

WATT'S UP



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Recently a folder of PUD employee newsletters, titled "Sparky", printed over 59 years ago, was found in the Okanogan office. The issues are truly PUD history and make for great reading. Items from the originals will be reprinted in this issue and from time to time in the upcoming ones, too. We hope you enjoy reading them.

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From the September 18, 1950 issue of "Sparky", under Society News, Down on the Farm:

Most of the time the animals on the Boyer farm live together like one big, happy family. However, all friendships can apparently be carried too far. It seems that whenever the Boyers go out in the pasture to see the horses, their two cats always trail along and amuse themselves by running up the horses' legs. The horses have patiently endured this kittenish prank for a long time. But the other day the Boyers were amazed to see one of the horses take the cat's tail in his teeth, swing it deliberately back and forth several times, then deposit it, a 'clawin' and a 'scratchin', but a completely reformed kitty, gently on the ground..

From the July 10, 1951 issue of "Sparky", under Notes from the News:

And who says the moonshiners aren't keeping up with the trends of the times? In Chattanooga, Tennessee, a still was raided last month by the revenooers, and what sort of heat do you suppose was being used?... You guessed it—electric..... The moonshiners explained they had been much impressed by the ads in the local papers telling about the "cheap electricity," so they decided to use some of that cheap juice—er, we mean, electricity.

SMART METERING ON ITS WAY IN 2009!

Early this year and continuing into 2010 the District will begin a conversion to smart metering or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). So what is smart metering and why is the District moving in that direction? The advantages of AMI are multiple. District meters can be read remotely by communicating over power lines and the fiber-optic network. This means no meter readers visiting each meter bi-monthly or monthly and no more estimated reads. The District has a desire to move all customers to a monthly read and billing system rather than the bi-monthly that most residential customers have at this time. This will improve the District's cash flow position as well as prevent a possible large two month bill for customers, especially in colder, high usage months. AMI provides instant information on usage, loads, voltage, meter tampering and outages all of which improves the District's ability to better serve our customers. Staff will have current information at their finger tips to answer customer questions. Engineering will have current information for transformer loading and other system studies. Each meter will be queried daily for power outages. Stopped meters will be found daily rather than only when the meter reader visits. The result is considerable labor and vehicle savings by not having to send a person and vehicle for meter reading, for re-reads when questions arise, when accounts change hands and other instances when meter reads need to be checked. This project requires the District to change out or modify all meters in the system resulting in a short power outage. Over the next two years customers will be receiving notification as to when we will visit your home or business to accomplish this task. We will work closely with our customers on arranging these outages.

PLAN AHEAD FOR NEW LINE EXTENSIONS AND UPGRADES

If you're making plans to build a new home, remodel an existing home or substantially increase the load on your electric service, please let the PUD's Engineering Department know of your plans ahead of time. Contacting the PUD early in the planning process helps to insure your electrical needs are met with no delay to your project. Information on new line extensions and service upgrades is provided at no charge. This process includes a site visit by a field engineer, after which project expense and time estimates are prepared. Please call your local PUD office to speak with one of our engineers.



MEDICAL NEEDS SAFETY MESSAGE

Customers with medical needs should make preparations in advance for any planned or unplanned outages due to storms or other causes.

1331 2nd Ave N.
PO Box 912
Okanogan, WA 98840
Phone: 509-422-3310
800-922-7011
www.okanoganpud.org



**CALL
BEFORE
YOU DIG**

Don't wait until your springtime work is underway for digging on your property—planting trees or shrubs, installing a fence, mailbox post, deck footing or a sprinkler system to call for your underground locate service. One dig with a piece of equipment could strike a buried electrical line. You could be hurt or killed. You may also be liable for damages.

**CALL
1-800-424-5555**

And it's free!

TREE TRIMMING AND RIGHT OF WAY CLEARANCE



Asplundh Tree Expert Company is contracted with the Okanogan County PUD for tree trimming and power line clearance on our transmission and distribution systems. Two crews will be trimming in the PUD service area in 2009. Both crews will begin trimming in the city of Oroville beginning in January 2009. Once completed, crews will finish the first cycle of trimming by clearing lines in the North East service areas of Molson/Chesaw/Havillah, and then begin trimming trees/clearing lines in Malott by Spring of 2009. If you have questions regarding power line tree trimming and right of way clearance please contact Right of Way Superintendent, Roy Schwilke at 422-8473 or roys@okpud.org.

TIPS FOR



Remember for Saving Energy:

Turn off lights whenever you leave a room in your house.

Turn off the TV, stereo, computer and video games when you stop using them.

Don't hold the refrigerator door open.

Don't stay in the shower for long periods of time. Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home.

Remember for Safety:

Always fly kites and model airplanes in a wide-open field— never near overhead wires!

Stay away from any fallen lines. They may be full of electricity. Tell a grownup immediately. Keep everybody away.

Never climb trees near overhead power lines.

During a lightning storm, seek shelter in a house or large building, or stay in the car, if you are in one.

Treat electricity with respect!

“POSTERITIS” MAY BE MORE THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR

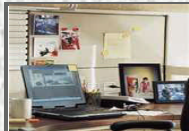
Yard sale, garage sale, home for sale are all examples of signs posted on power poles that are a hazard to line crews. Workers dig the hooks strapped to their legs into the wood to climb power poles. If a hook strikes a nail or staple, a line worker could fall and be seriously injured or even killed.

**NOT A BARGAIN
FOR UTILITY
WORKERS**

Also, damage to their insulated gear, such as a tiny puncture to this safety equipment could expose the line-man to severe electrical shock. To protect utility workers, Washington State law prohibits posting advertising signs or other items on poles.

**Please obey the law—and help keep our
line crews safe!**

HOME OFFICE AND HOME ELECTRONICS



Selecting energy-efficient office equipment—personal computers, monitors, copiers, printers, and fax machines—and turning off machines when they are not in use can result in energy savings. An Energy Star computer uses 70% less electricity than computers without this designation. Energy Star computers and monitors save energy only when the power management features are activated, so make sure that feature is activated on your computer. There is a common misconception that screen savers reduce energy use by monitors; they do not. Automatic switching to sleep mode or manually turning monitors off is always the better energy-saving strategy.

\$ LONG-TERM SAVINGS TIP

* Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; they use much less energy than desktop computers.