

Portland General Electric Company
RETIREES NEWS BULLETIN

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Phone: 503-682-8858

August 2008/September 2008
No. 209

PGE RETIREES' PICNIC

The PGE Retirees' Picnic was held on July 10 at **Red Sunset Park** in Gresham. This year's chairman was Bob Clayton. The picnic was a great success, but we all missed Roslyn Lake. There were 75 retirees and guests in attendance. The food was great, even though we ran out of chicken, and the folks at end of the line had to make do with the other wonderful food that was left. As always, the bingo players were wishing there would have been more games, and that it hadn't ended quite so soon. Thanks to all who contributed to making this year's picnic another successful event.



MISSING TUPPERWARE PIE CARRIER®

If anyone either picked up a Tupperware® pie carrier that contained a wooden handled pie server and silver table knife by mistake or took it because they thought I had left already, would you please contact me and I will make arrangements to pick it up. There is an address label "The Bergmans Family" on the bottom and the name "Mrs. Norma Snyder" peeking from underneath it. This container belonged to my parents. They are both deceased now, and my Dad gave it to me just before he passed away in March 2005. Thanks! Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858.

Upcoming Events

PGE BLOOD DRIVE

The next Blood Drive will be **Tuesday, August 12, 2008**, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. If you are unable to donate in August, mark your calendar for the following blood drive on November 19, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. If you have questions, please contact **Joanne Olson, 360-254-7898, or Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858.**

PGE Retirees Board Secretary Position (CORRECTION):

Sorry I had a "Senior Moment" last bulletin and welcomed **Violet** Judkins, wife of Retiree Terry Judkins, to the Retirees Board, as our new Recording Secretary. And no, Terry didn't get a new wife. ☺ He is still happily married to **DARLENE** (the real Mrs. Terry Judkins). I want to give Darlene a BIG WELCOME to the board. (At least now I know that some of you read the bulletin.) ☺

PGE RETIREES PORTLAND SPIRIT LUNCHEON CRUISE ON THE WILLAMETTE RIVER

Twenty places have been reserved for **Friday, September 5, 2008**. Cost is \$24 per person, (cost was \$34 but the Retiree Board voted to contribute \$10 per person). Boarding will be at 11 a.m. at the foot of SW Salmon Street. **Registration is due by August 1, 2008**. If this date has passed and you are still interested in going, you may contact Chick Colby at cwcolbyjr@yahoo.com (please use "luncheon cruise" in the subject line), or call 360-573-2096, and he will be able to let you know if there are any places open.

FREE ADMISSION DAY AT THE JAPANESE GARDEN

The PGE Foundation will be sponsoring a free admission day at the Portland Japanese Garden on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. During Free Admission Day, the Garden's *Behind the Shoji Art Show & Sale* will be taking place in the Pavilion. Admission to this show of spectacular pottery, jewelry, fabric arts, photography and more is also free of charge. The Portland Japanese Garden is located at 611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland. Watch for additional details in upcoming issues of *NewsLine*.

BOWLING

The bowling season for 2008–2009 begins on September 3rd and ends in May 2009. They would like to see more bowlers come out this year. You don't have to be a good bowler to join in on the fun, and if you don't own your ball and shoes, rentals are available. Bowling is held at the 20th Century Bowl on SE 92nd Avenue and Powell Blvd in Portland. Games are held on the **first and third Wednesdays** of the month. Check-in time is 12:30 p.m., practice starts at 12:45 p.m. and bowling begins at 1 p.m. If you have any questions please call **Steve Kuryk, 503-659-2278**, or his assistant **Terry Judkins, 503-655-2863**, for questions or information.



GOLF NEWS

The September 9th Golf tournament will be a scramble and will be held at Forest Hills Golf Course. Start time will be 9:30 a.m. Green fees are \$25 (because the Retiree Board is donating \$10 per person). Golf Carts are \$20, with two persons per cart. There are some foursomes already put together. If you aren't on one you will need to call **John Fishback, 503-648-2227**, **John Nelson, 503-635-9049**, **John Wiitala, 503-366-9646**, **John Carter, 503-653-6261**, or **Jim Wyatt,**

503-366-2824.

