

# Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

February 2020

## Snowballs for the 2020 Snowball Conference

*By Rob Pierce,  
LNM Field Rep./Training  
Coordinator*

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Snowball Wastewater Conference was held Jan. 22-23, 2020, at the Kearney Holiday Inn. For the third consecutive year, the conference was affected by snow! The conference was cosponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section and the Nebraska Water Operators Division (NWOD) of the Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA), a member of the National Water Federation (WEF). This year, the conference attendance totaled 236 with 186 operators in attendance. The past 29 years, more than 6,968 operators, engineers and wastewater-related company representatives have participated in this conference with over 292 hours of recertification “relicensing” credit for wastewater participants. Licensed **wastewater attendees received 10.5 hours** toward their wastewater relicensing and **water operators received up to 5.5 hours**, depending on which sessions they attended (scanned or signed in). Certificates were issued with wastewater hours, but those with water licenses will need to view the credit hour list posted on the League’s website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).

The conference morning sessions included: top 10 safety issues, basic operations of a

collection system, damage prevention and 811 proposed changes, liquids/solids interface measurement, value of social media, ABCs of sampling, manhole rehabilitation, sludge drying and smoke testing/troubleshooting. The afternoon sessions included: the City of York water reclamation facility project, SCADA options/requirements, pump applications, sewer rate studies and a repeat of the session on damage prevention 811 changes.

On the second day following the operator breakfast, David Sykora provided NWEA and NWOD updates on activities of the associations. After the breakfast updates, the morning sessions included an operator certification program update, an Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) roundtable discussion with Mike McBride, Mark Pomajzl and Jeff Stittle (field specialists) and a funding option update provided by David Fulton of USDA. Lash Chaffin (Utilities Section Director) wrapped up the conference with sewer ordinances and codes with an emphasis on issues resulting from the Flint, Mich. event.

A special “thank you” to the NDEE field staff for the roundtable discussion session. This year’s conference adjourned after

a session with Lash Chaffin of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Speakers at this year’s conference included: Todd Boling – City of Lincoln; Chris Johnson – Gurney & Associates Inc.; Howard Huffman – Huffman Engineering Inc.; Jeff Soulliere – DED Solution Consultant Network; Nick Willis – Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center; Brian Gongol – Gongol & Associates; David Sykora – Omaha; Mike Milius and Joel Jirak – Olsson; Erik Plate – Hydro Gate; Dustin Burmood – Nebraska Generation Service LLC; David Fulton – USDA Rural Development; Mike McBride, Jeff Stittle and Mark Pomajzl – Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy; and Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin – League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section.

A special “thank you” to the Holiday Inn for providing excellent facilities and great food for the conference events. Once again, the meals were filling and delicious! A special thank you to the following companies (listed alphabetically) that supported the 29th Annual Snowball Conference by providing exhibits, speakers and/or sponsorship, which always help make the conference a big success. (*Municipalities/companies listed in bold are 2019-2010 League/Utilities Section Members and Associate Members.*)

*Continued on page 2*

1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508  
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UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin  
Utilities Section Director  
Rob Pierce  
Utilities Field Representative

## **Snowballs for the 2020 Snowball Conference**

*Continued from page 1*

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- **Rose Equipment Inc.**
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- Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center

### **Backflow Workshops scheduled**

Four Backflow Workshops are scheduled for 2020:

- August 18 – Beatrice
- August 19 – Wayne
- August 25 – Ogallala

- August 27 – Grand Island
- Watch for brochures in the mail or check the League or AWWA website for registration information.

## **2020-2021 Executive Board**

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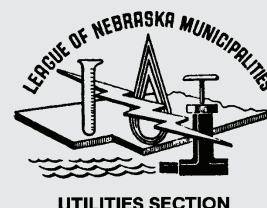
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## Nebraska utilities history – Palisade

*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](mailto:robp@lonm.org).*

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator*

**P**alisade, located in Hayes and Hitchcock Counties (mostly in Hitchcock), saw settlers in the area by 1876. The original town site was located about one-and-a-half miles east of the present village along with the remains of an old (1879) military stockade. A store was built in 1879 near Bobtail Creek and on Feb. 25, 1880, a post office was established. An early blacksmith shop, drug store and millery business operated with a flour mill built later in Palisade Creek for power. A newspaper (possibly the *Frenchman Valley Times*) was started in Old Palisade about 1885-86. The Methodist Church was established at the Beigh School located south and east of Old Palisade in 1886.

The railroad surveyed a branch line (1886) missing the original townsite by about one-and-a-half miles to the west. On Feb. 17, 1887, it was announced that the

