

Jobs at Pacific Power

The world of Pacific Power, the largest electric utility in the Northwest, is a dynamic, changing one for the men and women who work there. Pacific offers a variety of opportunities for its employees in parts of six western states.

The company depends on the multiple talents of its employees for the smooth, efficient operation of the business. People make it work. Their education or experience in science, mathematics, engineering, business administration and the human sciences, among others, qualify them for the demands of their jobs.

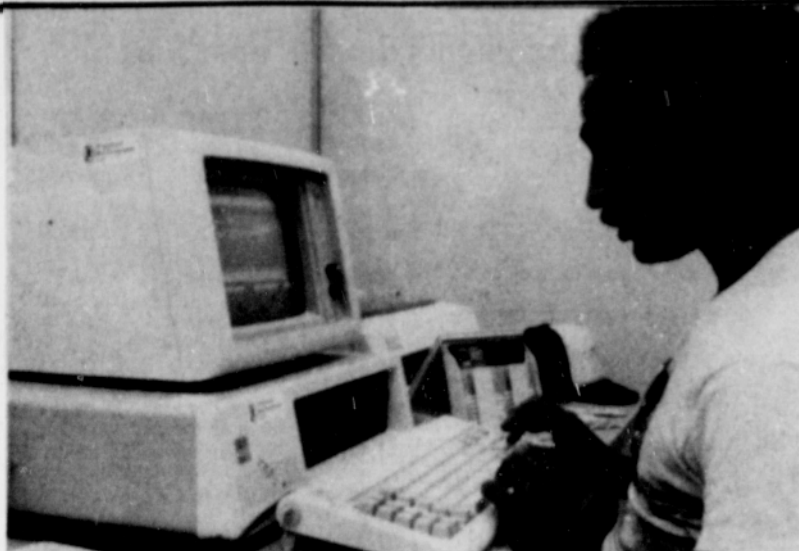
The generation and delivery of energy is the heart of the electric utility business. Electricity is generated at hydroelectric or thermal power plants, and moved to distribution centers for delivery to homes, businesses and industry.

Hydro repairman Tom Harder is part of the maintenance crew in power operations on the Lewis River in southwest Washington. A 15-year employee with the company, Harder has been a repairman since 1970.

Power operations is also responsible for Pacific's many recreational sites by making the land around the



Removing old transformer after installing a new one. PP&L journeyman linemen in "bucket" and on pole work high above street level. Linemen are skilled in safety measures as well as electrical procedures.



James Flu, steam helper, calls computer program to screen. Flu is preparing for career change, necessitated by closure of Lincoln steam plant next year. Steam helpers work beneath city streets, on system bringing steam heat to downtown Portland since 1918.

generating sites available for public use. Other opportunities in power and thermal operations are for mechanics, engineers, schedulers, and power planners and analysts.

In field offices in communities the company serves, it is the dedicated service of the local employees that makes the company strong. These employees have day-to-day contact with customers, offering account information and energy use assistance and connecting electric lines to their homes and businesses.

Portland district steam helper James Flu is taking business management and computer classes, preparing for a new career when the Portland Lincoln steam plant closes next year.

Pacific's line personnel are known for their dedication to their customers even under difficult, stormy conditions. They are recognized for their expertise in often dangerous, heavy work. Other opportunities in field operations include estimating and meter reading.

Information handled by computer make many Pacific Power operations easier to handle. Information systems rely heavily on computer science, business administration and mathematics. The department develops information programs for the company and for specific operations within it. In the computing center, the staff provides instruction on machinery and software and plans office automation and work stations for the future.

A wide range of professional, manual and clerical positions, technical and non-technical, are available at Pacific Power, in addition to those mentioned above. More than one-half of Pacific's employees are covered by union agreements. Other opportunities are available within subsidiaries of PacificCorp, Pacific Power's parent company.



The first silk thread to be sold on spools appeared in 1849. Previously, silk thread had been sold in skeins.

Careers in jewelry

When Rick Martin graduated from college, he knew a lot about jewelry "but not a blessed thing about making a living." Today, Martin teaches students the things he wishes he's known when he finished school.

Martin is owner of The Snow Owl, a small jewelry shop located in West Slope, on Canyon Road. He is Portland Community College's jewelry instructor in the college's professional skills program. The program consists of six terms of intensive hands-on training in Martin's shop, where students work all day, four-days-a-week, learning the skills that will enable them to make a living in the jewelry industry.

Martin works with six students at a time, all at different levels. Placement of graduates of the program is 100 percent.

"This program is designed to give students in-shop training in skills the industry wants," says Martin. Students study gemology throughout the program, while they learn rendering, fabricating, casting, and mold making. There is heavy emphasis on setting gem stones and jewelry repair, according to Martin.

The instructor attended Portland State University where he studied painting and drawing. "I wanted to teach high school, so I took some jewelry and ceramic classes for high

school art," he says. He found he enjoyed the crafts more than the painting and drawing.

He continued his education at Lewis and Clark College, graduating with a master's in education. "While there, I took more ceramics and jewelry classes," he says.

When Martin got out of school, he said the real need for teachers had disappeared. He worked for a major downtown jewelry store and gradually began teaching classes for PCC and other local community colleges.

"As my own studio got busier, I had to cut back on the number of classes I was teaching," he explained. Now, through the professional crafts program, Martin is able to teach and run his own business simultaneously.

Since he loses a student or two through graduation each term, Martin is constantly on the lookout for new enrollees in the program. He cautions that it is not always easy to get in.

Martin said, to date, the profession has been dominated by males, but indicated there is no reason for this other than tradition. He's trying to encourage more women to become jewelers. "At one time, five out of my six students were women," says Martin. They all graduated and got jobs.

What do you mean I'm fired?

Fired! What am I going to do? My mortgage! The house! My car! What about the children? What will my wife say? Will she leave me? I wonder if...? If you find yourself in this predicament, here are some steps to take that might lend some stability to this traumatic period in your life.

- Examine your present cash position. Include cash at hand, like salary, sick pay, and severance monies owed to you. Also include assets which can be easily converted to cash, i.e. bank accounts, savings bonds, stocks bonds, leases (cash value), land contracts, and cash

value of insurance policy.

- Contact your creditors and inform them of your status. Many decent creditors will allow you to reschedule your debt payments so that they meet the realities of your new financial position.

- Register at the unemployment office immediately if you are entitled to receive benefits. These benefits, if due you, begin the first day you are out of work.

- Contact a Fair Employment Practice agency if you feel you were wrongly dismissed and have enough grounds for suing the company. So this immediately because it usually is a drawn-out process.

- Contact friends in your field of work to have them look out for opportunities that might interest you. Some may owe you favors that can be repaid with a good lead to a prospective job.

- Call on your contacts in the industry who might be able to introduce you to freelance or consulting work.

- Rewrite your resume and send it to the companies of your choice. You might need assistance in doing this, if so, there are many professional employment services that will help for a small fee.

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