

Portland General Electric Company
RETIREES NEWS BULLETIN

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February 2009/March 2009
No. 212

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



The PGE retirees' Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland. There were 180 reservation made for the luncheon and 170 retirees and guests were served. Total number of pounds of food collected was not available, but there were at least two barrels of food donations. A total of \$220 in cash was donated for the Oregon Food Bank.

A Big "Thank You" to all who donated. Because of your donations several families had food on their tables that they otherwise would not have had.

Upcoming Events



RETIREES' SPRING LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 21, 2009**, for this year's **Spring Luncheon**. It will again this year be held at the **Monarch Hotel** and Convention Center. Additional details in an upcoming News Bulletin.



RETIREES' PICNIC

The date for The PGE Retirees' Annual Picnic will be **Thursday, July 16, 2009, at Red Sunset Park in Gresham**, Oregon. This will be our second year at this location. Bob Clayton (503-658-2990) will again serve as the picnic chairman. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar. Details of the picnic will be announced in an upcoming issue.

SPRING BEACH CLEANUP

The SOLV Beach Cleanup will be held on **Saturday, March 28, 2009**, at the beach of your choice. Since PGE doesn't sponsor this cleanup, be sure to sign in with the SOLV folks in the area you have chosen to clean and turn in your volunteer hours on your Retiree Volunteer Sheets. **You can also log in your hours via the PGE Volunteer Web site. For instructions on how to access this Web site, see the article on Page 4.**

PGE BLOOD DRIVE:

The next Blood Drive will be **April 8, 2009, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.** in the 2WTC Plaza Conference Room, 121 SW Salmon. At the January 14, 2009, Blood Drive, there were 47 donors who gave blood. A few had to be turned away due to illness. The date of the blood drive following this one will be announced in the next issue. If you have questions, please contact Joanne Olson, 360-254-7898, or Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858.

BOWLING

The bowling season for 2008—2009 is well under way for the year. All PGE retirees, their significant others and surviving spouses are welcome. There is still time because the season doesn't end until next May. Come and join the fun! Rental balls and shoes are available if you don't have your own. Bowling is held at the 20th Century Bowl on SE 92nd Ave 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. **Cost is only \$5.75 per day.** Free coffee and door prizes are furnished. 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

Itching to get out on the golf course? Tired of the snow and bad weather? Even though its a couple months or so before the season begins, it might be a good time to pull those clubs out of the closet and get them ready. Dates, locations and times of the new season will be published in an upcoming issue. If you have any questions or would like to join the team (it's never too early), give one of the following gentlemen a 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.

RETIREES' 2009 TOURS

Trips are still in the discussion stage until the weather gets better in the spring. We'll keep you posted in upcoming issues. We have gotten a couple more good suggestions that have been added to the list.

Costs and dates for each tour are to be determined by retiree interest. Trips decided on by the Retiree Board will be announced in an upcoming bulletin. Please send your feedback, comments and suggestions to: Chick Colby, 360-573-2096 or cwcolbyir@yahoo.com, Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858 or b.bergmans@verizon.net, or Ed Miska (President), 503-636-6052 or epm745t@earthlink.net

Helpful Information for Retirees



2009 TIMOTHY LAKE SEASON — RETIREES

If you are interested in using PGE's Timothy Lake lodge and/or duplex, now is the time to start thinking about making reservations. The lodge and duplex's 2009 season runs from **May 22 through October 11, 2009.** If you wish to rent the lodge for nonbusiness use, please call 503-464-8683 or 503-464-8469 to submit a drawing entry between February 2 and February 27, 2009. Drawing will be held on March 2, 2009.

NEW SIGNATURE ON YOUR PENSION CHECKS

Those of you who have not yet switched to automatic direct deposit will see a new signature beginning with the **February** pension checks. As of January 1, 2009, the new **Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer is Maria Pope**. She filled the position left vacant by Jim Piro, who was named President and CEO because of the pending retirement of Peggy Fowler scheduled for April 1, 2009. You can read about Maria Pope in the January 2009 issue of *NewsLine*. **If you have any questions or would like to sign up for direct deposit, please contact Linda Peerenboom at 503-464-7337.**

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. Nancy says it's a site that "speaks for itself". It shows you how to fine-tune your claim or appeal. It lets you know if you need a lawyer and, if one is needed, it will save you money because you won't have to pay anyone to put your paperwork together for you, since this site shows you what is needed and how to do it. The Web site is: www.howtoassemblevaclaims.com (*one word, no spaces*).

