

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2002



**Commonwealth  
Electric Company**  
of the midwest

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Management  
Profile:  
Glen Moss

First National  
Bank Omaha  
Office Tower

Know Your  
Safety  
Department

Ross Film  
Theater

Trade Show

## MANAGEMENT PROFILE:

### Glen Moss Chief Financial Officer/Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Price – Chairman/CEO

There is an old adage that says what goes around comes around. 5000 years ago when I turned 50, there were certain things (happenings if you will) that went on at Commonwealth Electric such as office closings, required wearing of black and a certain sign placed at a convenient location to celebrate the happening. Well guess who turns 50 on November 6th – our Chief Financial Officer! If you get a chance, just drop him a note, maybe 100 emails. I'm not an advocate of closing the office down but black attire would certainly seem appropriate.

All kidding aside, Glen Moss has been a great partner. He has maintained a control on our accounting functions since day one. A little history—I first met Glen when he came out as a guest to my house at Woodcliff. He was working for the Nebraska State Department of Revenue. At the time, I thought he was one of the best water skiers I had ever seen. I still think that although he now mostly barefoot skis. He came to work for Commonwealth in 1977 as a Staff Accountant. He talked me into running my first 10K race that same year. He even got me to run three marathons over the next few years. In 1979, he went to Greenville to be the Eastern Regional Controller. In 1984, he came back to Lincoln to be our Corporate Controller.

In 1987, he became one of my partners. Since that time, he has maintained and administered all of the accounting functions at Commonwealth Electric of the Midwest. During that time, he has on occasion driven me nuts! He questions every expense I turn in.

I used to think he liked to pick on me. But guess what? He checks all of the company's expenses the same way. This is the type of person you want in charge of the books.



Glen Moss at work in his office.

Right now, he is the President of the Special Trades Insurance Company. This is the organization he got Commonwealth Electric involved in that has saved us thousands of dollars in insurance costs. Glen has been and still is involved in many civic functions from Hastings College Foundation to the American Cancer Society.

Glen and I have been business associates for 25 years and partners for 15 of those years. How could we get along for those many years? The answer is simple. Glen Moss is one of the most ethical men that I know. We all have our strengths and weaknesses that can grind on each other but if you have ethics, if you have the simple concept of treating others the way you want to be treated, all things become possible.

Well, Mr. Moss turns 50 this November and next spring he will run his 25th marathon at Boston. Running his 25th marathon the year he turns 50 is pretty cool! I want to personally congratulate him on his accomplishments and thank him for being a mainstay and my partner at Commonwealth these many years.

Thomas M. Price  
Chairman/CEO

## First National Bank Omaha Office Tower

Gary Demmel – Senior Vice President

The First National Bank had its grand opening of their new office tower on the weekend of September 20th. Commonwealth did the entire electrical for the core and shell and contin-

end of December. Mark Ross was the Project Manager. Ed Gable, Doug Wells, Jeremy Groves, Dave Skorz and Leo Jankowski provided the field management for the project.



The First National Bank shines against the night sky, thanks to 384 metal halide fixtures mounted to the building's exterior.

Three hundred eighty four metal halide 1100-watt light fixtures are mounted on the building exterior to light it at night. The building terminus has 600 fluorescent light fixtures with some white and red lenses so the colors can be changed for different seasons or events. The total facility has approximately 5,500 light fixtures.

Two 13.8 KV services feed the building with an automatic throw over switch. 13.8 KV switchgear is fed at the bottom and top of the building.

ues to do electrical for tenant finish on some of the upper floors. All of the tenant finishes will be complete by the

When you build a 40-story office building 633 feet tall on a one-square-block plot in the middle of a bustling down-

town district, it's important that you keep a positive outlook on the many challenges you will face. There were probably 1,500 to 2,000 tradesmen on this job throughout the course of the project. The backbone of the Tower is a concrete core with walls 32 inches thick. It houses the elevator shafts and serves as an alternative to the stick structure employed in many high-rise buildings.



Some of the original architectural elements from the old Medical Arts Building have found new life in the tower's interior.

## Know Your Safety Department

Ruben J. Bera – Corporate Safety Director

An important part of safety on the job is improving constant safety awareness. In an effort to provide and enhance that awareness, Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest has added an

addition to your safety department.

We recently hired Stephen Kuchar to assist me in the handling of our field safety needs. Stephen brings a strong

desire to help ensure a safer work site. In addition to daily site visits, Stephen will be auditing equipment, inspecting vehicles and tools for safe usage. He will be available to conduct site toolbox meetings and offer any help where needed.

