

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

June 2017

Hubbell, Dorchester receive funds for water system, ambulance

In June, the Village of Hubbell received \$388,400 from USDA leveraged with other funding of \$157,600 to construct a new well, install water meters and replace two blocks of main and the aged water main. The \$105,000 loan is for 40 years at 2 percent rate of interest; the remaining funds are a grant.

The Village of Dorchester received \$132,000 from USDA

leveraged with \$100,000 from the village to purchase a new 2017 ambulance.

Pennsylvania Colony Historical Society of Nebraska was awarded \$2,000 leveraged with \$3,784 from the Historical Society to connect the house on the site to the Richardson Rural Water District for potable water. Additionally, the Historical Society received \$5,100 from USDA leveraged

with \$9,550 from the Historical Society to renovate the original barn on the Pennsylvania Colony Historical Society of Nebraska site in Dawson.

For more information, contact Janice Stopak, 402-437-5743 or janice.stopak@ne.usda.gov or Luann Brown, 402-437-5571 or luann.brown@ne.usda.gov.

Source – USDA Rural Development

Village of Lynch receives USDA loan for upgrades to sewer facilities

The Village of Lynch received a \$1.1 million loan and a \$219,000 grant from USDA Rural Development for upgrades to its existing sewer facilities.

The upgrades will allow the village to meet the standard for leaching from lagoons. The improvements will alleviate the problem by properly sealing the lagoons and providing irrigation to dispose of the treated wastewater.

The Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid

waste disposal and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/ne>.

The loan is for 40 years at a 2 percent rate of interest.

For more information, contact Taylor Medina at 308-455-9841 or taylor.medina@ne.usda.gov.

Source – USDA Rural Development

14th Annual Lineman's Scramble Golf Tournament

The 2017 Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 4, 2017, at the Lakeside Country Club, Johnson Lake in Lexington. The three-person scramble is limited to 36 teams, is loads of fun and is for a good cause.

The proceeds from the golf event go to the Lineman's Scholarship Fund. This scholarship fund was established by the utility line crew of Municipal Light and Water in North Platte. Criteria to apply for the scholarship includes:

- 1) Applicants must be a resident of the state of Nebraska
- 2) Applicants must intend to pursue training in a utility line

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14th Annual Lineman's Scramble Golf Tournament

Continued from page 1
program in Nebraska

3) Selection criteria also include personal, athletic, work history, education, career goals, relevant planned course of study, character references, motivation and the ability to succeed.

The scholarship can be used at

any accredited Nebraska post-secondary institution that offers training in a utility line program. For more information, contact Judy Rossetter or Andrea Pavik at the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation at 308-534-3315 or email at mncf@hamilton.net

To get a team signed up for the

event, contact Brian Winfield at 402-440-6241 or Joe Sanford at 308-325-7730.

This is an annual event. If you don't get a team entered this year, plan on participating in 2018.

Utilities Section members only

Do you have equipment to sell or a position to fill? Place your ad in the Classifieds section of the *Utilities Section Newsletter* for free. Contact Brenda Henning at the League office at 402-476-2829, fax to 402-476-7052 or email your ad to brendah@lonm.org.

Years of Service Awards

Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones. The League 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 info@lonm.org or fax 402-476-7052.

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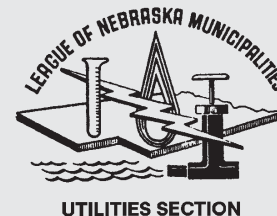
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SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

It is dangerous out there!

*By Jack E. Newlun,
Solid Waste Superintendent/
Environmental Officer of
the City of Hastings and Safety
Ambassador of the SWANA
Nebraska Cornhusker Chapter*

Last April 18-19, the SWANA Nebraska Cornhusker Chapter held its annual spring conference in La Vista, Neb. During the two-day meeting, a special guest speaker addressed the conference attendees.

The guest speaker was Mr. David Biderman, CEO/Executive Director of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). Mr. Biderman traveled to Omaha from the national headquarters of SWANA, located in Silver Springs, Md. His sole purpose for coming to Nebraska was "safety." Plain and simple. What we learned was rather upsetting in the fact that the Solid Waste Industry is currently ranked at number five in the country for the most dangerous jobs. In addition, even more upsetting is

for the year 2017, the industry is on track to move to number four! What areas does this cover in the waste industry? The main components are: Solid Waste Landfills, Transfer Stations, Recycling Centers and Waste Collections.

