers” was a farmer. This was true then in Michigan as well, as thousands of people built cabins and vacation homes in the countryside. At that time, Presque Isle Electric Cooperative had the highest percentage of “seasonal members” among



As part of Teen Days, participants get to try their hand at pole climbing.



Michigan co-ops, or about 60 percent. The highest peak-demand for electricity on the Presque Isle system each year had been the night before deer hunting season opens.

## 1962-1987

In the early 1960s, the Co-op considered a request to provide power to Bois Blanc Island. It took much discussion and study over the next few years. On August 28, 1962, Bob Daverman of J & G Daverman Company presented to the board of directors a proposal to serve. There were approximately 200 buildings on Bois Blanc Island and cost estimates were as follows:

<b>Line construction and clearing .....</b>	<b>\$61,000</b>
<b>Cable .....</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>
<b>Labor – cable crossing .....</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Fees – Engineer, Legal, Overhead .....</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>TOTAL:.....</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>

In 1963, the contract was signed for this line extension that was unlike any the Co-op had ever done before. Northern Marine Service laid the submarine electric cable from the mainland beginning at Point Nipigon, north of Cheboygan, across and under the waters of Lake Huron to a point one mile west of Point Aux Pins on Bois Blanc Island. When the work was completed in 1964, Board President



In the photos above, the surveyor is helping keep the cable on course with the help of Harry Pauly (in truck 51) relaying directions via truck radio to the barge across the 3.7 miles from Point Nipigon to Bois Blanc Island.

Bernard Kline reported, “The largest single construction project was the launching of the program to provide central station electric service to Bois Blanc Island.” Membership certificates were mailed in November to the following residents living on the Island: Luther Gibbons, Glenn Gibbons, Hubert Gahn, Susan B. Fisher, Sid Anderson, Victor Babcock,






This picture was taken in 1999 when crews laid two more cables while upgrading service to the Island.

Raymond A. Plaunt, Larry L. Dunbar, Ila N. Calkins, and Joseph Holzman. In 1999, the 33-year-old original cable was removed and replaced by two additional cables, upgrading service to Bois Blanc Island at a cost of \$235,380. The new submarine line was specially manufactured to span across the bottom of the straits in one continuous cable (without any splices) to a length of 3.7 miles.

Due to territorial battles and predatory practices by investor owned utilities that plagued rural cooperatives, all 13 distribution cooperatives and the two wholesale generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives (Northern Michigan Coopera-


tive and Wolverine Electric Cooperative) became regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission in 1965.

Prior to 1967, members who experienced a power outage after business hours were provided with the home phone numbers of the linemen who were on call. It wasn't




**IN CASE OF LINE OUTAGES**

Call Onaway Office      Phone 2061  
8 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
Monday thru Friday



<p><b>Onaway Exchange</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Arnold Wang</td><td>2151</td></tr> <tr><td>Jack Kowalski</td><td>3192</td></tr> <tr><td>Robert Philpott</td><td>2377</td></tr> <tr><td>Harold Taylor</td><td>3532</td></tr> </table>	Arnold Wang	2151	Jack Kowalski	3192	Robert Philpott	2377	Harold Taylor	3532	<p>Saturday, Sunday, Holidays and after hours call:</p> <p>←————→</p>	<p><b>Rogers City Exchange</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Alfred Dettloff</td><td>507</td></tr> <tr><td>Harry Pauly</td><td>45-M</td></tr> <tr><td>Harry Kowalewsky</td><td>118-M</td></tr> <tr><td>Nelson Free</td><td>62-R</td></tr> </table>	Alfred Dettloff	507	Harry Pauly	45-M	Harry Kowalewsky	118-M	Nelson Free	62-R
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**SERVICE**  
is my business



I'm your co-op lineman . . .

You see me with my truck along your line, and I want to take this chance to say hello. My job is to . . .

Build new lines  
Enlarge other lines  
Prevent outages  
Keep the lines clear

I am well equipped to serve you, and I hope you will cooperate with me to keep outages at a minimum.