PGE RETIREES WEB SITE (pgeretirees.org)

Take a peek to see what is new; you might be surprised at what you find. New items are posted often and some items on the Web site aren't published in the Retiree Bulletin. If there is something that you would like to add to or see on the Web site, please contact **Jack Wojnowski, 360-885-4671**, e-mail jnmnwojnowski@yahoo.com, or **Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858**, e-mail b.bergmans@verizon.net.

RETIREE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Retiree Medical Assistance Program is available to help any qualified retiree or surviving spouse. If you need assistance or want to know if you qualify, the folks listed below are waiting to give you a helping hand with your needs or questions. *They will walk you through the process.* The Retiree Medical Assistance Program provides financial assistance for out-of-pocket medical expenses not covered by insurance or Medicare. Your request will be 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.

HAVE YOU MOVED? NEED TO CHANGE OTHER INFORMATION? OR WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST(S)?

If you have moved, changed a mailing address or phone number or need any other changes made, or you would like to have your name removed from the PGE mailing lists for either the *NewsLine* or *Retirees News Bulletin*, please contact Linda Peerenboom at 503-464-7337.

VOLUNTEER WEB SITE FOR PGE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Check this Web site for upcoming volunteer projects for the dates, times and places. Go to: www.easymatch.compgevp. You may sign up to volunteer online and/or print out and send in the fill-in forms to the address listed. To sign on to this Web site, login 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 have forgotten your employee number or have other questions, e-mail Scott.Guptill@pgn.com

PGE RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

A NEW GROUP:

A group of Customer Service Retirees meets at **The Wichita Bar and Grill**, 19140 Molalla Avenue, in Oregon City. This group meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast. Everyone is welcome.

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 1st Wednesday morning of each month at 9 a.m. at Hale's Restaurant, 17502 SE McLoughlin Blvd.

A group of 30+ PGE Retirees meets on the 1st Tuesday of February, April, June and November. They meet at 9 a.m. at The Village Inn, 10301 SE Stark Street.

You are welcome to join any of these four groups. Just show up at the time and place for any or all of the groups listed above. What a great way to spend a morning chatting with old friends and co-workers. Who knows? You might even make some new friends. If you would like to start a group closer to your house, then give Terry a call. If you have any questions or you know of other groups and would like them listed in the bulletin or you need additional information, please call **Terry Judkins at 503-655-2863** or e-mail him at djudkins@comcast.net.

RETIREES
(a total of 498 years of service)

July 2008

*Scott R. Bauska, Mgr. III, Plant Operations
29 years)*

*Velda M. Schooler, Coordinator,
Community Service (13 years)
Dennis B. Sisseck, Plant Serviceman AA
(32 years)*

August 2008

*William R. Carson, Supervisor V,
Purchasing (36 years)*

*Rod J. Dhone, Line Truck Driver B
(36 years)*

Janet Gonzalez, Assistant IV (12 years)

*Jacqueline A. Ingraham, Customer Service
Rep. (5 years)*

*Michael C. Key, Energy Recovery Inspector
(33 years)*

*Richard W. King, Storeroom Head
(19 years)*

Shirley F. Mattson, Assistant V (5 years)

James S. Ryan, Project Manager (35 years)

*Dale M. Schlaht, Welder/Fabricator
(35 years)*

September 2008

*Melvin W. VanderZanden, Leadman
Repairman (38 years)*

October 2008

Andrea Cooper, Assistant IV (22 years)

*C. Dave Edwards, Spec. IV,
Contracts/Budget (34 years)*

*Thomas R. Lawson, Spec. V, Dispatch (31
years)*

*Edward A. Lazier, Spec. V, Dispatch
(28 years)*

*James Richards, Spec IV, Designer
(38 years)*

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION:

