



BIG FLAT NEWS



November 2023

www.bigflatelectric.com

History of Veterans Day

WORLD War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week it falls on. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

1919

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us, and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

1926

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far-reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer



and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

1938

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday – a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor Veterans of World War I.

1954

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in

See VETERANS DAY, next page

VETERANS DAY

Continued from page 5

the nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation," which stated: "In order to ensure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the chairman may select, and which

will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

1958

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989, when VA was elevated to a cabinet-level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

1968

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day,

Veterans Day and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities, and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

1971

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of many state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people. RM



Drew Brewer guides a pole to keep it from swinging. | PHOTO BY SHAWNA MYERS

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC DONATES 75' POLES TO FOOTBALL FIELD

BIG Flat Electric Cooperative recently donated four 75' power poles to the Hays/Lodgepole School. The poles are being used on the school's football field for new lighting. Matt Simms (Tarzan Tree Trimming), Drew Brewer (Malta Ready Mix) and Luke Spencer (Spencer Electric) spearheaded the transport and installation of the poles and lights. Big Flat Electric is proud to be a part in assisting the Hays/Lodgepole school with this important addition to the community. RM

REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER

WIN A FREE TRIP TO D.C.*

ATTENTION High School sophomores and juniors: Here's your chance to win a free trip to Washington, D.C., June 14 - 21, 2023.

More than 1,500 students from across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year, and so can you! This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore the museums, memorials and monuments with students from your state.

Gain a personal understanding of American History and explore your role as a citizen by meeting your Representative and senators. Bottom line, you will make friendships that will last a lifetime and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life.

Student and/or parent or guardian must be served by Big Flat Electric Co-op. Contest rules can be found at bigflatelectric.com, your school counselor or stop by the Big Flat Electric Cooperative office in Malta. The topic for the 2023 Washington D.C., Youth Tour is:

If you could have dinner with one prominent Washington, D.C. figure, whether from the present or past, who would that person be and why? What would you ask them?

Orientation will be on Friday, June 14, in Great Falls.

The group will fly to D.C. on Friday, June 14, and return June 21.

Entry Deadline: December 1, 2023. RM

**All applicants have a chance to win \$100 just for applying! **



The 2023 Montana Youth Tour delegation poses in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. | **PHOTO BY RYAN HALL**

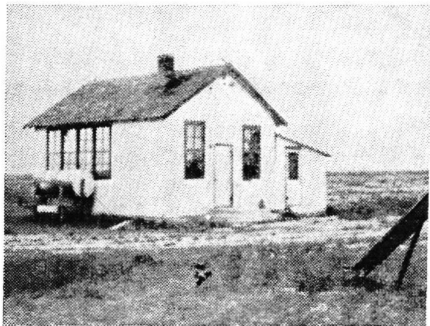
HAPPY Thanksgiving

**Big Flat Electric will be closed
November 23rd & 24th**

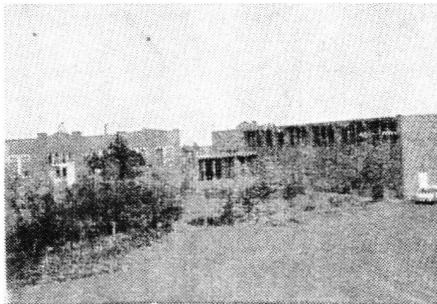
AUGUST 1964: *BFEC NEWSLETTER*

Big Flat Serves 22 Rural Schools With Electricity

PART 4 of 4: PART 1 WAS IN THE AUGUST EDITION, PART 2 WAS IN THE SEPTEMBER EDITION AND PART 3 WAS IN THE OCTOBER EDITION



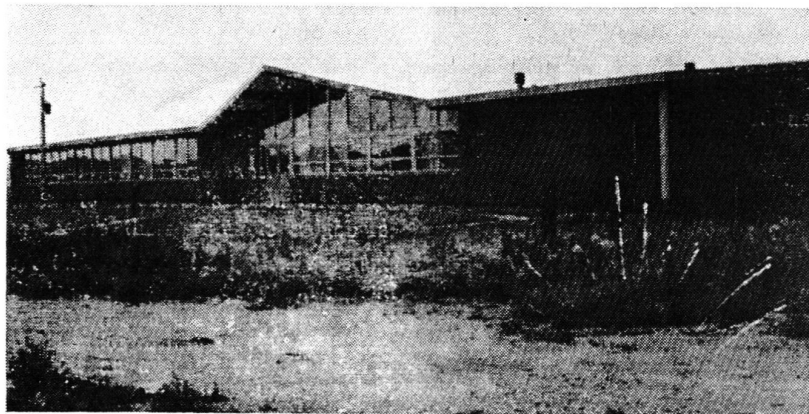
TALLOW CREEK School District No. 27, Phillips County. Teacher, Mrs. Charlene McCully; Students, 6; School Board, Betty Oxarart, LeRoy Buerkle, Tom Watson; Clerk, Harry Orahood.



TURNER School District No. 43, Blaine County, Built 1929; New Addition, 1956. Teaching Staff, 11; Students, Elementary, 150; High School, 35; School Board, Henry Goll, Art Egbert, Leneus Erickson; Clerk, Mrs. Alden McCracken.

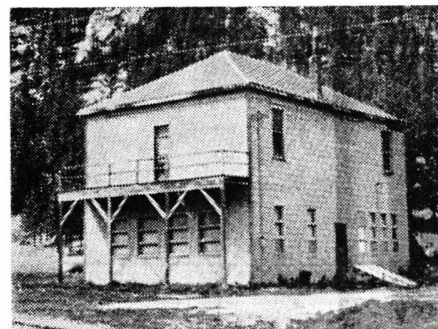


WEST HARB School District No. 29, Phillips County. Students, 8 in 1963. (Will be closed this year. Ingwald Solberg, bus driver to Malta). School Board, Harvey Bruckner, Frank Martin, Earl Porter; Clerk, Palmer Undheim.



WHITEWATER School District No. 20-AA, Phillips County. Teaching Staff, 4; Students: Elementary, 52; High School,

28; School Board, Earl Wasson, Harry Austin, Jr., Louis Salsbery; Clerk, Mrs. Bernice Schwarz.



ZORTMAN School District No. 5, Phillips County. Teacher, Mrs. Ethel Nelson; Students, 16; School Board, Norman Jaynes, Dick Kalal, Lotta Franklin; Clerk, Mrs. Donna Holzhey.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1	Duane Klindworth
District 2	Alan Van Voast
District 3	Alan Wasson, President
District 4	Betty Campbell, Sec. /Treas.
District 5	Roger Solberg, Vice President
District 6	Patty Quisno
District 7	Kevin Koss

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman



BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

SERVING BLAINE, PHILLIPS AND VALLEY COUNTIES

P.O. BOX 229 • MALTA, MT 59538 • WWW.BIGFLATELECTRIC.COM

A Touchstone Energy™ Partner
The power of human connections

CONNECT WITH US
OPEN WEEKDAYS 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

333 S 7TH ST E
MALTA, MT 59538
(406) 654-2040

**AFTER HOURS
OUTAGE:**
(406) 654-7400

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
1-833-368-2470 or
bigflatelectric.com