



Robert Cornell,
Manager

THE STREETS ARE *Quiet*

I think it is safe to say that we are all hopeful that the second half of the summer will be at least something approaching good from an economic standpoint. By the time you read this article, Memorial Day, the traditional kick-off for the summer tourist season, will be in the rear-view mirror as will the likelihood the Island's economy will break any records, other than negative ones, considering the current situation is pretty dismal.

We hope all our members, both year-round and seasonal, will remain safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing those of you who have been unable to come back when YOU feel comfortable returning. We will keep the lights on for you. (Sorry, couldn't resist.)

In all seriousness, the absence of our seasonal members and those residents who leave for warmer climates in the winter affects the Island more than most. We not only depend on those happy tourists, but we depend on all the cooperative members, both year-round and seasonal, for their support of the cooperative, the community, and the local economy.

Cooperatives around the state have been contemplating what they can do to help local economies and many, including your own, have come up with ways that they can contribute at least a little. As you are all aware, Wisconsin is "The Dairy State." 57% of dairies in Wisconsin are served by electric cooperatives. June is Dairy Month and the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association has been working with the 24 cooperatives in the state to come up with a promotion that helps support the dairy industry. As you may have read, with school milk programs out of commission and the volume of dairy being served by restaurants being severely curtailed, dairy farmers are being forced to dump milk. Cows still need to be milked and fed, and this is leading to a crisis for the industry. A number of the cooperatives, in conjunction with WECA, have worked out a marketing plan with Kwik Trip, but a number of us are working on other ways to support not only the dairy industry, but also our fellow cooperatives that have supported us directly in a significant way over the last two years.

We don't have any dairies or a cheese factory on the Island,

but we felt that we could do something locally and at least close to locally. Included in these center pages is a \$2.50 coupon good towards milk or Renard's Cheese. This coupon can be redeemed at Mann's Store, either the Sturgeon Bay or Algoma Renard's locations, or online at Renardscheese.com using the coupon code WIEC. The coupon expires June 30 and only one coupon may be redeemed per member. Those of you who will not be able to return to the Island to redeem the coupon should use the Renardscheese.com option. Please sign redeemed coupons or use the coupon code WIEC at the website.

This small support of the dairy industry in and of itself will not make a huge difference, and we understand that, but the message gets out and we hope that it will inspire our members to buy milk products and support an industry that is key in Wisconsin's history and economy.

In addition to the dairy industry, the forecast for the summer economy on Washington Island, as mentioned at the start of this writing, is looking grim. Major events cancelled, ferry schedules curtailed, and restaurants potentially relegated to take out and few seated patrons will take their toll. We want to encourage all our members, who are able, to patronize those local businesses when you are here. To this end, also included in these center pages is a \$10 coupon redeemable at any Island business. Use it to supplement the cost of a take-out dinner at a local restaurant, a repair at an Island shop, a ferry ticket to get back to your Island home, a night's stay at a local hotel for a visiting relative, a trinket at a local gift shop or any Island business. This coupon is also only one per member, but will be honored through October 31. Each redeemed coupon must be signed by the member, and some of you early coupon redeemers might get a strange look at the local establishments as we have not had an opportunity to contact each and every one of them, but rest assured to the member and the business owner, the cooperative will reimburse the business for the coupon.

This also is not going to salvage the summer economy, but it hopefully sends a message of support and encourages our members who are able to do so to help get the businesses through the slow time ahead.





ANNUAL MEETING POSTPONED August date to be determined

The board voted to postpone this year’s annual meeting until a “to be determined” date in August. After discussion, with the meeting being scheduled so close to the potential end of the Safer at Home Order, it was decided that, in order for our members to feel as comfortable as possible and to maximize the number of members who are able to attend, August would be the best month. The date remains “to be determined” because we are not fully aware of what August events are on or off and we want to schedule the meeting such that it does not conflict with any that may go on as scheduled.

Some cooperatives have had their annual meeting virtually and some have even had “drive-in annual meetings.” The board will continue to stay on top of current events and will make decisions regarding the annual meeting that are in the best interest of the cooperative and the health and welfare of our members. With any luck, you will be able to come to the meeting, win a door prize, and get a bit of lunch after listening to a boring report.

Meet Your Director

Joel Gunnlaugsson

Joel was elected to the board in 2016 and is currently serving his second three-year term, replacing Mack Gunnlaugsson as vice president after Mack retired from the board in 2019.

Joel was born in 1977 here on the Island in Shirley Atkins’ home. He graduated from the Washington Island High School in 1995 and attended Lake Shore Technical College and the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. He worked on various boats in Florida and Louisiana before attending NWTC, graduating with an associate’s degree in electronics. He came home to the Island in 2001 and has been employed full time for the Washington Island Ferry Line ever since.

He has served as Town Chairman and Supervisor. Has been elected County Board Supervisor for 7 terms and served on many county committees. He has 21 years on the Washington Island Fire department and 22 years on the Washington Island Lion’s Club. He has served numerous other organizations as well as being on the Bethel Church Deacons Board.

