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Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association
[Madison, Wisconsin?]: The Association, 1938

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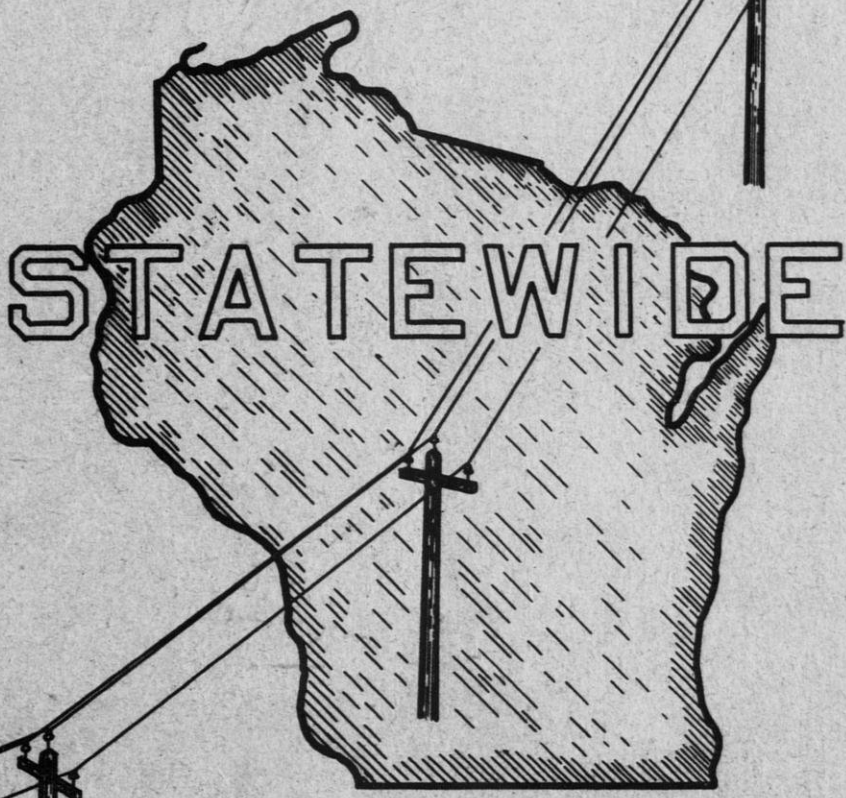
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CO-OP APPLIANCES

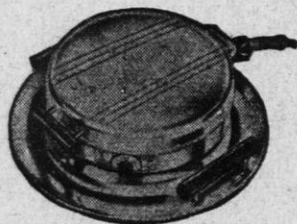
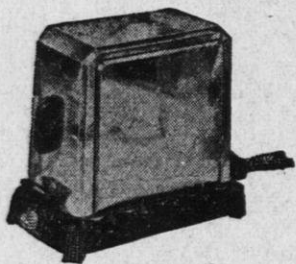


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First Yearbook 1938

Wisconsin Rural Electric
Cooperative Association



A Message To The Farmers of Wisconsin

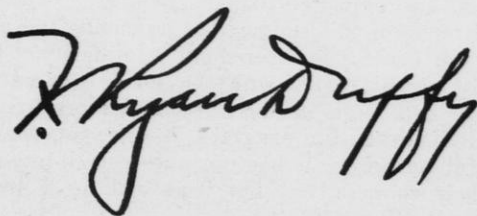
In establishing the REA program, the National Administration took a great forward step in the interests of rural America. This program is bound to be of permanent value to the farmers in many parts of this country. Incidentally, Industry, such as the electrical industry, has benefited and will continue to benefit from this market for its products. Day by day it becomes more clearly understood that the action taken by Congress, in endorsing the President's recommendation for the creation of the Rural Electrification Administration, was a great step forward.

In less than three years, we, here in Washington, have seen the REA program grow from an idea to a successful established service.

In studying the problem of rural electrification in the U. S. A., and following the course of development that has solved the problem, we must first extend our congratulations to the farmers of Wisconsin who have so cooperatively and enthusiastically worked out the successful solution. They have made a splendid contribution toward improving and bettering the lives of their neighbors and themselves.

Wisconsin's position in the REA program is outstanding and you may well be proud of its liberal and cooperative record. Your action in establishing, as your central organization, the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, was a constructive step in cooperative endeavor and has enabled you to solve many problems that were common to all.

In maintaining your close contact with the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington, you have had the help and assistance of a federal agency devoted to a conscientious effort to rapidly bring the benefit of electricity to un-electrified rural America. Through the medium of rural electrification, the living conditions of our rural citizens are being immeasurably improved and your work in Wisconsin will remain a permanent monument on the road of progress.



United States Senator

Preface

Two years ago the federal government's program to extend electric service to the farm was introduced in this state. Farmers had long desired this necessary and essential service but only a small portion of them had been able to take on this service because of their inability to furnish the financing, and, in addition, pay rates to private utilities which were beyond their ability.

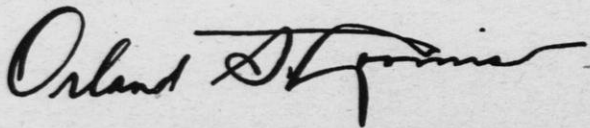
As the first director of this work inaugurated by Governor LaFollette, I witnessed the baptism of this program in Wisconsin. The office of Rural Electrification Coordination was set up in the state capitol for the purpose of aiding farmers in organizing themselves into groups and correlating and coordinating their plans with the REA at Washington. The policy of the office was established by chosen representatives of the organized farm groups of the state. It was early observed that the work of electrification should be done on an area basis. It was but natural that the policy of these farm representatives should favor organization on the cooperative basis.

The baptism of this proposal was a "baptism of fire" on the part of private utilities who insisted that this field of endeavor belonged to them and that there was no place for the cooperative in the furnishing of electric service. Through the splendid cooperation of the farm groups of this state this "baptism of fire" met united cooperative action, with the result that 100% of the money made available for the building of electric lines in this state has been furnished to and expended by cooperatives and municipalities.

After the cooperatives had been organized and the money had been made available, and engineering, supervision and management became the next order in the program, the need of a central unit to take care of this work was found advisable and necessary. Thereupon, these organized groups of electric cooperatives formed their own "Cooperative of Cooperatives," which they named "THE WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION," the first of its kind to be created in this country.

The progress which this cooperative has made in the engineering, supervision, advisory and management services rendered to the local cooperatives, many of which have been completed and many of which are under construction, is highly commendable. Material results can be seen in the 4,000 miles of cooperatively owned lines, carrying services which mean a hired man to the farmer and a hired girl to the farmer's wife, bringing comforts and a better and a fuller life to approximately 13,000 families and approximately 65,000 people.

The farmers of this state are experiencing the practical truth of cooperation in self benefits and community solidarity. The cooperation of the municipally owned plants with the local cooperative has immeasurably strengthened both units as their essential secrets coincide. THE WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION has fulfilled a necessary and a useful purpose. It has not only served and is serving the farmers through their cooperatives, but it is making a splendid contribution to the progress of Wisconsin.



Attorney General of Wisconsin.

MEMBERS OF WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

BARRON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
BUFFALO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
COLUMBUS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
DUNN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
GRANT CO. CO-OP. RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
HEAD OF THE LAKES CO-OP ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
LAFAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
OAKDALE CO-OP. ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION
OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
RICHLAND COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
ROCK COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP. ASSOCIATION
TAYLOR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TREMPEALEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
WISCONSIN POWER COOPERATIVE

STATEWIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

OFFICERS

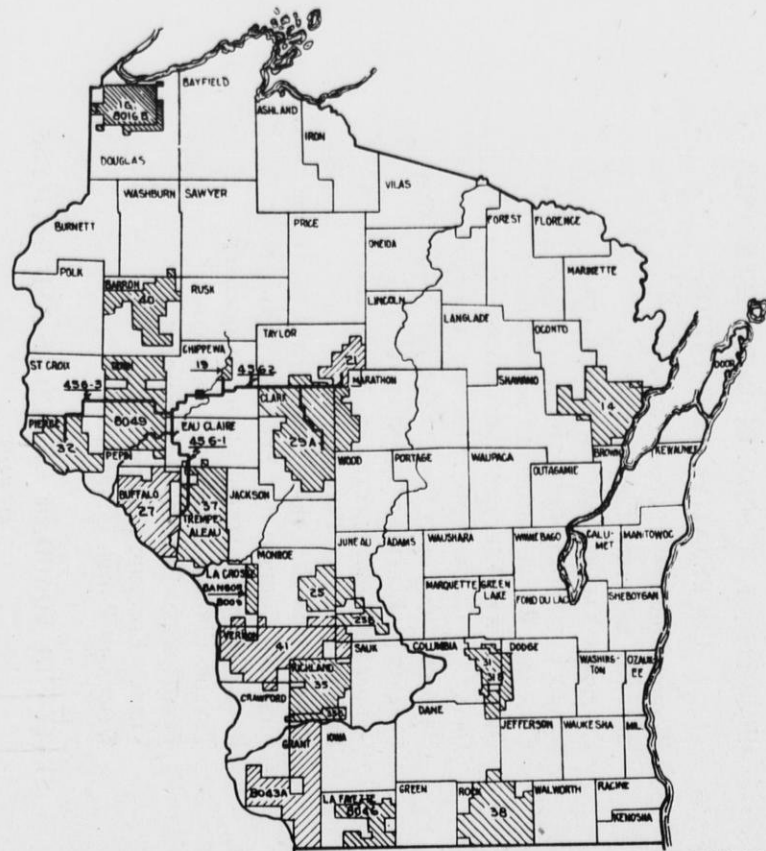
H. O. MELBY, *President*
N. C. ANDERSON, *Vice President*
GRANT S. RICE, *Secretary-Treasurer*
J. MORGAN WILSON, *General Manager*

DIRECTORS

N. C. ANDERSON, *Spring Valley*
JOHN BALCIAR, JR., *Medford*
CLAYTON K. BUTLER, *Mondovi*
LAWRENCE C. COLE, *Waterloo*
E. R. FINNER, *Dodge*
OSCAR GILBERTSON, *Cecil*
GEORGE HALONEN, SR., *Superior*
BERT KELSEY, *Richland Center*
SULO LOYVA, *Brantwood*
H. O. MELBY, *Westby*
JOHN E. OLSON, *Chetek*
W. E. RABE, *Oakdale*
GRANT S. RICE, *Milton*

NUMBERS INDICATE DESIGNATION OF PROJECTS
LOCATED ON THE MAP.

- WISCONSIN—16—*Douglas*
 WISCONSIN—8016B—*Douglas Addition*
 WISCONSIN—40—*Barron*
 WISCONSIN—45G1—*Chippewa*
 WISCONSIN—45G2—*Chippewa*
 WISCONSIN—45G3—*Chippewa*
 WISCONSIN—8049—*Dunn*
 WISCONSIN—32—*Pierce*
 WISCONSIN—27—*Buffalo*
 WISCONSIN—37—*Trempealeau*
 WISCONSIN—21—*Taylor*
 WISCONSIN—29A—*Clark*
 WISCONSIN—14—*Oconto*
 WISCONSIN—8009—*LaCrosse (Bangor)*
 WISCONSIN—25—*Monroe*
 WISCONSIN—25B—*Monroe Addition*
 WISCONSIN—41—*Vernon*
 WISCONSIN—35—*Richland*
 WISCONSIN—35B—*Richland Addition*
 WISCONSIN—31—*Columbia*
 WISCONSIN—31B—*Columbia Addition*
 WISCONSIN—8043A—*Grant*
 WISCONSIN—8046—*Lafayette*
 WISCONSIN—38—*Rock*



MAP OF WISCONSIN SHOWING LOCATION OF PROJECTS
SUPERVISED BY WRECA—DECEMBER 15, 1937.

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WISCONSIN RURAL
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATION OF STATEWIDE

On April 30, 1936, at 2:40 p. m., the Articles of Incorporation of the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION were filed with the Secretary of State and recorded with the Register of Deeds.

The Articles were prepared and drawn up by the following committee:

- PROF. CHARLES BUNN, *Law School, U. of W.*
- PROF. MARTIN M. GLAESER, *Engineering Dep't., U. of W.*
- SEN. HAROLD M. GROVES, *Economics Dep't., U. of W.*
- MR. GEORGE HALONEN, SR., *Educational Director of the
Central Cooperative Wholesale, Superior*
- MR. EDWARD M. MOREHOUSE, *Public Service Commission*

Proceedings of the incorporation were called to order by Mr. B. W. Huiskamp, who was then counsel for the Rural Electrification Coordination. Mr. Huiskamp explained to those present that the purpose of the meeting was the fact that a Statewide set-up was necessary both for the Cooperative and the REA, in order to carry forward the engineering and the contacts between REA and the operating unit.

Present at this meeting were representatives from the following cooperative associations:

1. Buffalo Electric Cooperative
2. Columbus Rural Electric Cooperative
3. Dane-Iowa Electric Cooperative
4. Farmers' Cooperative Electric Association
5. Head of the Lakes Cooperative Electric Association
6. North Eastern Electric Cooperative
7. Oakdale Co-operative Electrical Association
8. Pierce County Electric Cooperative
9. Richland Cooperative Electric Association
10. Rock County Electric Cooperative Association
11. Trempealeau County Electric Cooperative
12. Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative Association
13. Vernon Electric Cooperative
14. Winchester Cooperative Light Association
15. LaCrosse County
16. Juneau County

The ten incorporators of the Association, namely: N. C. Anderson, John B. Crombie, E. R. Finner, Oscar Gilbertson, George Halonen, Sr., Frank H. Krampeter, Sulo Loyva, H. O. Melby W. E. Rabe and Grant S. Rice were presented with a list of the fourteen Charter Members of the WRECA, who were accepted and duly set a time and place for the first meeting of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Mr. H. O. Melby, acting chairman, called for nominations to the Board of Directors. The following men were unanimously elected to the Board:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| N. C. ANDERSON | BERT KELSEY |
| JOHN BALCIAR, JR. | SULO LOYVA |
| CLAYTON K. BUTLER | H. O. MELBY |
| LAWRENCE C. COLE | OTTO OIMOEN |
| E. R. FINNER | W. E. RABE |
| OSCAR GILBERTSON | GRANT S. RICE |
| GEORGE HALONEN, SR. | ADOLPH SAUBY |

The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held that same day at which the officers of the Association were elected as follows:

MR. H. O. MELBY, *President*
 MR. N. C. ANDERSON, *Vice-President*
 MR. GRANT S. RICE, *Secretary-Treasurer*

On May 19, 1936, a Special Meeting was called for the purpose of selection of an Executive Committee, consideration of the selection of personnel, receipt of applications for membership to the Statewide, and other matters relative to organization.

