

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

**Mayfield  
Electric  
Company**

**A Walk Through  
History**

**1921-1947**

**4** A New Year For  
Your Electric Co-op

**5** Freedom Builders Group  
Fixes Homes For People

**12** Sargent's Mayfield: The Last  
Private Electric Company?

1.



### ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course: ditching our **All-of-the-Above energy strategy** for an **All-But-One** approach that bans new coal plants.

2.



### TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's **not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive**—leading to higher bills down the line.

# TOP 4 FACTS

## ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

3.



### LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a **236-year domestic source of energy** with a historically stable price.

4.



### HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—**before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.**



Visit **ACTION.COOP** today to send a message to the EPA

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Publisher  
Michigan Electric  
Cooperative  
Association

# Michigan

## COUNTRY LINES

### IN THIS ISSUE

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Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. *Country Lines*, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Change of Address: Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



6 HOME COOKING  
Cooking for One  
*Christin McKamey  
& Our Readers*



7 READERS' PAGE  
Michigan Heritage  
Quilt, Mystery Photo,  
Letters



9 OUR ENERGY  
Generation Series:  
Time-Tested Renewable  
Hydropower



10 SPECIAL FEATURE  
Shaggy's Makes  
Cool Skis  
*Mike Terrell*



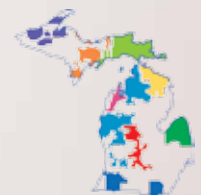
13 SAFETY  
How to Stay Safe With  
Electricity: At-home  
& Away



#### COVER STORY, p. 12

The Mayfield Electric Company may be Michigan's last private electric company. Edna Sargent, the founder's daughter, talks about how and why the company started.

Photos - Courtesy of Edna Sargent



Michigan's Electric  
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## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

# A New Year With New Goals

**A**s I look at 2014, there are a few resolutions I am hopeful we can deliver on next year.

First and foremost, I would like everyone to be safe. This includes all of Cherryland's employees, our families, and each co-op member. Tomorrow is never a guarantee, but I am hopeful we will all enjoy many, many tomorrows with our families at home and work, as well as the people we serve every day.

Next, I want to see steady reliability next year. With our weather and terrain, keeping everybody's lights on 100 percent of the time is not realistic. We are consistently near 99.99 percent. I would like to see 99.999 percent. When I dream, I dream of "9s" like 99.9999. It takes a lot of hard work that nobody ever sees, and some luck as well, but I do believe that four "9s" right of the decimal point are waiting for us somewhere in the future. Why not 2014?

What better way to help everyone prosper in the new year than to keep rates affordable? As I write this, the accounting department is neck deep in figuring the 2014 operating budgets. They are working hard to give us a solid look into the crystal ball. The last time we had a rate increase was in 2011. Today, based on the optimistic looks I get as I walk by the best "pencil pushers" I know, all signs point to no rate increase in 2014.

What are the "boogey men" lurking in the dark of our 2014 future? For an electric co-op, the dark creatures we fear the most have to be the state and federal legislatures. All I want from these unknowns next year is a flat line with no surprises.

How about we leave the renewable energy mandate at 10 percent? Your co-op has a community solar project with the lowest prices of any I have found around the country. Our members, big and small, can be as environmentally conscious as they choose to be. When somebody asks me to do more, the roll call I take involves the list of those members who have

stepped up to make a difference on their own by leasing a solar panel already. (We have more available!)



**Tony Anderson**  
General Manager

Note to elected officials: No more line item taxes on our electric bill. We have removed the charge for energy conservation, although that mandate still costs us close to \$300,000 per year. But, we now have a Low Income Energy Assistance Fund that mandates an extra charge on your bill every month. While I recognize the necessity to fund those in need, I can't like the fact

that the state Legislature put the funding onto your monthly bill rather than a general tax increase or, heaven forbid, find some savings elsewhere.

Last, I would like to see many, many of our members sign up for the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) in 2014. Yes, this is a political action committee with a minimum price tag of \$25, but it is voluntary. We need to strengthen our unified voice in order to work together to make the future brighter. This is a tool we have left on the bench unused for far too long. Please give serious thought to making a contribution and lending your voice to the cause that is affordable electricity.

