

What Would You Say if You Won?

"There aren't words to express how thankful I am..." "I loved the trip. It's hard to explain how much fun I had, and all the awesome people I met." "I learned a lot...it was an amazing experience."



L-R: Jena Doom of Wagner, & Margo Stanforth, Platte, had a great time representing CME on the 2005 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

What on earth could these people be talking about? Why, the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour, of course! If you're a high school sophomore or junior residing in Charles Mix county, these could be your words, too.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a free trip to Washington, DC, sponsored by Charles Mix Electric and other rural electric co-ops across the country. Last year, the contest was expanded to make this wonderful opportunity for learning, and for promoting the cooperative philosophy, available to more students. CME will again

What Will You See?

- Lincoln Memorial, Washington National Cathedral
- White House, U.S. Capitol Building
- Smithsonian Air and Space Museum
- Washington Monument
- Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- FDR Memorial, Vietnam Veterans' Memorial
- Mount Vernon, Potomac River cruise and dance

What Does It Cost?

\$0.00!! Airfare, room and board, entertainment & sight-seeing are all paid by CME. Winners need only personal spending money for snacks and souvenirs.

sponsor two area students. One winner will be a student whose parents are members of the co-op. The second winner may also be a member of CME, or may be from the community "at-large." We believe that educating our youth is more important than ever, and realize that future leaders may or may not come from a rural background.

Winners will be chosen according to scores on a test over study material on rural electrics provided to the applicants. Interested students should check with their school counselor to obtain a "study packet." Tests will be administered in mid-March. Come June, the two winners will fly to Washington, DC for a week of fun, sightseeing, and an invaluable education.

Great Deals

Marathon Water Heaters.
Not all of today's best investments are found on Wall Street.



Many of today's homeowners are finding a Marathon water heater to be a great investment. Why? Because they appreciate its energy efficiency. Marathon's Envirofoam insulation keeps hot water hot much longer than any other water heater, reducing operating costs. And, it contains no ozone-depleting chemicals, so you're partnering with the environment.

Because it has a plastic tank, the Marathon can't rust or corrode. Its lifetime tank warranty will save you the future expense of buying a replacement.

Bottom line: A Marathon is an investment that will provide a lifetime of benefits. Rebates and bill credits available. Free water heaters available to newly built homes.

Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections

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Manager's Column

Energy Conservation - Back in Style



Mark Mengenhauser

Charles Mix Electric The hurricane season took its toll on some of the nation's systems for reaching, refining and transporting our oil and gas supplies. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita, TV news shows carried images of vehicles lined up at gas stations and plastic bags on pump handles.

Demand for petroleum products continues to rise against a supply that sometimes cannot meet it entirely. So, we have seen prices rise at the gas pumps, which affects any goods and services whose delivery relies on transportation by car, truck, train, plane, or even fishing boat. All of us also are seeing prices rise for the fuels that run appliances and systems in our homes, farms, and businesses.

These dynamics naturally cause us to adjust and manage our personal use of energy as best we can.

But energy conservation never went out of style in our business. CME has been involved for many years in conserving energy and enhancing service reliability. Not a month goes by when this publication doesn't print something on how to conserve energy: tips for watching and controlling the operation of heat pumps and water heaters, how to plug energy leaks in homes, how to judge the efficiency of appliances,

It looks like energy conservation is back in style. There's nothing like rising fuel prices to make us think harder about when and how we use energy.

how to build or renovate buildings that require minimal energy consumption. We offer services that can help you use energy wisely.

As the price of energy fluctuates, and as the technology of appliances and vehicles changes accordingly, electric co-ops will continue to pay attention to smart energy use. Why? It just makes sense to consumer-members, considering that you own the utility that supplies your electric power. It's in your interest to make sure your plans—and by extension those of the co-op—include conservative ways of using electricity and all other forms of energy you pay for.

Some of us remember when the nation's highway speed limit was lowered to 55 mph. Others may also remember the "oil embargo" of the 1970s, and the 45-mpg VW

Rabbit diesel automobile, the rising popularity of wood-burning stoves and furnaces, and President Carter's plea to turn the thermostat down a few degrees in winter and up a few degrees in summer. We're not likely to see a return to those specific events and trends, but we are likely to see a stronger emphasis on conserving energy, not only in our own consumption practices, but also in how industry designs and manufactures vehicles, buildings, community infrastructure, and appliances. Such a trend can only benefit everyone.

Energy conservation never went out of style in our business.

**Office Hours
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Open over noon hour
Closed Saturday, Sunday &
Holidays**

Read meter 1st of each month. Bills due by 6th of month. Add \$2 to any bill paid after the 6th of the month.