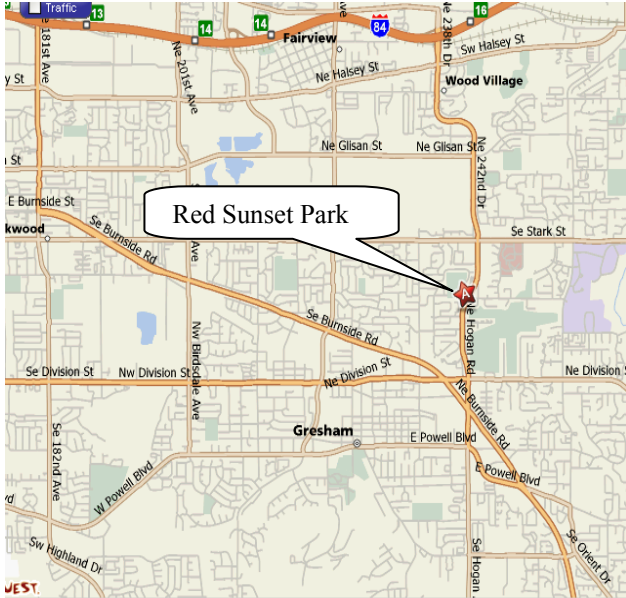


Portland General Electric Company  
**RETIREES NEWS BULLETIN**

**Barbara Bergmans, Editor**  
**Phone: 503-682-8858**

**June 2008/July 2008**  
**No. 207**



*Upcoming Events*

***PGE RETIREEES'***  
***PICNIC***  
***Thursday, July 10, 2008***

The PGE Retirees' Annual Picnic will be held on **Thursday, July 10**, at **Red Sunset Park** in Gresham, OR, located near SE Stark and SE 242<sup>nd</sup>. Driving directions: Traveling East on I-84, take **Exit 16** and turn right onto 238<sup>th</sup>. Traveling West on I-84, take **Exit 16** and turn left onto 238<sup>th</sup>. Pass over

the freeway and drive south toward Wood Village. Continue South on 238<sup>th</sup>, which becomes NE 242<sup>nd</sup> Drive. After crossing over Stark, NE 242<sup>nd</sup> becomes NE Hogan Road. Travel approximately 0.4 mile on NE Hogan to the stop light (the only stop light between Stark and Division) and turn **right** onto NE Red Sunset Drive. This street will take you right into the park. This is a new location since Roslyn Park has closed and is no longer available. This year's picnic chairman is **Bob Clayton (503-658-2990)**.

Noon-1:00 p.m.	Potluck dinner
1:00-1:30 p.m.	Door prizes
1:30-3:30 p.m.	Bingo and relaxation
3:30 p.m.	Cleanup time ( <b>your help would be appreciated</b> )

Chicken, coffee, tea, lemonade, cups, plates, napkins and eating utensils will be provided. **Please bring serving utensils if your dish requires them.**

**Suggested Food List:**

A-G: Dessert                      H-P: Salad                      Q-Z: Hot Dishes  
(If you have a favorite dish, feel free to substitute)

There are picnic tables, but if you would like a more comfortable place to sit you may want to bring along your lawn chair.

## PGE RETIREES' SPRING LUNCHEON

The PGE Retirees' Spring Luncheon was held on May 22 at the Monarch Hotel. Bill Nicholson, Vice President of Customer and Economic Development, gave an informative talk on the status of the Company and on how PGE is working to help solve the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change in Oregon.

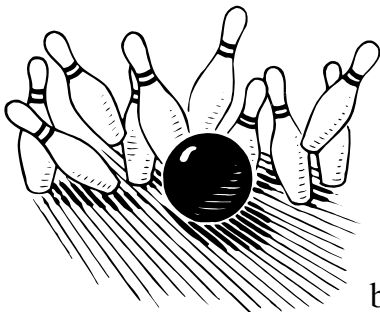
There were 262 retirees and guests in attendance. There were 276 reservations made, but a few had to cancel. The good news is that this year's number of "no shows" was the smallest ever. The total money received for the Oregon Food Bank from the luncheon was \$84.00. Anyone who would still like to contribute may do so by sending a check made out to Oregon Food Bank to Dave Bryan, 15276 S. Brunner Road, Oregon City, OR 97045. The food for the luncheon was outstanding, and as several guests commented, "One of the best they had ever eaten at a group luncheon." A BIG "THANK YOU" to Doris Davids, Russ Bailey and their team for the great job they did putting together the luncheon. If any of you have ever put together an event like this, then you can appreciate all the work that they put into this wonderful luncheon.

