

NECA/IBEW Electrical Contractor Helps International Research Team

In a project scheduled to be completed next month, McCoy Electric Company, a member of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), Oregon-Columbia Chapter, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48, is replacing the old, troublesome electrical system in the Shriners Hospital laboratories with three separate new systems which will ensure that the labs will no longer lose critical data due to what is sometimes known as "dirty power."

Dirty power is electrical power that spikes, surges, and doesn't flow smoothly -- and it can spell disaster for today's highly sensitive electronic equipment, such as the laboratory research equipment used at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

Years of research can be destroyed in an instant if electrical power is interrupted. In fact, that's what had been happening before McCoy replaced the system. The labs had not only lost experiments, they were also regularly having to replace the hard drives in their computers due to surges -- an expensive proposition in both dollars and data lost.

In order to prevent such losses in the future, the Shriners Hospital called on McCoy Electric to upgrade the quality of power coming into the Lab.

According to McCoy Project Superintendent Jim Hall, the company designed and installed three separate systems in five different labs so that the right equipment can now be connected to the right type of electrical system. "With the new systems, if the electricity coming into the hospital goes down, the critical lab equipment will never know it," said Hall.

The Normal Power System was installed for non-critical equipment; equipment that is used occasionally and usually not for extended periods of time. The Emergency System is reserved for equipment that can tolerate a two or three second interruption until the emergency generators kick in. The third system is the



Laboratory technician, Michelle Zelleny-Pooley, works with confidence in the newly re-wired Lab 2 at Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

search. "With something this complex, we don't need any more problems. The new electrical work makes it much easier for us to concentrate on the work we want to do rather than worrying about the equipment."

In addition to the design and installation of the electrical work, the union electrical contractor provides on-call back-up personnel who are available to take care of any problems that might arise. McCoy has also made other contributions to the ongoing research at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

"In order to keep the hospital from having to go back for more

project is an excellent example of the kind of hi-tech work NECA and IBEW teams are performing now. And this particular project is very satisfying since we know that our work will be doing so much good for so many people."

The Oregon-Columbia Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association was established in 1943 and is dedicated to excellence in its industry and committed to forming a cohesive relationship between the professional contractors of NECA and the skilled electricians of IBEW Local 48. McCoy and other NECA-member contractor union electricians

Filing Extensions Offered To Those Who Can't Pay

Oregonians who cannot meet the April 15 federal income tax filing deadline, need IRS Form 4868, "Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax return." The IRS now accepts an application for an automatic four-month extension of time to file, even if the taxpayer can't pay the total tax owed.

Prior to last year, if a taxpayer filed an extension and didn't pay the tax with the extension, IRS would consider the request invalid and assess the failure-to-file penalty on the delinquent return. The failure-to-file penalty is 5 percent per month on the balance due on the return, not to exceed 25 percent.

To get an automatic four-month extension of time to file, Oregonians should file Form 4868, and properly estimate their tax liability.

Even with the extension, there are interest charges on any taxes paid after April 15. If payments made by April 15, including amounts paid with Form 4868, are less than 90 percent of

the total tax, there is also a late payment penalty of 1/2 of one percent of your unpaid taxes for each month or part of a month that the tax is not paid. To keep these charges as low as possible, the IRS advises taxpayers to pay as they can as soon as they can. Taxpayers may even make payments before they actually file their returns.

Any payments made before filing should include information to credit the money properly: social security number (SSN), the tax year and the form number. Joint filers should use the primary SSN -- that is, the number that will appear first on the return.

Taxpayers who still cannot pay the taxes owed by the August 15 extended due date should file their returns and attach Form 9465, "Installment Agreement Request." This form allows taxpayers to request a monthly payment plan and specify the amounts they are able to pay each month. The late payment penalty and interest continues to be charged on any unpaid tax.

Both Forms 4868 and 9465 are available in local IRS offices. Also, some libraries have reproducible copies of Form 4868. If you do not have access to a copy of Form 4868, you can request an automatic four-month extension for filing your 1993 personal income tax return by mailing a letter by April 15, specifying the tax year, type of return involved, your social security number, estimated tax, and any balance due. If a joint return, both spouses must sign. The letter must be signed using the following statement:

"Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this substitute from, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Answers to questions on extensions can be answered through the IRS telephone taxpayer assistance by calling 221-3960 in Portland or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon 1-800-TAX(829)-1040.

Celebrate Diversity Ombudsman Training Scheduled

Violation Of Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act

Volunteers are needed to improve the quality of life of the elderly living in long term care facilities. Certified Ombudsmen advocate for the residents of nursing homes adult foster care homes and residential care facilities. While the volunteers work to improve the quality of care for the citizens living in long term care facilities, they also promote dignity, autonomy and the rights of the residents. Volunteers are currently being recruited for a six-session training program beginning May 10 in Portland.

