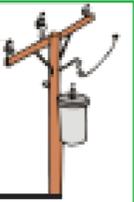




THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

July 2017

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 26, Number 7

BILL SEIFERT RETIRES AFTER 44 YEARS

William (Bill) Seifert retired from Elkhorn Rural Public Power District on June 2, after a 44 year career with the company.

Bill started his work here at Elkhorn in June of 1973, helping Elmer Peters cut trees. Later, he became a lineman assistant or “grunt” as he was called in those days. He was then trained to be a lineman and climb poles. “I was trained by one of the best linemen we had at that time, Don Boyer,” said Bill. Bill recalls being told that Don “could climb like a cat” and Bill said, “It’s true, he could.” Bill was also trained to do line work in a bucket truck. He continued to learn the trade and work with all the equipment. He remembers in the mid-70’s learning to run the trencher to bury a lot of irrigation line.

It was discovered, in due time, that Bill could fix about anything. He had grown up in a small town “fix all” repair garage and worked



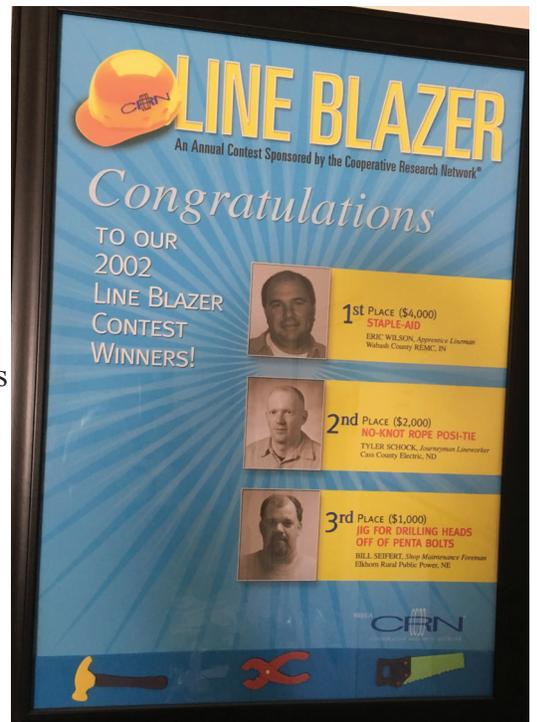
Bill pictured with his retirement gift - a vintage meter lamp.

on his own projects, “putting big engines in small cars” by making a lot of his own parts. Also prior to working at Elkhorn, Bill had a

job at a Honda motorcycle dealership, where his mechanical abilities were soon discovered and he was promoted to head mechanic with two mechanics working under him.

Throughout the years, Bill has kept things running at Elkhorn with innovative items and tools to help out the linemen. He continued to do line work, especially during storms, but it seemed like he was soon back in the shop repairing the equipment for Elkhorn or other districts that had come to help out with the storm job.

One highlight of his career Bill remembers vividly. In 2002, General Manager at the time, Terry Carson, came to the shop and handed him a form for a innovation contest called Line Blazer. Terry said, “You should enter this; you



Line Blazer poster - Bill won 3rd place in an innovation contest.

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SUB-DISTRICT III BOARD DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Larry Lindahl, Sub-district III board director, announced his retirement from the board at the June 13, 2017, board meeting. Larry is resigning from the board to allow for more time to better manage personal health concerns. He is also needing to dedicate more time to assisting family members.

Larry stated, "I have really enjoyed my time on the board and working with the other directors and the ERPPD staff."

September 12th will be Larry's last board meeting.

Larry has served on the board since 1999. He served as Secretary of the Board from 2009 - 2016.

Tom Rudloff, General Manager, said "Larry brought many exceptional qualities to the board: knowledge, discernment, compassion, customer orientation, dedication, listening to all sides of the issue, willingness to learn and continue to learn about issues affecting the utility industry as well as customers and staff. We will miss him."

Board President, Greg Weidner said, "Larry was a great asset to the board. His dedication and keen insight will be greatly missed."

APPLICATIONS

We will be taking applications to fill Larry's unfinished term, which expires in January of 2019.

Those interested in applying will need to meet statutory requirements: "A candidate for director shall be a registered voter residing within the chartered territory or subdivision as defined in the charter of the district or a retail customer duly certified in accordance with subsection (3) of section 70-604.03. The chartered territory is as follows (see the graphic below):

Antelope County: Township 23 North, Range 5 West; Township 24 North, Range 5 West, excluding the City of Tilden; Township 23 North, Range 6 West; Township 24 North, Range 6 West, excluding the Village of Oakdale; Township 23 North, Range 7 West; Township 24 North, Range 7 West; Township 25 North, Range 7 West; Township 26 North, Range 7 West; Township 27 North, Range 7 West, excluding the Village of Royal, and excluding all of sections 1 through 12; Township 23 North, Range 8 West; Township 24 North, Range 8 West; Township 25 North, Range 8 West; Township 26 North, Range 8 West; Township 27 North, Range 8 West, excluding the Village of Orchard, and excluding all of sections 1 through 12;

Holt County: Township 25 North, Range 9 West; Township 26 North, Range 9 West; Township 27 North, Range 9 West, excluding sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12; Township 25 North, Range 10

West, excluding sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31; Township 26 North, Range 10 West, excluding sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 30, and 31;

Wheeler County: Township 22 North, Range 9 West, excluding all of sections 13 through 36; Township 23 North, Range 9 West; Township 24 North, Range 9 West; Township 23 North, Range 10 West; Township 24 North, Range 10 West.