What we heard from Mr. Biderman was the collection side of the industry has had the most injuries and deaths. Mostly due to traffic accidents that involved vehicle-to-vehicle accidents and vehicle-to-pedestrian accidents. For a very long time, we in the industry have known about the dangers in the field; heavy equipment, general public and trucks, all within 15 feet of each other in a landfill or transfer station and then throw in weather conditions – a recipe for disaster.

The collection side, big trucks, traffic, pedestrians in the traffic, weather conditions, road conditions and the big one – distracted drivers. This only mentions the physical side of the danger. What about the environmental issues? Methane gas, chemical exposure, bio-medical, fire, explosion and



*David Biderman, SWANA CEO/
Executive Director. Photo by Daryl
Kottwitz.*

the co-mingling of disposed waste items producing long-term health hazards.

The fear factor is real and alive, and what is SWANA National doing? Last year, realizing the need for stepping up the learning curve for safety to all its members, SWANA added to its main organizational core values, "SAFETY,"

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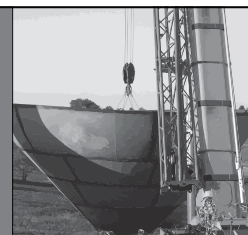
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It is dangerous out there!

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and rolled out the “Safety Matters Program.” In doing this, it has required that all chapters have a Safety Ambassador position in their state charter. SWANA National also has created several areas within the program to assist members in safety education, national award system for safety, Safety Mondays (safety issues on a weekly basis), safety speakers

for conferences and a network for the membership to seek assistance on safety issues.

So in ending, the Nebraska SWANA Chapter was honored to have Mr. Biderman take the time to come to Nebraska and speak to the membership on the topic of safety. It was of interest to the conference attendees that SWANA has taken a serious role in the safety education of the people

working in the solid waste industry.

Remember that “safety” in the end, is a personal choice and responsibility for you and others, and we need to educate fellow employees, the public and ourselves so we all have the opportunity to get home safely at the end of each day. “Safety Takes No Holidays.” Be safe out there, it is a jungle!

Safely using weed trimmers

Before using a weed trimmer, be sure to pick up the area and remove debris such as glass, limbs, rocks and trash from the area before trimming. Loose debris can become a projectile. Check the area and be on the lookout for exposed electrical wires, communication lines and extension cords that could be damaged by the trimmer string. Don’t remove protective guards and string guides.

Constantly monitor the trimmer’s string length. Automatic-feed and bump-feed trimmers may let out more string than you think resulting in a chunk of string striking you. Make sure all children and bystanders are out of the way before you operate the trimmer. Be sure to wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment such as long-pants, long-sleeve shirts, gloves, boots, and goggles or safety glasses along with hear-

ing protection. If using an electric trimmer, inspect all extension cords for cuts, nicks, scrapes and exposed wire that could pose an electrical hazard. Damaged cords need to be replaced immediately. Avoid operating electric trimmers when conditions are wet or around

standing water puddles. Always unplug electric trimmers and turn off gas-powered trimmers before inspecting, cleaning, adjusting or replacing string. Never leave an electric trimmer plugged in or a gas-powered trimmer running while unattended.

Checklist for playground safety

- Surfaces around playground equipment should be filled with at least 12 inches of loose fill, such as wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel.
- Most stationary equipment should have at least a 6-foot use zone in all directions.
- Any openings that can trap children (in guardrails or between ladder rungs) should be less than 3.5 inches apart or more than 9 inches.
- Guardrails should surround all elevated platforms and should be at least 29 inches high for preschool-age children and 38 inches high for school-age children.
- Look for exposed concrete footings, tree roots or rocks that could trip children.
- Check for sharp edges and dangerous hardware, like open “S” hooks or protruding bolts.
- Make sure your child plays on age-appropriate equipment.
- Playgrounds should be maintained regularly. Report any problems.
- Remove hoods or drawstrings that can get caught on equipment.
- Supervise children while they play.

***Checkout the League’s
Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/leaguene.
Be sure to “Like” us.***

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

Nebraska libraries receive intern grants

Congratulations to the following Nebraska public libraries that were awarded internship grant funding: Hoesch Memorial Public Library (Alma), Atkinson Public Library, Central City Public Library, Columbus Public Library, Cozad, Wilson Public Library, Crawford Public Library, Geneva Public Library, Grant, Hastings Public Library, Kimball Public Library, La Vista Public Library, Lincoln City Libraries (four branches), Neligh Public Library, Norfolk Public Library, Omaha Public Library (four branches), Cordelia B. Preston Memorial Library (Orleans), Plainview Public

Library, Schuyler Public Library, Stromsburg Public Library, Verdigris Public Library, Wayne Public Library and Kilgore Memorial Library (York).

