

Former Clark Manager Passes

Funeral services were held Wednesday October 14, 2009, in Greenwood for Harland “Puffy” Bergemann, who served 14 years as general manager of Clark Electric Cooperative.

Bergemann, 101, died Sunday, October 11, at Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids following a brief illness.

Hired by the cooperative in 1937 before its system was energized, Bergemann became Clark Electric’s second employee hired, first as the bookkeeper and then as the office manager in 1938. He held that position until his service as general manager commenced in 1964. He capped his four-decade co-op career with retirement as general manager in 1978, when he was succeeded by Dick Adler.

He was an organizer of the Electric Cooperative Managers Association and served in local elected office in addition to his duties with the co-op.

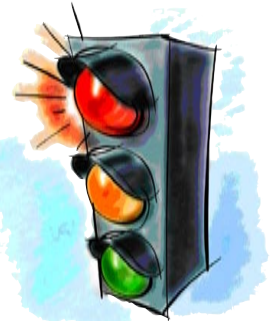
Bergemann is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and four adult children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Condolences may be addressed to Ev Bergemann at 1500 Pepper Avenue, Number 139, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. ■

Harland “Puffy” Bergemann



WARNING

Scam Targets Electric Co-op Members



Co-op members across the nation have been receiving phone calls from people who are posing as co-op employees. They are using two approaches to obtain personal identification information for identity theft purposes. One approach is to request the co-op member’s credit card or banking information to prevent disconnection of their electric service. Another scam offers federal stimulus dollars to help co-op members pay for their utility bills in exchange for personal identification information (such as Social Security number or utility account information). For example, the caller said service would be disconnected if the member did not provide credit card information. In another call, a member was told that lower rates were available from the utility, but the member needed to provide credit card information. Unlike phone companies, utility providers have a defined service territory and do not solicit consumers to switch services.

If anyone calls you asking you for this information, please hang up immediately and call your local police department and Clark Electric Cooperative to report this scam. ■

Pole Testing

Maintenance That Affects Your Reliability, Today and Tomorrow

Pole testing is one of the maintenance expenses that Clark Electric incurs during the year, but it is a very important expense. Pole testing ensures that your distribution system is sound and will withstand whatever Mother Nature throws at it. Clark Electric has one substation contracted out to be tested, with a substation rotation of 10 years.

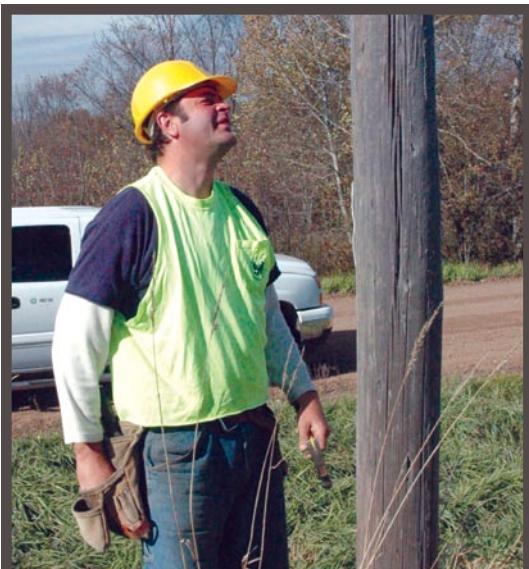
This year, American Energies has been contracted out to do pole testing on the Lublin Substation circuits. Approximately 4,000 poles

need to be tested this year. Dave Denk from American Energies says that he tests approximately 100 poles on average each day.

Dave identifies each pole, when it was tested, and how. After performing the test, he then attaches a tag to identify the pole. He marks it as bad and indicates whether or not a bore test was performed. Any poles that are rejected are then reported to our crews as work orders. The crews replace the poles with new ones to make the line sound again. ■



The next step is the bore testing of the pole if indicated. Above: Three bore holes are drilled into the pole to determine if the core of the pole is good and if other problems with the pole exist. Below: Special treated plugs are used to fill the holes left by the boring process. They are hammered in so they are secure.



Dave Denk, American Energies, identifies a pole to see when it was last tested and what type of test was done. He also does a visual inspection of the pole; this is the first part of the testing process.



A sonic sounding device is used to determine the health of the pole. This is the second step in pole testing.



Portable Electric Heaters

Understanding How They Work is the Key

There have been a number of portable and hard-wired electric heaters introduced to the marketplace in response to high home heating fuel costs. Don't be misled by cleverly worded ads that suggest one heater may be more efficient than a competitor's. All electric heaters, except ultra high-efficiency heat pumps, provide 100 percent efficiency, and watt for watt, cost the same to operate.



Three Main Heater Designs

The first step is to understand that there are three main heater categories. The first category is the high-temperature radiant style. They are characterized by the glowing red heating elements and shiny mirrored reflector behind the coils. Radiant heaters don't attempt to heat the air, but rely on "beaming" their warmth directly to people or objects in the room. Just like the sun's warmth, it can be a very pleasing form of heat.