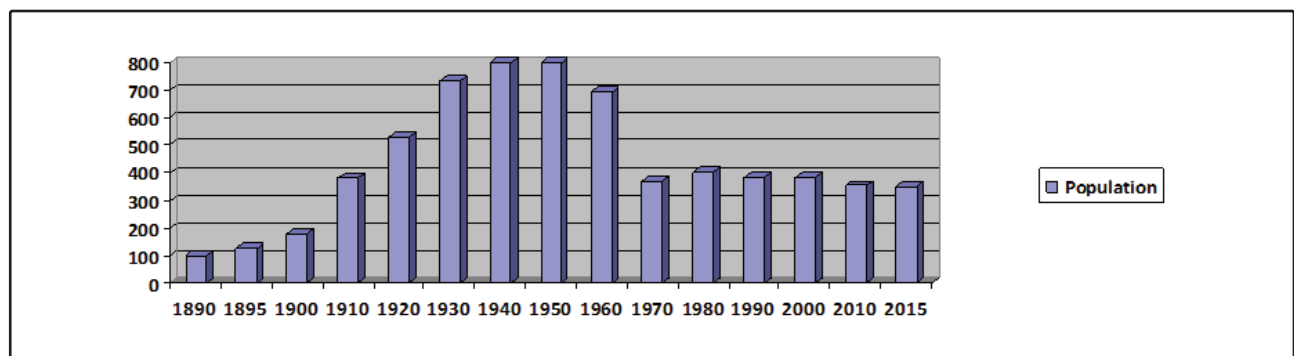
Lincoln Land Company purchased the townsite where Stiking Water and Bobtail Creeks emptied into the Frenchman River. The original land cost \$11.50 per acre with the Lincoln Land Company paying \$4,500 for 400 acres. Another source listed a purchase on March 10, 1887, of two tracts of land, each 80 acres for \$2,000 each. Streets were platted and the name “New Palisade” was given to the townsite. In the summer of 1887, most of the buildings were moved to the new townsite from “Old Palisade.” On Aug. 7, 1887, a deed was filed in Hitchcock and Hayes Counties dedicating the streets and alleys of New Palisade. School District #64 was formed and school sessions began. The Frenchman Valley Bank opened in May 1887 and by 1888, several businesses were operating including: a drug store, two general stores, a hotel, a lumberyard, two blacksmiths, a pool hall, a real estate office and a barber shop.

By 1890, the population was

102 and the Lincoln Land Company acquired all lots in the Old Palisade and tracks were laid for the railroad by December 1891. A two-story frame school was erected in 1892 and the Frenchman Valley irrigation project began. On Jan. 17, 1893, Palisade filed for incorporation as a village and the Congregational Church was built. In 1900, the population was 176 and on April 27, 1903, a franchise was granted to the Palisade Telephone Company. In 1905 when the school added the ninth grade, the high school was started. On Feb. 26, 1909, the *Palisade Times* newspaper was established and a new brick school was built, now a four-year high school.

The population in 1910 was 380 and a water works system was being installed. That year, F.C. Krotter installed a new 10-horsepower (HP) engine at his grain elevator. In 1919, Krotter installed two turbine generators at a diversion dam on the Frenchman River. Electricity was provided to Palisade by

*Continued on page 4*





## **Nebraska utilities history – Palisade**

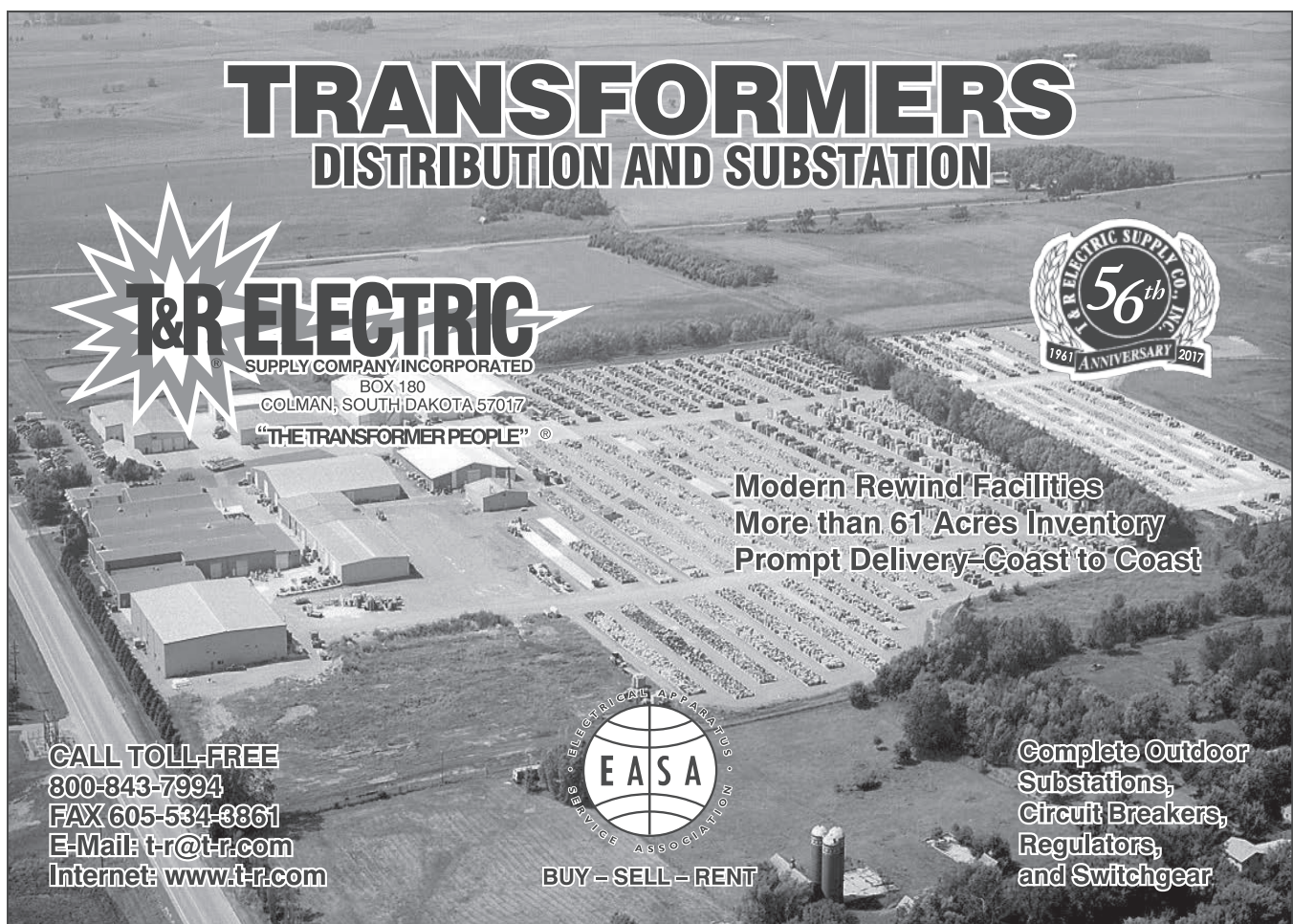
*Continued from page 3*  
the private plant of F.C. Krotter, which had a total capacity of 156 HP. By 1911, a franchise was granted to the Farmers Telephone Association and a fire department was organized. A fire hall was built and in October 1913, a (12 ft. x 20 ft.) hose cart with hose was purchased for \$79.57. At this time, there still were individual wells/windmills in town. The water system was installed in 1915 at a cost of \$11,000 with rates at \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons.