Would you like to be a PGE Powerwalker team captain for the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes this year? The walk will be held at Oaks Park on the morning of September 28th. PGE is again sponsoring the Kid's Corner and there will be breakfast, lunch and free rides at the park. What a great way to spend a Sunday morning! Every year more than 30,000 new cases of Type 1 diabetes—the most severe form of the disease—are diagnosed in the United States alone. A large and growing percentage of them are children. This walk not only is a great experience, but you will be making a difference in finding a cure. If you would like to join this walk or help in anyway, please contact Jana Quinlan at 503-612-3581 or e-mail her at jana.quinlan@pgn.com.

THE MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR OLD BULLSEYES AND NEWSLINES:

We only received one response for our call for old *Bullseyes* and *NewsLines*. *We are really missing several from the 1980s.* We are missing several issues of both bulletins, and would love to take them off your hands. We are also still looking for items that you might have lying around the house and would like you to donate to the Museum. These donations are tax deductible. To make arrangements to have items or bulletins picked up, please call me, Barbara Bergmans, at 503-682-8858 or e-mail me at b.bergmans@verizon.net. I, or one of the other Museum board members, will see that your items are picked up; or, if it's easier, you may drop them off at the museum at the Hawthorne Shop on Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and noon (other times and dates by appointment).



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

After each bulletin I find more and more just how small the world really is. After my personal story was published I received an e-mail from May Hays telling me she was from the same town I was, Osborne, Kansas. I decided to show everyone just how small the world is and featured May's story in the next issue. Shortly after her story came out, I received a call from Don Herndon telling me that he, his brother Dale and Bert Collins were all Kansas boys and had come from a small town east of where May's husband came from, Lebanon, Kansas. So far there are five of us who came from within 40 miles of each other who worked for and retired from PGE. Are there any more of us Kansas folks who have retired from PGE out there?

Don, Bert and Dale collectively put in over 111 years at PGE. Bert and Dale are both gone now, but I decided to interview their widows and I took information that Don and Orvetta had told me and put their stories together with stories told to me by Cleo and Virginia, and therefore was able to put together all three men's stories. It was exciting for me to be able to tell their stories, and I hope that you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed writing them. I want to give a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Don, Orvetta, Cleo and Virginia for your time and help. You are wonderful folks, and I want to thank you for making me feel so welcome into your homes.

If you know of someone whose story you would like to see in an upcoming issue, or would like your own story published, please give me a call or send me an e-mail. Between May 2007 and May 2008 we lost 37, and a couple more since, so we need to get our Retirees' stories told. I write these stories to help record the past 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.

Please contact me by either calling 503-682-8858 or e-mailing me at b.bergmans@verizon.net. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Bergmans

GETTING TO KNOW US



Donald R. Herndon
May 10, 1946–July 1, 1986
(40 years)

Like their father, Albert Herndon, Don and his five siblings were born on his grandparents' homestead farm near Lebanon, Kansas. Don's parents were Albert and Della Herndon. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Nellie; who are both now deceased. Two of their sons, Dale, their oldest and Dwayne (who was killed aboard the USS Indianapolis, the last ship that sunk during WWII) have also passed away. They have two living sons. Delbert, who graduated from West Linn High School, is a Korean Vet. He retired from Crown Zellerbach and lives in Oregon City with his wife, Elnora. Don, their second son, lives with his wife, Orvetta, also in Oregon City. Don grew up in and around Lebanon. He graduated from Lebanon High School in 1942 in a class of 33 students, with his older brother, Albert (Dale) Herndon and Harold Burdette (Bert) Collins. (Dale and Bert also worked and retired from PGE. Their stories will follow this one.) Don had wondered over the years what happened to Bert, then about 3 years after starting at PGE he ran into Bert at a Union Meeting and was surprised to find out he was working in Salem for PGE.