PGE RETIREES WEB SITE (PGERETIREES.ORG)

Haven't been in to check what's been added to this Web site? Then take a few minutes and find out what you have been missing. Maybe there is something that you would like to see added. If so, then please contact **Jack Wojnowski, 360-885-4671, e-mail jmnwojnowski@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 aren't sure whether you qualify, give one of the folks listed below a call.** If you need assistance, these folks 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.

NEED TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR OTHER INFORMATION? OR WISH TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST(S)?

If you have moved, changed your mailing address or phone number, have a name change or need any other changes made, or if 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, 503-464-7337.**

**VOLUNTEER WEB SITE FOR
PGE EMPLOYEES AND
RETIREES**



PGE Retiree Chuck McClellan has volunteered with Boys & Girls Clubs for over 40 years.

Want to know what volunteer projects are going to be coming up? Then log on to www.easy.match.compgevp.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

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 McLoughlin 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.

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.

RETIREES

(a total of 795 years of service!)

February 2009

William J. Craig, Leadman Lineman
(34 years)
Steven J. Gasaway, Derrick Truck Operator
(35 years)
Rande L. Johnson, Plant Serviceman AA
(26 years)
Dennis L. Michael, Journeyman Carpenter
(36 years)
Michael A. Porter, Specialist (40 years)

Hans Rathjen, Foreman Hydro Maintenance
(34 years)
Jeffrey D. Ryder, Hydro Control Operator
(31 years)
Judy A. Schwabe, Analyst IV (27 years)

March 2009

Michael D. Brewer, Hydro Garage
Mechanic (32 years)
Earl W. Cahoe, Supervisor V (29 years)

Richard V. Demello, Working Line Foreman (30 years)
Glen A. deVries, Supervisor V, General Line Foreman (39 years)
Conrad C. Edwards, Backhoe Operator (22 years)
Lee H. Greene, Journeyman Wireman (34 years)
Wrendon D. Hyder, Plant Service Serviceman AA (29 years)
Phillip J. Jasa, Foreman (37 years)
Randall D. Kearns, Working Line Foreman (33 years)

Robert J. Lazrine, Fire Protection Working Foreman (37 years)
Donald G. Nutting, Manager I (32 years)
Kenneth D. Parker, Senior Instrument & Control Technician (17 years)
Richard R. Roth, Chemistry Technician (31 years)
Roy Sam, Garage Mechanic (30 years)
Terry R. Thies, Derrick Truck Driver (32 years)
Dennis D. Tingle, Operator (33 years)
Kenneth W. VanCoelen, Garage Mechanic, (35 years)

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

We are still looking for your old *Bullseyes* and *NewsLines*. Thanks to those of you who have brought me the copies you had. Even if you have only one or two issues, we'll gladly take them. We are also still looking for items that you might have lying around the house, garage, barn or shed and would like to donate to the museum. One area we are putting together is an "old-time office", so if you would have any items that would have been used in an early office (such as old tape dispensers, staplers, desk lamps or adding machines, to name a few), we would love to have them. Remember, these donations are **tax deductible**. To make arrangements to have donated items or bulletins picked up, please call **Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858**, or send an e-mail to **b.bergmans@verizon.net**. If you would like to drop your donations off at the museum (located at the Hawthorne Shop), please make arrangements by calling Barbara or the museum (503-425-1634), or leave a message and someone will get back to you. Donations are accepted on Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and noon.

The next Retirees' Board Meeting will be on Monday, February 9, 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.