The Palisade hydroelectric plant provided electricity with a 188-HP water wheel and a generator rating at 10 kilovolt amps (kVA). The private plant provided electricity with rates \$0.15 per kilowatt hour (kWh) in 1915. In 1916, the fire hall was painted at a cost of \$2 and in 1918, a fire bell was purchased. The Women's Club worked to enlarge the school library into a public library in 1917.

By 1920, the population increased to 527 (one source noted 600) and by 1921, some of the


businesses included five churches, two banks, three general stores, three garages, two lumberyards, two hardware stores, two implement dealers, three elevators, two drug stores, two restaurants, a newspaper, a theater and a photography shop. The first fire hydrants were purchased in 1923 and that year, a franchise was granted to Northwestern Bell Telephone Company for long distance service only. In 1925, a new three-story brick school building was

*Continued on page 5*




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## **Nebraska utilities history – Palisade**

*Continued from page 4*  
built replacing the 1909 structure and adding a shop by 1926. The early water system had two wells with a pumping capacity of 600 gallons per minute (gpm) with two, 240,000-gallon reservoirs and one- to two-inch water mains were laid in 1929. Original records of the village incorporation was clouded, thus they re-filed new articles of incorporation and were approved on June 21, 1929 (incorporated as the Village of Palisade).

The population increased to 731 by 1930 and on May 5, 1930, a municipal library and a library board were established. In 1931, a 12.8-acre park was built with ball fields, tennis courts, a picnic area and a (110 ft. x 230 ft.) swimming pool. The pool held over one million gallons of water and was touted as a one of the largest in the state.

Electricity was provided by the Krotter Power Plant, which had a capacity of 285 kilowatts (kW) using an internal combustion of 75 kW and 210 kW of hydroelectric power generation. On June 4, 1937, the village acquired the Palisade Cemetery from the Palisade

Cemetery Association. Bids were taken for a new fire truck in 1937 and the *Palisade Times* newspaper was published. The population by 1940 was 799 and in 1943, the Palisade Rural Fire Department was organized. In the 1940s, a prisoner of war camp was established and in 1945, the Southwest Public Power District was formed with headquarters in Palisade. By 1947, the Southwest Public Power District had 373 meters and 194 miles of lines. That same year, a veterans memorial was installed at the cemetery. In 1950, an oil 0.30 megawatt engine was installed for power generation. From 1950-1960, the population dropped from 800 to 694, and the power generation plant added a diesel engine. A new fire hall was built, and in 1954, a 500-gallon pumper truck was purchased. That year, the school added a new brick gymnasium/auditorium. In 1959, the telephones were converted from the magneto crank-type with a local switchboard to a dial system and a new telephone building was erected. In 1960, the electrical system was supplied by Southwest Public Power District. The fire department had 23 volunteer

firefighters and a garbage service was provided by private collectors at the rate of \$1.25 per month. The water system was owned by the village and meters were owned by the consumers with rates at \$3 per quarter. A curb and gutter project was underway in 1960 and the sewer system and disposal plant were publicly owned. In 1966, the population dropped to about 522 and the library was moved to the former bank building. In the late 1960s, oil was said to have been discovered in the area, but the population continued to decline. By 1970, the population was 372 and a new bath house was built at the pool. In 1973, an ambulance was purchased and by 1976, a wastewater treatment facility project was underway.

By 1980, the population was 401 and in 1981, a water system project included replacing the 1929 (one-half inch) lines with six-inch mains at a cost of about \$240,000. The Palisade Housing Authority constructed a low-cost housing complex (1981) and in 1983, a new swimming pool was built, replacing the 1931 pool. The park had new restrooms built in

*Continued on page 6*



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## **Nebraska utilities history – Palisade**

*Continued from page 5*

1983 and a new shelter in 1985. In 1986, cable television service was installed by the telephone company for Palisade. Electricity was provided by Southwest Public Power District in 1987 and the fire department had 20 volunteer firefighters and 12 EMTs. In 1988, the Frenchman Valley Bank closed after operating for 101 years.

