

Portland General Electric Company  
**RETIREES NEWS BULLETIN**

Barbara Bergmans, Editor  
Phone: 503-682-8858

April/May 2009  
No. 212

**Upcoming Events**

*PGE Retiree*

*30<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon*

Thursday, May 21, 2009

**Monarch Hotel and Convention Center,  
Clackamas**



Bob Clayton, left, and Tay Robbins muse over a back issue of NewsLine at last year's Retiree luncheon.



Old friends greet each other at the check-in table as Doris Davids looks on.

The PGE Retirees' Annual Spring Luncheon will be held at the Monarch Hotel and Convention Center, 12566 SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Clackamas, Oregon (off SE Sunnyside Road, west of I-205, near Clackamas Town Center), on **Thursday, May 21, 2009**. Limited handicapped parking is available at the south end of the hotel for easier access to Monarch Hall, where the luncheon will be held. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. for you to gather and meet with old friends. Lunch will be served at noon.

In early May, you will be receiving a card in the mail (the return address will be on the card). Please fill it out and return it to PGE to reserve your place at lunch. We are allowed one guest. When returning your card, please list the name of your guest so that name tags can be made. If, after you have sent in the card, you find that you are unable to attend, please notify **Russ Bailey (503-632-5423) or Doris Davids (503-636-2385) by May 15**. If you have a special dietary need, please contact either Russ or Doris because they will need to make special arrangements with the hotel. **(Sorry, no special diet requests on the day of the luncheon.)**

**The hotel will charge for meals reserved even if you do not attend, so please show consideration to our hosts, PGE, and call if you are unable to attend. We don't want to lose this privilege during times of cutbacks.**

**THE MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR OLD *BULLSEYES* AND *NEWSLINES***

The Museum is in need of *NewsLines* from the 1980s. If you happen to have any lying around, please bring them to the luncheon, even if it's only a single copy. We still have several people not identified in some of the group pictures, so please stop by the tables and take a minute or two to help us identify anyone you might know so we can put names to faces in the pictures. The Museum group will be very thankful for any help you can give us. We are still accepting donations of money or items; remember, they are tax deductible. Audrey Howell donated a postage scale that was used in the St Helens office when first-class stamps were three cents and air mail was six cents. Thank you, Audrey, for thinking of us.



## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

### ***John Verdieck Celebrates His 100th Birthday!***

*John Verdieck will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on **April 19, 2–4 p.m.** at **Rose Villa Retirement Complex dining room, 13505 SE River Road, in Milwaukie, Oregon.** John began his career with PGE in July 1928 working in the Salem office as an inventory clerk, and he retired in July 1973 as manager of the General Service Department, putting in 45 years of service to PGE. He would love to see all of his old friends and co-workers, so please plan to attend to help him celebrate this very special day.*

## **PGE RETIREES' PICNIC**

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the PGE Retirees' Annual Picnic, which will be held on Thursday, July 16, noon, at Red Sunset Park in Gresham, Oregon. This year's picnic will be at the same location as last year's, with Bob acting as our picnic chairman again. A map will be provided in a future bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Clayton, 503-658-2990.

## **RETIREES' UPCOMING TRIP AND TOUR – MAY 27, 2009**

The first Retirees' trip for this year is scheduled to take place on **May 27, 2009**, and we will meet at the Gresham Line Center at 8:30 a.m. The trip will include **OAK GROVE, FARADAY and RIVER MILL** facilities.

The cost per person will be \$15 and the **deadline to sign up for this trip is May 15**. An all-you-can-eat spaghetti luncheon will be provided at the Estacada Community Center around 2:00 p.m., and we will return to the Gresham Line Center around 4:30–5:00 p.m. This trip is **limited to 28 travelers** (which includes spouses and significant others), **on a first-come, first-served basis**.