The Executive Committee was selected from the Board of Directors consisting of the following three members:

MR. BERT KELSEY
 MR. LAWRENCE C. COLE
 MR. OTTO OIMOEN

This Committee was empowered to carry out the usual and regular routine matters of the business and select the personnel.

The application of the Chippewa Power and Light Cooperative was read to the Board at this meeting and was duly accepted, upon their signing the proper application and payment of dues.

The form of engineering contract between the Statewide and the member cooperatives, which Mr. Orland S. Loomis had perfected with the Rural Electrification Administration, was adopted by the Executive Committee at a meeting on July 7th. It was reported that eight (8) Wisconsin Projects had received allotments, as listed below:

<i>Richland Cooperative Electric Association</i>	\$250,000
<i>Columbus Rural Electric Cooperative</i>	254,000
<i>Dane-Iowa Electric Cooperative</i>	160,000
<i>Chippewa Power and Light Association</i>	96,000
* <i>Rock County Electric Cooperative Association</i>	106,000
* <i>Trempealeau Electric Cooperative</i>	95,000
<i>Hartford Municipality</i>	31,000
<i>Head of the Lakes Electric Cooperative Association</i>	100,600

(*These amounts are approximately one-fifth of the anticipated allotment expected to come through after these particular projects got under way.)

The Executive Committee was authorized to make contact with these projects and offer the services of Statewide to perform the engineering and construction work on a basis of 3%. It was pointed out that private utilities had justified charges as high as 15% for promotional and engineering overhead.

In October, 1936, Mr. Grant S. Rice, secretary-treasurer, and Mr. John Ernest Roe, attorney, approved by REA for Wisconsin, made a trip to Washington to attempt to secure financial assistance from REA for the Statewide. As the result of their visit, they arranged for requisitions totaling approximately \$10,000 to clear REA for compensation to the Statewide for engineering services rendered to the member cooperatives.

A joint meeting of the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION and the Rural Electrification Coordination Committee was held on November 6, 1936, which was the regular quarterly meeting date Mr. Loomis informed the group present that the allotted program would

serve about 12,000 rural families and was larger than the entire last 20-year program of a utility in Wisconsin which was supposed to be a pioneer in rural electrification.

A Committee was drafted at this meeting for the prime purpose of drawing up resolutions, to be presented to the Legislature, for the protection of rural electric cooperatives.

The following resolution was one of several passed at the group meeting on November 6, 1936:

WHEREAS, the office of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association was created in April, 1936; and

WHEREAS, since the creation of said office more than 25,000 farmers have signed Consumer Requests as part of forty-one cooperative projects formed to render electric service under the program of the Rural Electrification Administration; and

WHEREAS, during the progress of said work it has become apparent that there are many matters of legislative concern vitally affecting this program which would need the attention of those interested in its preservation and future growth; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin will soon convene to-wit, on the first Monday in January, 1937; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Rural Electrification Coordination to act as a coordinating agency between the farmers of this state and the Rural Electrification Administration at Washington, and to assist and promote a wider use of rural electrification in Wisconsin;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION at a meeting held on the 6th day of November, 1936, that a committee of three (3) members be appointed to cooperate with a committee of two (2) members from the office of the Rural Electrification Coordination to the end that there may be presented to the Legislature of Wisconsin and the Congress of the United States, such legislation as may be necessary to protect the interest of the rural electric cooperatives and thus obtain for such cooperatives the same rights, benefits and privileges as are now enjoyed by the privately owned utilities of the state, and to advocate such further legislation as may be necessary and advisable to promote the future needs of the farmers of this state to the end that there may be a fuller and wider use of electricity on Wisconsin farms."

At the Executive Committee Meeting of November 25, 1936, the new form of 4% engineering contract was introduced to include administrative supervision as well as engineering service. This had been approved by the Rural Electrification Administration. A motion was passed whereby all members of the Statewide and any other parties for whom the association performed engineering services, in aid of constructing rural electric lines, be requested to execute the new 4% contract. Furthermore, that any member who at that time had a contract for services with Statewide be asked to cancel said contract and substitute the new form in its place, after being given credit for all payments (under the old contracts) upon the new contract.

Mr. J. A. Becker, Director of Rural Electrification Coordination, spoke to the Statewide Board on February 5, 1937. He reported that a bill had been introduced to give a Cooperative which incorporates and files a

project with the Public Service Commission, six months protection from utility invasion. Other legislation was being considered which would define rural electric cooperatives' status. The following resolution was passed to that effect:

"RESOLVED, by joint resolution of the Board of Directors of the Association, together with the Committee for Rural Electrification Coordination, that these associations be placed on record as unalterably opposed to legislation that may cause the rural electric cooperative associations to be treated in any way as a public utility."

On February 16, 1937, at the special meeting of the Executive Committee, a resolution was adopted to be submitted to the Governor asking that the Coordination Office be continued to carry on the preliminary organization and educational work.

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee on February 16, Mr. J. Morgan Wilson was appointed the Executive for the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

The Board was informed at the March 9th meeting that the Clark project had been given an allotment of \$850,000. Of this amount \$700,000 was to be used for distribution lines and \$150,000 for a generating plant.

A resolution was passed at this meeting to the effect that all officers of member cooperatives who sign checks upon the Special Construction Account, and who disburse construction monies be required to, and shall be, bonded. (This is in accordance with the terms of the Construction Loan Contract and the By-Laws of the Statewide.)

Unanimous consent was given by the Board that Statewide should do its utmost to protect member cooperatives under the Rush Law—Bill 26S, which was introduced and passed by the Legislature, and which primarily in effect was drawn up to prevent raids in cooperative territory by private utilities in their efforts to destroy the rural cooperatives and thus divide the membership.

The General Manager was authorized and directed to prepare and file with the Public Service Commission, such required information as to incorporation, loan agreement, map of territory and statement to comply with the provisions of such Law for cooperatives, who are members of the Statewide, and that this information be passed on to all the member cooperatives.

The loyal support and enthusiasm of the farmers was evidenced by the unusual turn-out of several hundred representatives from our member cooperatives attending the Annual Meeting of the STATEWIDE on March 30, 1937. This meeting was held at the Park Hotel in Madison and the business of the day was broken up into group meetings on construction, finance, utilization and organization.

A noon banquet was held on March 30th at which Governor LaFollette, Attorney General O. S. Loomis and Professor Barton spoke.

The officers of the Statewide and the Executive Committee were re-elected to office by unanimous vote of the Board.

At the quarterly meeting of June 30, 1937, the resignation of Mr. Otto Oimoen, who was the director representing Dane-Iowa on the Statewide Board, was accepted and Mr. John E. Olson was elected to replace the

late Mr. A. G. Bilodeau of Chetek, who was president of the BARRON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

On August 14th, the Executive Committee authorized STATEWIDE to sign a contract with the Village of Bangor to perform engineering services at cost but not to exceed the maximum allowable by REA under the new compensation basis.

Mr. Wilson, general manager, informed the Board at the regular quarterly meeting Sept. 30, 1937, that REA had asked all costs be kept within the allotments for the reason that REA's annual forty million dollar appropriation had been reduced this year. Congress has cut this appropriation from forty million to thirty million. The President has effected a 10% cut on all expenditures which brings the appropriation down to twenty-seven million. REA is trying to make their funds go as far as possible by making partial allotments. During 1935 and 1936 REA held a small contingency fund to make allotments. This year they do not have this fund to fall back on and STATEWIDE has been instructed to inform our member cooperatives along these lines.

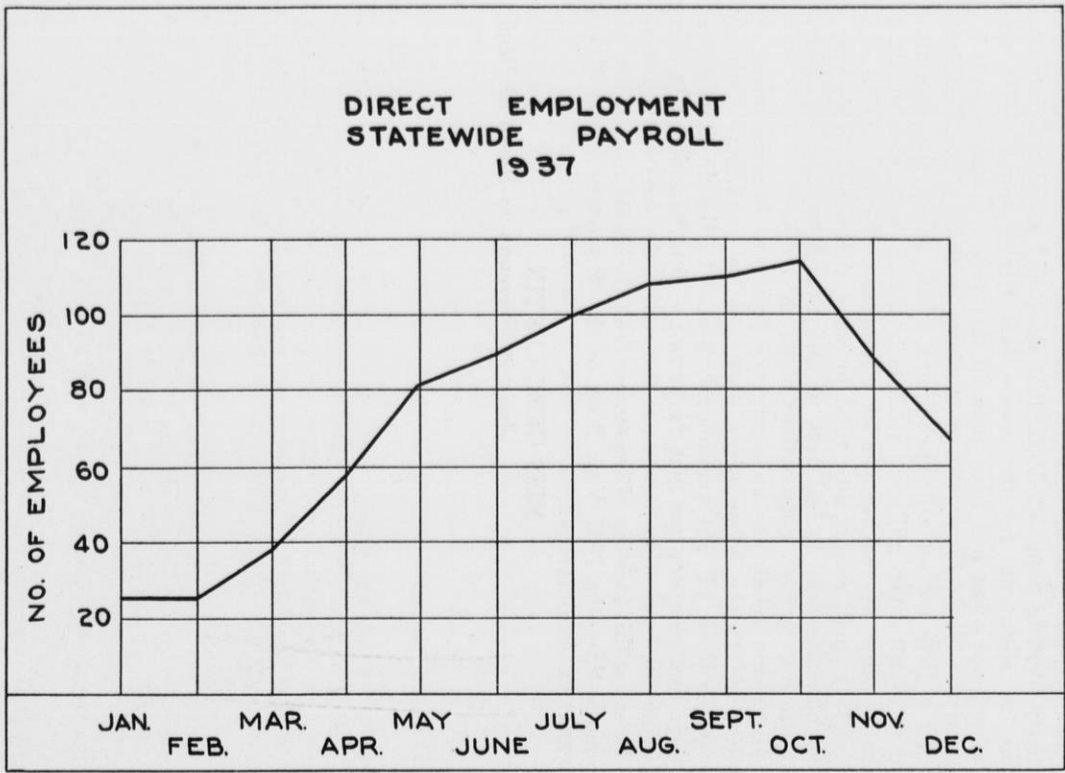
Discussion relative to an emergency fund was brought up to render financial aid to the cooperatives when weather conditions were apt to damage the lines. It was unanimously agreed by the directors representing their local cooperatives that STATEWIDE should be induced to continue its engineering and other services at the end of the construction stage.

It was at this meeting of September 30th, 1937, the motion was passed to compile this—the 1937 Year Book of the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

MISS GENE CURTIN,

Assistant Secretary to Board of Directors.

DIRECT EMPLOYMENT
STATEWIDE PAYROLL
1937



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

In recording the accomplishments of the WRECA since its inception up to this time of the publication of the Association's first Year Book, it is impossible to confine the General Manager's report to the customary factual data usually found in such a report. So much personal effort and strict adherence to the cooperative philosophy have been intertwined with STATEWIDE's economics that it is imperative these factors be mentioned as influences in our business organization.

The farsighted conception for the WRECA, now familiarly known as STATEWIDE, by the charter members in launching their own service organization to supply technical services on a cooperative basis for themselves and the other electric cooperatives yet to be conceived, evidenced courage and vision not frequently found. They endowed their STATEWIDE with a spirit and purpose that has continued to motivate the organization in all its activities, and probably much of the success of the year just past is attributable to this viewpoint and aim, which may be concisely termed, cooperating to serve.

The STATEWIDE Board of Directors composed of representatives from each of the member cooperatives has assuredly exemplified the philosophy of cooperation by its selfless interest in gratuitously guiding the policies of STATEWIDE. The example of the Directors has been observed and followed by the individual directors and members of the local cooperatives to a degree that can only be described as remarkable by those of us who know of the amount of voluntary self sacrificing services that have been rendered. The additional burden cheerfully assumed by that part of the STATEWIDE board that comprises the Executive Committee, is a further noteworthy record of unselfishness.

Employees of the organization, unlike the Officers and Directors, have received payment for their services but no salaries could compensate for the type of service so cheerfully given by STATEWIDE employees. The long hours, often twice the number prescribed by the typical office of today, together with the intensive drive to bring the lines into the construction period, under what was at the beginning, the poorest office facilities; and in the case of the field force, heavy individual responsibility, has been a remarkable tribute to the inspiration incorporated within the organization by the charter members.

With such a spirit established within the organization, cooperation with the Rural Electrification Administration in advancing the REA program in Wisconsin was a natural sequence. The REA Administrator and staff have given Wisconsin all the assistance and courtesy that a human machine could supply, and at a time when they were overly crowded with demands from almost every State. The assistance rendered by the State of Wisconsin through the medium of the Rural Electrification Coordination, in helping to establish the WRECA was invaluable and it was this initial aid that made it possible for STATEWIDE to so rapidly find its place. Another State department, The Highway Commission, also contributed in a large measure through its wholehearted cooperation and consideration particularly with problems in the field. The Public Service Commission has from time to time extended helpful advice and courteous service, particularly through its engineering and rate departments. It would be only fair to state that STATEWIDE has received impartial treatment from all of

its business contacts. While perhaps nothing succeeds like success, STATEWIDE was in need of, and received, every consideration during the period of its establishment.

It was soon found that the type of service required was both of a highly technical and highly skilled nature. The providing of Administrative, managerial, and engineering services included as part of the contract between STATEWIDE and its members, proved to mean the supplying of service by executive direction, specialized engineering, expert accounting, experienced stenographers and general supervision. That STATEWIDE has successfully met these demands, is now well known within and out of the State. Since the beginning of 1937, new employees notwithstanding their past experience have received a specialized training and are given a trial period before being permitted to assume any responsibility. This procedure has enabled the organization to develop a staff of over 100 trained specialists, performing, probably for the first time in Wisconsin's history, professional services on a cooperative basis. The following pertinent-statistics indicate the proportions to which STATEWIDE business has grown:

Mileage in construction	5,111.05
Allotments for projects in construction.....	\$5,764,600.00
Direct Employment	114 employees
Consumer Members	16,084

The policies followed by STATEWIDE up to this time conform to the purposes set forth in the Association's Articles of Incorporation. A study of the purposes disclosed a wide possibility of ramification resting nevertheless, on the definite philosophy of cooperation. A review of the activities of STATEWIDE up to this time, would properly lead to the conclusion that the policies being followed were clearly in harmonious accord with the intent of the purposes.

