

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

February 2011

Clean out accidents

By Bob Perry,
Loss Control Manager
for LARM and LNM

Since spring has arrived, I hope.....now is the time to ensure that we have some good housekeeping on the job. I think my mom was right all those times she reminded me that “there’s a place for everything and everything in its place.” This is especially true at work where an effective housekeeping program can make a big difference in preventing accidents, fires, explosions, and occupational diseases.

Good housekeeping practices can provide other benefits as well:

- Encourages efficiency
- Uses space better
- Keeps inventory at a minimum
- Helps control property damage
- Provides a good appearance of your facility and impresses the customer
- Reflects a well-run organization
- Encourages better work habits
- Minimizes janitorial work
- Makes jobs easier and working conditions more pleasant

Conversely, a disorganized workplace displays:

- Cluttered and poorly arranged areas
- Untidy piling of materials
- Items stored that are no longer needed
- Blocked aisles, stairways, and



exits

- Materials stuffed in corners and out-of-the-way places
- Materials gathering dust and dirt from non-use
- Overcrowded storage areas and shelves
- Overflowing bins and containers
- Broken containers and damaged materials
- Combustible materials stored near sources of ignition.

Tackle your housekeeping chores by being responsible for your work areas. Use a housekeeping checklist to evaluate each area before and after every shift. Mom was also right when she stated that “a woman’s work is never done,” because housekeeping chores require constant vigilance. Indeed, in the workplace, “a worker’s (male and female) housekeeping work is never done.” But keeping the workplace clean and

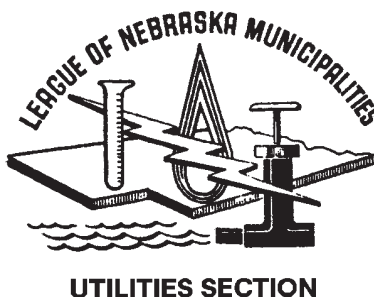
organized results in being proud of your job, your workplace and the services you provide. You’ll be safer, healthier, more efficient, and more profitable.

Snowball Conference hours

The credited hours for water and wastewater operators who attended the 2011 Snowball Conference are posted on the League’s website at www.lonm.org.

Hours were calculated from scanned lists and sign-in sheets. Due to the number of potential water hours, this conference was eligible for grant reimbursement if the operators/facilities were eligible for the grant program. Individuals who prepaid for the conference and are eligible for reimbursement should turn in required paperwork. Also, mileage must be turned in to DHHS as odometer readings. The current mileage reimbursement is \$0.51 per mile.

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Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

2011 Electric Meter School held

The 2011 Electric Meter School was held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Feb. 22-23. The school is cosponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities – Utilities Section and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association in cooperation with Northeast Community College.

Participants at this year's school totaled 107 (including speakers and company representatives). The featured lead off manufacturer for this year was Landis & Gyr with local representative company, Kriz Davis.

This year, the school was two full days. The first day consisted of two sessions focusing on basic and advanced electrical metering. Session A covered metering technology, proper meter selection, and Session B reviewed

polyphase circuits/metering and advanced solids state metering. The afternoon covered CT/PT applications, demand/TOU metering, installation, verification and site diagnostics.

The second day focused on smart grid communications that emphasized automatic meter reading (AMR), automated meter information (AMI) and other data communication and collection topics.

The speakers covered AMI reviews/updates, AMR/AMI needs, prepay metering, cell phone technology (meter reads/disconnects), utility issues with today's meters, safety and preparing for the future.

Special thanks to the following companies for providing speakers, sponsorship or exhibits at this year's school (listed alphabetically by company):

Cooper Power (S, SP)
*Dutton-Lainson Company (SP)
EUSCO (S, SP)
GE Services (S, SP)
Graybar Company (Ex, SP)
Itron (S, SP)
*Kriz Davis Company (S, SP)
Landis & Gyr (S, SP)
Metrum (S, SP)
Moehn Sales (S, Ex, SP)
NightHawk Systems Inc. (S, SP)
PDS (SP)
SmartGrid CIS (S, SP)
*WESCO (S, SP)

*Key: S=Speaker, SP=Sponsor, Ex=Exhibitor, *2011 Associate Member of the League/Utilities Section.*

The 2012 Metering Conference is scheduled for Feb. 29 – March 1 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. Be sure to mark this date on your calendars.

