



# Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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## J&P Taxidermy moves to Steele

By Richard Paolinelli

In the fall of 2024, John Lind and his wife, Penny, decided to leave big-city living behind. The couple moved 40 miles east from Bismarck to Steele, returning to the quieter pace of small-town life Lind grew up with.

Fortunately, the move didn't require a change in profession.

Lind has been a full-time taxidermist for more than four decades. He has earned numerous awards at state and national competitions, as well as a prestigious 2nd place in the Masters Division at the World Taxidermy Championships.

"Most guys specialize in one area," Lind remarked. "But I was good at all of them."

Before opening his shop in Steele, Lind was known at his previous job as "the bear guy." Over the years, however, his work has included trophy animals from around the world.

These days, Lind prefers smaller projects—mostly fish—though he still works on deer and

other game animals.

"I enjoy the art of it. Each piece I work on is given detail not found in most commercial taxidermy shops. It's more than 'a fish on the wall', it's a one-of-a-kind art piece," he said.

A fish mount typically takes 10 to 12 hours to complete, while a deer can take about 15 hours.

Lind's interest in taxidermy grew out of time spent outdoors with his grandfather.

"He was an avid outdoorsman," said Lind, who shares his grandfather's name.

Living in Steele has allowed Lind to reconnect with that passion; living now in an area where he has spent countless hours hunting and fishing.

"We wanted small town life, to know our neighbors and be a part of a community again."

"I'm pleasantly surprised by how much work has already come in," Lind said. He added that sportsmen seem to have a way of finding out who to bring their trophies to and Lind certainly has

the resume to attract that clientele. Lind operates J&P Taxidermy

and maintains a Facebook page featuring a gallery of his work, including several of his bear mounts. He can also be reached at (701) 425-7907



John with the bear he mounted. This is one of his many projects. (more photos on page 24)

## ND's Rosie the Riveter honored Saturday

You know her better as the birthday girl. Irene Sprague, family, and friends celebrated Irene's 100 birthday at Prairie Meadows south of Dawson Saturday with some other VIPS. ND Guard Brigadier General Mitchell Johnson, Senator Kevin Cramer, and Senator John Hoeven were also there to honor ND's Rosie the Riveter. Sprague, as you read in past Ozone articles, worked in the shipyards on the West coast when she was 16 during WWII and they called these women Rosie the Riveters.

In addition to the VIPs being there, they brought gifts. Johnson brought a Commander's coin for exceptional service in ND, Cramer brought a memorial flag that was flown over the capital in her honor, and Hoeven brought

(See "Rosie" on page 13)

## Shipley Electric Adds Elite Generac Generators Status

Shipley Electric Earns Elite Generac Generator Dealer Status

Shipley Electric, based out of Steele and Dawson, recently announced that they have earned Elite Dealer and Installer status with Generac Generators. From portable generators to whole-home standby systems, Generac is an award-winning industry leader offering reliable energy solutions for homes and businesses.

Bringing more than 60 years of industry experience, Generac

provides dependable power solutions along with 24/7/365 customer support. Shipley Electric's Elite partner status means that they are certified to sell, install, service, and warranty Generac units. Shipley Electric has been installing Generac systems for several years and officially became a Generac partner over three years ago. Today, Joe Sutherland leads the company's Generac division, including installation, service, and warranty.

What began 45 years ago with John Shipley and a single van has grown into a trusted regional business serving customers within an 80-mile radius. Shipley Electric has built a strong reputation for honest, dependable electrical work. Today, three dedicated crews work daily to keep homes and businesses powered, families safe, and now with Generac systems, ensure power even when the

local grid goes down.

Josh Shipley also recognizes several key members of the team. His brother Isaac (Ike) Shipley and Trey Deigel both play important leadership roles. Both men graduated locally, attended North Dakota State College of Science (NDSOS), earned their two-year electrical degrees, and returned home to work in the

community.

"College isn't for everyone," Josh explains. "But trade schools like NDSOS and BSC offer great opportunities. An electrical degree can lead to a strong career like the one my dad and I built, starting as an apprentice, then becoming a journeyman, and eventually a master electrician."

After completing college,

apprentice electricians typically spend three or more years gaining experience before testing for their journeyman license. With additional experience and testing, they can become master electricians.

Josh is proud that the next generation is already following a similar path. His son Jacob Shipley, along with another local graduate Trevor Simmers, are currently attending NDSOS. Both plan to return home and continue their careers with Shipley Electric after completing their schooling.

Shipley Electric encourages high school students interested in the electrical field to reach out. The company has hired many local students over the years, offering summer opportunities to learn the trade and explore electrical work as a career.

Josh also wants to recognize past employees who helped build the company's success, along with current team members Jon Shockley and Koury Burke, who continue to do excellent work supporting the crews.

(see Shipley on page 2)



Shipley Electric is located on Highway 3 in Dawson

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