Funding for the project is supported, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems.

As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promo-



tion, development, and coordination of library and information services, bringing together people and information. More information can be found at the Nebraska Library Commission website: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/>

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Have a project worthy of acknowledgement in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members. Too often we read about negative news in our local newspaper, but the positive should be celebrated, embraced and shared. Optimism can be contagious and others may find positive ways to use your success to enhance a project or event in their municipality, department or facility.

Water and Wastewater Workshops

Be sure to check when and where Water and Wastewater Training Workshops are in your area.

These training sites can be found on the respective websites of the training providers: www.lonm.org, www.awwaneb.org and www.nerwa.org.

The complete coalition training calendar, in the format you have been accustomed to over the years, is posted on the Public Water Supply Program website: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/TrainingSchedule.pdf> and the League website at www.lonm.org.

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More information on upcoming seminars and workshops can be found on the League website at www.lonm.org.

Classifieds

Job Openings

Electric Journey Line Worker.

The City of Alliance, Nebraska (8,500), is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journey Line Worker with a pay range of \$25.40-\$28.97 per hour DOQ.

This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric distribution and transmission systems.

Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. A complete job description and application is available at www.cityofalliance.net.

Electric Line Apprentice. The City of Alliance also is taking applications for **Electric Line Apprentice**. This position includes an excellent benefit package including health insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave and paid holidays.

For Sale

Tennant 830-II Street Sweeper.

The City of South Sioux City is

currently selling a 2004 Tennant 830-II street sweeper with 1,185 hours and 1,792 miles. The engine is a turbo diesel and a manual is included. Innovative dry-dust control improves ambient air quality by sucking up the dust and dirt stirred up by the brushes. This sweeper is powerful, easy to use and compact.

The sweeping ability begins with a self-adjusting center point suspended main brush that efficiently picks up sand, dirt, rocks, broken glass and bulky light debris. Main brush dust is pulled by twin, high-volume vacuum fans into a long lasting, high capacity filter to remove dust particles and exhaust clean air. One button sweeping makes operation easy and requires less training time; an unobstructed view ensures a clear view of the sweeping area and bystander safety; four-wheel steering allows the machine to maneuver easily around obstacles, corners and heavy traffic. Productivity Enhancing Options: waterless side brush dust control for area incompatible with water. Vario sweeping



brush moves in and out, up and down to reach hard to access areas on the either side of the machine. A 9½ feet high dump allows discharge into large roll off bins and dump trucks. Centrally suspended brush penetrates contours of any surface for thorough cleaning.

Accepting offers. Contact Joyce Wilson, South Sioux City Purchasing Agent, at 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776; call 402-494-7548; or email jwilson@southsiouxcity.org.

1984 Hahn Cab and Chassis Diesel (Red) 1500 Gallon Fire Truck.

The City of Seward is selling a 1984 Hahn Cab and Chassis Diesel (Red) 1500 Gallon Fire Truck. Needs work – out of service for three years. Accepting offers. City of Seward, City Clerk's Office, PO Box 38, 537 Main Street, Seward, NE 68434. Call 402-643-2928.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** What city in Nebraska is home to the original SAPP Bros. “teapot” water tower?
- Q-2.** What is the Nebraska state soft drink?
- Q-3.** What Nebraska municipality has a Wild Horse Golf Course?
- Q-4.** Where are these veteran memorials located?

Answers found on page 11.



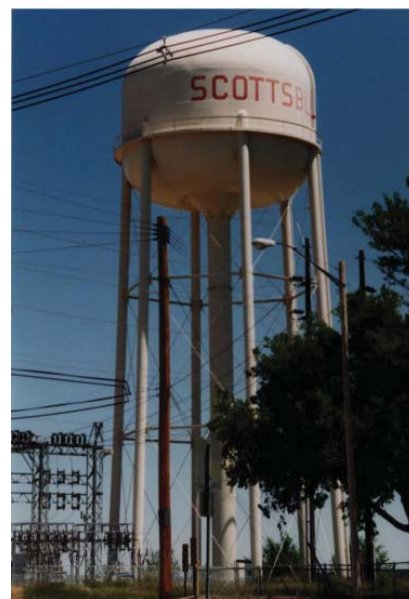
Nebraska utilities history

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, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Scottsbluff, located in Scotts Bluff County, had the Astorian expedition group (1811-12), early trappers (1811-20s) and pioneers (Mormons) passing through the area from 1810 to the 1870s. It was in 1828 that Hiram Scott died at the base of a rock formation, later known as Scotts Bluff. By 1840, a trading post was established and 10 of the first wagon trains rode through the area in 1843. From 1846-1868, one of the trail landmarks on the Mormon Trail was the Scottsbluff monument. By 1850, the Oregon or Emigrant Trail was used as wagon trains passed the Robidoux Pass, which was located four-and-a-half miles south and eight miles west of Gering (southwest of the Scotts Bluff Monument). In 1851, the Mitchell Pass, a gap through Wildcat Hills near Scottsbluff, opened. In the early 1860s, the Pony Express route passed through and by fall of 1864, Fort