Future policies are never easy to forecast but STATEWIDE's viewpoint will assuredly be tempered by its record already established in this new uncharted field for cooperation. Although rural electric cooperatives have rapidly found a place in Wisconsin the effort required and energy spent to found them means too much to too many to permit their owners ever to lose them. It is to be expected that while STATEWIDE continues to be the spearhead for Wisconsin's rural electric cooperatives, the experience it is accumulating will constantly influence its ability to provide sound leadership and guidance.

Cooperation is as old as yesterday and as new as tomorrow. As demands grow for rural electrical service needs, so probably will STATEWIDE grow, for those of us who have been associated in this work know that our efforts have been crowned with success through that electrical spark—Cooperative Contact.

J. MORGAN WILSON,

General Manager.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

In 1937, the Accounting Department has grown to a staff of seven employees and has become a department in the STATEWIDE. The work consists of three distinct divisions. Accounting, Requisitions and Final Inventory.

PERSONNEL

A. J. Green is Chief Accountant and Kent Wooldridge is in charge of Final Inventory. Mr. Wooldridge was formerly in charge of the No. 29A Clark project, but due to the pressing need of forwarding final inventories to REA on completed projects, Mr. Wooldridge was chosen to head this part of the work. Mr. Edmund Huebing resigned at the end of August, and his place was taken by Mr. Edwin Slightam, who is in charge of requisitioning funds from REA.

The present department personnel is composed of A. J. Green, Kent Wooldridge, Howard Gearhart, Edwin Slightam, D. Duncan Ballantine, Howard LaCourt, Claire Motelet and Louise Evans.

ACCOUNTING

January 31, 1937, the annual audit was made for the year 1936; the annual audit made for the year 1937, is inserted at the close of this report.

REQUISITIONS

(Vouchers for Payment)

During the year 1937, we have requisitioned REA for approximately \$3,500,000.00 for construction purposes for our member cooperatives. The largest check that we have received from REA was in the amount of \$221,962.15 which we remitted May 28 to W. J. Florin, Treasurer of the ROCK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

We have had the cooperation and the liberal assistance of the REA in this work and especially do we wish to express our appreciation to Mr. F. Allen Vardy, Chief of the Finance Division of REA, for the splendid cooperation he has shown us.

Final Inventory

We have completed final inventory on ten projects which are listed, together with the contractor's construction costs.

Project	Approx. Miles	Final Costs for Contractor
Richland Co-op. Electric Ass'n.....	267.0	\$246,901.07
Head of the Lakes Co-op. Electric Ass'n.....	115.05	102,115.32
Columbus Rural Electric Co-op.....	251.0	225,267.40*
Oakdale Co-op. Electric Ass'n.	85.5	80,799.18*
Rock County Electric Co-op. Ass'n.	402.5	358,550.98*
Buffalo Electric Co-op.	270.54	223,262.88
Trempealeau Electric Co-op.	424.55	383,406.04
Clark Electric Co-op.	702.0	550,314.95
Barron County Electric Co-op.	174.84	161,901.21
Columbus Rural Electric Co-op. (Extension)....	69.48	59,133.87*

(*Change orders outstanding)

IN CONCLUSION

We may state, generally, that during 1937 the Accounting Department performed many extra services of which only the following will be mentioned here; preparing and retailing to member cooperatives book-keeping forms and assisting in exempting member cooperatives from Capital Stock Tax and Corporation Income Taxes.

February 7, 1938

Mr. H. O. Melby, President
Wisconsin Rural Electric Co-op. Ass'n.
Madison, Wisconsin

In accordance with the request of Mr. J. M. Wilson, general manager, staff accountants of the Public Service Commission have examined the accounts of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association for the period from January 31, 1937, to December 31, 1937.

The examination comprised the verification of recorded cash receipts and disbursements and a general survey, without detailed verification of other accounts. Some limited tests were made of vouchers in support of cash disbursements but because of the detail involved and incomplete records no attempt was made to verify the propriety of pay rolls and traveling expenses, which comprise approximately 90 percent of the Association's total expenditures.

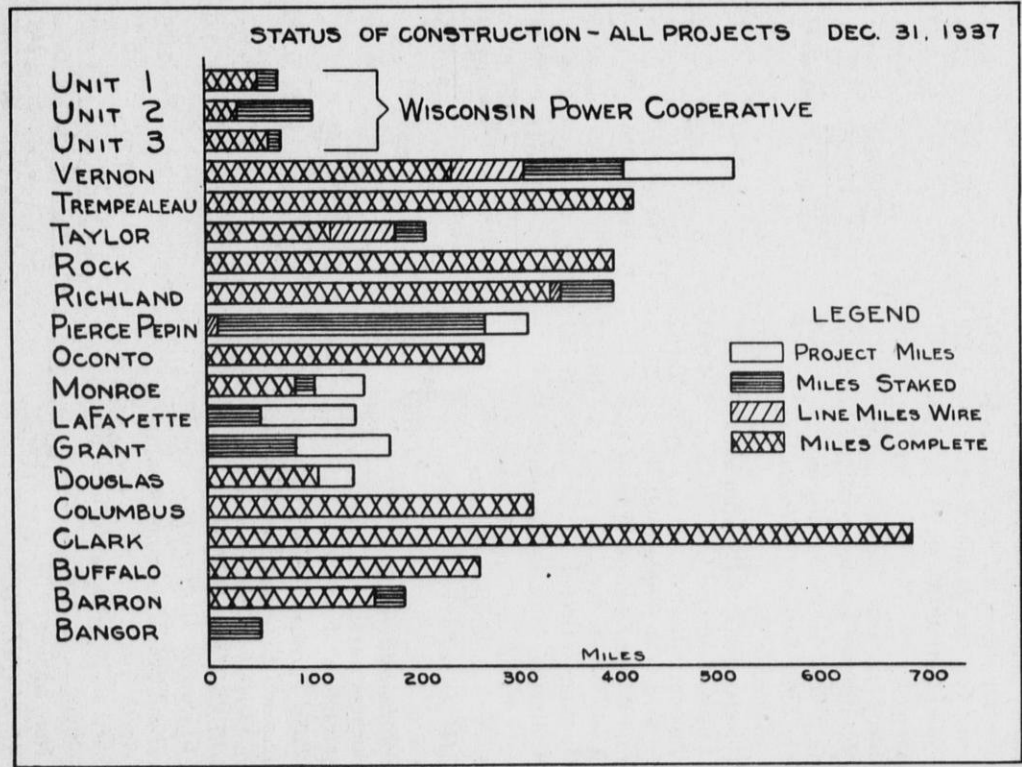
Although construction work on several projects was substantially complete as of December 31, 1937, percentages of payments due contractors and the Association's fees based thereon were being withheld pending final inventories and adjustments. Accordingly, some further income and expenses are to be expected on all such contracts. This makes it impossible to determine exactly or estimate with reasonable accuracy the amount of gain or loss realized to date. For this reason costs of service and income collected on all projects (other than preliminary costs on two projects taken over by others) are shown as suspense items on the balance sheet as of December 31, 1937. Details of fees and costs of service under contracts and other items comprising the balance sheet, together with explanatory comments, are set forth in the schedules and text of this report.

Yours very truly,

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN,

A. R. COLBERT, Director

Department of Accounts and Finance.



STATEWIDE BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 1937

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash in Bank		\$ 2,178.27
Accounts Receivable—supplies and sundries		641.37
Stationery and supplies on hand:		
Office supplies	\$ 320.19	
Forms for sale to members....	432.30	752.49
Total Current Assets		\$ 3,572.13

Equipment

Office equipment		2,386.68
Less: Reserve for depreciation..		171.05
Equip. less reserve for deprec...		2,215.63

*Uncompleted Service Contracts**(Schedule 2)*

Projects substantially complete:*

Costs of service	114,034.06	
Income collected	98,657.09	
Costs not reimbursed.....		15,376.97

Projects proposed or in progress:

Costs of service	46,827.04	
Income collected	47,141.68	
Collection in excess of costs..		(314.64)

Costs not reimbursed on service contracts ...		15,062.33
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TOTAL ASSETS		\$20,850.09
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LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Vouchers payable	\$ 5,391.62	
Contractors' deposits	570.00	
Total current liabilities		\$ 5,961.62

Services and Expenses Furnished by

<i>Rural Electrification Coordination</i>		14,971.82
MEMBERSHIP CAPITAL		160.00

SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT)

Realized profits on sundry sales, etc.	150.79	
Losses on projects taken over by others	(394.14)	
Net (deficit)		(243.35)

TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 20,850.09
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() Denotes red figure.

*—Percentages of amounts due contractors and the Association's engineering fees are withheld until inventories are taken and final settlements are approved by the Rural Electrification Administration. Accordingly, some further income probably will be received and expenses incurred in respect to these projects on which construction work is substantially complete.

Classification of Costs of Service Contracts

April 15, 1936 to December 31, 1937

Costs Directly Assignable to Projects

Salaries:

Engineers	\$ 77,535.59	
Easement service	684.44	
Others	3,529.79	\$ 81,749.82

Traveling Expense:

Engineers	32,119.40	
Easement service	473.30	
Others	2,097.61	34,690.31

Miscellaneous Expense:

Easements	147.09	
Other	6,088.36	6,235.45

Total Costs Directly Assignable to projects

\$122,675.58

Indirect Costs Apportioned:

Salaries:

Executives	3,310.65	
Engineers	8,844.09	
Accountants	5,825.52	
Easement service	458.17	
Stenographers and clerks	7,828.10	26,266.53

Traveling Expense:

Engineers	671.07	
Others	2,014.62	2,685.69

General Office and Miscellaneous:

Legal expense	11.00	
Stationery and office supplies.	1,681.37	
General office expense	1,415.45	
General office rent and light..	1,974.58	
Communication	1,714.91	
Insurance	608.95	
Social Security and Unemployment Compensation	2,780.55	
Easement expense	2.07	
Depreciation of office equip..	171.05	10,359.93

Income from plans, specifications, etc. not allocated (credit)

(261.12)

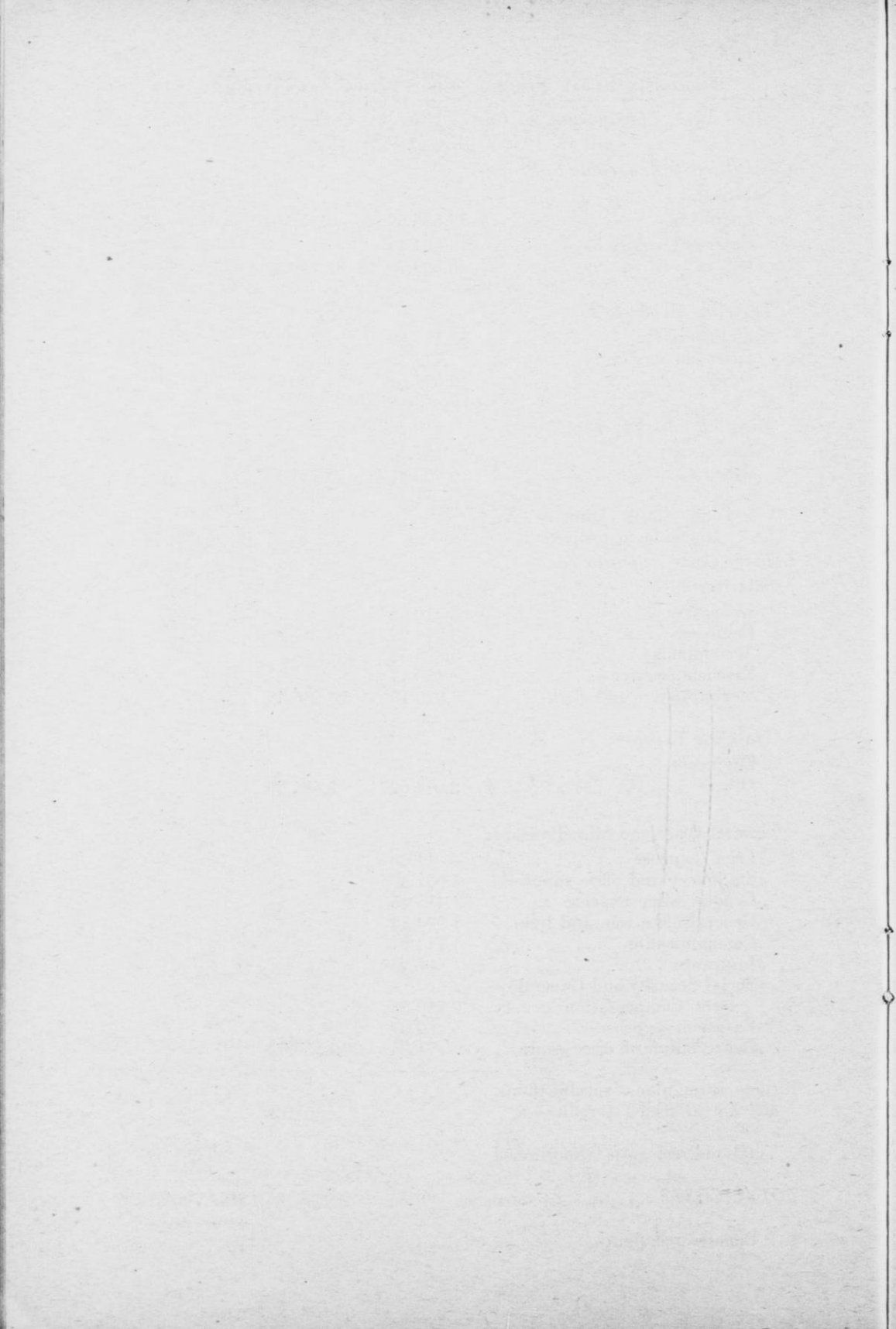
Total indirect costs apportioned

39,051.03

TOTAL COSTS

\$161,726.61

() Denotes red figure.



LEGAL ACTIVITIES

In the construction of electric lines by a cooperative with funds borrowed from REA, a large amount of legal work must necessarily be done, and although it is an intangible thing that cannot be seen, as contrasted with actual construction, the legal work must be properly and quickly done in order not to hold up the progress of actual construction.

