



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Hats Off!

Lincoln County's Centennial Celebration 1909-2009

Story and Photos
By Marita Tolentino-Combs

Flying across Montana at a modest altitude offers a bird's-eye view which reveals the grid pattern of roads and fields laid out by the first surveyors. When Montana became a state in 1889, the placement of towns and cities at regular intervals, even in vast and empty regions, followed the 19th century rule that a county seat should be within a day's horse-drawn buggy ride for every citizen.

In 1909 this rule held unless you lived in the remote mountainous terrain of Montana's extreme north-west corner. Kalispell served as county seat for the far-flung citizens of remote Eureka, Libby and Troy. Rural roads were no smooth ride for buggies or wagons, let alone the automobiles which had yet to surpass in number all horse-drawn modes of conveyance.

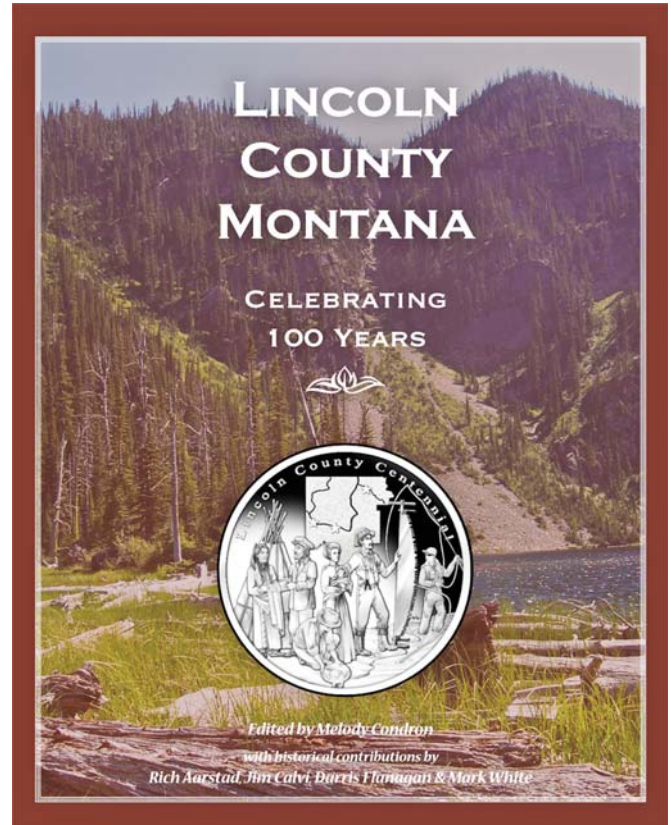
The history of our nation nurtured a preference for government close to the people, even in remote regions. And so it came to pass in January of 1909 that Senator Long introduced a bill to the Montana State Legislature to create Cabinet County — separating Eureka, Libby and Troy from Flathead County — with Libby designated temporary county seat. Paul D.

Pratt of Libby, Frank Wilder of Troy and Elzeor Demers of Eureka were appointed county commissioners. It was Demers who, in the early 1880s, donated one acre of land to establish the town of Eureka.

The name of the proposed new county was changed from Cabinet (after the Cabinet Mountains looming above Libby) to Lincoln County in honor of Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States (1861-1865). In July of 1909, Lincoln County became an official entity and was separated from Flathead County with Libby designated temporary county seat until an election scheduled for November of 1910. In the interim, political battles ensued. Eureka's consolation prize was the Lincoln County High School title and permanent Lincoln County Fair location.

The 2009 Lincoln County Fair, August 27-30, brings together the three towns' centennial celebrations with the "Hats Off to 100 Years" theme. I've been to two other county fairs in my life. The 1970s' Pratt County Fair in Kansas was a humble gathering while the Northwest Montana Fair in Flathead County is respectably large with tickets for gate admission. The

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Edited by Libby librarian Melody Condron, Lincoln County Montana: Celebrating 100 Years is a cooperative effort of the Lincoln County Public Libraries Foundation, Lincoln County Public Libraries, and Lincoln County. The community profiles and historical contributions come from local historians Rich Aarstad, Jim Calvi, Mark White and Darris Flanagan. The \$21.95-per-book proceeds go to the Lincoln County Public Libraries Foundation.

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Solutions for our future: Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency — the buzzword of the late 1970s and early '80s — has become a hot topic once again. The federal stimulus bill includes funding for making energy efficiency improvements to your home, and there are numerous national groups dedicated to promoting the concept. But you might not know that the energy efficiency revolution started with a refrigerator.

In the mid-1970s the first of a series

of national refrigerator standards was created. Back then, the amount of energy each fridge used varied widely depending on the engineer who designed it and the amount of insulation built in. By setting and later boosting efficiency standards for manufacturers to follow, the U.S. Department of Energy notes the amount of energy a standard fridge consumes today has been cut by 75 percent from 1975— even though the size of the average fridge has grown from 18 cubic feet to 22 cubic feet.

