Utilities Section
Newsletter
League of Nebraska Municipalities
January 2021

40-year-old article still valid advice – Not just anyone

By George Wolverton
Reprinted from the February 1980 Nebraska Municipal Review

Not just anyone can do the proper job of operating wastewater operations. Today, these are highly responsible positions within all of our communities. Few of our citizens realize this importance. Our wastewater operators can create havoc around our community by closing the wrong thing at the wrong time.

For a wastewater operator to be successful, he should possess certain skills including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

1) He should be reasonably proficient as a laborer, mechanic, electrician, plumber, mason and laboratory technician.

2) He must have an understanding of the basics of chemistry, biology, zoology and hydraulics.

3) He must have an understanding of sanitary engineering principles.

4) He should be an inventor.

5) He must have administrative ability as he functions as a personnel officer, accountant, budget officer and purchasing agent.

6) He has to be an effective supervisor and leader.

7) He has to know how to work with and deal with the general public. They all are his bosses.

8) Lastly, he must be capable of operating effectively in a political atmosphere.

I am sure we can call this wastewater operator a "Jack of All Trades" and a little bit more.

How do we hire this person? First, you must establish the amount of salary the position will require. It is important to know, at this point, that a high salary base will not guarantee the people answering your ad, to be the person to give you the best results. Establish a good living wage base. Next, outline the needed skills to fit your particular job offering. This gives you the common base to grade each applicant. Some of these requirements should be:

1) Possess and average to above-average intelligence.

2) Have a good working mechanical aptitude.

3) Be able to operate under pressure.

4) Have unquestionable honesty and integrity.

5) Highly dependable.

6) Be in good physical condition.

7) Have a high integrity.

8) Be able to communicate with others both orally and in writing, to present his ideas effectively to those he works with.

9) Be public-service oriented and interested in the community he works for. Education does not always make a good wastewater operator. There are engineers, trained chemists and biologists that may fail because they are unable to work with the public, the municipal officials or lack mechanical aptitude.

10) Use the expertise of your consulting engineer to select and hire your wastewater operator. When you have hired the right man, your overall maintenance costs soon should reflect his training and knowledge of maintaining things on schedule. It is normally cheaper to repair things this way than under emergency conditions with high-priced experts doing the work under crash conditions. It may take several years for this to show, depending on the condition he finds things in, but as time goes on, this cost should stabilize and remain fairly consistent, giving a good return on the investment of a properly trained operator.

The political connections and credentials should not be considered when selecting your wastewater operator nor is civil service the answer. It will rank the applicants on the basis of an oral or written exam as I pointed out earlier. Some of these people lack the expertise to meet and work with other employees or the public.

To conclude, establish the basics needed for your operation, these should be:

1) Salary range that will be at-

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UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
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Utilities Field Representative

Not just anyone

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tractive to qualified applicants and retain them in your operation.

2) Advertise the opening as widely as possible with the requirements stated fully as possible.

3) Take the time to carefully screen all applicants and then select the one possessing the best basic qualifications outlined above.

Be sure to check all references once you have narrowed the list of applicants to the final few and seek their permission to do so.

I hope this article will be helpful in your search for good, responsible employees. It can be used for any position you may have open. Our municipal employees are important to our communities, as they are usually entrusted with much responsibility. They will accept and administer this responsibility when properly selected and fitted in the proper job making an elected official's job much easier. The public does not usually complain if the service is properly operated.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia "Just For Fun"

Q-1. What city in Nebraska is apparently a translation of the term in French "L'Eau qui Pleure"? (I do not speak French, but apparently my computer does.)

Q-2. How many cities in Nebraska are under the "City Manager" form of government?

Q-3. What city in Nebraska is under the "Commission" form of government?

Q-4. This city/fire hall was located in what city in Nebraska?

Answers on page 11.

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Office safety tips

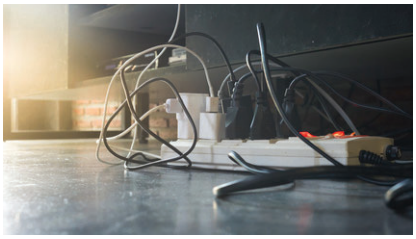
By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./ Training Coordinator

Does your office or shop have a shortage of electrical outlets? Many of our municipal buildings were constructed before computers, iPads, cellphones and other office equipment that are plugged in.

It seems almost everything else these days is wireless, but we still need one, if not more, chargers plugged in. Once again, technology is out pacing the updating of electrical wiring in our facilities causing us to cut corners with multiple extension cords and surge strips. Often, it can be found where surge strips are plugged into each other with all ports in use. Amperage ratings can be easily overcome, tripping a breaker or overheating a cord or equipment creating a potential fire hazard. If the surge strip has a breaker built in it might need reset or possibly the entire unit may need to be replaced.

