

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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North Dakota museum treasures collector's passion



Lorina Zuern stands by a smattering of construction equipment models that were included in Herb's collection.

PHOTO BY LAYN MUDDER

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BY LUANN DART

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Lorina Zuern holds a photo of herself and her late husband, Herb, inside the Mercer County Museum in North Dakota, where her husband's farm toy collection is on display.

When Herb Zuern passed away in December 2012 at the age of 92, the North Dakota farmstead where he had lived most of his life was frozen in time, a treasure trove of everything from antique tractors to the Zuern family blacksmith shop. By the next summer, his wife, Lorina, and family friends were gathering a lifetime of possessions and collections to auction.

But tucked away in a room inside one of the machine sheds was something that wouldn't be auctioned that summer – Herb's farm toy collection.

The collection remained intact, locked away in a display room on the farmstead, until the fall of 2015, when the entire collection was moved to the Mercer County Historical Society's museum in Beulah.

The farm toy collection, which Lorina donated to the museum, now fills gleaming glass display shelves in a new addition to the museum, for the public to appreciate.

Recalling the good ol' days

Herb and Lorina were married in 1947, living on the farm where Herb was born and becoming lifetime partners in everything, from farming to restoring antique tractors and collecting farm toys. Married for 65 years, Herb and Lorina worked side-by-side on the farm, which included a blacksmith shop and a grain

PHOTOS BY LAVN MUDDER



Museum volunteers spelled out "Zuern Toys" using blocks from Lorina's childhood.

elevator built in 1926.

"He loved tractors," says Lorina, who is now 89 years old. Herb collected antique tractors, horse-drawn equipment and Model T trucks. Real tractors in his collection included a Case LA he bought new in 1947 for \$2,850, a 1920s Rumley oil pull, a Massey Ferguson 35, and a propane Minneapolis-Moline GB Model 97 that Lorina helped restore, painting all the cast-iron on the tractor by hand with a brush, a story in the *Hazen Star* newspaper describes.

So, when Herb started collecting model farm toys in 1983, Lorina wasn't too surprised.

"At first, I thought it was kind of silly and then I finally joined him," she says with a laugh.

Herb began collecting farm toys when he was still farming near Hazen in central North Dakota, starting with models of the tractors he had farmed with as a youngster.

At first, the farm toys were stored

in the house, neatly kept inside the boxes. When visitors came, Herb would show the tractors, then Lorina carefully returned the models back to the box.

With the collection quickly outgrowing the house and a new machine shed being planned, Lorina had a suggestion – build a room inside the shed for the toys. So, a corner room was built inside the shed. The climate-controlled, carpeted, locked room showcased Herb's collection for visitors.

The couple even kept a registry of visitors, who logged their name, the date and the name of their hometown.

"I thought that would be nice to remember the people who came," Lorina says. Visitors came from overseas and from across the country to the farmstead museum, to appreciate Herb's collection.

The first entry is dated Aug. 9, 1989, and the last is Sept. 6, 2015, by Bill Tveit, who logged the last entry

as one of the family friends helping to move the collection to the museum.

"When people stopped in, they would sign in and look at his toys. It was kind of off the beaten path, hidden out of the way a little bit. So a lot of people heard about it, but a lot of people never drove out there to see it," describes Cal Wagner, who also helped move the collection.

"Herb grew up working with tractors and also helping his dad with the tractors, so he knew the inside of the tractors," Lorina recalls. Herb started driving a tractor when he was 9 years old – before power steering – and started farming on his own in the 1940s.

His farm toy collection resembles his life, starting with models of some of the early tractors, such as a 1930s John Deere thresher and a Buffalo Pitts steam tractor, through modern-day replicas.

"The favorite toys were like the ones he used, like the old steam tractors or the steel-wheeled tractors.



A John Deere thresher represents Herb Zuern's early days of farming.

They reminded him of his growing up years," Lorina shares.

Finding a home

After Herb died, Lorina was approached by a private collector to purchase the collection, but she did not want it to leave the area. Without children, the couple did not have family to inherit the collection either.

The Mercer County Museum was planning an addition, describes Peggy Wolff, a volunteer at the museum, when friends of the family, Bill and Laurel Tveit and Lorina approached the museum about accepting the collection for display.

"There are a lot of people who are interested in toys and this is a rural area," Peggy says. "It was offered to us, so we decided that we would take it."

The museum readied for the collection, with a local carpenter building the 25 display cases. Local businesses sponsored individual display cases, in exchange for having a plaque with their name displayed on the sponsored case.

Meanwhile, volunteers helped pack the collection and move it to the museum in September 2015.

Then, volunteers, using toothbrushes, toothpicks and cloths, worked through the winter to meticulously clean each piece.

"We had a lot of volunteers who helped with the cleaning," Peggy says.

Cal Wagner and Murel Spier, both local farm toy collectors themselves, contributed their time and knowledge to sort the toys and arrange them for display. Murel also serves on the museum's board of directors. The two will also volunteer their time to catalog the entire collection.