The REA must of course take due precautions to see that money loaned by it is properly secured by property of the cooperative and accordingly requires that the cooperative select an attorney, subject to the approval of REA, to perform functions of a legal nature.

Among other duties of the attorney he is required to supervise the incorporation of the cooperative, and the succeeding organizational steps of adoption of by-laws, election of directors and officers. It is also required that he supervise and write an opinion on the validity of the corporate authorization to borrow funds from the REA and execute a mortgage on the property of the cooperative as security for the loan. The REA must be assured that it is obtaining a valid mortgage from a validly organized corporation.

The Government must further be assured that all legal steps are properly taken necessary to not only construct the physical plant of the Project, but to place the Project on a sound operating basis. This means that the Association as owner of such a Project must be legally protected as to source of energy through a valid contract executed for that purpose and must also obtain the necessary franchises and permits from Governmental authorities and obtain such other contracts as may be necessary to complete the construction of the Project, and to insure that when the Project is completed it will be in a legal position to operate and serve its members and thus secure income to pay back its loan.

The first Projects which were formed in Wisconsin such as ROCK, RICHLAND, DOUGLAS and COLUMBUS, selected Mr. John Ernest Roe of Madison as counsel. Mr. Roe not only performed valuable work for these Associations, but the work he did has proven of value to the Associations that were formed thereafter. In November of 1936, a legal staff for Rural Electrification Coordination was formed with Norris E. Maloney as chief counsel, assisted by B. W. Huiskamp, Lloyd Allan, Floyd Wheeler, Harry Carlson, Lee K. Besnor and Sam Levitin. Late in 1936 Mr. Roe resigned as counsel for the Associations he then represented and Mr. Maloney resigned as chief counsel of Rural Electrification Coordination on February 1, 1937, to become counsel for a number of Associations then being organized or in the early construction phases of their Project. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Allan became members of Mr. Maloney's staff and Mr. Besnor continued as counsel for Rural Electrification Coordination.

At the present time Mr. Maloney is counsel for seventeen out of the twenty REA Projects in the state. The Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative is represented by Mr. P. J. Murphy, Chippewa Falls, Mr. Ira Slocum of Menomonie represents the Dunn Project, and the legal work for the Project being constructed by the village of Bangor is being done by Mr. Herbert Roswell, attorney for the village.

In a few of the larger Projects Mr. Maloney is aided by local counsel who collaborate with him in matters of a local nature. The following attorneys are associated with Mr. Maloney: Mr. George Geffs, Janesville, Rock Project; Mr. Francis J. Brewer, Richland Center, Richland Project; Senator Walter J. Rush, Neillsville, Clark Project; Mr. P. J. Murphy,

Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin Power Cooperative; and Mr. Elmer Barlow, Arcadia, Trempealeau Project; Lincoln Neprud, Viroqua, Vernon Project.

LEGAL FUNCTIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION

Because of the fact that cooperatives organized to serve members only are not public utilities and therefore do not have the power of eminent domain to condemn a right of way for the construction of the lines, it is highly important that careful provision be made to procure easements over all parcels of land that it is proposed to build the line. Counsel for the cooperative must draft suitable forms of easements and also carefully instruct employees of the cooperative as to the proper manner of procuring execution of the instruments by the property owner.

It is fundamentally necessary that the work of procuring a right of way for the construction of the lines be done systematically and with exactitude because of two reasons. First, the Association must procure from the property owner the legal right to construct the line in order to insure the permanent location thereof. Second, the REA requires an opinion of counsel relative to the procurement of a right of way before funds will be advanced to the contractor for the construction of the line. Contractors are to be paid monthly which necessitates an opinion each month from counsel as to the validity of the right of way procured. The contractor, of course, is vitally interested in receiving his pay as soon after the end of the month as possible and, therefore, it is necessary that the work of Statewide, as engineer, in certifying the amount of construction made during the month be closely correlated with the work of counsel in writing an opinion as to the right of way upon which the work during the month had been done in order to avoid unnecessary delay. The work of obtaining a right of way for the construction of a line has passed through many stages of evolution, and it has now been systematized in such a way as to enable the payments to the contractors to be made within the time specified in the Construction Contract.

In addition to the easement work many other problems arise during the period of construction that require the services of counsel in close collaboration with the engineering staff. These other matters include such items as the obtaining of railroad crossing permits, agreements with public utilities and municipalities to build joint pole lines, village and town board permits to build lines on the highways, and agreements with telephone companies to move their lines to the other side of the road to clear a right of way for the electric lines.

LEGISLATION AND COMMISSION WORK.

Among the important functions of a legal nature during the past early stages of the REA progress in Wisconsin have been those functions relating to the improvement of legislation to facilitate the work of cooperative rural electrification in the state and to protect the work accomplished by the several cooperative associations. These functions have been primarily of two types. First, the drafting and promotion of legislative amendments and additions to existing laws, and second, work before the Public Service Commission to secure both general and specific orders favorable to the protection and promotion of the REA projects.

When the REA program was instituted in Wisconsin neither the laws of the state, nor the rules and orders of the Public Service Commission were framed with the specific and peculiar problems of REA cooperatives in mind. While Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes dealing with the organization and incorporation of cooperative associations was more favorable to the cooperative development of REA projects than cooperative

laws of most other states, there were naturally many problems peculiar to REA cooperatives which were not dealt with in that Chapter nor in other applicable provisions of our statutes. The same was true of the general orders and regulations of the Public Service Commission which were designed almost solely for the purpose of regulating the building and extension of facilities by public utilities.

One of the most pressing needs of the cooperative associations attempting to carry on the REA program in Wisconsin in 1936 and in the early part of 1937 was some form of protection from the attempts of privately owned public utilities desiring to break up the REA program by building lines into territory proposed to be served by the cooperative. In this connection the Public Service Commission held conferences with public utility representatives and representatives of the Rural Electrification Coordination staff, then headed by Orland S. Loomis, and early in the year of 1936 revised its rules and regulations relating to extensions to afford some type of orderly development of rural electrification. The rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission were extremely helpful to the cooperative associations in those months prior to the time that the Legislature met, but the extent of the protection which could be afforded by Public Service Commission rules and regulations was limited by the statutory authority of the Commission. As a result the earlier projects, particularly ROCK and RICHLAND, were confronted with numerous hearings before the Public Service Commission resulting from the attempts of public utilities to build in territory which these Associations planned to serve.

The several legislative problems were attacked by a careful study of the existing state laws by Mr. Roe during the time he was counsel for some of the earlier projects, which was followed by coordinated efforts of staff members of Rural Electrification Coordination, attorneys of REA and Mr. Maloney representing the various projects in existence during the early part of 1937. This study was made with the view to seeking those improvements in legislation necessary to permit the progress and development of the REA program. After this study was made, proposed amendments and new legislation were drafted and submitted to the Legislature for its consideration. This necessitated appearances at committee hearings as well as many conferences with senators and assemblymen.

Under the sponsorship of Rural Electrification Coordination, headed by Mr. Becker, a bill was drafted to afford the REA cooperatives protection during the construction period. This bill was introduced by Senator Rush and was enacted as Chapter 17 of the Laws of 1937. Almost immediately the numerous hearings before the Public Service Commission, at which the cooperative associations had to be represented in order to protect their interests, ceased. The law has since operated effectively to afford a breathing space for electrical cooperative associations in which to build their lines without harassment and interference from privately owned utilities.

Another piece of legislation which has not received the publicity given the Rush Law, but which has been equally as important, was the enactment by the 1937 Legislature of a provision specifically exempting electrical cooperative associations from Public Service Commission regulation. This confirmed a previous, but somewhat uncertain judicial construction of the existing law. The statement that the enactment of this legislation was important, does not in any way reflect upon the fairness

of the Public Service Commission. However, if the REA cooperatives had been subject to Public Service Commission regulation, particularly during the early stages of development, it is safe to say that the REA program in this state would have been slowed down measurably by the requirement of having to obtain authority of the Commission to build lines in each particular town. The utilities, of course, would have opposed the granting of such authority by the Commission and availed themselves of appeals to the courts thus prolonging the period during which the cooperative could not build. Therefore, it is safe to say that the present status of development of the REA program in this state could not have been reached if the cooperative associations had been subject to Public Service Commission regulation as public utilities.

Another piece of 1937 legislation which has proven important to REA cooperative associations was that authorizing County Boards in those counties where the Register of Deeds is on a salary basis to waive all or any part of the recording fee for the recording of easements to REA cooperatives, and setting of a ten cent fee for filing easements in the form of photostatic copies in those counties where the Register of Deeds is on a fee basis.

There were a number of other legislative revisions which were drafted and sponsored for the local associations. Many of these related to such technical matters as the facilitating of borrowing funds by cooperatives and the obtaining of highway permits and franchises, but all of these legislative enactments have been instrumental in aiding the REA program in Wisconsin.

Of importance to all Associations in this state, hardly secondary to the legislative work, was that work performed before the Public Service Commission to secure the promulgation of general orders to supplement and complete the protection afforded by the Rush Law and to carry some means of protection for electrical cooperatives beyond the mere construction phase of their development in order to afford protection to the associations after operations are commenced against construction of competing duplicating facilities by private utilities. Mr. Maloney, as counsel for several associations, and Mr. Besnor, as counsel for Rural Electrification Coordination, have appeared at several hearings and conferences before the Commission relative to this subject and the Commission has recently issued its revised order giving to the cooperative associations of Wisconsin a more certain and complete form of protection against the inroads of privately owned utilities than such associations have enjoyed in the past.

OUR ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

As has been stated elsewhere, "STATEWIDE" was officially created on April 30, 1936, and the engineering department, as such, came into being early in the following month. The personnel initially consisted of Mr. E. B. Ways, a former line construction contractor of many year's experience, Mr. E. L. Cartwright, formerly draftsman and rodman for the Wisconsin Power and Light Company; and the writer, an instructor of electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. Immediately after the formation of the department, there was added to the staff Mr. J. Morgan Wilson (Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario) and Mr. H. M. Durnin (Byllesby Engineering and Management Corporation, Chicago). A temporary office was established in the unused legislative post office in the State Capitol, and, with some borrowed furniture of ancient vintage, this embryonic engineering department sat down to its problem.

The problem it faced was simply this: (1) Largely through the activities of the Rural Electrification Coordination office, projects totaling \$3,300,000.00 had been presented to the REA for allotments to be used in the construction of cooperatively owned lines in Wisconsin. (2) The cooperatives had banded together to form "STATEWIDE" and through it actually planned to do their own engineering. (3) No engineering, except that of a survey nature, has been done to date. (4) The member cooperatives wanted action and they wanted it fast.

The one feature immediately apparent was that, although many different cooperative properties (or projects) were to be built, the type of construction for all properties could be made sufficiently similar so that a large amount of the engineering work would be transferable from one project to another. This applied not only to the plans and specifications themselves but also to their preparation, the supervision of construction, staking of lines, etc. In other words, it should be possible by proper standardization to put this "cooperative engineering" on a wholesale basis.

During the next two months the newly formed engineering department busied itself with the establishment of standards of construction and of procedure. A detailed discussion of this more technical phase of the work would probably be of little interest to the reader. However, a bare citation of a few examples may be in order. For instance, it was decided that an engineer from the STATEWIDE office should reside permanently on each project from the start to the completion of construction. This engineer would be known as the "Resident Engineer" and would supervise construction, staking and represent STATEWIDE on the job. As another example, it was decided that the standard unit for purposes of bidding, staking, and construction, should be the *Township*, and furthermore, that all township maps should be drawn to the scale of four inches to the mile. Having decided on this, blank township forms were printed on tracing paper and the draftsmen were, therefore, required only to insert the roads, customers, and lines on these printed forms in order to prepare the necessary maps. (It is interesting to note that this one item alone resulted in a saving of 1150 percent of the combined labor and material cost of drawing the maps for the plans and specifications.) As still another example, the necessary graphs and tables were prepared which would permit at a glance the determination of proper wire size, pole size and spacing, anchor and guy strengths, conductor sags, etc.

Finally, early in July, it was decided that this general planning, while not yet complete, was sufficiently far advanced to risk calling for bids on

the first project. Therefore, on July 16, 1936, bids were opened for WISCONSIN 35 RICHLAND calling for the construction of 239 miles of line complete with substation. The results of this first bid opening were satisfactory, although a few minor changes in future plans and specifications seemed desirable. During the next four months, some changes were made and bids were opened on WISCONSIN 31 COLUMBIA (232 miles), WISCONSIN 16 DOUGLAS (99.05 miles), WISCONSIN 38 ROCK (417.7 miles), and on November 4 on WISCONSIN 25 MONROE (81.1 miles).

At this stage a halt was made until it could be determined, in the light of the experience gained on these five projects already bid in and under construction, just how the department would proceed with the heavy schedule of construction lying before it in the year 1937. Two decisions were made: (1) Detailed standards of construction and procedure would be prepared, distributed to all employees, and rigidly enforced throughout the coming year. (2) The coming year's program must be so focused that the completion of the projects would occur in the months of October to December (because it would be easier to load the lines at this time of year). Accordingly, after lengthy consultation with the REA, state telephone companies, and code enforcing bodies, our "*General Instructions—All Employees*", a fifty-eight page booklet, was prepared and distributed to all interested parties. The department was then thought to be ready for construction at the rate of approximately \$4,000,000 per year.

It is not proposed to discuss in detail the activities of the engineering department during the ensuing calendar year 1937. A sufficiently clear picture can be obtained from the following very much abbreviated "log":

FEBRUARY 15, 1937—Bids opened No. 27 Buffalo—263.5 miles. (*Contractor—Fritz Ziebarth, Long Beach, California, \$223,447.22*).

MARCH 18, 1937—Bids opened No. 37 Trempealeau—410.7 miles. (*Contractor—Snyder & Johnson, Inc., Humboldt, Iowa, \$394,954.60*).

MAY 3, 1937—Bids opened No. 40 Barron—191.0 miles. (*Contractor—Commonwealth Electric Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, \$175,000.00*)

MAY 20, 1937—No. 35 Richland completed.

MAY 24, 1937—Bids opened No. 14 Oconto—298.0 miles (*Contractor, L. G. Arnold, Inc., Eau Claire, Wisconsin, \$260,425.80*).

MAY 29, 1937—Bids opened No. 41 Vernon—519.65 miles. (*Contractor—C. A. Hooper Company, Madison, Wisconsin, \$501,809.25*)

JUNE 6, 1937—No. 16 Douglas completed.