(not required)

Future trips with dates and costs will be announced as they are planned. If you aren't able to attend this trip, then plan on joining us on the next trip. To sign up for this trip, or if you have any questions, please contact: Chick Colby, 360-573-2096 or [cwcolbyir@yahoo.com](mailto:cwcolbyir@yahoo.com), or Ed Miska (President), 503-636-6052, or [epm745t@earthlink.net](mailto:epm745t@earthlink.net), Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858, or [b.bergmans@verizon.net](mailto:b.bergmans@verizon.net).

## **BOWLING**

You are welcome to come down and join in on the last few sessions of bowling before the season ends on May 20. The new season begins in September (dates to be announced later) and ends in May 2010. Come and join this fun group of retirees. They are always looking for new bowlers. Both men and women retirees, their spouses and significant others are welcome. Don't know how to bowl or not bowled for a while? Now is a good time to learn or re-start. All you have to do is show up at the 12:30 p.m. check-in time at 20<sup>th</sup> Century Bowl, SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Powell Boulevard, in Portland. Games are held on the **first and third Wednesdays** of the month. Contact **Steve Kuryk, 503-659-2278, or his assistant Terry Judkins, 503-655-2863**, with questions or for additional information.

## GOLF NEWS

A tournament is being planned for **June 9 at Boring Mountain View Golf Course**. A complete schedule for the 2009 season will be printed in one of the upcoming issues. If you have questions or want to **VOLUNTEER with the golf committee**, please call **John Fishback, 503-648-2227, John Carter, 503-653-6261, or Jim Wyatt, 503-366-2824**.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR RETIREES

**Are your cell and home phones on the no-call list?** If you **DO NOT** want to receive calls from telemarketers, then you **MUST** call **1-888-382-1222** from each of your phones (if you have more than one phone) to have each phone's number removed from their call lists. Or, if you have a PC, go online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) and get your phone numbers removed. (Thanks to Helen Murphy for bringing this matter to my attention.)

**Don't want to receive "junk" mail any longer?** The Direct Marketing Association offers the free service of opting out of unwanted mail by registering at [www.directmail.com/directory/mail\\_preference/](http://www.directmail.com/directory/mail_preference/). Your name is usually sold to telemarketers when you donate money, order a product or service or fill out a warranty card. Here is a tip so that this won't happen in the future. Write on the card, "Please do not sell my name or address."



## FIT FACTORY

Did you know retirees of Portland General Electric are eligible to join The Fit Factory? For only \$20 per month, retirees are welcome to use the health club facilities located in 3 World Trade Center. As a member, you are welcome to use the weight machines, tread mills, shower facilities or participate in any of the offered classes. To join or get answers to your questions, contact Sonya Duffin at 503-464-8075. **Make 2009 your year to shape up!**

## WEB SITE FOR VA CLAIMS/APPEALS (NEW WEB SITE)

Are you or your spouse a veteran and need to file a claim or an appeal? Nancy Nash, the wife of PGE Retiree and veteran Douglas Nash, has set up a Web site to be a guide to help veterans and/or their dependents file claims or appeals with the VA. The forms you need are available on this site, plus the site gives you a step-by-step "how to" guide for filling out the forms. This may save you from having to hire an attorney, but in case you need to you'll have your forms already filled out. The Web site is: [www.howtoassemblevaclaims.com](http://www.howtoassemblevaclaims.com) (*one word, no spaces*).

## PGE RETIREES WEB SITE (PGERETIREES.ORG)

Have a little free time? Then take a few minutes to go check out this Web site, and see what you have been missing. Is there something that you would like to have added? If so, contact **Jack Wojnowski, 360-885-4671, e-mail [jnmnwojnowski@yahoo.com](mailto:jnmnwojnowski@yahoo.com)**, or **Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858, e-mail [b.bergmans@verizon.net](mailto:b.bergmans@verizon.net)**.

## RETIREE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The "Retiree Assistance" Program is available to help any qualified retiree or surviving spouse. It can provide financial assistance for out-of-pocket medical expenses not covered by insurance or Medicare. This program is here for you if you need it. Your request is handled with strict confidentiality. Requests for assistance must be in writing. Call **Tom Kreis, 503-645-2754, Barbara Beck, 503-775-9236, or Russ Bailey, 503-632-5423**, for more information.