Those applying for the board position should submit a letter of interest to the office Attn: Board President, 206 N. 4th, Battle Creek; by mail to Greg Weidner, Board President c/o ERPPD, P.O. Box 310, Battle Creek NE, 68715 or fax 402-675-6275; or e-mail with subject line: "Board Position Letter of Interest" to trudloff@erppd.com, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 18, 2017.

Candidates will be contacted to set up a time to speak with the General Manager and Board President about the expectations for the position.

If you have questions please contact the office at 800-675-2185 and ask to speak with Tom Rudloff, General Manager.



Retirement continued from front page are always making something.” Bill created a tool to remove penta bolts. With his entry, he won 3rd place and \$1,000. Bill remembers, “It really surprised me, and the money was sure welcomed!”

Bill became a certified welder and “spec’ed” trucks and equipment for the district, always keeping up with regulations and engines that would last the longest and do the best job.

Tom Rudloff, General Manager, stated at Bill’s retirement party on May 31, “Bill has a God given talent for seeing things in his mind and then being able to build them.” That has been a real advantage for Elkhorn over the years.

We will certainly miss Bill and his knowledge and experience. Bill stated that he would be enjoying having the time to spend on a project or two of his own.



Bill works at his bench in the truck barn.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**



Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers’ instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

SAFETY

Zero in safety is a good number. Because ERPPD wants our customers and staff to be safe, please join us and the National Safety Council in working to reduce the number of preventable injuries for every age group to zero (see infographic below for details).

ERPPD strives for zero recordable accidents each year. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a recordable injury or illness is one that requires medical treatment beyond

first aid, as well as one that causes death, days away from work, restricted work or transfer to another job, or loss of consciousness.

Together through education, awareness and making some small changes, we can help to reduce these types of accidents to zero.

For more tips and ideas on how to prevent these most common accidents you can visit www.erppd.com/safety as well as the National Safety Council website at www.nsc.org.

A Lifetime of Risk



Preventable injuries are the **4th** leading cause of death in the U.S. right after heart disease, cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease.

Top Risks by Age Group



Sources: National Safety Council, *Injury Facts*® 2016 edition, NSC analysis of 2013 NCHS mortality data

SMALL CHANGES TODAY CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE TOMORROW.

Visit nsc.org for more helpful resources.



#Safe4Life

00008592, 0516, 2016 National Safety Council

NEW ENERGY SERVICES REP.



Please welcome Brian Suckstorf as our new Energy Services Representative. He will be handling load management and the EnergyWise Energy Efficiency program. Brian is replacing Mark Gronau, who retired at the end of May.

Brian was ERPPD's Supervisory Command and Data Acquisition (SCADA)Tech. (See the *August 2016 Wire* for a complete article on SCADA). He has worked closely with Mark, managing irrigation through the operation of the field irrigation equipment, two-way automated communication system (TWACS), as well as the SCADA. He also filled in for Mark, with others, during load management last summer.

Brian is an excellent fit for this position. He brings electrical and organizational knowledge, proven customer service abilities, honesty, integrity, and work ethic, as well as an excellent ability to work in a team environment.

We are excited to have Brian in the Energy Service Representative position and know that he will serve our customers and ERPPD well.

GRASSROOTS

CALL TO ACTION

Last month, President Trump released his proposed budget for 2018, with a number of suggested proposals affecting rural America.

One of the proposals includes selling off transmission assets -- lines, structures, substations, etc. -- that belong to three of our country's four Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs). Rural electric co-ops and public power districts in more than 20 states receive some allocation of power from those PMAs.

If this proposal moves forward, it would affect many rural areas with potential rate increases and threaten the reliability of power your consumer owned rural electric suppliers rely on.

Please take a moment today to let your Senators know that selling off the PMA assets amounts to nothing more than a tax on rural America.

Go to www.erppd.com and click on the "Grassroots - Join Our Team" button to the left to e-mail your senators.

If you are already registered, you can login with your e-mail and last name by clicking on the link at the top right of the page.

If you are not registered you can fill out the information on the "take action" page and then take action.

If you have any questions, you can call the office at 800-675-2185 and ask for Jennifer.

RETIREMENTS



The retirement party for Bill Seifert (left) and Mark Gronau (right) was held at headquarters on May 31.



Tom Rudloff, General Manager, (far right) provided comments and presented Bill Seifert and Mark Gronau (center) with meter lamps. Family, friends and co-workers all attended.

STATEWIDE SURVEY

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) has commissioned a customer satisfaction survey on public power.

An independent research team will be conducting a random phone survey to determine our customers' opinions about public power.



The survey will take place over a three week period, starting at the end of June.

If you are called, please take a few moments to answer the questions. This information is valuable to us, as it will help us to serve you better.



*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
July 2017*