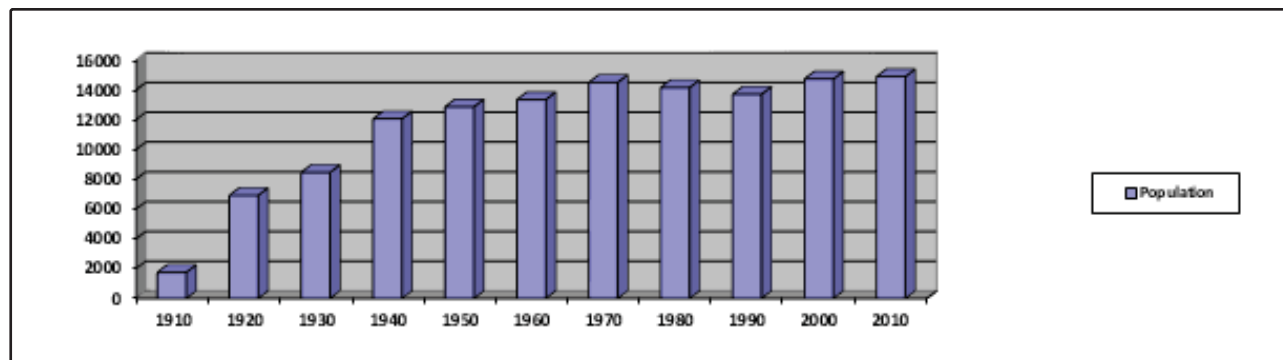
Mitchell was constructed northwest of Mitchell Pass as Camp Shuman (abandoned by 1867). From 1875-1881, the Gold Rush increased traffic along what became known as the Black Hills-Sidney-Black Hills Trail. By the 1880s, homesteaders who passed through began settling in Western Nebraska (1885-87). In 1887, the Irrigation Canal concept was started with the Farmers Canal Company hand digging a 10-mile channel. The settlement of Gering was established in 1887 and in 1888, Cheyenne County was divided into Scotts Bluff, Kimball, Banner and Duel Counties. By 1890, the area boasted about 1,888 people and in 1893, the canal project was stopped (later completed in 1907). A store, hotel and a newspaper operated in the Scottsbluff settlement by 1890 and the Farmers Canal Company laid 144 miles of canals. On Aug. 31, 1899, a post office was established and in December 1899, a 15-block area was surveyed and laid out by the Lincoln Land Company.



Scottsbluff water tower. June 2001 photo.

On Jan. 20, 1900, a plat was filed in Scotts Bluff County. In February, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad tracks were laid and the first train arrived. A store and the Casselman Irrigators Bank were in operation and