As a result, the amount of energy we're saving by using current efficient commercial and residential refrigerator models (versus those from the 1970s) equals more than all of renewable energy produced in America today, excluding hydropower. You see, energy efficiency isn't about wearing sweaters or cutting back on your daily activities— it's all about being smart with the power you use. And the smarter we are about our power use right now, the less power we'll need in the future.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration stresses that because of efficiency measures, energy productivity—the impact we get from every kilowatt-hour used — is rising by 0.9 percent a year. By turning to energy efficiency to pull more productivity out of the electricity we require, the United States can reduce its demand growth from 2.1 percent each year to 0.5 percent, according to a 2009 McKinsey Global Institute study.

Electric cooperatives like Lincoln Electric are doing our part to help you get the most out of each kilowatt-hour you consume. Across the nation, 92 percent of electric cooperatives offer energy efficiency programs for members. It's part of our commitment to providing you with reliable and affordable power in an environmentally

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Manager's Notes
by Mike Henry



**Lincoln Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

News & Views

Published monthly by Lincoln
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Eureka, Montana

Lincoln Electric's board of trustees meets monthly at the Eureka office. The regular meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the general manager in advance of the meeting.

Board of Trustees

George Elam — President, Dist. 1, Flathead
Marianne Roose — Vice President, Dist. 3,

Fortine — Glen Lake

Ethel White — Secretary, Dist. 4,
Eureka — Tobacco Plains

G.I. Burk — Dist. 1, Flathead

Tina Taurman — Dist. 2, Trego — Stryker

Phyllis Hansberry — Dist. 3,

Fortine — Glen Lake

John Hossack — Dist. 4,

Eureka — Tobacco Plains

Kathern Munteer — Dist. 5,

Koocanusa Shores — Pinkham

Jim Reynolds — Dist. 4, Eureka -
Tobacco Plains

Mike Workman — Dist. 5,

Koocanusa Shores — Pinkham

General Manager Michael T. Henry

In case of power failure:

Call 889-3301 or 1-800-442-2994

Anytime day or night

After hours voice-mail for
messages 889-3304

Visit us on the Web at:

www.lincolnelectric.coop

e-mail: info@lincolnelectric.coop

Business and Boardroom Briefs

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted June 15, 2009. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved the disbursement of \$13,078 in unclaimed capital credits to several local school programs.
- Approved a \$2,000 sponsorship for the Tobacco Valley Rodeo Association.
- Approved the purchase of a new telephone system.
- Approved continuing with the PNGC DOE grant application.
- Approved the purchase of a new speaker system for the boardroom.

	Year to Date 5/31/2009	Year to Date 5/31/2008
YTD Kwh Sales	58,671,688	58,759,779
YTD Revenue	\$3,845,251	\$3,438,387
YTD Cost of Power	\$1,614,201	\$1,681,297
YTD Operating Exp	\$1,741,105	\$1,519,534
YTD Margins	\$504,270	\$256,827
# of Members	3,859	3,788
# of Meters	5,137	5,025
Miles of Line	907	884
Total Utility Plant	\$25,818,148	\$24,761,712
Member Equity	\$6,836,887	\$6,542,865
Avg Residential Usage (kWh)	1,103	1,115
Avg Residential Billing	\$79.34	\$71.29

Hats Off!

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Lincoln County Fair, on the other hand, is widely varied and, best of all, free! It's truly an occasion for the three communities to forget the pervasive challenges of their geographic distances and become one. Marking one hundred years of history makes this year's fair the one you don't want to miss.

Award ribbons carry the Centennial Coin design depicting the history of Lincoln County's 100 years (see coin). Patriotically-colored Centennial ribbons will be given in the divisions of agricultural products, culinary and dairy products, domestic arts, fine arts, flowers, livestock, and dog shows. Over 100 Special Centennial ribbons will be awarded for the Best in all categories representing the Fair theme.

The Fair's Hat contest is yet another facet of the Centennial celebration. Participants are asked to bring a decorated hat for display on the Centennial Wall. The People's Choice "Best Decorated Hat" and "Best Decorated Hat representing the theme" will receive the Centennial Rosette.

Saturday is the Fair's Centennial Roll of Honor Ceremony, in honor of county leaders and organizers living today. These leaders are also featured in the Centennial book entitled Lincoln County Montana: Celebrating 100 Years.

The Centennial Coin comes in one-ounce copper or silver for \$15 or \$30, respectively. Depending on where you purchase coin(s), proceeds will go to Eureka's Historical Village, Troy's Heritage Museum or Libby's Area Chamber of Commerce. If you missed out on the first coin stamp already on sale since June, you still have a chance to fill out a pre-order form available at the Fair.

Underlying the coin's history depic-

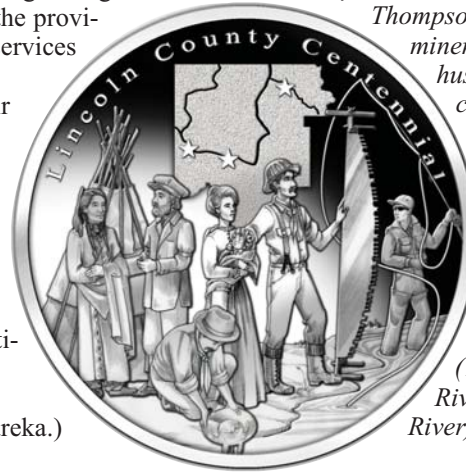
tion is the county of 1909 at the edge of wilderness with no electricity emerging into the county of today, robust and highly flexible, with local responsiveness and growing sophistication in the provision of complex services to its residents.