GETTING TO KNOW US



Howard S. South (PGE- July 17, 1961-April 1, 1989)

"Shut the door! Were you born in a barn?" mother Etta admonished her sons. Howard South was born in the small apartment above the post office in the tiny town of Graceville, Minnesota, in April 1933. Yet in his three year old memory, he does recall living briefly in what may have been a converted chicken house. It was one room with a dirt floor, a wicker lamp for light, a bucket for water, and an outhouse. It was the height of the Great Depression. Times were very difficult for everyone. Howard's parents Lyle South and Etta (Howen) South must have had abundant courage and overwhelming passion to have married almost a year earlier. They had about 14 years of schooling between them. Lyle had an old truck he had rescued and repaired. Using his truck he picked up odd jobs, whenever and whatever he could land to provide their livelihood and kept them from the ultimate embarrassment of having to go on the "dole" (a term used for funds for the poor). Still, even though times were hard when Howard was less than two years old, the Souths welcomed their second son, Dale, giving Howard a little brother to play with.

Many of Howard's relatives (aunts, uncles, cousins, and all four grandparents) lived nearby in Minnesota and the Dakotas. His, Uncle Maynard South had a comparatively successful garage in Ortonville a few miles south. However, because of the tough times, many payments, if he received them at all, came in the form of chickens, beef and other farm produce. Maynard had a friend who was a long-haul trucker. The trucker related tales to Maynard of how opportunities in the far-off state of Oregon were better than those in Minnesota. Maynard approached his brother Lyle with the proposition of using Lyle and his truck to facilitate relocating Maynard and his family to Oregon. By the time this embryonic idea had fully matured, Etta, Howard's mother, had convinced Lyle that they should relocate their family to Oregon as well. Decades later, an adult Howard speculated that his mother's persuasion had given him the greatest gift he had ever received from his parents by making the Oregon country and its opportunities available to him.

The few surviving photographs of the Souths 1936 journey to Oregon look like scenes from the motion picture, "The Grapes of Wrath." There was no steady employment in Oregon, but there were

many odd jobs available. But as the last autumn leaves fell, the number of available jobs declined dramatically. In early January 1937, the family arrived in Corvallis with just enough money to pay for a week's rent in a "cabin camp" and to purchase a meager supply of food. That night it snowed — heavily. The camp turned out the next morning for a spirited snowball fight. Howard remembers it well though he was not quite four years old. It continued to snow even more. To the Souths it didn't seem that much different from Minnesota. With the record snowfall, many roofs were not made to support the weight of the snow. Howard's dad, Lyle, landed work shoveling snow off the roofs. After the snow melted he had work repairing the roofs he had cleared of snow. Before he ran out of roofs to repair, Lyle landed a steady job with the road department repairing the storm-damaged roads. This was to be Lyle's first steady job in 11 years.

From Corvallis, Lyle moved his family to the jobs he worked along the coast (Pistol River, Port Orford, etc, and he likely worked construction on Hwy 101.) for about 18 months before returning to similar work in Corvallis. Soon after returning to Corvallis they rented and then bought their first home. Howard started school and, for a dime, acquired a model airplane. The hobby would have a significant impact on his future. The South's added a third son to the family, little brother Neil, shortly before WWII broke out. Lyle became a shipyard welder in 1942 and moved the family to Portland. Abundant overtime deprived the boys of their father for the next several years, but their mother, Etta, soon gave birth to their youngest son, Lynn.

It was Howard's good fortune to have three challenging teachers in the three grade schools he attended. School performance led teachers and relatives into programming him with the belief he would one day attend college — the first South to do so. To further this goal at age 11, and for three years hence, Howard delivered as many as 180 "Oregon Journals" daily after school and saved several thousand dollars before his sophomore year at Gresham High School. Howard's dad, uninsured and working odd jobs again, suffered a fatal heart attack on their small farm east of Gresham during Howard's junior year. Heavily in debt, Howard's widowed mother, Etta, told Howard, "You take care of yourself (get to college) and I'll take care of your

brothers." The unspoken part of the contract was that all his college savings were used up over the next two years to his surprise.