There it is—all I want for 2014—safety, reliability, affordability and less government imposed mandates/expenses. I am cautiously optimistic that 2014 will be another great year for your cooperative. The future is not unlike the past once again.

If we look for ways to improve, rededicate ourselves to our daily work, communicate with everyone involved, and focus on doing what is best for our membership, our 76th year will be our best yet.

## Freedom Builders Group Helps People By Fixing Homes

**S**kip Brown's workload is daunting – 208 jobs in front of him as he starts his day.

Yet, as the executive director of Freedom Builders, he views his work load as an opportunity, not an obstacle.

Brown and his band of volunteers are in the business of fixing homes and fixing people... one step at a time.

"We are faith-based and we exist to connect faith with the disadvantaged through volunteer housing assistance projects," says Brown, whose nonprofit group started 15 years ago. "We offer hope to folks who sometimes live without hope. We want them to feel like they matter, because they do."

Freedom Builders goes into homes and does things such as repair roofs, replace floors and windows, and build wheelchair ramps. They also install drywall and insulation, as well as many other things to "fix up" homes.

"We work with churches in northern Michigan to help identify people in need," Brown explains. "Our typical clients are one small step away from being homeless. In the first years of our existence we completed 40-50 projects per year, now that number has grown to more than 150."

Recently, Cherryland Electric Cooperative decided to pitch in and help its own members through Freedom Builders. Employees volunteered on two different days to help with home repairs, and the Cherryland board allocated \$20,000 in unclaimed capital credit money to Freedom Builders.

"Cherryland has really stepped forward to make a difference," Brown says. "It's an exciting partnership for us and it's made a real difference in the lives of people who really needed help."

Surveys show, Brown adds, that 72 to 73 percent of clients have been abused, mostly female. "So that's why housing is our vehicle, not our purpose," he said. "We are ministering to the person, not the house."

Typically, various small groups of civic organizations will work with Freedom Builders and a member from a local church to fix up a dwelling. Then the church member will check back in with the client to establish a relationship of trust.

"We see lives start to change when people see there is hope," Brown says. "And, we build on that hope."

For more information about Freedom Builders, e-mail Brown at [skip@fbmissions.org](mailto:skip@fbmissions.org) or call 941-4171.



Cherryland's Chris Holmes (front) and husband Steve (center) put the finishing touches on a window.

*"We see lives start to change when people see there is hope. And, we build on that hope."*



# Cooking For One

Cooking for one? These single-serving recipes will help you save time and energy, are easy to prepare, and sized perfectly for just you!

## Burrata Caprese with Balsamic Glaze

- 1 small loaf of french bread, cut into 1-inch slices, toasted
- 7-8 grape tomatoes, cut in half
- 3-4 large basil leaves
- 1 container burrata (mozzarella filled with cream) or mozzarella cheese

### Balsamic glaze:

- 1½ c. balsamic vinegar
- ½ t. honey

On a plate, arrange bread, tomatoes, basil, and burrata. For glaze, bring balsamic vinegar to a boil in a small saucepan. Reduce to a simmer, and cook until thick and syrupy. Remove from heat and stir in honey. Let cool completely before serving (it will thicken as it sets). You can also use store-bought balsamic glaze which is much easier. On each piece of

bread, spread the burrata. Add the balsamic glaze, a piece of basil, and top with 2 tomato halves. This is a quick, healthy meal that is perfect for one person. No cooking required.

Christin McKamey

## Grilled Chicken Nachos

- 1 oz. baked tortilla chips
- ¼ c. drained, low sodium black beans, heated
- 4 oz. grilled lean boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into small cubes
- 2 T. salsa con queso
- 3 T. chopped tomato
- 2 T. thinly sliced jalapeño pepper

Lay chips on plate. Top them evenly with the beans followed by the grilled chicken. Drizzle the salsa evenly over the top. Top with the tomato and jalapeño slices and serve. Serves 1.

