

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

October 2022

Time to paint your water tower?

*Al Schoemaker, PWLF
Director of Public Works,
City of Blair*

So, you say it is time to repaint your elevated water tower inside and outside. What can I expect and plan to encounter in this journey?

First, have you cleaned and inspected your water tower as required by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) every five years? If you have, closely review the video of the inspection to determine if the coating/paint is chipping, cracking or peeling from the surface. If you see any of these in your paint coating, you will need to start working on a recoating or repainting plan for your water reservoir.

Blair has just gone through this exact scenario with their one-million-gallon reservoir that was constructed in 2005 that serves not only about one-quarter of Blair, but also the Village of Kennard and the Washington County Rural Water System that feeds over 1,000 connections themselves. The challenge for Blair was the water tower is used for water pressure and fire protection inside the City of Blair and Kennard and pressure for the rural water systems. So how do you accommodate these restrictions and still get the water tower repainted? The first thing we had to do was choose a contractor that we could

work with who understood the challenges of not only painting water towers, but also how to take an important water tower offline and not disrupt the pressure and water service of 1,500 customers. We had to look at how we could maintain water pressure for our customers who relied on the water tower for water pressure and service. The plan that was developed called for us to modify our existing water pump station by changing it from a water level activated station to a pressure activated station. This involved working with our controls company to install a switch that allowed Blair to change the pump station from one type of service to another. Further, the pump station was required to run 24 hours a day during this process. Normally, the pump station only ran when the water tower level was low enough to call for the pump station to be activated and fill the water tower. Because we now had to run our water pump station 24 hours a day to maintain constant water pressure to the effected customers, we had to rent and connect a temporary backup generator. We ended up renting a backup generator and having our local electricians connect it to the power source of the

water pump station to allow us to have power to the pump station at any time.

The painting of the water tower took a month to complete, including the draining, sand blasting and painting of the main bowl of the water tower. We also included repainting the outside of the water tower to keep all the maintenance on the same schedule. That, of course, brought up additional issues with the number of logos we have painted on our water tower. Our water tower is a one-million-gallon reservoir and thus, there is room for four logos to be painted on our water tower. The choices of which logos and what they look like is a challenge when they are so visible to everyone who drives by the water tower. We were able to get everyone involved satisfied with the logos we ended up putting on our water tower by working with the different agencies. We have the city, school district, local natural resources district (NRD) and local hospital logos on our water tower.

Overall, the project has been a success and will offer the city many more years of service from our elevated water tower. The city invested over \$1.2 million in 2005 to construct this water tower and today, this same water tower would cost over \$4 million, so there is a real need to keep our water towers in good shape by

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UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Power and Natural Gas Week

The Electric Power and Natural Gas Week was recognized Oct. 2-8, 2022, by the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the American Public Gas Association (APGA). This week is a nationwide observance, which allows public electric and natural gas systems to highlight their systems. With Nebraska being a public power state, did your system do anything special? To plan an event or get more information on this recognition week, check out the following two sites: www.publicpower.org/event/public-power-week and www.apga.org/events/pngw.



2015 sculpture project. 2022 photo.

Time to paint your water tower?

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maintaining them with regular maintenance. This is the second water tower I have repainted in my 30 plus years of service and most likely my last, as we hope to get 15 plus years of service from this round of maintenance.

Mark your calendars!!!

The 2023 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference is scheduled for Jan. 12-13 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. An optional Preconference Seminar is scheduled for Jan. 11. The last several years, this conference was approved for an average of up to 17.5 wastewater operator hours and 15 water operator hours! We expect similar approval this year.

Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones. The Utilities Section provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

You can request them by contacting the League office by email brendah@lonm.org, fax 402-476-7052 or call 402-476-2829.

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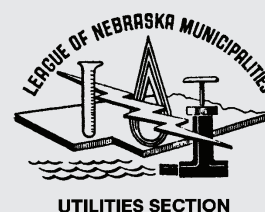
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Nebraska utilities history – Cedar Bluffs

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Cedar Bluffs is located in the Cedar Precinct of Saunders County. When the county was originally established, it was called Calhoun with boundaries defined by an act approved Jan. 26, 1856 and then redefined Nov. 3, 1858. The name was changed to Saunders in honor of former Nebraska Territorial Governor Alvin Saunders (1861-1867) by an Act of the Legislature, which was approved Jan. 8, 1862.

In January 1858, a site to be called Neapolis was designated to be the state capital when the Territorial Legislature decreed that the seat of government was to be moved from Omaha. Criteria noted that the site was not to be less than 50 miles west of the Missouri River and not more than three miles from the Platte River. The site was proposed, platted and discussed, but that's about all that occurred as it was voided by political maneuvering. Neapolis was sited to be about 2.8 miles northeast of the current site of Cedar Bluffs today and a nearby hill apparently is called Capital Hill

today. A few log structures were erected in the area in the 1850s and 1860s.

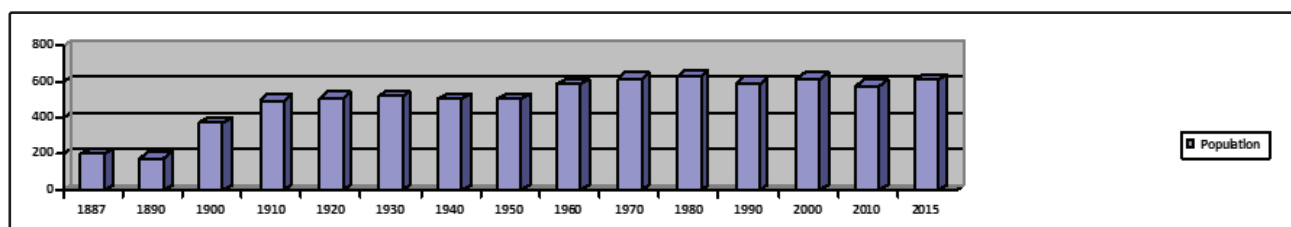
On July 10, 1868, a post office was established and likely named Cedar Bluffs for a bluff near the Platte River where the cedar trees were growing. A Catholic mass was first celebrated in 1869 at Michael Mallory's dugout. There was a postal route going from Fremont to Ceresco in 1870 and a stagecoach went twice a week to Cedar Bluffs with mail. A parish was established west of the community in 1873 and a rural Lutheran St. Matthews Church congregation was organized in 1878 with a church built in 1882.

In the summer of 1886, the Lincoln line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad built to the townsite. When the Union Pacific Railroad built through the area, the former site of Neapolis became a major construction camp, but was abandoned when the railroad moved on. The original townsite was the homestead of Joseph Johnson. Mrs. Knap bought 80 acres from him for a vehicle and a critter (wagon and a heifer), which she later sold to the town site company for \$40. On



Cedar Bluffs water tower. 2001 photo.