I cut and trim trees, for instance, to keep them off the lines. If you spot me on your place, you will know I am working to provide you with better service. You can help, however . . .

In case of an outage, call your co-op office. Tell us the trouble and its location if you can. This will save us time finding it.

We are sure our service is the best in the area. But we know we can always improve.

We are glad to be working for you and proud of our part in this co-op which is owned by those we serve.

10

This was published for members to call directly to the linemen for outages after normal business hours and on weekends.

until 1967 that a dedicated telephone number was established for members to report outages after hours.

The 1970s brought continued growth throughout our service territory. In 1971,



Presque Isle Electric Cooperative connected 1,167 new members—many of which were underground installations due to a ruling by the Michigan Public Service Commission regarding subdivisions.

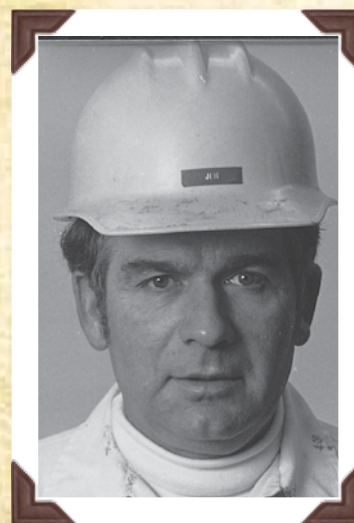
In 1972, a record 1,257 new meters were set by the Co-op that year. This was twice the number of meters in service in the City of Onaway at the time.

In 1973, the State of Michigan required that all new electric installations must be inspected by a county electrical inspector. An energy crisis and inflation were affecting electric rates back then and continue to do so today.

In 1977, Northern Michigan Electric Cooperative and Wolverine Electric Cooperative (forerunners of Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative) jointly purchased a 20 percent ownership in the Fermi II nuclear plant. Fermi II was a Detroit Edison nuclear power plant construction project that was started in 1968 to add an additional 1,100 megawatts of generating capacity. Delays pushed the date of operation to 1977 and then back again to 1980. Construction progressed until early 1979, when the accident at

Three Mile Island nuclear plant occurred. This resulted in costly changes mandated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). By 1982, the cost projections at Fermi II had ballooned to \$2.35 billion. The number of NRC mandates had risen from 785 in 1978 to nearly 2,000 in 1982.

On January 1, 1983, Wolverine Electric Cooperative and Northern Michigan Electric Cooperative merged to become Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative. Throughout the next few years negotiations to revise the Fermi II contract were held. By December 19, 1987, Wolverine Power Supply, Detroit Edison and REA executed all documents authorizing the sale of Wolverine's ownership in Fermi II to Detroit Edison.

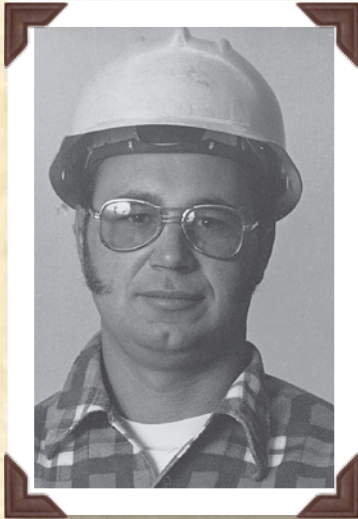


James Tucker

Presque Isle Electric Cooperative had a devastating year in 1985. Two linemen, Jim Tucker and Jerry Hart, lost their lives in separate tragic accidents.



James D. Tucker was performing routine maintenance on a transformer serving a plastic plant when the transformer exploded, resulting in serious injuries causing his death. Surviving were his wife,



Gerald R. Hart

Darlene, and three children. His son, Jim, now works as a plant operator with Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative.