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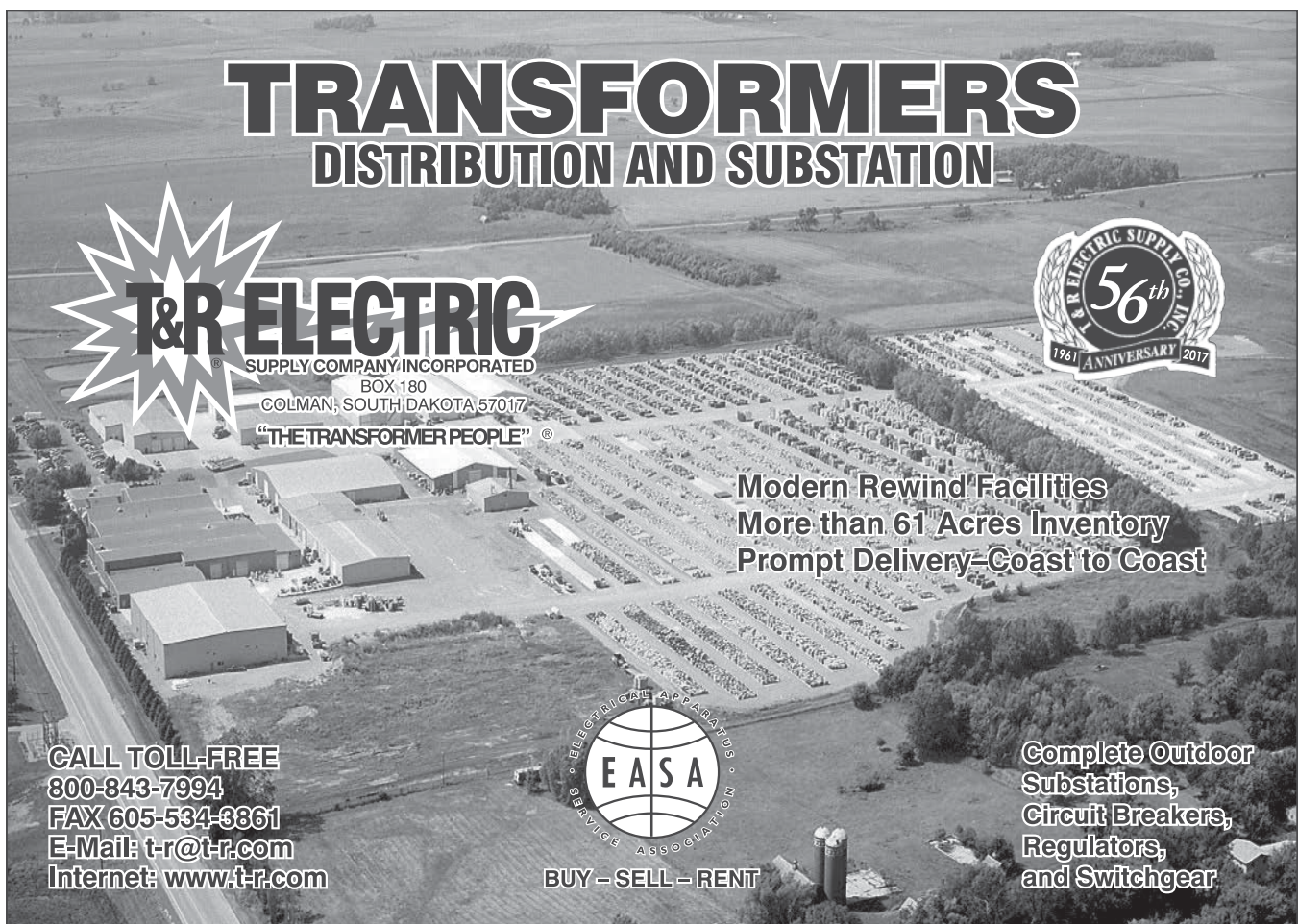
Nebraska utilities history

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the *Republican Newspaper* was established. In 1900, Scottsbluff was incorporated as a village and a 3,500-foot wooden bridge spanned the Platte River at South Fifth Street. From 1901-1903, the *Herald Newspaper* (1901), First National Bank (1902) and Platte Valley Telephone Company (1903) were established and the Tri-State Land Company (1903) was incorporated. A large fire in 1903 prompted fire protection. The village had wooden board-

walks and wood poles with gas street lamps in 1905. By 1907, many of the frame commercial buildings, wood sidewalks and gas lamps were replaced with brick buildings, concrete sidewalks and electric fixtures. A brick three-story Opera House was built, the Scottsbluff Bank was established (1909) and the Sugar Beet Factory was moved from Ames, Neb. to Scottsbluff. On Feb. 18, 1909, the Scottsbluff Electric Light & Power Company formed and the franchise was granted to


provide arc street lighting to the downtown area. Electric rates for customers were a flat rate of \$1 per month for incandescent lighting and the village was charged \$8 per month for current for each electric arc light it supplied. A structure was built south of the railroad tracks and a stationary steam engine and small generator were installed by the Scottsbluff Electric Light & Power Company. Cedar posts were set along Main Avenue and some of the residen-

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Nebraska utilities history

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tial streets to carry the old iron wire transmission lines. Soon the gas lamps were replaced with electric lights. On Feb. 20, 1909, the bid of \$29,700 for a waterworks system was given to Katz-Craig Construction. On July 14, water rates were a minimum of \$0.75 per month then \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons. On Oct. 1, water meters were installed. Some of the early water mains were wooden.