In 1990, the population was 381 and the school began merging with the Wauneta School (fully merged by 1992). Note: Wauneta, located 15 miles to the west, is in a different time zone. The electric distribution system was owned/operated by Southwest Public Power District. The population by 2000 was 386 and the village operated two water wells and a reservoir on the hill to the south of Palisade. The wastewater treatment facility was a facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.0425 million gallons per day (mgd).

In 2004, a water and wastewater system planning project (\$40,000 grant) involving Maywood, Curtis, Moorefield, Farnam, Eustis, Lebanon, Bartley, Indianola, Palisade, Stratton and Trenton was considered. By 2010, the popula-

tion was 351 and the village had three active municipal wells, a wastewater treatment facility serving 147 residential services and 27 commercial connections.

Today, Palisade has a population of 351 and has been an incorporated village for 126 years (1893-2012). Palisade has been a long-time League of Nebraska Municipalities member and a Utilities Section member for over 15 years.

The village operates and maintains a public library, a 12-acre park system with a swimming pool, a cemetery, a water distribution system, a wastewater collection system and disposal facility and miles of paved and curbed streets. Law enforcement is provided by the Hitchcock County Sheriff and gas service (propane) is supplied by a private company. The electric system is provided by Southwest Public Power District.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1965-75, 1977-87, 1990-2007, 2010-2016; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska's Forest Service Newsletter, April 2002; Department of Energy Website, 2004; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; McCook's First 100 Years, Portraits of the Past, 1982; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; Palisade, Nebraska 1887-1987, 1987; Palisade Internet sites, 2016-2018; Who's Who in Nebraska Hitchcock County, 1940; Wikipedia website, 2018; Nebraska U. S. Census, 2010; Nebraska Blue Book, 1915, 1928, 1942, 1946; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; The Independent, December 4, 1916 and the Electric World, April 1898.*

**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 [brendah@lonm.org](mailto:brendah@lonm.org), fax 402-476-7052 or call 402-476-2829.

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## Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater Manual

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater Manual, published by the American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation, is available at the AWWA bookstore.

This manual has been used by water wastewater professionals in labs since 1905.

This version has over 80 revised and five new methods including extensive revisions to the Microbiological Examination (Part 9000). A new drinking water

method to test for pharmaceuticals and personal care products along with more realistic visuals to help identify aquatic organisms. Revisions were also made pertaining to Solids, Cyanide, Nitrate, Dissolved Oxygen and Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

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

**Incorporation Anniversary Recognition:** 120 years – Sargent; and 140 years – Western. Congratulations!

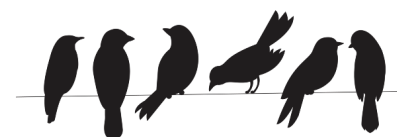
**John S. Olsson receives Durham Award:** John Olsson, Executive Vice-President for consulting services, was the recipient of the annual Charles Durham Achievement Award presented by ACEC Nebraska. The **Olsson** engineering firm is a longtime advertiser/supporter/associate member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

ties.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Do you 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 with other members.

(Note: *Utilities Section Mem-*



*bers and Associate Members are in bold type in this article.)*

## Write an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter

Are you interested in writing an article on the past, present and future of your municipal utilities for the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

Articles can be written on a specific department or an overview of the history of the entire utilities department. Items of interest may be information on the first well in your community, number of services, service fees, the equipment used, and also the employees that worked in the various utilities departments. Photos would enhance the articles and will be returned unless otherwise instructed.

When writing an article, just answer the simple who, what, when, where, why and how questions.

## Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** Legend Butte, located near Crawford, Nebraska, was once called what?
- Q-2.** What city in Nebraska has a post mark sought on February 14?
- Q-3.** Where in Nebraska is Baker's candy made?
- Q-4.** What city in Nebraska is this mural located?



**Answers on page 12.**

## Nebraska utilities history – Bertrand

*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 [robhp@lonm.org](mailto:robhp@lonm.org).*

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator*

**B**ertrand, located in Phelps County, saw settlers in the area by 1877 and a post office was established as Whitewater on Nov. 14, 1879. A Methodist Church was organized in 1882 and the railroad was extended to the area by 1884. A town site was platted in 1884 and named for a railroad official. On July 10, 1885, the post office name was changed from Whitewater to Bertrand and the community had a population of 50.

