

# The Commonwealth Quarterly

News from around the circuit.

Winter 2001



**Commonwealth Electric Company**  
of the midwest

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## Work at Seacrest Field Continues

**Paul Claus, Jr.** – Project Administrator

We are working at Seacrest field at the present time. We are installing new lighting, a sound system, ticket booths and restrooms.

We have been waiting on the football season to get over with so we can remove the existing fixtures from the 90-foot existing poles. There are eight poles with eight fixtures on each pole. Jay Wells and Brian Ridder are waiting for some nice weather to lower all the existing fixtures down and install new specters on the old poles.

The new fixtures will be on a lowering system that all the relamping and trouble shooting can be done on the ground with no need to have to climb the poles. The Lincoln Public Schools are real happy about this and was one of the reasons they went with our package at bid time.

The new fixtures and poles should be here about the first of January 2001 about the time we have all

our nice weather in Nebraska. The restrooms and ticket booths are all blocked so Jay has had his hands full trying to keep up with the bricklayers in this cold weather. This is a cold job and none of it will be enclosed for the winter.



*Jay Wells and Brian Ridder work high atop a 90-foot pole to bring a new lighting system to Seacrest Field.*

## Christmas for a Family in Need

**Sharon Meyer** – Office Manager

Jamie Holder and I had the opportunity to experience firsthand how great it feels to help a family in need. Again this year, Commonwealth Electric sponsored a family for Christmas through the Salvation Army. The family we sponsored had recently had their house burned two months prior to Christmas and was living in temporary housing. This family consisted of a mother and father and two boys, ages 12 and 11. After visiting with the mother about what we might buy these two boys, we learned that the mother had three other children from a previous marriage, ages 5, 7 and 8 that would be celebrating Christmas with them. So we decided to buy presents for all the kids.

Jamie and I thoroughly enjoyed shopping for all five kids for Christmas. We also supplied their complete Christmas dinner, which included the turkey, dressing, rolls, vegetable and pies for dessert.

Jamie and I met the family on December 20 to give them their groceries and presents. The two boys ages 13 and 11 helped us carry in all the items. They were such little gentlemen. You should have seen them; they were very excited and couldn't wait to open the presents. Although Jamie and I would have gotten great enjoyment out of watching them open their presents, we decided to have them wait until Christmas Day so their other brothers and sister could be there too to open their presents together as a family.

It felt so good to produce a Christmas for this family. You could only imagine the hardship they had endured and how grateful they were for the help. This couldn't have been possible without the support of Commonwealth Electric. CECM was very generous and I'm sure we will do it again next year.

## A Message from the President

Tom Price – President

As we start the New Year 2001, I want to personally thank each one of our employees for the hard work and commitment that they have given Commonwealth Electric these past years. Our company has been very successful in helping our clients achieve their goals through quality electrical construction.

With the tremendous amount of technological advancements that we are experiencing in our industry, comes a great opportunity for each one of us to expand both our company and ourselves. From low voltage to streetlights, from commercial to industrial and from bid to cost plus projects, there are opportunities

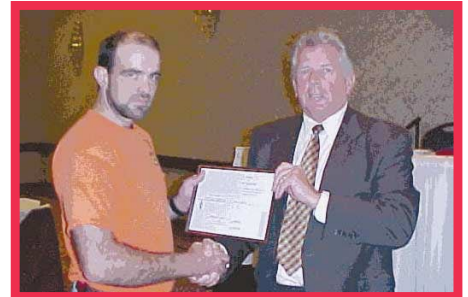
present to allow all of us working as a team to make Commonwealth Electric the greatest ever.

After visiting our locations in Nebraska and Iowa and seeing all of the committed young people being mentored by our experienced union electricians and how everyone is working as a team for the betterment of our clients, I can't help but be excited about the future and Commonwealth Electric's potential.

Thank you all for being the *soul* of Commonwealth Electric.

## Dave Skorz Receives Award

CECM Employee Dave Skorz received a safety award from 1st National Bank Construction Manager, John Lenning for his safety efforts at the New Bank Tower in Omaha. Dave was presented the award at the safety lunch that was attended by all the construction workers on this project.



## Holiday Party Brings Employees Together for an Evening of Fun

Sharon Meyer – Office Manager

On December 13, 2000, employees of Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest got together to enjoy an evening of fine food and great company. This year the party was held at the new Embassy Suites Hotel. The facility was excellent for a party, with a wonderful atmosphere and plenty of room to mingle.

The evening started out with cocktails, followed by a delicious array of foods,

and assorted desserts that were mouth-watering. We then had drawings for gift certificates to such places as the Ameristar Casino, Cabellas Store, Gateway Mall, South Point Pavillion Mall, the Safety Program, Best Buy and numerous restaurants in Lincoln. There were many winners that night.

A few words from our Vice President, Bill Sabin and each of the owners, Tom Price,

David Firestone and Glen Moss, wrapped up the evening.

The consensus from the employees I talked to was "what a fun evening and looking forward to next year".



## Garner Industries Begins Construction

Bob Phillips – Project Manager

Construction has started on the site of 98th & Cornhusker and when complete, will be the new home of Garner Industries. CECM received the contract to do the electrical installation from Ayars & Ayars, Inc (the general contractor) on 8/22/00. Pat Clifford will be the foreman on the project. He has started working on the feeder conduits for the service and sub panels. Approximate completion date is September of 2001.

Garner Industries now occupies two locations, one being on North 48th Street South of Superior Street and the other one at 5200 N. 57th Street. The location on North 57th Street is called Nebraska Mold but is owned by Garner Industry. With the new building, they will be able to consolidate both of their locations into one.

