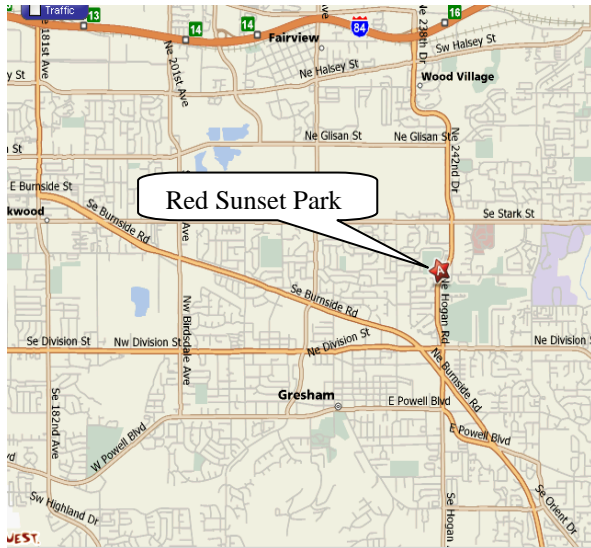


Portland General Electric Company
RETIREES NEWS BULLETIN

Barbara Bergmans, Editor
Phone: 503-682-8858

June/July 2009
No. 214



Upcoming Events
PGE
RETIREES' PICNIC

Thursday, July 16, 2009

The PGE Retirees' Annual Picnic will be held on **Thursday, July 16**, at **Red Sunset Park** in Gresham, Oregon, located near SE Stark and SE 242nd.

Driving directions: Traveling east on I-84, take **Exit 16** and turn right onto 238th Drive or traveling west on I-84, take **Exit 16** and turn left onto 238th Drive, pass over the freeway and drive south toward Wood Village. Continue south on 238th Drive, which becomes NE 242nd Drive. After crossing over Stark, 242nd Drive becomes NE Hogan Road. After crossing SE Stark Street, travel approximately 0.4 mile, to the first 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 the same location as last year, and **Bob Clayton (503-658-2990)** is again the picnic chairman.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 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. | Clean-up time (your help is needed and appreciated) |

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

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.

If you got home last year from the Retirees' picnic and there happened to be a Tupperware pie carrier and a wooden-handled pie server among your belongings, I am missing these two items. The pie carrier was a gift from my late father, and I would love to get it back.



Thanks, Barbara Bergmans

PGE BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be **June 10, 2009, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.** in the **2WTC-Plaza Conference Room, located on the street level.** If you are unable to donate in June, make a note to donate on August 11 at the same location. If you have questions, please contact **Joanne Olson, 360-254-7898, or Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858.**

RETIRES TOUR HYDRO PLANTS



A group of intrepid PGE retirees and their families met at the Gresham Line Center early May 27 and embarked on a daylong tour of Oak Grove, Three Lynx, Faraday and River Mill hydro facilities, led by and organized by Chick Colby. The group pictured above at River Mill got a glimpse of the inner workings of these facilities, including the turbines, rotors, wicket gates, fish ladders and operation rooms, along with a short history of each plant. Contributing to the success of the day was the great weather that afforded many views of the Clackamas River along the way.



If you have any questions or suggestions about future trips, please contact: Chick Colby, 360-573-2096 or cwcolbyir@yahoo.com, or Ed Miska, 503-636-6052 or epr745t@earthlink.net, or Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858 or b.bergmans@verizon.net.



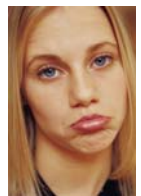
PG&E RETIREES' SPRING LUNCHEON

The luncheon committee outdid themselves again this year with another wonderful luncheon, and the food was once again outstanding. A **BIG "thank you"** goes to the luncheon committee for all of their hard work. There were 269 people who made a reservation, but only 230 showed up, with several late cancellations and no shows. (FYI, for those of you that aren't aware, a special menu is prepared for these large luncheons, and the restaurant has to know the number of meals they need to prepare. The luncheon committee has to give the restaurant the final reservations count three days before the event. If the count changes after that deadline, then the group holding the luncheon is required to pay for the total reservations made. The committee always adjusts their count for a few last minute emergencies.)