The second category is the natural convection style, which transfers heat differently. Instead of using red-hot coils, they distribute the same amount of heat over a wider surface of the heater. This allows the flow of air over their surface (natural convection) to transfer heat to the air. Often seen in a long, slender baseboard design, these heaters are warm to the

touch but not hot enough to burn you. Other convection heaters are shaped like old-fashioned cast iron radiators, as found in historic buildings. An oil-like fluid inside spreads the heat around the surface. On a watt-for-watt equivalent, natural convection heaters put out just as much warmth, but you don't feel the intense heat as from a radiant design.

The third category, fan-forced heaters, relies on a blower to push air over the heating coils. Designed like a "mini furnace," these heaters must warm the air in the room to increase comfort. Unlike the natural convection style, they don't rely on a large surface area to transfer their heat to the air. A quick clarification — small fans are sometimes used in radiant heaters too, as a way to circulate the air. Don't let the presence of the fan fool you; if most of the heat radiates out from visible glowing coils, it's a radiant heater.

What Does It All Mean?

Each of the three designs described above uses a process called "electric resistance heating." Because all electric heaters use this same process, they all have the same efficiency — 100 percent. There are no losses. Whatever the heater's shape or size,

the amount of heat coming out is the same as the amount of electricity going in. Therefore, any two heaters with a rating of 1,500 watts on the nameplate will deliver the same amount of heat, no matter what they look like. To calculate the hourly cost of operating an electric heater, consider the following:

What is different is the method used to transfer the warmth from the heating elements to the person or objects that need it. Any of the three portable electric heater types can allow room-by-room variation in temperature. This zonal heating method can save energy, but only by lowering the setting on the home's central heating thermostat. Then in the occupied room, a space heater is used to boost the temperature to a comfortable level.

If you wish to utilize electric heat, we encourage you to employ our load management system to shift on-peak usage to off-peak usage. If you have an automatic backup heating source or storage heat system, you could qualify for a reduce dual fuel rate. By utilizing this approach, you not only save money, you also help keep costs down by avoiding peak times. ■

—Source: National Food and Energy Council; Richard Hiatt, author

$$A \text{ (Amps)} \times V \text{ (Volts)} = W \text{ (watts)}$$

$$W \text{ (watts)} / 1,000 \times (\text{hours of use/day}) \times (\text{number of days used}) \times (\text{electric rate})$$

Example using 12.5 amp space heater

$$12.5 \text{ amps} \times 120 \text{ volts} = 1,500 \text{ watts}$$

$$1,500 \text{ watts} / 1,000 \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 30 \text{ days} \times .0925 / \text{kwh} = \$ 16.65 / \text{month}$$



Switch To Save

This holiday season, consider going “green” by using Light Emitting Diode (LED) holiday lights instead of traditional incandescent light strings. LED holiday lights use up to 90 percent less energy and last seven times longer than conventional holiday lighting. Because they use so much less electricity, LEDs operate at a fraction of the cost of standard light strings.

Since LED lights are available in different styles, sizes, and colors, you can keep your tree twinkling in the style you like, while conserving energy and keeping your wallet “in the green” for holiday giving.

Did You Know?

LED lights produce a more durable light that can burn brightly for 50,000 hours, compared to up to 6,000 hours for incandescent bulbs. They also produce very little heat, which makes them safer to use on your trees and wreaths than incandescent lights.

LED lights are available in strings of 20 to 150 bulbs with red, green, blue, white, yellow, and multicolored bulbs. There are many styles available, including mini-ice, ball-shaped, and C7 and C9 (candle-shaped) bulbs.

As they go into wider use, LED lights have the potential to make a significant dent in the electricity consumed by festive lighting each holiday season. Traditional screw socket bulbs use either 5 or 7 watts per bulb. With 25 lights per string, that translates to a lot of power — between 125 to 175 watts per string.

And unfortunately, most of that energy is wasted. Less than 10 percent of the power used by a traditional bulb goes into creating light — the rest is lost as heat. ■

Holiday Closings

**Clark Electric Cooperative
and Clark Electric Appliance &
Satellite, Inc. will be closed on Friday,
December 25, and Friday, January 1,
in observance of the holidays.**

2009 Rebate Coupon

How to apply:

1. Must purchase LED Christmas lights by **November 30, 2009**.
2. Cut out and submit the entire proof of purchase (UPC) label from the product box. **No photocopies will be accepted.**
3. Complete and submit this form to your cooperative by Jan. 10, 2010 along with your UPC label and a **copy of the sales receipt.**

Customer information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____


Account Number: _____

Rebate: \$2 per string. (Limit of 12 strings.)

of strings: _____ X \$2.00 = _____



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