Lorraine Green, South Boardman

## Apple Crisp for One

- 1 T. quick cooking oats
- 1 T. brown sugar
- ½ T. flour
- dash of cinnamon
- dash of nutmeg
- dash of salt
- ½ T. margarine
- 1 c. sliced, peeled apples

Combine oats, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Cut in margarine with fork until crumbly. Set aside. Place apples in small microwave-safe dish. Top with oat mixture. Microwave on full power, uncovered, 2-4 minutes or until apples are tender, rotating dish once. Serve with frozen yogurt or ice cream, if desired.

Barb Spencer, Petoskey

## Curried Chickpea Stew

- 1 t. olive oil
- 1 c. onion, diced
- 1½ c. carrots, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, finely diced
- 1½ -2 T. curry (depending on taste)
- 1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 16-oz. can chickpeas
- 1½ c. water
- 1 cube chicken or vegetable bouillon
- 1 whole chicken breast cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 T. butter
- 1 t. sugar

In a 4½-quart stock pot, add ½ c. water, carrots and onions. Simmer until carrots are tender. Add more water if needed, remove carrots and onions. Add olive oil and curry, and heat for 30 seconds or until bubbles appear. Add garlic, remaining water, tomatoes (juice and all), drained chickpeas, chicken



and bouillon cube. Stir until bouillon cube is dissolved. Simmer until chickpeas are tender. Add more water, if needed. Stir vigorously to thicken. Remove from heat, add sugar and butter, stir to dissolve sugar. Garnish with Greek yogurt (optional). This is a delicious, one-pot meal.

Jeff Cullen, Bellaire

Photography by: 831 Creative

## Recipe Contest Winner!



Chris McAfee

Congratulations to Chris McAfee of Pointe Aux Pins on Bois Blanc Island. Her name was drawn from all readers whose recipes we printed in 2013 and *Country Lines* magazine will pay her

January electric bill as a prize.

Chris and her family have been members of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op since the co-op brought electricity to the Island in 1964. She loves her piece of paradise with lots of wonderful people, miles of ATV trails, beautiful woods, and the surrounding crystal-clear water of Lake Huron.

**Submit your recipe!** Thanks to all who send in recipes! Please send in your favorite "Easter" recipes by **Jan. 10** and "Hawaiian Luau" recipes by **March 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email [recipes@countrylines.com](mailto:recipes@countrylines.com).

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!



Visit recipe editor Christin McKamey's website, [veggiechick.com](http://veggiechick.com), for healthy, vegetarian recipes and info!

### Creamed Tuna on Toast

- 1 T. butter
- 1 T. flour
- 1/8 t. salt
- dash of pepper
- 3/4 c. milk
- 1 can tuna fish, drained
- 1/2 c. frozen, mixed vegetables (optional)
- 2 slices of toast, buttered

In a small saucepan, melt butter. Stir in flour, salt & pepper. Gradually add milk and stir. Cook and stir over medium heat until thick and bubbly. Cook and stir 1 more minute. Add drained tuna and mixed vegetables, if desired. Cook until vegetables are heated through. Serve over toast.

*Jennifer Sylvester, Sand Lake*

### Roast Beef Sandwich with Horseradish

- 1 T. lowfat mayo
- 1 t. prepared horseradish
- 2 slices whole grain bread

- 1 leaf green leaf lettuce
- 1 c. shaved, lean, low sodium deli roasted roast beef
- 4 tomato slices
- 1 slice red onion

In a small bowl, combine mayo and horseradish. Stir and set aside. Place 1 slice of bread on plate. Top with lettuce, beef, tomato and onion. Spread with mayo mixture evenly over second slice of bread. Flip atop the sandwich. Cut in halves or quarters.

*Lorraine Green, South Boardman*

### Pan-Roasted Sliced Apples

- 3 apples, cored and sliced
- oil spray for pan
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- 1/8 t. nutmeg
- 1/8 t. cardamom

Preheat oven to 450°. Spray a small cast-iron skillet with a light film of oil. Arrange apples in skillet. Combine sugar and

spices; sprinkle over apples. Roast for 10 minutes until sugar is bubbly and apples begin to grow.

