

75
YEARS

1939-
2014



Pole No. 1 - originally set at the Lorents Lorentson farm near Woodville - was relocated in 2012 to the St. Croix Electric office to commemorate the Co-op's 75th anniversary.

May 24, 2014, will mark the 75th anniversary of the first light energized on St. Croix Electric lines. Because that date falls on Memorial Day weekend, a day of celebration will be in early summer when Sunflower 1 - the Co-op's 103 kW member-supported solar array - is energized. Watch the monthly *Energy Lifestyles Magazine* or the Co-op website (www.scecnet.net) for more details!

May is Electric Safety Month

"Look up!"

"Plan before you plant."

"Call 811 before you dig."



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Keep these phrases in mind as planting season, spring cleaning or renovations are underway. SCEC wants all members to have a productive, fun and safe season!



www.scecnet.net | www.kidsenergyzone.com | www.esfi.org

MAY
24



In 1962, Bill Rutzen returned to the first meter installed on St. Croix Electric lines. Rutzen was the Co-op's first general manager. May 24, 2014, is the 75th anniversary of energizing the lines in rural St. Croix County.

⁶⁶ **...AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN.**

On May 24, 1939 - nearly two years since St. Croix Electric County Cooperative was incorporated - the lights were energized in rural St. Croix County. In 1962, a 25th-anniversary historical review was published recounting the events of that day:

The sky never seemed quite so blue, nor the sun quite as bright as on that May 24th, 1939.

'I reckon there were about a hundred farms along that first section of our feeder lines wired and ready to be hooked up,' recalls Bill Rutzen, first manager of St. Croix County Electric Cooperative. 'I really wanted to be the one to connect that first farm to the lines of our cooperative. And so I got a meter from our pick-up truck and shoved it into place, with the Lorentsons standing out there in the bright sun to watch what was going on. And then we went inside to see if the lights were working, and by golly, every light in the house was turned on. I reckon they would be 25-watt bulbs, but to us they seemed to be just as bright as the sun. And we just stood there and laughed.'

~ St. Croix Electric Co-op News, May 1962 (Vol. 24, No. 5)