

Power Lines



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Other Mountains to Climb and Other Rivers to Cross

BY RON CAREY, GENERAL MANAGER

It is hard to retire from a job you've held for 25 years without getting a little melancholy, too philosophical and overly self-absorbed. So if you can't stand that kind of farewell, turn the page or go do something else.



Ron Carey

Twenty-five years ago my wife, LaVonne, two sons, Eric and Morgan, and I moved from coastal Maryland to landlocked Colorado to follow my career goal of managing a rural electric cooperative. To say we were naive as to the ways of the West would be a bit of an understatement. The open plains and lack of dense woodlands leaves an Easterner feeling exposed. However, the climate, spectacular mountainous views and hospitable natives quickly dispelled any feelings of mover's remorse.

My predecessor as Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's manager, Leon Wick, had strongly held cooperative principles, and the association I inherited was financially healthy and growing. The most immediate challenges I had to address were territorial protection and rapidly rising wholesale power costs. In the succeeding years, there have been many challenges spurred by accelerating growth, rancorous weather, territorial issues and power costs, as well as efforts to overhaul the utility industry and achieve an acceptable environmental balance.

To the extent that I have been successful in meeting those challenges, or at least holding them at bay, I have the board, the association's legal counsel and a host of loyal, dedicated employees to give thanks to. To the extent that I failed to adequately meet those challenges, I accept the

responsibility. To distinguish between the two, I defer to the historians.

Now, for me, my retirement is bittersweet. Leaving a mostly structured environment of work and responsibility that I have grown to feel comfortable in to start a new lifestyle with less demanding goals and more

narrow responsibilities will be a new challenge for me. On the other hand, challenges are the essence of what keeps a person mentally youthful and adaptable.

My immediate plans include relocation to Maine and a little sailing, motorcycling and lobstering for fun and recreation. My wife and I have always enjoyed traveling and are planning a trip to New Zealand this fall and spending more time with our kids and grandkids. For future professional fulfillment, I have a growing involvement with a program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service to develop rural electrification programs in India.

You are lucky to have a diverse, progressive and extraordinarily dedicated board of directors, legal counsel and staff of employees. Any level of success I have had at Poudre Valley was built on their shoulders, and on behalf of my wife and family, we sincerely appreciate their confidence and support.

Your new manager, Brad Gaskill, is most capable and experienced. Brad will serve the association well. We will introduce Brad and his wife, Vickie, more formally in next month's issue.

On behalf of my wife and myself, I wish you good health and many years to enjoy it. So long, until our paths cross again.

The Good Work Done

Ron Carey has been the general manager of Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association for the past 25 years. He started his career at PVREA in 1982. During his years of service as general manager, Ron has seen many changes, not only in population growth but in technology as well. He has always been able to grow with of change.

Ron has always met each challenge and was able to grow with the times. Some of his goals and accomplishments include franchise legislation that was passed in the mid-1980s at the state capitol. These franchises not only helped Poudre Valley REA. They also helped many other co-ops throughout Colorado. Ron also made it possible for Poudre Valley REA's smooth transition into the 21st century by implementing new technologies and by creating a positive professional atmosphere.

Ron retires in June of this year. Upon retirement, he and his wife, LaVonne, plan on settling in Edgcomb, Maine. Ron plans on taking up fishing, golfing and working on relaxing. The Careys are also looking forward to traveling abroad and exploring.

Ron has been a part of Poudre Valley REA's solid foundation, which he helped



Ron Carey talks at PVREA's groundbreaking ceremony September 11, 1997, for the new building.

to build. There is no doubt that he will be missed by all. Poudre Valley REA is a testament to Ron Carey and the good work done. His charismatic personality, hard work and take-charge qualities attest to his extraordinary leadership ability.

Brad Gaskill became the assistant general manager at Poudre Valley REA on April 1, 2007. Beginning June 4, 2007, Brad will assume the role of general manager.

The Cost of Operating Appliances

The amount of electricity you use in your home is related to family size and living habits.

The residential cost of one kilowatt-hour (kWh) for Poudre Valley REA customers is approximately 8 cents. It's easy to figure out the hourly cost of running an appliance.

First, find the wattage, usually on the side or bottom of the tool or appliance, and then use this formula:

Appliance wattage divided by 1,000 watts, multiplied by the time the appliance is on, multiplied by .8 cents.

For example, 1,200 watts divided by 1,000 watts equals 1.2 (kW) times 1 (hour) times .08 equals 9.6 cents per operating hour

Don't forget that some products such as irons, griddles, water heaters and electric space heaters are controlled with a thermostat and cycle on and off during operation.

Some electrical devices, such as computers and tools, may show the amperage of the device instead of watts. To convert to watts, multiply amps by volts. The voltage of household outlets is 120 volts.