July 26, 1886, the platted site had lots for sale starting at \$150-\$175 with corner lots at \$200 per lot. The community was named Cedar Bluffs because of a prominent river bluff covered with cedar trees. It was noted that the plentiful cedar trees were used for railroad ties. *The origin of the name of Cedar Bluffs has had many versions. It was originally part of*
Continued on page 4



Nebraska utilities history – Cedar Bluffs

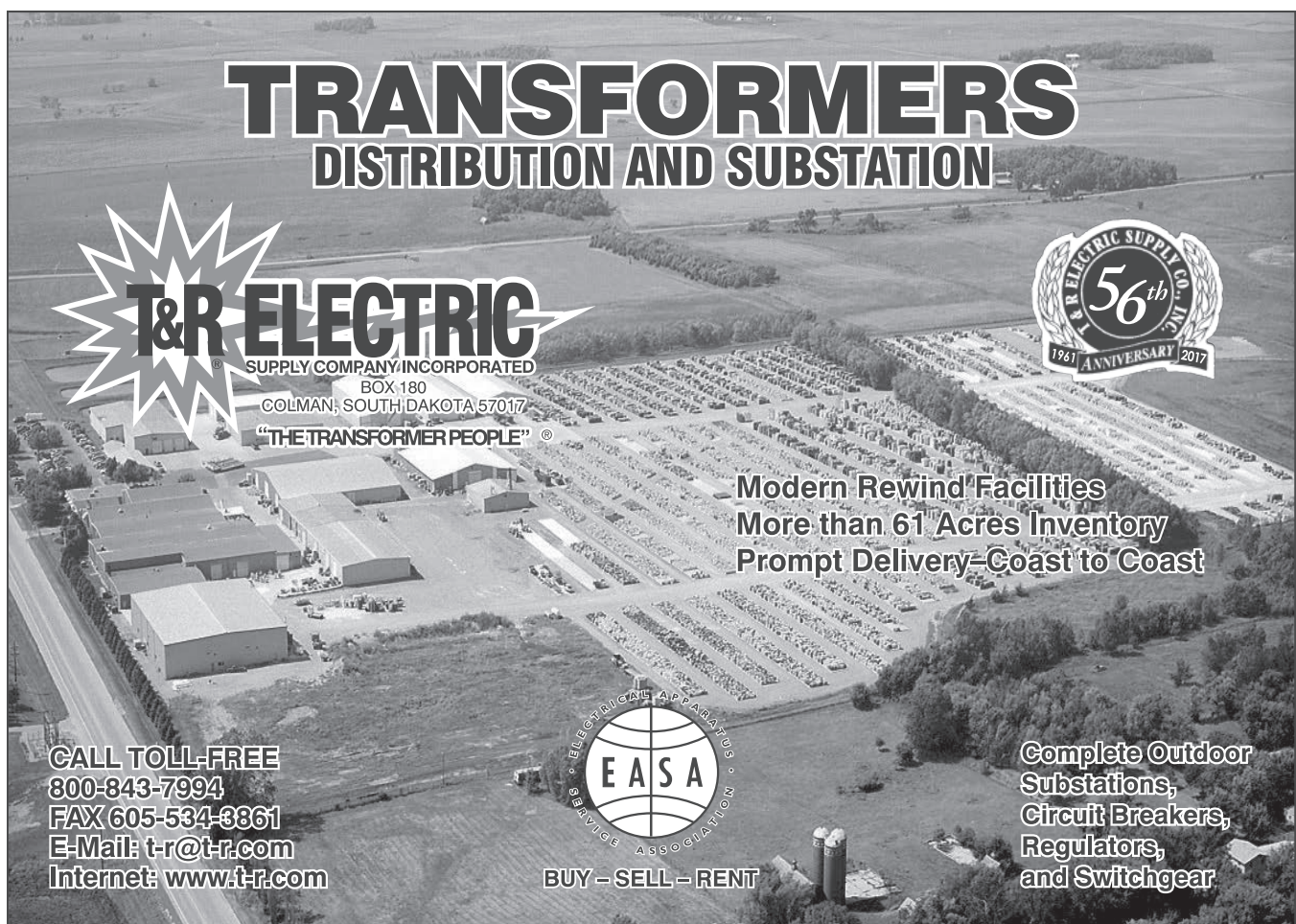
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the Pohocco Precinct and called "Pahuk," meaning "Holy Hill," and "Pohoc," meaning very bluffy. The Pahuk hill was noted as being a "most sacred place" of the Pawnee and it was located not far from Cedar Bluffs. The railroad had a well, windmill and elevated wooden water storage tank along the tracks. One source noted incorporation as a village in 1886 and another listed 1887. The first town board was appointed by the county commissioner and ordinances were structured after

the Village of Mead's ordinances. The Bank of Cedar Bluffs was organized in 1886 with a building erected in 1887. The Farmers Elevator Company was established (1887) with the Farmers COOP Association started in 1888. In 1887, the population was 200 and a blizzard hit the area. The first school sessions were held in an old Grange Hall and moved from the farm into the community. The first school built (1888) was a two-story frame building.

By 1890, the population was 181, the *Cedar Bluffs Standard*


newspaper was established and in 1892, the Farmers and Merchant State Bank was organized. The population increased to 371 by 1900, the fire department had 26 volunteer firefighters with by-laws passed in 1902. Equipment included a fire whistle, roof ladders, hose carts, and hand-operated pumps. Two churches were built in 1905, school sessions were held in a two-story frame school building and some of the businesses included a depot, a coal yard, stockyards, a barber shop,

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Nebraska utilities history – Cedar Bluffs

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a butcher shop, a pool hall, a grocery store, a garage, a confectionery, a hardware store, a livery stable, a blacksmith shop, a bakery, an implement dealer, a cafe, a drug store, a saloon and a paint store. The fire department had purchased its first fire uniforms in 1906 and by 1908, had joined the Nebraska State Volunteer Firemen's Association.

In 1910, the population reached 500 and in 1911, an electrical transmission line was built from Cedar Bluffs to the south banks of the Platte River with power furnished by the Fremont Gas and Electric Company power plant. Bonds of \$6,000 were sold by the village to cover the cost of the electric system and the five miles of transmission line. An agreement to purchase electricity from Fremont Gas and Electric Company was approved and the 35 residences and businesses that were wired for electricity would have electric lights (1912). The electrical current was metered at the south bank of the Platte River at a wholesale rate of \$0.05 per kilowatt hour (kWh)/KWH. By May, 88 patrons were supplied

electricity at a rate of \$0.11 per kWh and a minimum bill of \$1.

An ice jam in 1912 washed out the railroad bridge over the Platte River, the city/fire hall included a jail and the water system was installed in 1913-14. The water system consisted of 120-foot (ft) deep wells located in the center of the distribution system, two Cook pumps, two air pressure tanks, two Otto gasoline engines at 21 and 25 horsepower (HP) and two Curtis air compressors pumping to the air pressure tanks. It was noted that Ness Carstensen dug the first well using a steam engine, which was an improvement from digging by hand then hoisting the bucket with a rope (year not listed). The distributions system had 2.5 miles of four to 12-inch cast iron pipes, 22 fire hydrants, 12 right-hand turning Kupferle valves and 108 Neptune meters. The average daily consumption was 5,000 gallons serving 110 with a water pressure of 45-75 pounds per square inch. The fire pressure was 85 psi with rates at \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons. An election was held for \$17,000 in school bonds to build a new high school. The three-story brick

schoolhouse built in 1914-15 was noted to be the third (12th grade) high school built in Saunders County after Wahoo and Ashland. Electricity was provided by the Fremont Gas, Electric Light and Power Company plant via electric line built from Fremont to Cedar Bluffs. Electric lighting rates were \$0.05-\$0.50 per kWh and the power rates were \$0.02-\$0.05 kWh. In April 1919, an application for Riverside Electric Light & Power Company of Cedar Bluffs to construct a transmission line to the south of town. Farm lines had been built north of town with five miles serving 11 customers. The village charged a rate of \$0.10/KWH, which increased revenue for the village.