He is married to Krista and together they have four children, Gretta, Tug, Tilly, and Zac, who represent 7% of the school population on the Island and are rumored to consume 10% of the milk, ice cream, and cheese on the Island.

He and Krista own and operate the Townliner Motel.

When you see Joel, thank him for his many years of service to the cooperative and the Island Community.



In celebration of June Dairy Month and in support of our local dairy producers, Washington Island Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer this coupon good for



\$2.50

toward a gallon of milk OR your choice of Renard’s Cheese



Redeemable at only Mann’s Store on Washington Island, Renard’s Cheese locations in Sturgeon Bay and Algoma, or online at renardscheese.com.

COUPON CODE: WIEC

Please sign here: _____

Offer good through June 30, 2020

HOW ELECTRICITY CAME TO WASHINGTON ISLAND

By Ray Krause, as printed in the *Washington Island Forum*, 1974

Installment 6

1945 The Enterprise engines to replace the Venn-Severins were now here and being installed. They were tested and put on the line in May 1952. One of these Enterprise Engines is still the same and working excellently. The other one was up-rated from 100 K.W. to 250 K.W. in 1961. We received the \$16,600.00 from Killoren in 1952.

1946 This year we purchased two large safes from the Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op at Centuria, WI. I went along with George Mann after them. He took a load of cattle to Green Bay and from there we went to Centuria and got the safes very cheap. This Co-op had just built a fireproof vault, so we got the safes very cheap. This year we also installed a large fuel oil tank on Standard Oil property so we could obtain oil directly from Green Bay cheaper. To haul it to the plant we bought a truck for \$150. It still hauls all our oil. From this time on we started to show a profit.

1947 To increase the volume of electricity sold we decided to sell electric ranges and water heaters at practically wholesale. We bought B&A pumps for the Enterprise engines. These were to pump the lube oil around to all moving parts and warm it up before starting the engine. At the end of this year we had all obligations paid and showed a margin.

1948 We sold the Venn-Severin engines to a concern in Hawthorne, California for \$1,000. They had been standing outside covered up for a couple of years. We had them sold for \$500, but the party backed out and didn't want them. When I



Irwing "Henry" Nelson inspecting rebuilt transformers delivered from WECA/RESCO in 1969

received a call from Hawthorne I set the price at \$1,000. To my surprise he accepted the offer at once.

1949 Nothing much happened this year of importance. Dr. Farmer left the Island and Conrad A. Anderson was elected in his place.

1950 This year we installed the street lights. In other words, we helped the Town crew install them.

1951 Nothing unusual occurred this year. We installed a security light at the office, and at the end of the year everything seemed to be under control.

1959-60 Percy Johnson was elected as a Director, and we purchased a line truck with an A-frame and winch which is still in use.

1961 We were getting short of firm power, we decided to up-rate one of the Enterprise units from 100 KW to 250 KW. This was done by increasing the speed from 600 RPM to 720 RPM and installing some new parts to increase the BMEP (Brake Means Effective Pressure). A new generator was necessary to function properly at 720 RPM. This was much cheaper than a new unit.

1962 I retired as Manager and Irwing Nelson was hired.

Note: This is the final installment of Ray's history. It is obviously not the end of the cooperative's story or even Ray's involvement in the cooperative. Ray spent many hours and days at the cooperative working as a "consultant" well into the 1970's. Without Ray, it is difficult to say when or if the Island would have gotten electricity. More to come!



Carl Crane, Len Jorgenson, Unknown mechanic, Mark Rainsford and Ray Krause in 1969 when the stator failed in #5 not long after it was installed. (Photo taken by Henry Nelson)



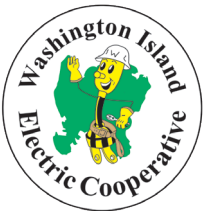
PHOTO CONTEST



Sunset and the Paul R. Tregurtha taken from the Potato Dock in 2013 during the dredging project while waiting to be loaded.

For the August issue of these center pages, we would like to have a member photo contest. Submit your best and favorite photo of bustling summer on Washington Island, and a completely biased and partial (because we love the Island) team of judges will choose the top three. This photo can be recent or well into the Island's past. If there is space in the August and September pages, we will publish as many of the submitted photos as possible. Please, only submit one photo per member though! The top three will be eligible for a special door prize in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Submit your photos to info@wiecoop.com.



From your friends and neighbors at Washington Island Electric Cooperative...

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY COUPON

Good for \$10 off
at any Washington Island business

**Restaurants • Hotel/Motels • Gift Shops
Repair Shops • Grocery Store • Ferry Line • etc.**

TO THE BUSINESS OWNER: The Washington Island Electric Cooperative will reimburse you \$10 for each signed coupon you return to the cooperative by November 15, 2020.



Please sign here: _____

Offer good through October 31, 2020

Robert Cornell, Manager

1157 Main Road, Washington Island, WI 54246
920-847-2541
info@wiecoop.com
Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