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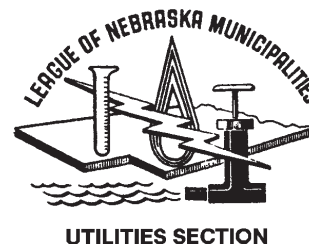
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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following wastewater systems who received **NWEA Safety Awards** for the year 2009 at this year's annual conference in Kearney: *Industrial* – Dutton-Lainson Company, Hastings and Tyson Fresh Meats, Lexington. *Municipal* – Gordon, Hickman, Auburn, Blair, Scottsbluff, Norfolk and Omaha – Missouri River and Papillion Creek WWTP.

The following municipal and industrial facilities received the **2010 Scott Wilbur Outstanding Op-**


eration & Maintenance Awards: *Municipal* – Wilbur, Norfolk, Fremont, Hastings, Lincoln's Northeast and Theresa Street plants and Omaha's Missouri River and Papillion Creek plants. *Industrial* – Tyson Fresh Meats in Dakota City and Lexington. This award is given to plants throughout the state in five different categories. The award is selected through an application and inspection process by a committee.

Individual awards included the celebrated William D. Hatfield

Award which went to Michael T. Arends of the city of Omaha. The Notable Laboratory Analyst Award recipient was Marsha Louthan of the city of Norfolk. The distinguished Arthur Sidney Bedell Award went to Ronald J. Sova of HDR Engineering (HDR is a Utilities Section Associate Member). This award was established to acknowledge extraordinary personal service to the WEF and NWEA.

Congratulations to all award winners and their respective facilities!


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Nebraska utilities history

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,
Utilities Field Representative,
LNM

Ainsworth, located in Brown County, had settlers in the area when the Cook & Tower Ranch was established around 1873. On Feb. 24, 1879, a post office was established as Bone Creek. In 1881, the Methodist Church was established and later in 1882, the Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley Railroad of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad was built through the area. On Aug. 3, 1882, the Bone Creek post office moved to a siding along the railroad and the name was changed to Ainsworth. In 1883, eight blocks were platted and another 17 were platted later. On Dec. 10, 1883, the plat was filed and approved when Ainsworth became an incorporated village. A school was organized on Aug. 25, 1883, and by 1884, a two-story brick school was built

replacing the log cabin. Also in 1884, a Congregational United Church of Christ was built, a year after its organization. On July 3, 1884, the *Journal* newspaper was established and by 1885, the village covered nearly 30 blocks. By 1890, the village had a population of 733, two hotels (Ainsworth House and Landis House), creamery, wagon-maker, confectionery, billiard hall, furniture store, millinery, blacksmith, lumberyard, drug store, livery stable, grain elevator, general merchandise store, flour mill, shoe store, saloon, hardware store, implement dealer and cigar manufacturer. In June 1890, the Nesbit Hose Company was organized, possibly Ainsworth's first fire department.

By the early 1900s, the water system had a standpipe, a windmill and well. In 1910, the Ainsworth Light Plant was operating with a 30-foot head, a 150 second per foot flow, and about 511 horsepower (HP) located on Plum



Ainsworth water tower; 2001 Photo.

Creek, 14 miles from town. The Ainsworth Light & Power Company employed John K. Cassel

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Nebraska utilities history

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(1911-12) and provided electricity until at least 1918. Also in 1910, a new block school was built and a 12th grade was added. In 1920, the population had increased to 1,508 and by 1922, a new school was built. In 1926, the west water tower (100,000 gallons) was built and by 1928, the public-owned water plant and distribution system was in operation. The old standpipe was pulled down onto hay that was placed on the street

below to cushion the fall and prevent damage.

In the 1930s, the population decreased, water wells noticed a drop in water levels and the airport consisted of a landing field. In April 1932, the city adopted a plan for a municipal electric power plant. At the June council meeting, the Interstate Power Company contract was not renewed despite the company offering a contract reduction of \$400 per year. The city estimated

a proposed municipal plant to cost \$84,794.30 and a reduction of rates to customers. After the October court case with the Interstate Power Company, the city signed a \$99,178 contract with Fairbanks Morse for the building of new municipal plant in December 1932. Robert Fulton, an engineer from Lincoln, was hired to work on the power plant. In 1933, 250 trees were planted in the park, six wells were in operation with