A total of \$75 was collected for the Oregon Food Bank — not bad for not advertising ahead of time. Thanks to those of you who donated because each \$1 will buy six pounds of food, which will feed several hungry families. Thanks to the folks that checked out the old pictures and added a few more names to some of them. By the way, did you notice that 98 percent of the door prizes went to the men retirees, with only two of our lady retirees taking home a prize? Maybe next year we should have two baskets — one for men and one for women — to draw from taking turns from each one (just a thought).

NO PG&E COMPANY PICNIC THIS YEAR

Due to budget constraints, PG&E will not be holding their annual Company Picnic this year. Hopefully things will be better next year, and they can hold one in 2010.



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 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/. 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."

BOWLING

Last year's great bowling season ended on May 20, 2009. The new season will start on Wednesday, **September 2, 2009, and will end on May 19, 2010**. Mark these dates on your calendar. Steve and Terry are looking forward to welcoming this year's regulars back and hoping to see several new faces joining the team this season. Both men and women retirees, their spouses and significant others are all welcome to come bowl with us.

Never bowled before but would like to learn? Haven't bowled in a long time but would like to start bowling again? Perfect! Then we'll see you in September at the 12:30 p.m. check-in time at 20th Century Bowl, SE 92nd Avenue and Powell Boulevard, in Portland. The Retiree Board has again this year granted each bowler \$10 toward their cost of bowling for this season. 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

Announcement

After serving for eight years as the chairperson for Retiree Golf, John Fishback has decided to step down and turn the reins over to someone else. John has had a lot of changes in his life in the last year and feels it is time for someone else to take over.

We give you a big thank you, John, for all of the time and hard work you put in for the past eight years.

In order for future tournaments to continue, someone needs to step forward and take over. If you would be interested in taking over John's position, know of someone that is interested in this position or would like to **VOLUNTEER with the golf committee**, please call **John Fishback, 503-648-2227; John Carter, 503-653-6261; or Jim Wyatt, 503-366-2824**.



Upcoming Tournament

The only tournament planned for 2009 is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, **June 9, 2009, at the Mountain View Golf Course, 27195 SE Kelso Road**, in Boring, Oregon. Tee-off is scheduled for 10 a.m. Again this year, the Retiree Board has granted each golfer a \$10 greens fee.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR RETIREES



Navigating the future in uncertain times can be a challenge, but it can also be an *opportunity*. Discover "life planning on *your* terms." Come to the FREE PGE brownbag "Life by Design" **Tuesday, June 16 from noon to 1 pm in the 2WTC Oregon Room.** No registration is required.

For more information, see www.lifebydesignnw.org, e-mail info@lifebydesignnw.org or phone 503-731-6650. You can also contact Kathie Cole at 503-464-2901 or Maureen Fallt at 503-464-7296.

FIT FACTORY

For only \$20 per month, the PGE retirees are welcome to use the health club facilities located in 3WTC. As a member, you are welcome to use the weight machines, treadmills, 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.

WEB SITE FOR VA CLAIMS/APPEALS

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 (*one word, no spaces*).



PGE RETIREES WEB SITE (PGERETIREES.ORG)



Haven't checked this site for a while? Then take a few minutes to go see what new items have been added. Can't find your Retirees' News Bulletin? Check this site; you'll find it there. If there is something that you would like to or see on this site, 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

During these difficult times, some of us may need a little additional assistance. That is what the Retiree Assistance Program is available for. The folks listed below are here 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.



VOLUNTEER POWER TOOL WEB SITE FOR PGE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES



To check out what projects for volunteers are coming up or to send in your volunteer hours, log on to www.easymatch.com/pgevp 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 or if you don't know or have forgotten your employee number or have other questions or don't have a computer, please call Scott at 503-464-8554 or e-mail him at Scott.Guptill@pgn.com.