*Jennifer Sylvester, Sand Lake*

### Brownie in a Cup

- 2 T. butter or margarine
- 2 T. water
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract
- 1/4 t. salt
- 2 T. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 T. sugar
- 4 T. flour

In a 12-oz. coffee mug, whisk water, oil and vanilla together. Add cocoa powder. Whisk well. Add sugar and whisk well. Add flour and whisk well. Microwave for 60-90 seconds. Center should be slightly molten. Enjoy with a spoon. Careful; brownie will be hot. Add a scoop of ice cream or cool whip, if desired. This recipe is great for when you only want one serving of dessert.

*Geralyn Guild, Grand Ledge*

### LETTERS

#### Raw Egg Recipes

I have been meaning to write and tell you that pasteurized raw eggs can be found in grocery dairy and egg sections. These are safer for recipes calling for raw eggs. Maybe you can pass that along to the lady who wrote about them in the July/Aug. 2013 issue.

I also want to comment on the diabetic recipes (Oct.). Thinking regarding diabetics and sugar has greatly changed. They are no longer limited to sugar-free substitutes for their sweetening choices. The focus is now on balancing diet with assorted proteins, fats and carbs, eating smaller portions throughout the day, and counting carbs.

As a nurse, I try to pass along information people can use. The danger of sugar substitutes is they can make diabetics think such foods are good for them or don't need to be limited or counted. Managing diabetes is a lifelong, critical process that's so much more than removing sugar from the diet.

*— Laura Tomell, Tecumseh  
Midwest Energy*

#### Mystery Photo

The Nov-Dec mystery photo (at left) was built as a WPA project. It has a representative stone from each of Michigan's counties.

My sister-in-law's father (a stone mason in Traverse City) helped build it, so I make sure whenever any of his great-grandchildren are here that they stop to see it.

*— Peg Gage, Free Soil  
Great Lakes Energy*



### Michigan Heritage Quilt Finds a Permanent Home

Created from 36 winning squares in a *Country Lines* quilt contest held in 2002, the Michigan Heritage Quilt depicts personal memories, traditions and images from across our beautiful state, and the Eastern Upper Peninsula History Consortium has become its permanent home.

The Consortium represents 22 E.U.P. museums, and while the Pickford Area Historical Museum will be the quilt's official caretaker, it will rotate for display among all member museums.

Many thanks to readers who sent in their ideas on where the quilt should live. For more information on the quilt or the E.U.P. Consortium, contact the Pickford Area Historical Society, 175 E. Main St., P.O. Box 572, Pickford, MI 49774, or call 906-647-1372.

Pictured above with the quilt are (L-R) Mary June, Consortium treasurer; Dianne Schmitgal, Pickford Area Historical Society president; and Susan James, vice president of the Chippewa County Historical Society.



#### ◀ DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **Feb. 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric cooperative.

**We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone!** Email [mysteryphoto@countrylines.com](mailto:mysteryphoto@countrylines.com); enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com); or send by mail to *Country Lines Mystery Photo*, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and name of

your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the March 2014 issue.

The Nov./Dec. 2013 contest winner is Bill Pioszak of St. Johns, who correctly identified the photo as the Cairn Monument on Cairn Hwy. north of Kewadin, marking the 45th parallel.



**Cherryland Cares Seeks Grant Applications**

Area nonprofit agencies that are seeking financial help can apply for a grant through the Cherryland Cares program.

Cherryland Cares is a five-member board, made up of Cherryland Electric Cooperative members who distribute money from Operation Round Up to area nonprofits. The next quarterly Cherryland Cares meeting is Monday, March 17. The application deadline is Friday, March 7.

Operation Round Up money comes from Cherryland members who elect to “round up” their bills to the nearest dollar every month. This amount averages \$6 per year.

To receive a grant application or join Operation Round Up, contact Nick Edson at 486-9222 or e-mail [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com).

**Cherryland Offers Scholarships**

Cherryland offers two scholarships each year – one worth \$4,000 (\$1,000 for four years) for a high school senior and another \$500 for an adult scholarship (post high school).

**High School Seniors:** High school seniors whose parents or guardians currently receive electric service from Cherryland and live in our service area may apply for the \$4,000 scholarship.