The surge strip might become a multi-port unit with little to no protection if it cannot be reset. Another item is extension cord abuse around the office or shop. Extension cords are to be used as temporary devices, not to be used in place of permanent wiring. Often these cords are not rated for high amperage equipment that is plugged into them, such as space heaters. A good measure of how heavy duty your extension cord is what you paid for it and how thick is the cord diameter.

Trip hazards also can be a problem associated with extension cord use. When stepped on, they can roll, causing a fall or you can trip on them if they are not secured to the floor. Also, stepping on or running over cords with a vehicle can put pressure on internal wires causing them to fray or break. Another electrical issue of concern is when the electrical outlets are not grounded or cords with



two-prongs (no ground prong) are used. Sometimes, we get too creative by removing or cutting off the ground prong on the plug. I have even seen the ground prong bent backwards out of the way so the equipment could be plugged into a two-slot socket. An adapter is usually not recommended as you may not be able to ground it. Removing a ground eliminates protection and often the outlet screw connecting an adapter may not provide an adequate ground. Using an adapter can often add enough weight to cause the cord to sag, pulling the prongs partially out of the outlet. This may cause sparking and a fire could result.

Next time you walk through your office, take time to observe and evaluate the electrical outlets and the equipment plugged into them to prevent a potential fire. During the holidays, we tend to find a lot of decorative lights and decorations that can overload an outlet. Many offices and shops tend to use shop heaters and those heaters that are under the desk. Try to purchase heaters that shut off if tipped over to prevent a fire. The updating of electrical wiring within the building can cost thousands, but a fire can cost a lot more.

Fire prompts evacuation order

Fire, carried by strong winds (50-65 mph), threatened the City of Benkelman with evacuation orders given a little after 3 a.m., Dec. 15, 2020. The wind whipped up a prairie fire northeast of town as 13 fire departments from three states with some 80 firefighters and 40 trucks fought the blaze. The fire burned a path six miles long by about a half-mile wide.

Several new fire halls have been constructed or updated in the past few years. They include: Chester, Bruning, Columbus, Oshkosh, Davenport and Emerson. Nebraska's first fire brigade was started in 1856 at Nebraska City – 165 years ago.

Nebraska utilities history – Culbertson

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

Culbertson, located in Hitchcock County, had a trading post established by February 1874 and was named the Hitchcock County seat by 1873 as it was the only community in the county at the time. On Sept. 10, 1874, a post office was established as Culbertson. The community was named after Alexander Culbertson, an Indian agent and fur trader. The community was located at the confluence of two important streams in the area and a cemetery was established (1874). A town site was surveyed in August 1875 by W.Z. Taylor of the Lincoln Land Company, naming the main street for himself. He also built the first store and a blacksmith shop was soon established. The Texas cattle trail and another trail running parallel with the Republican River brought revenue from cowboys frequenting the area, which likely resulted in wild nights following visits to the saloon. A school was established on Taylor Avenue in 1876 and by Spring 1879 *The Globe* newspaper was established. By 1880, the population was 108 and the village had three general stores operating and a second newspaper, *The Clipper*, was established. The old trading post was converted into a kitchen for the new Taylor Hotel. About 1880-81, the Burlington & Missouri Railroad arrived and a small roundhouse as erected as a railroad division point was to be established. Culbertson was the division point between Hastings and Akron, Colo. as two east and two west-bound trains ran daily. When the railroad could not purchase the land where the roundhouse was located, they relocated it to McCook. The population soon dropped from about 150 to under 100.

By 1882, the population was estimated at 1,000 and some of the businesses included two general stores, a flour/feed store, an auction house, a bakery, blacksmith shop, two hotels, a meat market, restaurant, hardware store, lumberyard and several other small businesses. About 1885, an attempt was made to change the name to Bangor, but the petition was later dropped and Culbertson was incorporated as a village in 1885. The Culbertson Bank was in operation by 1886 and a courthouse was built along with a two-story frame cottage boarding house by 1887. The population by 1890 was 460 (one source listed 600) and a stage line owned by R. W. Powers was in operation.

Culbertson water tower. 1999 photo.

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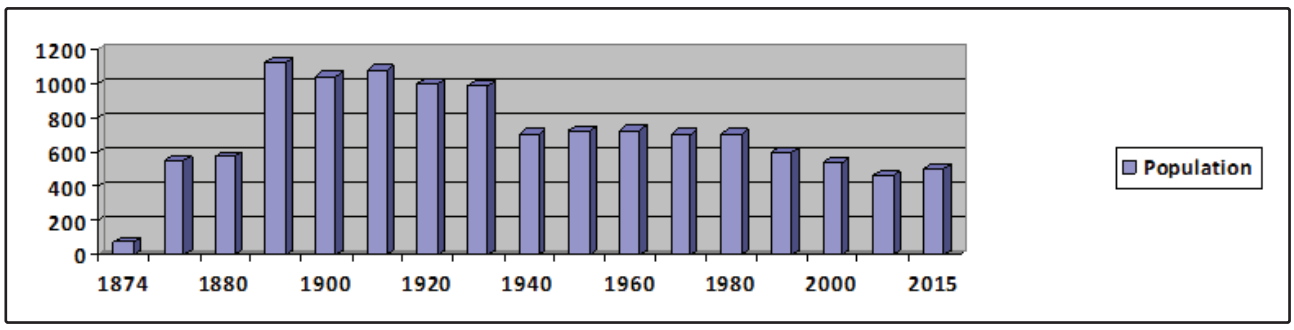