A bank was established in 1885 and the Ogden Hotel was built in 1886. That year, a fire destroyed the Bertrand Mill/Elevator and some residences. On Dec. 11, 1885, Bertrand was incorporated as a village with articles of incorporation adopted by the village board of trustees on Dec. 22, 1885. Bertrand apparently hosted the first Phelps County Fair (1894) and by 1892, the I.O.O.F building was erected and the Lutheran Church was organized in 1891 and

built a building in 1898. The first official school was built in 1888 and by 1890, the population was 265

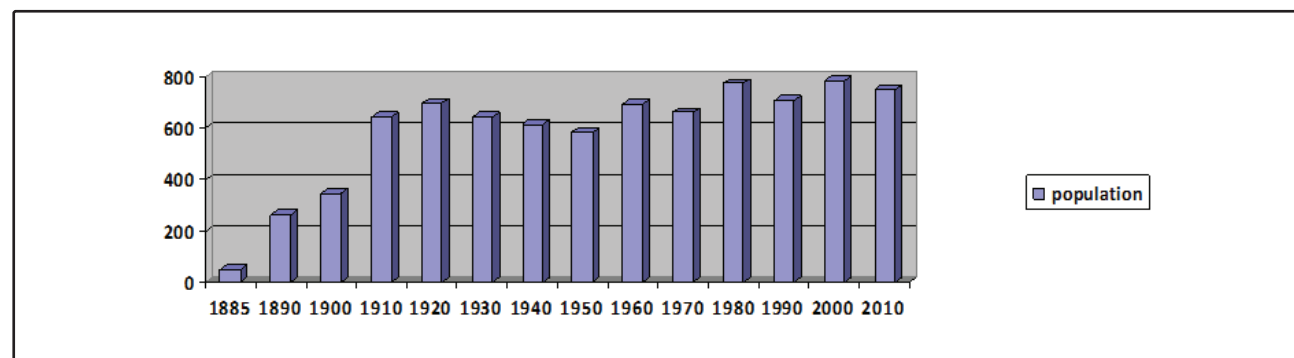
The population by 1900 was 344 and an elevator was built. A water system was installed in 1907 using cast iron water mains. By May, the brick waterworks building on the intersection of Knox & Minor Avenues was using a 25-horsepower (HP) engine, a water tank and a gasoline tank on ground outside the building. An eight-inch main ran from the pumphouse to the distribution system. The system had a 10-inch, 260-foot well and a pump capacity of 130 gallons per minute (gpm). The distribution system consisted of Had 8,865 feet (ft.) of four, six and eight-inch cast iron mains and 18 double fire hydrants. A 50,000-gallon water storage standpipe tower helped provide a system pressure of 35-40 pounds per square inch (psi). The public lights were gas and provided by a gas plant located off the alley on Knight Street. The plant was



*Bertrand water tower and 1917 city shop. 2000 photo.*

operated by the Bertrand Gas Company that had a gas engine with a buried gasoline supply tank. The population was said to have increased to about 640 as a brick school was built and some of the businesses included the Ogden House, three lumberyards, a grain elevator and the Bertrand Flour Mill, which utilized coal for a boiler and had a 125-horsepower (HP) engine. The fire department had a building on Minor Street on the west side of the street in the middle of the block. They had 25 volunteer firefighters, three hand hose carts, 1,500 feet of 2.5-inch

*Continued on page 9*





## Nebraska utilities history – Bertrand

*Continued from page 8*

hose and a hook/ladder truck.

By 1910, the population was 643, sidewalks were installed by 1915 and a public works building (city water and fire house) was erected in 1917. A railroad depot was built in 1917 and the population increased to 697 by 1920.

By January 1921, the streets had been graded level, were unpaved and lit by electricity. The Electric Light Plant and waterworks facility was located on the west side of Minor Avenue, which operated two American wells (10-inch x

260 ft. deep), two pumps capacity at 91 gpm each, a Fairbanks centrifugal pump with a capacity of 450 gpm, two oil engines (80 HP and 50 HP) along with a 25-HP kerosene engine. The generators had capacities of 75, 35 and five kilowatts (kW) supplied from a buried 110-gallon gasoline tank. The water system's 50,000-gallon elevated tank (110 ft.) was located to the west of this building with a 85,000-gallon and a 65,000-gallon reservoir. The water system had about two miles of one-and-a-quarter, two-and-a-half, four

and six-inch water mains with 17 double fire hydrants. The average daily consumption in the winter was about 50,000 gallons and the summer was 100,000 gallons. The fire department in 1921 used a Model T fire truck, had 25 volunteer firefighters, two hand hose reels, a hook and ladder wagon, two hand engines (not used) and a fire alarm bell on a tower. The domestic water system pressure was 45 pounds (lbs.) and the fire pressure was 100 lbs. The three grain elevators had their own

*Continued on page 10*



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## **Nebraska utilities history – Bertrand**

*Continued from page 9*

power sources: C.M. Seldomridge Elevator (built 1900) used a 10-HP coal supplied engine, the Bertrand Equity Exchange Elevator (built 1917) had a 15-HP engine and the Bodman McConaughy Grain Company Elevator (built 1885; rebuilt 1907) used a 15-HP engine supplied by a 50-gallon gas tank. The carbonated water gas plant housed in a brick building located by the alley on Knight Street (north side) between Minor and Medina Streets had been abandoned by 1921. The village

auditorium was built in the 1920s and by 1928, Bertrand was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The municipal power plant in 1928 had rates of \$0.150 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The water plant and distribution lines were publicly owned with minimum rates of \$1 in 1928.