In the coming months, Stephen and I will be developing specialized training



Stephen Kuchar, Lincoln/Omaha



Jamie Holder, Lincoln



Ann Vangrud, Omaha

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The slowest of the elevators, five low-rise cars and two service cars, ascend and descend at a rate of 700 feet per minute – about twice the speed of the elevators in First National Bank’s old headquarters. Next up are the 1,000-foot-per-minute cruisers that service the middle floors in the Tower. Even faster—and near the fastest in the world—are the five rockets that will take visitors to the 40th floor executive suite at a pace of 1,200 feet per minute.

One of the architectural elements of the structure also presented the designers and builders with a unique challenge. In an effort to preserve the history of the location, more than 4,600 terra cotta tiles that originally adorned the Medical Arts Building, which was imploded to make way for the Tower were removed, catalogued and cleaned so that they could be integrated into the design of the new resident.

Inside the building, the Tower has not one but two lobbies. The north and south lobbies have walls covered with travertine stone and wood paneling and are decorated with vertical art

glass light fixtures that lead people toward the elevators. Materials in the lobbies came from all over the world and include marble, Cedars of Lebanon and wood panels made from makore, which are from South Africa. The lower six feet of the wall is travertine from Italy. The north lobby, considered the main entrance, is the more formal of the two. It has a vaulted ceiling with three large pendant art glass light fixtures that are geometric in shape to emphasize the verticality of the building.

Another feature of the space is a sculpture titled “The Spirit of Nebraska’s Wilderness,” which consists of 55 geese all around the Tower and inside the Wintergarden. The sculpture begins with 35 to 40 geese at a park on the 16th and Dodge intersection. The geese go across the street and then back into the First National Tower. Six of the sculptured geese hang above the high ceilings in the Wintergarden. While all the geese are about the same size,

no two are the same. The geese start off bronze, which is an antique metal, and they slowly evolve into stainless steel. The sculpture represents the evolution of historical times to contemporary.

This has been a great project. Commonwealth is proud of all of its personnel who worked on this project and for their quality workmanship. The First National Bank personnel have been wonderful to work with on this project. We can all be proud of being a part of this fantastic building.



A flock of geese take flight around the First National Bank Tower.

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that we will share with all of you to better inform you of the potential hazards you face day to day. Stephen will be a valuable asset to all of us.

In addition to Stephen, each of your locations has a contact person that helps monitor daily safety activity. These people are important and part of the success we share. These are the behind the

scenes people that provide you with many of the safety items you use daily and these are the people that many of you call daily.

In Lincoln, we have Jamie Holder. Jamie not only tracks Lincoln safety activity, she also assists me in tracking valuable information for all locations. In Omaha, we have Ann Vangrud. In addition to her

many responsibilities which includes handling daily safety activities, Ann also serves on the Omaha Safety Committee. In each of our other locations these people have many responsibilities including safety. In Des Moines, we have Stephanie Harrelson; in Phoenix, we have Helen Fazzini and in Tucson we have Lucy Leyva. Each of these people provides valuable assistance and helps ensure your safety needs are met.

The next time you speak to one of these people, give them your thanks. They are part of the reason why Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest is recognized as being a safe electrical contractor.



Stephanie Harrelson, Des Moines



Lucy Leyva, Tucson

**Not pictured:**  
Helen Fazzini, Phoenix

## Work Begins at Ross Film Theatre

Thomas M. Price – Chairman/CEO

Commonwealth Electric is currently under contract with Weitz Company LLC to furnish all of the electrical construction for the University of Nebraska Mary Riepma Ross Film Theatre and Van Brunt Visitors Center.

This innovative project located at 12th and Q Street includes multiple film theatres and optic display areas. Nick Cole, Project Manager works closely with CECM's site superintendent, Greg Derks.

Commonwealth is very proud to be a team member on this GMP innovative project.



**Left:**  
Greg Derks and  
Nick Cole at the  
jobsite.



**Right:**  
Greg Derks,  
Nick Cole and  
Linda Swoboda.

## The Communications Division Exhibits at Trade Show

Mike King – Branch Manager

Commonwealth Electric participated in the 2002 Business to Business Tradeshow in Lincoln on September 25. Todd Havlat, Mel Bull and Chris Gall manned the booth. There were almost 90 exhibitors at this show and it was a great networking opportunity and a great way to promote our Commonwealth Communication's division.



Todd Havlat and Mel Bull man  
the booth at the Lincoln Business  
to Business Tradeshow.