The two sisters, Dorothy and Nellie, had moved to Oregon earlier, and Dale followed right after graduation. At the time, Dale wanted his parents to move to Oregon, too, but they didn't want to move unless Don came with them. Don wasn't ready to leave the plains of northern central Kansas just yet. For a couple of summers after graduation Don followed the wheat harvest from Oklahoma to Canada. He worked at Bone Cutter Chevy Garage for 1-1/2 years. Times were hard during 1945 and the Herndons decided it was time to sell their home in Lebanon and head west to Oregon. They arrived in Oregon on Sunday and on Monday, while Don was helping his sister, Dorothy's neighbor cut wood, the neighbor told Don he should go talk to Bob Ingersoll at PGE Substation B, because he had heard they were hiring. The next day Don went to see Bob, and after talking for a while Bob told Don to go get a physical. He passed his physical and was told to report to work the next day at Substation B, which is now known as Sullivan Station. Back then the managers and supervisor did the hiring; you didn't go through HR like you have to do today. He worked at Station B until 1950, when it went automatic. Don then transferred to Oregon City Line Department as a spray foreman. (Orvetta was working at the Oregon City Crown Zellerbach. Since the two businesses are connected and the couple worked different shifts, they sometimes only saw each other when Don passed through Orvetta's work area and the two would give each other a quick wave.)

In 1959, Don transferred to Portland Service Center (PSC) as an assistant repair dispatcher in the Repair Department, doing streetlight maintenance. In 1961 he became a repair dispatcher working at a desk job due to health problems. PGE had hired a contract guard dog because a lot of copper and metal was disappearing from the yard. Soon after the guard dog was hired, the thefts dropped to zero. Before long, PGE decided it would be better and more cost saving if they

purchased their own guard dog. They purchased Cinder, a 2-½-year-old German Shepherd. The building manager, Lloyd Smith, was her caretaker. He took her for her daily walks, to her vet visits and taught her new tricks. Cinder knew she was in for a dog biscuit treat every trip past the office manager, Norma Flora's desk. At night after Cinder was brought down from her kennel on the roof by one of the repair dispatchers, and was making her rounds of the yard she stuck close to them, keeping a watchful eye to make sure they were okay. Don and Dale both loved working with the guard dogs. (A full story about Cinder was written in the November 1975 Bullseye.)

On the Sunday the Herndons arrived in Oregon they were invited to an aunt's house for dinner. The aunt had also invited a friend, a lovely young lady with the beautiful name of Orvetta. Don didn't realize at the time that in a little over a year she would become his wife. (Orvetta was born on a farm in Amity, Oregon, and grew up in that area. She graduated from McMinnville High School.) The two were married on September 28, 1946, and they had three children. Karen is a high school home economics teacher and lives in Australia with her husband, Chris. He owns a furniture hauling business. Linda and Chris have two children. Their son finished school and now works with his dad. Their daughter just finished college and hasn't decided on a career yet. While working at PGE, Don would save up his vacation time and every two or three years they would travel to Australia for a three-month visit to Linda's family. Over the years, they visited Australia at least fourteen times, and said they probably have seen more of Australia than most of the Australians that live there, because they always rented a car and explored the country. The 14 hours airplane ride just became too much and they have given up making any future trips to Australia. Their son, Carl, and his wife, Judy, live in Damascus, Oregon. After selling their Eagle Creek Feed Store, they are both retired. Carl and Judy have three children: a daughter who has her degree in physical therapy, recently got married in Idaho, and is now living in Montana. Their second daughter is an RN and works at the VA Hospital as a member of the transplant team. Their son is attending college while being a single parent. Don and Orvetta's youngest daughter, Jane, became a home master gardener after retiring from her day care business, and Jane's husband Mike is retired from the Clackamas County Fire Department and they live south of Oregon City.