In 1930, the population was 645 and a rock Sonatorium was built in the park on WPA funds. In 1932, a fire destroyed the Farmers Elevator and the First State Bank of Bertrand closed in 1934. A WPA project in the 1930s in-

stalled a sanitary sewer system for about \$30,000. The Tri-County Irrigation Project (1935-39) helped to stabilize the area economy. The power plant in 1936 operated two oil engines (80 HP, 50 HP) and a 25-HP kerosene engine with capacities of 75, 35 and five kW. The municipal power plant had a 150 kW, internal combustion engine at the facility. By May 1936, the flour mill was no longer using its powerhouse. From 1940-1950, the population decreased from 615 to 584 and in 1951, a medi-

*Continued on page 11*



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## **Nebraska utilities history – Bertrand**

*Continued from page 10*

cal clinic opened and a new brick public school with an auditorium was built in 1958.

In 1960, the water plant and 275 meters in service were owned by the village with a \$15 deposit and rates of \$1.50 per month for 20,000 gallons, with excess at \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons. The electrical distribution system and the 312 meters were owned by the village and were supplied current by the Nebraska Public Power District (1962). Rates were: for the first 30 kWh at \$0.075, next 30 at \$0.05, next 50 at \$0.04, next 100 at \$0.03, next 100 at \$0.02 with a minimum of \$1.50. Power rates were: for 100 kWh at \$0.05, next 200 at \$0.04, next 300 at \$0.03, next 100 at \$0.02, with a minimum of \$1.50. A new sewage disposal plant was constructed in 1960 to be maintained from one mill levy and a sewer charge of \$0.65. The village cemetery board maintained a cemetery from a mill levy. By 1960, the fire department had 58 volunteer firefighters and a new fire hall was built in 1962. A swimming pool was built in the 1960s just north of the old light/water plant site and the village hall was remodeled in 1967. The natural gas system was operated by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company in 1960 and from 1960-1970 the population decreased from 691 to 662. In 1974, the electrical system was owned by the village and operated/supplied by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).

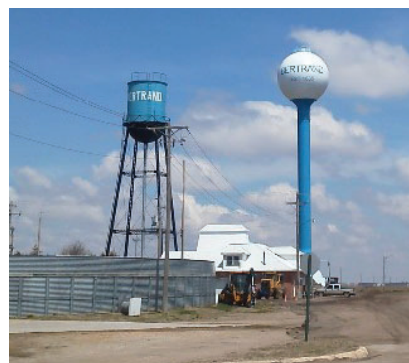
By 1980, the population was 775 and by 1981, the village owned the electrical distribution system and was leased to NPPD. In 1983,

the natural gas system was operated by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company was then operated by KN Energy Inc. In 1990, the population was 708 and the village operated a facultative retention lagoon system, which had been designed for 0.055 million gallons per day (mgd).

In 2000, the population was 786 and work was being done on a water tower by McGuire Iron Works. The village occupied a brick city hall building and the former railroad depot was the shop. The fire department had 38 volunteer firefighters with an insurance (ISO) class rating of 7 and 9. The natural gas from 2009-2015 was operated by SourceGas and a member of ACE. The water system by 2017 consisted of two active, two inactive municipal wells serving 33 commercial and 396 residential customers. A new water tower was built in 2017 replacing the old 117-year-old tower.

Bertrand has a population of 750 and has been an incorporated village for 135 years. A longtime League of Nebraska Municipalities member and a Utilities Section Member since 1991. The village maintains a cemetery, miles of hard-surfaced streets, a park system with a pool, a water system, a wastewater system and it owns the electric system maintained by Southern Public Power District. The natural gas system has been supplied/operated by Black Hills Energy since 2015.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-1990, 1993-2019; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1928; Utilities Section*



*Bertrand water towers.*

*Newsletter, 1967; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Phelps County Nebraska History 1873-1980, 1981; Holdrege Centennial 1883-1983 Commemorative, 1983; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Bertrand Nebraska 1885-1985, 1985; Bertrand Website, 2005-2018; Phelps County Website, 2009; Wikipedia website; Nebraska Historical Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Phelps County, Nebraska, August 1, 1991; Sanborn Maps, May 1909, January 1921, May 1936 and the Nebraska Blue Book, 1920, 1928, 1946, 1978.*

## **Credit hours reminder**

For those who attended the 2020 Snowball Conference and the 2020 Annual Utilities Conference, your water and wastewater hours are posted on the League of Nebraska Municipalities website at <https://www.lonm.org/utilities/water-and-wastewater-credit-hours.html>.



## 2020 Electric Meter School held

The 2020 Electric Meter School was held Feb. 11-12, 2020, at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The school was co-sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association in co-operation with Northeast Community College. Participants at this year's school totaled 92 (including speakers and company representatives).

The school consisted of one-and-a-half days with both days of two concurrent sessions. Topics included: Basic Nameplate Information; Troubleshooting 101; Introduction to Polyphase Electric Meter Installations and Programming; Totalization; Demand and TOU Metering; Selecting the Correct Meter; High Accuracy CTs; Reactive Metering; Application of Instrument Transformers in Underground and Overhead Primary and Secondary Metering; Meter Shop Automation and Data Management; Testing with an Emphasis on Hot Socket Repair Kits; ACLARA Software; ITRON Metering; Vandalism/Security Protection; and Personal Protective Equipment.

