

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2020

## To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven

*Steven Schwarz is a hobby photographer who says he shoots to capture God's painting. He certainly succeeded here! Steven took this photo south of Hazen in the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area last fall. Employed by our cooperative friends at WRT in Beulah, Steven works as an install and repair technician. He also serves as a volunteer for Hazen's Fire and Rescue Department, a union steward for WRT, and the secretary/treasurer for Fire & Iron West River Motorcycle Club Station 162. Thank you for sharing this photo, Steven, and for powering our local communities.*

*~ Ecclesiastes 3, King James Version*



PHOTO BY STEVEN SCHWARZ

### What's inside:

- **Co-op members mark historic cattle trail**
- **Save the date for your annual meeting**
- **Nominate a local hero for the final #whopowersyou contest**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**



PHOTO BY RICHARD VOLESKY

Shown on July 12 near Trapper's Kettle in Belfield after placing a marker and plaque for the Great Western Trail are, from left, **John Heinen, Kim Shade, Jim Ozbun, Jim Lowman, Darrell Dorgan, John Hanson, Larry Schnell and Bill Lowman.**

## 'The value of saying yes'

### Co-op members help mark historic cattle trail

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Preserving history, being part of the future, working with neighbors and highlighting the cattle industry – it is the local story of the Great Western Cattle Trail, and how some electric cooperative members are contributing to a national effort to mark it.

"It's the value of saying yes!" says Slope Electric Cooperative member John Hanson, fourth-generation owner of Logging Camp Ranch northwest of Amidon. "That's how this trail is happening ... by people saying yes."

After the American Civil War, Texans came back to their ranches and found they had deteriorated. With most of the able-bodied men gone to

war, the cattle had reproduced and run wild. They were practically worthless, with a lot of cattle, few people and no market.

Ranchers started putting together herds and trailing them to rail heads including Wichita and Dodge City. That way they could ship the cattle to the cities that were wanting good beef. That became known as the Chishum Trail.

During the 1870s and early 1880s, a fight ensued for the frontier, and Native Americans were forced from the Plains. The dispute opened grasslands to the north, and the trail continued to develop.

Millions of open-range longhorns

were gathered in Mexico and Texas. Cowboys drove them north to the vast prairie grasses of the Plains, and on to railroads where they were shipped to stockyards and a market. The cattle walked through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana, and some went on to Canada. The drives established the Great Western Cattle Trail, which parallels Highway 85 in the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area.

Also known as the Western Trail, Fort Griffin Trail, Dodge City Trail, Northern Trail and Texas Trail, the Great Western Cattle Trail was used to move an estimated seven- to nine-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.ND.GREATWESTERNCATTLETRAIL.COM

According to [www.legendsofamerica.com](http://www.legendsofamerica.com), a typical cattle drive, moving 10 to 12 miles a day, would take about two months to travel from Texas to Kansas. Roughrider Electric member Jim Lowman says he would have liked to travel the trail just once to see what it would have been like. "There was nothing romantic about it. It was a tough life!" he says. "Out in the elements in rugged terrain, it was pretty rough. Those young cowboys were adventurous, and they needed the work and didn't know better. They lived off the herd and the chuck wagon."

million cattle over 20 years.

The cattle industry surged into what was then Dakota Territory when cowboys pushed a large herd from Rio Grande to the Little Missouri River in 1884. According to [www.ndgreatwesterncattletrail.com](http://www.ndgreatwesterncattletrail.com), the trail assisted in the development of the ranching and livestock industry, and had a significant impact on the economy.

Some cowboys eventually stayed and helped establish the ranches that would grow North Dakota's Western heritage, which is strong and prosperous today.

Jim Lowman is one of those modern-day cowboys who runs a ranch near Fairfield. A member of Roughrider Electric, Lowman says he lives, "half a day's ride north of Medora if you have an early breakfast." On the ranch he raises cattle, horses, border collies and blue healers.

This spring he received a phone call from friend Darrell Dorgan, a

rural Regent native who used to work as executive director for the N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame; Lowman served as a trustee. Dorgan told him about a project he was coordinating that involved marking the Great Western Cattle Trail in North Dakota. Lowman grew up riding in the Badlands and has continued over the years. When Dorgan asked if he would volunteer to help set markers, Lowman said yes, along with his brother Bill.

"I enjoy local history and have read all the books I can find on it," says Lowman. "We are all part of history."