Poudre Valley Continues to Sell Green Power

A number of consumers have inquired if Poudre Valley REA has a program that allows consumers to support the generation of power from renewable resources. Poudre Valley REA, along with its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, has a program that allows its members to purchase electricity generated from wind, solar and small-scale, low-head hydropower facilities.

The following is a detailed explanation of the Green Power program.

Availability. The Green Power program is available as a rate rider on the kWh rate schedule for each rate class.

Rate Rider Per Month. A charge of \$1.25 per month will be added to each consumer's energy charge for each 100-kWh block purchased.

Maximum Number of Blocks. The maximum number of 100-kWh blocks per month a consumer is eligible to purchase is three; however, under certain circumstances consumers may negotiate to purchase larger quantities.



Contract Period. The commitment period for consumers to volunteer to purchase Green Power shall be a minimum of three years. After the three years are over, the agreement is renewable on a month-by-month basis. If during the initial three-year contract the consumer moves off PVREA's system, the green power obligation is terminated.

Autopay's Convenience Saves Time and Money for You

How about not taking the time to pay your electric bill? If you sign up for Poudre Valley REA's Autopay program, your utility payments will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. No more writing checks, buying stamps or worrying about your bill being paid on time. Customers who used to drive to the office to pay their bill can save that gas for another trip.

Also, first-time customers can avoid the usual \$115 deposit that is required for the first year of service. This fee will be waived for customers who sign up with Autopay.

And if that isn't incentive enough, customers who come in to our office to sign up now will receive a free 100-Watt compact fluorescent lightbulb. Just ask for one.

How Autopay Works

You will still receive a billing statement. Autopay activates after the consumer is billed. When the Autopay system has been established for your account, the word "Autopay" will appear under the Net Amount Due box located on the bottom portion of your electric bill. The net amount due shown on your billing statement will be with-

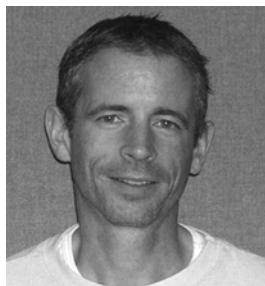
drawn from your bank account after the due date shown on your bill. (Win *John and Beth Bortner)

Important Information About Autopay

The net amount due shown on your billing statement will be the amount transferred from your banking account.

- You may need to complete a separate authorization form for each electric account you want on the Autopay program.
- If you move to another location within our service location, a new authorization form may be required.
- If the Autopay program is stopped for any reason, you are responsible for paying the bill as required.
- If sufficient funds are not available at the time a transfer is made, a return item charge of \$15 will be added to your electric bill account. Poudre Valley REA reserves the right to terminate your participation in the Autopay program should this occur.

You may terminate Autopay at any time by calling or writing Poudre Valley REA.



Kirk Drew

New Employee

Poudre Valley REA would like to welcome Kirk Drew. Kirk has accepted the position of tree trimmer apprentice. Kirk was born and raised in Glendale Heights, Illinois. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Brenda, and child, Jordan. Welcome aboard, Kirk.

FIND YOUR NAME CLAIM SOME MONEY

If you see your account name in the Poudre Valley insert, you have until the last day of the month that the magazine is dated to claim your reward by calling PVREA at 970-226-1234. More than ever, it pays to keep informed about your electric utility.

LIGHTNING SAFETY

Lightning Safety Week is June 24-30. Find lightning facts and safety tips at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website at www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.



WHAT ARE CFLS?

Replacing your incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs is a way of cutting back on your electrical bill. CFLs are four times more efficient than incandescent lightbulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Because CFLs generate 70 percent less heat, they're safer to operate and definitely cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

CFLs use two-thirds less energy than standard incandescent bulbs while providing the same amount of light. For example, a 20-Watt CFL will generate the same amount of light as a 75-Watt incandescent bulb. And because the CFL lasts 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, you gain a savings of approximately \$45 and save approximately 570 kWh on your electric bill over the CFL's lifetime. This in itself is a financial investment.

Other features include reducing air and water pollution by keeping CO₂ out of the atmosphere. If everyone in the United States used compact fluorescent lighting, we would be able to do away with 90 average-size power plants. Another feature of CFLs is no noise — no more humming as so many of the incandescent bulbs tend to do.

Choose the color that works best for you. CFLs give off a comfortable natural light. But while most CFLs put out warm colors, you can now choose a cooler color for your lighting purposes. Three-way CFLs are also now available for lamps with three-way settings.

It is a misconception that CFLs only come in one shape. They now come in a variety of sizes and shapes, for indoor and outdoor use. Matching the right CFL to the right kind of fixture helps ensure that it will perform properly and last a long time.