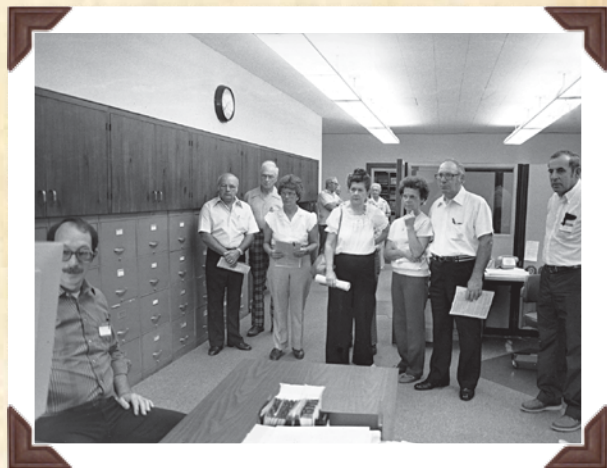
Three months later, Gerald R. Hart was electrocuted when he made contact with a transformer he presumed was de-energized while responding to an outage call. Mr. Hart left behind a wife, Darlene, and two children.

## 1987 – 2012

Presque Isle Electric celebrated its Golden Anniversary (50<sup>th</sup>) in 1987. On August 5, 1987, approximately 100 people visited the Onaway headquarters for a building tour, a high-voltage demonstration, and viewing of a historical slide show. Special activities were added to the annual

meeting agenda that October and articles appeared throughout the year in *Country Lines* magazine recalling significant events in the history of the Cooperative.

The development of Garland golf course in Lewiston kept crews busy in the late 1980s and early 1990s as they expanded



Members touring the Data Processing Department during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary open house with employees Andrew McCreery (far left) and Robert Lonsdale, (far right).



A hotline demonstration was given by Dale Quade and Harley Malone at the office during the open house.



their complex to include houses, cabins and condominiums. To insure Garland's desire to maintain the natural beauty of the area, most of the construction was underground instead of overhead. This expansion led to Garland being one of the Co-op's larger accounts.



Underground cable being buried by a lineman using a Ditch Witch R-200. Just one of the machines used for underground installation.

In the late 1980s, the co-op continued to grow and new technologies became available to assist with business operations. In 1987 the board of directors entered into an agreement with Central Area Data Processing (CADP) of St. Peters, Missouri, for data processing services. CADP was being utilized nationally by other rural electric cooperatives. Now known as National Information Solutions Cooperative, NISC provides advanced, integrated IT solutions for consumer and subscriber billing, accounting, engineering and oper-

ations, as well as many other leading-edge IT solutions.

In 1987, PIE&G joined the national Good Neighbor Watch Program. Over the years, several employees have been recognized for rendering emergency aid and providing assistance to people in the community during the course of their workday.

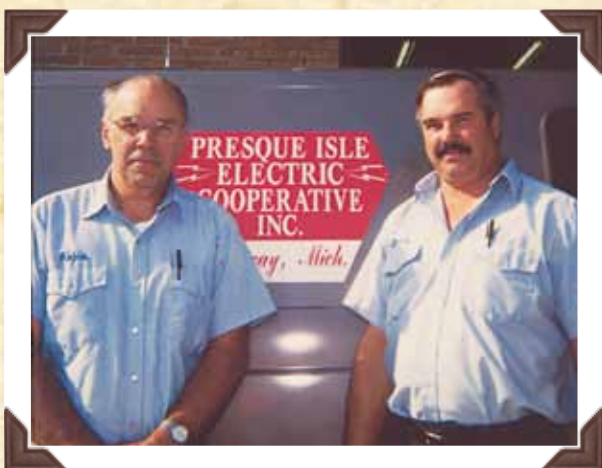
Several changes took place at Co-op headquarters in the early 1990s to improve service. A Member Services Department was added to provide assistance with new construction, transfers, disconnects, reconnects, Rural TV, geothermal and dual fuel programs. The interior of the office building underwent a major renovation—the first since its original construction—including relocating the board room and adding new offices in the former boardroom area. Load management of electric water heaters and electric heat systems began to take shape as part of a cost-saving strategy for Presque Isle Electric Cooperative and Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative.

While many cooperatives were creating subsidiaries to expand business (e.g. cable television, long distance telephone,





A copy of the Montmorency Tribune article Sept. 8, 1994, showing board members Mel Basel and Alan Bruder with General Manager Martin Thomson and contractor crews.



