



Retiree News

PGE retirees stay connected, get tips, stay involved.

Upcoming Events



31st Annual PGE RETIREE SPRING LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Monarch Hotel and Convention Center

The PGE Retirees' Annual Spring Luncheon will be held at the Monarch Hotel and Convention Center, 12566 SE 92nd Avenue, Clackamas, Oregon (off SE Sunnyside, west of I 205 near the Clackamas Town Center), on Thursday, May 12, 2011. Limited handicapped parking is available at the south end of the hotel for easier access to Monarch Hall.

Doors open at 11 a.m. for you to gather and meet with old friends. Lunch will be served at noon.

An invitation will be mailed to your home in April. Please RSVP by Saturday, May 6 to reserve your place. When returning your card, please list the name of one guest. If, after you have sent in your card, you find that you are unable to attend, please notify Russ Bailey (503 632 5423) or Phyllis Miska (503 636 6052) by May 6.

NOTE: If you or your guest require a special diet, please contact Russ or Ed because they must make special arrangements with the hotel. (Sorry – no special diet requests on the day of the luncheon.)

PGE RETIREES TRIPS PLANNED:

Two trips have been planned for later this summer:

- Luncheon cruise on the Portland Spirit, July 14, 2011
- Evergreen Air Museum in McMinnville on August 18, 2011

Additional information will be in an upcoming bulletin and at the luncheon. Also, when schedules are available for the Lake Oswego/Portland Trolley, a date will be determined and announced in an upcoming bulletin. If you are interested in attending, need additional information or have an idea for a future trip, please contact Phyllis or Ed Miska at: 503-636-6052, or e-mail at epm745t@earthlink.net or Darlene or Terry Judkins, 503-655-2863, e-mail at djudkins@comcast.net.

PGE RETIREES' PICNIC

The PGE Retirees' Annual Picnic will be held on Thursday, **July 21**, at Red Sunset Park in Gresham, Oregon (same location as last year). A map will be provided in a future bulletin. Questions? Call Bob Clayton at 503-658-2990.

GOLF NEWS

PGE's first Retirees' golf tournament of 2011 will be held on **June 21, 2011**. Meet at 8 a.m., at Broadmore Golf Course. Last year three tournaments were held and everyone had a great time. If you would like to help organize the tournament or have questions please call Mike Chapin, 503-643-1757, Chapinc@aol.com, or Tim Wandell, 503-524-8639, wandell4310@comcast.net or Wally Linder, 503-925-9018, wclinder@yahoo.com

PGE BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the 2WTC-Plaza Conference Room. If you are unable to donate this time, mark your calendar for June 6, 2011. Questions? Contact Joanne Olson, 360 254 7898, Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858, or Stan Chiotti, 503-397-0805.

BOWLING

There are only a few weeks left before the close of the bowling season on May 18. Join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. Check-in time is 12:30 p.m. and the games begin at 12:45. 20th Century Bowl is located at SE 92nd Avenue and Powell Boulevard in Portland. The cost is \$6.50 for three games, which includes shoes, coffee and a door. All PGE retirees, their spouses and significant others are welcome. The new bowling season will start back up in Sept. 07, 2011.

During the game on March 2, Al Richardson finally broke 200, and in February Terry Judkins bowled a 201, but on March 16 Fred Foster beat them both by bowling a 222. For questions or additional information, contact Al Richardson, Chairperson, 503-518-8600 or Terry Judkins, Co-Chair, 503-655-2863



PGE RETIREE MUSEUM

The museum is still in need of *Bullseyes* and *NewsLines* (even if a single copy). Thanks to those who stopped by the picture table during the Christmas luncheon to help identify folks in pictures. The pictures will be back at the Spring Luncheon, so please stop by to help us identify

anyone you might know. Please let your families know that if they have items that they think are of interest/value to the museum, to please contact us and we'll gladly pick the items up. We also would like to have your old retirement books, slides, etc. We also accept donations of money (all donations are tax deductible).