## WEB SITE FOR PGE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Want to know what volunteer projects are going to be coming up or to send in your volunteer hours? Then log on to [www.easymatch.com/pgevp.com](http://www.easymatch.com/pgevp.com) to find out the dates, times and places. You may sign up to volunteer online and/or print a form, fill it in and send it to the address listed on the form. Log in to this Web site using **your employee number without the "E"**. Your **initial password** is the **last four digits of your social security number**. (*You will be asked to change your password the first time you log in.*) For additional information, check the PGE Volunteer Power flyer. If you don't know or have forgotten your employee number or have other questions, please call Scott at 503-464-8554 or e-mail him at [Scott.Guptill@pgn.com](mailto:Scott.Guptill@pgn.com).

## PGE RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

A group of Customer Service Retirees meets at **The Wichita Bar and Grill**, 19140 Molalla Avenue, in Oregon City. This group meets the **first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m.** for breakfast.

Assorted retirees meet **every Wednesday at 9 a.m.**, at **Elmer's Restaurant**, 390 SW Adams Street in Hillsboro.

Load Dispatchers and other PGE retirees meet for breakfast the **first Wednesday morning of each month** at 9 a.m. at **Hale's Restaurant**, 17502 SE McLaughlin Boulevard.

A group of 30+ PGE retirees meet on the **first Tuesday of February, April, June and November at 9 a.m.** for breakfast at **The Village Inn**, 10301 SE Stark Street.



These get-togethers are open to all retirees, their spouses and significant others. If you would like to start up a group closer to your area or know of a group that hasn't been listed in the bulletin and would like for it to be, or if you have any questions regarding any of the groups, please call Terry Judkins at 503-655-2863 or e-mail him at [djudkins@comcast.net](mailto:djudkins@comcast.net).

## RETIREES

*(a total of 262 years of service!)*

### **March 2009**

*Sandy G. Heath*, Executive Secretary  
(24 years)

### **April 2009**

*James Deardorff*, Engineer IV, Fire Protection (30 years)

*Peggy Y. Fowler*, CEO & President  
(35 years)

*Raymond A. Gregory*, Journeyman Painter (32 years)

*Valorie K. Linhares*, HR Consultant  
(28 years)

*Robert L. Lutz*, Senior Communication Technician (41 years)

*Susan L. Nopper*, HR Consultant  
(32 years)

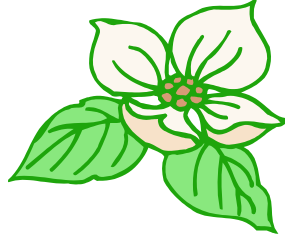
*Stephen E. Schue*, Analyst IV, Business  
(17 years)

*Frieda M. Vanover*, Clerk V (23 years)

**The following employees have elected  
not to retire at this time:**

*Richard V. DeMello*, Working Line  
Foreman  
*Randall D. Kearns*, Working Line  
Foreman

*Robert J. Lazrine*, Fire Protection  
Working Foreman  
*Kenneth D. Parker*, Senior Instrument &  
Control Technician



**The next Retirees' Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 13, at  
9:00 a.m. in the 17th-Floor Board Room on 1WTC17,  
121 SW Salmon Street, Portland.  
*Please try to carpool if possible.***

*NOTE FROM THE EDITOR*

*When I first met Chuck, it took me a couple of minutes before I figured out that he had a dry sense of humor. He has had a very interesting life and it was nice getting to know him, and I want to thank him for giving me his time and letting me write his story. He walked through many doors and helped make many changes in the Company, and held the position as manager in a lot of areas, during his career at PGE. I wish him the very best of health in the future and hope that he is back feeling at 100 percent again soon. The folks at the corporate office that makes sure I cross my t's and I dot my i's, also add items that they want to get out to the retirees. They were unaware that I was going to be doing Chuck's story in this issue, so it was a nice surprise when the last issue of the bulletin came out and his picture was in it. Thanks again, Chuck, for giving me your story and time. Good health to you!*