In 1910, with a population of 1,746, Scottsbluff was incorporated as a city of the second class, but the vote was challenged in District Court. In 1911, a vote again was taken and this time, the re-incorporation as a city of the second class was not protested. That year, the fire department was created, the Great Western Sugar Factory was built and the Scottsbluff Electric Light & Power Company went broke. It was purchased in 1911 by Denver investors with a promise to invest \$15,000 in the electric light plant. In May 1911, the old light plant was dismantled and replaced with a modern stone and street structure and new diesel engines were installed. The distribution lines also were overhauled and ready for

current with 140 service connections. The plant startup was temporarily set back following an engine explosion.

In 1912, the streets were named for various Indian tribes (Cherokee, Sioux, Iroquois, Arapahoe and Pawnee. The downtown ran from the railroad tracks north to Sioux Avenue (later known as 17th Street) along Main Street. The electric department began service to Gerding from the light plant. In 1913, the rights to the Scottsbluff Electric Light & Power Company were purchased (\$3,500) by Fred H. Roberts at a sheriff's auction. The company name was changed to the Cross & Roberts Electric Company (also known as C & R Electric). More equipment and an artificial ice plant were installed. In 1914, the company also installed magnesium-wrapped wooden pipe up Main Street, providing steam heat to many buildings. By 1914, the city installed sewer laterals for \$16,000. By 1915, the city had a municipal water works, which included an elevated water storage tower for \$35,000 and the rates were \$0.10-\$0.20 per gallon with a \$1 minimum. The electric plant



Western Public Service building in Scottsbluff.

installed a new boiler and generator at the plant, which now had 300 horsepower (HP) boilers, 250 HP steam engines with a generator rating of 250 KVA. Electric rates in 1915 were \$0.15 per kilowatt hour (kWh) with a minimum of \$1.50. After five years as a city of the second class, Scottsbluff incorporated as a city of the first class. On March 1, 1916, the electric system, owned by the Cross & Robert's Electric Company, was sold to the Inter-Mountain Railway Light & Power Company, of Colorado Springs for \$100,000. In 1917, the city accepted bids for a new city hall, which was built by 1918 for \$10,620. Also in 1918, a six-story (76 room) Lincoln Hotel was built. The hotel opened in 1919 and the city contributed \$10,000. During

World War I (1917-19), electric service extended from Scottsbluff to Lake Minatare, Melbeta, McGrew and some rural customers. The plant also sold power to Bridgeport and Broadwater. In 1918, the names of avenues were changed to letters, the streets became numbers and Main Avenue became Broadway. In 1919, the power plant was shut down due to a strike. Improvements to the power plant included installation of "Big Bertha," a 600 kilovolt (kV) generator unit. Later improvements to the generation and transmission lines included, stepping up the power output from 2,300 volts to 22,000 volts. The Scottsbluff Monument became part of the National Park System in 1919.

By 1920, the population
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Nebraska utilities history

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tion was 6,912 and in 1921, the Carnegie Library was built. In 1920, the first paving projects were underway and concrete sidewalks replaced the wooden boardwalks on the west side of Broadway. The Scottsbluff Country Club was organized in the 1920s. By 1922, the electric company name changed from the Inter-Mountain Railway Light & Power Company to Western Public Service Company. The main office moved to Scottsbluff at 18

E 16th Street on the second floor of the building. By 1925, the electric company had 150 workers and 12,275 customers. Electric lines were built into the rural areas and electric rates were \$0.07-\$0.25 per kilowatt (kW). In August 1925, the holding company of Stone and Webster purchased the Inter-Mountain Railway Light & Power Company. In 1927, the Citizens Gas Company started serving customers in Scottsbluff and Gering with artificial gas for residential and industrial use. In 1928, Scotts-

bluff was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. By 1929, a new office was planned because the electric company outgrew the office space. In 1930, the population increased to 8,465 and by 1930-31, a four-story Western Public Service Company headquarters building was constructed for \$123,567.23 (contractor was Ernest Leafgreen). The building opened March 30, 1931. In the early 1930s, PWA and CCC projects were underway. By 1931,

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the gas system was purchased by North Central Gas Company of Casper, Wyo. The Wyoming firm extended lines down the valley as far as Lewellen. The North Central Gas Company established a modernized gas system. By 1936, an airport opened and a library addition (WPA project) was constructed in 1936. The Western Public Service Company power plant had a capacity of 2,180 kW of steam power generation. In 1938, Platte Valley authorized an offer of \$1,762,634 to Western Public Service of Scottsbluff for its eastern division. By 1938, the Rural Public Power Districts formed. The public-owned (110 x 66 foot) swimming pool was constructed in 1939 for \$8,200 and financed by 10-year bonds at a rate of \$820/year starting June 1, 1939.

