

Dedication

This book is dedicated to all of the employees and Commissioners who devoted their careers to providing energy and heat to the citizens of Hutchinson and beyond. Without their zeal for providing exemplary service, residents and businesses alike would have not been able to enjoy the innumerable benefits that electricity and natural gas has bestowed upon the community. The cumulative actions of Utilities' personnel has propelled HUC to receiving recognition as being among the very best utilities in the nation.

Acknowledgements

Herein is the story of how a modest plant was transformed into the prominent Hutchinson Utilities. Within its extensive history, there were countless memorable events that required the first-hand experience of individuals. I'm deeply grateful to those persons who consented to interviews and recounted various happenings that for some happened many decades ago. Without their aid and providing bountiful amounts of information, this book would have not been possible. Therefore, I would like to thank the following individuals: Randy Blake, Jim Dahl, Ryan Ellenson, Jon Guthmiller, Orville and Harriet Kuiken, Mike Kumm, Ivan Larson, John Webster, Butch Wentworth, and Elsa Young. I would also like to thank the many other Utilities' personnel who answered inquiries and allowed me to tag along as they labored on projects.

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What follows is a remembrance of what the Hutchinson Utilities has done throughout its 74 years of existence and serves as a template of what the Utilities will do as it charges into the future.