*This last couple of month, we lost several more retirees, including Frank Warren. Our sympathy goes out to all of the families of those retirees.*

*If you know of someone's story you would like to see in the bulletin or you would like for me to write your story, please contact me. I write these stories to help record the history of PGE — history that will be lost if we don't get these stories recorded — and to get to know each of you better and hopefully bring back fond memories. You may contact me by either calling 503-682-8858 or e-mailing me at [b.bergmans@verizon.net](mailto:b.bergmans@verizon.net). I look forward to hearing from you.*

*Barbara Bergmans*



## GETTING TO KNOW US

*Charles (Chuck) McClellan*

*PGE Service from 05/24/1955 to 10/01/1987*

Chuck was born and raised in the Portland area. At a very young age, he earned money by peddling newspapers on street corners. As a teenager, he worked for "Flowers by Tommy Luke", delivering flower orders by hopping on a streetcar. In 1946, at the age of 17 and out of high school only a couple of days, he joined the Marines. He was given an "Early Out" and only had to serve two years because the war was over. Chuck attended boot camp at Camp Pendleton, California. While there, he worked as a telephone lineman, climbing poles and stringing wire. After boot camp, he went to bases in North Carolina and Virginia, and was stationed at Treasure Island before being stationed aboard the USS Missouri. On the first trip out, there was a terrible storm at sea and there were a lot of "sick boys" aboard that weren't used to riding the waves. This ship took Chuck's troop to many ports, where they constructed landings and set up new camps.

With mustering-out pay in his pocket and time on his hands, Chuck decided to "bum around" for while. He hitchhiked back to Oregon and got to see a lot of the United States on his way home. After returning home, he spent a lot of time skiing at Government Camp. That fall, Chuck enrolled in pre-law at Van Port College, on his GI bill, hoping someday to become a lawyer. He rented a room for \$5 a week in the Hollywood district while attending college. Chuck and a friend later found a house for \$30 a month in the government housing project, located near the Oregon

Shipyard, and lived there until the end of the school year.

School was out, Chuck had no plans for the summer and his money was running low, when a friend from Astoria invited him to move to Astoria and live with his family on their dairy farm. To pay his room and board, Chuck milked cows, helped build silos, did farm chores including, of course, the never-ending job on a dairy farm — shoveling cow manure. For R&R in the evenings Chuck went into Seaside and played bingo. While there one night, one of the employees didn't show up to work, and the owner asked Chuck if he would like the job, which paid \$1.00 an hour. He took the job and worked there nights while working days at the dairy farm. One night, two ladies who were regulars at bingo told Chuck they owned a beach house and offered him a room for \$5 a week. He quit the dairy farm and moved into Seaside, where he spent days lying on the beach and working nights at the bingo parlor. He stayed there until the end of that summer and then he returned to Portland in time to enroll in school.

In 1949 his hopes of enrolling at U of O to continue working toward his law degree were crushed when his records didn't get transferred in time. He then returned and re-enrolled at Van Port College, attended there for two more years. He later enrolled at Portland State where he continued studying law. While there, he met a guy who got him a job as a coat checker at the Arlington Club, where he earned \$175 a

month. While he attended school part time, he worked full time tending bar, serving meals and making room service deliveries. His employer allowed him to do his school assignments during his free time.

A warehouse job Chuck had when he was 16 gave him the opportunity to learn to drive a truck. Eighteen was the legal age to drive, but his employer, in a real need for drivers, allowed Chuck to drive anyway. In 1950 his truck driving experience paid off when he got hired as a driver for Portland Truck Service, located at the east end of the Hawthorne Bridge. He worked there for five years, until in 1955 the Teamsters Union for Long-Haul Truckers staged a lock-out. With a family of kids to feed, Chuck knew he had to find another job right away. Chuck was only out of work for three days and went to work at Consolidated Freightways in sales, but he didn't stay there very long because of the low wages.

