

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SEPTEMBER 2021

LOST FOR 50 YEARS



Roughrider Electric Cooperative Director Bill Retterath has been miraculously reunited with a Vietnam War memento after losing it 50 years ago. Read more inside.

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- **Co-op working through global shortages**
- **Scholarship winners named**
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LOST FOR 50 YEARS

BILL RETTERATH REUNITED WITH VIETNAM WAR KEEPSAKE

BY LUANN DART

When a Vietnam War memento slipped out of Bill Retterath's pocket 50 years ago, he didn't think he would ever see it again. But 50 years later, the inscribed cigarette lighter resurfaced and has been returned to its owner.

In June 1970, Retterath was given a lighter when he was discharged from the U.S. Army. A committee presented the lighter to him, engraved with: "TO SSG RETTERATH FROM 67W COMMITTEE MTFB." MTFB is an acronym for Maintenance Test Flight Branch. On the

other side is an insignia.

After returning home from service in the 1st Air Calvary in Vietnam, Retterath was visiting a neighbor in the summer of 1971, picking produce at a large garden near Sanger, which is near the Cross Ranch State Park north of Mandan.

"After that, I noticed I had lost my lighter," Retterath said. "I had it in my pocket. ... I was really disappointed, too, because it meant a lot to me."

The keepsake became a mere memory as time marched on. Bill married Carol and they began a family, now including six children – sons Justin, Luke and Charles, and daughters Sarah Huettl, Germaine Stroup and Kate Palczewski – and 15 grandchildren. He worked in construction, at the power plants and on road crews. Then, he started farming in 1981. In 1984, he was elected as a director for what was then Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative, working with the cooperative through a merger to become Roughrider Electric Cooperative. He also serves on the Upper Missouri Power Cooperative board. Bill eventually retired, and his sons now farm in the Washburn area.

“So, now my wife and I are enjoying the good life,” he said.

And the lighter remained lost.

There were changes elsewhere, too.

Over the years, the garden owner sold his property to the N.D. Game and Fish Department, which established food plots for wildlife at the site.

Then, a small miracle occurred.

“This spring, I got a call from someone I knew at the Game and Fish and he asked me if I knew of anybody who might have lost it. I said, ‘Yeah, it’s mine,’” Bill said. “They had found it while they were planting these food plots and it turned up 50 years later.”

Last spring, Technician James Houston was planting corn in food plots in a wildlife management area when he saw some metal in the dirt, glinting in the sun following the first round with the planter.

“I didn’t pay too much attention to it,” he said. Then, he came by the metal again on his last round.

“I thought I better jump out and see what that is,” he said. He picked up the Zippo lighter, rubbed the dirt off, and thought, “This looks like something that would be important to somebody.”

He sent a photo of the lighter to his brother, who is a history buff, who found information on Bill Retterath’s military service. Houston then searched the name and discovered the family lived nearby. At work the next day, he shared the photo of the lighter with Bill Haase.

“I said, ‘I know who that is, it’s our grazing cooperater,’” said Wildlife Resource Management District 4 Supervisor William Haase. “It’s kind of neat how we were all connected in a way.”

“It was obviously sentimental to him,” Haase said.

Houston delivered the lighter to the farm personally, shocked to discover it had been lost 50 years ago.

“It’s in fairly good condition, surprisingly good condition.



I’ve just left it like it is. I haven’t cleaned it up or anything,” Bill said.

“Everything kind of came together,” Bill said. “After 50 years, you would think it would be totally disintegrated. It is pretty cool.”

Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army as an 18-year-old North Dakota farm kid, deciding to enlist after being assigned a rather low number in the draft lottery.

“I decided I would enlist and get something that I wanted to do,” he said.

Bill completed basic training in Fort Lewis, Wash., and advanced individual training, or AIT, in helicopter maintenance and as a crew chief at Fort Rucker, Ala., before being sent to Vietnam.