The population was 516 in 1920 and in July, the Fremont Gas & Electric Company asked to increase wholesale rates, which was refused by the village. In January 1922, the village bought the transmission line from the south bank of the Platte River to the Fremont city limits for \$1,000. The wholesale electric rates then were reduced from \$0.06 to \$0.05 and retail rates from \$0.12 to \$0.11 with

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Nebraska utilities history – Cedar Bluffs

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a \$1 per month minimum rate. Main Street was leveled and gravelled in 1923 and the village levied a 0.4 mill tax for new equipment. The first fire truck was purchased in 1926 and in 1928, the old fire hall meeting room was purchased for \$4,000. By 1927, the electric load increased along low voltage and line loss of 25 percent, mostly from the No. 6 iron wire used from the south bank of the Platte to the Fremont city limits. An engineer recommendation was to replace and reconstruct the village's distribution system. On June 25, 1928, the village negotiated to sell the transmission line and distribution system to the Nebraska Power Company. On July 17, 1928, the Nebraska Power Company took over the transmission line for \$35,000. Wholesale rates changed from \$0.05 to \$0.06 per kWh and retail rates changed from \$0.11 to \$0.12 per kWh.

The water plant and distribution mains had rates of \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum of \$8 per year for 18,000 gallons.

The depression started in 1929, the population in 1930 was 517 and a new well was drilled south of the city hall in 1934. The electric distribution system was supplied/operated by the Nebraska Power Company and a new brick auditorium was constructed in 1936 (WPA project). A necktie factory was operating. By 1940, the population was 504 and the fire department purchased gas masks, a resuscitator in 1944 and a new Ford fire truck in May 1946. On Dec. 26, 1944, the Nebraska Power Company common stock was purchased by the Oma-

ha Electric Committee who held the property. In December 1946, the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) purchased the electric system. The electrical system is now owned/operated/wholesale supplied by Omaha Public Power District (OPPD).

The fire hall was sold in 1955 at auction for \$750 and in 1956, the rural fire district was formed. A new Dodge fire truck was purchased with a 500-gallon per minute (gpm) pump and a 500-gallon storage capacity. A new block fire hall building was constructed to house the rural district and village fire trucks along with an additional meeting room. A well was dug near Veterans Memorial Building in 1957, which had a capacity of about 250 gpm. Water fees were a flat fee of \$1.50 per month. A new two-room addition was built onto the north side of the existing school in 1959.

By 1960, the population increased to 585 and by October 1963, OPPD completed a new office and garage on Main Street. The Nebraska Natural Gas Company laid gas lines through the village, later owned by Fremont Utilities. Land (60 ft x 60 ft) was purchased for a park in 1966 and playground equipment was installed. Restrooms, a tennis court, two large concrete slabs for shelters, a park sign, water, electricity and grills (cost about \$18,000) were added. A new post office building was erected in 1968 and a café opened. In 1969, the school took over the old city park located west of the high school and an elementary school was built.

The population increased to 616 by 1970, the electric distribution

system was operated by OPPD and the natural gas was operated by Fremont Utilities. A new 150,000-gallon elevated storage tank was built in 1974-76 and water consumption was 80 million gallons. A wastewater treatment plant project was completed in 1975 and a pumper truck was purchased by the fire department in 1976. A street paving project was completed north and east of the school (1978). Water consumption was 65 million gallons due to restrictions in 1981 and the village drilled a new well. The water system has two, four, six and eight-inch mains with 285 unmetered services. Rates increased from \$1.50 in 1970 to \$9.75 in 1981. Water meters were installed in 1982 and the water system operated with a 150,000-gallon water storage tank. The last train pulled through Cedar Bluffs in September 1981 and by 1983, the railroad tracks were removed. The Fire Hall was enlarged and remodeled (1983) with an added bay and meeting room. A new 4x4 truck was purchased in 1985 to phase out the 1964 4x4 truck. Cable television came to town in 1983 and in 1984, OPPD linemen were transferred to the North Bend office. The natural gas system had 183 customers in 1987 and the village operated a mechanical sewage disposal plant (activated sludge system) located on the east side of town. The plant's daily load was 40,000 gallons per day, but design capabilities of 90,000 gallons per day.

The population decreased from 660 in 1980 to 591 in 1990 and the wastewater treatment facility

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Nebraska utilities history – Cedar Bluffs

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was an activated sludge extended aeration system designed for 0.066 million gallons per day, consisting of aerobic digester sludge treatment and chlorine gas disinfection. In 2000, the population was 615 and in 2001, a three-block (\$175,000) street paving project began. Many of the streets were hard surfaced and curbed with sidewalks. In 2003, the fire department purchased an aerial truck and a 3,500-gallon Danko tanker truck. The insurance rating of the water system and fire department in 2008 was a classification of 6/9. A brick (17,493 ft) elementary school was built in 2007 for \$315,625.

The population in 2010 was 582 and in 2009-2011, the village was constructing a complete retention lagoon wastewater treatment facility to replace the old mechanical plant for \$1 million. The new system consisted of four lagoon cells on seven acres. New street signs were purchased in 2012 and the water system reported a water loss of only 8.1 percent.

Today, Cedar Bluffs has a population of 615, has been incorporated since 1886 (135 years) and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member. The village maintains several blocks of street and park, which includes the Legion Park (two ballpark fields) with a military tank. The electric system is operated by OPPD and the natural gas system is operated by Fremont Utilities. Waste Connections, a private company, provides solid waste collection service.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956,

1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1989, 1991-1998, 2000-2003, 2005-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928; Cedar Bluffs In Days Past 1886-1986; Cedar Bluffs Diamond Jubilee, Cedar Bluffs Nebraska 1886-1961, 1961; Cedar Bluffs, NE Where The Pioneer Spirit Lives On, (1886-1986) 1986; Saunders County History Internet Website, 2009; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Diamond Jubilee 1886-1961, Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska 1961; Cedar Bluffs-In Days Past, 978.288 C389, (1886-1986), 1886; Nebraska Our Towns...Central Northeast, 1990; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Cedar Bluffs Web-

site, 2005; Sargent Leader newspaper, 1912-13; Wikipedia website, 2017-2019; Past and Present of Saunders County Nebraska, 1915; Saunders County NEGen Web Project, 2010; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; NPPD Website, 2011; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941; Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska, 1935; and The Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915.

Fire Prevention Week

Oct. 9-15, 2022, was recognized as Fire Prevention Week. The National Fire Prevention Agency (NFPA), which was founded in 1896, has celebrated this week since 1922 (100th Anniversary). This first week of October was chosen, in part, to commemorate the devastating “Great Chicago Fire,” which started Oct. 8, 1871. More than 250 people were killed, 100,000 left homeless and more than 17,400 structures destroyed on 2,000 plus acres of land. The NFPA is a nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. More information on its codes, standards and basic fire prevention safety can be found on its website at www.nfpa.org.

