

The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Fall 2001



Commonwealth Electric Company
of the midwest

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Reflections

Thomas Price – President

About all I remember about the World War II is being in a house with black curtains that were drawn every night for a black out. I remember the resolve of my parents and their friends telling me every night that the U.S.A. would win against the “terrorists” of World War II. I remember as a child how everyone was focused on the protection of our liberties, freedom of worship, and way of life.

The days since September 11th have shown me that the American resolve and spirit is as strong in this generation as it was in my parents. The way Commonwealth Electric has responded should make every employee proud—from the donation of monies to the giving of blood—it has shown that all of you have stepped up to the plate to help our fellow Americans. Remember these Americans in your prayers.

This new war will not be short. It will take patience and persistence from all of us to rid the world of these crazies who have no regard for life or what we hold sacred.

This is also a time for reflection for all of us to realize how truly blessed we are. On Saturday, September 15th, for about four hours I rang the bell for the Salvation Army's Relief Fund. The amount of empathy and concern for our fallen Americans was fantastic. The number and diverse mix of people who contributed moved

me. One older man who was very nervous put \$20.00 in the bucket then just stared at it. I asked him if he was okay. He said “no”. He told me he had two sons (lawyers) who worked for the FBI on the 97th floor of the north tower. For six hours, he thought his sons had perished and was praying for them when the phone rang. It was his sons telling him that they were alive. Ten minutes before the first plane hit, his sons

were called to court to testify in another building. The man was crying telling me how blessed he was. He also was having a very hard time understanding why his sons were spared when so many lost their lives. He said he was going to make as much effort as he could to see his sons often. September 11th made him realize just how truly blessed he was.

I want each of us to take time to reflect on just

how blessed we all are to be able to live in a country like the U.S.A. where life, liberty and the freedom to worship is a basic foundation of our way of life.

God Bless America!

UNITED WE STAND!!!

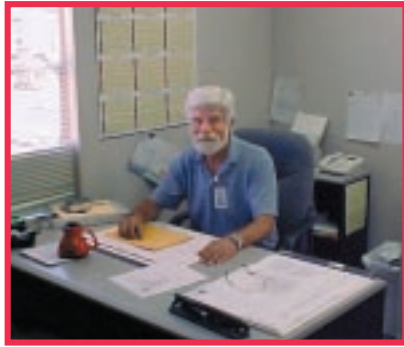
Thomas Price
President



Commonwealth Des Moines Breaks Ground In Las Vegas

Michael Price – Branch Manager, Des Moines

Commonwealth has started on a two story, 169,000 square foot, Saks Fifth Avenue Anchor Store located in Las Vegas, Nevada. The project is part of the re-design and construction of the Fashion Show Mall on the Las Vegas Strip. The



Jim Kramer
Project General Foreman

project started in late August of this year and is scheduled to be complete in approximately 12 months. The Saks Fifth Ave will be one of eight new anchor stores at the new Fashion Show Mall.

The project is an electrical design build consisting of service equipment, power distribution, light-

ing, cold cathode lighting, emergency generator, energy management, phone and data cabling, fiber-optic cabling

and loss prevention systems. The exterior of the building will be constructed to look like the Saks Fifth Avenue flagship store in New York City.

Jim Kramer is the Project General Foreman on site. Jim arrived in Las Vegas in late August and is just getting his feet on the ground. Jim is familiar with high profile Saks Incorporated projects; he was the general foreman on the Streets of Woodfield, Carson Pirie Scott project in Chicago in 2000.

It has taken us several years of successfully completing projects for Saks to have been included in this project. This is the largest project we have ever undertaken with Saks Fifth Avenue. The electrical design has been a challenging process and construction promises to be even more so. However, we are very excited about the project and working with the project team.



Commonwealth Communications Update

Mel Bull – Manager, Commonwealth Communications

Commonwealth Communications was formed in September of 2000 as a separate division of Commonwealth to handle the low voltage work in the Omaha area. Mel Bull was hired as the manager of this division. As a separate division, we can concentrate entirely on this work and market it more effectively. Our low voltage work that we have done successfully have included fire alarm, voice and data, security and temperature control.

While the competition is strong and as the economy gets tighter, Commonwealth Communications keeps moving along. We are constantly trying to build our customer base with the offering of these new services. We have formed relationships with industry leaders to be able to provide our customers with the latest technologies and the highest quality of products. With all the expansion going on in the riverfront area and as more and more

customers move into this market, I feel Commonwealth Communications will be a strong asset to Commonwealth Electric to be able to provide them with a one stop shop for all of their electrical and communications needs. I think the future looks very bright and look forward to 2002.

A Clean Vehicle Important For Safety, Image

Ruben Bera – Corporate Safety Director

At Commonwealth Electric Company, we use and work out of many types of vehicles such as service vans, pickup trucks, dump trucks and various mobile equipment. Like any other piece of equipment, our vehicles need to be maintained. I heard of an employee for a large contractor who was in a large truck making a delivery. As he approached the site he applied his brakes but the truck would not stop.

The truck ran into a fence and luckily no one was injured. What the investigation showed was that there was nothing wrong with the truck. It would not stop because the driver dropped a pop can on the floor and it wedged under the brake pedal. Could this really happen? Yes, and it happens more than you would think. Trash and

clutter in a moving vehicle is an accident waiting to happen.