Selection is based on grade point average, extracurricular activities, community involvement and/or after school employment. A minimum required GPA is 2.75 on a 4.0 system. To continue receiving the

scholarship, a student must maintain a minimum college course load of 12 credits per term or semester and receive a 2.5 GPA or higher. Students may apply by contacting their high school guidance counselor, or Nick Edson, Cherryland communications coordinator, as noted below.

**Adults:** You must also be a Cherryland member to apply for the \$500 Adult Education Scholarship.

The scholarship goes toward covering the cost of a course or courses taken in a calendar year and is a one-time award given on the basis of need, grades and community service.

Members may request an application for either scholarship by emailing Nick Edson at [nicke@cecelec.com](mailto:nicke@cecelec.com) (please include your name and address), calling 486-9222, or writing to him at Cherryland Electric Cooperative, 5930 U.S.-31 South, Grawn, MI 49637.

**You Can Serve On Cherryland’s Board of Directors**

Any qualified Cherryland Electric member can be elected to serve on the co-op’s board of directors.

To be nominated in 2014, candidates can file a petition with the co-op’s human resources administrator starting the first day of March until 4 p.m. on the last business day of March.

Nominating petitions shall be signed by at least 25 active co-op members, in

good standing, and all signatures must be obtained within 60 days prior to the date the petition is filed.

Nominating petitions shall be in the form prescribed by the board and are available at Cherryland’s headquarters in Grawn. The petitions must specify the geographic service area for which the candidate is being nominated.

The term of office is three years. Two directors will be elected at this year’s annual meeting, which will be held Thursday, June 19, at Incredible Mo’s near Grawn. This year’s directors will represent Leelanau County and one at-large position.

Nominees must meet the director qualifications set forth in the bylaws under Section 2 of Article III. Any member interested in becoming a candidate is invited to Cherryland’s office and learn about a director’s duties.

If no qualified candidate is nominated to fill the vacancy of a director whose term has expired, the newly elected board will appoint sufficient directors to fill the vacancies. The election will be by majority vote of the board and must be done within 60 days of its first meeting. Directors elected in this manner will serve until the next annual meeting, when members will be given an opportunity to fill the balance of the regular three-year term.



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**“Cherryland Electric Cooperative”**

**How to Protect Your Meter Base**

Winter weather can be hard on your electric meter base. With that in mind, co-op members are reminded of the following tips:

- Do not place your meter under an eave or where there is direct rain, snow or ice run-off.
- The meter base should never be inside a building.
- If a meter base is covered, you may use only hinges and a hatch, no nails or screws.
- Plants, bushes, trees, sheds, etc. should be at least 6 feet away.
- Only authorized Cherryland employees are ever allowed access inside a meter base.
- The height of your meter should be about 4 feet.
- The meter base may not be inside a locked fence.





# HYDROPOWER

## TIME-TESTED RENEWABLE ENERGY

This is fifth in a series on how electricity is generated. The first (January) was about coal, the second about new nuclear options (June), the third about wind (July-August), and the fourth about natural gas (October). Watch future issues for stories about other fuel sources.

**E**nergy from flowing water has been harnessed and used for over 2,000 years, beginning with the ancient Greeks using water wheels to grind wheat. In the 1880s, converting a rush of water into electricity became a reality in the United States.

Today, hydropower provides about 80,000 megawatts (MW) of capacity in the United States—enough to power over 25 million average homes—and accounts for about 75 percent of all renewable electricity used by co-ops.

But how does it work? Simply, hydropower converts the natural energy of moving water to mechanical energy, using a turbine that is attached to a generator. With these highly efficient turbine-generators doing the job formerly performed by water wheels, electricity flows in a number of ways:

**Impoundment:** When most people think of hydropower, dams come to mind. By plugging a river and amassing water in a reservoir, its flow (and the resulting electricity) can be better controlled and generated as needed.

**Diversion:** Water is channeled away from a river, typically near natural falls, down to generators at the falls' base. This can be done without any visible impact to a river's natural course. In fact, this kind of generation was used to bring electricity to Buffalo, NY, from Niagara Falls in the late 1800s.