His first job at PGE was working as a meter reader, but he wasn't there long until a friend working in the storeroom on 17th called his boss and got Chuck hired as a temporary laborer in the storeroom. When a permanent position opened, Chuck didn't apply for it, because there were too many with seniority above him and he didn't think he had a chance. But, because he was a hard worker and had storeroom experience, he was given the job without applying. He had worked in this position for 1-1/2 years when an opening for a clerk in the Sales Department became available. He applied for the job and was hired.

While in the Sales Department, he worked with Ed McCarland. Chuck had held the clerk position for a year when there was an opening for a residential sales position. He applied and was hired. He loved his new

job, and by working very hard he built new customers for the Company up by almost 90 percent, more than what the Company had before he took this position. He was able to accomplish this by following through with his customers until their service was hooked up and running. His customers told him that the other electric companies weren't following through; once they signed a customer up they never saw them again. (This was during the time when people had a choice of which electric company they wanted to buy their electricity from.) Chuck went from Residential Sales to Commercial Sales. He credits his success in Commercial Sales partly to gaining his customers' trust and following through with them. One of his sources of new business was to check the *Daily Journal* newspaper every morning at 6:30 while having his morning coffee, to see what new commercial buildings were being built. Any new commercial building going up meant potential new customers for PGE. During his time in the Sales Department, he became personal friends with several of his customers and co-workers, and their friendship still remains today. One close friend and fishing buddy was former General Sales Manager Carroll Brissenden. Because he was successful in sales, Chuck was made residential sales manager. From there he went on to become industrial/commercial sales manager.

In 1970 Carroll came to Chuck and asked if he would take the position in Newburg/Yamhill area as the division manager. Chuck held this position 1-1/2 years, before being transferred to Oregon City. He was the assistant division manager/supervisor and remained in this position for 3-1/2 years, until he was offered an assistant general manager position. When Chuck was transferred to Oregon City, he was very happy because

most of his career at PGE had been in sales and his new position would give him the opportunity to learn the operational and construction side of the Company.

Oran Zimmerman offered Chuck the job as assistant general manager of Marketing. He worked in this position from 1975-1978. When major changes were made in the Company, Chuck was given the new position of division manager of the newly named Central Division. This included Oregon City, Gresham, Beaverton, Salem and Portland.

From Central Division, Chuck became the Western Division manager, which included Hillsboro, Beaverton, Tigard, St. Helens, Rainier and Newburg. Chuck wanted to try something new with the new division. He held voluntary open breakfast meetings, 7-9 a.m., and paid for attendees' meals. He held these meetings several times a year, at different locations. The meetings were not mandatory, so those not wishing to attend would report to work at 8 a.m. as usual. Usually about 20 people attended each meeting. Chuck would update everyone on what was going on in the Company and any news that was coming up. He opened the floor for questions and answers; if anyone had a question he couldn't answer he would find the answer and get back to them. He felt these meetings built a great relationship between himself and his employees. They knew they could come to him regarding anything and he would give them a straight answer. For eight years he held these meetings, until there was another reorganization in the Company and his position went away. The changes made at that time are still in use by the Company today.

While at Western, Chuck took a class taught by Dez Young, a former television

director, producer and on air host, to polish his skill of doing interviews on the air. Chuck stated at the time: "I never know when I'll be asked to talk with the news media, and this course not only gives me an opportunity to learn new skills but polish the ones I already have."

Chuck belonged to the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce for several years, which had a membership of around 700. He was chosen in 1960 and 1961 as First Citizen of the Year and was President in 1962 and 1963. He was also a member of the Beaverton Jr. Chamber of Commerce and held office there also. (As you read in the last bulletin he was a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Clubs for over 40 years.) During those 40 years he served as chairman for many of them.