Nebraska utilities history – Culbertson

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Discussions were made in 1891 to move the county seat to a more central location, which resulted in a move to Trenton by October 1893. The 1893 drought and swarms of grasshoppers drove many settlers from the area. In 1894, the former 1886 courthouse building was converted into a school building.

The population by 1900 was 422 and the Methodist Protestant Church was constructed, replacing the original sod building. A municipal water system, which cost $8,000, was operating in 1915 with rates at $0.20 per 1,000 gallons. The population increased from 580 in 1910 to 686 in 1920. A new school and many new homes were built in the 1920s, the local weekly *Culbertson Progress* newspaper was being published and by 1930, the population increased to 820. Torrential rains in June 1935 caused flooding of the Republican River and many feeder waterways such as Driftwood Creek. Electricity was provided by the M.M. Bree Electric Company's power plant, which had a capacity of 265 kilowatt hours (kWh) provided by internal combustion power generation (1935-40).

During World War II, the population was estimated at over 1,000 due to the military base at McCook, but when the based closed, the population by 1950 dropped to 770. By 1956, the fire department had 25 volunteer firemen and a water plant owned by the village.

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Nebraska utilities history – Culbertson

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Water rates were a flat rate of $1 per month for residential customers. For commercial customers rates were for first 10,000 gallons at $3, next 10,000 at $2, and over 20,000 gallons at $0.50 per 10,000 gallons.

By 1960, the population was 803 and a public-owned swimming pool was built and financed with a $32,000 bond issue. The electric distribution system was supplied by the Southwest Public Power District with meters owned by the consumers. The meter deposit was $5 and the cost of street lighting at $170 per month. A municipal sewage lagoon treatment plant project was started and by 1962, the fire department had 22 volunteer firefighters. The water plant, owned by the village, had 20 meters in service, which were owned by the consumers. The cost of current to pump water was approximately $100. In 1966, the electrical generation (auxiliary) was owned by the village and the distribution system was supplied by Southwest Public Power District. A new 15,792-square-foot Hitchcock County Courthouse was completed in July 1969 for $275,643.

The population decreased slightly from 801 in 1970 to 767 in 1980 and in 1988, a sewer project was underway with construction of a facultative stored for land treatment facility designed for 0.095 million gallons per day (mgd) then to a slow infiltration basin.

The population by 1990 was 795 and in 1991, a community development block grant (CDBG) of $161,900 for water distribution improvements. The population decreased to 594 by 2000 and the fire department had an ISO class rating of 5/9. A cemetery was located on the hill on the northeast edge of town and most streets were paved and curbed. A private company provides solid waste collection service and the electric distribution system is served by Southwest Public Power District, Palisade.

The community has a ballfield, racetrack and fairground facilities on the east edge of town. A park and swimming pool were located where the first courthouse was formerly located. In 2010, the population was 522 and in 2012, an addition was constructed to the school building. A new 3,000-square-foot (sqft) library was completed by 2016. The new library replaced the 900 sqft bungalow-style house, which had been donated by the Culbertson Women's Club to be used as a library in 1937.

Today, Culbertson has a population of 595, has been incorporated for 135 years and is a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the Utilities Section. The village maintains several blocks of streets and a park. The village has operated a water distribution system for over 110 years and a wastewater lagoon system for over 60 years. The electric system has been served by Southwest Public Power District for about 80 years.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1960, 1977, 1979-80, 2017-2020; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1987; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Our Towns...South Central, 1988; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2002; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, Past & Present 1854-1994; Maps Tell

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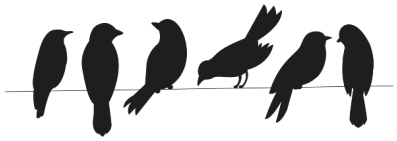
Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations! Incorporation Anniversary Recognition: 105 years – Venango (1916 village); 110 years – **Oshkosh** (1911 village) one source noted incorporation as Dec. 30, 1910, but another listed 1911. If filed that late in December, possibly not approved until January 1911; 111 years – League of Nebraska Municipalities (incorporated January 1909); 125 years – **Otoe** (1896); 130 years – **Bloomfield** (1891); 140 years – **Loomis**, **Loup City** (1881) and **Long Pine** (1881); 165 years – **Nemaha** (1856 village).

Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.

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.