Our first natural gas employees: David McMurphy and Gary Rouleau.

propane, etc.), the Co-op decided to add natural gas to its core business. Thus, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op came to be in 1994, demonstrating once again the significance of the cooperative business model to respond to the needs of local citizens by providing a valuable service

to rural areas when other companies would not. In December 1994, Mr. James Stoddard of Hillman became the first active natural gas account. With its new natural gas system, PIE&G held a



Jada Pellett from Alpena holding our new logo she designed.

contest in area schools to create a new business logo. Fifteen-year-old Jada Pellett from Alpena High School won \$200 by submitting her winning logo. The logo is still used today—from our trucks to our letterhead.

In the early to mid 1990s, exploration and drilling of natural gas wells sparked a boom of new meter installations. As new projects were started, it was not uncommon to receive requests to hook up 75 meters at a time in Alpena, Alcona and Montmorency counties.





Community First Donation to  
Inverness Elementary Library

About this same time, programs allowing members to “round up” their bills to the nearest dollar were being developed by cooperatives across the nation. The money collected from this (averages about 50 cents monthly per member) voluntary program still assists members and community organizations with financial assistance for various projects. In 1996, the PIE&G Communities First Fund Program was established. A separate volunteer board of directors was appointed to review grant applications and award funds. A scholarship program was established a year later, and up to three scholarships per year are still awarded to graduating high school

seniors. Since its inception in 1998, the PIE&G Communities First Fund has returned over \$1.2 million to local organizations and individuals within PIE&G’s service territory.

With the onset of deregulation, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) developed a national brand to unite cooperatives throughout the United States.

Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, cooperatively-owned utilities providing high standards of service to customers, large and small, and their communities. As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Presque Isle Electric &



# Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Gas Co-op is a local and active member of the communities it serves, and is committed to serving commercial, industrial and residential customers with integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement. The affiliation with Touchstone Energy has also enabled PIE&G to support numerous local projects, organizations, schools and events for the benefit of members across northeast Michigan.

In 2003, PIE&G honored the three employees who gave their lives to the co-op by dedicating a commemorative plaque placed on the building at the main entrance to its headquarters.

The same year, capital credit retirements were authorized by the board of directors and refunds were mailed to members who had service with us during the years 1980 and 1981. Previously, the last retirement of capital credits was in 1990.

The co-op still faces challenges in balancing the need to maintain affordable and reliable power sources while complying with newer, more strict governmental legislation. Recognizing the aging fleet of power generation plants throughout Michigan, our power supplier, now called Wolverine Power

Cooperative, began pursuing the need to construct a new power plant using clean coal technology. In 2006, Wolverine secured an option to purchase

property near Rogers

City to evaluate the site for clean energy projects. Wolverine began a feasibility study to construct a base load, coal-fired power plant and wind generation to meet the long-term power supply needs of its member cooperatives. The exploratory project is known as the Wolverine Clean Energy Venture. To date, an air quality permit has been issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).



The memorial plaque that is located at the entrance of our building.





Wolverine Power also worked with John Deere Wind Energy, who constructed a renewable energy wind farm on 3,200 acres between Elkton and Pigeon, Michigan, in Huron County. Each of the wind farm's 32 turbines is capable of producing 1.65 megawatts of electricity, for a total project capacity of 52.8 megawatts. Wolverine Power purchases the total output of the Harvest Wind Farm, Michigan's first commercial-scale wind project, under a long-term power purchase agreement. The farm began generating electricity in December 2007.

Advances in technology have been as prevalent in the life of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op for the past 10 years as it has in your own personal lives. In 2007, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op began the process of updating our radio communications system. In collaboration with Great Lakes Energy and Wolverine Power Cooperative, PIE&G installed and now shares radio towers using a new joint communication system that began operating in 2009.

In 2009, the Co-op performed a software system conversion to an advanced



platform with enhanced functions for customer information, accounting and outage management systems. Since then, we continue working with the National Information Systems Cooperative to make ongoing software system improvements. One area of change has been to offer more payment options. Technology has allowed PIE&G to accept payments by credit card, internet and most recently, a secure automated phone system. The demand for alternate payment options, that were not even possible 20 years ago, is an example of how the co-op has adapted procedures to improve service through technology.