Did your utility or municipality do anything to celebrate this week? This week should highlight safety meetings and discussing fire safety, which might include reviewing evacuation (escape) routes in each municipal building to see if anything has changed or needs updating. When a fire occurs, do we know who or how many people are in the building at the time? We need a head count to ensure everybody makes it safely out of the structure or area.

Often many of our communities' older buildings are public facilities such as courthouses, libraries and city halls, which predated a lot of our safety requirements of today. A series of remodeling or refurbishing down through the

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Fire Prevention Week

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years have been made. One of the first things I notice is the lack of outlets, thus the multiple plug in strips along with portable space heaters throughout the office during the winter.

The League building had a fire in 1972, which gutted a majority of the workroom, which apparently was started by a piece of paper laying against a hot copier (used for Friday mailings). The fire destroyed office supplies, furniture, file cabinets and content. Since I have been at the League, I know of at least four municipalities that lost or had a city/village hall damaged to a fire: Blue Springs, Ravenna, Indianola and Louisville.

It is important to make sure our alarms are installed and in working order. In many cases, this means making sure batteries are changed. Smoke detectors also have a life cycle, so we need to know how long the unit has been in service and in what environment to ensure they are working properly. Make sure in our daily work, we do not compromise or block escape routes such as hallways, entry ways and windows. What we often call temporary, sometimes becomes more permanent, so keep a clean path to safety. Does your system practice fire drills and are they followed with a discussion to determine if any adjustments are needed? I have been told our fire departments have a post meeting following each fire to discuss what went right, what went wrong and what needs to be addressed when the next fire occurs.

Fire departments have been around since our communities

were first started as in almost every municipality's history, we have lost a portion of the business district due to fire, not to mention residential fires

The first Hook & Ladder Company was formed in 1857, called the Otoe Hook & Ladder Company. In 1865, the Nebraska City Fire Co. #1 and the Great Western Fire Co. in 1869 was formed. These three fire companies formed one department in 1905, the Nebraska City Fire Department. Some other communities with early fire companies include the Pioneer Hook & Ladder Co. of Omaha, a Tecumseh company in about 1860 and another in Hastings by 1878.

Fire safety training should include evacuation routes, locations of fire extinguishers and fire hoses, along with the types of fires, types of extinguishers, how to use extinguishers and the extent of their capabilities.

There are five classes of fires, which are: Class A – combustible material as such as wood, firecrackers and plastic paper; Class B – flammable liquids and chemicals; Class C – electrical; and Class D – metals. Class D fires involve metals used to be considered rare, but it has increased because of electronic, battery powered equipment office equipment, vehicles etc. The last is Class K, which are grease or cooking fires involving flammable liquids similar the Class B fires, but specific to food service areas.

Three types of fire extinguisher typically are used. They are A, B and C extinguishers using dry powder, A and B uses aqueous film foaming and C only uses HCFC. Remember your first fire

extinguisher training when the "PASS" method was mentioned? **P**-ull the pin, **A**-im at the base of the fire, **S**-queeze the operating handle and **S**-weep from side to side.

Who in your workplace is in charge of seeing that the fire extinguishers are tested and get proper maintenance? When was the last time your facility has been inspected by the local fire department to ensure that it meets fire codes? What kind of alarms does your facility use? If batteries are involved, they need to be checked and/or replaced. Who keeps the training records? Lastly, what is insured in case of a fire and how good is the inventory of the items contained in and around the facility?

October is National Cyber Security Month

According to Online Trust Alliance, internet use has grown from less than 14 million people in 1992 to over 4 billion in 2019 and from 2018 to 2019, over 5 billion sensitive records have been compromised through online breaches. Only fitting that the month of October also is recognized by another group as "Crime Prevention Month." As we use more technology such as smart metering, smart homes SCADA etc., we also need to be aware of security issues that may arise. Information on kits, training and awareness tips can be found at www.nationaltoday.com/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month.

Nebraska utilities history – Creighton

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By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Creighton, located in Knox County, saw the Bruce Colony settling in the area by April 1871, which was organized in Omaha, Jan. 31, 1871. A post office was established Aug. 21, 1871. By 1873, a blacksmith shop was started and a mill dam was constructed on Bazile Creek. The north side of the town site was platted June 24, 1874 (originally as Bruce Colony) and 100-foot wide and one mile long Main Street was platted. The first frame store structure was built (1874) and the settlement was named in honor of John A. Creighton. In 1876, a school was erected and the population in 1880 was listed at 10.

By 1880, a merchandise store, a hotel and a furniture store were operating and church services were being held. On June 3, 1881, the first Sioux City & Pacific Railroad train arrived and that year, the Main Street was widened. By 1882, the population

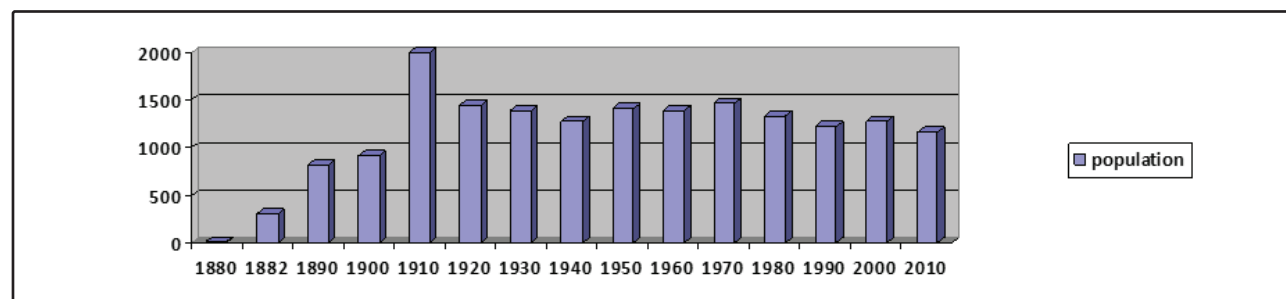
was estimated at 300, the Baptist Church was organized and some of the businesses included three lumberyards, two wind powered grist mills, a hardware store, an implement dealer, a harness shop, a furniture store and a grocery store. The Knox County Bank was established and on April 26, 1882, the *Creighton Regulator Newspaper* was established. On July 28, 1882, Creighton was said to have been incorporated as a village, although one source noted incorporation as June 24, 1874. Also, one source noted a town-site was laid out by Pioneer Town-site Company in 1885. In 1889, a fire destroyed an entire block of the business district.

By 1890, the population was 822 (one source about 900) and the first electric system was operated by Fred Largen, an electric contractor in Nebraska (1895-1912), and later Andy Schneider. The Creighton Bottling Works started making soda pop in 1890, the *Courier* newspaper was being printed and the Creighton Feed Mill was operating. Other busi-

nesses included a saloon, a fence manufacturer, a general store, restaurant, a grocery store, a millinery, a bakery, a meat market, a blacksmith, Commercial House Hotel, a furniture store, First National Bank, a hardware store, a livery barn, a roller flour mill, a lumberyard and a shoemaker. By 1894, a volunteer fire department was organized and telephones were installed in 1899.

