

Following in the Foot Steps by Rick Nelson

There is always something uncertain in today's thinking. We need to modernize. We need to reinvent ourselves. We need to change. We need more technology. We need to provide information to the customer. We need to look out for the customer. So much of it always boils down to technology.

Why would I state the obvious? A bigger question is, why haven't we been there before now. The truth of the matter is all of those things we need to do more of came from the Custer Public Power Board back in the early 1970's. That's correct, 1970's.

Back in the 1970's, irrigation was becoming bigger than most had anticipated. It was apparent that we needed to do something to reduce the high cost of so much electrical demand on the system, and shift it to a lower cost time period. Custer Public Power, being a pioneering organization, went looking for ways to "control" load, and push it off to those lower cost time periods.

Custer Public Power was one of the first in Nebraska (((the nation????))) to implement load

management into our system. I can hear that board discussion now. "How can we shift this cost to other power districts?" "It will hurt NPPD if we



Photo Credits to Jenelle Snow

save our customers money." "We don't have the money to spend on an unproven system."

Those are common questions at board meetings, and rightfully so. There is risk in doing things that haven't been 100% proven. But, Custer Public Power didn't let that stop the innovation.

Custer Public Power went on to build a transmission line between Merna and Arnold, so that this new "load management" system would have only one delivery point for billing purposes, and not two. That made it more

cost effective for the customer.

Innovation is one of the reasons I was drawn to Custer Public Power District. That innovation has been around since Frank Haumont called the very first organizational meeting to order in 1944 as President of the Board. That innovation continued while I was working as a contractor on the line between Merna and Arnold. That innovation will continue to happen here at Custer Public Power for as long as I'm here; and hopefully, the tradition will continue long after our time.

At Custer Public Power, we are always looking for different ways to supply the electricity that you need at a lower cost. Some of that has to do with renewable energy. Some of that has to do with maintenance to stretch the dollars invested **(continued)**

*Memorial Day,
we will not
forget.*



Congratulations

A Salute to Those Graduating in the Custer Public Power Family



Tanner Linn from Broken Bow High School
son of David (Lead Technician) & Brenda Linn

Natalya Nelson from Kearney High School
daughter of Rick Nelson (General Manager)

Zoe Flynn from University of Nebraska at Kearney
daughter of Kelly & Angie (Customer Service Representative) Flynn

Kelsie Myers from UNMC College of Nursing Northern Division
daughter of Kim and Jeannie (Accountant) Myers

Megan Linn from University of Nebraska at Kearney
daughter of David (Lead Technician) & Brenda Linn



Joel Myers
Broken Bow High School
son of Dustin & Sara Myers

Custer Public Power District

is honored to announce the
recipients of our

Utility Line Scholarships!



Tanner Linn
Broken Bow High School
son of David & Brenda Linn

in our poles and wire. All of it is with the customers/owners' dollar in mind. Don't get me wrong, we still must get in our trucks and build stuff (for a lack of a better term).

But, we need to do more than that. We need to provide our customers/owners with more information to help you make decisions about your energy use and the cost trade-offs among all of

your options. We also need to provide the resources necessary to assure that this data is accurate and useful.

In past columns, I've talked about the solar arrays that we have obtained under purchase agreements. We may be on the cusp of further innovation. We want to harness any technology that will help lower costs, keep our system reliable, and serve

the agricultural industry that is the backbone of our local economy.

While change for the sake of change is never a good thing, we're prepared to follow in the footsteps of our previous leaders at Custer Public Power District and innovate our industry to serve our customers/owners. Stay tuned!

May is National Electrical Safety Month

OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY



1 Locate all overhead power lines.



2 Keep self and equipment 10 feet away from all overhead power lines.



3 Do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.



4 Beware of fencing near power lines.



5 Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.



6 Lower equipment apparatus before driving.



7 Never spray water near power lines.



8 Stay at least 35 feet away from fallen power lines.



Electrical Hazards are Everywhere

The old saying, *“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”* can be applied to everyone’s lives when it comes to electrical safety.

Take time today to identify electrical hazards in your daily life. Then **make time** to divert a crisis before it happens.

Electricity is part of our daily lives use it wisely.

STOP~THINK~SAFETY FIRST

ESFI.org



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org



www.twitter.com/ESFI.dotorg



www.youtube.com/ESFI.dotorg



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

TEACH KIDS



about SAFETY

A yearly average of

2400

children suffer severe shock from electrical outlets.

research collected from the National Fire Protection Association



Tomato Cucumber Salad with Olives & Feta



Ingredients

Dill & Garlic Dressing:

- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh dill, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Salad:

- 1 pound tomatoes (cherry or grape tomatoes, cut in half, or about 3 large tomatoes, seeded & chopped)
- 1 pound cucumbers (approximately 2 large or 4 small), diced
- 1/2 cup Kalamata olives, drained, pitted, & chopped
- 1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, for garnish

Instructions:

For the dressing:

In a medium bowl, whisk together all dressing ingredients until thoroughly blended. Alternatively, you may place ingredients in a jar, tighten the lid, and shake until incorporated.

For the salad:

In a large bowl, combine all salad ingredients. Toss with dressing until everything is evenly coated. Cover salad and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, removing from the refrigerator at least 30 minutes before serving. Drain off any excess dressing and garnish with dill, if desired.

Recipe from Five Heart Home by Samantha

Happy Mother's
Day 

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas,
Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of
Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry,
Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

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John Blakeman, Merna.....Vice President
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Rick Nelson.....General Manager
Tom Knott.....Director of Operations
and Loss Control
Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and
Administration

Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.

