

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Summer 2001



**Commonwealth Electric Company**  
of the midwest

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## Positive Attitudes

What Our Customers Should See When Looking At Us

David F. Firestone – Sr. Vice President

This July, we started our 15th year of being in business and more than ever, I realize the impact of our attitudes on life and how it affects our success in

our business world too. Attitudes are more important than the past, more important than education, money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, even more important what other people think, say or do. Attitudes can make or break a company.

One of the most remarkable things is each of us has a choice every day regarding the attitude we will bring to work. I know we cannot change our past and we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way and of course we cannot change the inevitable. The only thing that we can do is take what we have each day and with a positive attitude, we can make the best of each day.

Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest was founded from strong roots that have matured and grew into a very successful company. I believe all would agree that there have been many difficult

times through the course of the past 14 years but we have also seen many positive things happen too!

CECM's image is one of being one of the best electrical contractors, not just in our home state but also across the country. And frankly, I believe much of our success can be attributed to the positive attitudes of each and every employee. I know it may be hard sometimes to look at the good when things are not so good, but when each of us presents a positive feeling, it carries over to how our customers see us. Not just as employees of CECM but as CECM the company. A positive attitude is more than just how we feel inside. It's also how well we project this image to our customers in our appearances. Are we projecting a good, corporate image? Are our trucks clean? Are we projecting good, physical appearances at our job sites and customer locations? Remember, the attitude our customer will have towards CECM will be greatly influenced by how we look and act.

Let's all remember that, like it or not, we all as employees of CECM are always under the public looking glass. Let's make sure we are showing our positive attitudes.

## Tower at First National Center

Gary Demmel – Vice President

The tower at First National Center is being constructed in downtown Omaha. This office tower is scheduled for a grand opening in the fall of 2002. The granite clad tower will rise 633 feet from street level and have 18 elevators servicing its 576,000 square feet of usable space. An additional two elevators will serve the on-site parking garage. This 45-story building will be the tallest building between Chicago and Denver.

Commonwealth Electric is constructing this project using a partnering concept with First National, Kiewit Construction Company and Leo A. Daly Architects/Engineers. Mark Ross is the Project Manager for Commonwealth. Doug Wells is the on-site Project Engineer with Scott Wilms serving as the on-site Assistant Project Manager. Ed Gable is the job-site superintendent. Dave Skorcz, Leo Jankowski, Rod Moore and Leo Huse are the foremen for this project.



## Friskies Pet Care

**Mike King** – Service Manager

Over the past several years, we have performed many projects at Friskies Pet Care in Crete, Nebraska. Some of the projects have included: installation of new high-voltage distribution throughout the facility and new secondary transformers, configuration and construction of new electrical equipment rooms.

Other projects that we have performed were production floor power and lighting upgrades, dry ingredients reconfiguration and a roof raise project. Many projects have been very sizeable at Friskies. Ron Lannin and Dale Boro have had the opportunity to work on these projects as the General Foreman along with the help and support of some “highly skilled” Journeymen, Servicemen, and Apprentices. They have done an excellent job in coordinating work with the Friskies personnel on-site to ensure a complete installation as requested by the corporate office in Glendale, CA.

Dale has been the latest project General Foreman on-site and has done a very good job to achieve many deadlines and time schedules to complete the projects so the plant can continue operating on scheduled power outages. This has required Dale to pull in different resources from the Lincoln area as far as

labor to complete the projects in a timely manner. It has been mentioned that Commonwealth Electric has done the finest job in installation in a workman-like manner and our quality of work has outshined the other companies that have been part of other electrical projects at Friskies Pet Care in the Crete area.

It is a pleasure to have Dale and his crew working at Friskies. We value Friskies Pet Care as a client and we look forward to doing more projects in the future at the Crete site.



## Clayton Anderson Named as New Service Coordinator

**Mike King** – Service Manager

Commonwealth Electric has employed Clayton Anderson in a variety of ways over the past several years. Clayton has performed tasks from installations to becoming a General Foreman on projects. He has been asked to step up and be the new Service Coordinator for

Commonwealth Electric. Clayton has been and will continue to be a valuable asset here at Commonwealth Electric.

We look forward to working with Clayton and hope everyone welcomes him.

## Safety Update

Ruben Bera – Corporate Safety Director

One of the most dangerous jobs is working with electrical current. Many of you on occasion are required to work on hot panels and you always wear your protective equipment, gloves, face shield, and flame retardant clothing. A shut down can present several hazards and being prepared for these hazards will make the difference.

One of the easiest ways to protect us from accidental electrical shock is using lockout/tagout procedures. Your safety manual has a written program that should be followed when locking out circuits or equipment.