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Nebraska utilities history

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the four old wells recurbed. In December, a Civil Works Project (CWP) included work at the school, on the streets and with the waterworks system. In November 1934, a wastewater plant was favored, but a shortage of funding curbed the project. In 1936, the Interstate Power Company had a 757 Kilowatt (kW) capacity (350 kW internal combustion, 407 kW hydroelectric) power plant operating. By 1939, two PWA projects were started with a \$30,000 wastewater disposal plant built, approximately 40,000 feet of curb and gutter work in the streets, six blocks of alley paving with a six-inch concrete slab, and a storm water sewer system to serve the city. The wastewater facility was a chemical precipitation type with separate sludge digestion. In the 1940s, an Army Airfield was built on a 31,000-acre site with 800 buildings, four 9,000 foot runways. Fifteen thousand laborers were needed. When completed, it was reported to be five times larger than the Lincoln airport at the time. Also, due to the increased population, an addition was made

to the school.

From 1940 to 1950, the population increased by about 15 percent, sparking the building of a new elementary school. In 1954, an Ainsworth Municipal Golf Course was opened and the city-owned cemetery was maintained through lot sales and a perpetual care fund. The fire department had 30 volunteer firemen and the city auditorium was supported by a tax levy and rental income. The 2,496-acre airport had 12,100 feet of concrete runways with lights on about 6,600 feet. The electric distribution system and 1,000 meters in service were owned and served by Consumers Public Power District. The city's cost of street lighting amounted to \$221.77. In 1956, the 2,496-acre airport had two concrete runways, a lighted 6,600 feet and 5,500 feet of unlit runway. The electric distribution system was owned and served by the Consumers Public Power District. The cemetery was city owned and maintained by a tax levy and payments from individuals for lots and perpetual care. Also in 1956, a street project consisted of the resurfacing of

Main Street and a petition was presented at the council meeting to discontinue use of the parking meters in the business area. In 1959, an election was held to vote on a municipal-owned electric system.

In 1960, a street project consisted of curbing and gutter in a new addition, and the fire department had 36 volunteers. The municipal water system had 790 meters in service, which were owned by consumers. Water rates were first 25,000 gallons (gals.) at \$0.20/1,000 gals, next 75,000 gals. at \$0.15/1,000 gals, all over 100,000 gals. at \$0.10/1,000 gals. with a minimum of \$3 per quarter. The average cost of pumping water was \$90 per month. The city built a municipal swimming pool (35 x 65 x 82 foot), which was dedicated on July 4. In 1960, the municipal sewer system and disposal plant was maintained by tax levy totaling \$2,000. The electric distribution system was owned and operated by Consumers Public Power District, which charged \$222.40 per month for street lighting. Residential rates were first

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Nebraska utilities history

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13 kilowatt hours (KWH) at \$1, next 37 KWH at \$0.06, next 100 KWH at \$0.0275, next 450 KWH at \$0.0125, excess over a \$0.02 with a minimum of \$1 per month. In 1962, water meter deposits were \$15 and fire hydrant charges were \$12 per hydrant. In 1970, the census reported an increase in population and the Brown County medical clinic was opened. By 1974, the electric distribution system was owned by the city and was leased/supplied wholesale by Nebraska Public Power District. An addition was made to the high school in 1975 and in 1976, the wastewater treatment facil-

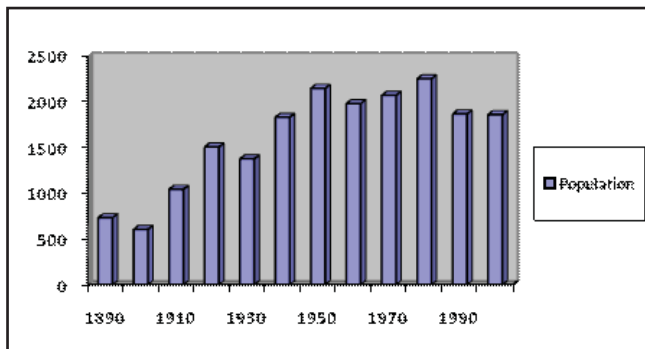
ity added a Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) unit. The 1980s saw a new library (1980), and a Senior Citizens Center (1981), the removal of the RBC unit at the wastewater plant (1984) and the natural gas system supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. In 1983, a 300,000-gallon elevated storage water tower was erected on the east side of town. In 1992, a new wastewater treatment system was constructed, consisting of an activated sludge with a two tank sequencing batch reactor (SBR) system designed for 0.27 million gallons per day (MGD), also with aerobic digester sludge treatment. In 1999, an-

other addition to the high school was completed.