Nevertheless, Howard worked many odd jobs, working summers and sometimes working a full swing shift after classes. Howard graduated in 1955 with a BS in General Engineering from the University of Portland. The model airplane hobby he had nurtured for over a decade generated a flying desire such that, through ROTC, the Air Force awarded Howard a commission upon graduation. Officer training served Howard well in subsequent career supervisory roles. A few months after graduation, he was taking pilot training in south Texas.

With dollars in his pocket and the time to spend it for the first time, Howard's major challenge now was getting awarded his wings which occurred December 1956. A few close calls, such as when he narrowly averted a mid-air collision that even shook up the instructor pilot, led him to believe there was a guardian angel riding on his shoulder. And when, as a very green Second Lieutenant left in command of a long planned multi-million dollar Air Force/Army military exercise at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, he shut it down during adverse conditions sending planes back to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, when he could not raise any of the senior officers who should have made the decision. They were all very quiet the next day, while the pilots were giving him a whole lot of "atta boys." His military career survived.

Facing a decision during 1958 military cutbacks, Howard opted to pursue his engineering career rather than a military one. But during the 1958 recession, corporate America did not embrace his degree or his pilot's license. Howard found employment following a long spring and summer when the Dean at the University of Portland steered him to National Biscuit Company. His title was Maintenance Foreman though he referred to himself as a "cookie engineer." Mid-1959 Howard married Dolores (Dee) Yunker; daughter of Francis "Did" Yunker, a notorious Clackamas County Prohibition bootlegger who had the local sheriff on his payroll. Two years later, their son, Scott was born. Shortly after Scott's birth, Howard was offered the opportunity to be the youngest maintenance superintendent in Nabisco history. But he declined the honor because he did not wish to move his family to St. Louis, Missouri, which he had visited while in the Air Force. A miffed Nabisco fired him.

With an angel still perched upon his shoulder, Howard visited PGE during a brief mid-1961 job search. An unadvertised position had miraculously opened because a college graduate had abruptly abandoned a previous PGE offer. Howard was quickly hired and put on a year's training program that was soon accelerated to slide him into a chair in the Tualatin Valley Division just a year before their daughter, Carol, was born in 1963. Through the

program, Howard not only learned a great deal about the Company, but met many people that, before the days of "networking," Howard came to think of as his "resource people." Names now relegated to Company history (Bill Cary, Keith Ekstrom, Del Kuns, Dan McLellan, Norm Paulson, Jim Stains, Jay Turner, Ed Wildfong, and others) would either dig up answers to his questions or forward him to someone who could.

PGE encouraged community involvement and shortly volunteered Howard into the Beaverton Junior Chamber of Commerce during the final few years of his eligibility. For a short time Howard served on the "Rose Float Committee." The JCs had entered a Beaverton float in the parade for years with little success at recognition. Howard made a model of his proposed design. Seeing the model, the regular float designer tossed his drawings in the trash can. Howard's implemented design won the Mayor's Trophy for the Beaverton JCs in about 1966, the only Rose Float trophy the Beaverton JCs won during their history.

During the 1970s Howard rotated through six different chairs, (Chief Estimator and Chief Field Engineer in the Tualatin Valley Division, Planning Engineer in Engineering reporting to Pete Setala, Division Engineer, in Yamhill Division, Chief Planning Engineer in Western Division, and Manger of Engineering and Construction in Oregon City Division. Eric Verheiden proved not only a valuable "Resource Person" through this era but, among other things, he was the oil reservoir that quietly orchestrated the smooth utilization of resources between the five operating divisions. Pete Setala evolved from boss to friend to Howard's role model. Alan Johnson and Howard discovered they had a common ancestor prior to the Civil War. (Howard says it's a long story.) With Howard's guardian angel firmly nested upon his shoulder, every position he held seemed surrounded by a hard-working, knowledgeable team that enabled Howard's sphere to shine.

The elimination of the operating divisions in 1986 was a disappointment to Howard. Oregon City division was running like a Swiss watch that he expected would tick away the years to his eventual retirement. He moved to a chair in System Engineering for the next 18 months before volunteering for an early retirement from PGE. Howard and Dee's children Scott and Carol had completed college and were vacating the nest. After a few years of "kicking back" with some traveling (Europe, cruises and motor home) and helping neighbors, friends and relatives with a number of "honey do projects," they happily watched Scott marry Judy Meiwes and Carol marry Rick Anderson in the late 1980s.