Come to the fair and celebrate our Centennial birthday! Bring two hats . . . one to display and one to wear!

(Author is co-owner of the multimedia company Applied Visions Media LLC in Eureka.)

History of Lincoln County's 100 years depicted in the Centennial Coin.

Chronologically from left to right: indigenous life - the Kootenai Indian, early commerce - Fur trader David Thompson, mining industry - miner - logging industry - husband, wife and child, and modern tourism industry - the fly fisherman. Within the outline of the county are the three cities (Troy, Libby and Eureka) and the three waterways (Yaak River, Kootenai River and Tobacco River).



Lincoln County Fair, August 27 – 30, 2009 celebrating "Hats Off to 100 Years."

Energy Efficiency

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responsible fashion.

As you've probably heard, government action to address climate change will increase electric bills; the size of this impact on your pocketbook has yet to be decided. When it comes to meeting our nation's energy challenges, electric co-ops are offering elected officials our experience on how to

make affordable choices on behalf of consumers. But we need your help.

Through the Our Energy, Our Future grassroots awareness campaign, hundreds of thousands of electric cooperative members like you have sent more than 1.7 million messages to Congress, asking lawmakers to focus on the interconnected issues of making sure we have enough generation to satisfy growing demand, developing new low-emissions technologies, and keeping

electric bills affordable when shaping energy and climate change policy.

Get involved in this campaign by asking your U.S. representative and senators on Capitol Hill this important new question: Are you willing to work with electric cooperatives like Lincoln Electric to ensure our nation has reliable power at a price consumers can afford?

To learn how to begin a dialogue, visit www.ourenergy.coop today.

Hundreds of Lincoln Electric members sign up for E-Billing

Hundreds of Lincoln Electric members are signing up for online billing services, according to Manager of Member Services Tim Engleson. "Using simple online tools, members are able to sign up to view and pay their monthly energy bills online."

"It's simple and convenient," Engleson said. "An e-mail comes on the same schedule as the older paper billing method. The member simply clicks through to the online billing system to see a bill on the screen that looks exactly like the old paper bill."

E-billing is cost-effective for members and for Lincoln Electric, according to Engleson. Many internet users are saving time and energy by conducting their business online.

The Lincoln Electric internet bill presentment and payment site is fully secure, using state-of-the-art encryption. Members can choose to pay their bill online with a credit card or check, or they can print out the bill and mail a check if they prefer, Engleson said. Members can see usage and payment history on the website as well.

"New signups can go to the LEC website at www.lincolnelectric.coop and choose the button on the home page called Online Bill Pay," said Engleson.

Engleson detailed these hints when using online bill presentment and payments:

1. The account number and last name or business name must match the values in our database.
2. Be sure and click the link that says "Click here to sign up for online account access" the first time you log on.
3. The password you create is case-sensitive and must be entered exactly the same as printed.
4. Your new password length must be between 4 and 10 characters.
5. To provide the best password security, it is recommended that you use at least 8 characters and a combination of letters and numbers.
6. You will have the option to discontinue having printed bills mailed to your home or business.

Safety award for 18-year mark

Safety Coordinator Brent Holder (l) and Plant Superintendent Roger Pitman hold up Lincoln Electric's first place safety award recently received from the Northwest Public Power Association. Lincoln Electric has now gone 18 years without a lost-time work accident. Congratulations are due to all of our employees for their safe work ethic.



Air conditioning season is here!

If you're tired of unattractive, noisy A/C window units and want to save money on your utility bill all year, we want to help you pay for an upgrade!

We're helping qualified members upgrade to a Ductless Heating and Cooling System that uses a fraction of the electricity and provides more comfort than outdated systems. If you currently have outdated baseboard or wall heaters, you are likely using more energy than is needed to heat your home. Eligible homeowners will receive a \$1,500 rebate when they install a system before September 30, 2009.

Why upgrade to a Ductless Heating and Cooling System?

- Systems Come Standard with Air Conditioning — No More Window Units!
- Save Energy and Money Every Month on your Utility Bill
- Experience a More Comfortable Home
- Low-Cost Easy Installation
- \$1,500 Utility Rebate for Qualified Installations

\$1500 incentive available!

Lincoln Electric is offering a \$1,500 rebate to eligible members with qualified installations. Plus you might save 25 percent to 50 percent per year on your heating bill while living in a more comfortable home! At this rate, this system could pay for itself in just a few years!

How do I know if I qualify for rebates?

In order to qualify for rebates, your home must have the following characteristics:

- You are using electric baseboard heaters, wall units, or ceiling units as your primary source of heat.
- No secondary heat sources are found on the floor of the home where the heat pump is installed.
- You have occupied your home for at least a year.

Please contact us at 889-3301 to learn more about eligibility.

You can find a trained installer in your area for a quote and get more information at www.GoingDuctless.com.

