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Inductees

Robert Rademacher

Robert Rademacher, longtime manager of Dakota Energy Cooperative in Huron, S.D., still remembers the day that electricity arrived at his father's farm near Scotland, S.D. Thanks to the REA, his family could now eat supper under the glow of a light bulb and listen to the Lone Ranger on the radio. That experience of rural electrification and insight into the benefits electricity brings to rural families was a driving force in his nearly 40-year career with South Dakota electric cooperatives.

Rademacher began his electric cooperative career in 1968 as an electrification adviser at Rosebud Electric Cooperative. In 1969, he became the member services director for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. In 1972, he became member services director at Beadle Electric Cooperative in Huron and became manager of the cooperative in 1983.

Rademacher played a pivotal role in leading the first consolidation of rural electric systems in South Dakota. In 1995, Rademacher helped guide the consolidation of the former Beadle Electric Cooperative in Huron, S.D., and Ree Electric Cooperative in Miller, S.D., into Dakota Energy Cooperative with offices in Huron and Miller. The consolidation served as a template for 10 other South Dakota rural electric systems that have consolidated or merged since then.

Rademacher was named the South Dakota Electrical Council's Man of the Year in 2004.

Rademacher and his wife, Jean, live in Huron.



Dennis Hagny

For a quarter of a century, Dennis Hagny served as manager of Northern Electric Cooperative in Bath, S.D. Under his leadership, he guided the cooperative

in providing television alternatives for rural electric members with the creation of Northern Rural Cable TV Cooperative in 1988, the nation's first rural cooperative wireless cable TV system.

In 1998, Hagny was the founding CEO of Northern Valley Communications, a company formed with James Valley Telecommunications of Groton, S.D., to provide dial-up Internet access to residents of northeast South Dakota.

When NVC became solely-owned by JVT in 2001, Northern Electric retained the rights to WOWnet wireless Internet service. In 2005, the cooperative began using the WOWnet technology to read the usage meters at the cooperative's 15 electric delivery substations.

Hagny also served as the president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Standing Committee on Telecommunications. He currently serves on the Education Assistance Corporation board and the Presentation College board of trustees. A native of Gettysburg, S.D., Hagny started his co-op career in 1965 as office manager of Plymouth Electric co-op in Lemars, Iowa. In 1974 he came the general manager of Farmers Electric co-op in Greenfield, Iowa, and became CEO/general manager of Northern Electric in 1981, retiring in 2005.

He and his wife, Mary, live in Aberdeen.