A special thanks to the following companies for providing speakers, sponsorship or exhibitors (*Listed alphabetically by company; Associate members of the League/*



*Utilities Section are in bold type.):* William Elliott and Mike Gagnon – ACLARA; Malcolm Halliday – Arjay Automation LLC; Kevin Pochocki – Artech; Logan Knudsen, Jason Murphy and Chuck Vaughn – **Border States**; William Somerville – Carhartt; Brendel Maier – **Dutton Lainson Company**; Bill Larson and Adam Nelson – **Energy Solutions Inc.**; John Marsaglia – **Evans Lipka Associates**; Frank Lopes and John Hannon – GE Power; Connie Hergen-

rader – Graybar; Mike Bubenicek – InnerTite; Brian Winfield and Garry Poutre – Moehn Electrical Sales Company; Jeff Carlson – Power Delivery Services Inc. (PDS); Chad Marcum – Radian Research; Dave Troudt – **RES-CO**; John Greenewald – TESCO; and Jim Meyer – **WESCO**.

The 2021 Electric Meter School is scheduled for Feb. 9-10, 2021, at the Kearney Holiday Inn. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars.

### “Just For Fun” Answers

**A-1.** Lovers Leap.

**A-2.** Valentine, the post office in Valentine has a substantial increase in mail around Valentine's Day.

**A-3.** Greenwood, Nebraska. Candy is the most popular gift for Valentine's Day.

**A-4.** Central City.

## **SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER**

### ***Working in cold weather***

*Reprinted from the January 2019  
Utilities Section Newsletter*

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator*

As winter weather has its typical cold weather ups and downs, those who work outside need to be aware of the hazards. Workers need to take precautions for cold stress issues such as trench foot, frostbite and hypothermia. Awareness as far as slips, trips and falls and defensive driving safety should be addressed. Wearing adequate clothing and

proper personal protective equipment can be crucial when preventing injury or life-threatening conditions.

Recognizing and understanding symptoms of cold stress needs to be discussed at safety meetings and tail gate sessions. Work scheduling may have to be adjusted when working in extremely harsh conditions. High winds, low temperatures, poor visibility are a few conditions that may warrant scheduling adjustments, especially as they change. Monitoring weather forecasts and up-to-date reports

can help make safety decisions. We are often creatures of habit and sometimes resist change, but when environmental conditions change, we need to be adaptable to eliminate safety concerns.

Prevention should always be a higher priority than having to manage after having a safety or health issue. Having to deal with equipment damage issues, a medical situation or a fatality always cost more in the long run.

There is a no-win situation with the loss of life, limb, time, service or even financially. Take care and be safe this winter!

### **Rubber Gloving Workshops scheduled**

The first Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop is scheduled for May 19-21, 2020, at the Northeast Community College Electric Training Facility in Norfolk. The western Rubber Gloving Work-

shop is scheduled for Sept. 1-3, 2020 at the Wheatbelt Training Field, located north of Sidney. More information can be found on brochures and/or the League website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).

### ***Safety Awards reminder***

The AWWA and the NWEA has safety applications to recognize water and wastewater departments/facilities for their safety program for the calendar year 2019. The 2020 application forms can be found on their respective websites (AWWA, NWEA) via a link through the League website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org). For wastewater applications, contact safety chairman Jeremy Walker at [jwalker@olsson.com](mailto:jwalker@olsson.com) and for water (AWWA) applications, contact Rob at [robp@lonm.org](mailto:robp@lonm.org).

Recipients will be recognized at the Annual Conference banquets held in November at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney. If you wish to recognize your facility for their safety program and activities, be sure to fill out an application.

### ***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. About 1942, private electric systems were phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took over the systems in the 1940s.

When was your water, wastewater, electric, power generation system established? When were facilities built, improvements made, etc. If your utilities is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

# Classifieds

## POSITIONS

**Utilities Lineman.** The City of Chappell is accepting applications for the position of an additional Utilities Lineman. This position works under the Utilities Foreman and in conjunction with current linemen. Assists in the operation and maintenance of the city owned electric distribution and water system. Applicant must be willing to obtain Grade 4 water operator license. Prefer electrical experience, but will train the right person. Wage is based on qualifications. Quality benefits package. Application can be obtained at PO Box 487, 757 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Chappell, NE 69129 or by email to [chappellcityhall@hotmail.com](mailto:chappellcityhall@hotmail.com). Website is [www.chappellne.org](http://www.chappellne.org). Inquiries can be sent to 308-874-2401 or faxed to 308-874-2508. EOE. Position will be open until filled.

**Maintenance.** The Village of Cody is accepting applications for a full-time maintenance position to oversee the Village's maintenance needs. Duties include oversight of water and wastewater system, streets, snow removal, equipment care, weekly trash pick-up and disposal, up-keep of

village public areas (park, ball field, arena) and some seasonal requirements (Christmas decorating, 4th of July, etc.). The successful applicant must be able to obtain a grade 4 water license (we will provide training to right applicant if not licensed at hiring). A valid Nebraska driver's license is a must and a CDL will be required if hired. Wage is commensurate with experience. North central Nebraska is a great place to live for the outdoor person. We are a small town of about 150 population located in the Sandhills of Cherry County. The high school and middle school are located in Cody and the grade school is located nearby; together they form the Cody Kilgore Unified Schools. We have a grocery, restaurant, banking, post office, fuel, repair and service shops as well as other services available. We are situated about half-way in-between Valentine and Gordon on Highway 20. Applications are available by calling the clerk at 402-823-4118 or writing to Village of Cody, PO Box 118, Cody, NE 69211. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE.