At the North 48th location, Garner Industries produces magnetic tape erasers. At their Nebraska Mold location, they pro-

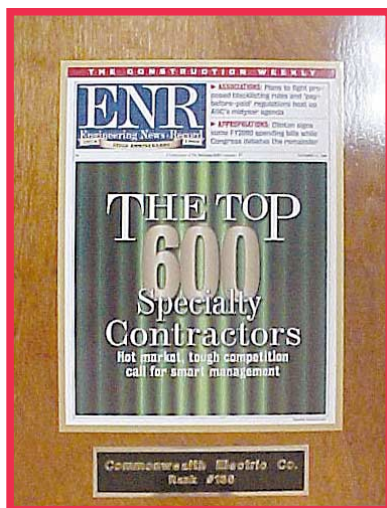


duce anything from plastic cups to rain gauges and Nokia cell phone antenna parts. The new building will be 79,000 sq. ft. consisting of a warehouse, a manufacturing area, offices and a maintenance and

mechanical area. CECM, in addition to the electrical installation, will be responsible for fire alarm and sound installations. Todd Havlat's division is in the process of designing the phone/data system.

## Commonwealth Electric is #42

Thanks to the dedication, resourcefulness and commitment of all of the employees of Commonwealth Electric, *Engineering News Record* has established Commonwealth Electric Company of the Midwest as a Top 50 Electrical Contractor for the year 2000. Way To Go!



## Street Work Keeps Crews Busy

Alan Pendleton – Construction Foreman

Well it has been a very busy year for the street crew. We presently have seven people working on the street crew and looks like if the winter isn't real bad we will have enough work to last into the spring.

We have just completed traffic signal projects at West A and Coddington and also 44th and Cornhusker. We are now currently working on traffic signals for a new street that will connect Superior St. at 33rd to 27th and Fletcher, along one of the new schools that is going to be built. We will also be starting a project along 13th St. from A to H St. where we will be installing yellow flashing lights to increase safety for the children coming and going to school. Also we have various ornamental street lighting projects in new

neighborhoods, which we will be starting in the near future.

With the amount of work being done, we will be adding a new trencher to our inventory of equipment in December. This will replace the old r-40 that we have worked to death. We're hopeful that we will be able to replace the small bucket truck next year so we can continue to provide good and adequate service to our customers.



Juan Lopez backfills a trench.

I would like to remind everyone to SLOW DOWN IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES. As we are working out there each day and there are a lot of people who do not pay attention to the workers or what is going on in the work zones.

## Commonwealth Electric Receives Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Cornerstone Award

**Tom Price** – President

Commonwealth Electric received this prestigious honor at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce luncheon on September 12, 2000. It came as a result of the company helping others to accomplish their goals. From the “Lighthouse for teens” to the Pow Wow meeting place for the Lincoln Indian Center, to the Youth Empowered by Sports Program (Y.E.S.), Commonwealth and its employees have given of their time and money to help these organizations. The award was a recognition of our commitment to the communities we live in.



“The Cornerstone Award is presented to the corporate entity whose entrepreneurship and skillful endeavor has added to the economic base of our community and provided opportunity for others to work and live in Lincoln.”

## Planning Ahead is Key for Safety

**Ruben Bera** – Safety Director

Recently we have been reading about unfortunate construction accidents that have caused serious injuries and deaths. It’s hard to accept sometimes but the fact of the matter is, construction can be dangerous. It’s a profession that we choose and by being trained in what we do, we minimize the potential hazards associated with our work.

Training is essential, but what about planning? When we plan our

work we generally plan on how the job will come together. Will the wire be on the site in time? Will there be enough? Have you ever had to wait for equipment? This alone can be frustrating. We all hope that if we plan right, the job will go right.

“It’s hard to accept sometimes, but the fact of the matter is construction can be dangerous.”

What about planning for safety? The tragic trench accident that recently occurred reminds us that planning for a safe job is critical. Whenever you start out to do a job, have you ever wondered what hazards you might be facing during the course of your work? Have you ever gave a quick thought about not just what you need for the job, but what you might need to be safe? With so many things to worry

about on the job, sometimes safety can be overlooked. We shut off a circuit without a lockout device. We get into a basket without fall protection, or we get into a vehicle and forget to buckle up.

The point to be made is that what we do is very important, planning on doing it safely is even more important!

## Birthdays

### January

Richard Kirk	1/1
Scott McNeese	1/2
Greg Kallenbach	1/9
Jay Wells	1/11
Arnold Kehm	1/15
Mark Putty	1/16
Chad Goff	1/19
Sean Tooker	1/24
Alvin Duba	1/29
Jeremy Carbonneau	1/29

### February

Tad Nunley	2/3
Danny Badgett	2/5
Benjamin Burns	2/7
Katie Matulka	2/11
Michael Cone	2/13
Coleen Dieken	2/20

### March

Christopher Barnes	3/4
Juan Lopez	3/6
Gerald Vanamerongen	3/6
David Robel	3/7
Joshua Barber	3/10
John Skoda	3/18
Meryl Rich	3/20
Charles Craig	3/22
Michael Hadcock	3/24
Terrence Kortus	3/24

## Anniversaries

Brian Nicklas	14 yr.	3/9
Marilyn Fitch	13 yr.	1/18
Nick Cole	13 yr.	2/1
Michael Vollertsen	13 yr.	2/4
Tim Maschmeier	13 yr.	2/28
Doug Amen	11 yr.	3/12
Kelly McGill	10 yr.	3/18
Alan Pendleton	7 yr.	1/17
Ruben Bera	5 yr.	3/11
Russell Adams	3 yr.	3/27
David Filbert	2 yr.	3/1
Steven McCown	1 yr.	1/14
Gary Prevette	1 yr.	2/14
Jason Riechman	1 yr.	3/6
Doyle Horwart	1 yr.	3/24