

KEM Country **LINES**

KEM Electric Cooperative, Linton, N.D.

JANUARY 2022



GERALDINE GOLDADE:
**Serving up
more than food**

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GERALDINE GOLDADE: **Serving up more than food**

BY ANNE HANSEN



Odessa Country School had four buildings, with the kitchen and lunchroom located behind the classrooms.

It has been said that food brings people together and nourishes the soul. If that holds true, one can only imagine the amount of love and nourishment Geraldine Goldade, a newly retired school cook, gave throughout her 37 years of service.

From her early days in Odessa, to her career move to Strasburg, to farming and raising six children, Goldade has spent most of her life serving others.

Beginning in Odessa

It was in her home economics class where Goldade's passion for cooking flourished.

"There was something about preparing the meals that I enjoyed," she said.

That passion continued in 1973, when 19-year-old Goldade began working at Odessa Country School. The school had a rural Hague address and was situated 19 miles southeast of Linton, and 12.5 miles northeast of Strasburg.

"We were right in the middle of all the little towns, including Hauge, Wishek, Zeeland and Strasburg," Goldade explained.

The school was familiar to Goldade, as it was the same school

she had attended until eighth grade. The choice to return to the school for employment was easy for Goldade, as she simply put it, "I liked cooking and the school needed a cook."

Being close to home, Goldade would jump on her motorcycle and drive three miles to the school, where she would then prepare breakfast and lunch for the 50 students – some of those students were her own siblings and, later in life, her children.

Goldade was not fazed by cooking for a larger crowd, but noted she needed to ensure there was enough to satisfy the hungry students.

"Students had a bigger appetite when I began cooking, mostly because the majority of those students had morning chores – like milking cows – before they came to school," she said.

"The cooking was very simple in Odessa," Goldade said. "We had one refrigerator, one chest-type freezer and one electric stove."

In addition to equipment, the food was simple as well, Goldade said.

"The food that was served came from many sources. Some people would donate their garden produce, as well as a lot of USDA commodity food," she said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) food had to be picked up at the nearby towns. Goldade recalled several times where she would drive a grain truck into town to deliver grain to the elevator for the family farm, then pick up food for the school and head back home.

A gathering place

It seems the kitchen is a natural place to gather. It not only provides nourishment for the body, but gives rest, entertainment and builds friendship. This was the case at the Odessa Country School.

Goldade enjoyed preparing and serving meals to those attending school, yet she gained the most enjoyment from the simple conversations with the students. She was able to visit with students one-on-one, as she recalled, "In the original Odessa County School, there were four separate buildings. The building where the kitchen was had the only running water. Because of that, I would often see the students as they came in to use the restrooms and students would peek into the kitchen and visit about what I was planning to make for lunch that day."



Returning to the kitchen

In 1974, Geraldine married Michael Goldade. As they began their family in 1977, Geraldine stepped away from Odessa Country School to raise her family. A little over 10 years later, Geraldine returned to the kitchen.

Things had changed during her time away, as the Odessa Country School grew smaller and, due to the upkeep of the buildings, the school had moved locations to the basement of the local church. Eventually, the school closed permanently, and the district was split, with various students traveling to nearby public schools.

A year after the closure, another opportunity arose for Geraldine – an opening for a part-time cook at the Strasburg Public School. In the beginning, it was an adjustment to cook for a school five times the size of Odessa Country School.

“I remember opening up the school cookbook to make cookies, and the recipe calling for 24 eggs,” Geraldine said with a smile. “I had to double-check to make sure that it wasn’t a mistake.”

It didn’t take long for Geraldine to get back into the swing of things, cooking for over 250 students daily. In 2008, she would advance to the head cook and begin implementing new programs for the students, as well as being a mentor to those cooks who followed.

“I’ll never forget the first day I walked into the kitchen at Strasburg Public School to be a substitute cook — not knowing what I was going to do as I only had cooking experience from being at home,” said Amanda Baumgartner, cook at Strasburg Public School. “Little did I know that I was about to learn some amazing lessons from Geraldine Goldade.”

Through the years, Geraldine has taught many, including Baumgartner, how to cook for

the school.

“From a simple salad for the salad bar to a complex holiday meal for students and parents – Geraldine has helped mold me into the cook that I am today. Without her help and encouragement, I don’t think I would have had the courage to take on her position when she retired. The past eight years with Geraldine have been a blessing,” Baumgartner said.

New challenges would arise throughout the years that called for creative cooking, including more food sensitivity and allergies, stricter guidelines and COVID-19, noted Valerie Scheer, Strasburg Public School administrative assistant. “She never complained of those changes – whether it was new sodium guidelines, whole grain or portion size changes and all the paperwork that went with her daily responsibilities. She adapted to the changes with a smile. She was a hardworking, reliable co-worker that I will miss.”

Cooking during the pandemic was unlike anything Geraldine had previously experienced.



Retired school cook Geraldine Goldade fed many students, including her own siblings and children, during her 37-year career at Odessa Country School and Strasburg Public School.

“We were able to make the best out of it and work creatively,” she said. “We would mask up, make sack lunches and have yardsticks on the floors to ensure we were staying six feet apart.”