## Electrical Department Fore-



**man.** The City of Sutton (pop. 1502) is accepting applications for a position of full-time Electrical Department Foreman. This is a full-time position which requires knowledge and training of electrical distribution with a preference given for in-field working background of 2-5 years of lineman experience. Preference also is given to applicants with leadership training and/or supervisory experience. The applicant for this position would need to perform skilled line work in the operation, construction maintenance, and repair of overhead and underground electrical distribution systems. Experience in construction and maintenance of overhead and underground wiring on primary/secondary is

*Continued on page 13*

A wide banner image for HDR. The left half features a grayscale background of industrial stairs with a white railing. Overlaid on this is the text 'Ideas transform communities' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller font, is the text 'At HDR, we're helping our clients push open the doors to what's possible, every day.' At the bottom left is the HDR logo, and at the bottom right is the website 'hdrinc.com' and the phone number '402.399.1000'. The right half of the banner shows a close-up of industrial machinery, including large white pipes and metal structures, with a white railing in the foreground.



# Classifieds

*Continued from page 14*  
desired. Being a certified Journeyman lineman is a preference for this position. Education may substitute for some experience. The department is made up of one other lineman. The foreman position will oversee daily activities, long-term planning, and system maintenance. Full benefits include health insurance, H.S.A., pension contribution, sick and vacation time, comp. time, holiday time, uniforms, etc. Wage rates are negotiable and compensatory with qualifications, experience and leadership abilities. Send cover letter, resume, and application form to: Marla Itzen-Newman City Clerk, PO Box 430, Sutton, NE 68979-0430. A complete job description and application form can be obtained by calling 402.773.4225 or by e-mail: cityofsutton@

gmail.com. The City of Sutton is an equal opportunity employer. Position will be open until filled.

**Electric Lineman or Electric Journeyman Lineman.** The City of Seward is accepting applications until filled for a full time position with full benefits for an electric lineman (\$24.81-\$31.42/hour) or an electric journeyman lineman (\$27.18-\$36.60/hour).

Application review begins Feb. 3, 2020. Must meet minimum requirements. Full job description and application: [www.CityofSewardNE.gov](http://www.CityofSewardNE.gov). Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; PO Box 38; Seward, NE 68434 (402-643-2928). Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application and should be made at time of application. All positions of employment

with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Street Superintendent.** The City of Seward is accepting applications for a Street Superintendent. Salary is \$4,664-\$5,893/month. Supervises and provides administrative oversight and direction in planning and coordinating the operation and maintenance of the Street Division, Recycling Center, Burn Site, and Compost Site. Salaried/exempt. Physical requirements. Valid driver's license required. Additional requirements listed in job description. Applications accepted until filled. Must meet minimum requirements. Full job description and application: [www.CityofSewardNE.gov](http://www.CityofSewardNE.gov). Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; PO Box 38; Seward, NE 68434 (402-643-2928). Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application and should

be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. Equal Opportunity Employer.

## **FOR SALE**

**Equipment for Sale by Sealed Bid.** The Village of Culbertson is selling equipment by sealed bids only. Equipment includes: **1992 Johnston Street Sweeper Vanguard V3000 SP** – 9,014 miles, 2,578 hours, runs well, has a CAT engine, elevator needs work. **1973 GMC 6000 Farm Truck** – 396 Big Block Engine, 16' steel box and hoist, runs, needs brake work. Bids will be accepted through April 3, 2020 and will be awarded April 7, 2020. Please mail bids to Village of Culbertson, PO Box 426, Culbertson, NE, 69024. For questions, please call Steve Kerchal at 308-340-3641. [Click here](#) for pictures.

## **HAROLD K SCHOLZ CO.**

### **ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS SWITCHGEAR ASSEMBLERS**

<b>Switchgear Controls Relaying</b>	<b>Generation Automation Metering</b>	<b>Substations Service Breakers</b>
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**PH: (402)339-7600 FAX: (402)339-1821**  
**E-MAIL: [power@hkscholz.com](mailto:power@hkscholz.com)**  
**[www.hkscholz.com](http://www.hkscholz.com)**

## Electric Underground Workshop scheduled

An Electric Underground Workshop is scheduled for Sept. 9-10, 2020, at the Wheatbelt Training Facility, located

on the north edge of Sidney. More information can be found on the League's website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).

## Training calendar

Visit our website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org)  
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

### **April**

April 7 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... City Hall, Ainsworth  
April 9 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Community Center, Sargent

### **May**

May 19-21 ..... Rubber Gloving Workshop ..... Northeast Community College, Norfolk

### **June**

June 17-19 ..... Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference ..... Holiday Inn, Kearney

### **July**

July 14 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Community Center, Loup City

### **August**

Aug. 12 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... McCook  
Aug. 13 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Lexington  
Aug. 18 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... Beatrice  
Aug. 19 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... Lexington  
Aug. 25 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... Ogallala  
Aug. 27 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... Grand Island

### **September**

Sept. 9-10 ..... Electric Underground Workshop ..... Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney  
Sept. 16-18 ..... Annual Conference ..... Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

### **October**

Oct. 13 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... O'Neill  
Oct. 14 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Norfolk  
Oct. 15 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... York

### **December**

Dec. 2 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Fremont  
Dec. 3 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Crete