



THANK YOU, VETERANS

Kevin Babcock,
General Manager/CEO



Every November I try to write a meaningful article to reflect on Veteran’s Day in America. I think November 11 has a little more meaning to my family and me, than most. My Grandpa, Guy Babcock, was a Marine in France when the original Armistice (WWI) occurred. Before my dad passed away, he shared some of my grandpa’s stories of the war. He said my grandpa didn’t discuss much about the war, but did share a story about the water.

The Marines engaged the Germans in a place named Belleau Wood, France. Belleau Wood was far from my grandpa’s farm in Wrightsville, WI, which is located between Black River Falls and Merrillan. Grandpa told my dad that for days, the Americans and Germans fought to gain little ground, and the only result was thousands of casualties. After the battle that the Americans succeeded in taking the town, Grandpa said, “I wasn’t sure what purpose we were fighting. For many days, we went without fresh water or food. Everyone became severely dehydrated and very malnourished. But, when we began to look around the town, we found fresh water artesian pipes coming from a hillside that were filling pools of water.” Grandpa relayed that everyone was scared to drink the water for fear of being poisoned by the Germans. The mules and horses were too valuable to even risk letting them drink. However, after about a day, several Marines started to drink from the pipes. Finally, after several hours passed, the rest of the troops were confident to drink the water. There is a memorial fountain in Belleau Wood, France that commemorates the courage and sacrifice made. It was in this place the Marines earned the nickname “Devil Dogs”.

Grandpa survived the war and returned to the train depot

that sat on the top of the Black River bridge. Grandma was there when he left for the war and she was there when he came home. She said, “I wore the same flowered dress so he would recognize me when he got off the train.”

Today there are roughly 18 million veterans in the United States according to pewresearch.com which equates to just 6% of the population. Many of our veterans were volunteers. Many of our older veterans were drafted into service. It’s amazing that the fate of our nation and her allies have been supported by such a small percentage of the population willing to serve.

We have many veterans in our community. Each year after I write this article, I hear from some of them who tell me their stories. I always encourage them to share their story with their family and friends.

To my brothers and sisters, I thank you for your service and commitment to this nation. To our Gold Star families, words cannot express enough gratitude. I would encourage everyone to take a minute to reflect upon how good we have it in this country. We are not perfect, and we disagree on many things, but I recall after 9-11 the resolve this nation can produce when we stand united.



The memorial fountain in Belleau Wood, France remembering the Marine Devil Dogs.



Far left: Middle Seated Front Row, PVT JG Babcock, WWI

Left: PVT JG Babcock, France, WWI



IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME



This famous movie quote from, “Field of Dreams”, is an accurate representation of what John and Kari Klomsten, owners and operators of Enchanted Memories, have done with their property in rural Hixton. Cars often line both sides of their long driveway at N9590 Douglas Road and overflow onto the shoulders of County Highway G when the ‘Open’ sign is out.

Enchanted Memories is a boutique offering hand-crafted recycled and upcycled items created by Kari and also offers some wholesale vendor products. The hand-crafted items include decoupage and stenciled wooden signs while her metal pieces involve plasma cutting, welding and rebar. She also creates lighting fixtures out of things like hayracks and old yard light fixtures. Birdhouses are a staple, and on the softer side she creates pillows, floral wreaths, silks and paintings of famous barns from the local area. Big or small, Kari creates it. She says, “I create unusual pieces that cannot be found anywhere else.”

The store’s name not only represents the product line but really does reflect what it is like to visit the property. The beauty of the landscape, the serene feel, the gentle breeze of the hillside and the ease of visiting with the owners makes any visitor leave with their own ‘enchanted memories’.

When asked if there was a story behind the store’s name, Kari pointed to an angel on the front counter that contains a poem written by another artist’s view of her farm. The poem reads in part, “...And you’ll find yourself and feel a peace. And for a while your troubles may cease. And we hope when you leave our hills and trees, you’ll find your own Enchanted



The front display features a bench repurposed from a bed headboard and footboard while the rest of the store is filled with Kari’s other work.





Memories.”

Kari was a soft sculpture designer for a local business for 32 years. Though she designed stuffed creations like snowmen and scarecrows all day for her job, she would



continue to create items during her free time. Kari says of herself, “I’m always creating. Many creations were gifts for family members until my family began to ask, ‘Why don’t you sell what you create rather than just making gifts for the family?’”