Looking ahead

In late 2021, Geraldine retired from the Strasburg Public School. It was a hard decision for her, as she truly enjoyed what she did.

“It never felt like a chore to me, I



Geraldine Goldade would occasionally pick up food for the Odessa Country School, where she cooked, in a grain truck, after delivering grain from the family farm to the elevator in town.

quite enjoyed it,” she said.

Although she misses the students, she is looking forward to this new chapter in her life.

“I have six children and 25 grandkids that I am looking forward to spending more time with,” she noted.

She continues to cater for weddings and events and spends time volunteering in the community. ■

The Strasburg Public School kitchen staff adapted to changes during the pandemic, wearing masks, making sack lunches for students and using yardsticks on the floor to maintain a 6-foot distance.



Geraldine's most requested recipes

Cauliflower Broccoli Salad

8 oz. bacon, cooked and chopped
3 cups cauliflower
3 cups broccoli florets
1 cup shredded cheese
½ cup red sweet onion, chopped
¼ cup sunflower seeds
⅓ cup dried cherries or cranberries
1 cup green grapes
1 cup mayonnaise
½ cup sour cream
⅓ cup sugar
Dash of salt and pepper

In a small bowl, mix the mayonnaise, sour cream, sugar, salt and pepper. Put mixture in a bowl with cauliflower, broccoli, cheese, onion, seeds, dried fruit and grape mixture.

Three-layer Rice Krispies Bars

1 cup butter
2 10-oz. bags marshmallows
1 ¾ cup Rice Krispies
½ cup sugar
¾ cup corn syrup
¾ cup peanut butter
1 cup chocolate chips
2 T. peanut butter

Melt the butter with the marshmallows. Mix in 1 cup Rice Krispies, then press in cake pan. For the second layer, boil sugar and corn syrup. As soon as it boiled, remove from stovetop and mix in peanut butter. Finally, melt chocolate chips with 2 T. peanut butter and add to the top.

Meatballs

5 lbs. ground beef
¼ cup minced onion
dash of salt and pepper
2 eggs
½ cup milk
6 slices of bread (or gluten-free oatmeal)

Mix ground beef, minced onion, salt and pepper together. Moisten 6 slices of bread in water and mix with eggs, milk and ground beef mixture. Shape mixture into golf ball size and brown in pan, then place in roaster and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Add brown gravy and serve with mashed potatoes.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Happy New Year!

**Travis Kupper**

Happy New Year! We wish you and yours a safe, healthy and prosperous new year!

It is this time of year that evokes comfort and nostalgia, recalling family gatherings and traditions and often is a time for us to reflect on the past year.

Today and every day, I'm grateful for my own family and my co-op family. At KEM Electric Cooperative, our team feels a strong connection to our

community and our members, because we live here, too. This past year, we were driven by the motto, "Together we all make a powerful difference," which was also the theme of our annual meeting.

The motto shines a light on how together we not only make a difference, but we accomplish more than we would independently and do so in a safe manner. We continued to work in our new normal and placed a heavy focus on the safety of our employees to ensure our workforce was able to be there for our members.

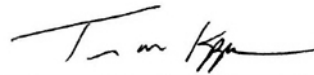
We are aided by the use of technology, which continues to play an important role. Holding virtual board and annual meetings is just one way we continue to find the beneficial use of technology can help our cooperatives.

In addition to helping members today, we're focusing on the future. We continued to have a reliable and financially sound year and expect the same for the future. At the end of the day, we are committed to you and the communities we serve.

At the heart of all we do are the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

Speaking on behalf of our team at KEM Electric, we know the future will be bright, because of you. During this new year, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity.

We look forward to serving you in 2022.



Planning to build or upgrade? BY ANNE HANSEN

Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact KEM Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

"Each year, we help our members with their construction upgrades and new builds," said Dale Nagel, line superintendent at KEM Electric Cooperative.

"Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses," Nagel said. "For projects of all sizes, it is important to contact your local cooperative."

By doing so, we can help you confirm the viability of your project.

"Our engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials," Nagel said.

Information that will be needed to share with the cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, timeline and power requirements.

"If you are unsure of this information, work with an electrician that can contact us," Nagel said.

This year, it is especially important due to the global supply chain disruptions, Nagel noted.

"We want to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call us in the early stages," he said.

Building new?

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- **Location matters.** If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- **Start with a sustainable design plan.** A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- **Choose efficient building methods.** Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption. ■

KEM Electric supports students with scholarships

KEM Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering scholarships to qualifying seniors.

We are happy to continue our updated program to include more scholarship opportunities to our graduating seniors. The applicants must be U.S. citizens and dependents of KEM Electric Cooperative members. All scholarships will be awarded during the 2021-22 school year.

\$500 scholarships available through area high schools

KEM Electric Cooperative will award eight \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op. School representatives from Ashley, Wishek, Zeeland, Strasburg, Linton, HMB, Kidder County and Napoleon will select one graduating senior to receive the funds.

Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for information. The schools will then forward each recipient's name to KEM Electric. Applications are available at area schools, at the Linton office or on KEM Electric's website. The deadline to apply is Feb. 11.