FOUR PGE RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

- On **June 2 at 9 a.m.** a group will be meeting for breakfast at the **Village Inn**, 10301 SE Stark Street. These PGE retirees meet on the first Tuesday of February, April, June and November at the same time and location.
- Former Customer Service retirees meet at 9 a.m. for breakfast on the first Thursday of each month at **The Wichita Bar and Grill**, 19140 Molalla Avenue, in Oregon City. Others are welcome to attend.
- A group of retirees meets 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 at 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at **Hale's Restaurant**, 17502 SE McLaughlin Blvd.



All of the above groups are open to all PGE retirees, their spouses and significant others. If you would like to start up a group closer to your area, know of a group that hasn't been listed in the bulletin and would like for it to be or 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 322 years of service!)

May 2009

John K. Adamski, Heavy Equipment Operator (15 years)
Anita Clift, Assistant IV (36 years)
Michael J. Giddings, Garageman (30 years)
Kenneth Hanson, Trojan Operator (34 years)
Carol Lindenberg, Specialist V (29 years)

July 2009

Ace B. Gilbertson, Customer Service - Field (9 years)
Jeffrey C. Lohr, Chemical Spray Supervisor (38 years)
Karl F. Machtanz, Utility Worker (28 years)
Wayne A. Twedt, Customer Service-Field (22 years)

June 2009

Robert J. Lazrine, Fire Protection Working Foreman (38 years)
Sharon L. Schulte, Customer Service Representative (5 years)
Randall G. Sewell, Specialist II (38 years)



GENERAL INFORMATION ON ENRON CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS

Below please find some information for retirees and employees who suffered losses to their 401(k) due to the Enron bankruptcy and are interested in finding the latest developments on the various class action lawsuits. Unfortunately, PGE is rarely contacted directly by the administrators of the lawsuits with any updates. Often the only way PGE learns of developments is from employees and retirees who have received notification.

With the variability of information being shared to individuals that may be affected and the number of class actions suits occurring, we suggest the best way to keep abreast of the most up-to-date information is to do the following:

1. **Make sure your address is up to date.** To help ensure that you are contacted in a timely manner, make sure your address is up to date with Enron. You can easily do this by accessing the Web site www.enron.com . To change your address, select the link at the top of the page "For Employees" then click on the "Benefit Address Change Form" link on the second row of links on the Web page.
2. **Access the Web sites listed below.** These sites contain a wealth of information. You may find many of the answers to your questions in "Question and Answer" or "FAQ" pages. Also, most of the sites have contact information, such as e-mail addresses or phone numbers for the parties who are managing the class action suits so that you

may contact them directly with your questions. PGE is not aware of any timing of upcoming settlements and does not have access to your settlement information.

www.enron.com

www.gilardi.com/enron/securities Telephone (800) 961-2086 or (800) 654-5763

www.enron.planfiduciary.com

www.enronfraud.com

www.fiduciarycounselors.com

www.enronvictimtrust.com Telephone (866) 225-3511

We hope you find this information helpful and encourage you to keep it handy for future reference.

The next Retirees' Board Meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2009, at 9 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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, I could say it was an April Fool's Joke, but it wasn't. Or I could say I just wanted to see if you were really reading the bulletin, but that wasn't it either. I truly have "egg on my face," and now if I am ever asked what my most embarrassing moment was, I can tell them it was when the last four digits were printed wrong in the PGE Retirees' Bulletin, when I listed a number for everyone to call to get their phones on the "Do Not Call List," and they instead reached a "naughty line." (The correct number is 1-888-382-1222.) I'm really sorry folks! Someone up there was truly looking out for me when, after making several phone calls to Corporate, I was told the NewsLine hadn't been sent out yet and a flyer would be included with the correct phone number on it. Believe me, all future numbers printed in the bulletin will be checked and double checked before it is mailed. Around 200 of you can verify that I did call you and let you know the number had been printed wrong (while I was waiting to hear back from the folks downtown), so if the NewsLines had already been mailed, I would have continued calling everyone on the retirees' list, even those of you living out of state. (Thank heavens I have unlimited long-distance calling.)