In 2011, the board of directors authorized nearly \$1 million in capital credit refunds to members for patronage during the years 1982 and 1983. Today, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op provides service to 35,500

electric meters and 9,000 natural gas meters throughout its nine-county service territory in northeast Michigan. We maintain 584 miles of gas pipeline and 4,800 miles of electric line—3,863 miles are overhead and 947 miles underground—serving about 7.5 members per mile of line. The average monthly residential usage is 636 kilowatt hours (kWh). With 65 full-time employees and several more temporary employees, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is one of the largest employers in Presque Isle County.

As we look back and recall our history and achievements of the past 75 years, we renew our commitment and dedication to you, our members, and we look forward to continuing the best of the cooperative traditions as we serve you in the coming years.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Credit must be given to Ray Kuhl who authored "On Their Own Power," which depicts our early history and proved invaluable to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee (Emily Tollini, Sharon Krzywiecki, and Michelle Milbocker, Co-Chairs, Colleen Korte, Sue Quaine, Dale Quade, Terri Belusar, Carrie Schleben, Deanna Gilbert and Mike Preseau). Other historical information was gleaned from various sources including "More Power to You," *Michigan Country Lines* magazine,

local newspapers, and board minutes. Special thanks to Rogers Printing and the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association for their assistance in the design and layout of this issue and to Mairè Chagnon-Hazelman for editorial assistance.

Special thanks to members, retirees and employees who have submitted photos, stories and nostalgia. Their contributions have been vital in telling the Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op history.

## PIE&G Managers/CEOs (1937-2012)

1937	1939	Albert Hall (Project Superintendent)
February 1939	July 1956	Gustave Kleber (Project Superintendent)
July 1956	July 1970	William G. Reutter
July 1970	July 1971	Clayton Smith
July 1971	December 1971	Michael O'Meara
January 1972	April 1981	Harry Pauly
May 1981	March 1985	Michael O'Meara
April 1985	August 1992	A. Barkley Travis
November 1992	October 1993	Gary Cavitt
October 1993	June 2001	Martin A. Thomson
June 2001	Present	Brian J. Burns



# Employee Recognition

Our history would be incomplete without recognizing all the dedicated employees that have worked for Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op over the years. The first employees that come to mind are the lineworkers who are working in the midst of every storm to put the lights back on. Next, are the member service reps, who are always there to answer your calls and to offer help; but there are many other employees behind the scenes working to keep everything running smoothly, as well: from our right-of-way maintenance crews and staking engineers to our dispatchers, field reps, gas department and underground locators, to accounting, and data processing departments and our management team. They are the reason Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op is here to celebrate its 75th Anniversary. They are the heart and soul of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. Thank you, employees!

The following is a list of full-time employees and dates of employment. We were unable to include all the temporary employees and meter readers due to the vast numbers of seasonal employees throughout the past 75 years. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omission.

\*Unfortunately, we were unable to confirm dates for some of the early employees.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HIRED	RETIRED
Ackerman	Toni	1974	1977
Aikens	Lois	*	1949
Arnold	Berten	1959	1988
Badero	Gary	1987	2005
Badgero	Ted	1948	1986
Beauregard	Raymond	1950	1970
Belusar	Terri	1999	Active
Bischer	Andrew	1995	Active
Boettcher	Agnes	1937	*
Booth	Kathy	1994	2010
Braun	Lucille	1987	1995
Brown	Donna	1966	1982
Bruder	Alan	1963	1977
Bruning	Clyde	*	*
Buda	Stanley	*	*
Burkhart	Vivian	1952	1956
Burns	Brian	1985	Active
Butler	Kenniston	1991	Active
Camp	Clare	1948	1980
Carter	Robert	1971	1995
Cavitt	Gary	1992	1993
Chagnon-Hazelman	Maire	2006	Active
Chaskey	Stanley	1985	Active
Chowen	Hugh	1957	1992
Ciarkowski	Matt	2004	Active