Download the applications at www.kemelectric.com.

You may also call 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673 to request an application.

Complete the online application or mail paper applications to:

**KEM Electric Cooperative
Attn: Marcy Sanders
107 S. Broadway
P.O. Box 790
Linton ND 58552**

Return completed applications before
Feb. 11.

The co-op will also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a homeschool setting, GED setting or a school outside of our service area. Please contact KEM Electric if interested.

\$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative

KEM Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a student who is already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. All post-secondary students whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are members of KEM Electric are eligible to apply.

Luck-of-the-draw scholarships

KEM Electric will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting. All high school seniors who are dependents of KEM Electric members and have not previously been chosen for a co-op scholarship are eligible. Students must attend our annual meeting and be accompanied with at least one parent or guardian, and will be required to RSVP before the meeting. ■



Interested in becoming a director?

KEM Electric Cooperative's 2022 annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16. This year, the director seats up for election are those of Dean Hummel, director at-large, and Neil Meidinger, District 3.

KEM Electric is governed by a seven-member board of directors that is elected by you – the members and owners of the electric cooperative.

The cooperative is divided into five districts, with one director representing each district and two at-large board seats. The current board of directors includes District 1, John Beck; District 2, Carter Vander Wal; District 3, Neil Meidinger; District 4, Victor (Chuck) Wald; District 5, Dean Dewald; at-large director, Dean Hummel; and at large director, Carmen Essig.

If you are interested in becoming a director for KEM Electric, please see the following section of bylaws pertaining to filling a petition for a director's seat:

404. Member Petition-Form.

(a) Each petition shall contain the following:

1. The name of the member nominee.
2. The director position for which the member nominee shall run.
3. The printed names, addresses and telephone numbers, date of signature, and original signatures of each member signing the petition.
4. At least 10 signatures of the members of the

respective district, or members at large, as the case may be.

(b) In the case of joint members, the signature of one or more than one joint member shall constitute one joint member.

(c) Firms, associations, corporations or body politics shall have the right to place one signature on a petition, the same as other members, by the signature of a duly appointed representative.

(d) Petitions may not be circulated or signed more than 90 days before the date when petitions must be filed pursuant to this bylaw. Any signatures to a nominating petition obtained more than 90 days before that date may not be counted.

(e) All petitions must be filed at the principal offices of the cooperative not less than 45 days prior to the date of the meeting of the members, as fixed by the board of directors.

(f) After verifying that a petition complies with this bylaw, the secretary of the board of directors shall post a list of nominations for directors at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting of the members.

If you would like to place your name on the ballot, pick up a petition at the KEM Electric office. Petitions become available on Feb. 1. Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office no later than May 2. ■

What to do during an outage

KEM Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day of the year, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. KEM Electric Cooperative wants you to remain safe during severe winter weather, so consider these tips.



To report an outage

- Confirm the outage. Check your own fuses and circuit breakers first.
- Check with a neighbor to confirm if he or she is also experiencing an outage before you call the cooperative. This will help your cooperative determine the extent of the outage.
- Call the cooperative. If the outage is widespread, the phone lines may be busy, but keep trying. Your cooperative will send a line crew to find the problem and restore power as quickly as possible.

During a power outage

- Only use flashlights for emergency lighting. Candles can cause fires.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
- Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances and other equipment in case of a momentary power "surge" that can damage computers and other devices. Consider adding surge protectors. ■

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 18, 2021

- Approved the minutes as presented
- Approved capital credit refunds
- Approve the special equipment summary
- Held executive sessions
- Heard co-general managers/CEOs report
- Heard updates on power suppliers
- Heard update on ETP
- Board cast a vote for National Information Solutions Cooperative director elections
- Approved Dean Dewald for Innovative Energy Alliance/Maintenance Solutions Cooperative board
- Approved annual meeting date of June 16
- Approved Carmen Essig as North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) director
- Approved a Corps of Engineers easement
- Reviewed board appraisal goals
- Reviewed 2022 budget
- Reviewed upcoming meetings
- Received CFO report
- Received board of director reports
- Received legal counsel report
- Set the next board meeting for Dec. 14, 2021
- Meeting adjourned

Statement of nondiscrimination

KEM Electric Cooperative Inc. is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD3027, found online at www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 202509410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. KEM Electric Cooperative Inc. is an equal opportunity provider.



Prepare for tax season with SmartHub!

Print copies of your monthly utility bills for your tax records by logging into SmartHub! Visit www.kemelectric.com and click SmartHub to proceed to your billing history. If you have not signed up for SmartHub, you can set up a new, secure account.

Call 800-472-2673 with questions.

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, ChairmanNapoleon
 John Beck, Vice ChairmanLinton
 Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas.Pollock
 Dean Dewald, DirectorDawson
 Carmen Essig, DirectorLehr
 Dean Hummel, DirectorHague
 Neil Meidinger, DirectorZeeland

MANAGEMENT:

Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
 Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO

Report outages to the following toll-free number: 800-472-2673

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges' phone number: 701-254-4666

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: kemelectric.com / Email address: info@kemelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 