Classifieds

POSITIONS.

Journeyman Lineman. The Village of Stuart will be accepting applications for a Journeyman Lineman. The applicant will need to possess a Journeyman certificate. Knowledge and experience in actual line work and wages will be determined by applicant's experience level. There will be some out of town mutual aid work in electrical systems which may require occasional travel. Send resume to Village of Stuart, Attn: Bob Lockmon, PO Box 177, Stuart, NE 68780. Email stuartutilities@gmail.com. The Village of Stuart is an equal opportunity employer.

UTILITY BILLING/ACCOUNT CLERK. The City of Seward is accepting applications for a full time Utility Billing/Accounting Clerk paying $15.81-$20.96/hour. Responsible for the utility billing system, including contracted vendor interaction, utility rate entry, utility system program changes, usage upload, billing, collection, posting, records and reporting, customer interaction, and application and execution of utility Municipal Codes as prescribed by law, policy or departmental accounting regulations. Applications accepted until filled. Job description and application: www.CityofSewardNE.gov. Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; P.O. Box 38; Seward NE 68434 (402-643-2928). Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application & 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.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT/SANITARY SYSTEM OPERATOR. The City of Seward is accepting applications for a full time Wastewater Treatment/Sanitary System Operator paying $19.81-$26.35/hour. Performs a variety of semiskilled and skilled work in the daily care and maintenance of the City's wastewater pre-treatment and treatment system, including its facilities, grounds and equipment. Applications accepted until filled. Job description and application: www.CityofSewardNE.gov. Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; P.O. Box 38; Seward NE 68434 (402-643-2928). Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application & 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.

Wastewater Superintendent. The City of Beatrice is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Superintendent. Starting salary wage range is $28.37-$41.51, plus benefits.

The Wastewater Superintendent oversees the administrative and technical operation of the wastewater treatment facility, lift stations, and collection system; supervises the employees within the WPC Department; plans, implements, and maintains standards to ensure the Wastewater Treatment Facility operates efficiently and within required local, state, and federal regulations. The Wastewater Superintendent is also responsible for overseeing the preparation of the Department's

annual budget, as well as reviewing and recommending expansion and replacement programs for projected capital replacement and improvement programs. Qualifications include: high school diploma or equivalent required; possession of or ability to obtain a Class B commercial driver's license (CDL) with proper endorsements within sixty (60) days from date of hire; possession of or ability to obtain a Nebraska Class III Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification within six (6) months from date of hire and Associate's or technical school degree in Civil, Mechanical, Chemistry, Environmental, or Sanitary Engineering or related fields preferred.

Five (5) years experience of wastewater treatment facility or collection system operations, including two (2) years as a supervisor preferred. Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office or online. Send applications to: City of Beatrice, % City Clerk, 400 Ella Street, Beatrice, NE 68310 or esaathoff@beatrice.ne.gov. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Maintenance Worker. The City of Beatrice is accepting applications for a full time Maintenance Worker in the Water Department. Hourly range is $16.63-$24.35,

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Classifieds

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plus benefits. Hours of work are Monday - Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Qualifications include: high school diploma or equivalent required; must be eighteen (18) years of age; must possess a valid driver's license and maintain an insurable driving record; must be able to obtain a Class B CDL with air brake endorsement within six (6) months of hire; must have or be able to obtain a Class 4 Water License within twelve (12) months of hire. Essential job functions include: assist in maintaining, installing, and repairing water mains, wells, and pipes, involving the operation of trenching equipment and backhoes; assist in the construction, maintenance, and repair of the water distribution collection systems; operate various types of light to heavy vehicles and equipment, such as jack hammer and boring equipment. Desirable knowledge of backhoe operation; concrete replacement; will be on a rotation for after hour calls and respond to emergency situations as required; may assist with snow removal; ability to work in all weather conditions. Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office or online. Send applications and resume: to City Clerk, 400 Ella Street, Beatrice, NE 68310 or esaathoff@beatrice.ne.gov. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Certified Water Operator. The Village of Henry is seeking a Certified Water Operator. The applicant must have up to date Class 4 Nebraska operator license and must be bondable. Salary will be negotiated based on experience. To apply for position contact: Mary Agnes Haagensen, Village Chairperson, at 308-247-9228.

Nebraska utilities history – Culbertson

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A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Culbertson website, 2018; Wikipedia, 2017-2018; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Who's Who Nebraska Hitchcock County, 1940 and Nebraska Blue Book, 1942, 1946.

Solid waste news

Gene Hanlon is stepping down as a Board of Director for the Nebraska Recycling Council (NRC). Gene played a large part in the merger of the Nebraska State Recycling Association (NSRA) and WasteCap Nebraska. He worked as Recycling Coordinator for the City of Lincoln from 1987 until his retirement in 2018 and had served on the boards for the Nebraska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, NSRA, WasteCap Nebraska, and the Nebraska Recycling Council boards. Gene's replacement on the NRC board will be Willa DiCostanzo, the current Waste Diversion Coordinator for the City of Lincoln.

