IT'S BIG! — If anyone had any doubts that the Lauchhammer Mining Wheel being erected at the Glenharold Mine by Truax-Traer Coal Co. to serve the Leland Olds plant is a huge machine, this photograph should dispel them. This is only one of the crawler units, with the bulk of the Lauchhammer Wheel to tower far above it. The giant mining machine will be 10 stories high and as long as a football field. Insert in the lower right hand corner shows what the machine will look like when completed this summer.

$1.5 - Million Paid In Wages

Basin Electric paid $1.5 million for construction wages in North Dakota in 1964, according to a year-end report released by the cooperative.

At peak construction in November there were 542 men employed on the 200,000-kilowatt Leland Olds steam-electric plant near Stanton. In the middle of January, 1965, there were 440. At construction peak for the total construction period, expected in March or April, there will be close to 600 men on the job.

About $2.7 million will be spent in labor costs on the plant in 1965, Basin Electric Manager James L. Grahl said. “We are now entering the accelerated portion of plant construction,” he explained. “In addition, the labor we use from now on will be more highly skilled, men able to work on the turbine-generator and the boiler.”

Mrs. Shirley A. Henderscheid of Fort Clark, N. D., has taken a position as plant secretary at the Basin Electric Leland Olds power station, Plant Superintendent Robert Peck announced.

Mrs. Henderscheid assumed her new duties in January. Before accepting the position, she was employed in Hazen, N. D. Before that she was employed by Oliver County in Center. She attended Rasmussen Business College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Grahl Gives GE Field Man $2.9 Million Check

Basin Electric Manager James L. Grahl in January handed a check for $2.9 million to Phil Nelson of Bismarck, General Electric Co. area representative. The check was the initial payment on the $3.9-million contract for the turbine-generator for the Leland Olds plant.

The turbine and generator are the largest ever built in the Western Hemisphere for a lignite-fueled plant. The turbine and generator have been delivered to the plant and are now being installed.
Construction Superintendent's Report

From the outside, progress on the Leland Olds plant is becoming less evident now, as most of the work moves inside the now-covered plant and becomes more intricate, Resident Construction Superintendent Harry E. Jacobs told the January Basin Electric Board meeting.

But, Jacobs added, the pace of work is actually increasing. He said the plant is now about 40 per cent complete.

Progress this month included:
- Installation of sole plates for the turbine-generator. These plates are attached directly to the turbine-generator foundation and are grouted with a special high-strength cement. The turbine-generator will rest upon them. They must be perfectly aligned and levelled. Many parts for the turbine have been moved into the turbine-generator room. The exhaust hood which will carry exhausted steam to the condenser is in the room.
- Welding of condenser shell. The condenser consists of hundreds of small diameter pipes through which 113,000,000 gallons of Missouri River water daily will flow. Steam from the turbine, coming through the exhaust hood, will pass around the pipes and will be condensed into water which will collect in a well, later to be carried back to the boiler for recirculation.
- Installation of nearly all parts subject to pressure in the boiler has been completed. Most work on the boiler now is the welding of parts earlier installed. The installation is 55 per cent complete and ahead of schedule.
- Arrival of three carloads of parts for the lignite handling system. The lignite is delivered via a conveyor owned by Trux-Traer Coal Co. From here it goes into a stock pile, or is routed directly through Basin Electric processing equipment into the plant. Coal from the storage pile goes into a "reclaiming tunnel," a kind of hopper, is carried to a crusher which breaks up large frozen lumps, then goes into bunkers in the Leland Olds plant. From here it goes into pulverizers, then is blown into the boiler. Many foundations for the coal-handling equipment are complete, but the handling system itself is only 1 per cent complete.
- Completion of the 250-foot concrete stack. M. W. Kellogg Co. stack contractor, has left the job.
- Installation of electrical equipment. Lord Electric Co. has installed power and lighting conduit, lighting panels, equipment and building grounding and other electrical equipment. The contract is about 24 per cent complete.
- Installation of piping. Pipes and hangers are being installed for bleed steam, treated water, circulating water, water from the condenser, ignition oil and service air systems.
- Installation of superstructure. Floors have been poured on several elevations, including the turbine room. Equipment foundations in the basement have been poured. Covering of the plant walls continues, and is approaching completion. The contract is 27 per cent complete.

Cooperative, Municipal Systems Consider Lines

Ninety-six representatives of Western Iowa and Southwestern Minnesota generation and transmission cooperatives, rural electric distribution cooperatives, and municipal electric systems met with United States Bureau of Reclamation officials and American Public Power Association representatives on the proposed construction of high voltage transmission lines in the area. The meeting was held January 6 in the offices of northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Le Mars, Ia.