JUNE 21, 1937—Bids opened No. 21 Taylor—218.65 miles. (*Contractor—L. G. Arnold, Inc., Eau Claire, Wisconsin, \$187,312.35*)

JULY 15, 1937—Bids opened No. 29A Clark—690.0 miles. (*Contractor—Ulen Contracting Corporation, Lebanon, Indiana, \$578,915.75*)

JULY 23, 1937—Bids opened No. 35B Richland—134.0 miles. (*Contractor—Arft-Killoren Electric Co., Appleton, Wisconsin, \$120,000.00*)

JULY 26, 1937—Bids opened No. 32 Pierce—318.7 miles. (*Contractor—L. G. Arnold, Inc., Eau Claire, Wisconsin, \$272,586.75*)

AUGUST 4, 1937—Bids opened No. 45G1 Chippewa—71.25 miles. (*Contractor—Acme Construction Co. and Martin Wunderlich Co., St. Paul, Minnesota, \$109,848.60*)

AUGUST 27, 1937—No. 25 Monroe completed.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1937—Bids opened No. 45G2 Chippewa—102.0 miles. (*Contractor—Allied Contracting Company, Eau Claire, Wis., \$135,637.90*)

SEPTEMBER 23, 1937—No. 31 Columbia completed.

OCTOBER 2, 1937—Bids opened No. 8009 LaCrosse—53.0 miles. (*Con-*

tractor—Honold & LaPage, Inc., Sheboygan, Wis., \$47,382.70)

OCTOBER 26, 1937—Bids opened No. 45G3 Chippewa—70.05 miles.
(Contractor—Holtz Brothers Electric Company, Chippewa Falls, Wis., \$117,816.44)

NOVEMBER 4, 1937—No. 38 Rock completed.

NOVEMBER 4, 1937—No. 27 Buffalo completed.

NOVEMBER 8, 1937—Bids opened No. 8043A Grant—180.0 miles.
(Contractor—L. G. Arnold, Inc., Eau Claire, Wis., \$164,415.60)

NOVEMBER 10, 1937—Bids opened No. 8046 Lafayette—147.0 miles.
(Contractor—C. A. Hooper Company, Madison, Wis., \$119,170.58)

NOVEMBER 16, 1937—No. 37 Trempealeau completed.

NOVEMBER 16, 1937—Bids opened No. 8025B Monroe—71.05 miles.
(Contractor—Honold & LaPage, Inc., Sheboygan, Wis., \$60,287.42)

DECEMBER 20, 1937—No. 14 Oconto completed.

DECEMBER 21, 1937—Bids opened No. 8016B Douglas—30.0 miles.
(Low bid not finally approved)

DECEMBER 24, 1937—No. 31B Columbia completed.

DECEMBER 30, 1937—No. 40 Barron completed.

DECEMBER 30, 1937—No. 29A Clark completed.

An analysis of the above will show 2,982.05 contract miles of line completed and 1,915.35 contract miles of line still under construction. In addition to this, of the 1,915.35 contract miles under construction, 1,020 miles of this amount is actually constructed but will not be reported as "completed" until the projects as whole units are finished.

It is interesting to sit back and review this past year's experience in an attempt to discover just what has been learned regarding engineering for cooperatives—what conclusions can be drawn.

Before attempting to draw any conclusions, it may be well to direct attention to the fact that "STATEWIDE" was not formed without opposition. Many objections were raised on the soundness of Cooperatives doing their own engineering through a statewide organization. Some of our engineer friends took us aside and issued sincere friendly warnings as to just what we were up against,—and some of them took us to task publicly. For instance, here are some of the warnings we received:

1. A cooperative is a loosely bound organization and since every member is an owner you, as engineer, will have thousands of bosses, none of which will know anything about building lines, but all of which will try to tell you how to do it.

2. The average farmer is a penurious gentleman and you "STATEWIDE" engineers will have to sacrifice good engineering in order to get results as cheaply as possible.

3. You are using federal money and it will be so wrapped up in red tape you will spend most of your time trying to pry it loose.

Well, we have not as yet learned all the answers, but we have, at least, learned the answers to these three objections.

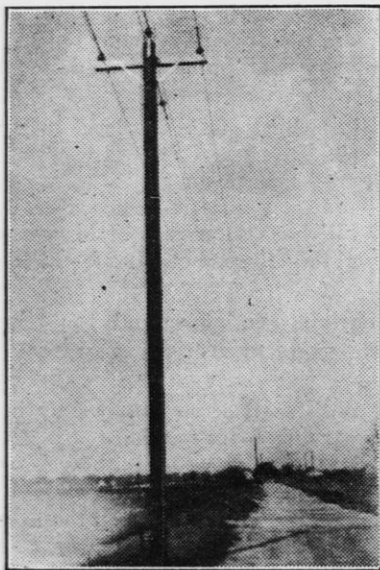
(1) As regards the first one: It is correct in one respect, the average farmer Co-op member knows nothing about building lines, but he realizes he knows nothing about it. The details are left entirely in the hands of the engineer,—embarrassingly so in some cases. For instance, the representatives of equipment manufacturers claim it is a waste of time for them to contact the individual members of our Boards of Directors in an attempt to sell their materials and equipment such as conductor, transformers, etc.



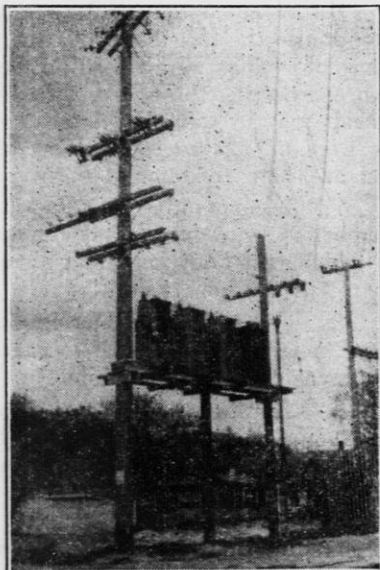
**Pole distribution and setting.
Rock project.**



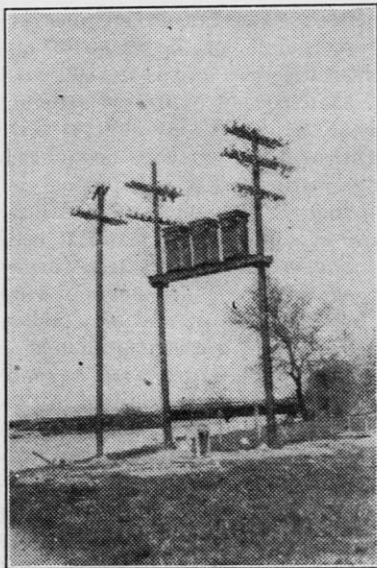
**Stringing conductor.
Rock project.**



**The main south feeder.
Columbia project.**



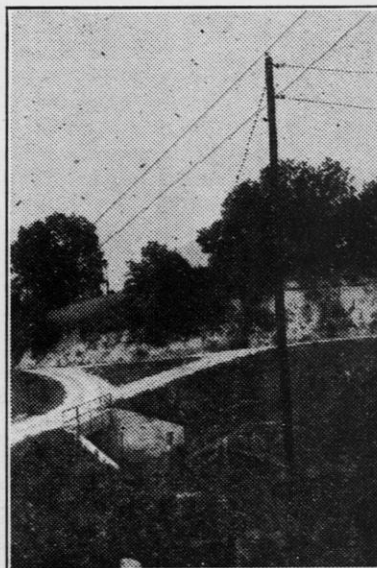
**Sub-station of the Richland
Cooperative.**



Substation of the Columbia Rural Electric Cooperative.



Two phase double dead end construction.—Rock project.



A view of the Buffalo project.



Three phase river crossing. Trempealeau project.

The reply they invariably receive is to see the engineer. An engineer has no excuse for not making good with such owners.

(2) As regards the second objection: The farmer member is not a "cheapskate". He merely is acutely conscious of the value of money and abhors debt. As an example of this attitude, there is not a Board of Directors of a Cooperative in the State that has not expressed satisfaction over the fact that it is possible to amortize the debt to the Federal Government and, in at least twenty years, own its own lines free of encumbrances. The farmer has no objection for paying for the best of equipment—but it must be the best. The result has been that, in Wisconsin, we have never had to cut corners in an attempt at false economy. The material used in the lines is the best money can buy. For instance, every transformer is of the high efficiency type and has its own lightning arrester and cutout; except in rare cases, the smallest pole used is Class 6; and all conductors used are of a type proven by years of usage and are strung so that even under "heavy loading" conditions they will not be stressed beyond 60 percent of their ultimate strength. We have even been permitted to "grade the factor of safety" so that the closer the lines lie to the source of power the stronger they are constructed.

(3) Even a casual glance at the year's accomplishment will show that the third objection does not exist. Early in the year the REA promised us full cooperation if we gave them fast action. We certainly admit we received the cooperation, and we have tried to furnish the action. If there is any red tape involved, someone must have cut it long since.

V. M. MURRAY,
Chief Engineer

THE BUILDERS

(A story of STATEWIDE as written for the monthly magazine
of the Municipal Ownership League of America)

Generations of dreams of rural electrification crystallized into reality in 1935 with the energetic and voluntary cooperation of Wisconsin farmers who knew that electrification was more than bright city lights—it was energy that could be harnessed to make their work that much more effectual in producing the urgent wants of an inter-dependent society.

To the friendly, neighborly farmers of the state, electric cooperatives were the natural way. Along main highways and on small roads they trudged through fall mud and winter snow to carry their message. By April of the following year several electric cooperatives had been organized and they were anticipating the construction of lines.

But now a real problem arose. Where could each of these little separate groups secure engineering services compatible with reliable construction at a cost consistent with the cooperative spirit? With true cooperative intent they sent representatives to a congress in Madison. It was here, then, that their ideas on their separate needs for strength and protection met and merged in a unified whole in the organization of the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION—a cooperative of and for cooperatives—which has become familiarly known as “STATEWIDE”, and now furnishes guidance and supervision through engineering, managerial and accounting services to its member cooperatives, with the aim and purpose of expediting electric service to all of rural Wisconsin.

The new electric cooperatives became members of STATEWIDE and elected directors and officers to guide their policies and steer their course in the path of cooperative principles. Mr. B. W. Huiskamp, and later Mr. J. A. Becker served as part time managers of the organization, and in February, 1937, the Board of Directors appointed Mr. J. Morgan Wilson as full time manager. Mr. Wilson is an electrical engineer with experience in construction and operation of cooperatively owned and managed distribution lines.

In the spring of 1937, five projects totaling about 2,000 miles, were under construction. These lines are now energized through the engineering supervision of the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION. It is of interest to note that the location of these original units is in the extreme north, the extreme south and through the central part of the state. As the picture develops, and projects spring up in all the areas which had long been neglected, the state becomes a network of gleaming wires. During the season just past, eleven additional electric cooperatives have brought their projects into the construction stage with several soon to energize. New cooperatives, a municipal extension, and extensions to original projects now brings the total to twenty projects, 5,000 miles and 15,000 farm houses. A new venture in our state, the WISCONSIN POWER COOPERATIVE, which has a membership of ten cooperatives in the northwestern part of the state, is building 243 miles of transmission lines under the supervision of STATEWIDE, to serve, at present, eight of its member groups.

The cooperative builders have found that theirs is a “forward” movement with an unlimited future. The scope of their activity is like a giant magnetic field, which draws alike the liberal and the conservative. Cooperative achievement has shown that the type of individual leadership which produces socialized effort, successfully brings about the happy economic

condition of service for all. Through the office which has been established in Madison, departmental heads and office assistants, and in the field the supervisory engineers and the resident engineers, continue to help the farmers bring their plans to reality and their cherished hope to fruition.

All electric cooperatives in Wisconsin, with one exception, have availed themselves of the services obtainable through STATEWIDE. The CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE had signed an engineering contract before the organization of this central cooperative, but has since that time become a member. The municipality of Bangor, although it cannot become a member, because of the by-law limitations of STATEWIDE, has nevertheless manifested its confidence in the WRECA by arranging for its services to supervise the construction of the village's rural extensions.

Not long ago, Mr. H. O. Melby, president of the WISCONSIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, voiced the sentiments of the hard-working, thrifty, clear-thinking farmers of Wisconsin in the following words:

“It seems to me that the cooperators who have built these electric distribution lines in rural areas, have brought about an epoch for the farmers. I believe it is unifying rural and urban parts of our country, raising the standard of living, and making us all one community of neighbors.”

INTRODUCTION

LOCAL COOPERATIVE HISTORIES

With these short sketches of each cooperative, the story is by no means told. As authors often say, "time and space does not permit" the recording of the ups and downs experienced by the volunteer workers; the trials and cares of resident engineers and project superintendents; the unselfish service of those who represent the STATEWIDE office; the almost endless, tireless toil on the part of all concerned.

When a project is designated "complete" we *SEE* miles of towering poles and gleaming wires, and as evening comes, bright lights twinkling over the countryside, but we who have watched them materialize, *KNOW* that they represent a principle.

THE EDITOR

PROJECT

Wisconsin-40-Barron

Barron and Washburn Counties have a Cooperative with a membership of 608, which was incorporated September 5, 1936, under the name BARRON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

In the spring of 1937, Wallace H. Holman began his duties as resident engineer on the project. The Commonwealth Electric Company started construction in June. On the 19th day of that month the Cooperative sponsored a celebration, the main event of the day being the setting of the first pole. In solemn reverence it was dedicated to Mr. A. G. Bilodeau, the first president of the Barron County Electric Cooperative, whose death occurred the preceding month. Mr. Bilodeau had been an eager and loyal worker, who would have rejoiced that materialization of the plans was so far advanced.

The office of the Cooperative had been established in the City of Barron. This municipality is much interested in the electrification of the surrounding rural community and have enlarged their generating plant to afford them the capacity to sell wholesale energy to the Cooperative. Mr. Lawrence Toynbee is the project superintendent, assisted in the office by Miss Vesta Carpenter. The regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held at the office. Their names and addresses follow:

JOHN E. OLSON, *President, Chetek*
KNUTE KNUTSON, *Vice-president, Cumberland*
WILLIS JEROME, *Secretary, Barron*
NELS NELSON, *Treasurer, Rice Lake*
S. A. CARLSON, *Chetek*
WILLIAM GOHL, *Comstock*
HENRY PALMQUIST, *Barron*
ALEX SCHNACKY, *Rice Lake*
OTIS BERGER, *Hillsdale*

The first section of 86 miles was energized November 22 with 125 connections. The entire 178 miles of the original project is now carrying energy and the superintendent reports connections are being made daily.