In September, Don and Orvetta will celebrate 62 years of marriage. They live by the motto: **“Every day we are together is one less day we have to be apart.”** Orvetta worked at Crown Zellerbach until the birth of their first child, Linda, when they felt the best plan was for Orvetta to become a homemaker and stay-at-home mom. That way there would be a better chance that they would raise wonderful children.

In 1969 Don and Orvetta purchased their home on five acres in Oregon City, where they still reside today. They said the Columbus Day storm enabled them to pay off the mortgage. Don keeps the large lawn mowed with his riding lawn mower. He has been known to mow the neighbor's lawns while they are away. They raise a large vegetable garden (they said it used to be a lot larger). Orvetta cans or freezes what they grow every year.

They both love to fish and spent their honeymoon fishing on the Alsea River, south of Newport. You could find them every year celebrating their anniversary, including their 50th, in the middle of the Alsea River tied up to their fishing friends boats, sharing a bottle of champagne. One of their other favorite fishing spots was Diamond Lake. Due to Don's health problems they aren't able to fish much anymore, although they do throw in a line from the river bank from time to time.

Don likes to meet with some of the Retirees groups (listed in the bulletin above) for breakfast. If you are looking for Orvetta you'll usually find her in the kitchen cooking or baking. If she isn't in the kitchen then check the garden. If you happen to stop by when she is baking and it's pies that can't be frozen, then it's most likely you'll be taking a pie home. *(Note from the Editor: I can see why they said their home seems to be the family meeting place. The day I interviewed for the above story I was greeted with the wonderful smell of fresh homemade cinnamon rolls and bread baking in the oven. Shortly after sitting down a plate of hot cinnamon roll was placed in front of me along with a tall glass of cold iced tea. See, there are perks for doing this job.)* ☺



Herndon

Albert (Dale) Herndon *September 03, 1946–* *August 01, 1984 (38 years)*

Dale, like his father, his brother, Don, and his other four siblings, was born on his grandparents' farm near Lebanon, Kansas. Albert and Della Herndon named their first child Albert Dale Herndon after his father. They then decided that their new son would go by his middle name. Dale, along with his siblings, grew up in and around Lebanon. He, along with his brother, Don, and 31 other classmates (who included Harold Burdette (Bert) Collins), graduated from Lebanon High School in 1942. While attending high school, Dale belonged to and was very active in the FFA (Future Farmers of America). *(Cleo showed me his FFA jacket during our interview, she said, "Dale was known to 'hold on to' to things.")* Right after graduation, Dale packed up and moved to Oregon where his two sisters, Dorothy and Nellie, had moved earlier.

In 1944 Dale joined the Army, and after he finished his Tour of Duty with the Army he joined the Army Reserves. He then went on to join and serve in the Oregon National Guard. It bothered Dale that he was a noncommissioned officer, so in 1951 he took a military leave from PGE, and went to officer's school in Columbus, Georgia. He graduated from officer's school as a 2nd Lieutenant. Dale retired from the Oregon National Guard as a lieutenant colonel, after putting in 40 years of military service. He loved his country and loved serving in the military.

Dale was hired at PGE in September of 1946 as a tree trimmer. He was later transferred to PSC and became an electrical inspector and worked as a repair dispatcher until his retirement. While at PSC, he worked with his brother, Don, and they both worked with the guard dogs. The repair dispatchers became very close to the dogs they worked with and would have gladly adopted and taken any of them home when a dog was retired, but they usually weren't told until after the dog had been placed for adoption. Dale had many friends at PGE, including Lee Adams, Leonard, and many more.

One day, while driving a couple of friends to a cousin's wedding party, Dale was asked to pick up the piano player, a girl named Cleo Buckman. That ride changed Dale's life, because he ended up marrying that piano player on August 07, 1949 in Oregon City. *(Cleo's parents moved to Oregon from North Dakota, when she was eight years old.)* They had been married 47 years when Dale passed away in 1996. They bought their home in 1953 in Gladstone and Cleo has lived in the home for 55 years. *(A large orange OSU welcome mat greets you as you walk up to*

the front door. Dale was a big OSU fan because both of their children and some of their grandchildren had graduated from there, and he never missed a game.