Compeau	Bill	1999	Active
Cope	Jetre	1956	1990
Cradit	Harold	1951	1974
Cripps	Delos	1991	1995
Crowe	Ruell	1966	1991
Cryderman	Dawn	2005	Active
Daniels	Rachel	2001	2005
Dean	Caleb	2006	Active
DeFeyter	Francis	1955	1973
Dempsey	Frederick	1955	*
Dettloff	Alfred	*	*
Ellenberger	Frederick	1984	1994
Ellenberger	Norma	1985	Active
Elowsky	Harold	1947	1968
Estep	Dean	1990	Active
Farrow	Archie	1956	1963
Foster	Robert	1962	1981
Free	Nelson	1946	1983
Friday	Frederick	1971	1977
Galer	Gerald	1999	2007
Geraci	Brandy	2011	Active
Gilbert	DeAnna	2011	Active
Grainger	Howard	1963	1995
Grainger	James	1999	2006
Graves	Lloyd	1948	1973
Grulke	Kevin	1991	Active
Grzesikowski	Allen	1972	2007
Hall	Albert	1937	1939
Hart	Gerald	1970	1985
Hoelt	Rudolph	1952	1972
Homan	Heather	1991	Active
Horrocks	Ronald	1966	2006
Hyde	Harry	1985	2009
Joppich	Alan	1963	2008
Kamyzek	Michelle	2000	Active
Kapalla	Harry	1957	1978
Kapalla	Irene	*	*
Karsten	Greg	2006	Active
Kieliszewski	Richard	1989	Active
Kimball	Qually	2006	Active
Kimbrell	Charles	1970	2010
Kleber	Dietmar	1950	1994
Kleber	Gustave	1939	1956
Kolasa	Stanley	1970	1979
Konieczny	Alice	1937	*
Konwinski	Eleanor	1938	1942
Korte	Colleen	1985	Active
Kortman	Carolee	2002	Active
Kowalewsky	Harry	1942	1985
Kowalewsky	Dean	1954	1992
Kowalske	John	1940	*
Kowalski	Jack	*	*
Kreft	Randy	1973	Active
Krzywiecki	Sharon	1999	Active
LaFave	Leonard	1959	1995
LaFave	Joseph	1969	1997
Lalonde	Donald	2002	Active





Leach	Eric	2004	Active
Leese	Randolph	1973	1979
Livingston	James	1998	2002
Lonsdale	Robert	1949	1989
Lupu	Thomas	1988	Active
MacGregor	Scott	2011	Active
Madden	Shirley	1974	2001
Main	Marvin	1972	1983
Malone	Harley	1957	1991
Marsh	George	1971	2001
Mason	Owen	1953	1978
Mason	Earl	1955	1990
McCumber	Marilynn	1982	1987
McCreery	Andrew	1965	2008
McDonald	Richard	1967	1996
McDonald	Lyle	1955	1963
McEwen	Fred	1999	2011
McLean	Randall	1973	Active
McMurphy	Robin	1994	2003
Merritt	Ida	1942	1955
Milbocker	Michelle	1998	Active
Miles	Deborah	1983	1988
Mills	John	1965	1982
Mix	Dale	1972	2011
Moran	John	1956	*
Morell	Virgil	1978	Active
Morgan	William H.	1951	1991
Morgan	Billie	1956	1989
Moser	Lois	1978	1994
Mottinger	Linda	2009	Active
Murphy	John	1985	Active
Nash	Arthur	1972	2011
Neeley	Clifford	1987	2001
Nelson	Robert	1951	1982
Newhouse	Helen	1962	1966
Newsted	Jack M.	1954	1970
Nolde	Byron	1989	2003
Northcott	Robert	1988	1998
Northrop	Jay	1969	2005
O'Meara	Michael	1949	1985
Ormsbee	William	1972	1985
Orozco	Roger	2001	2011
Pardike	Gail	1985	Active
Paulus	Blanche	1969	1994
Pauly	Harry	1943	1981
Pauly	Thomas	2000	Active
Peacock	April	1971	2011
Penfold	Douglas	1985	Active
Peterman	Leona	1986	2007
Peters	Karl	1970	Active
Philpott	Robert	1941	*
Pomranke	Mark	1985	Active
Preseau	Michael	1973	Active
Price	John	1999	Active
Price	Thomas	2011	Active
Prow	Gary	2011	Active
Quade	Dale	1973	Active