“My first thought was, ‘Man, it’s hot,’” Bill said about stepping foot in the country. “After that, they whisked us off to the landing zone and after that you never had time to think about anything except work. You slept when you could, you ate when you could, with not a lot of time off.”

As a staff sergeant, Bill was a crew chief on a helicopter during Vietnam, serving across the country.

“We flew with it every time it went out, plus we were a crew chief and gunner. We were assigned a helicopter that was ours to take care of and wherever it went, we went,” he said. In the air, Bill manned an M60 on the artillery gun ship, flying support whenever needed, facing danger every day.

Bill entered service in 1967, spent a year in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, then spent about 10 months stationed in Virginia.

While in Virginia after returning from Vietnam, Bill taught maintenance test flight classes as one of a handful of instructors. The group of instructors who taught night classes together presented Bill with the lighter when he left the service.

Now, the prized possession is back where it belongs – on a shelf in the Retterath home. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative shares drought resources



N.D. Department of Agriculture

www.nd.gov/ndda/drought-resources

This site includes a hay map, with listings of those selling hay, buying hay and hay haulers.

North Dakota's farmers and ranchers who have sold, or are considering selling, livestock because of drought face the prospect of a higher income tax bill due to the unplanned sales. Special federal income tax rules are available to producers who find it necessary to sell more livestock than they normally would because of drought. This site includes more information on drought-related disaster designations and tax implications for producers.

The site also lists information from other agencies.

North Dakota State University Extension

www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/disasters/north-dakota-livestock-drought-resources

On this site is information on a variety of drought-related topics, including livestock and crop production; lawns, gardens and trees; farm/family stress; and archives of drought webinars.

This site also includes links to other resources.

N.D. Water Commission

www.swc.nd.gov/project_development/drought_disaster_livestock.html

This site includes information on the Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program, including an online application.

North Dakota Response

<https://ndresponse.gov/2018-archive-0/drought-resources>

Here, find the latest news from the state of North Dakota regarding the drought.

Bank of North Dakota

<https://bnd.nd.gov>

The N.D. Industrial Commission has approved two Bank of North Dakota loan programs to help livestock producers cover their expenses during this year's drought.

One is the Livestock Drought Loan Program, which is good for purchasing feed, transporting feed or livestock, obtaining water and other costs.

The second is the Livestock Rebuilder Loan Program, which is for post-drought relief and can help ranchers who have had to sell off cattle for lack of feed. ■



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is not facing a supply shortage due to ordering most of its materials last fall.

Co-op working through global shortages

BY LUANN DART

Plan ahead. Practice patience with your local businesses. And expect to pay more. A global pandemic is translating into a global shortage of certain supplies and a parallel increase in prices. Some area businesses are feeling the pinch, while others are not.

“I think we’re still feeling some of the shockwave from the pandemic. Some businesses had to close down, like our manufacturers across the country and across the world, to deal with the pandemic, so that’s going to create some shortages there, but also shipping containers are an issue,” said Matt Gardner, director of government affairs with the Greater North Dakota Chamber.

“The business model for the country pre-pandemic, it was definitely a global marketplace and everybody was getting everything from everywhere, so it adds a little bit of a challenge when we’re all dealing with a global pandemic and workforce challenges and material shortages,” he said. “It’s an entire disruption of the entire supply chain from many different angles.”

From computer chips to chicken are in scarce supply. Drinking straws and guitars. Copper. Ammunition. All difficult to obtain.

The local electric cooperatives may be unscathed, as supplies are already ordered for the summer construction season, said Roughrider Electric Cooperative Co-General Manager/CEO Donald Franklund.

“We plan for our projects and the work plans really help us out with that. If something major comes up, where a big piece of equipment would fail, we would have issues, but we try to mitigate that by having materials,” said Jason Bentz, Roughrider Electric Cooperative operations manager.

Most materials were ordered in November for the following year, and will be ordered again in October or November this year.