## PGE BLOOD DRIVE

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

## PGE RETIREES PORTLAND SPIRIT LUNCHEON CRUISE ON THE WILLAMETTE RIVER

Twenty places have been reserved for **Friday, September 5, 2008**. Cost is *estimated to be* between \$25 and \$40 per person. Boarding will be at 11 a.m. at the foot of SW Salmon Street. **Register online by August 1, 2008**, at [cwcolbyjr@yahoo.com](mailto:cwcolbyjr@yahoo.com) (please use "luncheon cruise" in the subject line), or call 360-573-2096.



## BOWLING

The bowling season for 2007—2008 finished on May 21, and the 2008—2009 season will start in September and end in May 2009. Steve and Terry would like to see more ladies show up in September. If you weren't able to bowl this past season, but would like to join in for the new season, grab your bowling ball in September (rental balls and shoes are available if you don't have your own), and either show up at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Bowl on SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Powell Blvd in Portland or give Steve or Terry a call. Watch for the new startup date and other information in the next Retirees' Bulletin. Games are held on the **first and third Wednesdays** of the month. Check-in time is 12:45 p.m. Call **Steve Kuryk, 503-659-2278, or his assistant Terry Judkins, 503-655-2863**, for questions or information.

## **GOLF NEWS**

The new 2008 schedule will be printed in the next bulletin, in time for you to reserve the dates on your calendars. Right now the planned start date is September 9, but the golf courses haven't been secured as of yet. So have your golf clubs waiting by the front door so they'll be ready to grab them when the dates are announced. A new chairperson is being appointed and will be announced along with the new schedule. If you have any questions before then please 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](http://pgeretirees.org))**

Have you checked into the Retirees Web site lately? Then you might want to take a couple of minutes and see what's new. New items are posted often and some items on the Web site aren't published in the Retiree Bulletin. You might be surprised at what interesting articles and facts that are posted there. So check it out! 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](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 Medical Assistance Program is available to help any qualified retiree or surviving spouse. If you need assistance, the folks listed below are waiting to give you a helping hand with your needs or questions. *Not sure if you qualify? Then call to find out. If you qualify, this great team 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. 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.

## **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 503-464-7337.

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

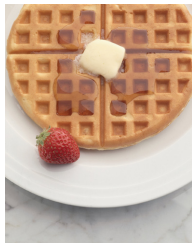
PGE employees and retirees can keep updated on upcoming volunteer projects and all the information you'll need to know to volunteer for any of them at [www.easymatch.compgevp](http://www.easymatch.compgevp). You may sign up to volunteer online and/or print out and send in the fill-in forms to the address listed. To sign on to this Web site, login using

**your employee number without the “E”** and 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, please call Scott Guptill 503-464-8554 or e-mail him at Scott.Guptill@pgn.com

### **PGE RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS (3)**

One group of PGE retirees meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m., at Elmer’s Restaurant, 390 SW Adams Street in Hillsboro. If you would like to join this group, they would be happy to see you.

A second group of load dispatchers and other PGE retirees meets for breakfast on the first Wednesday morning of each month at 9 a.m. at Hale’s Restaurant, 17502 SE McLoughlin Blvd. Don’t feel like cooking breakfast or want to give your mate a break? Then show up at Hale’s and have them cook for you. This is a great chance to see old friends and meet new ones.



If the first two groups are not in your area, then stop in and join some 30+ PGE retirees on the first Tuesday of February, April, June and November. They meet at 9 a.m. at The Village Inn, 10301 SE Stark Street. There is a lot of reminiscing going on with this group about the different people that they have worked with. There is a rumor that sometimes it gets kind of noisy from the laughter with all the jokes and funny stories being told, so you might want to turn down or turn off your hearing aid (if you wear one, or bring along some ear plugs☺). Everyone is welcome so come and join in on the fun.

If you are interested in joining any or all of these groups you can just show up. What a great chance to take a break from everyday life and meet up and spend time with these fun groups of people. If you would like to start up a group closer to you, 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](mailto:djudkins@comcast.net).

### **PGE Retirees Board Secretary Position:**

We would like to welcome Violet Judkins, wife of Retiree Terry Judkins, to the Retirees Board. Violet has accepted the position of Recording Secretary. This position was vacated by John Wiitala due to health reasons. We know Violet will be a great asset to our Board and are looking forward to working with her. The Retirees Board would like to thank John for the wonderful job he has done in the past. John stepped forward and took this position when others weren’t able to.