Quaine	Susan	1985	Active
Reece	Donald	1996	Active
Reutter	William G	1939	1970
Reutter	William J	1952	1993
Riley	Dawn	2001	Active
Roeske	Clyde	1951	1990
Rogers	Jack	1973	1995
Rose	Pete	1995	Active
Ross	Arthur	1991	2003
Rotarius	Mark	1954	1997
Rotarius	Ardeth	1949	1955
Rouleau	Gary	1994	2009
Schaar	Doreen	2000	2006
Schaedig	Larry	1966	2003
Schlaufman	Donald	1985	Active
Schleben	Carrie	2006	Active
Schrader	Donald	1973	1994
Schwiesow	Frank	1970	2007
Selke	John	1991	Active
Shay	Eric	2000	Active
Shimel	Frank	1965	2008
Smith	Clayton	1948	1971
Smith	Arlene	1950	1955
Sobeck	Tom	1993	Active
Sorgenfrei	Ronald	1962	1995
Spomer	Rodney	1966	2002
Srebnik	Henry	2001	Active
St. Germain	Larry	1969	1990
Stempky	Randy	1998	Active
Stoner	John	1952	1955
Swiderek	William	2000	Active
Szymoniak	Scot	1989	Active
Taylor	Harold	1945	1956
Taylor	Jim	1985	Active
Thomson	Martin	1993	2001
Tollini	Emily	1988	Active
Travis	A.Barkley	1985	1993
Tucker	Norman	1945	1955
Tucker	Norman	1945	1965
Tucker	James	1954	1985
Tulgestke	Brandi	2002	Active
Tulgetska	Rebecca	2003	2009
Veihl	Ervin	1949	1970
Vermilya	Arnold	1973	2011
Vizina	Marilyn	*	1948
Walker	Shawn	2002	Active
Wang	Arnold	1939	1978
Warwick	Paul	2000	Active
Webster	Lloyd	1971	1987
Wilcox	Loren	1990	Active
Wilk	Gregory	1977	Active
Willey	Dale	1990	1993
Wolfe	Pamela	1990	1993
Wolgast	Jason	2004	Active
Woollard	Sheree	1980	1987
Wozniak	Alice	1937	1942

1966-67





# 1958 WINNERS OF ELECTRIC FRYING PAN CONTEST

In our historical research we came across a group of recipes published in a 1958 copy of “More Power to You,” (early *Country Lines*). The recipes had been chosen from hundreds of recipes sent in by our members who had participated in an “electric fry pan” promotion at that time. This is a sampling of the day’s top winners and who submitted them. All recipes were adapted to be made in an electric frying pan.

## PORK RICE CASSEROLE

Mrs. Howard Swan – Rogers City

Salt & pepper pork chops or pork steak, as usual. Spread generously on both sides with prepared mustard and brown in fry pan. Add ½ cup uncooked rice, 1 can chicken soup (chicken with rice), 1 can cold water to dilute.

Cover and cook for about 1 hour, using medium-low heat. If desired for serving 6 or more, simply use enough meat to meet requirements and double other ingredients. Serves 4

## SOUR CREAM CHOCOLATE CAKE

Mrs. Edward Hoppe Sr. – Posen

2 eggs  
1 cup 40% sour cream  
1 cup white sugar  
1 ½ cups sifted flour  
1 tsp soda  
½ cup cocoa  
½ tsp salt  
1 tsp vanilla

Break eggs in a mixing bowl, put in 1 cup sour cream, sift 1 ½ cups flour, 1 cup sugar and ½ cup cocoa into the bowl and mix well.

Preheat fry pan to 270 degrees, put in batter, cover and bake for 40 minutes. Frost.

## TEXAS HASH

Hazel Wedajiuski – Onaway

3 large onions  
1 large green pepper

Cook in 3 tablespoons of fat until onions are tender.

