

- Ensuring reliability
- Youth opportunities
- Outdoor safety
- Tips from the team



Lorina Zuern (right) pictured with long time friends, Laurel and Bill Tveit.

100 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP: **Hazen native nears 100**

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

At nearly 100 years old, Lorina Zuern's life is not measured only in years, but in the people she has impacted, the work she has done and the faith she has lived along the way.

"It's good to be a good neighbor," Zuern simply says. That motto is a perfect reflection of her life, shaped by farm work, faith, community and a century of changes that took her from milking cows without electricity to seeing modern rural life unfold around her.

Growing up

Zuern grew up in Krem, a town north of Hazen. The bustling town had a few grocery stores, a blacksmith shop, a bank, a flour mill and other businesses. Along

with her parents and five siblings, Zuern lived on a farm near Krem, where they milked cows, farmed and stayed busy with school and chores.

"There was not much playing around. We were either working or growing up," Zuern reflected.

Krem sits about 8 miles from Hazen, but Zuern says the family did not visit Hazen often. When they did, they were there on business.

"We'd go to town on Saturday nights and take the egg crate along to sell eggs. Then, mom would buy groceries with that egg money," Zuern says.

Her parents' farm received electricity around 1952, although they had moved to town before the farm was electrified. She recalls going from the farm with no electricity to a home in town where the lights

continued on next page

continued from previous page

switched on, groceries could be kept in a refrigerator and meals could be cooked on an electric stove.

"That was pretty neat," Zuern says.

Those early years shaped the work ethic and sense of responsibility Zuern carried into adulthood, especially when life brought her back to the farm after marriage.

Cultivating stewardship

Zuern found herself back on a farm when she married her husband, Herb, in 1947.

"I wasn't afraid to get married to a farmer," she says.

Although she was back on a farm, life was different from the family farm she had known as a child.

"It was a bit more mechanized," Lorina says.

Herb and Lorina raised cattle and grains on their farm. She was Herb's right hand all throughout their years on the farm, which was her favorite place to be.

She helped with whatever needed to be done around the farm, whether it was harvesting, hauling grain or filling the grain bin. It was just the two of them, and together and they made every task work.

"She was right up there. If he was repairing a tractor, she was washing the parts and handing him what he needed. She knew what he needed next," says Laurel Tveit, a friend of the Zuerns.

As Lorina reflected on farm life alongside Herb, she recalled his words, "I'd rather work with you than with anybody else."

Herb and Lorina's faith was woven into their everyday life, including work on the farm. They rested on Sunday, as Herb would say, "If you work on Sunday, you break down on Monday," Tveit shared.

The two made a great team and sadly Herb died in 2012.

Being a good neighbor

Being a good neighbor is an important value to Lorina. They built a community who is there for each other, through farming and their faith.

"We had a neighbor one time who had a problem with his tractor. He had one of his grandsons out there, and they lost the front end of the tractor. The grandson asked his grandpa, 'What are we going to do now?' His grandpa says, 'I think we'll go over to Herb's,'" Lorina recalled.

Herb then told him where to go for parts and what to buy, and when the parts came, Herb offered to repair it for them.

Being a good neighbor extended beyond the farm and into their parish and social lives as well. Lorina's steadfast faith is admired by all who meet her. Being close to God guided her throughout her life and helped build the community she shared with parish friends, neighbors and family.

"Their farm was always fun," Tveit says. "They

were very, very good about sharing their home and their farm."

They often had their nieces and nephews over and held gatherings in their shop.

Beyond being present for those in her life, Lorina has been blessed to financially support various children's organizations, causes she is passionate about, including the Anne Carlsen Center for Children, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and many more. Lorina's generosity can also be seen locally in the Beulah Congregation Church, Knife River Care Center and Sakakawea Medical Center. After Herb died, Lorina funded a new building to house Herb's entire toy tractor collection, which was also donated.

Lorina's life has been guided by faith, gratitude and hard work. As she prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday Dec. 28, those values remain steady, carrying her from farm chores before electricity to years spent working alongside Herb, welcoming neighbors, supporting children's organizations and sharing her faith. Through it all, faith has remained at the center.

"Trust in the Lord and serve him," she says. It is advice shaped by a lifetime of work, gratitude and giving back, and a reminder a strong community is built by people willing to show up for one another. ■



The Zuerns have given generously to their community including a staff education center and additional storage for Knife River Care Center.



Lorina flips through a family history book she put together.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Ensuring reliability**



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/
CEO

You expect reliable and affordable electric service from your electric cooperative, so how does Roughrider Electric Cooperative deliver on that promise? A complex network of power generation and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the hot days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power

overwhelms the ability to provide the electricity? That's a particularly complicated question, given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting energy needs essential to your quality of life, is balancing electricity supply with demand. While that may sound simple, a complex web of facilities and organizations work together to make it happen each day.

Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system,

regulating the number of cars – in this case, electricity – and their destination.

Our cooperative is part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) as the regional transmission organization.

In recent years, organizations such as SPP have issued new requirements for additional generation capacity. These requirements are being put in place to ensure the grid has enough available power, even during extreme conditions.

As a distribution electric cooperative, we don't generate our own electricity, but we purchase it through our generation and transmission (G&T) providers, including Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). This means our G&T providers will need to have additional sources of power and are building for the future to ensure we have enough capacity. Ultimately, this has also increased our power costs to ensure reliability.

While these investments come at a cost, they are essential to maintaining the reliable electric service you depend on today while preparing the grid to meet the challenges and energy needs of tomorrow. ■



Scan these QR codes to read a message from our power suppliers, Basin Electric and WAPA.