**Pumped storage:** This method essentially uses off-peak electricity to make electricity for use during times of high consumption. Two reservoirs are filled, one typically uphill from the other, with an electric pump/

generator in between. At night, when demand is low and electricity less expensive, water from the lower reservoir is pumped uphill. During the day, when demand for power increases, that water is released down through the generator to make electricity.

Over 600 electric co-ops across the country buy power from 134 federally-owned and operated dams, most of which were built between the late 1930s and early '60s. Despite the incredible importance of these resources, maintenance has lagged in recent years and created room for improvement.

Electric co-ops are making efforts to address this problem, advocating that the government set aside funds to repair and maintain the dams and turbines. Researchers are also looking to create more efficient and fish-friendly ways to generate hydropower. Careful studies of aquatic environments have given dam operators a better idea of how to simulate a natural river downstream.

A 2012 report from the U.S. Depart-

ment of Energy (DOE) revealed many of the nation's dams hold untapped power. Roughly 2,500 provide conventional and pumped-storage hydropower in the United States. But the vast majority of dams—some 80,000, ranging from 4 to 770-foot-high—are non-powered. The DOE analyzed 54,391 of them.

Locks and dams on the Ohio, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas rivers—facilities owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—offer the most untapped potential. The top 10 sites alone could provide about 3,000 MW.

“Many of these dams could be converted to generate electricity with minimal impact to critical species, habitats, parks or wilderness areas,” the DOE report states.

Co-ops' efforts in pushing for increased maintenance and technology development will ensure that hydropower remains a reliable, affordable, renewable resource for decades to come.



Cloverland Electric Cooperative's hydroelectric plant in Sault Ste. Marie generates between 25 and 30 megawatts of electricity. Clean, renewable hydro makes up nearly 35 percent of the co-op's fuel mix. To see a recent chart showing what your electric co-op's fuel mix is, visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) and click on the co-op name and then click the Sept. 2013 issue.

Photo Courtesy - Cloverland Electric Co-op

# Shaggy's Company Skis to Success

Like most kids, Jeff and Jonathon Thompson loved taking things apart and putting them back together, never thinking that their inquisitiveness might lead to a new family business.

They were teenagers when they first built a surfboard with the help of their dad, John. That winter, Jeff wanted to build a "ski bike" by cutting apart an old pair of Dynastar skis to attach to a bike frame. Noticing how

they were built in layers, the boys decided to build a pair of skis, too.

That was 2005, and that first pair of skis was not a successful start.

"We built them in a barn that was about 40 degrees, and discovered that it needs to be warmer for skis to cure in a press. My brother brought them to the U.P. for a race that winter right after they were made, and they de-laminated before we got them on

the slopes," laughs Jeff.

Previously, the family had a successful construction business, building as many as 300 homes in some years before the economic downturn. "We had vacationed in the Boyne City area for years, and as the ski business started picking up and the building business slowing down, we decided to make the move from South Lyon, where we had lived for years," John adds. ●●●●●●●●●●



John (L) and Jeff Thompson, of Shaggy's Copper Country Skis, prepare materials that will be pressed into skis, including an ash wood core, Durasurf 4001 base, triaxial fiberglass, damping rubber strips, steel edges, ABS sidewalls, Durasurf tip/tail spacer, and a graphic topsheet.



If you want to demo a pair of Shaggy's skis, the Thompsons and their reps will be visiting Michigan ski areas this winter (check the schedule at [sccskis.com](http://sccskis.com) or call 231-459-4323), or stop by their Boyne City shop.



After stone grinding, Shari Thompson applies hot wax to a new pair of skis. The Thompsons are members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative.

Carving a turn on a Shaggy's dropdeck longboard.



Fast forward to 2013, and you find what started as a hobby is now a full-time business called Shaggy's Copper Country Skis.

"This year we will probably make around 200 pairs of skis," John notes proudly. "We've produced over 1,000 skis since that first mistake."