Add 1 lb. hamburger and fry until hamburger falls apart.

Stir in:  
2 cups cooked tomatoes  
2 cups uncooked noodles  
1 tsp chili powder  
2 tsp salt & 1/8 tsp pepper

Put in fry pan, cover and cook slow for one hour at 220 degrees. Serve hot.

## CHERRY PUDDING

Mrs. Austin Jacobs – Hillman

Crust:  
1 ½ cups sifted flour  
1 ½ cups oatmeal  
1 ¼ cups brown sugar  
2/3 cup melted margarine  
1 tsp soda  
½ tsp salt

Sift flour, soda and salt together; mix in oatmeal and brown sugar; add to flour mixture; pour over the melted margarine, and mix.

Filling:  
1 ½ pint box of frozen cherries  
1 cup sugar (less if sugar added in cherries)  
3 TBSP corn starch  
1 tsp almond extract

Blend the sugar and corn starch; heat cherry juice and thicken with sugar and corn starch. Heat fry pan to 180 degrees.

Melt a little butter in fry pan and sprinkle the crumbly flour mixture over the butter, saving half for the top. One cup chopped nuts may be added at this time, if desired. Spread cherry mixture over and add the rest of the crust. Cover, increase heat to 250 degrees and bake 20 minutes. Then remove cover with a spatula; turn pudding by portions. Cook till brown and crusty. Serve with cream.

## BARBECUE-FRIED CHICKEN

Mrs. Lee Reynolds – Afton

3-3 ½ lbs for frying chicken (or turkey)  
fat for frying (part butter, if desired, scant ½-inch layer)  
½ cup flour  
2 tsp salt  
1 tsp paprika  
¼ tsp ground pepper  
¼ tsp poultry seasoning, summer savory or thyme  
¼ cup thick barbecue sauce

Rinse meat in cold water and drain well; shake 2 or 3 pieces at a time in a bag containing blended flour and seasoning. Use leftover mixture for gravy, if desired.

Set dial of electric fry pan at 450 degrees. Heat ½ cup of fat (part butter). Add floured meat, cover (vent open) and cook 20 minutes. Reset dial at 300 degrees, turn pieces. Add ¼ cup sauce diluted with ½ cup water, cover (vent closed) and cook until fork tender. Uncover last 10 minutes to crisp, if desired.





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Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**  
June 25, 2012

On Monday, June 25, 2012, a special meeting of the Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op board of directors was held at the cooperative's offices at 19831 M-68 Highway, Onaway, Michigan, at 7 p.m. The purpose of the special meeting was to seek member input prior to board consideration of member regulation as authorized under 2008 Public Act 167 (P.A. 167).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brown. In attendance were the following members of the board of directors: Barr, Berg, Brown, Knopf, Krajniak, Peterson, Smith, Wegmeyer and Wozniak, constituting a quorum. Also in attendance were: President and Chief Executive Officer Brian Burns, Attorney Werth, Chief Financial Officer Sobeck, Manager of Information Systems Kieliszewski, Manager of Operations & Engineering Szymoniak, Supply Chain Manager Stempky, Controller Cryderman, Safety Director Karsten, and Administrative Secretary Krzywiecki.

### **MEMBER REGULATION**

CEO Burns presented information on Public Act 167 of 2008: The Electric Cooperative Member Regulation Act (P.A. 167). CEO Burns introduced Attorney Werth who described the format for the member input portion of the meeting and then asked for member input regarding member regulation.

For the record, eleven (11) guest/members were in attendance. Of those, five (5) addressed the board.

Following such input, Attorney Werth read the proposed member regulation resolution in its entirety. Per the motion by Barr, seconded by Wozniak, the board approved the proposal for the Cooperative to become member regulated. Following discussion, a roll call vote is required with 2/3 of the directors voting in support of the proposal. A roll call vote was taken with 8 votes in the affirmative and 1 abstaining. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Per a motion by Berg, seconded by Knopf, to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the board, Chairman Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

*John F. Brown, Chairman*

*David W. Smith, Secretary*





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