The population by 1940 increased to 12,057 and the Western Public Service Company built the Bluff's Station at 815 1st Avenue and installed a 2,500-kW turbine. The plant offered electric service to Western Nebraska from

an eastern line between Crawford and Grant to the Wyoming border. By 1941, Western Public Service also interconnected with a 34,500-volt transmission line from Scottsbluff to Ogallala. On Jan. 2, 1942, Consumers Public Power purchased Western Public Service's Nebraska properties (subsidiary of Engineers Public Service Co.), which included six steam plants, two hydro plants, 15 internal combustion plants, two ice plants and a steam heat system. The total cost was financed by \$8.3 million in revenue bonds and then organized into the districts western division of Consumers PPD. The natural gas

system was owned and operated by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. In April 1942, voters of Scottsbluff overwhelmingly defeated a proposal for the city to take over the distribution system. Consumers Public Power District operated the electric system. In 1945, the Scottsbluff Ice Plant was sold and the city voted to take

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2017 Backflow Workshops

Four Backflow Workshops are scheduled: Aug. 23 in Beatrice; Aug. 24 in Wayne; Sept. 6 in Ogallala; and, Sept. 7 in Grand Island. Watch for brochures or visit our website at www.lonm.org.

"Just For Fun" Answers




- A-1. Omaha – the first Sapp Bros. Travel Center opened in 1971. Omaha converted an existing water tower to look like a large teapot.
- A-2. Kool-Aid.
- A-3. Gothenburg.
- A-4. St. Paul (in front of the Howard County Courthouse).



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over the electric system. By 1945, the Scottsbluff Nebraska Army Air Base was purchased by the city and became the Western Nebraska Regional Airport.

By 1950, the population was 12,858 and in May, bonds were voted on to construct a new city hall building. The electric current was provided by Consumers Public Power District and the natural gas system was operated by the North Central Gas Company.

In 1956, **water rates** were: the first 5,000 gallons at \$1.25 minimum, next 5,000 gallons at \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons, next 10,000 gallons at \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons, next 30,000 gallons at \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons and all over 100,000 gallons at \$0.08 per 1,000 gallons.

The **natural gas rates** were: the first 3,000 cubic feet (cuft) per month at a minimum charge of \$0.70 per 1,000 cuft, next 2,000 cuft at \$0.65 per 1,000 cuft, next 10,000 cuft at \$0.56 per 1,000 cuft, next 15,000 cuft at \$0.425 per 1,000 cuft, next 15,000 cuft at \$0.40 per 1,000 cuft, next 30,000 cuft at \$0.375 per 1,000 cuft, next 90,000 cuft at \$0.32 per 1,000 cuft, next 120,000 cuft at \$0.28 per 1,000 cuft and all over 300,000 cuft per month was sold by special contract with a minimum charge of \$2.25 for 3,000 cuft per month less discount of \$0.05 per 1,000 cuft.

Garbage service was collected by the city, both residential and commercial, with rates of \$1.25 per family, \$0.60 for each additional and for businesses, the rate varied from \$1-\$40.

By 1958, a municipal golf course project was underway and

the municipal water system had 3,769 meters in service with a deposit of \$15.

In 1956, the **electric rates** were: **Residential** – \$1 for first 19 kWh or less per month, next 32 kWh at \$0.045 per kWh, next 100 kWh at \$0.0225 per kWh and all additional kWh at \$0.0175 per kWh with a minimum of \$1 per month. **Water heating rates** were: \$1 for first 18 kWh or less per month, next 32 kWh at \$0.045 per kWh, next 100 kWh at \$0.0225 per kWh, next 400 kWh at \$0.011 per kWh and all additional kWh at \$0.0175 per kWh with a minimum of \$1 per month. **Commercial** – \$1 for first 18 kWh or less per month, next 32 kWh at \$0.045 per kWh, next 100 kWh at \$0.035 per kWh, next 250 kWh at \$0.03 per kWh, next 2,600 kWh at \$0.0225 per kWh and all additional kWh at \$0.0186 per kWh with a minimum \$1 per month. **Power** – \$0.40 for first 200 kWh per month, next 300 kWh at \$0.03 per kWh, next 4,500 kWh at \$0.025 per kWh and all additional at \$0.02 per kWh with a minimum of \$0.50 per horsepower (hp) connected, but not less than \$1 per month.

In 1958, the electric rate for street lighting was \$1,835 per month. The municipal sewer system was maintained by a tax levy. In September 1959, a sewer fee was implemented with an estimated revenue of \$50,000 to maintain the sewer system and to fund a sewage disposal plant in the future.