The Shaggy's company is staffed by Jeff, John and wife Shari, who does the bookkeeping, ordering materials and sales. Brother Jonathon has moved to Colorado in another line of business. John and Shari have been married for nearly 35 years.

"One of the reasons we chose to move up here, in addition to having wonderful testing facilities in nearby Boyne Mountain and Nubs Nob, is that the heart of our ski – ash and beech wood – is milled just down the road at Metalski Lumber," John explains.

Each ski takes eight to 10 hours to construct and fine-tune before it's ready to sell. The company offers 10 different pairs of skis, ranging from \$595 to around \$795.

Jeff, 23, recently graduated from Michigan Tech with a mechanical engineering degree and is applying that knowledge of how a ski performs physically and geometrically to making a top ski for Midwestern and Michigan users. "Our all-mountain ski has a tighter turning radius that works well on our conditions, but it's a great ski for the mountains, too," he says. "The Tubby, one of our best-selling skis, floats well in powder and softer spring snow conditions but provides a good ride on hardpack, as well."

The Shaggy's Copper Country Skis name was Jeff's idea. Their great uncle, Shaggy Lehto, was a blacksmith who lived in the Keweenaw Peninsula and had a hobby building hand-carved skis. "He made a pair for dad's mom that's a family heirloom, and I thought, 'what a great name for the company,'" Jeff recalls. "It's uniquely Michigan."



Besides skis, Shaggy's has started making longboards (skateboards). Here, Jeff Thompson mills out the shape of a longboard deck.

# THE MAYFIELD ELECTRIC Co: 1921-1947

EDNA SARGENT RECALLS HER FATHER'S UNIQUE PRIVATE COMPANY • BY NICK EDSON

**A**rmed with an engineering degree from the University of Minnesota, Harry Sargent was determined to put it to good use when his family needed electricity in rural Grand Traverse County in 1921.

So he teamed with his father-in-law, James L. Gibbs, a lumber baron who oversaw the building of the Brown Bridge Dam, and came up with a plan to use hydro power to create electricity for more than 1,200 homes and farms, plus area grist mills and sawmills. Grist mills were used to grind grain into flour.

Harry Sargent, James Gibbs and brother L.K. Gibbs then put their plan into action. They and some friends from Mayfield, Kingsley and Arbutus Lake would erect poles and lines to supply electricity to these areas.

“My father knew about the power of turbines at a dam to produce electricity, so he went ahead and made it happen,” says Sargent’s daughter Edna, now 88. “My grandparents were in the lumber business, so my dad had grown up around that. He knew how to make power poles and learned about power lines in college. He saw the need for electricity, so he and his friends and family basically created their own electric company.”

After the Brown Bridge Dam was built in 1921, James Gibbs got the ball rolling

by converting an old grist mill into a hydroelectric plant. Harry Sargent and his friend Len Hal-laday, a renowned fishing expert, then began the task of building the lines and poles for what became the Mayfield Electric Co.

Less than a year after completing their work, the company faced its first crisis – The Sleet Storm of 1922 – which left nearly all seven miles of its poles either down or badly damaged. “I remember my father saying, when talking about that storm, it was ‘all hands on deck,’” Edna recalls.

Despite being born in 1925, Edna says she never knew what it was like to be without electricity. “I know that’s just the opposite of most people my age, but most people my age didn’t have a father who started their own electric company.”

Edna remembers that an old John Deere motor/generator doing the bulk of the work in generating electricity for the surrounding Kingsley area.

“My dad designed a belt that would work faster or slower, depending on the need for electricity,” she adds. “He would go down to the generator several times a day to make sure it was working properly. In the morning, he would go down and crank up the generator to run faster and produce more electricity.

“At night, he would go down and pull a lever back on the generator to decrease the power.”

Edna and her family, which included her parents, brother James and sister Janet, used electricity in a variety of ways at their Mayfield area home—from lighting to powering the



Harry Sargent and his dog in the 1940s.

appliances. Harry Sargent kept food on the table with his electric company.

“If there were power outages, my dad, with help from family and friends, did it all to get the lights back on,” she says. “And when it came time to collect money for the bills, he would go into Kingsley once a month on a Saturday night. That was a big deal. That’s where everyone gathered to watch movies on the side of a big building. He would go set up and people would pay him there.”

