

Flashes of Light

No. 1

Published for its Customers by Skamania County P.U.D. JULY, 1948

Here's How Your P.U.D. Operates

A Public Utility District is a municipal corporation. It brings to small communities and rural areas the advantages of low-cost power that City Light systems bring to big cities, such as Seattle, Tacoma, Los Angeles, Omaha, Louisville, etc.

The Washington law authorizing the creation of county P.U.D.'s was adopted by a vote of the people of the state in 1930. In 1938—just ten years ago—the people of Skamania County voted to set up a local P.U.D. here in our county to acquire and operate a public electric system.

The people in 1938 also elected a board of three commissioners who function like the board of directors of a corporation. In a corporation the board represents the stockholders and in a P.U.D. the board represents the people, who are the "stockholders."

A member of the commission is elected at every general election for a term of six years. The commissioners serve without salary, drawing only a small fee for attending the meetings, which are usually held twice a month. The commissioners hire a manager, auditor and other per-

INTRODUCING:

"Flashes of Light"

This is the first issue of a publication we hope will bring you a better understanding of the Public Utility District of Skamania County—your business.

Because of natural changes in population during the years, our customer list has changed considerably. Many new names appear on it. Many of them do not understand the workings of a P.U.D.

At the same time, all our residents are interested in knowing about the progress of this public enterprise, its financial condition and its problems.

We invite your comments and suggestions. We want "Flashes of Light" to be truly a source of factual information.

P.U.D. COMMISSIONERS

Chauncey Price
William R. Thompson
Harry J. Card

sonnel to handle all the details of operation.

The Skamania County P.U.D. operates under state laws which lay down definite rules. All business is conducted in open meetings. The books are audited by the state. Employees who handle money are bonded. So your P.U.D., a public enterprise, is operated in the public interest.

Line Capacity to be Doubled

The new Stevenson Plywood Co., the 300 kw heating load for the new court house and the added requirements of other industries have made it necessary for the P.U.D. to double its present transmission lines to the Stevenson-Carson area. Material has been ordered and the job should be finished when the plywood plant is ready to start up.

This improvement involves the use of heavier conductors and the building of a new 1,500 kva substation west of Stevenson.

No Voltage Troubles

The plywood plant and Hegewald Lumber Co. will be served ahead of the substation at the Bonneville-generated voltage of 13,800. This will relieve other customers of voltage annoyances and surges of current caused by these large industrial users.

When the P.U.D. purchased the West Coast Power Co. in 1940, one of the first jobs was to increase the main transmission conductors four-fold. We thought we were providing for many years of normal growth in the use of electricity. But the

(Please turn to back page)

Audit Finds Records O. K., Income Up

J. R. Bowen and Dave Mathes, Jr., of the State Department of Municipal Corporations have just completed an audit of the books of the Skamania County P.U.D. for the years of 1946 and 1947. They found all accounts in balance, and in agreement with records kept by the county treasurer.

In the year 1947, your P.U.D.'s total income was \$110,348.55. After deducting operating expenses, reserves for depreciation, taxes paid, and interest on bonds, your electric system showed a net income or "profit" of \$29,860.35.

Bonds Retired

From this net income, \$11,249.99 was set aside for retiring bonds against the business, and the balance of the net income was used for working capital and for improvements to the system and line extensions.

Your P.U.D.'s business in 1947 was much larger than in any previous year. Total operating revenue was \$24,017 more than revenue in 1946. The net income in 1947 was \$11,249.99 more than in 1946, despite higher operating costs.

Going back to the beginning of the P.U.D., net income for the first year, 1940, was only \$5,145. In

Power Costs Have Dropped 50%— Residential Use Has Gone Up 340% in 8 years of P.U.D.

	Average cost Per kwh.	Average annual Use per customer
1940	3.24c	821 kwh.
1941	2.74c	1041
1942	2.60c	1107
1943	2.39c	1247
1944	2.28c	1386
1945	2.03c	1719
1946	1.80c	2166
1947	1.61c	2795

1943 it was \$9,259, and in 1945, \$15,240.

Plant Value Climbs

Your P.U.D.'s electric plant has been steadily gaining in size, and in book value. In 1940 it was \$78,348. At the end of 1947 the book value was \$381,916.

A study of the 1947 balance sheet (a statement of the P.U.D.'s assets and liabilities) shows that since 1940 the people of the county have accumulated an equity of \$124,329 in their electric system. That is the book figure—at today's replacement prices, it would be much higher.

Line Pushed to Girl Scout Camp

Your P.U.D. is busy building 1½ miles of new line to the 1,400 acre site of the big Portland Area Girl Scout Camp. The site is located east of the Bergen Road.

Electric service was re-

quested by the Girl Scout leaders by July 10, when the site is to be dedicated. When the camp is completed next year, it will be one of the most modern in the West, and will bring many hundreds—yes, thousands—of visitors to the county every year. It will be a fairly large power load from early spring to late fall.

The new line to the camp will also bring electric service to three more families along the route. Eventually, the line will go east from the Scout Camp to tie in with the eastern part of the county. In the process many more families will get electric service.

Line Capacity

(Continued from Page 1) growth of your system and the increase of the use of power by almost every home, farm, business and industry has exceeded all our expectations.

Because we bill only every other month, the August issue of "Flashes of Light" will appear in the columns of the Skamania County Pioneer. Watch for it.