If you drive a company vehicle, you have a responsibility to maintain the vehicle. Not just the mechanical equipment but also the inside of the vehicle.

“Like any other piece of equipment, our vehicles need to be maintained.”

Many times we stop for a quick burger and leave the trash in the cab. When this happens, take the time at the end of the day or at the beginning of the day and get rid of trash and clutter. I’ve seen some vehicles with objects placed in front of the speedometer. This may not be a big deal unless of course you don’t realize

how fast you are going and all of a sudden you get pulled over.

The point to this is that operating a company vehicle is a privilege and should be treated as such. Think of your company vehicle as if it were your own personal vehicle. Keep it clean and neat. A company vehicle is a reflection of who we are. How good would it look if we pulled up to a customer, and

when you got out trash followed you. Not a good image. You are professionals and your truck should be a reflection of the work you do.

A clean vehicle is a safe vehicle and your safety is our priority.

Geodesic Dome Project Presents Unique Challenges

Gary Demmel – Vice President

Commonwealth Electric was selected by the Henry Doorly Zoo and Kiewit Construction Company to be the Electrical Contractor for their new Desert/Nocturnal Dome. Commonwealth started this project in April 2000. This will be the world’s largest glazed geodesic dome and spans 230 feet and reaches a height of 137 feet. This unique exhibit features 3 major desert regions of the world on the main level and a nocturnal habitat and swamp on the lower level. The main level is scheduled to open to the public in April of 2002 while the lower level will not open until April of 2003.

Don Schuette started this project as the job site Superintendent. He has since moved on to another project and Kevin Kalal has taken over this project.

The Dome has offered some unique challenges with a Headhouse at the very top of the structure. Power feeders and other wiring to the headhouse had to be run next to a ladder on the exterior of the curved dome in aluminum conduit. Conduit bending on this curved surface was done without much trouble by the

Commonwealth crew and looks great. There are still a lot of challenges inside the dome in working the electrical around the various exhibits as they continue to be designed.

The Commonwealth crew is Ted Ziemba, Bill Salber, James Elsasser and Tim Little under the direction of Don Schuette and Kevin Kalal. They have done a great job on this interesting project. We have received a lot of compliments on the quality of our work from the Zoo and Kiewit personnel.



Left:
The world's largest glazed geodesic dome takes shape at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

Champions Club

Thomas Price – President

Commonwealth Electric has finished on-time its contract with Sampson Construction for the University of Nebraska Alumni Association's new Champion's Club this fall. Located across the street just west of Memorial Stadium is the new facility, which provides space for parking, social events and special programs.

Troy Bear was the Superintendent on the project. He is shown inspecting the facility with Bob Philipps, Project Manager.

The Champions Club has catering services available for up to 1500 fans, along with live entertainment, Husker Vision and satellite television.

Commonwealth Electric is proud to have been a partner on this project to further the utilization of the University of Nebraska Alumni Association.



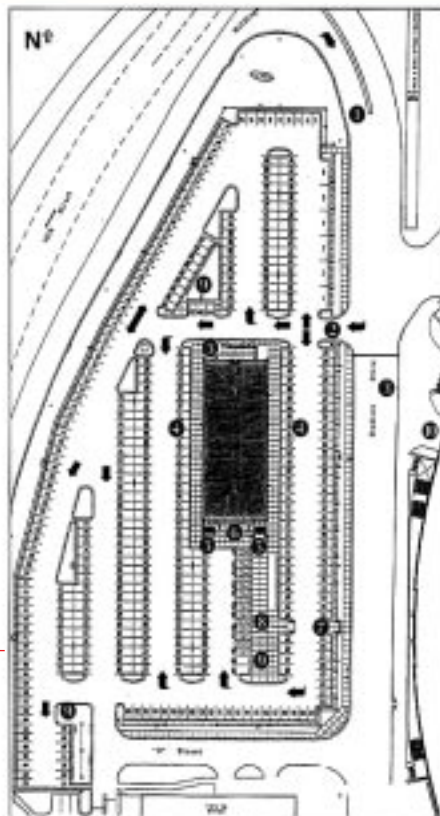
Above: Commonwealth Electric was selected as the electrical contractor for the University of Nebraska Alumni Association's newly-completed Champion's Club.



Above: Superintendent Troy Bear and Project Manager Bob Philipps inspect the work at the University of Nebraska Alumni Association's new facility.

Right: The Champion's Club layout includes a covered plaza, an enclosed dining hall and a gigantic 8 by 13 foot HuskerVision screen.

Parking Features Clubhouse Features



(Map legend on reverse side.)



- Ground Level Features**
1. Covered plaza / open-air pavilion
 2. Outside stairways to upper level
 3. Women's restrooms
 4. Men's restrooms
 5. Elevator



- Upper Level Features**
1. Enclosed dining hall
 2. Stairways
 3. Northwest balcony
 4. 8-by-13 screen featuring HuskerVision
 5. Caterer's kitchen
 6. Northeast balcony
 7. Men's restrooms
 8. Elevator
 9. Women's restrooms
 10. Cloakrooms