The average price of CFLs has gone down within the last couple of years, making them comparable in price to incandescent bulbs. CFLs can be found at local hardware stores. To get a CFL with the right amount of light, choose one that offers the same lumen rating as the one you are replacing. Read the package to be sure that you are getting the right type for the fixture you have in mind. Don't be afraid to ask your local hardware store associate to help you decide what will work best for you.

Be Aware of Child Safety Inside and Out

BY DANNY MARTINEZ, MEMBER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Parents, make sure to teach your children electrical safety. When your children are young, insert safety plugs into unused outlets and keep electrical cords out of reach. As your children get older, show them electrical outlets and teach them not to play with or put things into them. Also show them electrical cords and teach them not to pull or chew on them. Electrical wiring boxes should be locked at all times.

Appliances can also be dangerous, especially to children. If you have a toaster, teach your children not to put any metal objects, such as butter knives, into it, even when the toaster is off. Explain to your kids the danger of coming into contact with electricity. Because kids like to touch light switches and outlets, teach them to dry their hands after washing them. Because children usually turn off the light when exiting the bathroom, this lesson becomes especially important.

Teenagers need to be reminded of electrical safety as well, especially since they tend to play stereos in their bathrooms and will often adjust the volume with their wet hands. Teenagers also tend to overload outlets with too many appliances, such as CD players, televisions and DVD players. Consider buying an outlet strip with a built-in surge suppressor to avoid overloading circuits. This is an especially good idea if teenagers have a com-

puter. Tell your teenagers how important it is to conserve energy and help reduce your electric bill by turning off appliances that are not needed when they are gone during the day.

Farming families need to take special care. Many farming families have irrigation pipes that are usually 20 feet long and made out of aluminum, which is light and easy to carry. Farmers clean these conduits by raising them into the air vertically to empty them of debris. Before cleaning these conduits, farmers should be sure to teach their families to look up to make sure they are not standing under any power lines before raising an irrigation pipe.

Because children like to dig holes as they play in the yard with their cars or army men, it might be a good idea to get an underground "locate" done at your address. A diagram of your underground utilities will allow you to know where it is safe for your children to play, and you might plan the play areas of your yard accordingly. If possible, request that the diagram include the depth of those utilities. Many locators have the ability to determine depth and will be happy to do it for you. Just as you need to be aware of what is below your children's play areas, pay attention to what is above them. Tree houses and climbing trees should never be locat-



Darius Xavier Martinez, son of PVREA Member Services Representative Danny Martinez, demonstrates electrical proficiency.

ed near power lines. Also, children need to understand the importance of never climbing utility poles or high-tension towers.

The most important thing you can do for your children is to set a good example. Always remember to practice electrical safety, whether your kids are watching or not, and your kids will do the same.

Osprey Platform at Fossil Creek Reservoir

BY JACOB WELLS, LARIMER COUNTY RANGER

Larimer County parks and open lands contains thousands of acres of conservation easements, made possible through the citizen-initiated open space sales taxes and through cooperation of local organizations. Fossil Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space, located on Carpenter Road near I-25, is one such example of a successful partnership.

Fossil Creek Reservoir, which opened in October 2004, is special in many ways. It is a fantastic place to go for a picnic, to take a walk and to view wildlife. Fossil Creek is home to more than 220 species of birds. The National Audubon Society designated Fossil Creek Reservoir as an important bird area, one of only 49 in Colorado, because of its significance to birds.

Poudre Valley REA was uniquely equipped to assist one of these key species: the osprey. Ospreys are raptors that mainly feed on fish. Because of this, they prefer to be close to lakes and rivers. They like to nest up high and seem to prefer man-made structures, such as bridges and telephone poles. In order to entice the ospreys that fly over Fossil Creek Reservoir each year, a 4-by-4-foot platform with a man-made nest was mounted on a 60-foot cedar pole. On April 26, 2006, this 60-foot pole was sunk 10 feet into the ground on the southeast corner of Fossil

Creek Reservoir Regional Open Space. Poudre Valley REA helped make this project possible with their generous donations of materials, equipment and labor.

On April 16, 2007, Larimer County rangers watched excitedly as three ospreys flew onto and around the nest. It is suspected that two of the three ospreys were males and were challenging each other for territory and the lone female. Eventually, one of the males won and the pair has since been occupying the nest. They have been bringing their own twigs and other materials to pad their new home and make it their own.

There is always a chance that this pair could have young, but during the first year they find a nest, osprey will usually "play house." This is when they establish territory as a pair and scout the area to make sure it can sustain themselves and future young. It seems like the whole birding community is anxiously awaiting the possible sight of a hatchling poking its head out of the nest. We'll just have to wait and see what happens.



PHOTO BY DALE ERICKSON