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TWIN VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **NEWS**

Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Us
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Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed Nov. 28-29

Twin Valley Electric wishes our members a happy Thanksgiving.

Our offices will be closed November 28-29 in observance of the holiday.

FROM THE MANAGER

Plans for a New Building Move Forward

Three years ago we informed the membership that the board and management was studying the possibility of building a new headquarters facility to replace our aging facilities here in Altamont.

Several issues were driving this study, including security issues involving our computer equipment, employees, equipment and materials, inefficiencies from lack of warehouse space to store and layout materials for daily jobs, not having enough garage space to keep our vehicles under cover particularly in inclement weather, inability to access our pole storage racks and larger equipment such as transformers with more than one truck at a time and not having everything located at one site.

We purchased some property on the southeast corner of the in-

tersection of Highway 59 and Highway 160 a couple of years ago and retained the services of Cooperative Building Solutions (CBS) to design a new headquarters facility that would fit our needs. CBS specializes in building only electric cooperatives and has built several facilities in Missouri and is building others in Kansas and Arkansas.

After several months of study and design considerations, the board has approved the construction of a new facility that will be located on the south side of Highway 59 and about 650 feet east of the intersection. Construction will start on the new facility in late October and we anticipate moving into the new facilities in late summer of 2014.



Ron Holsteen



An artist's rendering of the Twin Valley's new headquarters, which will be completed in 2014.

NOTES FROM OPERATIONS

Relief in Sight for Growing Pains



William Worthy

Growing Pains: (plural, noun) 1. Pains in the limbs and joints of children or adolescents, often attributed to rapid growth but arising from various unrelated causes.

2. Emotional difficulties that occur during adolescence.

3. Problems that arise in the initiation or enlargement of an enterprise.

As a youngster, I went through this in my early teens as I went from 5'4" to over 6' tall in a matter of a couple of years. Finally, my body was catching up to my foot size. My parents were seeing the end of giving me hand me downs from older cousins or buying clothes that fit only for a couple of months. Your Twin Valley Electric Cooperative has been going through growing pains as well...it just seems that most of the growing pains have developed while the co-op is in its 50s, not its teens.

As you may have heard, Twin Valley is constructing a new facility to deal with these growing pains and in that effort the co-op will become more streamlined, efficient and secure. Twin Valley has been changing over the last several years, some by choice, some forced by technology and other changes mandated by our governing bodies. RUS, Homeland Security and others have deemed electric utilities a

vital public service and one that can be targeted for mayhem or destruction. You may think this cannot happen in "Smalltown, U.S.A.," but times, they are a changing.

Anyone that gets out of the house knows that technology is changing everyday and we at Twin Valley have been very prudent in choosing what path we will take in adopting some of these technologies. Computer servers, the equipment that controls everything we do every day, need room to breathe and not kept in a broom closet; these servers need to be protected in case of a catastrophic weather event and be able to get up and running as soon as the danger passes to assist in the restoration of your electric service.

In addition, the employees who have to man the computers fed by the servers need a place to go if they find themselves in the middle of a severe storm. Hard copy storage is also very important and we need a secure place for these as well.

As you've also probably noticed, the equipment we use isn't getting any smaller. The manufacturers of our type of equipment have adopted the mentality of the manufacturers of farm equipment "bigger is better! As we are right now, our big truck shop is busting at the seams and watching the guys maneuver and park the big trucks is like watching a seamstress thread a needle.

Your linemen are trained and very conscientious when it comes to the maintenance of their trucks and equip-

ment. Having a space large enough to raise and stretch out the booms on bad weather days will go long way in the life of their units. I also have a bit of heartburn when I see our big trucks make their way onto Huston Street and down to the pole yard. I hate to be "Debbie Downer," but I do think when, not if, an accident will occur.

Inside the office, our current flow is not efficient...I guess you can say we have no "feng shui" (yes, I need to stop watching HGTV). Our offices are stacked in a way that anyone walking down the hall will disturb whoever is in their office. We have an open door policy at Twin Valley and always will, but at times, dealing with a member discussing their bill or wanting a new service, or dealing with an employee issue demands a bit of privacy.

In our new facility, we plan to have the best in efficiency when it comes to heating, cooling and lighting that will show a definite return.

As we go forward with this project, rest assured we have developed an efficient, functional space that will serve the members of Twin Valley for many, many years. Please watch our progress, one mile east of Altamont at the southeast corner of 160 and 59 Highway, across from Thomas Implement.

As always, I welcome your comments and concerns and can be reached at the office or drop me a note to wworthy@twinvalleyelectric.coop. I will see you next month and Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Gelwick & Humphrey Win Guess the Seal Contest

Can you guess how many seals? In September, if you guessed 101 you were correct! **MOLLY HUMPHREY** was the closest with her guess of 100 seals in the meter. In October there were 123 seals and **BRENDA GELWICK** was the closest with a guess of 126 seals. Both members won a \$25 electric credit. If you would like a chance to win, simply stop by the Twin Valley

office **between now and November 15** to submit your guess or send your guess in with your payment.

- ▶ You must be a Twin Valley member to win.
- ▶ One guess per person per month.
- ▶ In the event of a tie, the final winner will be chosen by drawing. So, all members with the correct guess will have their names thrown in for the luck of the draw.