Dale became a member of the Lutheran Church in 1948 and was an active member until his death. Dale and Cleo were the parents of two children. Their daughter, Nadine, is retired and lives in Hillsboro with her husband Michael, who is a high school teacher and will be retiring from teaching in a year.

Some of the fond memories Nadine has of her father were what a great man he was and what a lovely father, husband and friend he was, and how he was known by everyone as “Mr. Fix It”. She also remembered how he loved fixing things and always had his tools ready to do the job. Even on their family trips, he always took a pile of tools in case something might need to be fixed. After cleaning out Dale’s shop the family did a count of his tools, some he had bought, some were gifts and some had been picked up at garage sales. To name a few of his tools; he had 129 screw drivers, 124 wrenches and 145 drill bits plus 5 sets, and that’s not counting the hammers, tape measures, pliers and other tools he had collected over the years. Dale was happiest when he was helping people.

Dale and Cleo’s son Richard and his wife, Shelley, live in Albany, Oregon, where he works as an electrical engineer at Weyerhaeuser. Shelley is the full time wife, mother and homemaker. They are the parents of three children. Their son Benjamin is an electrical engineer like his father. Ashley, the oldest daughter, graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids and received a degree in sociology. Ashley is spending a year in Africa working with a group of 20 African children. Stephanie lives in Henderson, Nevada, where she works in the office of a church.

Some of Richard’s good memories of his father were also what a loving father he was and a great family man. He will always remember the family trips to Flat Head Lake in Montana. He remembered how his dad would go without sleep and drive all night so they would arrive at Flat Head Lake in the morning so that he could go fishing, and the many, many camping trips the family went on, because his dad loved to camp. His dad loved the jam sessions during campouts—even though he didn’t play an instrument and wasn’t much of a singer, he enjoyed listening.

(Nadine's and Richard's memories of their father were taken from write ups they had written for his funeral, and shared with me by Cleo.)

Dale had many hobbies and among them was stained glass. He made over a hundred items, but gave most of them away. He also kept a list of the items he had made and to whom he had given them to. He loved photography and took a lot of pictures over his lifetime. Cleo and Dale belonged to the Oregon City Elevators Square Dance Club for five years, plus they danced with other clubs in the area until Dale’s heart problems got too bad for them to dance any longer. Some of Dale’s other hobbies were bowling on the church’s bowling team and he loved playing a good game of shuffleboard.

While working at PGE, Dale donated over 5 gallon of blood to the Red Cross. He had a rare type of blood and sometimes was called in the middle of the night to donate. He had to quit donating when his heart problems would no longer let him.

Cleo retired from being the church's organist after 33 years. After Dale retired from PGE they hooked up their 5th wheeler and took a year-long trip around the United States. Cleo and Dale spent many winters in Arizona, until Dale's health would no longer let them make the trip south.

Dale loved children, and at family gatherings, if they weren't sitting on his lap he was carrying a child in his arms.



Bert Collins

Harold Burdette (Bert) Collins
March 10, 1947–June 01, 1986
(39 years)

Even though he was born Harold Burdette Collins, he wasn't known as Harold. His wife, Virginia, their parents, and several others call/called him Burdette. He decided he wanted to be called Burt, but when people spelled it Bert he didn't correct them and over the years continued to use the name Bert. Bert was born in Bellaire, Kansas, to John and Marvel Collins. Bert had one brother, Wayne, who is deceased, and a sister, Charlotte, who resides with her husband, Garfield, in Kaslo, B.C. Bert was raised on his grandparents' farm near Smith Center, Kansas, among several aunts, uncles and cousins. He attended Smith Center High School through his junior year; then his family moved to Lebanon, Kansas. While attending Lebanon High School, in his senior year he met and graduated in 1942 with the Herndon brothers, Dale and Don.