When Kari’s employer closed the business, Kari began to participate in local vendor shows to sell the items she was creating. It was also during this time that Kari decided to build her own small business and open “Enchanted Memories” on her horse farm. With the help of her husband John and other family members, they converted an old horse barn into a store. Repurposed barn wood and sheet metal was used for the walls and floor and an old narrow side bar was retrofitted for a front counter.

Word spread that Kari opened a store and people began to come.

Enchanted Memories has been open for 11 years and is only open in the fall and spring. Shoppers come from Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison, Monroe, and Lake Holcombe when the ‘Open’ sign is hung at the end of the driveway.

Follow the Enchanted Memories Facebook page for updated information and be sure to watch for Kari’s night before video when she’ll post what items will be available for sale. In the video Kari always reminds her viewers, “the first one here gets it.”

Kari likes to encourage others who aspire to open their own small business. She says, “Pursue your passion. Go for it. If you really love it, do it. Life is too short not to follow your passion.”

She further advises those developing a small business to, “Define your avenue (lane), define your trade and develop a vision to stay on focus.” Kari is truly living out her passion.

The Klomsten’s look forward to seeing their returning customers that have become like family and are eager to meet many new customers this year.

The quote rings true for John and Kari, “Build it and they will come”. — Janet Brandli, Communications Coordinator

Store Hours:
 November 23-24, 2024,
 Saturday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.;
 Sunday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and
 November 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

If you miss your chance to visit the shop, Kari may open by appointment in December for last minute Christmas shopping. She can be reached at 715.984.2331.



N9590 Douglas Road, Hixton, WI
 Directions: 6.5 miles North on CTH G from Hwy 95 in Hixton OR 3 miles South on CTH G from Hwy 121 in York

ENERGY ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE MEMBERS



During times of hardship, there are programs available to help families and individuals financially during the heating season. If you need energy assistance, please visit energyandhousing.wi.gov to learn more about the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and income guidelines or contact your county’s Department of Health and Human Services.

Jackson County	715.284.4301
Clark, Eau Claire, Trempeleau Counties	715.836.7511
La Crosse County	608.785.5582
Monroe County	608.487.9356

Happy Thanksgiving

Jackson Electric’s office will be closed:
 Thursday, November 28, and
 Friday, November 29, for the
 Thanksgiving holiday

Any outages can be reported to
 855.222.3275

Veterans Day ♦ November 11

Jackson Electric remembers the missing, celebrates the living, and recognizes the past and present who defend our country and our freedom. Thank you for your service!



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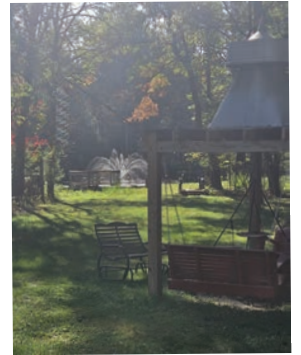
Member Photo Contest

Submit your photos November 1-30, 2024, to be considered in the November contest.

THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO GET OUT YOUR CAMERA

November brings changes to the landscape as the season changes to winter. It also brings certain traditions like hunting and Thanksgiving. If you have a photo that expresses November life in Jackson Electric's service territory, click the Photo Contest button at www.jackelec.com to enter your photo for a chance to win a \$25 energy credit.

The winner of the September photo contest and a \$25 energy credit is "September Bliss," submitted by Cindy Shramek of rural Alma Center. This photo, taken near Hatfield, captures the tranquility of the seasonal transition from summer to fall.



DUAL FUEL LOAD MANAGEMENT RECEIVER TEST NOVEMBER 20

Members who participate in the dual fuel (off-peak) electric heating program will experience an interruption in their electric heat on Wednesday, November 20, starting at 6:55 a.m. A gradual restoration of electric heating systems will begin at 10:00 a.m. with all systems being restored by 11:00 a.m. Please make sure your backup heating system is operational before this date.

This system-wide test is administered by Dairyland Power Cooperative to ensure equipment is operating properly for the winter heating season. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jackson Electric's office.

ELECTRIC SPACE HEATER REMINDER



Jackson Electric Cooperative reminds its members that even though space heaters are 100 percent efficient, they still use a significant amount of electricity. Electric space heaters will increase your electric bill significantly if used regularly. Only use an electric space heater for supplemental heat in a small area. They are not designed to heat your entire house.



Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Card Payments 844.759.3984
www.jackelec.com



Mailing Address: N6868 County Road F
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Office Hours: Mondays – Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fridays, 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Board of Directors: Gary Woods, President
Chris Curran, Vice President
David Peasley, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry Huber, Dairyland Power Representative
Dan Smrekar, Kristi Hanson, Brian Huber,
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Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

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