John Wyatt and Helen Murphy (after 36 years) are retiring from the PGE Retirees' Board; they will both be greatly missed. We all owe them both a big thank you for their many years of service. If you would like to be a member of the board, please let one of the board members know or show up at one of our board meetings. We meet the second Monday every other month; the next meeting will be June 8. Hope to see you there.

In the next bulletin, I will be printing the names of our co-workers and retiree friends that have passed away this last year.

Each time I write a story, I meet and make another new friend, and this time was no exception. John Verdieck is an amazing gentleman and now my idol. If I am lucky enough to live to be 100, I hope I am able to keep as active as he does. John started years ago making a binder with things he has done in his life and trips he had taken. It includes pictures and information such as dates, places and other facts he wanted to be sure to remember.

If you know of someone's story you would like to see in the bulletin or if you would like 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. I look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Bergmans



GETTING TO KNOW US

JOHN VERDIECK

PGE Service from 7/16/1928 to 7/31/1973

John Verdieck was born April 19, 1909 on a farm near Glenwood, Colorado, to German immigrants, Henry and Marguerite (Vollert) Verdieck. (John celebrated his 100th birthday this past April.) The Verdiecks arrived in New York from Germany on Labor Day in 1907, along with John's four older siblings. John was the youngest and the only child born in America. During John's grade school years, he attended a one-room schoolhouse, and due to the one-on-one attention he received, he graduated from grade school in only six years.

The family moved to Marble, Colorado, near Grand Junction. In 1921–1923 there wasn't a high school in Marble, so to pass the time, John took the 8th grade over a couple of times. (The white marble used to create the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and the memorial for the Unknown Soldiers in Washington, DC, came from Marble, Colorado.)

John's father, Henry, worked as a professional baker in Germany and continued working as a baker after he arrived in America. At one time, he worked at Henry Thiele's Restaurant as their head baker. Henry's last job was in Salem, working in a lumber mill. He passed unexpectedly of a heart attack at the young age of 54. John's mother, Marguerite, was a homemaker most of her life and worked as a cook in a Salem restaurant for several years. Marguerite passed away at 86.

The family moved to Woodburn from Colorado, and later the family moved to Salem, where John graduated from Salem High School in 1928. While attending high school, he held the position of treasurer of the student body and graduated with honors from the Commercial Department, where he learned the basics of accounting. This was the beginning of his life with money and numbers.

John's parents couldn't afford to send him to college, so right after graduation he took a job at PGE's Line Department in Salem, where he started out working as a stock clerk making \$80 a month. Shortly after he started, John was transferred from the Line Office to working in Accounting. Three years later in 1931, John was moved to the Portland Line Department in the same capacity. His duties included keeping the accounting records for the transmission and distribution lines. He also did the payroll for Maintenance. On January 1, 1947 John was promoted to supervisor of the Line Field Office working at the Hawthorne Building. In 1955 John was appointed the superintendent of the General Service Department.

In 1972 John was appointed Supervisor of Construction Standards, and he reported to Scott P. Samsel, Superintendent of Distribution. In John's new position, he was responsible for joint pole records and quality control of all overhead line construction in the Portland

area. He held this position until he retired. Robert A. Wolvert, Internal Auditor in Accounting, was appointed to John's former position as supervisor. When John retired after 45 years of faithful service at PGE in 1973, he had the fourth longest working employment at PGE.

In November 1955 after working at the Hawthorne Building for several years, John, along with 249 other employees, were moved to the new Portland Service Center, which also included a modern, stainless steel, fully staffed cafeteria. The move to the new building was made in the record time of one day. John not only changed work locations, he gave up his old roll-top desk for a new modern steel desk.

During John's employment at PGE, he held the position of president for one year of the 20-Year Club and headed many committees. (In October 1961, the 38th year, 30 new members were inducted into a membership of 578 members which included 237 retirees.) John was elected as first vice president; Art Livingood, President; Henry Orwig, Second Vice President; and Charles Gales, Trustee. Connie Smith was re-elected as secretary. (In 1923 C. D. Osborne organized the 20-Year Club).