Edna and her siblings attended the one-room Mayfield School, for grades K-8, and then were schooled in Traverse City.

When Edna was 14, in 1939, Consumers Power made an offer to her dad to buy out about 1,000 customers that made up the Village of Kingsley, and he accepted. This left him to keep the electricity flowing for about 200 homes in Mayfield and Arbutus Lake, she says.



A young woman stands on the penstock intake valve that delivered water to the turbine for generating electricity.

In 1947, nine years after Cherryland Rural Electric was established, Rural Electrification Administration representatives came knocking at the Sargents' door.

"By that time, my father was ready to sell," Edna says. "He had operated the Mayfield Electric Company for 27 years with the help of Len Holiday, who ran the operation if my father was out of town."

Sadly, on June 26, 1947 – four days before Cherryland took over the Mayfield Electric Co. – Harry Sargent was electrocuted while working an outage. "Needless to say, it was a very hard time for our family," Edna says. "I still have a hard time talking about it. But I can say that Cherryland's general manager Harry Hall and line foreman Bob Lambert were very, very nice to our family during that time."

Even though it has been 66 years since the Mayfield Electric Co. went out of business, the thrill of being part of it still makes Edna Sargent smile.

"I think this was one of, if not the last, private electric companies in Michigan," she recalls. "I remember that it was a lot of work for my father, but he loved it. He made it his life's work."



Power was generated by pushing water through this intake valve.

## Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org).

### JANUARY

- Check and replace furnace filters

### FEBRUARY

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

### MARCH

- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months

### APRIL

- Check and replace furnace filters

### MAY

- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

### JUNE

- Dust light fixtures/lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

### JULY

- Check and replace air conditioning filters

### AUGUST

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

### SEPTEMBER

- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

### OCTOBER

- Check and replace furnace filters

### NOVEMBER

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

### DECEMBER

- Dust light fixtures/lamps

### ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if:

Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.

Every month you should:

#### 1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage

#### 2. Test GFCIs & AFCIs

Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.



#### 3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.



# How Do You Treat Other People?

One of the most important questions I've ever heard is, "How do you treat other people?"

Sounds like a simple question, doesn't it? That's because most of us think we treat other people pretty well. And, for the most part, we do.

But the second half of that question should be, "How do you treat people when you don't feel well or don't like the other person?"

That's the test.

It's been said many times in the last few years that civility and manners have eroded over the last 25 years. Generally, I agree with that.

Some people are quick to jump up and berate a person or an organization in public, whereas years ago they would have done it behind closed doors.

I was always raised to "praise in public, criticize in private" because it often brings the results you're looking for.

But now I'm not sure that's true.

For instance, when something really needs to change and we bring it up to a person or organization in private, it only sometimes gets done.

But in this day and age of social media, to raise a red flag in public often creates a following that will make sure changes are made.

So, there are trade-offs.

I guess the basic notion about how you treat people still comes back to how you were raised and what you believe.

I was raised by two very supportive parents. My mom always found something good to compliment people about. Does that mean she was a Pollyanna? Hardly. She was a teacher and she ran a tight ship in her classroom. She used discipline in the classroom, but only when disrespect was shown by a student, especially toward another student.

My dad, a teacher and coach, was the same way. It affected me in positive ways.

That is, I never intentionally hurt anyone, although I'm sure I did. The other thing is that when I played sports, I wasn't afraid to take the last shot or throw the last pass. Some players would tell me, "Boy, if I miss my folks will kill me."

That made me shake my head. I knew whatever happened, my folks would have my back.

In the business world, I see the most successful people in the long-run are the ones who treat people right and steer their companies in the right direction.

I watch those same people take the time to compliment deserving employees. It takes about 3 seconds to throw out a deserved compliment and it's appreciated forever.

It's a choice we all make every day when we decide how we treat people.

The only thing holding us back sometimes is our own egos. Once we learn to let go of that, our world can become so much simpler... and better.



By Nick Edson

If the only thing bigger than your propane bill is your propane tank...



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