Nebraska utilities history – Papillion

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

Papillion, located in Sarpy County, was surveyed and platted in 1856 by the George Bridge Company. The townsite was on land owned by John L. Beadle, located on Little Papillion Creek. The town site was named after Papillion Creek, which flows through the site. The name is apparently derived from the French term for butterfly. According to local tradition, the early French explorers named Papillion Creek due to the abundance of butterflies found along the creek banks. On Feb. 13, 1857, Papillion was incorporated as a village by the Nebraska Territorial Legislature. The original site was about two-and-one-half miles northeast of the current site today. About 1860, a German Methodist Church was organized in the area. On March 6, 1862, a post office was established and the Union Pacific Railroad was building through the area by 1866. A railway station was established at "Salings Grove." The first building was erected by Dr. David E. Beadle in November 1869. The U.P. mill, a 25 feet by 36 feet, two-story structure was built with a later one-story addition (12ft x 14ft). The mill had three buhr stones (two wheat, one corn) powered by two turbine wheels of 36 and 22-inch diameter with a capacity of 3,500 pounds of flour per day. A store was opened in 1869-1870 and a drug store was established by Jan. 1, 1870. A site was surveyed, and a plat recorded on Oct. 31, 1870, by the Beadle brothers and William Robinson. About one quarter of the lots were 50 feet by 142 feet in size. The Sarpy House hotel was built in 1870 and the Papillion House hotel in 1871. South Papillion was platted in 1872 and was located about 14 miles southwest of Omaha (one source noted land owned by S. M. Pikes was surveyed about 1874 and was called South Papillion). The Episcopal Church was established in 1872 along with the *Sentinel* newspaper published its first issue. By 1872, School District #27 was in session with a frame school built in 1873. The population by 1873 was 333 and a second classroom was added with 62 students in attendance by December 1874. The *Times* newspaper was established by November 1874, and in 1875, the *Sentinel* newspaper was moved to Sarpy Center. A brick schoolhouse

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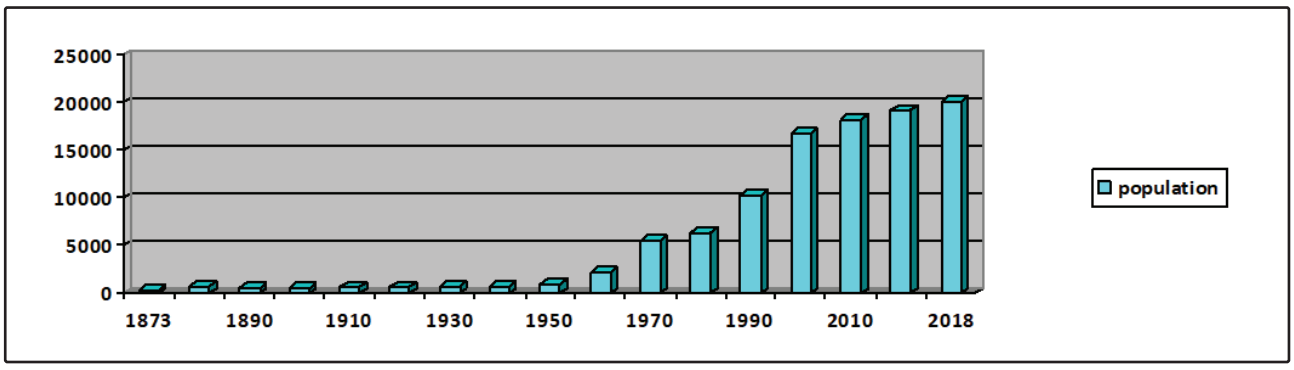
Papillion water tower. 2013 photo.



Nebraska utilities history – Papillion

Continued from page 10
was built in 1875 using bricks made in Papillion with $3,500 in bonds at 10 percent interest. A courthouse with a jail was erected in July and by September 1875, Papillion and Sarpy Center were selected over Bellevue in an election for county seat. Then in the October 1875 election, Papillion won the county seat over Sarpy Center. During the 1870s, a brick manufacturer was operating, the Clarke grain warehouse was built (1975) and the Wilcox House hotel constructed 1876. The Lutheran Church was established in 1876 and the Roman Catholic Church in 1877.

The population of Papillion by 1880 was about 800 and consisted of a Union Pacific Railroad station, a hotel, grist flour mill, grain elevators, a weekly newspaper, a brick school, five churches, a courthouse and several stores. By 1882, the Missouri Pacific Railroad connected rails into town. One source noted, although not an incorporated village, Papillion was the county seat. Another source noted May 9, 1883, as the incorporation date (likely by Sarpy County). By 1885, both the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroads ran through Papillion. At this time, Papillion had an original plat, a south Papillion addition, a Thompson addition south of the Papillion Creek along with a Coffman addition and a Beadles addition north of the Papillion Creek. The north to south streets were named Adams, Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Beadle, Jackson and Madison. The east to west streets were First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Halleck. The population was noted at about 900 in 1890, but only about 600 in 1895. Hotels included a Wilcox House and a Sarpy Hotel. The *Papillion Times* newspaper was operating and the Papillion Roller Mill by 1892. The east wing was added to the school in 1893 and a third school was erected.