During 1947–1967, John was the secretary of the Employee Benefits Association (EBA), the medical plan for PGE Union employees. He was the past chairman of the Employees' Forum and a member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce for 10 years.

While working at PGE, John attended dances at the Odd Fellows Hall at 10th Avenue and Salmon Street. In February 1933 while attending a dance there, his eye got the sight of a beautiful young lady across the floor, and it didn't take him long to go ask for a dance. It took him three tries to get her to go on a first date. It was love at first sight for both of

them, and they knew right away they were each other's soul mates. Ten months later on November 10, 1933, they were married. This happy union lasted for over 69 years, when Thelma passed away in 2003. John attributed their happy marriage to their mutual love of God and a lot of compromising. He said it's a lot more giving and less taking and always putting your mate first. (John's face still lights up when he talks about Thelma; she was exceptionally dear to him.)

Thelma's influence brought John's attention to God, and John became an active member of the First Baptist Church for over 50 years. John still tries to attend church on special occasions, but it is hard for him because of his bad knees. His faith allowed him to serve God in many ways. His exceptional skills in accounting and construction came in handy when he helped completely rebuild Camp Arrah Wanna (Mt. Hood), from electrical work to building cabins to replace tent frames. He helped make this a fine camp for future generations to enjoy.

From 1964–1994 John served on the Property Committee, and on the job as the treasurer of the foundation at the First Baptist Church, he was involved and dedicated. John says, "All my work was a labor of love — making life more pleasant for all my fellow human beings. I went the extra mile all my life."

Thelma and John had two children, Claudia and Rodger. Claudia is retired from Consolidated Freightways Trucking; she is a widow and lives in the Tigard area. She spends a lot of time visiting her father at Rose Villa, where he resides.

Rodger graduated from Lewis & Clark College and worked as a CPA for awhile before starting his own computer repair business. Rodger and his wife, Sharon, live in California, where he still works part time repairing computers. They

had a son, Peter, and a daughter, Julie. She owns an antique store in Aurora. Rodger and Sharon are the grandparents to two grandsons, Steven and Spencer, making John a great-grandfather.

After retiring in 1973, Thelma and John took a 37-day trip with 43 other people on a fall trip to New England. A couple of years later, they, along with 41 other people, took a tour to Florida. They really enjoyed their cruise through the Panama Canal in 1977. In 1980 they took a train trip through the Canadian Rockies from Vancouver, BC, to Hudson Bay via Lake Louise and Banff. John and Thelma loved to travel, taking trips to Alaska, the Caribbean, Key West and seven trips to Hawaii, as well as other places.

John said he wasn't able to join any branch of the service because he was either too young or had dependents that kept him out of the service; then he was too old.

The Verdieck family lived in Eastmoreland Heights, where John loved to garden and spent many hours working in his yard before moving to an apartment at Rose Villa in 1971. (At that time there were few retirement centers, and they had put their name on a list for an apartment at Rose Villa. When one became available they took the opportunity and moved in.) John had been involved with Rose Villa

for several years before moving there. For 26 years he did the Rose Villa Foundation annual reports.

For 23 years, 1973–1996, he worked in the resident shop helping do carpentry work for Rose Villa, providing a much-needed service. In 1978 John built 46 end tables to be used in the Health Center at Rose Villa. (Today John has two of those end tables in his room. One sits next to his bed, and he uses a second one to hold his personal items in his bathroom.)

John moved into the Health Center in 2007 when his knees got too bad for him to walk.

John works his daily crossword puzzles and keeps busy several times during the week playing Scrabble, bridge and pinochle, plus he attends chair exercise classes during the week. (When I noticed dancing was offered on the schedule, I asked if he joined in. With a grin, he told me, "No, my dancing days are over.")

John attributes his long life to "luck and his love of God," and he said he has never drunk alcohol or smoked.

Thank you, John, and may you enjoy many more years of good health. God bless.

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