PGE RETIREES

TOTAL YEARS WORKED AT PGE: 461

MARCH 2011

Hannan, Jeanne M., Customer Service Rep. Field-Tech. (31 years)

Ramsey, Timothy D., Senior Special Tester (42 years)

Todd, Jerome, Senior Special Tester (15 years)

Williams, Edward L., Specialist, Senior Network (14 years)

Wilson, Eddie F., Working Foreman Lineman (31 years)

APRIL 2011

Brubaker, Eric N., Reliability Technician (20 years)

Curtis, Earl A., Specialist V (35 years)

Nguyen, Huynh T., Tech III, Drafter (23 years)

Parker, Kenneth (Douglas), Senior Instrument & Control Tech (19 years)

Pearson, Bonnie M., Customer Service Rep Field (9 years)

Rooke, Laura L., Project Manager (34 years)

Scott, Charles L., Customer Service Rep Lead (26 years)

MAY 2011

Berggren, Cheryl A., Construction Coordinator (30 years)

DeMello, Richard V., Working Foreman Lineman (32 years)

Harris, Reginald, Specialist II (35 years)

Londos, Janis, Assistant IV (25 years)

Prier, Kenneth W., Engineer III, Elect. (40 years)

The next Retirees' Board Meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the Faraday Conference Room in the basement of the Portland Service Center, 3700 SE 17th Avenue, Portland.

All retirees and spouses are welcome to attend.

Helpful Information for Retirees

(Detach and post on your bulletin board or refrigerator)

Retiree medical assistance program

The Retiree Assistance Program is available to help any qualified retiree or surviving spouse. It can provide financial assistance for out-of-pocket medical expenses not covered by insurance or Medicare. Your request is handled with strict confidentiality. Requests for assistance must be in writing. Call Tom Kreis, 503-645-2754, Barbara Beck, 503-775-9236, or Russ Bailey, 503-632-5423, for more information.

Fit Factory

For only \$20 per month, PGE retirees are welcome to use the health club facilities located in Three World Trade Center. As a member, you are welcome to use the weight machines, treadmills, shower facilities or participate in classes. For questions or to join, contact Sonya Duffin at 503-464-8075 or by e-mail at Sonya.Duffin@pgn.com.

PGE Retirees website

(pgeretirees.org)

Can't find one of your older bulletins? Need information about PGE history, news or upcoming events? Find this information and much more on our website. Jack updates the retirees' website daily as new items become available to him. If there are items or events that you would like to have added to the website, please contact Jack Wojnowski, 360-885-4671, or at jnmnwojnowski@yahoo.com, or Barbara Bergmans, 503-682-8858, or b.bergmans@frontier.com.

Volunteer power tool Web site for PGE employees and retirees

To check out what projects for volunteers are coming up or to enter your volunteer hours, log on to www.easymatch.com/pgevp. You may sign up to volunteer online and/or print a form, fill it in and send it to the address listed on the form. Log in to this website using your employee number without the E. Your initial password is the last four digits of your Social Security number. (You will be asked to change your password the first time you log in.) For questions, logon help or if you don't have a computer, please call Scott at 503-464-8554 or e-mail him at Scott.Guptill@pgn.com.

PGE retiree get-togethers		
Location	Time	Date
Village Inn, 10301 SE Stark Street	9:30 a.m.	First Tuesday of even-numbered months (April 5 or June 7)
Wichita Bar and Grill 191400 Molalla Avenue, Oregon City	9 a.m.	First Thursday of each month
Elmer's Restaurant 390 SW Adams Street, Hillsboro	9 a.m.	Every Wednesday
Hale's Restaurant 17502 SE McLoughlin Blvd	9 a.m.	First Wednesday of each month
McDonald's, Beaverton Mall 3205 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Beaverton	9:30 a.m.	Every Thursday
All of the above groups are open to all PGE retirees, their spouses or significant others. If you would like to start up a group closer to your area, or know of a group that hasn't been listed in the bulletin and would like for it to be or have any questions regarding any of the groups, please call Terry Judkins at 503-655-2863 or e-mail him at djudkins@comcast.net .		

Getting to know us

LEONARD V. (LENNY) MORSE

01/06/1956 - 08/01/1978

PGE (22+ years)

Leonard (Lenny) Morse was born in Portland, Oregon, on July 4, 1923. His parents were Beulah, a housewife, and William Morse, an electrician. They both were born and raised in the Portland area. Lenny had a brother and a sister, who are both now deceased.



The Morses lived in LaCenter, Washington. During Lenny's senior year his parents moved to Portland. Lenny didn't want to leave his friends or change schools with graduation so close, so he decided to stay, but he had to find a job and a place to stay. The owner John Soehl of a small dairy in the area hired Lenny and paid him \$5 a month, with room and board, to milk the cows by hand twice a day, seven days a week and bottle the milk in glass bottles to be sold.

Lenny graduated from LaCenter High School in June 1942; shortly afterward he went to work for Kaiser Shipyard in Vancouver as an electrician's helper and worked there until the end of November 1942.