Many times I hear it is quicker just to turn off the breaker and get the job done. Although this may be true, what about the potential of someone

accidentally turning on the breaker not realizing you are working on the circuit? What about the situations where you need to work on a light with a three way switch. Do you feel comfortable just turning off the switch? Have you ever worked in a j-box hot? Did you know that Commonwealth Electric does not allow this practice?

## Safety Pays Off for Mick Carr

Ruben J. Bera – Corporate Safety Director

Please join me in congratulating Mick Carr in Omaha for demonstrating safe vehicle operation. On Thursday, May 3, 2001, Mick was pulled over by the Omaha Police.

They were conducting spot vehicle checks. Mick was following all the rules of the road and was *wearing his seat belt*. He was given a coffee cup and a pat on the back. It's this type of behavior that makes

During my travels I hear the experienced JW's tell me how it used to be in the "good old days". The policies and procedures that have been developed for working with current are designed to make your job safer, and should not be looked at as a way of slowing you down. Safety is the key to any job. I'm sure many of you have seen changes in our society regarding safety. The State of Nebraska is changing the road vest from orange to florescent green. Take a good look around the next time you leave work. Look at all the ways safety has changed our lives and improved not only working conditions, but also our everyday life styles.

**“One of the easiest ways to protect us from accidental electrical shock is using lockout/tagout procedures.”**

Being aware of potential hazards at work and home is important to all of us. At Commonwealth we have the obligation to make sure your work environment is safe.

Electrical work is dangerous, but if we follow our safety rules our work can be safe. Stay informed and always work safely.

us at Commonwealth Electric stand out from the rest. We should all follow Mick's lead. As our President, Tom Price, once told me, "we are successful because we hire the right people for the right job."

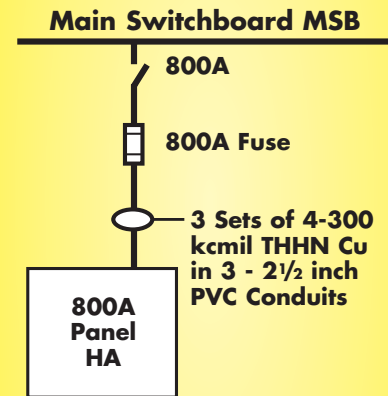
Good job Mick!

**Mick Carr**  
Omaha Service Manager

SAFE DRIVER AS RECONIZED BY  
OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY 3, 2001

## Equipment Grounding QUIZ

An 800-ampere three-phase feeder is going to be installed from Main Switchboard MSB to Power Panel HA. There will be three sets of feeders in three separate nonmetallic conduits.



What is the required equipment-grounding conductor for the feeder?

- One No. 1/0 copper in one conduit only.
- One No. 4 copper in each of the three conduits.
- One No. 1/0 copper in each of the three conduits.
- None of these.

Answer on back page.



## Omaha Service Crew Discusses Safety

Ruben J. Bera – Corporate Safety Director

On June 19th, a meeting was held for all of the Omaha Service crew. This meeting was the first of its kind and with its success, others are sure to follow. Our main focus during this meeting was safety. Each service van operator was given a safety checklist. This was a list of things they needed in their vans that will make their jobs safer and will demonstrate to the customer that we not only provide skilled electricians but safe electricians as well.

As a member of a service crew, we know too well that when we get a call we have no idea what we can expect. Having the correct safety equipment in the van will eliminate valuable time trying to have the shop send out things and if we get a call on the weekend, we need to be ready for anything.

As a member of a Commonwealth Service team, whether it be in Omaha, Lincoln,

Des Moines, or Arizona, a service crewmember in a Commonwealth Electric van is a representative of the company. Our vans display who we are and that we can react to customer's needs quickly. Please join me in saluting Omaha and all of our location's Service crews. They help make us be the best there is.



## What's New in the Omaha Branch?

Ernie Dearing – Marketing Manager

Mick Carr is now the Service Manager and Brian Lund is the Assistant Service Manager. Ernie Dearing's new position

newspaper articles, The Midlands Business Journal and business meetings.

**The Service Department now has 13 service vans to handle emergency dispatch calls and small projects.**

is Marketing Manager. The Service Department now has 13 service vans to handle emergency dispatch calls and small projects. Ernie's new position is to follow through on new customer leads, which are generated by word of mouth,

All of our service technicians are to keep their ears open and report all new prospects to Ernie so he can follow-up. Ernie has brought in two new accounts, which are Marianna Corporation, and

Oriental Trading Company along with quite a few small calls that we hope will grow into larger accounts. At the present, we have a number of leads for Ernie to visit. That's all for now, hope everybody had a happy and safe Fourth of July!

**ANSWER** **Equipment Grounding QUIZ**

What is the required equipment-grounding conductor for the feeder?

**One No. 1/0 copper in each of the three conduits.**

*Section 250 122(f) (1)*