The population was 909 by 1900. Creighton became a city of the second class in 1907 and a new school was built. The population reached 2,000 by 1910 and in 1914, a new public library was built. A water system was installed, which took water from Bazile Creek and pumped it to a wooden water tower used for water protection. Domestic water had become a problem, so a new water system was installed in 1912-13, which included a 100,000-gallon standpipe being erected for \$9,000. The water system by 1915 consisted of two open wells located one-half mile from the cen-

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Nebraska utilities history – Creighton

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ter of the business section, three “Ruemmeli” air compressors (1914) driven by 20 horsepower (HP) electric motors and a 24-HP Alamo (1914) gasoline engine pumping to the 1912 standpipe. The Creighton Gas, Electric Light & Power Company in 1915 had a 115 horsepower (HP) boiler, a 100 HP steam engine, a 100 HP gas engine and a generator rating of 160 kilovolt Ampere (kVA). The fire department had 37 volunteer firefighters, a hook/ladder truck, two hose reels with 2,000 feet (ft) of cotton/rubber lined hose and an alarm bell. On June 1, 1916, a city hall project had bonds of \$20,000 at 5 percent interest.

The population was 1,446 by 1920 and paving projects were underway, which included paving Main Street. The electrical power was supplied by Interstate Power System in 1923 and by 1928, electric rates were \$0.17 per kilowatt hour (kWh). Water rates were \$0.25 per 100 cubic feet (cuft). In 1929, Creighton granted a franchise to erect a power plant/ice plant to the Western States Utilities as they had issues with Interstate Power over the franchise rights. By 1930, the population was 1,388 and in 1936, Western State Power Utility Company provided power using internal combustion power of 450 kW. The council awarded a franchise in 1939 to the Western States Utilities Company for erecting a power plant in the city. *The Interstate Power Company had a lawsuit against Western States Utilities Company.*

The population was 1,272 by 1940 and the water system in

1942 consisted of two 10-inch diameter wells about 51 feet (ft) deep and pumped with a 250 gpm Pomona turbine pump with 15 horsepower (HP) electric combination electric or gas (10-minute change) and one 150 gpm Pomona turbine electric pump with 10 HP motor. The village also had a 19 HP Allis-Chalmers power unit (4 cylinders) for use on the 250 gallons per minute (gpm) pump belt drive. Pumps were controlled by Automatic Control Company controls set at a six-pound difference. Water was pumped to a 16 ft diameter 88 ft high standpipe with a capacity of 132,350 gallons when full. All water was metered by a Sparling main line meter with the kilowatt per hour recorded. There were 1,280 ft of eight-inch diameter mains, 6,700 ft of six-inch mains, 28,600 ft of four-inch mains, 3,275 ft of three-inch mains and 775 ft of two-inch mains for a total of 40,630 ft. There were 58 fire hydrants, 48 main line gate valves and four fire hydrant gate valves. The disposal and sewer system had an automatic electric wet well pump, a hand-operated sludge pump and a 100-gallon electric hand-operated pump for washing tanks in 1942. There were 1,140 ft of 15-inch diameter sewer mains, 2,280 ft of 12-inch sewer mains, 43,753 ft of eight-inch mains for a total of 47,173 ft of sewer mains. In the 1940s, the Interstate Power Company Nebraska properties were acquired by Consumers Public Power District.

In 1950, the population was 1,401 and in the 1950s, natural gas became available, the railroad passenger service was discon-

tinued and a swimming pool and hospital were built (1953). The population increased from 1,388 in 1960 to 1,461 in 1970 with school consolidations in the 1960s and a new high school in 1962. The electric distribution system was owned by Consumers Public Power District until 1970. In 1970-71, the Nebraska Public Power District installed a 69/2.4 Delta substation and the city signed a wholesale power agreement with NPPD. The electric distributions system was owned by the city and operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District. In 1971, a contract with the Western Plains Construction Company of Lincoln for curb and gutter work was started with completion projected for October. By 1980, the population was 1,341 and by 1982, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. A wastewater treatment facility project was underway in 1986.

By 1990, the population was 1,223 and about 1998, Creighton connected its water system to Bazille Mills to supply them water. The city was operating an activated sludge oxidation ditch treatment facility designed for 0.202 million gallons per day (mgd) with aerobic digester sludge treatment. In 2000, the population was 1,270 and the fire department had 36 volunteer firefighters. In 2005, an ice storm (electrical surges) knocked out the SCADA system to water controls. In 2007, the fire department purchased a grass fire unit and had an ISO insurance class rating of 7/9. The city operated a Creighton

Continued on page 11

Nebraska utilities history – Creighton

Continued from page 10

Municipal Airport, a Creighton Public Library, a Public Creighton Country Club Golf Course and a city park "Bruce Park Arboretum" with RV camping, swimming pool, picnic shelter and ball fields. Telephone service was provided by Great Plains Communications in 2009 and the population decreased slightly to 1,108 by 2010. A private company provided solid waste collection service and the natural gas was operated by SourceGas and supplied by ACE. The natural gas system was supplied via a three-inch transmission line with operating pressure of 700-800 pounds per square inch (psi). The water system had two wells with an average capacity of 0.30 mgd, a peak demand of 1.0 mgd and a storage capacity of 300,000 gallons. The sanitary sewer system and a storm sewer system had a capacity of 0.20 mgd, an average daily demand of 0.24 mgd and a peak demand of 0.56 mgd. By 2010, 90 percent of the city streets were hard surfaced and on May 31, 2013, a swimming pool opened. In 2013, a water project included painting the water tower and the installation of variable frequency drives on the wells.

The painting began June 10 after the sandblasting was completed June 9. By 2015, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Black Hills Energy and in October 2018, NPPD installed new electric meters to residences and businesses.

Today, the population is 1,147, Creighton has been incorporated for 140 years (115 as a city of the second class) and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section Member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2014, 2016-2020; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, 1942, 1960, 1964, 1967, 1971, 1972, 2008; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Summer Recreation Guide, O'Neill Shopper, 2003; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; Neligh Leader newspaper, 1939-41; Nebraska Our Towns...North Northeast, 1990; O'Neill Shopper 2003 Summer Recreation Guide, 2003; Discover Northeast Nebraska, Official Visitor Guide, 2007; Maps Tell A Story, 1991;

NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Who's Who in Nebraska, Knox County, 1940; Nebraska Fast Facts Community Profile Website, 2010; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Electric World, Vol. 65, 1915; The McGraw Waterworks Directory, 1915; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the Governor, 1935; U.S. Congressional Serial set, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936 and the Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915.

Reminder

Daylight savings time will end, meaning we will "fall back" by moving our clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 6. The change shifts more daylight hours into the morning.

Arizona and Hawaii do not recognize daylight savings time. For everyone else, it is a time to change the clocks before bed on Saturday and get ready for dark afternoons.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia "Just For Fun"

Q-1. What percent of the Nebraska population lives in Sarpy, Douglas and Lancaster Counties?

Q-2. How many fire departments are in Nebraska?

Q-3. What city in Nebraska is located between the

communities of Foster and Hadar on Highway 13?

How well do you know Nebraska?

Q-4. Do you know where in Nebraska this water treatment plant is located?

Answers on page 20.