RETIREES  
(a total of 293 years of service)

**May 2008**

*Jacqueline M. Bailey*, Assistant V  
(5 years)

**June 2008**

*Susan A. Boase*, Assistant V (12 years)  
*Michael R. Gandert*, Engineer IV, Civil  
(32 years)  
*Michael W. Higgins*, Supervisor IV  
(32 years)  
*Peter A. Kaski*, Customer Service  
Representative. (19 years)

**July 2008**

*M. Kathy Delano*, Executive. Secretary I  
(20 years)  
*Larry L. Heath*, Engineer III. Electrical.  
(38 years)  
*B. Alex Huston*, Specialist III, SDC  
(33 years)  
*Meghan Y. Jonee-Guinn*, Analyst IV  
(28 years)  
*William H. Kirby*, Project Manager  
(37 years)  
*Mark R. Starrett*, Analyst III,  
Fuels/Forecast (37 years)

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

Do you want to do some spring cleaning? Here is a great opportunity to clear out those stacks of old *Bullseyes* and *NewsLines* that you have stashed in the back of the hall closet, up in your attic or in that hidden corner in your garage. 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. Just as a reminder, the donations are tax deductible. To make arrangements to have items or bulletins picked up, call me, Barbara Bergmans, at 503-682-8858 or e-mail me at [b.bergmans@verizon.net](mailto:b.bergmans@verizon.net). I, or one of the other Museum board members, will see that your items are picked up. Or I can make arrangements for you to drop your items off at the Hawthorne Shop on Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and Noon.

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

## GETTING TO KNOW US



*Rayford (Ray) Stafek*

*(Years of Service:*

*July 14, 1947 to December 1, 1977)*

Ray and his wife Yonnie are both in their early 90s and lead a very active life. They were married in 1934 and this year they will be celebrating their 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They were both born and raised in the same small community in Texas, and knew each other from attending the local community activities and dances. They moved to Deval, Oklahoma, a little town just across the Texas state line from where they grew up, after they were married. They both grew up on cotton farms and learned to pick cotton at a very young age.

Ray's father, John Stafek, immigrated to Texas from Bohemia. John's older brother was forced to serve in the German Army, and John's mother knew it wouldn't be long before they would be coming for John too, since he was old enough to be taken. She wasn't happy that she already had one son serving and she didn't want a second son to be put into danger as well. She contacted relatives who lived in Texas and made arrangements with them for John to come to America. John found out later that the military police were hot on his heels as he boarded the ship in Holland as it was pulling out of the harbor on its way to America. He realized just how lucky he was and what a close call it was that he got away. (Ray's grandmother lived to be 106 years old and carried to her grave how proud and thankful that she was able to get John to America, saving him from the German Army and possibly even death.). A couple of years after arriving in Texas, John met and married Ray's mother, who was a red-headed Irish lady, whose father had fought in the Civil War.

Ray and Yonnie were married during the Depression. When the time came that they could no longer make a living where they were, they decided to follow Yonnie's parents and her brother Taza to Bull Mountain, Montana, where Taza had heard that Burlington Railroad was hiring. Ray's brother Max also needed work and decided to join the group, and they all packed up their families and belongings and headed to Montana. They were hired on by the railroad and given jobs for the winter, but were told that they wouldn't be receiving their wages until the next spring. Since they had no other choice, they decided to stay and work. The little elderly gentleman that owned a small grocery store in town was a godsend; he told the railroad workers that he would let them charge their groceries and they could pay him in the spring after they were paid. When spring arrived and the

railroad paid everyone their winter's wages, they all went straight to the little grocery store to settle their charge accounts. After paying off their account at the store and thanking the owner for allowing them to charge groceries so they could survive the winter, Ray and Yonnie had \$147 left to live on until they found another job. Max heard there was work in western Montana, so, since Ray and Yonnie didn't have any plans on where they going to go, they decided to join Max's family. They again packed up and headed out with Max to western Montana, but when they arrived the jobs he had heard about were no longer available.

Max's wife's brother lived in Visalia, California, so Max contacted his sister and brother-in-law and his brother-in-law told Max that there were jobs in the Visalia area and he could help them find work. With no jobs available in Montana, they again had no choice but to move on, and they headed to California. The brother-in-law was true to his word and found them jobs. He found Ray a job working in one of the local vineyards for a man that he knew, Mr. Leadie, the owner of the vineyards. Ray was glad to have a job, any job, no matter what it was. Mr. Leadie was also a ground foreman for Pacific Gas & Electric and was able to get Ray a job working as a lineman. Ray worked off and on for PG&E. for about 10 years. World War II was going on at this time and Ray was drafted into the Army. He took his physical and passed and his troop was ready to be shipped out when President Truman ordered the bomb to be dropped on Japan. Ray, along with a lot of other young men who had been drafted, were given their discharge papers and they were told they were no longer needed. Ray was free to return to civilian life and go back to his jobs.

Taza, Yonnie's brother, had been stationed at Fort Stevens, Oregon, during the war. He remembered how well he had liked Oregon while stationed at Fort Stevens, and decided since there was no work in Bull Mountain and with the other members of the family having already moved on, to bring his parents and move to Oregon, hoping they could find work here. They found work and settled in Oregon.