Interest has received new stimulus since construction began and a 168 mile extension is in the Washington office awaiting approval for additional allotment to allow construction to begin next spring.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-27-*Buffalo*

Under the able and energetic leadership of County Agent John Zahorik of Buffalo County, this community was among those to manifest an early interest in the rural electrification program as applicable to themselves. The BUFFALO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was a charter member of STATEWIDE.

The organization was reincorporated on January 30, 1937, and has the following Board of Directors and officers:

FRANK H. KRAMPETER, *President, Gilmanton*
 EDWIN A. HAEUSER, *Vice-president, Fountain City*
 ARTHUR HITT, *Secretary-Treasurer, Alma*

Directors:

A. G. BENJAMIN, *Nelson*
 REUBEN C. KASTE, *Alma*
 ELMER STEINER, *Alma*
 OSCAR MILLER, *Cochrane*
 IRWIN E. ACCOLA, *Mondovi*
 MARTIN HAGEN, *Modena*

Clayton Butler of Mondovi represents the BUFFALO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE on the STATEWIDE board.

The local office is located at Alma where the board meetings are held as needed. E. A. Haeuser is Project Superintendent and Miss Katherine Jackson is office stenographer. The membership roll lists 850 members. Easement work was done chiefly by A. G. Benjamin and Edwin A. Haeuser.

Fritz Ziebarth of Omaha, Nebraska, began construction early in May and has completed 264 miles of lines under the supervision of STATEWIDE whose W. W. Benzel was resident engineer. This project presented some real construction problems, because of the hills and valleys, and will probably be unique in that it has some 900 foot spans. The substation just north of Arcadia on Unit I of the transmission lines will supply the power.

Mr. Frank Krampeter, President of the BUFFALO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, is also President of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, and Director Irwin Accola is on the Power Cooperative Board.

Since construction began in May, 1937, a temporary energy contract has been negotiated between the BUFFALO COOPERATIVE and the Municipal plant at Arcadia for purchase of power. About 100 members were served during the holiday season.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-19-*Chippewa*

In mid-summer, 1935, the people in the vicinity of Holcombe in Chippewa County organized and were incorporated as CHIPPEWA COUNTY LIGHT AND POWER COOPERATIVE. There was at that time no Rural Electrification office in Wisconsin and their organization had been affected through direct contact with the Rural Electrification Administration at Washington. They also engaged engineers and attorneys.

On December 9, 1936, they reincorporated under the name CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION and have since become members of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Board of Directors and officers follow:

O. M. ENGER, *President, Holcombe*
 L. G. BERNIER, *Vice-president, Holcombe*
 W. L. GRAF, *Secretary-Treasurer, Cornell*

Directors:

OSCAR ANDERSON, *Cornell*
A. C. HENDRICKSON, *Cornell*
MATT TURECEK, *Cadott*
J. MATSCHE, JR., *Cadott*
W. A. KLEINER,, *Boyd*

The office of the Cooperative has been established at Cornell with R. L. Cleaves as Project Superintendent and W. L. Graf as stenographer-bookkeeper. The Board holds monthly meetings on the first Friday of each month in Turecek's Hall in the Town of Arthur.

In point of mileage this project is small containing approximately sixty miles, now complete. The organization is a member of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, and is located along the lines of Unit 2 of the transmission project. Mr. R. L. Cleaves is on the Power Cooperative Board and on its Executive Committee.

*PROJECT**Wisconsin-29A-Clark*

Long weary months of relentless labor in organizing two and one-half thousand people, the discouragements and disappointments are being forgotten now that the CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE owns 702 miles of lines that are ready to carry the current to their homes.

The construction progress made by the Ulen Contracting Corporation is phenomenal, and due to this progress, which the contractor says would have been impossible except for the fine cooperation with the engineers, The Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association and their representatives, Resident Engineers Woolridge and Truax, the project was built in less than the time set forth in the contract. Mr. Landry, the Clark County Agricultural Agent and Leader states that this fine record has been very beneficial to the life of the cooperative, and that it has greatly stimulated interest and confidence in the ultimate success of this enterprise.

The CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was incorporated on March 24, 1937. The office was located at the County Agent's office in Neillsville, during the construction period, with W. A. Dallman of Colby as Project Superintendent. Here the Board met regularly, bi-monthly, every alternate Tuesday.

The officers and directors are:

VERN G. HOWARD, *President, Granton*
MARTIN KLARICH, *Vice-president, Willard*
WALLACE J. LANDRY, *Secretary-Treasurer, Neillsville*
CARLYSLE BALDWIN, *Willard*
ED. KLEIN, *Spencer*
REX COPPER, *Withee*

During the first part of January the Cooperative's office was moved to Greenwood by vote of the Board of Directors.

Wallace Landry is on the Wisconsin Power Cooperative Board and Executive Committee and Vern G. Howard is a member of the Board of Directors.

Clark County is on Unit II of the transmission line, and the substations are located at Longwood in the north central part of the project and at Spokesville in the eastern section.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-31-Columbia
Wisconsin-31B-Columbia

The second group to get their project into the construction stage was the COLUMBUS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, which was incorporated on April 9, 1936, represented by Mr. John Crombie, they were among the charter members of STATEWIDE.

An office has been established at Columbus, Mr. F. H. Roob is manager of the Cooperative and Miss Eula A. Wright the bookkeeper.

The Board of Directors meet regularly in Columbus the second Monday of each month. Their names and addresses follow:

J. A. BENNETT, *President, Randolph*
LAWRENCE COLE, *Vice-president, Waterloo*
CLARENCE NINABUCK, *Secretary-Treasurer, Columbus*
JOHN CROMBIE, *Columbus*
ALVIN DERR, *Marshall*
EVERETT GILMORE, *Rio*
JOHN HARTT, *Columbus*
WM. MEAGHER, *Randolph*
BRUCE NASHOLD, *Doylestown*

Construction was begun on this project by the Donovan Construction of St. Paul on September 28, 1936, the first pole being set on that day. In connection with the pole setting ceremony, which was attended by Mr. M. O. Swanson, Chief Engineer of the RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION and State officials, an electrical fair was held to acquaint the prospective consumers with appliances which they could now study with a view to ownership. Mr. Orland S. Loomis, who was at that time Director of Rural Electrification in Wisconsin was the chief speaker.

Much and various kinds of delay have occurred to retard construction progress, and the original project was not completely energized until September, 1937. An additional allotment was granted in the same month and the extension for which it was requested is now completed and the entire 300 and some odd miles of the Columbus project is carrying energy. At this writing there are approximately 600 consumers with new connections being made almost daily.

Several men have worked as resident engineers on the Columbus project. Mr. V. L. Anderson, the present representative, having been in charge since August, 1937.

The municipality cooperated with this group of farmers to the effect that negotiations were made for the wholesale purchase of energy at a satisfactory rate through the facilities of the city of Columbus.

Smooth sailing has not been the lot of this group to date, but obstacles have been met and conquered, and being that they possess the persistence and courage typical of our cooperative farmers we prophecy ultimate success for the COLUMBUS RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-8049-Dunn

The latest electric cooperative to sign an engineering contract with STATEWIDE is the DUNN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE which was incorporated April 22, 1937. Up to December 1st two partial allotments had been awarded for the construction of approximately 140 miles of line. (The total project includes 573 miles and 1,858 customers.)

During the first part of December a survey preliminary to preparation of Plans and Specifications, was taken by E. L. Cartwright, Chief Draftsman of the STATEWIDE staff.

The DUNN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is located on Unit 3 of the transmission line and their power contract with the Wisconsin Power Cooperative has been approved by REA. The foundation for the substation which is located about five miles north of Menomonie on Highway 25, has been set. Construction activities on the distribution lines will begin in the spring.

The names and addresses of the Board of Directors follows:

W. E. OWEN, *President, Downing*
ED. BASKIN, *Vice-president, Eau Galle*
PAUL TIETZ, *Secretary-Treasurer, Menomonie*
ED. RUUD, *Menomonie*
C. F. SUTLIFFE, *Boyceville*
CLEM CATT, *Rock Falls*
ARNOLD GILBERTS, *New Auburn*
ED. KARNES, *Menomonie*

PROJECT

Wisconsin-8043A-Grant

One of the newer members of STATEWIDE is the GRANT COUNTY COOPERATIVE RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION which was incorporated April 6, 1937. A loan contract has been signed with REA for \$180,000.00 which is to build about 170 miles. The entire project has approximately 442 miles.

The Board of Directors follow:

C. J. JARRETT, *President, Livingston*
E. J. STONEMAN, *Vice-president, Platteville*
J. C. HENDRICKS, *Secretary-Treasurer, Hazel Green*
JAY P. MARTIN, *Bagley*
MARTIN WIELAND, *Lancaster*
RAY DiVALL, *Fennimore*
JOE TRECEK, *Boscobel*
JOHN RYAN, *Glen Haven*
LOUIS UPPENA, *Cassville*

Mr. Earl Raisbeck has been appointed project superintendent, Miss Hilda M. Hazen is the stenographer-bookkeeper. The Board of Directors meets regularly the first Monday of each month in the office of the Cooperative which has been established in Lancaster.

Many County Agents of the state have been of great assistance in the formation of these electric Cooperatives, and the farmers of Grant County feel that in their County, Ben H. Walker deserves special mention.

It is anticipated that the original part of the project for which the contract was let to L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, will, under normal progress, be completed in June, 1938. Energy is to be purchased from the Interstate Power Company at their substation south of Lancaster.

The GRANT COUNTY COOPERATIVE RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION engaged the services of WRECA within a few days following incorporation. L. E. Parkyn represents STATEWIDE as resident engineer on the project.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-16-Douglas
Wisconsin-8016B-Douglas

The region around Superior has been called the principal center of Consumer's Cooperation in the United States. So it is wholly consistent that they were among the leaders in establishing electric cooperatives. Mr. George Halonen, Sr., an active leader in the cooperative movement, was one of the incorporators of STATEWIDE.

The original allotment of money was made in June 1936, and the group was incorporated as the HEAD OF THE LAKES COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION on July 12, 1936.

Active construction began in November, the contract being awarded Arft-Killoren Electric Company of Appleton, Wisconsin, who in turn engaged the Cooperative Services, Incorporated, of Maple to do the greater part of the construction work. This is probably the first instance of an electric cooperative having its lines built largely by another cooperative.

Despite the slowness of winter construction, the project was energized on May 24, 1937, at which time a celebration was held at the Worker's Hall in Superior. A radio broadcast was arranged and the throwing of the relay switch at the hall was broadcast in detail. The switch which sent the "juice" flowing through the lines was thrown by H. A. Johnson, the oldest member of the Board of Directors.

The members assembled at this meeting also approved a twenty-four thousand dollar wiring loan from the REA.

One hundred six miles were energized at this time and by January 275 consumers were connected. The Association has 423 members.

This fall, the Douglas project was granted an additional loan of \$54,000. Bids were opened on this on December 21, but were rejected. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to do this work on force account or else bids will be called for again on summer construction.

Power for this project is being purchased from the Superior Water, Light and Power Company.

The Board of Directors meets regularly the third Wednesday of each month at the Association's office, Room 108, 1314 Tower Avenue, Superior.

The following men serve on the Board at this time:

H. G. GROSS, *President, South Range*
H. A. JOHNSON, *Vice-president, South Range*
LEONARD PLESKI, *Secretary, South Range*
GEORGE C. TERRELL, *Treasurer, Station B, Superior*
C. B. OLSON, *South Range*
ARVID KUVAJA, *Wentworth*
P. A. THOMPSON, *Patzau*
ED. OSBORNE, *Foxboro*
VICTOR TENHUNEN

George Halonen, Jr., is Project Manager. He is assisted in the office by Lois Gronquist, stenographer-bookkeeper. Russell Hendrickson is a part-time linesman.

During the construction period, Nelo Lundeen, a cooperator born and raised in that area acted as resident engineer representing the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Generally speaking, cooperation is the keynote of all activities of this project, even including the construction and engineering of the lines. Cooperative education is considered first in all activities on this project since the success of the entire cooperative movement in the area has been

entirely dependent upon the vast amount of educational work done. This cooperative realizes that cooperatives must be able to match the efficiency of private business. To do this, it need not resort to false economy or the lowering of employees' living standards, but rather by the use of good management. By these means, this Cooperative plans to conduct the enterprise for use rather than for profit. One of the reasons for the success of this Cooperative is the fact that the members take a keen interest in cooperative affairs and constantly work for its progress. This cooperative also realizes the value of working with other cooperatives and has taken and will continue to take a keen and active interest in the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association of which this Association was one of the organizers.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-8046-Lafayette

In point of incorporation the LAFAYETTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, which was incorporated on February 26, 1936, is just a few weeks older than the neighboring Grant County Cooperative. Construction activities in the two projects are at approximately the same stage.

The LAFAYETTE COOPERATIVE maintains an office at present in the County court house on North Main Street. Mr. Edward J. Paska is project superintendent and Miss Mary Hancock, office secretary. Here the Board of Directors meet to discuss and solve the problems of the group which has entrusted them with the responsibility of guiding them through this new enterprise. The following men were elected to the Board:

SAM BYRNE, *President, Mineral Point*
 M. O. MONSON, *Vice-president, Gratiot*
 M. C. HELM, *Secretary-Treasurer, Darlington*
 W. R. MCCARVILLE, *Darlington*
 LEON ANDREWS, *South Wayne*
 R. D. TEASDALE, *Shullsburg*
 NEWTON THOMAS, *Shullsburg*
 ALBERT NEFF, *Warren, Illinois*
 D. T. STUART, *South Wayne*

The contract for the construction of the lines of this project has been awarded to the C. A. Hooper Company of Madison, who started digging holes December 15. The terms of the contract set the completion date at July 15, 1938.

Local organization work was begun under the direction of County Agent R. V. Hurley, who later transferred to Dane County. His successor LeRoy Reese, is also much interested and has given valuable assistance.

The municipalities of Shullsburg and Argyle have offered their assistance in furthering the progress of the organization.

A power contract is being negotiated with the village of Argyle as it has the facilities to furnish the wholesale energy and the cooperative spirit prompting them to do so at a reasonable rate.

Although construction is just getting under way, the membership roll of this group numbers more than 400 owners of prosperous farms in the rolling land of Lafayette County.