Lenny enlisted in the Air Corps on December 3, 1942 and became a Flying Tiger. He was sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO for basic training. It was rough, but Lenny made it through. He was then sent to Holabird Ordnance Depot in Baltimore, Maryland, for training in Automotive Sheet Metal and Radiator Repair. After finishing his schooling he was sent to Santa Maria, CA, where he was assigned to an Ordnance Unit. On November 10, 1943 his unit was deployed out of Los Angeles and sent to the Orient, where he served two years. He and 8,499 other service personnel was crammed on board the USS Hermitage (a converted Italian ship), and set sail for 46 days to Bombay, India. A sailor aboard ship told Lenny, "If you want to avoid getting seasick while we are sailing, you need to keep busy." Lenny borrowed a set of dungarees and got a job in the General Store which included 3 meals a day, while the other "Dogfaces" aboard were served only two meals a day. It worked as he was one of the few that didn't get seasick during the trip.

While docked in Perth, Australia, Lenny sneaked off the ship to see what a pub was like. After his "night out on the town" he returned to the ship. When he got there he had to figure a way to get back aboard

ship without getting caught, which meant he would be in big trouble. He noticed sailors coming down the gangway, grabbing large sacks of potatoes and taking them aboard ship. He walked over, grabbed a sack, threw it over his shoulder and followed the others up the gangway and aboard ship with no one being the wiser.

In Bombay his company boarded a train to Calcutta, on which they were fed hardtack and bully beef. The train cars were equivalent to boxcars, with the toilet being hole in the floor; while using it you could count the railroad ties as the train passed over them.

They spent a short time in Calcutta, getting to see the many sacred cows roaming the streets. They were then flown to Luliang Air Base, the headquarters of the 14th Air Flying Tigers. There Lenny was assigned to 1760th Ordnance Company. He called Hostel #10 home for the rest of his stay in China. It was a single story barracks constructed out of mud bricks and the windows were made of oiled paper. One day a plane crashed on takeoff with a 500-pound RDX bomb on board. When it exploded it shook the barracks so hard that it tore some of the windows from top to bottom. Had the windows been glass, it could have possibly killed or injured anyone inside.

Every morning after chow the men would all pile onto a Bomb Service Truck (BST) and head to the garage for the day. Lenny was put in charge of the lube rack, servicing the base vehicles. It wasn't all work and no play, because on Sunday afternoons they went downtown to Sammy Wong's where they spent the afternoon eating and having fun.

One of Lenny's most memorable days, a day he never wants to repeat, was the day he drove a truck loaded with 3,000 pounds of sensitive bombs over 75 miles of rough roads, thinking every bump he hit would be his last.

Almost daily there were Japanese air raids on their camp. Since the Japanese had two of the main roads closed, everything had to be flown in, which didn't include potatoes, and meant they ate a lot of rice.

Mid-December 1945 came quickly and it was time to fly back over the "hump" to Calcutta, where Lenny boarded the USS General J. R. Brooke to New York. He got to see a lot of the world during his tour of duty. Returning home, they went through the



Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and Suez Canal, and docked at Port Said, Egypt. From there, they sailed through the Mediterranean Sea, past Gibraltar and into the Atlantic Ocean, docking in New York on January 3, 1946. Lenny was sent back to Fort Lewis, Washington, where he received his discharge papers on January 16, 1946, completing over three years of service and his loop of the world. Lenny says he is proud and has no regrets for the years of service he gave to his country.

After Lenny was discharged, he and his folks purchased a small farm on Ribbon Ridge, west of Newberg, Oregon. After a while he decided farming wasn't for him, and went to work in Newberg at the Flying A Service Station. While waiting on customers he noticed the cute little gal, Betty, sitting by the window across the street at City Hall. He started waving at her while waiting on customers. At first she ignored him, but finally one day she waved back. He got up the nerve to walk over and ask her for a date. On their date they played "Duck Pins" and shared an ice cream at John's Ice Cream Shop. And as they say, "The rest is history." They married in Stevenson, Washington, on April 4, 1947 and made their home in Newberg for the next 40 years until they moved to La Grande to be closer to family. They will celebrate their 64th anniversary in April. After spending time with these two wonderful people it is easy to see they love each other as much or more today than the day they married. I asked Lenny and Betty; "What is your secret of a happy marriage?" They both responded, "Love and commitment."

Lenny worked at the local pulp mill in Newberg for eight years. During this time their three children were born. Two daughters; Wendy Schmidt (Les) of Lebanon, Missouri., Both retired, and Becky Nolf (W.T.) of Summerville, Oregon, also both retired. They lost their only son, David, 2 ½ years ago at the young

age of 54. They had five grandchildren and have 12 great-grandchildren. David's son, Jed, was killed in a car accident.