The population increased from 594 in 1900 to 624 in 1910 and by 1912, some businesses included a bank, seven churches, a cement block factory, flour mill and a milk condensing plant (only one of its kind west of the Mississippi). The waterworks (1912) system cost $25,000 to install and had an operating pressure of 105 pounds per square inch (psi). The village by 1912 had over five-and-one-third miles of concrete sidewalks, four or more feet in width and 210 feet plank

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"Just For Fun" Answers

A-1. Weeping Water, also has an interesting "Native American" legend connected to its name.

A-2. Ten (Alliance, Chadron, Gordon, Kearney, Lexington, McCook, Ogallala, Scottsbluff, Sidney, and Valentine. If your city is not listed let me know as the 2020 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials was my source.

A-3. Nebraska City.

A-4. Fremont, NE. What I really want to know is what city official rode the bicycle to work!

Nebraska utilities history – Papillion

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walks. An electric light and power system was in operation by 1912 and in 1915, the Omaha & Lincoln Railway & Light Company, a subsidiary of the Illinois Traction Company, was providing electricity to Ralston, Papillion, Louisville and Gretna. The privately owned power plant had electric rates of $0.14 per kilowatt hour (kWh) and a minimum of $1. By 1915, the municipal water plant, which cost $18,000, had rates of $0.25 per 1,000 gallons, a gross income of $400 with a net of $150.

The Sarpy County Courthouse was built in 1922 and as with many village/city paving projects, were converting dirt/gravel streets into paved streets. From 1920-1930, the population increased from 666 to 718 and by 1940, the population was 763. By 1950, the population was 1,034 and a new school was needed by 1956. In 1957, a new school building was completed across from the old school and a gymnasium was added by 1958. The city was operating water and sewer systems along with a 25-member volunteer fire department. The natural gas system was operated/supplied by Peoples Natural Gas Company and the electric system was owned/operated by the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD).

In 1959, the Papillion Creek flooded and the population increased from 1,700 in 1958 to 2,235 in 1960. By 1960, The Trumble Park and Tara Heights Schools were built and by 1963, a south wing had been completed. The G. Stanley Hall Elementary and La Vista West Elementary Schools were built in 1964 and the old school became the Junior High School in 1965. The population steadily increased with about 3,000 by 1962 to 3,400 in 1965 and 4,080 by 1967. The La Vista West School had a second addition built with a multipurpose room added in 1968. In 1969, a $1.3 million bond issue was passed for a new high school along with the Carriage Hill and Parkview Schools built in 1970. The enrollment at the public school was 3,482, a student growth increase of 2,791 in 10 years.

By 1970, the population increased to 5,606, a centennial fountain was erected on the courthouse lawn and the former courthouse became the city municipal building. A new high school was built between Papillion and La Vista in 1971-72 and became the Papillion La Vista High School. The population was estimated at 8,000 by 1974 and the post office became a branch of Omaha. In 1980, the city operated a five million gallons per day (mgd) water treatment facility designed/built for removal of iron and manganese. The facility included aeration, detention, filtration, with finished water oxidized with potassium permanganate and chlorine dioxide. Chlorination and fluoridation also were added at the plant. From 1980-1987, the population increased from 6,399 to 8,075. The Tara Hills nine-hole golf course opened (1981) and the city was a Tree City USA member by 1989.

The population by 1990 was 10,372 and by 1993 the Tara Hills Golf Course expanded to 18 holes. The Sarpy County Landfill in 1998 increased rates from $18 to $19.19 per ton of trash and $12.36 to $12.62 for yard waste.

In the fall of 1999, a 10 mgd ($5 million) expansion of the water treatment plant (WTP) was completed. The facility had a ballasted Floc Reactor (BFR) system utilizing polymer, a coagulant and sand to remove oxidized manganese (iron no longer present in the well water). This plant thickens and separates the manganese oxides produced by the 10 mgd expansion. A small 0.5 mgd plant was installed to treat backwash water from the filters.