In 1972 his son's Baseball team from Cleveland High got the opportunity to go play in Japan. Their coach, 15 team members and 3 adults made the trip. The trip cost \$15,000, and they were responsible to help raise the money for their trip. To help raise funds they held Spaghetti feeds and advertised by hanging fliers on door knobs. The boys and their parents went to businesses and asked for donations; after they returned home they put together books with pictures and a story of their trip and gave one as a "Thank You" gift to each business who had donated money. They were in Japan for only 15 days, but they were able to do a lot of sightseeing. Plus, each boy got to experience Japanese culture by living for five days with a Japanese family. They went to parts of Japan where no English was spoken and saw how people lived in the rural areas.

While one of Chuck's daughters attended school in London for the summer, he went for a couple of weeks visit and saw sights

such as Big Ben, The Tower of London (where Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII, was beheaded) and number 10 Downing Street.

Chuck gave his retirement notice in August 1987, so that he would have all loose ends tied up and be able to walk out the door in time to go deer hunting in October. Anything to do with the outdoors and you would probably find Chuck either hunting deer, duck, pheasant or fishing. If it had a season, he was there.

After Chuck left PGE, Oran Zimmerman contacted him to help form a government organization and tax all utilities 1 percent of all revenue to pay for it. The utility companies said "no". EPRI was formed, and it was Chuck's job to contact all of the utility companies in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska and Alaska. He signed up 115 members before retiring from EPRI in 1997. Membership was voluntary and each member paid dues.

Dave, Chuck's oldest son worked for a short time at PGE, but got a summer job running a fishing boat out of Alaska. By 1989 Dave and Chuck had bought two fishing boats and worked them during fishing seasons. When they were docked in a port that had a utility company, Chuck would take the opportunity to call on them to see if he could sign them up as members of EPRI. He was very successful and signed up several new members. During the winter months, they would bring the boats to the Oregon Coast and return them to Alaska in time for fishing season in the spring.

Chuck's father, Charles, worked doing rates for trucking companies and when that job ended he went to work at True Blue Biscuit Company, which later became Sunshine Biscuit Company. Due to the

Great Depression, he lost his job there and made money to feed his family by selling Hanson Brooms from door to door.

Alvera, Chuck's Mother, was a homemaker, but in poor health and bedridden for over a year. She passed away when Chuck was in his teens. He lost his older sister when she was in her 40s. Before her death, she had worked in the Research Department at the University of Chicago. Chuck's father remarried and added two half brothers to the family. One of the brothers was killed at a young age in a car accident. Craig, the other half brother, is an attorney in California; he also served in the Marines. Chuck said, "Craig is really a nice guy, even though he is an attorney."

Chuck has six children including stepchildren. A daughter, who is a homemaker, lives in Lake Oswego, one son lives in East Portland, two sons live in Washington, and another son lives in Roseburg. His youngest daughter, Kendall, lives in New York where she worked as an editor at a publishing company. She is completing her doctorate, so that she can teach undergraduates.

For years Chuck has spent his winters in Palm Springs, California, but due to health problems this year he got a late start for his annual trip. As soon as his doctor gave him the "go" sign, he was on his way south. By the time you read this he will be soaking up the rays of sunshine in sunny California, while the rest of us are here in Oregon braving whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at us next.

# Retiree Volunteers

Portland General Electric has a program where retirees who volunteer at an Oregon nonprofit organization or in schools are eligible to apply for a financial grant of up to \$500 per organization per year. Many retirees volunteer on a regular basis with organizations that seek funds from PGE, and the request is scrutinized to see if employees or retirees are involved.

Please take time to complete this form describing your volunteer activities and return to Scott Guptill. If you would like an Employee Volunteer Grant Request form or if you have questions, please contact Scott Guptill. You would be surprised at how much time you volunteer!

## Portland General Electric Retiree Volunteer Recording Sheet

Retiree Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Volunteer Organization	Month and Hours

Return To	Or Call	Or E-Mail
Scott Guptill Portland General Electric 121 SW Salmon St, 1WTC0303 Portland OR 97204	Scott Guptill 503-464-8554	scott.guptill@pgn.com

### Comments

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