The population increased from 13,337 in 1960 to 14,507 in 1970. Garbage service rates in 1960 were \$1.50 per month for residents and for businesses, varied

from \$2-\$35 per month. The city granted a contract with Chicago Bridge & Iron Works Co. for a new water tower for \$104,120 in 1965. The electric system changed from being supplied by Consumers Public Power District to the Nebraska Public Power District (1969-70). A new wastewater treatment facility started up in 1962. The railroad discontinued passenger service in 1969 to Scottsbluff. In 1979-80, an RBC wastewater treatment facility operated and in 1981, screw pumps were installed. The population in 1980 was 14,156 and the electric distribution system was leased from the Nebraska Public Power District. Natural gas was operated and supplied by KN Energy Inc. By 1990, the population decreased to 13,711 and in 1991, a wastewater (aerated lagoon) upgrade project was underway. In 1998, Earth Tech. Inc. Company took over operation of the 3.4 million gallons per day (gpd) lagoon treatment facility and operated under contract until 2002. Eight dewatering wells were installed in 1998 and by 1999, the wastewater treatment facility had an aerated facultative lagoon system designed for 3.7 million gallons per day (mgd) facility (changed to activated sludge). In 1999, an interlocal agreement to operate the airport was made between Scotts Bluff County, the City of Scottsbluff and the City of Gering.

By 2000, the population was 14,732, the fire department had 15 paid firefighters, 40 volunteer firefighters and a fire insurance rating of 4 and outside the city, a rating of A-7 (2004). Stanek

Continued on page 13

Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 12

Construction worked on aeration basins in 2002 and by 2004, the wastewater treatment facility had a capacity of 4,000,000 mgd. In 2002, the city had two golf courses, Riverview Country Club and Scottsbluff Country Club Golf Courses. The water system had 12 wells with a capacity of 15 million gallons per day, 2,550,000 gallons of overhead storage capacity, 100 miles of mains, 740 fire hydrants and 1,000 valves. The natural gas system was operated by Kinder Morgan and supplied by ACE in 2004. By 2008, the gas system was operated by SourceGas and the activated sludge treatment plant averaged 2.5 million gallons per day with 200 tons of solid waste production in a year. The system had 90 miles of sewer mains, 750 manholes and 1,500 storm sewer catch basins (2005). In 2009, a \$3.27 million waste treatment project started to renovate and modify existing mechanical facility by adding a clarifier (domed both clarifiers) and install ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection. The water system

in 2015 consisted of three water towers, 12 wells and 258 miles of mains. In 2015, SourceGas sold the natural gas system to Black Hills Energy Company.

Today, Scottsbluff has a population of 14,886, is a city of the first class (99 years), operates a wastewater collection system and disposal plant, a water distribution/storage, a well system and maintains 270 acres in 20 public parks. The municipality operates the solid waste collection service and maintains about 102 miles of streets (310 lane miles) with 95 miles hard surfaced (90 percent are curbed with 75 percent have sidewalks). The electric system is owned by the city and operated by Nebraska Public Power District. The natural gas system is owned and operated by Black Hills Energy.

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Training calendar

August

Aug. 3..... Wastewater Workshop.....City Hall, Auburn
Aug. 15..... Water Operator Training WorkshopCity Hall, McCook
Aug. 16..... Water Operator Training WorkshopJohnson Center, Alma
Aug. 17..... Water Operator Training WorkshopCity Hall, Fairbury
Aug. 23..... Backflow WorkshopRisky's Sports Bar & Grill, Beatrice
Aug. 24..... Backflow WorkshopFire Hall, Wayne

September

Sept. 6 Backflow WorkshopFire Hall, Ogallala
Sept. 7 Backflow WorkshopBoarders Inn & Suites, Grand Island
Sept. 12-14 ... Rubber Gloving WorkshopWheatbelt Training Field, Sidney
Sept. 20-22 ... League Annual ConferenceCornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Sept. 26 Water Operator Training WorkshopLibrary, Valentine
Sept. 27 Water Operator Training Workshop Village Auditorium, Stuart
Sept. 28 Water Operator Training WorkshopCommunity Center, Sargent

October

Oct. 26..... Water Operator Training WorkshopCity Hall, Auburn

November

Nov. 16..... Water Operator Training WorkshopMidPlains Community College (North), North Platte

December

Dec. 6 Water Operator Training WorkshopChristensen Field, Fremont
Dec. 7 Water Operator Training WorkshopLincoln Water System, Lincoln

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