The population increased to 17,786 by 2000 and sewer rates in 2001 were dependent on meter size and inside or outside city limits. Three golf courses were operating, including the Eagle Hills Municipal Golf Course, the Papio

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Nebraska utilities history – Papillion

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Greens Golf Course and the Tara Hills Golf Course. The natural gas system in 2003 was operated/supplied by Aquila. About 2008-2009 Black Hills Energy took over operation of the natural gas system and the population was 18,247 by 2010. Following an ISO review in 2011, the fire classification went from a 4 per 9 to 10 to a 3 per 9. The Papillion Fire Department on April 1, 2014, began serving the citizens of La Vista. The fire department consists of two stations with 57 personnel, of which 51 were assigned to suppression. The department served an area of 68 square miles in the cities of Papillion, La Vista and the Papillion Rural Fire District. Construction bids were let for a new Public Works Facility in 2013. In 2015, about 40 manholes in the sanitary sewer were relined (new mortar) to stop infiltration and loose bricks from falling due to deterioration. A new sewer line was installed on South Madison from Sherman Street to Lincoln Street to eliminate sewer problems from offset joints and sags in the line. The city council in 2016 approved a community center construction bond of $5.1 million of the $45 million recreation/community center. The bond to pay for Lincoln Street improvements, new filtration system at Papio Bay Aquatic Center, painting the pool and IT connectivity in the new Parks Department building

Today, Papillion is the 10th largest city in Nebraska with a population of 20,083 and has been incorporated for over 137 years. Papillion become a city of the second class by the 1950s and a city of the first class by the early 1970s. Papillion is a League of Nebraska Municipalities member and a Utilities Section member. The city maintains miles of streets, a water system and about 20 parks including a six-acre city park. The electrical system is operated/supplied by Omaha Public Power District and the natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy. Five private companies provide solid waste collection service. In 2011, Papillion became the new home of the Omaha Storm Chasers (Pacific League), the AAA-affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. After about 42 years playing at Rosenblatt Stadium in south Omaha the team moved to Werner Park following the 2010 season and changed its nickname.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1965-75, 1977-87, 1990-2020; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Papillion Internet Website, 2003-2019; A Bridge from the Past, 1870 Papillion, Nebraska , 1970; A History of Papillion, Nebraska, 1962; Nebraska's Forest Service Newsletter, April 2002; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2004, 2016; Kirkham Michael Data Flyer, 2004; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; Wikipedia website, 2018-2019; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Nebraska Blue Book, 1915, 1928, 1946, 1978; Nebraska Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; and the Nebraska State Atlas, 1885.

Outside the box

I come across an interesting January recognition called "National Hobby Month," which was found at https://nationaldaycalendar.com/.

If I were on the ball and not distracted in December 2020, I would have set this as one of my goals for 2021 as it sounds like my kind of celebration. Some of the recommendations on how to observe included discussing or engaging in a healthy activity. This may be a workout at the gym, a hike or daily walk, taking up yoga, start a new hobby of cooking, gardening, or brewing beer or making wine. Plan a travel excurion, volunteer for a community improvement program, donate time, money or material. Maybe start reading a new book, write an article (for the *Utilities Section Newsletter*), plant a garden or a tree or plan a home improvement project. When the weather warms, plan a golf outing, visit a museum, an art gallery or sign up for a "how to" class. Again, I say this looks like a recognition month I can get into this year and the next, starting a new hobby. I end with a quote on the website "You know what they say. If you make your hobby your job, you'll never have to work a day in your life."

Training calendar

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

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, future workshops and conferences may have to be rescheduled, cancelled or held virtually.

January
Jan. 27-28....."Virtual" Snowball Conference

February
Feb. 6-13 ....."Virtual" Midwinter Conference
Feb. 9-11 ....."Virtual" Electric Meter Conference

Backflow Sessions On-Line this Year (2020)

The Backflow Workshops held on Aug. 18 and Aug. 19 were recorded and still can be viewed to receive credit hours. Check the League website at www.lonm.org for a list of all webinars available for water (grades 1-4 & 6) and wastewater credit hours. If you purchase all four sessions as a bundle, the cost is $60 members, $100 nonmembers; otherwise each session is $35 members, $45 nonmembers.

August 18, 11-12 (noon) Cross Connection Control Programs: Past & Present by Mike Wentink, DHHS Click here to register.
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

August 18, 1-2:30 pm Cross Connection/Backflow Safety: Confined Space by Rob Pierce, LNM, topics covering a variety of confined space issues. Click here to register.
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

August 19, 11-12 (noon) Basic Requirements of a Cross Connection Control Program by Speaker Rich Koenig, DHHS. Rich covers requirements, regulations, in a summary overview. Click here to register.
(Approved for 1.0-hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6, and 1.0 hour wastewater)

August 19, 1-2:30 pm Public Education concerning a Cross Connection Control Program by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM covers options for educations, communication options, monitoring, feedback etc. Click here to register.
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6, and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Training calendar

August 13, 11-12 (noon) Safety Committees by Speakers Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin, LNM, topics cover requirements, liabilities, financial benefits, unions, etc.
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $0.00 (free), non-members $35

"JASON" Safety Session Series (if purchase all five sessions as a bundle the cost is members $140 non-members $180)

August 13, 1-2 pm Implementing an Effective Safety Meeting by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, topics cover requirements, topics selection, how and when to present, safety focus along with building a safety culture.
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $35, non-members $45