Ray and Yonnie came to visit her parents in Oregon in July 1947. While here they decided to drive to Portland and watch the Rose Festival Parade. Someone upstairs must have been watching over the group, because the spot they choose to watch the parade was in front of the Portland General Electric corporate offices. Ray commented, "Maybe I should go in and see if they'll give me a job." The office was open, so he went in and a short time later he come back to let the family hear his good news. He had been hired as a lineman and was to report for work in Woodburn on Monday morning. After they got back to her parents' house they packed up their car and headed home to California. Ray helped Yonnie until he had to head back to Oregon, so he could be back in time to report to work at his new job. Yonnie stayed behind to put their house up for sale and to finish packing for the move to Oregon. Yonnie and the boys joined Ray in Oregon as soon as she sold the house and got everything in California wrapped up.



Ray started his career with PGE on July 14, 1947, working as a lineman for the Salem Line Department out of the Woodburn yard. He worked in Woodburn for a year before being transferred to Salem to work as a lineman out of the Salem yard. In 1950 he was promoted to Working Foreman and in 1953 he became a Working Line Foreman, a position he held until he retired.

Salem began to grow and a lot of new construction was going on in the area. Because of this, there was a shortage of pole climbers to connect all of these new homes to electricity. Ray saw an opportunity to make a higher wage, so he took an apprenticeship and became a pole climber. It was a job Roy loved and he was looking forward to climbing poles for several more years, but when he was 62 the insurance company PGE had at the time felt the job of pole climbing was too dangerous for anyone 62 or older. PGE was told that all pole climbers in that age group had to be grounded. Ray felt that if they were going to take away the job he loved he would rather retire than go back to ground work, so on December 1, 1977, after over 30 years of working for PGE, he took early retirement.

Yonnie and Ray had talked about doing some traveling and maybe even spending the winters in Arizona, and now they could do that if they wanted to. It would also give Ray more time for his favorite hobby, refinishing antique furniture. He could also get in some fishing or gardening or do “stuff” around the house, which always needed to be done.

Yonnie and Ray are the parents of two grown sons, Darrel and Jerry. They are proud that both of their sons graduated from Oregon State University. While growing up, both of the boys worked at PGE during summer breaks. The oldest son, Darrel, and his wife, Sally, and their four children, Todd, Karen, Molly and Jeff, live in Pasco, Washington. Both Darrel and Sally had retired, but Darrel was offered a job with the City of Pasco as their new home inspector, so he came out of retirement and went back to work. The younger son, Jerry, divorced when his son, Jerry Dee, was very young. Ray and Yonnie had Jerry bring his young son home to live with them so they could help with Jerry Dee. Jerry Dee is now a grown young man and has moved out and has a job and is living on his own. Jerry retired for a while, but has returned to work selling real estate in the Salem area. Jerry remains with his parents in their lovely home in north east Salem, this arrangement works well for the three of them.

Sometimes when the Stafeks eat out they like to eat at what Ray likes to call “the local Hog’s Trough”. (It’s really just one of the local buffet restaurants.)

## **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

*Rayford (Ray) Stafek is featured in this issue. He and Yonnie are a wonderful and interesting couple. You would never guess their ages if they didn't tell you. I spent an enjoyable afternoon interviewing Ray and his lovely wife for this story, and as I drove away I knew I had just made two more new friends. Several of you reading Ray's story will be able to relate to some of the hard times the Stafeks went through, because you had to go through some of the same things living during the Depression and the war. Those of you who didn't have to live during those hard times have no idea how really bad times were back then, and hopefully you'll never have to find out. I was born in the late 30s and I was a small child toward the end of the Depression and the war, but even as a child I was aware times were hard. I remember food and gas stamps, and that my folks needed stamps to buy sugar. I also remember my aunts, the neighbor ladies and my mother giving up their nylons, because the nylon was needed for the war. We lived on a farm in Kansas and were lucky that we grew our own vegetables and animals that helped put food on our table. Several of you spent time in the service during that time and my hat is off to all of you with a GREAT BIG THANK YOU. Ray and Yonnie said several times how lucky he and others were to be saved by the bomb. I owe a big thank you to Yonnie for making me aware that I hadn't told her husband's story. I know there are many more stories out there that need to be told, so if you would like your story told or know of someone that you think should have their story told please let me know.*

*Lately, I again found out just what a small world it is. After I wrote May Hays' story, I received a call from another retiree who grew up in the same area May and I are from. There were three young men, two of them brothers that left Kansas and moved to Portland, and they all worked at and retired from PGE. Out of three there is only one left. I will be writing their story in the next issue. I'll let it be a surprise who they were/are. How lucky I feel to be able to get these stories told and meet all of you wonderful folks.*

*So, if you know of someone whose story you would like to see, or if you would like for me to write your story, please contact me. 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. 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'm looking forward to hearing from you,*

***Barbara Bergmans***