Lowman volunteered with Slope Electric Cooperative members John Hanson and Steve Brooks, who worked with landowners to mark the Great Western Cattle Trail in the Roughrider and Slope Electric service areas. They coordinated the placement of markers, wrote legal descriptions, lined up excavators and operators to dig — and joined a national effort that began 12 years ago to ensure the trail is

never lost.

"People were forgetting about it," says Dorgan, who is a longtime journalist/documentary producer. "Growing up, lots of people watched Western movies that showed cattle herds being driven up the trail. That same trail came through North Dakota, and this is it!"

A year ago, Dorgan agreed to head up the effort of having trail markers placed in North Dakota, along with Jim Ozbun from Dickinson. Ozbun's maternal grandfather came up the cattle trail as a child, bringing cattle to North Dakota. After the N.D. Cowboy Hall of Fame was built, Ozbun secured the first marker at the site in Medora.

As the volunteer numbers grew, so did the number of markers. This summer, about 10 ranchers gathered and split into two groups. Hanson took one group to Belfield where they set a marker at Trapper's Kettle, and Brooks took the other to the North Dakota/South Dakota border. They started installing concrete markers about every six miles or so to mark the trail, with permission from the landowners. The markers, called obelisks, are engraved with the words, "Great Western Tr." The second group also installed a black marble marker at the border that describes the trail's history. These description markers will be placed every 30 to 40 miles.



PHOTO BY DARRELL DORGAN

Volunteers enjoyed a steak fry and music at the beautiful Logging Camp Ranch northwest of Amidon after a day of marking the cattle trail.



Obelisks mark the Great Western Cattle Trail about every six miles from Texas to North Dakota to commemorate the millions of cattle and horses that made the journey over a 20-year time period. About 55 obelisks will mark North Dakota's portion of the trail. The 6-foot posts were produced by Dickinson Ready Mix. The owner, Scott Olin, donated the posts to preserve the history and heritage of the North Dakota cattle industry. **Olin** (right) is shown here with **Jim Ozbun**, who helped coordinate the project in North Dakota with Darrell Dorgan.

About 55 obelisks weighing 260 pounds each will mark North Dakota's portion of the trail, from the state border to Fort Buford near Williston. The posts were produced by Dickinson Ready Mix. The owner, Scott Olin, donated the posts in a generous effort to preserve North Dakota history.

"Local volunteers were willing to go out and get the work done. We had a good crew and a good time," Lowman says.

The two groups met in Amidon at the courthouse and set a final marker together. Then they traveled to Logging Camp Ranch, where Hanson hosted a social event for the volunteers and their families. The evening



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.NDGREATWESTERNCATTLETRAIL.COM

Between 1874 and 1893, millions of Longhorn were driven from Mexico through nine states including North Dakota, and some into Canada, to graze until they could be loaded on rail cars and sent to market. Their path of travel became known as the Great Western Cattle Trail.

was filled with good food among good friends.

Other than a sincere thank-you, the volunteers received nothing for their time and labor. Their payment was attending a good steak fry — and like Lowman says — becoming a part of history.

"One hundred years from now, someone will drive down the road and say their great-grandpa was one of the guys who put this marker up, and helped preserve the Great Western Cattle Trail," says Dorgan.

In addition to preserving history, Dorgan says the trail may enhance the state's tourism industry.

"When this project is done, there will be a new attraction that goes through the middle of the United States from Mexico to Canada that dates back to the true Western era," he says. "It's a piece of history that people may really enjoy and like, [and give them a reason to get on the road.]"

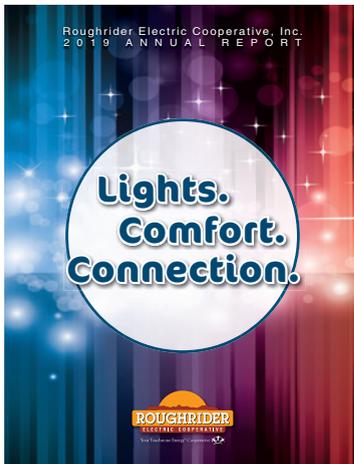
Phase one of the North Dakota

project will be completed this fall. Next year the remaining stretch from Belfield to Watford City and on to Fort Buford will be marked.