August 25, 3-4 pm Safety: Lockout/Tagout Programs (Practices and Procedures)
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $35, non-members $45

September 24 3-4 pm Safety: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $35, non-members $45

October 22, 3-4 pm Safety: General Roundtable Discussion (safety programs, injury/near miss issues and hot topics)
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $35, non-members $45

November 19, 2-3 pm Safety: Slips, Trips & Falls
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater), Members $35, non-members $45

Water/Wastewater Sessions

August 27 11-12 (noon) Asset Management by Speaker Shelly Rekte, DHHS, covers a general overview on asset management and associated record keeping options
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $35, non-members $45

August 27, 1-2:30 pm Pump Application, Operations & Maintenance by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater); Members $35, non-members $45

August 20, 11-12 (noon) Well Rehabilitation and Relining by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members $35, non-members $45

August 20, 1-2:30 pm Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members $35, non-members $45

September 22, 11-12:30 pm, Water Storage tank: Operation/Maintenance by Speaker Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)
Members $35, non-members $45

If paying by credit card, there is a processing fee, which is added to the bill.

Registration can be made on the on the League website at www.lonm.org. If you have questions, contact the League office at 402-476-2829 or contact Rob at robp@lonm.org or call 402-432-9172.

Constructing, Operating and Maintaining Underground Distribution System

Virtual Course

March 2, 3, 4 9, & 10, Noon - 4 p.m. Eastern

Join us as we debut APPA's popular Constructing, Operating and Maintaining Underground Distribution Systems course online.

Participate in five, real-time sessions from Noon – 4 p.m. Eastern on March 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10. There will be two, 15-minute breaks incorporated into each session.

Highlights

- Learn about effective design, construction, operation and maintenance of underground electric distribution systems
- Discuss operations, safety and regulatory requirements
- Hear from an industry cable application engineer
- Participate in real-time presentations, group discussions, exercises, and Q&A sessions
- Earn CEUs 2/PDHs 17.5/CPEs 21 credits (for all 5 sessions)

Registration

- $995 for members
- $1,990 for non-members

Save an additional $50 on each when your organization registers 5 or more people. The larger your group, the more you save! Learn about group discounts.

Topics

- Policy and service guidelines
- Underground distribution planning, design and layout
- Maintenance practices
- Operations, safety and regulatory requirements
- Cable design and application
- Terminating underground cable
- Fusing and lightning/surge protection
- Review of the 2017 NESC that pertains to underground systems (Part 3) and work practices (Part 4)

Speakers

Larry Koshire, Consultant, Koshire Consulting, LLC. Larry has held various leadership positions in the electric industry and has extensive experience in electric transmission and distribution design, construction, and operation. He served as the general manager of Rochester Public Utilities, in Minnesota, for 17 years and is also the former general manager of Muscatine Power and Water in Iowa. He is a senior member of the IEEE and has taught APPA's Underground Distribution course for over 30 years.

Mark Swan, Consulting Engineer, MDS Engineering Consulting, LLC. Mark has over 40 years of experience in the utility industry, serving (most recently) as the general manager of the operations department of Colorado Springs Utilities. He is a member of the IEEE and the National Society of Professional Engineers and has taught APPA's Underground Distribution Systems course for over 30 years.

Guest Speaker: Ben Lanz, Director, Technology & Test Systems Availability, IMCORP . Ben has the technical oversight of power cable diagnostics and life cycle consulting. He is a senior member of the IEEE PES and ICC, and voting member of DEIS, IAS, EPRA, AWEA and CIGRE. He served as Chair IEEE technical committees responsible for power system testing, reliability and protection.

Constructing, Operating and Maintaining Underground Distribution Systems

Register Now

Registration fees:

- $995 for members
- $1,990 for nonmembers

Not a member? Join today and save on your course registration. Call Member Services at 202-467-2926 to learn more.

Group Discounts

Save an additional $50 on each when your organization registers 5 or more people. The larger your group, the more you save!

Number of registrants	Discount (per person)	Member Registration Fee	Nonmember Registration Fee
1-4	n/a	$995	$1,990
5-10	$50	$945	$1,940
11-15	$100	$895	$1,890
16+	$150	$845	$1,840

Contact **EducationInfo@PublicPower.org** for more information and to request the group registration form to receive this special discount.

Cancellations/No-Show/Refunds/Substitutions

Registrants who cancel in writing on or before February 23, 2021, are entitled to a refund of their registration fee, minus a $50 cancellation fee. Registrants who cancel after February 23 will not receive a refund, but attendee substitutions will be allowed for this event only. Registrants and no-shows who do not cancel by February 23 are responsible for the full registration fee and are not entitled to a refund. Email your cancellation request to **EducationInfo@PublicPower.org**.

Questions?

Contact **EducationInfo@PublicPower.org**.