Since 2000, the airport has made improvements, and a \$1 million water project was completed in 2004

consisting of a new well, 9,500 feet of mains, 23 fire hydrants and 51 valves replaced. In 2005, the solid waste was collected at the following rates: multi-family – \$8, a single family – \$11 and a heavy single family – \$16 per month. Natural gas was provided to 450 customers by Kinder Morgan via a three-inch transmission line with an operating pressure of 800 pounds per square inch (psi). NPPD established a 36-unit wind turbine farm located south of town in 2005, capable of generating 1.65 megawatts of energy. The city currently has four parks (acres), a nine-hole Ainsworth Municipal golf course, a 130 capacity swimming pool, two lighted tennis courts, sand volleyball, racquetball and basketball courts and a horseshoe pitching area. There are 52.61 miles of streets, 47.71 hard surfaced with concrete or asphalt, 75 percent are curbed and 60 percent have sidewalks. A new \$250,000 fire hall was built in 2005, and the ISO rating a 6 inside city limits and a 9 outside.

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Utilities participate in tree line programs

A program started in 2005 by the Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes public and private utilities that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance Nebraska's urban forests. The "Tree Line USA" program goals are to promote safe, reliable electric service and healthy trees across utility service areas. The following utilities

were recognized in 2010 as being a part of this program. Utilities Section Member **Nebraska City**, Associate Members Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), Lincoln Electric System (LES), and Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). All four utilities have been a part of the program since its inception in 2005. The program recognizes utilities that meet the five core standards of the program. These areas in-

clude following industry standards for tree care, annual worker training, tree planting, educational and tree conservation programs and sponsoring/participating in annual Arbor Day Celebrations. More information on this program, benefits, tree care practices or the Arbor Day Foundation can be found at its website, www.arborday.org.

Arbor Day Facts

- 1872 – The first Arbor Day is held in Nebraska

City through the efforts of J. Sterling Morton.

- 1976 – Tree City USA begins with 42 communities in 15 states honored. Today, more than 3,300 cities and towns are honored as a Tree City USA community.
- 1993 – Lied Lodge and Conference Center opens in Nebraska City. The lodge is owned and operated by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 7

In 2008, a telecommunications tower and new office were built and, in 2009, the wastewater treatment plant was installing a new ultra-violet disinfection system, project cost was \$483,000. In 2009, the four municipal wells (average depth 360 feet) had a combined pumping capacity of 3,250 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 400,000 gallons. Water rates: Basic residential \$9 per month with the first 10,000 gallons at \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons per month, and over at \$1.35 per 1,000 gallons per month and a minimum bill of \$9

per month. New connection fees are \$90 and the system has 126 fire hydrants in service. Ainsworth has been a Utilities Section Member for over 30 years.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956-2010; Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, October 1991, 2005; Utilities Section Newsletter, 1959; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Summer Recreation Guide, O'Neill Shopper, 2003; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, Jan. 2004; Ainsworth Internet site, 2007; The Brown County Democrat Newspaper, 1933-34; Nebraska

Our Towns...Central & North Central, 1989; Nebraska Health & Human Services Website, 2004; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; Semi-Centennial History of Nebraska, 1904; Pages of History,

Nebraska High Schools 1854-1994; NEDED Website, 2005; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Nebraska Blue Book, 1918; Nebraska State Gazetteer 1890.

Classifieds

For Sale

Auburn Board of Public Works is cleaning out their inventory. We are selling surplus inventory and inventory we no longer need for a fraction of what it's worth. Some of

this inventory includes overhead wire, conduit, bolts, pins, grips, anchor rods, CT's, PT's, fuses, wedge tap tool, crimpits and so much more! Please email Sunshine at taylor@auburnne.net for the complete list.

Training calendar for 2011

April

April 12Water Operator Training Workshop Auditorium, Stuart

April 13-14.....Great Plains Conference Embassy Suites, La Vista

May

May 3-4.....Electric Transformer Hastings

May 24-25.....Rubber Gloving School..... Northeast Community College, Norfolk

June

June 1-2.....Electric Underground School..... Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Workshops also are listed on our website at www.lonm.org "Calendar of Events."



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