The representative of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, as resident engineer is H. M. Durnin, who has just completed serving in like capacity on the Rock County Project.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-25-Monroe
Wisconsin-25B-Monroe

One of the few projects to receive a 1936 allotment was the OAKDALE COOPERATIVE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION, so incorporated on April 24, 1936. This Cooperative is a charter member of STATEWIDE and was represented at the organization meeting by Mr. W. E. Rabe, president of the Oakdale Board of Directors. Other members of the Board are:

C. E. CHRISTENSON, *Vice-President, Camp Douglas*
R. E. DUNLAP, *Secretary, Tomah*
I. A. FROHMADER, *Treasurer, Camp Douglas*
F. HABELMAN, *Camp Douglas*
ALBERT FREI, *Camp Douglas*
ARTHUR C. SCHULTZ, *Mauston*

Regular meetings of the Board are held at Oakdale on the last Thursday of the month. The office of the Cooperative has been established at Oakdale.

Mr. Lloyd McCaskey of Camp Douglas has been appointed project superintendent and Mrs. I. B. Niebuhr of Oakdale is stenographer and bookkeeper.

Construction was started in January, 1937, on these lines in Monroe and Juneau County, with the A. A. Electric Company of Cicero, Illinois, as Contractors. N. L. Lundeen was STATEWIDE's resident engineer. Due to frost and other various delays, the first section was not energized until July 14—the project being completed the latter part of the month. Eighty-six miles, which is the entire original project, has now been energized. On December 31 there were 221 consumers and they expect to reach the full three to the mile in a few weeks.

On September 27 of this year the REA approved the allotment of \$72,000 for an addition to this project. This second section lies chiefly in Juneau county. The bids were opened November 16 and the contract was awarded to Honold and LaPage of Sheboygan, who have been notified to start construction early in January.

A great deal could be written about the pioneering spirit of this group of farmers. Immediately alert to the possibility the new program had to offer, they were the first group to invite the Director (Mr. O. S. Loomis) to lay the plan before them. Undaunted by obstacles and setbacks, of which they had at least the average share, they carried their plans to realization.

The community spirit of the Oakdale group was very evident at the Dedication and Utilization Meeting which was held on October 18. The City of New Lisbon, which had cooperated by installing an additional Diesel Unit to be able to furnish power from its municipal plant, gave their High School band a day off that they might lead the parade and add their music to the festivities. Various speakers representing REA, the Coordination office, and STATEWIDE were heard. The main address was given by the Honorable Orland S. Loomis, Attorney General of Wisconsin. The Community Club served a chicken dinner at noon and in the evening and the Homemaker's Clubs presented original entertainment which indicated that their people are wide-awake to their new advantages, and deeply appreciative of the new design on which their daily living may now be patterned.

To visit the OAKDALE COOPERATIVE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION, is to

know that this typical Wisconsin farm community take their Cooperative seriously, and are ready to continue their splendid voluntary efforts that the ultimate result may be a successfully operating distribution system.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-14-Oconto

In the Green Bay region lies a project of about 300 miles of distribution line which was originally incorporated as NORTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and reincorporated on January 18, 1937, as the OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE. Construction, the contract for which was let to L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was begun in July and the lines are now completed and serviceable. G. W. Wallace has been the STATEWIDE resident engineer.

Difficulty in getting their homes wired is perhaps the reason that the fully paid up membership was only 361 in early November. However, the manager, Mr. Earl G. Redman, reports that following the energizing of the first section late in October, a general stimulation resulted, and this problem was greatly lessened; new members were accepted and several connections made daily from then on. The office bookkeeper and stenographer is Arnold M. Truebenbach.

The OCONTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was successful in obtaining satisfactory wholesale rates from the local Union Falls Power Company at Oconto Falls.

The men who were chosen by their neighbors to guide the policies of this new venture in their community are named here. They meet the latter part of each month in Oconto Falls.

Officers:

- JOHN MAGNIN, *President*
- OSCAR GILBERTSON, *Vice-President*
- CHARLES KOSLOWSKY, *Secretary*
- WM. PROCKNOW, *Treasurer*

Directors:

- JOHN MAGNIN, *Lena*
- OSCAR GILBERTSON, *Cecil*
- CHARLES KOSLOWSKY, *Coleman*
- WM. PROCKNOW, *Gillett*
- AUGUST CHRISTOPHERSON, *Lena*
- ORNER VIRTUES, *Little Suamico*
- E. A. WIANS, *Gillett*
- JOHN BARTZ, *Suring*
- WM. G. WILKE, *Underhill*

Mr. Oscar Gilbertson represents the Cooperative on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and is one of the incorporators of STATEWIDE.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-32-Pierce

In a particularly scenic part of our state, with the Mississippi river and beautiful Lake Pepin on its western border, we find a project of about 318 miles of lines, which will upon their completion in the spring of 1938, become the property of the PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

N. C. Anderson represented the Pierce Cooperative as an incorporator of STATEWIDE. This Cooperative was reincorporated on February 23,

1937, as the **PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**. The original membership was 982 farmers. Since the construction started in September, new members have applied daily, seventy-five being received by November. County Agents John Seyforth of Pierce County and O. G. Woelfel of Pepin County have been of very great assistance to their farmer groups.

The City of Ellsworth is quite central to all sections of the project and is the location of the Cooperative's office. Here, on the last Wednesday of each month, the following men, who have been elected to the Board of Directors, meet for their regular business meeting.

SIDNEY PETERSON, *President, Hager City*

ROLAND JOHNSON, *Vice-President, Pepin*

WALTER M. LEONARD, *Secretary-Treasurer, Ellsworth*

Directors:

NICOLI JOHNSON, *River Falls*

PAUL JOHNSON, *Ellsworth*

MANLEY OLSON, *Beldenville*

WILLIAM BUTEL, *Beldenville*

GEORGE ANDREWS, *Bay City*

ALMON VANDEBERG, *Prescott*

The duly chosen and approved Project Superintendent is A. M. Anderson of Ellsworth. He is assisted in the office by Wanda E. Birkel as stenographer and E. C. Brown as Head Easement Solicitor.

The contract for the construction of these lines in Pierce and Pepin counties was let to L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, who is building under the supervision of STATEWIDE. In spite of frost and snow it is anticipated that construction will proceed to completion within the term of the contract which closes April 1, 1938. G. L. VanFleet is resident engineer.

The **PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is a member of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, their Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Leonard, being also Secretary-Treasurer of the Power Cooperative, and on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Wm. Butel is also on the Board of Directors of both organizations.

The substation from which the lines of this community will be fed is on Unit 3, or the west leg of the transmission line, and is located at Ellsworth.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-35-Richland Wisconsin-35B-Richland

On the second day of May, 1936, a telegram from Washington announced the first allotment of REA money to Wisconsin. The **RICHLAND COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION** was one of the two recipients, the **COLUMBUS COOPERATIVE** being the other group to be made happy.

The **RICHLAND COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION** incorporated their cooperative on January 20, 1936. They became the first project for which actual construction plans were made and the first to begin construction.

The low bid for this 232 mile project was presented by the Industrial Electric Company of New Orleans, Louisiana, who moved to Richland Center and made preparations for starting construction early in September, 1937.

A three day celebration was staged in Richland Center, Sunday, September 7, being the momentous day. Thousands of people gathered from near and far to witness the setting of the first REA pole in this state. The President of the Cooperative, Mr. A. Vernon Miller, very ably conducted the ceremonies. Among the speakers were Mr. Boyd Fisher, who represented the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration of Washington, our own Director Orland S. Loomis, and many other people who had been instrumental in bringing Wisconsin's program to the stage where actual material results were to replace the plans of the preceding months.

H. H. Stofen, who served as resident engineer during the construction period, was approved as Manager of the project. He reports 700 consumers as of December and states also that connections are being made almost daily. Bernard Beranek has employment at the office which is located in the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, Richland Center.

The following Board of Directors serve in the interests of the RICHLAND COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION:

A. V. MILLER, *President, Richland Center*
RONALD FERGUSON, *Vice-president, Bloom City*
THERON JANNEY, *Secretary, Richland Center*
OTTO STANEK, *Treasurer, Yuba City*
WENCIL STANEK, *Bloom City*
JOE SEEP, *Casenovia*
JAY G. SHEAFER, SR., *Richland Center*
ED. KELLER, *Richland Center*
EARL EATON, *Richland Center*

Another "first" must be claimed for this cooperative, first to energize, the long looked for event taking place on May 7, 1937, when 267 miles were energized.

These interested people promptly set about organizing another group who desired REA service, and a new allotment for the construction of approximately 150 additional miles was awarded in February of the next year. The contract for the extension was awarded to the Arft-Killoren Electric Company of Appleton, who plan completion early in 1938, sixty-five miles being energized in December. Clare V. Wells is serving as resident engineer on the extension job.

This project when present plans are complete will contain nearly 400 miles of line and more than 1,200 consumers. The city of Richland Center enlarged their municipal power facilities to be able to furnish energy to the cooperative.

Construction on this project went forward rather slowly, as all procedure was new and many solutions to problems must be evolved as the need arose. Opposition was keen and persistent, small scars still being visible, but when hundreds of people work with the same aim, under leaders who have courage, successful achievement is very likely to be the result.

A school district in this county financed the building of a line through permanently enjoined territory to the nearest REA service, and the owner of a large blacksmith shop moved the building approximately a quarter of a mile to reach a point where his objective could be realized.

Incidents of this type are cited to show the determination which is

characteristic of this group of people, who allowed no obstacles to stand in the way of fulfillment of their cooperative purpose.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-38-Rock

One of the first sections to become interested in REA electricity after the introduction of the program in Wisconsin was the very excellent farm territory in Rock, Jefferson and Walworth counties. A large cooperative was formed and incorporated under the name ROCK-JEFFERSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION. A temporary organization was also effected in neighboring Walworth county.

The private utilities in the territory became very active, the Wisconsin Power and Light and the Wisconsin Gas and Electric. The latter named company reduced their rates to \$4.00 for 80 KWH and abandoned their assessment of construction cost charges. They also agreed to electrify the territory in which they could build, on an area basis. The farmers of Jefferson and Walworth accepted this proposition, but Rock County, in the Power and Light area continued to perfect their Cooperative and proceeded to organize according to the REA plan.

On April 24, 1936, they incorporated under the name, ROCK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION. With a paid up membership roll of 1,200, they became one of the charter members of STATEWIDE, their President, Mr. Grant S. Rice being elected to its Board of Directors and to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. R. T. Glassco, County Agent, an active energetic leader in Rock County was also a participant at the meeting.

Officers and members of the present Rock County Board of Directors are:

GRANT S. RICE, *President, Milton*
 H. A. HARIED, *Vice-President, Edgerton*
 W. J. FLORIN, *Treasurer, Avalon*
 J. B. DYBEVIK, *Secretary, Brodhead*
 ED. MAHLUM, *Beloit*
 EMMET YALE, *Milton Junction*
 RALPH MEECH, *Beloit*
 GEO. BALLMER, *Janesville*
 GEO. KOPPLIN, *Janesville*

Monthly meetings are held by the Board, at the office of the Cooperative at 101 East Milwaukee Street, Janesville.

In December, 1936, H. M. Durnin, of the STATEWIDE office, started staking crews, and made other preliminary arrangements as Resident Engineer, preparatory to the construction work that was to be begun shortly by the A. A. Electric Company of Cicero, Illinois.

On July 15, 1937, the first 122 miles of line were energized. In November the entire 402 miles were energized and service was being rendered to 627 customers with an average of six new connections daily, reaching 742 by December 31.

To tersely state construction progress on this project is not giving the whole picture. The fighting spirit, adherence to principles, the courage, the hard work and liberal sprinkling of patience necessary in overcoming obstacles and keeping opposition at bay are the truer reasons why comple-

tion is a real achievement.

Mr. Frank W. Gates, recently of Elkhorn, is Manager of the ROCK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE. Miss Veronica Thom was office secretary until prevented from returning to her position by a serious injury received while on vacation in Colorado. Mrs. Elizabeth Agnew is now bookkeeper and office secretary. Two servicemen are at present employed by the Cooperative.

This Cooperative is purchasing its energy from Fairbanks-Morse Company of Beloit, the substation being located there on the property of the Company.

The manager reports that satisfaction with their electric service is practically general throughout the project, and that all bids fair for successful operation.

From J. O. Woodman, who was the first to be connected in July, to the last connection made, there is a brightening of faces and a lift of tired shoulders, that express the thrill of gratefulness with which these farm residents view the realization of the hopes that have made possible for them by the construction of their REA electric lines.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-21-Taylor

The seven hundred members of the TAYLOR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE which was incorporated January 18, 1937, expect their 218 miles of line to be complete before the first anniversary of their incorporation.

Their local office has been established at Medford. Paul J. Fleischmann is the Project Superintendent and Miss Hildegard Ruprich of Dorchester, the stenographer.

At 8 p. m. on the second Tuesday of each month the Board meets at the office to discuss the problems and set the course of their Cooperative.

ANDREW E. HETLAND, *President, Whittlesey*

JOHN OCKERLANDER, *Vice-President, Dorchester*

HENRY BERGMANN, *Secretary-Treasurer, Goodrich*

Directors:

CHARLES PAUR, *Medford*

HERB JANKE, *Athens*

ALBERT BISCHOFF, *Dorchester*

CARL M. NELSON, *Medford*

ALBERT PINSCH, *Medford*

JULIUS MILLER, *Medford*

Staking and construction supervision was begun on this project by C. A. Jorgenson who was later transferred to Bangor. He was replaced by F. R. McFarland. The Contractor is L. G. Arnold, Inc. of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The TAYLOR COOPERATIVE is a member of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative, Paul J. Fleischmann representing the Taylor group on the Board of Directors. The substation for their project is near Stetsonville on Unit 2 of the transmission line.

If the interest and anticipation present among the members can be taken as indicative, the TAYLOR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will be strong and successful.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-37-Trempealeau

When representatives of electric cooperatives assembled to discuss their mutual problems, at the meeting which resulted in the incorporation of the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the TREMPEALEAU COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was represented by Mr. E. R. Finner. The group reincorporated, dropping "County" from the name, on February 12, 1937.

The farmers of Trempealeau County hold in reverence the memory of County Agent R. V. Larson, deceased, whose initiative and leadership played so large a part in the early life of the cooperative.