Discussion was held on the lines proposed for Southwest Minnesota and Northwest Iowa. The lines being considered would be built by the U.S.B.R. and operated as part of the Joint System of the Missouri Basin Systems Group.

Study funds of $100,000 were authorized by Congress last year to determine the location and feasibility of these lines.

Twenty-three rural electric cooperatives and twenty municipal electric systems were represented at the meeting. Mr. Herbert Blinder of the American Public Power Association, Washington, D. C., was present in the interests of the Association’s members.

Those representing the United States Bureau of Reclamation were Mr. Harold Aldrich, Director, Region VI; Mr. George Lewis, Supervisor of Power; Mr. C. R. Beitzman, Regional Engineer; and Searles Hornstein, Electrical Engineer. Attending for Basin Electric were Mr. M. L. Burgin, Systems Engineer, and Mr. George C. Paraskeva, Chief Electric Engineer.

Rushmore Reports Increase In Use of Electric Power

Reporting year-end figures for the operation of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Rapid City, S. Dak., Manager L. H. Jacobson cited the nearly 200 million kilowatt hours of electricity used in 1964 by consumers of Rushmore’s member systems. This amount of power represents in increase of slightly more than 15% over the previous year.

A new high was reached by Rushmore Electric’s member systems with a peak demand of 38,600 kilowatts in 1964.

Total revenue from sales of electricity by the generation and transmission cooperative were slightly more than $11, a 5.2 per cent increase over 1963.

So. Dak. Member Systems Announce Rate Reductions

Three members of Basin Electric in South Dakota, all members of East River Electric Power Cooperative, announced rate reductions at the beginning of 1965.

Lincoln-Union Electric Company of Alcester, announced a reduction which will save members $30,000 this year. McCook Electric Cooperative of Salem, has reduced its rates to members by $18,000 for the coming year. Union County Electric, Elk Point, has announced that new rate schedules are currently being distributed to its members.
The photographs are of various parts of the coal-handling equipment being installed near the Leland Olds plant by the Truax-Traer Coal Co., Basin Electric's coal supplier. Upper left is the wheel boom for the Lauchhammer Mining Wheel. It goes from the body of the machine to the excavating wheel. Upper right is another view of the same boom. Lower left is conveyor No. 2, which carries coal from the Truax-Traer coal crusher to the Basin Electric storage pile. Lower right is conveyor No. 1, which carries coal from the Truax-Traer hopper to the coal crusher (background.)

Truax - Traer Photos
Two New Members For Basin Electric

Class C memberships for two distribution cooperatives were approved by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting in January.

Baker Electric Cooperative, Cando, North Dakota, and Mountain View Electric Association, Limon, Colorado, are the cooperatives. Both organizations are members of generation and transmission cooperatives which are Class A members of Basin Electric. Baker Electric is a member of Central Electric Power Cooperative, Minot, N. Dak., and Mountain View is a member of Tri-State G & T Association, Denver, Colo.

Baker Electric's president is Mr. Obed Larson, Heindal, N. D., and its manager is Mr. Leo T. Callahan. The system serves 4,529 consumers and operates 3,117 miles of line.

Mountain View's president is E. A. Geesen, Agate, Colo. The manager is Mr. A. C. "Jack" Payne. The Association serves 5,255 consumers and operates 3,851 miles of line.

BROWN SPEAKS AT MBSG ANNUAL MEETING

The Missouri Basin Systems Group elected officers and heard the Federal Power Commission's Chief Engineer, F. Stewart Brown, describe the benefits of electric systems coordination and interties at the Systems Group second annual meeting in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., February 11.

Re-elected as officers of the Systems Group were Dennis Lindberg, Chairman, Odebolt, Iowa; Lawrence Meyers, Treasurer, Wessington Springs, S. Dak.; Vern Livingston, Secretary, Nebraska City, Nebraska. C. R. Theissen, Lambert, Montana, was elected Vice Chairman, taking the position vacated by the death of Henry Swenson last year.

Brown cited the National Power Survey, compiled by the FPC and released last December, in discussing a possible $11 billion annual savings in consumer electric bills by 1980. Brown said that coordination of regional power systems and interregional interties of large generating units and high voltage transmission would make possible 27% decrease in electric power bills by 1980.

In a press conference preceding the luncheon meeting, Brown said that the Systems Group was making significant progress in coordinating the planning of electric power systems in the Missouri Basin.

Lindberg said MBSG should accept the challenge of 1.2c per kilowatt hour electricity by 1980, as projected as a possible national average by the National Power Survey. The Chairman also praised the cooperation shown by the member systems which has resulted in several significant engineering studies, notably the Missouri Basin Power Survey.

A brochure describing the Missouri Basin Power Survey was distributed at the time of the report by Bruce Johnson, Chairman of the MBSG Planning Committee. The brochure is available through the Systems Group officers for distribution by member systems.