

Tesla award again a highlight of area power conference

Before one of the largest banquet gatherings in the 25-year history of the Area Power Conference, Edward W. Verbarg and David H. Kopecky were presented as the 1978 winners of the Nikola Tesla Award for "meritorious service to the electric power industry."

Verbarg is chairman of the board of Bergstrom-Verbarg Company, Minneapolis; while Kopecky is assistant to the general manager of United Power Association, Elk River, Minn.

The setting for the occasion was the Grand Forks Armory Auditorium and, with about 700 persons looking on, the Tesla presentation was made by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, as it has been since the Award was instituted in 1968.

In those 11 years, 27 individuals have been honored. They are selected by a committee upon recommendations from individuals throughout the electrical industry.

The Tesla Award is named in honor of the man known as the "master of electrical energy" and recognized as one of the great scientific geniuses of history.

Four from Minnkota Power Cooperative are numbered among the select 27 who have been honored at the Area Power Conference—Victor M. Edman, former president of Minnkota, in 1968; Andrew L. Freeman, general manager, in



David H. Kopecky



Edward W. Verbarg

1969; Lyle Lund, assistant manager, in 1975; and Ellef Krogen, transmission engineer, in 1977.

Verbarg has a lifelong career in the world of electricity. His business career was launched in 1935 when he served as regional sales manager for the Kearney Corporation, leaving the firm in 1942 to serve as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Force. He served as president of Bergstrom-Verbarg from 1965 to 1977.

When David Kopecky elected to enter the rural electric cooperative field, his first position was with Rural Cooperative Power Association, Maple Lake, Minn. In 1973, Kopecky was named special assistant to the general manager at United Power Association, and promoted to assistant to the general manager in 1977.

The following article,
Mister Rural Electric,
is from The Minnkota
Messenger 11/03/1978.

THE MINNKOTA MESSENGER

(Published and printed bi-weekly by Minnkota Power Cooperative, 1822 State Mill Road, Grand Forks, N.D.)



November 3, 1978

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Millard F. Dailey
Vice President	Harvey Tallackson
Secretary	Delmar Hagen
Treasurer	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Ted M. Lee, Earl Wagner, Roy Rasmussen,	
Edward Reitmeier, James L. Erickson, Glen Goodman, Merle	
Anderson, Frank Yerbich, Bobby Lofstrand.	
Manager	Andrew L. Freeman
Editor	Jim Hansen