The officers and directors are as follows:

E. R. FINNER, *President, Dodge*
 E. N. KLEVEN, *Vice-President, Strum*
 CLARENCE KAAS, *Secretary-Treasurer, Osseo*
 A. C. HAGESTAD, *Etrick*
 JOHN HUSLEGARD, *Independence*
 E. H. SCHROEDER, *Whitehall*
 JULIUS HEGGE, *Etrick*
 INGVALD MYHERS, *Strum*
 H. A. HARDIE, *Galesville*

Manager M. J. Lawrence reports that the Cooperative has about 900 members at present but expect to increase this materially as soon as their project is energized. The local office is in Arcadia and Miss E. G. Brownlee is office secretary.

Trempealeau and its "twin" project, Buffalo, were both allotted 1936 funds, but due to wholesale rate negotiations beginning of construction was delayed. The Trempealeau contract was awarded to Snyder & Johnson, Inc., of Humboldt, Iowa, who began construction in May, 1937. Mr. L. E. Parkyn was placed there by STATEWIDE to represent them as their resident engineer. Early in November, 1937, the project was inspected by a representative of REA, and the construction approved.

Within a few weeks after the first of the year, it is expected that the transmission lines and the generating plant of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative will be completed and the long awaited current will be flowing through the lines to these hundreds of homes. The TREMPEALEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is on Unit I and will get its energy from the substation north of Arcadia, which also feeds the Buffalo Cooperative. E. R. Finner is Vice-President of the Wisconsin Power Cooperative.

The neighborly spirit of the Trempealeau Group was manifested in their invitation to the STATEWIDE staff to be their guests for their August meeting. The office and field staff, easement men and directors and wives from neighboring projects were stimulated to new efforts by the interest and activity of the Trempealeau Cooperators, and a new feeling of unity prevailed as a result of this friendly gathering.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-41-Vernon

One of the Charter members of WRECA, represented at the organization meeting of Mr. H. O. Melby, was the VERNON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, which reincorporated, omitting the word "County" from their name on February 8, 1937.

An office has been established in Westby and the heartiest of coop-

erative relations exist between the City and the Cooperative, giving rent-free offices in the Bank building, being an example of the city's attitude.

STATEWIDE's president, Mr. H. O. Melby, of Westby is President also of his local Cooperative. Other officers and directors are:

RAY CLARK, *Vice-President, Cashton*
MELVIN E. OLSON, *Secretary, Viroqua*
C. V. GORMAN, *Treasurer, Viroqua*
NICK DORSCHIED, *LaFarge*
R. M. GRIMSRUD, *Westby*
OTTO G. HENRY, *Viroqua*
JOE HORA, *Hillsboro*
A. J. RISTOW, *Genoa*

Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month at the office of the Cooperative.

The contract for the building of the lines, which before deletion included 519 miles, was let to C. A. Hooper Company of Madison, who started construction in August and expect to complete the lines, ready for energizing the last part of January. Power is being purchased from the Northern States Power Company.

Mr. N. F. Leifer, the Project Superintendent, reports a membership list of 1,620 members. Miss Pearl Hanson is office stenographer. N. L. Lundeen is resident engineer, representing STATEWIDE.

The Cooperative has held no special celebration, but they were the sponsors of a large electrical exhibit at the Vernon County Fair which was held in September, and due to the fine attitude of the dealers much educational benefit was derived by prospective consumers. County Agent Orrin Johnson and his predecessor, Julius Aasen, have given abundantly of time and effort, wherever they could aid Vernon County farmers in this new enterprise.

At the invitation of the Cooperative, through its manager, the staff of STATEWIDE held its October meeting in Westby. They were met with the characteristic hospitality of the community, to the enjoyment of all. The spirit of working together was very discernible on the part of officials of the Cooperative and of the city, and the principle of neighborliness with all communities could be felt in the attitude of both groups.

The rough terrain and winding roads of Vernon and its neighboring counties in which the lines are laid, make it necessary to obtain private right-of-way across the fields to build the lines as nearly straight as possible. The VERNON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has been saved considerable expense by the application of their neighborly principle at home in willingness of the farmers to grant the desired private right-of-way.

PROJECT

Wisconsin-45G-Chippewa

The Cooperative idea among Wisconsin farmers has reached also into the generating field. In the northwestern section of the state ten rural electric cooperatives, because of their difficulty in obtaining reasonable wholesale rates from existing utilities, met and organized the WISCONSIN POWER COOPERATIVE on May 25, 1937. The Rural Electrification Administration has appropriated to date (December 30) \$705,000.00. Contracts for various parts of the construction work have been let to low bidders, approved by Washington and the entire project is expected to

be complete on or about February 1, 1938.

The 243 miles of transmission lines are divided into three units. Bids were taken by the engineers, the Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Unit I is being constructed by Acme Construction Company and Martin-Wunderlich Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota; Unit II by Allied Contracting Company of Eau Claire, and Unit III by Holtz Brothers Electric Company of Chippewa Falls. Mr. E. L. Rasmussen represents STATEWIDE as resident engineer supervising the three units.

The Bannister Engineering Company has the contract for supervision of the building which will be constructed by Hoepfner & Bartlett Company of Eau Claire, and the generators which will be installed by the Busch-Selzer Bros. Diesel Engine Co. of St. Louis, Missouri. The switchboard will be installed by L. A. Kepp, Rochester, Minnesota.

Seven distribution Cooperatives have signed wholesale power contracts with the Power Cooperative.

BUFFALO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 CLARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 DUNN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 PIERCE-PEPIN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 TAYLOR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
 TREMPLEALEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Three cooperatives in Jackson, St. Croix and Eau Claire counties are members and will sign power contracts when their projects have been allotted.

The Board of Directors has fifteen members. Their names and addresses follow:

FRANK H. KRAMPETER, *President, Gilmanton*
 E. R. FINNER, *Vice-President, Dodge*
 WALTER M. LEONARD, *Secretary-Treasurer, Ellsworth*
 WALLACE J. LANDRY, *Neillsville*
 IRWIN ACCOLA, *Mondovi*
 WM. RUTZEN, *Glenwood City*
 CLARENCE KAAS, *Osseo*
 VERN G. HOWARD, *Granton*
 ANDREW E. HETLAND, *Whittlesey*
 M. B. ROTNEM, *Elk Mound*
 W. E. OWEN, *Downing*
 ROY H. KUNZELMAN, *Alma Center*
 WM. BUTEL, *Beldenville*
 R. L. CLEAVES, *Holcombe*
 PAUL J. FLEISCHMANN, *Medford*

Executive Committee:

R. L. CLEAVES WALLACE J. LANDRY W. E. OWEN
 FRANK H. KRAMPETER WALTER M. LEONARD

The generating plant will be built near Chippewa Falls and the office of the organization has been established at Room 4, Physician's Block, in that city. Mr. E. B. Wayts, formerly Chief Engineer of STATEWIDE is project superintendent, and E. F. Thornton is bookkeeper.

The Wisconsin Power Cooperative will be wholly owned by ten distribution Cooperatives. REA rate experts estimate that it will save

its members at least \$30,000 per year over their best long term contract for power. When the federal loan has been paid off and it becomes their property, free of debt still greater savings can be effected by pooling of all operating and maintenance expense.

The first Cooperative electric generating unit in Wisconsin. May it succeed gloriously!

PROJECT

Wisconsin-8009-LaCrosse

The Village of Bangor was allotted \$60,000 on July 20, 1937, for the purpose of extending the distribution lines of their municipality into four towns of LaCrosse county to include approximately 170 new consumers. Though prohibited by the by-law limitations of STATEWIDE from becoming members, they engaged the WRECA to perform their engineering services at cost.

Honold & LaPage Company, Inc., of Sheboygan were the successful bidders who have been carrying on construction activities for several weeks and anticipate completion early in January. Representing the interests of STATEWIDE is resident engineer, C. A. Jorgenson.

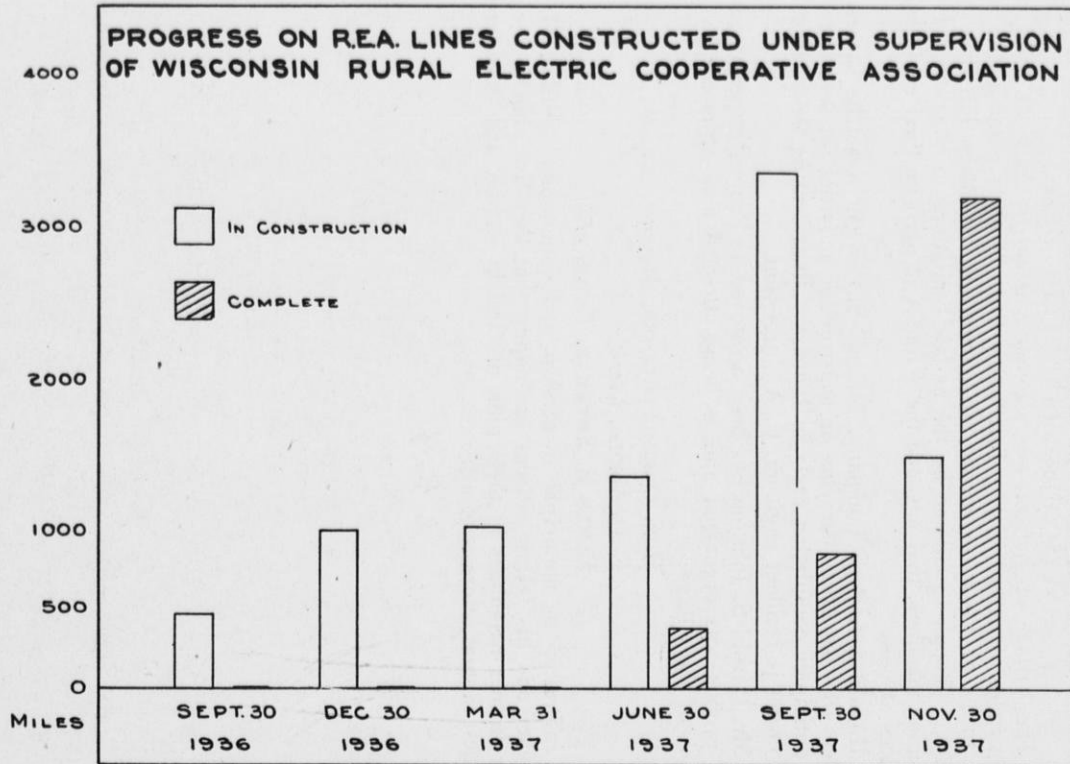
Mr. Harold S. Johnson has been approved as Project Superintendent. The project was organized and is being directed and promoted by the officers of the village:

HON. ORRIN FLETCHER, *Mayor*

E. O. MERLO, *Clerk*

ELMER H. SWERMAN, *Treasurer*

Interested in municipal ownership and community welfare, Mayor Fletcher and his fellow citizens are happy that they are able to include their farmer neighbors in their plan of electric service, and thus serving the best mutual interests of all.



Directory

OFFICE:

J. MORGAN WILSON, *General Manager*

V. M. MURRAY, *Chief Engineer*

Office Engineers:

KENT WOOLDRIDGE, *Inventory Engineer*

J. L. BRONSTEIN, *Junior Engineer*

Draftsmen:

E. L. CARTWRIGHT, *Chief Draftsman*

J. W. BARDEN

Accounting Department:

A. J. GREEN, *Chief Accountant*

HOWARD E. GEARHART

HOWARD A. LACOURT

EDWIN E. SLIGHTAM

Stenographic Department:

MISS GENE CURTIN, *Senior Stenographer*

MISS EVELYN OLSON

MISS LOUISE EVANS

MRS. CLAIRE MOTELET

D. DUNCAN BALLANTINE, *Inventory Clerk*

CHRISTINE QUAMME, *Record Clerk*

FIELD:

WM. A. BUCK, *Supervisory Field Engineer*

Resident Engineers:

W. W. BENZEL, *Buffalo*

H. M. DURNIN, *Rock, Lafayette*

W. H. HOLMAN, *Barron*

N. L. LUNDEEN, *Douglas, Monroe Vernon*

F. R. MCFARLAND, *Taylor*

L. E. PARKYN, *Trempealeau, Grant*

E. L. RASMUSSEN, *Wisconsin Power Cooperative*

FRED S. TRUAX, *Clark*

G. W. WALLACE, *Columbus, Oconto*

Assistant Resident Engineers:

V. L. ANDERSON, *Columbus*

C. A. JORCENSON, *Bangor*

DAVID J. SMITH, *Clark*

GEO. L. VANFLEET, *Pierce-Pepin*

CLARE V. WELLS, *Richland Addition*

PROJECTS:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Local Office</i>	<i>Project Supt.</i>
RICHLAND	<i>Richland Center</i>	H. H. STOFEN
DOUGLAS	<i>Superior</i>	GEO. HALONEN, JR.
MONROE	<i>Oakdale</i>	LLOYD McCASKEY
COLUMBIA	<i>Columbus</i>	F. H. ROOB
ROCK	<i>Janesville</i>	FRANK W. GATES
BUFFALO	<i>Alma</i>	E. A. HAEUSER
TREMPEALEAU	<i>Arcadia</i>	M. J. LAWRENCE
OCONTO	<i>Oconto Falls</i>	EARL G. REDMAN
BARRON	<i>Barron</i>	LAWRENCE TOYNBEE
CLARK	<i>Greenwood</i>	WM. DALLMAN
VERNON	<i>Westby</i>	N. F. LEIFER
TAYLOR	<i>Medford</i>	PAUL FLEISCHMAN
LACROSSE	<i>Bangor</i>	HAROLD S. JOHNSON
PIERCE-PEPIN	<i>Ellsworth</i>	A. M. ANDERSON
LAFAYETTE	<i>Darlington</i>	EDW. J. PASKA
GRANT	<i>Lancaster</i>	EARL E. RAISBECK
WISCONSIN POWER COOPERATIVE	<i>Chippewa Falls</i>	E. B. WAYTS

Educational Activity

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

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

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

APRIL 29, 1937—PARK HOTEL, *Madison*

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

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

AUGUST 28, 1937—*Arcadia*

OCTOBER 9, 1937—*Westby*

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

CHRISTINE QUAMME, *Editor*

We wish to extend congratulations to the cooperative farmers of Wisconsin in their successful accomplishment of constructing 4,000 miles of rural electric lines during the past year.

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time and effort for the welfare of Wis-
consin farmers, congratulations!

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