Commitment to community is making this project possible. Area rotary clubs became involved in the project, including the Dickinson Rotary Club, which served as banker and contributed a donation. Dickinson Ready Mix supplied the markers, with assistance from Fisher Sand and Gravel in Dickinson. The Medora Tourism Committee is considering a donation. Project coordinators also worked with the North Dakota Highway Department, State Historical Society of North Dakota and North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Donations to subsidize the cost of the trail markers are being accepted. For information on the project and how to donate, contact Darrell Dorgan at 701-226-4431 or [ddorgan695@aol.com](mailto:ddorgan695@aol.com), or Jim Ozbun at 701-290-4153 or [circlez@ndsupernet.com](mailto:circlez@ndsupernet.com). ■

# Annual Meeting rescheduled



Roughrider Electric Cooperative has rescheduled its annual meeting for Friday, Oct. 9, in Beulah.

Mail-in ballots, annual report and other pertinent information regarding our annual meeting will be mailed later this month.

## Vote by mail 2020 Annual Meeting

Voting by mail is authorized by Roughrider Electric Cooperative's Bylaws, and will be offered to members in connection with the Oct. 9, 2020, annual meeting. Ballots and instructions will be mailed prior to the annual meeting. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by being nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting and has been signed by at least 15 members.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all members. All ballots mailed-in or hand-delivered **must be received by the cooperative no later than 3:30 p.m. Central Time on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.**

Please note: Members attending the annual meeting in person who have previously voted by mail-in ballot will not be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Their prior submission will constitute their vote(s) on the items on the ballot.

**TO: All Members**  
**FROM: Donald A. Franklund and Travis M. Kupper, Alliance Co-General Managers**  
**SUBJECT: Nomination Process**

To comply with Rural Utilities Service requirements, we must provide each member with a summary of the bylaws on the nomination process prior to the nomination of candidates for board positions. The following is the bylaw section on nominations:

#### SECTION 4. Nominations.

- (a) A Nominating Committee shall be selected by the Board of Directors in time for its first meeting to be held before the annual meeting of members in 2009 and for each annual meeting of members thereafter. The Nominating Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from each of the Cooperative's Districts and a minimum of two members from each district shall be selected. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall establish rules for the conduct of and arrange for the meeting of the Nominating Committee. The Secretary shall notify the members of the Nominating Committee in the manner provided by Article II, Section 4 delivered at least fifteen days before the date set for the Committee meeting. From and after 2009, the Nominating Committee shall meet at least sixty days before the annual meeting of members to nominate at least one qualified candidate for each directorship for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Nominating Committee shall cause a list of nominees for Directors to be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative.
- (b) By petition, any fifteen or more members of the same district acting together may make other nominations for each directorship in that district for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members, provided the petition is filed with the Secretary not less than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of members. The Secretary shall cause to be posted such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.
- (c) The Secretary shall cause to be mailed, with the notice of the annual meeting of members, or separately but at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and also the nominations made by petition, if any.
- (d) Unless voting by mail for directorships has been approved, the President, acting as Chairman of the meeting, shall invite additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until a reasonable time has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate at any single annual meeting of members.

The Nominating Committee appointed by the board consists of **Gordon Ficek**, Dickinson; **Ivo Schoch**, New England; **Alan Kadrmaz**, Dickinson; **Don Buck**, Zap; **David V. Sadowsky**, Dickinson; **Robert Fitterer**, Golden Valley; **John Smith**, Beulah; **Lee Alderin**, Center; **Eric Rosenquist**, Center.

The committee meetings were held Jan. 24 in Dickinson and Feb. 21 in Hazen.

If you have questions concerning nominations, feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee or please call our office for information.



# Work safely around grain bins

**M**ake sure everyone, including family and employees, working around stored grain understands the hazards and proper safety procedures.

“Too many people ignore safety practices and suffer severe injury or death while working around grain,” says Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University Extension agricultural engineer. Never enter a bin while unloading grain or to break up a grain bridge or chunks that may plug grain flow. Flowing grain will pull you into the grain mass, burying you within seconds. Use the “lock-out/tag-out” procedures to assure equipment will not start before entering the bin.

Bridging occurs when grain is high in moisture content, moldy or in poor condition. The kernels stick together and form a crust. A cavity will form under the crust when grain is removed from the bin. The crust isn’t strong enough to support a person’s weight, so anyone who walks on it will fall into the cavity and be buried under several feet of grain.

Determine if the grain has a crust before any grain has been removed. If work needs to be done with a crust, it must be done before any grain is removed.

## Grain bags are suffocation hazard

Never enter a grain bag, because it is a suffocation hazard. If unloading the bag with a pneumatic grain conveyor, the suction can “shrink wrap” a person so he or she cannot move and will limit space for breathing.