After Bert's graduation, his family sold their pig farm, because their pigs had caught a disease which wiped out most of the animals. With most of their animals gone, they decided to sell the family farm and move to Denver, Colorado. Soon after arriving in Colorado, Bert joined the Navy and took his hospital corps training in Farragut, Idaho. From Idaho he was sent to Seattle, Washington, to work in the U.S. naval hospital. Bert was shipped out from New Orleans and went through the Panama Canal, and on to many South Pacific Islands. While on Guam, he found out his brother Wayne's ship was going to "Raisin Jack Whiskey", which I was told meant; coming into port. Bert had found that there were five other service men from Smith Center, Kansas, stationed on Guam. (*Smith Center is a county seat, and during this time it was a town of about 4500 people.*) Bert served his country from 1942–1946 and was discharged at Shoemaker, California, as a Pharmacist Mate 2nd Class. After getting discharged, he returned to Denver. One day when he dropped by his sister's work place, he met the love of his life and future wife, Virginia Bruhn. She was working there part time while attending the University of Colorado, where she was studying Fine Arts.

Bert's family moved to Oregon where other family members had moved earlier. Virginia had stayed behind in Colorado, until Bert talked her into moving to Oregon and marrying him. They were married in Salem, Oregon, on December 6, 1947. They had been married for 60 years when Bert passed away in January of this year. Bert and Virginia had three children. Dolan and his wife JoAnn live in Yakima, Washington, where Dolan works for Pacific Power and Light. (Dolan worked for a short time at PGE when he was younger.) Linda, their daughter, lives in Scappoose, Oregon. After ending a career with Comcast she has been busy helping with her parents. She was glad that she was available when her mother's titanium hip replacement rod

broke and her father's heart put him into the hospital at the same time. She made arrangements for them to be placed in the same room at the hospital, which is unheard of. When they were both well enough to come home, she arranged for two hospital beds to be placed in their bedroom, so they could be together. This made it possible for them to be together until Bert passed away. Their youngest son, Michael, lives in Portland and works for United Airlines where he is a purser, or head flight attendant on his flights. Bert and Virginia didn't have any blood grandchildren, but they were blessed in having Dolan's step children to love and treat as their own.

They built their home in Kaiser in 1965, where Virginia still resides. Bert loved spending time in their large backyard. His favorite hobby was golfing, and if he wasn't golfing with the PGE Retirees League, he was golfing with friends. Since there were no other golfers in the family they put his golf cart up for sale. The buyer was a gentleman that wanted to use it not on the golf course, but at the Woodburn Drag Strip to tow cars off the track after the races. The family figures Burdette/Dad/ Bert is looking down and is either getting a good laugh or he's really ticked at seeing the new use for his old golf cart.

After arriving in Oregon in 1947, Bert's uncle told him that PGE was a good company to work for, and that he should go apply for a job. Bert put in an application and was hired at PGE as a truck driver in the Willamette Valley Division. After serving his apprenticeship in 1952, he became a journeyman lineman, and in 1964 he was named a general foreman. Bert retired in 1986. Bert and Virginia knew Ray Stafek and his wife (last issue's story). The two men worked together in the Salem area.

In 1982, while Bert was in California with Virginia while she was having hip replacement surgery, Bert had an aneurism. He was lucky because he was at the hospital with his wife when it happened. He recovered and returned to his job at PGE. God had plans for him and kept him around for another four years. Bert and Virginia did a lot of traveling overseas and traveled around the United States in their motor home until they were no longer able to travel due health problems. You could always find Bert/Burdette in front of the TV watching a football game when he wasn't in his yard or golfing.

**The next Retirees' Board Meeting will be on
Monday, August 11, 2008, at
9:30 a.m. in the Oak Grove Room in the basement of the Portland
Service Center, 3700 SE 17th Avenue, Portland.**

All retirees are welcome to attend.