Nebraska utilities history – Humboldt

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Humboldt, located in Richardson County, had settlers in the area by 1855. Along the Brownville Freight Road, Franklin F. Ferguson laid out a station called Franklin which included a warehouse (1854-56). A town site was located and on Jan. 13, 1860, a plat was mentioned. On Jan. 11, 1861, a post office was established in the area. The “Stone Store” was built on the banks of the Long Branch in 1867 and a school was organized with the Grant School built on Third Street, east of the town square. In the spring of 1868, a 10-block plat was laid out by E.P. Tinker and O.J. Tinker. The townsite apparently was named by Mr. Tinker for Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Heinrich Alexander Von Humboldt who was a noted German polymath, geographer, explorer and naturalist. Although another source noted it was likely named for Humboldt, Tennessee. A flour mill was three-fourths of a mile from town in 1868 and the Enoch House hotel was established/built in 1869. An Opera House was built in 1870

and the settlement had about a half dozen houses. Land for a park was presented to the village by O. J. Tinker Jan. 12, 1971. The Humboldt Cemetery was established (1871), consisting of eight acres located west of town on the hill. The Atchison & Nebraska Railroad arrived in the area in 1871, a corn and flour grist mill was built and the Central House Hotel was erected. Due to increased population, a new school was built in 1873 (\$3,000 bond) located on Fourth Street with the high school upstairs. On Dec. 3, 1873, Humboldt was incorporated as a village (one source lists 1875, which may be as a city of the second class). From 1873-1879, a second mill was built, a lumberyard, a shoe shop, a feed business, a cheese factory and the Humboldt Bank were established. Orrin Alonzo Cooper in 1875 purchased an electrical light plant for his mill. The mill burned in 1879 and was rebuilt. A carriage factory was started in 1879 and the population was estimated at 1,200.

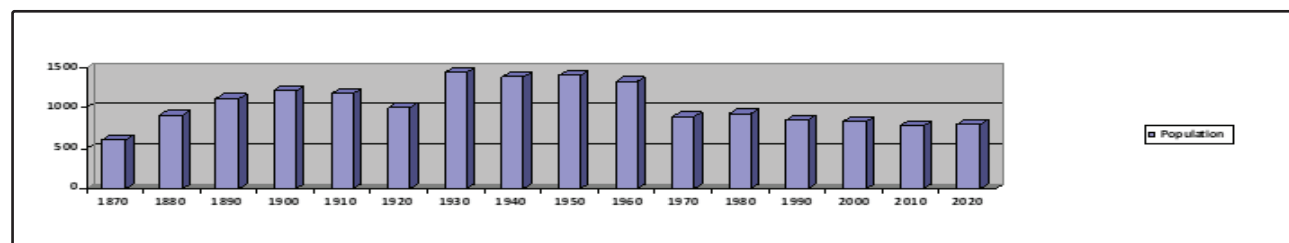
The census listed the population at 917 in 1880 and businesses included two grist mills, a bank, several dry goods stores, two drug



Humboldt water storage tower. 1999 photo.

stores, two hardware stores, two grain warehouses, two hotels, a large lumberyard and numerous other businesses (many businesses made of brick). The *Sentinel* newspaper was being published in 1880 and the *Humboldt Daily News* was established in 1881. The Bruum Library was established in 1884 and in 1886, Lydia Braun deeded the building to the village for \$1. The Humboldt Park Racing Association built a one-half mile racetrack in 1886 and by 1887, businesses included a meat

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Nebraska utilities history – Humboldt

Continued from page 12

market, a furniture store, grocery, a drug store, three banks, two hotels, six general stores, a hardware store, a jewelry store, two implement dealers, three blacksmiths, a shoe store, two harness shops, two lumberyards and three livery shops. In 1885-86, a two-story (40 ft x 40 ft) brick school was built (cost over \$15,000) and the population was estimated at about 2,000.

In 1890, the population was 1,114 and by 1893-95, water

mains were installed for \$20,000 by engineer A. A. Richardson, construction was by David Spicer. By 1894, a standpipe and three miles of water mains were approved. A well was tapped into with gravity flow to a reservoir then pumped into the new standpipe. The system also consisted of 33 hydrants (cost \$825). The Humboldt Flour Mill was destroyed by fire in 1895 and that year, 1,000 feet of fire hose was purchased. By 1896, the water system was supplied by the Long

Band Stream, using a Deane pump with a capacity of 850,000 gallons (gals.), filtered of gravel and charcoal, then pumped to the 94,000-gallon (20 ft x 40 ft) iron standpipe. At this time, there were 128 taps to iron services, two meters (hotel & bank), with a consumption average of 200,000 gals. The debt was \$17,500, floating \$5,000 at 8 percent interest due by 1914. In 1898, the telephone company was organized and the city began purchasing electricity

Continued on page 14



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Nebraska utilities history – Humboldt

Continued from page 13
from Falls City.

In connection with his mill, O.A. Cooper had extended electrical lines and furnished light and power for much of Humboldt.

The population was 1,218 by 1900, the Powers Sheep Company was established and Harding's Sale Barn was built. The City Electric Light Company was operating in 1905 and in 1906, the Humboldt Brick Company was incorporated. The brick company had 12 kilns with a capacity of 60,000 bricks each. One reference noted that at one time, nearly every railroad platform in Nebraska was paved with Humboldt bricks. In 1907, bonds of \$5,000 were voted on for a sewer system and in August 1909, a water well was dug pumping water to the filter tunnel to the covered reservoir (capacity 113,000 gallons). A Deane triplex pump was used and the water system consisted of four-and-a-half miles of four, six and eight-inch diameter cast iron mains and 52 double hydrants. The average daily consumption in the summer was 30,000 gallons and in winter it was 20,000 gallons.

The population by 1910 was 1,176 and Rist's Plainview Hog and Seed Company was established in 1911.

The *Humboldt Standard* newspaper was operating by 1912 and two acres of land was deeded for use as a public square park, which included a bandstand dedicated in June. On June 28, 1914, a natatorium (indoor swimming pool), located near the pumping station, was opened to the public. The swimming pool, filled with Humboldt's pure spring water, was 80 ft long x 30 ft wide with depths

at three-nine feet (closed before 1945). An addition was made at the school in 1913 and by 1915, the fire department had 30 volunteer firefighters along with a hook/ladder truck, three hose wagons with 1,200 ft cotton/rubber lined hose and an alarm bell. A privately owned power plant provided power in 1915 for the village with rates of \$0.06-\$0.15 per kWh (sliding scale). The municipal water works, which cost \$12,500, had rates of \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons maximum. The water system consisted of wells pumped directly to a one million gallon reservoir (located near the creek), a (20 ft x 40 ft) steel standpipe with a capacity of 94,000 gallons and a pump/engine with a 500,000 gallon per day (gpd) capacity. There were five miles of iron mains four, six and eight-inch in diameter with 36 hydrants, 31 valves, eight meters to 162 services (galvanized & wrought iron pipe) services. The consumption was 30,000 gpd with a system domestic pressure of about 50 pounds per square inch (psi) and fire at 125 psi. The source of water was supplied from two springs located east of town (1917). Telephone service was available by 1917 and some of the businesses included three general stores, a hardware store, a drug store, a harness shop, two blacksmith shops, millinery shops, a furniture store, a billiard hall, two hotels, a flour mill, a barber shop, a large brick manufacturing plant, a creamery, bottling works, a newspaper, Eagle Restaurant, two saloons and auto garages. The O. A. Cooper power plant, located next to the mill, had a 110 HP Corliss engine in 1917, which furnished power to other industries.

Some of these included the brick manufacturing plant, creamery, bottling works, newspaper and auto garage along with electric lines installed to neighboring towns. Electricity was supplied to the Village of Dawson by 1918.