To determine if the grain is bridged after unloading has started, look for a funnel shape on the surface of the grain mass. If the grain surface appears

undisturbed, the grain has bridged and a cavity has formed under the surface. Stay outside the bin and use a pole or other object to break the bridge loose.

If the grain flow stops when you’re removing it from the bin, a chunk of spoiled grain probably is blocking the flow. Entering the bin to break up the blockage will expose you to being buried in grain and tangled in the auger.

If grain has formed a vertical wall, try to break it up from the top of the bin with a long pole on a rope or through a door with a long pole. A wall of grain can collapse, or avalanche, without warning, knocking you over and burying you.

Never enter a grain bin alone. Have at least two people at the bin to assist in case of problems. Use a safety harness and rope that prevents you from descending rapidly more than a couple of feet when entering a bin.

“Take time to think of all options before entering a bin,” Hellevang advises. ■

## Bins require clearance from power lines

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it’s easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Whether you are purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

- **Safe clearance.** The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall.

- **Filling grain bins.** Maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.
- **Moving equipment near grain bins.** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split second, which is why Roughrider Electric Cooperative reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin’s site, please contact Roughrider Electric and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family. ■

## Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **JULY 31, 2020**

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met via conference call July 31, 2020.

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

**Minutes of the previous meetings:** The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 26, 2020, and July 24, 2020, meetings.

**Consent Agenda:** The Board reviewed, discussed and approved the Consent Agenda, including proposed membership applications, service connects and assignments, proposed cancellations of membership, and requests for retirement of capital credit accounts.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Travis Kupper and Don Franklund presented the managers' report. Mr. Kupper provided an update on cooperative matters, including an update on how COVID-19 is affecting the cooperative.

Mr. Kupper provided an update on the DAPL pipeline injunction, and its potential indirect effects on Roughrider.

As of today, the pipeline is still pumping. If that pipeline does not operate, the impact on North Dakota crude is that it costs another \$5 to \$6 per barrel to ship it via truck or rail.

**Chief Financial Officer report:** Mr. Craigmile provided the Board with a summary of his written report. Operating revenue is down 3.7 percent from what was budgeted, but the cost of service is also under budget.

**Operations and Construction report:** Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz reported that crews have been doing a lot of maintenance, and they have been making repairs to the damage from the wind storm in the Hazen area.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on Aug. 28, 2020, to be held via conference call or at Astoria Hotel & Event Center, Dickinson, North Dakota.

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

## Nominate a local hero for the fifth — and final — #WhoPowersYou contest

Members, this year marks the fifth, and final, #WhoPowersYou contest. Hosted by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives nationwide including Roughrider Electric Cooperative locally, the annual contest celebrates people who inspire or make a difference in our local communities.

This year's contest will be held Sept. 8 to Oct. 9. Winners will be announced in November, and the person you nominate could receive up to \$5,000.

Entrant/nominator or entrant's/nominator's immediate family (spouse or parent) or other persons residing in the same household as entrant/nominator must be a member of Roughrider Electric.

To read additional eligibility requirements or enter the contest, visit [www.whopowersyou.com](http://www.whopowersyou.com), fill out a submission and submit a photo. Entries from our co-op will be featured in the local pages of *North Dakota Living*.



**Sakakawea Sunrise**  
PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE



# FARM EQUIPMENT IS ON THE MOVE

## LOOK UP AND LOOK AROUND POWER LINES AND POLES MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

For your safety, make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between power lines and your combines, grain augers, balers and front-end loaders.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Newer, larger equipment is especially at risk.

Look for low-hanging lines when you enter and leave a field.

Keep in mind that uneven ground and shifting soil conditions can put you in harm's way.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Call 911, tell others to stay away, and wait for help.

If you are a Roughrider Electric Cooperative member and you see a power line issue that may need attention, call us at 800-748-5533 or email [safety@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:safety@roughriderelectric.com).

Your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com)

### HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533  
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 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  
7 a.m. – 4 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 west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson .....    | 483-8377 |
| Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah ..... | 873-4371 |
| Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley ..... | 948-2427 |
| Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley ..... | 983-4222 |
| William Retterath; Center .....             | 794-8729 |
| Arnold Kainz; Dickinson .....               | 483-8207 |
| Dan Price; Hensler .....                    | 794-3779 |
| Greg Steckler; Dunn Center .....            | 548-8122 |
| Callen Schoch; New England .....            | 290-3836 |

### MANAGEMENT

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Don Franklund ..... | Co-GM/CEO |
| Travis Kupper ..... | Co-GM/CEO |



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