“As far as the individual members at Roughrider Electric Cooperative, they’re not going to see any impact from it,” Franklund said.

“For the most part, we’re doing good,” Bentz said.

The cooperative has experienced a 15 percent increase in price for anything ordered now, he said.

“When we blend that into our overall operations, it’s not even going to be a blip,” Franklund said. “One year is not going to move the needle.” ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

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

The program for 2021 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021. 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 \geq 14.1 COP \geq 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER \geq 16.2 COP \geq 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

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

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE!

A home energy assessment can help stop wasted energy, too. Little bits of energy waste add up, so make sure all the systems in your home are working at peak efficiency:

- Set your water heater temperature at 120 degrees, which is hot enough for comfortable showers without wasting energy.
- Energy-efficient LED lighting uses less energy and lasts longer than conventional incandescent bulbs.
- Use a programmable thermostat to set home temperatures forward or back while you're asleep or away to save up to 10% on your heating and cooling costs.
- Electronics continue to use energy even when they're fully charged or turned off. Use advanced power strips to stop these vampire loads from feasting on your electricity.
- Seal cracks and gaps around your home with caulk or expanding foam. This acts as a windbreaker for your home, helping the insulation work up to its full potential.
- Ductwork exposed in unconditioned spaces, like attics, should also be air-sealed and insulated. This will keep you from heating and cooling the great outdoors. ■



SAVE YOUR MONEY

BY REDUCING ELECTRICITY YOU USE

Scholarship winners announced



Chloe Zeller



Rachel Knopik



Kaylee Obrigewitch

Roughrider Electric Cooperative awards three, \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships that are drawn from registered students at the cooperative's annual meeting.

All high school seniors whose parents are members of Roughrider Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students are required to attend the annual meeting with at least one parent and RSVP for the meeting. Due to COVID-19, we did not require any of the students to attend our annual meeting this year. At the June board meeting, our board of directors drew three names from the pool of students who had signed up to attend our annual meeting.

Congratulations to the 2021 luck-of-the-draw scholarship winners:

- Chloe Zeller, Hazen High School
- Rachel Knopik, Killdeer High School
- Kaylee Obrigewitch, Belfield High School

Scholarship information is sent to all area schools and posted on our website in late fall. Visit our website for 2021 scholarship winners and information for the 2022 scholarships when available at www.roughriderelectric.com/scholarships. ■

Report from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JULY 30, 2021

When, where and who: The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative Inc. met at the Hazen office July 30.

Agenda: The board approved the agenda as amended.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 25 meeting.

Co-general managers' report: Travis Kupper and Don Franklund presented the co-general managers' report.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Seventh Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Settlement Conference was held, and Roughrider's FERC counsel attended on behalf of the cooperative.

Kupper provided the board with a Basin update. Basin has hired CEO Paul Sukut's successor, who is a vice president with CoBank in Colorado. He will start Sept. 1.

Basin held its managers meeting earlier this month, and one of

the primary topics discussed was the sale of Dakota Gasification Company (DGC). Negotiations for the sale of DGC continue, and Basin is optimistic that the sale will occur. The co-managers outlined the potential buyer's contemplated use of the facilities.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loan: Alex Craigmile provided the board with an update on the status of the RUS loan.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region 5-6 meeting: This meeting is set for Sept. 15-17, with Arnold Kainz and Greg Steckler attending virtually.

Operations and construction report: Jason Bentz provided an update on the Highway 31 project.

Upcoming meetings: The next board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT Aug. 27 at a location to be determined.

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

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; Henler..... 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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Don't aim at electrical equipment!

As various North Dakota hunting seasons approach, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and electrical equipment are NOT on the hunting list.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season.

Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to

large areas.

Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks. Repairs can be costly and damages cause outages to our members. As a nonprofit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities. Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season.

Hunting safety tips:

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction - and a serious hazard - to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations. ■