"It was fun. I enjoyed every minute working up here," says Cal, who had never ventured to the Zuern farmstead to see the collection.

"I was truly honored to help," Murel says. "It was best to keep the collection in the community."

Approximately 1,000 toys are on display, while about 700 toys, which were duplicates, were auctioned this spring, with the proceeds donated

to the museum. The collection represents numerous scales and brands, with about 80 percent of the collection still in the box.

"He has just a nice collection of a lot of toys," Cal says. "It's an added attraction to show what a toy collector is. I think it's just awesome that it's here."

A volunteer, 10-member Mercer County Historical Society board of directors oversees the museum. The Mercer County Museum in Beulah is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and from 1-4 p.m. Sundays, or by appointment by calling 701-873-5070.

Over the years, Herb and Lorina had donated other items for display in the museum, including a windmill, Herb's tricycle and the couple's wedding clothes.

But sitting amid the encased farm toy collection of her late husband, Lorina is thrilled with the outcome of this donation.

"I would have never thought it would be displayed like this," she marvels. ■

Report from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOV. 28, 2016

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Dickinson on Nov. 28.

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Oct. 28, 2016, meeting.

Co-General Managers' report: Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund presented the managers' report.

Safety Coordinator's report: The Board was referred to Mr. Stastny's written report.

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz reported that minor details are being worked through on the Montana-Dakota Utilities service-area agreements, which have largely been agreed to by the parties. Ms. Grosz and Mr. Bentz discussed

with the Board the status of the negotiations, and what has transpired since the last meeting.

Mr. Bentz noted that inventory has largely been completed as well.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program through 2016. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2017 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5



Cooperative offers scholarship opportunities

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will again offer \$5,000 in college scholarships to area students. The co-op will award eight, \$500 scholarships. Each school in our service area chooses one recipient. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor and South Heart choose a graduating senior to receive the funds. Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will then forward each recipient's name to Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

The co-op will also award one, \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area. The recipient must have parents who are members of our cooperative.

Roughrider Electric is also offering one, \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. We award the scholarship to a student already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. All post-secondary students who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply.

Students can find the application on our website, roughriderelectric.com. Forms are also available at our local offices in Hazen and Dickinson.

Fill out our online application or mail paper applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1038, Dickinson, ND 58602.

Return completed applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative before **Feb. 10, 2017**. ■

JUNE 10 to 16, 2017

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

HIGH SCHOOL
SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Jan. 31, 2017**. Email entries to bquenette@roughriderelectric.com or mail to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737.



ESSAY QUESTION:

Democracy is the foundation of our American way of life and of cooperative enterprise. The fundamentals of democracy include voter participation, political party affiliation, and public debate of issues. Describe what you think makes our current democracy strong, and provide suggestions for ways our democracy can be made stronger and more effective.

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT

www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop

SECURE PAY

DO YOU PREFER TO MAKE YOUR UTILITY PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE?

OUR AUTOMATED SYSTEM, **Secure Pay**, ENSURES A SAFE, RELIABLE METHOD. ALL PHONE PAYMENTS WILL USE THIS **Secure Pay** PHONE SYSTEM. TO PAY USING OUR AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM, CALL US TOLL-FREE AT **1-844-241-0260**.

ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ADDED THIS FEATURE TO BE COMPLIANT WITH THE PAYMENT CARD INDUSTRY (PCI) DATA SECURITY STANDARD. THESE WORLDWIDE REQUIREMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP COMPANIES THAT PROCESS SUCH PAYMENTS PREVENT CREDIT CARD FRAUD THROUGH INCREASED DATA CONTROLS. MOVING TO THIS SYSTEM ENSURES OUR CONTINUED ABILITY TO ACCEPT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS.



Keep snow and ice away from electric meters

BY JACKIE MILLER

We're full swing into the winter season and snow is piling up. Roughrider Electric Cooperative is reminding you, our member-owners, to inspect your electric meter on a regular basis; especially after a heavy snowfall like the blizzard experienced across much of North Dakota the first week of December. Heavy snow drifts can settle on your electric meter. It is important for you to carefully clear snow and ice away from the meter and surrounding area for these reasons:

- Accumulated snow places stress on your meter and wiring, and may harm the meter or cause an unnecessary power outage.
- The weight of the snow can pull the meter off its mount.
- Roughrider Electric line crews may need you to clear access to your meter during an outage. This action alone lengthens the response time of an outage.

Meters are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, but we must remain vigilant in protecting them from snow and ice buildup. The next time you bundle up to go outside, take a close look at the electric meter. If there is snow or ice on the meter, gently brush it off with your hands or a broom.

Roughrider Electric shares these tips for safely removing snow and ice from your meter.

- Do not strike the meter with snow blades or shovels.
- Do not kick your meter to break or clear the ice.
- Remove overhead icicles and snow from eaves and gutters, to ensure they do not cause damage as they fall.

Thank you, members, for your attention to this matter. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the north and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
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Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
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Don FranklundCo-General Manager/CEO
Chris BaumgartnerCo-General Manager/CEO



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