In 1920, the population was 1,277 and the dirt streets were replaced with brick in the downtown area and the road to the railroad depot. The Humboldt Mill Electric Light Plant ran nights, Sundays and holidays until a fire in 1922. The fire department, located on the northwest corner of 4th Street, had two hose reel carts with 1,200 ft hose, a hook/ladder truck, a 30-gallon chemical truck with 300 ft of chemical hose and 60 volunteer firefighters. The water system was fed by the two springs into a 34,000-gallon covered reservoir, then pumped using one Gould (6x6) pump, one Gould (4x6) each with a capacity of 60 gallons per minute (gpm) and a five horsepower (HP) Delco oil engine. Frank O. Rist started one of the first radio stations in Nebraska KGDW in 1925. The municipal water system rates were \$0.05-\$0.15 per gallons used. The O. A. Cooper Company sold its electric business at Humboldt and Table Rock in 1925 to the Nebraska Gas and Electric Company. The latter company had been purchasing current from the Cooper plant and distributing it to several neighboring villages (mill was not included in the sale). Electric rates were \$0.06-\$0.15 per kilowatt (kW).

The population increased to 1,435 by 1930 and a three-story school was built for all grades, which included a gym. Natural

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Nebraska utilities history – Humboldt

Continued from page 14

gas was being used by 1932 and later supplied by Peoples Natural Gas Company. In June 1937, oil wells were drilled to the Cambrian shale or granite (about 800-1,200 ft) eight miles south and one mile west of Humboldt. Later, another oil test well was drilled on the east side of the Humboldt fault line just into Richardson County. The electric distribution system was operated by Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company, which had a capacity of 480 kW of steam power generation by 1936. In the spring of 1941, Consumers Public Power District purchased the Nebraska properties of the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company.

The population decreased slightly to 1,386 in 1940 and in 1941, a \$20,000 Works Progress Administration (WPA) grant was approved for construction of an auditorium building. Bids were let in March and a 163 ft x 120 ft auditorium was constructed using concrete and limestone quarried locally. Materials included 132 tons of crushed rock, 43 tons of sand, 780 sacks of cement and about 10 tons of reinforcing steel. The facility was dedicated Dec. 9, 1942,

for \$50,000 with the city share of \$20,000. The building was maintained from a tax levy and income rentals. Additional cemetery land was purchased in 1948 with a cemetery board formed. The Holman Memorial Maternity Hospital was built in 1949. Also, in the 1940s, three stores were destroyed by fire (estimated damage \$15,000) and a permanent airport was established.

By 1950, the population was 1,404 and a swimming pool bond of \$15,000 was approved by a vote of 321-112 in December 1951. The new (40 ft x 82 ft) pool, which cost \$45,000, opened June 22 and was dedicated July 4. In 1956, a private garbage collector provided collection service, a road improvement project was underway and the cemetery, owned by the city, was maintained from a tax levy and the sale of lots. The sewer system was maintained from a tax levy and the water system had 515 meters in service with a meter deposit of \$3. The electrical distribution system was owned/supplied by Consumers Public Power District and the natural gas system was operated by Peoples Natural Gas and supplied

by Northern Natural Gas. The population by 1960 was 1,322, the water system had 525 meters and the sewer system was maintained from a service charge of \$0.25 per month along with a tax levy. The two-story brick municipal building became a one-story building in 1965 as the roof was lowered. The 1904 well was taken out of service in 1967 and a new Community Memorial Hospital was built and opened Nov. 1, 1967.

By 1970, the population was 1,194 and the electric system was operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). A new building was built at the fair grounds in 1972, Leonard Rexroth received the Scott Wilber Award and a wastewater treatment plant project was in progress in 1978. On Sept. 9, 1982, the Lions fountain was dedicated and in 1987, the Richardson County Rural Water District No. 1 was founded.

An entrance was built on the west drive of the south cemetery in 1975 and a new tool shed/shop/garage was added in 1984. The population decreased from 1,176 in 1980 to 1,003 in 1990 and in May 1992, the operation of the

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Nebraska utilities history – Humboldt

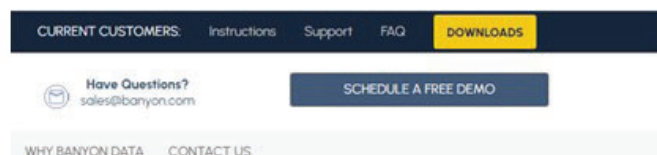
Continued from page 15
wastewater system was contracted to PeopleService. A new water storage tower was erected in 1994, replacing the 100-year-old stand-pipe and the water system was operated by PeopleService. By 1999, the city had two parks, consisting of 19 acres with a swimming pool, athletic field, picnic grounds, a fishing lake, basketball/tennis courts and a camping area. The city had brick-paved streets surrounding the park in the main square. The city maintained a wastewater treatment facility, which consists of an activated bio-

filter system, anaerobic digester single-stage sludge treatment designed for 0.205 million gallons per day (mgd).

The population decreased to 941 by 2000, and a new \$3.4 million wastewater treatment facility was completed in 2001. The operation of the facility was contracted to PeopleService. In 2005, the bandstand roof in the park was refurbished compliments of the Rotary. School mergers by the mid-2000s included Elk Creek, Southeast Nebraska (Stella) School, then later Table Rock-Steinauer and about half of the Dawson School

District. In 2006, Humboldt received a \$250,000 grant to replace more than 5,000 feet of water and sewer lines in the central business district. Ultraviolet disinfection was added to the wastewater treatment facility in 2009 and the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Energy. By 2010, the population was 877 and the water system consisted of a rated capacity of 1.2 mgd, an average capacity 0.175 mgd and a peak demand of 0.3 mgd. In 2018, the four municipal wells supplied 22 commercial, five industrial and

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Nebraska utilities history – Humboldt

Continued from page 16
about 500 residential customers, all metered.

The Humboldt Auditorium renovation project to be completed in 2020 used donations/grants of \$900,000, total cost about \$2 million.

Today, Humboldt has a population of 800, has been incorporated since December 1873 and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956-1967, 1969-1995, 1997-2007, 2009-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1925, 1946; Water Resources of

Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; History of the State of Nebraska, Andreas 1882; History of Richardson County, Nebraska Its People, Industries, Institutions (The Heritage Collection), 1917; Train Time in Nebraska: The Post Card Era, 2005; Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast, 1992; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; Lincoln State Journal, June 1887 Humboldt Website, 2010 (www.ci.humboldt.ne.su/history.asp); Municipal Journal & Public Works, Political Science Vol. 23, 1907; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916;

Northwestern Reporter, Vol. 187, Department of Labor and Department of Compensation, 1917-18; Gothenburg Independent Newspaper, 1895-96 BLS Report 1905-06, 1907; 4th Annual Issue: The Manual of American Water Works, 1897; Richardson County Nebraska, 1985; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Wikipedia website, 2020; The Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915; and the Electric Rate Survey: Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 by U.S. Federal Power Commission, 1935.

SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Accident/Fatality Trend Data

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

A recent article in the October 2022 *Safety+Health Magazine* noted some interesting data. Fatal workplace injuries are most likely to occur on Thursdays in the month of August (according to a recent analysis). Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics were used to determine risks and various characteristics of fatal injuries recorded. Of the 5,250 fatalities, 922 occurred on Thursday followed by 906 on Wednesday; 852 each on Monday and Tuesday; 826 on Friday. Interesting that Saturday had 551 and Sunday had 31. August was the deadliest month with 493 fatalities followed by July (488), May (475) and June (472). The only two months with fewer than 400 fa-

talities were February (369) and December (353). Some of these number make sense as warmer months have more people active outside.

When looking at the fatality by different industries, the following was noted: construction (1,008), transportation and warehouse (874), natural resources and mining (704), agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (574). In these, the head was most affected (992), followed by trunk (body) with 826 fatal incidents. When checking age groups, the following was noted: 45-54 and 55-64 had most fatalities with 1,114 and 1,104 which together accounted for 42 percent of all fatal injuries.

Some of the data goes against data we used in the 1980s as accidents then mainly occurred on

Mondays or Fridays and sometimes prior to or following a long or holiday weekend. These were accidents, not fatalities, but it is interesting on what day the article noted appeared the most dangerous. Every municipality should look at its individual utilities data to see what trends come up and not just data for all industries or different sized system. Your insurance carrier should have a good date for your safety committees to look at when checking for trends. The old saying of what goes around comes around reminds us most events or occurrences are cyclic unless something is changed. Accidents and fatalities are no different, as changes often need to be made in order to disrupt the cycle. Safety not addressed is likely to be repeated or occur again in the form of accidents. Think safe.

Classifieds

The City of North Platte is Hiring!

Due to growth and retirements, the City of North Platte is currently looking to fill the following job positions:

- Director of Information Systems
- Public Service Director
- Administrative Secretary/Public Relations Coordinator
- Personnel & Payroll Technician
- Assistant Concessions/Rides Manager
- Semi-Truck Driver (Maintenance Worker III)
- Sanitation Driver-Loader
- Assistant Accountant/Internal Auditor
- Part-time Parks Maintenance I
- Police Officer
- Part-time Technology Assistant – Library
- Senior Accountant
- Storm -Water Management & Code Enforcement Officer
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Please refer to the City of North Platte's web site for the job descriptions of each job position listed at: <https://www.ci.north-platte.ne.us/>. A job application is on the City of North Platte's web site or you may get an application

at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. Closing for the job positions will be Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, unless otherwise noted on the City of North Platte's web site. Please submit completed job applications by email to: info@ci.north-platte.ne.us. Mail to: City of North Platte, Attn: City Clerk's Office, 211 West 3rd Street, North Platte, NE 69101.

Apprentice/Journeyman Linework. Experience in construction, operation and maintenance of overhead and underground high voltage electrical facilities or graduation from an accredited technical college line-technician program is desirable. Willing to train the right person. 40-hour week, rotating call schedule; residency requirement – Nemaha County and no more than 12 miles from where they report to work; competitive salary and excellent benefit package. Send resume including salary history and three references to Board of Public Works, PO Box 288, Auburn, NE 68305-0288 or email to dhunter@auburnbpw.com. Position is open until filled. EOE.

Full Time Maintenance Personnel. The Village of Eagle



(population 1,065) is currently accepting applications for full time Maintenance Personnel. This position requires a variety of duties including the operation and maintenance of light, medium and heavy equipment such as street sweepers, snowplow trucks, backhoes, skid steers and mowing equipment; operation of the water well system and wastewater treatment facility; routine building and property ground maintenance; general repair and maintenance of equipment; and experience in basic plumbing and construction or maintenance techniques. Municipal or maintenance background preferred. Candidate must have a valid Nebraska driver's license. Physical and background

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Classifieds

Continued from page 18
check required upon offer of employment. Certification as a Class IV Water Operator and Class II Wastewater Operator desired or may be required within 12 months of employment. Salary range is \$13-\$19 per hour (without Water and/or Sewer License); \$16-\$26 per hour (with a single Water or Sewer License); and \$19-\$29 per hour (with both a Water and Sewer License). Benefits package includes health, dental, vision, disability/life insurance, retirement, paid vacation, holidays and sick leave. Applications may be obtained at the Village of Eagle office located at 747 South 2nd Street, Eagle, NE 68347 or online at www.eaglene.gov/employment-application. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please contact Nick Nystrom at 402-781-2748 or by e-mail at nick@eaglene.gov for additional job description information.

Apprentice Lineman. City of Benkelman is accepting applications for the position of Appren-

tice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position's responsibilities include, but aren't limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems, operate a high lift bucket truck, digger derrick, and other equipment, assists other City operations, and perform other duties as required, available for 24-hour emergency calls. Requirements include high school graduation, ability to

obtain a CDL license issued by the State of NE within 1 year of hire. Excellent benefits package is included. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a post-offer physical and drug test. The City of Benkelman is an EOE. Applications can be picked up at the City of Benkelman Office located at 126 7th Ave E, Benkelman, NE 69021 or by calling 308-423-2540. The City of Benkelman is an EOE.

Milestone celebration recognition

Is your municipality or utility celebrating a historic milestone? We are encouraging members to provide any information on milestones being celebrated such as 75 years of operating the electric system.

When was your water, wastewater, electric, power generation system established? When were facilities built, improvements made, etc. If your utility is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year

milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones. The Utilities Section provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

You can request them by contacting the League office by email brendah@lonm.org or fax 402-476-7052.

Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations! **Incorporation Anniversary Recognition:** 115 years – **Chappell** (1907-village); 120 years – Cornlea (Oct. 28, 1902-village); 135 years – **Henderson** (1887-village) and **Springfield** (1887-village); 140 years – **Wood River** (1882).

Bayard has been a city of the second class for 105 years (since October 1917). **Tilden** has been incorporated for 140 years (34 as

a village and 96 as a city of the second class).

The first asphalt pavement in **Omaha** was laid 140 years ago (1882) on Douglas Street from 14th to 16th Streets.

Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about – new hires, promotions, awards, certifications, anniversa-



ries/milestones, accomplishments, grants/funding or projects?

Let us help you celebrate events and accomplishments! Please send information to any of the League/Utilities staff.

2022-2023 Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

December 2022

Dec. 7 Water Operator Training Workshop..... Water Department Facility, Lincoln
Dec. 8 Water Operator Training Workshop..... TBA, Hastings

January 2023

Jan. 11-13 Utilities/Public Works Annual Conference..... Embassy Suites, Lincoln
Jan. 18 Water Operator Training Workshop..... Library, Blair
Jan. 24 Water Operator Training Workshop..... Holiday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 25-26 Snowball Conference..... Holiday Inn, Kearney

February 2023

Feb. 7-8 Meter Conference Holiday Inn, Kearney
Feb. 27-28 League Midwinter Conference Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

A complete list of the water operator workshops for the remainder of 2022 can be found on the NDEE website at www.ndee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/Train05. The League website is www.lonm.org.

If your municipality or water system would like to host a water workshop, contact Rob at the League office at 402-476-2829. The 2023 workshop schedule is being put together in the next few months.

“Just For Fun” Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| A-1. 56 percent. | fire stations. |
| A-2. 478 according to www.sfm.nebraska.gov/fire-departments , they listed 478 departments with 17,218 firefighters and 575 | A-3. Pierce. |
| | A-4. Chadron Water Treatment Facility – construction started about 1939 and completed in March 1941. |

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