In 1966 they sponsored an Exchange Student from Belgium and have remained close with her ever since.

In January 1956 Lenny applied for a job at PGE and was hired on January 6 as a tree and brush cutter in Newberg, working for Big Mac McKinney. Lenny said "Mac really knew his stuff. He told his crews the best way to trim a tree is cut it off at the ground line and spray the stump." Later that year, Lenny was named ground man. Later he was asked if he would like to try his hand at dispatching, and so he went to work in the Yamhill office as a dispatcher for five years, until he became an estimator. While in Newberg Lenny suggested using a "common bolt" in the side mount bracket construction. He was awarded \$1,000 and his idea went into the PGE Standards book. He worked in the Yamhill office until the company opened Western Division. He held this position until he took early retirement in July 1978 at the age of 55. While at PGE, Lenny earned his eight-gallon pin for his blood donations.

Lenny attended George Fox College in Newberg majoring in Biblical Studies and became an ordained chaplain. He was ordained at the Newberg Christian Church on May 18, 1980, the day Mount Saint Helens erupted. (Born on the 4th of July and ordained the day the mountain blew! WOW! Lenny, you sure knew how to announce the big events in your life!)



Lenny performed the marriage of Tiffany and David Merriman on the PGE Rose Festival Float in 1988. This was the morning after the bride and groom had spent a big part of the night before decorating the float they were getting married on. Tiffany and David will celebrate their 23rd anniversary this June.

In the early 1980s Lenny served for five years as a chaplain for Christian Churches, both Disciple and Independent, as well as at seven local hospitals, including Emanuel, where he served a term as Clinical Pastoral Ed. He was one of only two men in the Portland area who were authorized to teach the course. One of the requirements was for him to attend the Tumor Board's meetings every Tuesday at noon, where he listened to doctors discuss cancer cases and show slides of different cases. He said it was a very rewarding job being a chaplain.

For 10 years Betty and Lenny made custom cakes for weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, etc., working out of their kitchen, which was licensed and inspected. They provided cakes for many of the weddings that Lenny performed. Lenny said he was never surprised by what some of the brides would ask of him. One bride told him that as long as he was going to be up on the altar anyway, he could light the candles.

In their spare time Betty grows a large garden, starting a lot of her plants from seeds from last year's crop. They both love to go fishing at Lake Morgan, but one of their favorite lakes they have to wait until after Father's Day to be able to get up to Wallowa Lake in Joseph.

In October 2010 Lenny and Betty took a trip with the Honor Flight that took a group of 10 WWII veterans from Eastern Oregon (some in wheelchairs), to Washington, D.C. Lenny's trip was paid for but he couldn't bear the thought of Betty, the love of his life, sitting at home alone, so he asked if he could take her with him. They told him he could take her as his guardian, but would have to pay her way, and they both said it was worth every penny. Betty proudly wore her T-shirt with "Guardian" written across the front. They spent two days and a night visiting the WWII Memorial (they said it was fabulous), and were taken to visit the Vietnam, Korean, Lincoln and other monuments. Their trip included a tour of the White House. Each veteran was presented with a flag that had flown over the Capital. ("Thrills galore!") While there, they saw bus loads of veterans from all over the United States.

Lenny wants to get the word out and let other WWII veterans know that Honor Flight is a nonprofit group whose main thrust is to fly every WWII veteran to Washington, D.C., to visit the WWII Memorial at no cost to them. If you are a WWII Vet and would like to take this trip go to their website, www.honorflightoforegon.org, for additional information.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope you all enjoy reading my *Getting To Know Us* stories, as much as I do writing them. The best part of writing your stories is that I was able to meet all of the wonderful people I got to meet, and all of the new and life time friendships I have formed from these folks. Some of these great people have passed away since their stories were published, and I am so thankful that I was able to record their lives and history while working at PGE. I feel so fortunate to have met all of the great people. Betty and Lenny Morse have now been added to my friendship list. Lenny wrote me an e-mail thanking me for the great story on Al King and the good job I was doing with the bulletin. He told me a couple of things about himself and I asked if I could write his story and he graciously agreed. I wish you all could read the e-mails I receive on the stories I have written and the phone calls that I have received over the years, not counting all of you that come up to me at the luncheons and picnics since I started these stories, telling me how much you enjoy my stories and my *Note from the Editor*. These e-mails and phone calls often lead me to my next story. Thanks again for letting me step into your world and letting other Retirees take a peep on you and your families' lives. Take care and God Bless.

Barbara Bergmans