Basin Electric Power
Cooperative article



Western Area Power
Administration article

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: **Youth opportunities**



Larissa Eslinger
Manager of
Member Services

As a proud member of our community, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is committed to supporting our local schools and empowering the next generation. We believe in investing in our youth and providing them with opportunities to learn more about cooperatives and the electric industry.

As the school year begins, we wanted to remind you about the programs and opportunities Roughrider

Electric offers to our community to benefit students.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

One Roughrider Electric high school sophomore or junior can win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and embark on the journey of a lifetime in June.

To apply, students submit an essay for a chance to represent Roughrider Electric as part of the North Dakota delegation on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Applications for the Youth Tour open

soon, so watch our social media and website for more information.

High school scholarships

We offer scholarships for high school seniors who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and community involvement. These funds are designed to support students as they further their education and pursue their career goals.

Educational resources

Our employees have a vast amount of knowledge and are available to provide students with information on how energy services are provided and how to stay safe around electricity. You may see our employees around the community at truck events, county fairs and other events sharing about electricity and safety. We look forward to partnering at events in the future. If you would like a member of our team to visit a classroom or if you'd like to visit us, give our office a call.

If you have any questions about these youth opportunities, please give us a call at 800-748-5533 and visit with Larissa. We hope everyone has a successful and safe school year! ■



Hazen Public School students visited Roughrider Electric's Hazen shop and learned about operations, mapping and more.

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: **Outdoor electrical safety**



Colton Walters

Journeyman Lineworker

Fall brings busy days outdoors, whether you're tackling fall projects, preparing for cooler weather or simply enjoying time outside. It is also a good time to look around your home, yard and shop to check for potential electrical safety hazards.

Taking a few simple precautions can help prevent accidents and keep everyone safe. Remember these outdoor electrical safety tips this fall:

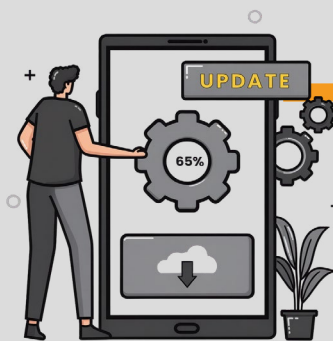
- Check extension cords, power tools and outdoor electrical equipment for signs of wear or damage. It is a good time to replace frayed or cracked cords to help prevent shocks and fires.
- Use extra caution when operating electrical equipment near puddles, ponds, livestock waterers or wet grass. Never handle electrical devices with wet hands.

- Be aware of power lines when using ladders, trimming trees, moving equipment or completing outdoor projects.
- Make sure extension cords, outlets, power strips and tools are designed for outdoor use when used outside. Outdoor-rated products are built to withstand weather conditions.
- Never operate a portable generator inside a home, garage, shed or other enclosed area. Keep generators outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents. Always make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating a portable generator.
- If you notice a damaged utility pole, pad-mounted transformer (the big green box) or downed power line, stay away and contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative right away. Never attempt to inspect or repair electrical equipment yourself.

Electricity is all around us, and Roughrider Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and quality electric service to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can be aware of hazards before damage occurs. ■



TIPS FROM THE CO-OP TEAM



SMARTHUB | *Update your information*

Keep your information up to date and ensure + Roughrider Electric can reach you during outages, for capital credits and more. Log into SmartHub to update your contact information.

STAY ALERT | *Downloading apps*

Be cautious when downloading apps—only use official app stores and check reviews first. Our SmartHub app can be downloaded by visiting your smartphone's official app store.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY | *Cooling systems*

Regularly replace your cooling system's filter to ensure strong airflow and energy efficiency, as a clean filter reduces workload, saving energy and lowering utility bills. Check monthly and replace as needed.

Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights June 26

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on June 26 at Roughrider Electric's Hazen office. The meeting was called to order at 9:49 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, CFO Alex Craigmile, Business Manager Michaela Perbix, Member Services Manager Larissa Eslinger, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill. Representatives from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and NextEra Energy Resources attended a portion of the meeting as guests.

Reorganization: The board held its annual reorganization. A unanimous ballot was cast for the same slate of officers as currently held: President Greg Steckler, Vice President Roger Kudrna, Secretary Troy Sailer and Treasurer Bruce Darcy.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on recent meetings attended, such as Cooperative Finance Corporation and National Cooperative Services Corporation annual meetings. Several Basin Electric updates and documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report that

included a review of the financials, highlighting items in the executive summary. Olson provided an operations report on plans and preparations for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library opening, recent storm damage and safety meetings. Perbix and Eslinger provided a member services report, including an annual meeting recap, a 2027 member satisfaction survey, billing updates, member applications and other items. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report. Grosz provided an update on legal matters including board policies.

Action items: The board discussed and resolved Upper Missouri Power Cooperative's wholesale power contract and 2027 board meeting dates, and appointed a finance committee.

Discussion: Basin Electric and NextEra representatives discussed Mercer County investments with the board.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session during the meeting.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary Troy Sailer certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 10 a.m. CT on Sept. 25 in Hazen. ■

**Share
Your
Story**

Know an inspiring neighbor, a must-see community event or a story worth sharing? We'd love to hear about it! Scan the QR code below and your submission could be featured in an upcoming edition of our local pages in *North Dakota Living*.



roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CT 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 800-748-5533
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 Fourth Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Greg Steckler, President, Dunn Center 548-8122
Roger Kudrna, Vice President, Dickinson 483-8377
Troy Sailer, Secretary, Golden Valley 948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer, Golden Valley 983-4222
Jesse Flath, Hazen 880-0386
Darell Herman, Beulah 873-4371
Arnold Kainz, Dickinson 483-8207
Dan Price, Hensler 794-3779
Callen Schoch, New England 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz Co-GM/CEO



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative
to learn timely co-op news!

facebook.com/RoughriderElectric