The 1990s dawned with Howard accepting part-time project type work with Engineering Design Associates for several years. The assignments were mentally rewarding to Howard, and EDA appreciated

and benefited from his performance. Carol and Scott were busy too, making grandparents of a joyful Howard and Dee. Five grandchildren arrived from 1992 to 1997. Carol was establishing herself as a respected elementary school teacher, and Scott was well on his way to becoming an unbelievably successful businessman. Life was really cool for the Souths until the sunset of the 1990s when Howard was diagnosed with incurable cancer.

Howard's career success and accomplishments, especially at PGE, exceeded his youthful expectations. In his career afterglow, he is happy to see PGE implement some of his pet wishes, such as programmed maintenance and treatment of the power poles and scheduled testing of meters. But even more than that, Howard is delighted to hear of the career success of many of his former subordinates and would like to think they benefited from his supervision.

In the autumn of life, Howard and Dee still find life exciting but bound more slowly from bed in the morning. Cancer has discouraged traveling as much and has robbed Howard of energy and the game of golf. Friends, relatives and grandchildren are visited often. Howard and Dee observe their grandchildren with excitement at their potential feeling that they will make their parents more proud of them than Howard and Dee are of their own children if that is possible. During the memorial of a friend, it is not unusual to learn something of the friend that Howard wishes he had known before. Reading of the passing of some PGE folks (e.g., Chris Ryder or Mrs. Lance Shuler) creates regrets that he did not get to know them. But on the other hand, Howard has met so many wonderful and interesting folks within and through the Company. Howard still recalls the days when it was unusual to enter a restaurant near Beaverton and not know someone else there.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Howard South's angel must have been sitting on my shoulder the last couple of days, because the bulletin was due and I was flat on my back for a month sick with the flu. Due to being sick and snowed in, I wasn't able to finish my interview with my next story. Just when things weren't looking good, Howard sent me his story to give me something to read while I was laid up. After reading his story I gave him a call to ask if he would give me permission to use his story in the bulletin and he graciously gave me his permission. The communication between Howard and me began when he e-mailed me the name of a retiree he thought I should do a story on. (This retiree's story will hopefully be in an upcoming issue.) My oldest son's name is Howard and I asked Howard South if he "fit" the Howard name (which he admitted he kind of did). I grew up with two Howards and they were both ornery. So when I got pregnant with our first child and my late husband told me he wanted to name our first son Howard (after his late grandfather), I fought the whole nine months against it, but lost in the end because we had agreed when we were first married that he would name our first son. And my Howard didn't disappoint me and lived up to the name. I was at his school so often the kids there thought I was part of the staff.☺ (My Howard grew up to be a wonderful son, husband and father. I used to tell him when he was little that I hoped when he grew up he would have a son just like him — and he did. Payback time.☺)

I would like to send out my congratulations to John Fishback and his new wife, Martha. By the time you read this, they will be married and have spent their honeymoon in Eugene at the Winter Square Dance Festival, where hundreds of square dancers meet from all over. Dancers come to this festival from Canada and several states including California, Idaho and Washington. When my husband and I used to dance we never missed a Winter Festival. What a wonderful way to spend a honeymoon, dancing with old friends and meeting new ones. John and Martha, may you have many happy years together. "Happy Dancing!" "Yellow Rock!" (To non-square dancers, that's a hug.)

Like Howard, Rick and the stories before them, all had a story to tell. Even though you may not think your story is worth telling or no one would be interested in reading it, you would be surprised, because people like to learn about other people's lives. We all were born and raised somewhere and had family, maybe there was a famous family member or a war hero in the family. Or you might have had some odd and/or interesting jobs during your life. We have lost a few more retirees in the last couple of months; they will be missed. If you know of someone's story you would like to see in the bulletin or want your story told, then give me a call and I'll get these stories in one of the upcoming issues. 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 it's a great way 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