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## **Rural electrification back in 1939 topic of new Historic Iola marker, to be unveiled Oct. 3**

Iola, WI: While today people are seeking high-speed Internet connections, 80 years ago electricity in rural areas was the most pressing issue. In 1939, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CEWC) started its program to bring electricity to rural farms. The first farm in the Iola area to get connected was Louie Meyers' farm home on County Hwy G, now E2140 Lake Road.

This event and the history of CWEC, which started in 1937, is the topic of the Iola Historical Society's Historic Iola No. 11 marker. It will be unveiled and dedicated on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 1:30 p.m. at the site of the original CWEC building in downtown Iola, located on South Main Street between Voie Funeral Home and the Iola Village Hall.

The public is invited to the unveiling, which will include current and past employees of CWEC, Iola Historical Society members, and Iola-Scandinavia Chamber of Commerce members, among others. Light refreshments will be served after the dedication.

The marker will be located on the same block as Historic Iola No. 6 - *Iola's Dr. Loope - Member of first University of Wisconsin Football Team*.

For more information on the Historic Iola marker program, including locations of the current markers, and the Iola Historical Society, go to [www.iolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety.org).

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