Certified Ombudsmen investigate complaints and concerns on behalf of the residents and then work with the facilities to make changes that best serve the residents. The role takes a special kind of volunteer--

volunteers must not only care about the elderly, but must also have excellent communication and problem-solving skills. While the job is challenging, the Certified Ombudsmen find their work very rewarding. It is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the residents while developing new skills in communication, problem-solving and advocacy. Certified Ombudsmen spend between one and five hours weekly at their assigned facilities, and a one-year minimum commitment is required.

Interested volunteers should call Kathy Walter at the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, toll-free at 1-800-522-2602, to receive additional information and an application.

Attorney General Theodore R. Kulongoski filed suit against a Washington corporation alleging that it misled consumers while selling and renewing magazine subscriptions in Oregon. A similar lawsuit involving the same company was filed by the Washington Attorney General.

Named in the Oregon complaint is Capitol Marketing, Inc. and its president, Kenneth Ecklund of Seattle. The complaint alleges violations of Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

Washington Attorney General Christine Gregoire filed a similar, separate lawsuit against Capitol Marketing and Ecklund. Gregoire's office also sued Certified Subscription Service, Inc., Consumer Subscription Center, and Seattle residents Carmen Smith and Lorna Ecklund. Kenneth Ecklund is believed to be involved in all three operations.

Capitol Marketing is alleged to have renewed subscriptions and billed consumers without authorization. The company also is alleged to have accepted money for subscriptions but did not send it to the magazine publishers.

Consequently, consumers never received magazines they subscribed to through Capitol.

Capitol gave refunds to some consumers, but only after being contacted by the Oregon Department of Justice. The company was asked to enter into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance earlier this month, but never responded to the request.

Oregon's complaint seeks to permanently prohibit the defendants from operating in Oregon, civil penalties of \$25,000 per law violation, restitution to all Oregon consumers and attorney fees and investigative costs.

Program Set For 1st International African Symposium In Cairo, Egypt

The National Association For Sickle Cell Disease (NASCD) has announced program participants and special guests for its First International African Symposium, June 18-25, in Cairo, Egypt. In making the announcement, NASCD president, Dr. Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, director of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, said the presenters will combine to give a global perspective in the war against sickle cell disease and is encouraging those who want to attend to beat the rapidly approaching booking deadline.

"The search for solutions to the problems of sickle cell disease is not only being made here in the United States," Frempong observed. "It is important for us to acknowledge the work of others and to find a way to bring us all together in a common effort. In that vain the First International African Symposium is historic," he said.

The conference schedule begins on the fourth day to the eight day educational and cultural tour which

also features a welcoming address, by Mrs. Hosny Mubarak, the First Lady of Egypt and a gala awards banquet with world renown film star Louis Gossett serving as Master of Ceremonies. Presentations include the following themes and presenters: "Sickle Cell Disease: A Worldwide View, Dr. Graham Serjeant, Medical Research Council Laboratories, Kingston, Jamaica and "The Impact Of Sickle Cell In Saudi Arabia", Drs. Ali Al Jama, Abdul Kareem Al Momen, and Ahmed Mallouh.

"Sickle Cell disease and The Vital Role of Nurses" (United States Perspective), will be presented by Melissa Cheek-Luten, B.S.N., R.N., president, International Association of Sickle Cell Nurses & Physician Assistants. Cheek-Luten will be followed by a team of experienced Egyptian and Saudi Arabian nurses with the African and Middle East perspective. Adding to the global outreach of the symposium will be Gunes T. Yuregir, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at Qukurova University in Adana, Turkey. There will also be

presentations on "Drug Development In Sickle Cell Disease: In The Search For A Cure" and "New Technology: Advances In Equipment and Testing."

Rounding out the medical presentation schedule will be a presentation on "The History of Sickle Cell Work In The United States" and Frempong presenting A "Sickle Cell Disease: A Vision for The Future." There will also be a special cultural presentation by noted African American Egyptologist, Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, II specifically aimed at bringing perspective to the series of tours through the "Cradle of Civilization" that are included in the Symposium package.

According to NASCD Symposium organizers the tour package, coordinated by African Express Travel and Tours, includes round trip air transportation from New York or Los Angeles, six nights in one of Cairo's five star hotels, continental breakfast, two lunches, a fashion show and more. For information call 1-800-4-AFRICA or NASCD at 1-800-421-8453.

Vehicle Donation Program Expands To Salem

Volunteers of America of Oregon has expanded their Vehicle Donation Program to the Salem area. Residents in the area who are interested in donating their auto, boat or recreational vehicle can call 375-7306.

The Vehicle Donation Program accepts donations of vehicles and provides free towing. Donations are tax deductible and enable Volunteers of America of Oregon to further provide programs such as adult day care, senior medical clinic and shelter for women and children.

Volunteers of America is a nationwide social service organization with branches in over 200 communities through children and family services, senior services and community corrections programs.

Worthy Wage Day

Worthy Wage Day, April 21, 1994...

When child care teachers say, "We can no longer subsidize the full cost of care by our low wages."

And parents say, "My child's teacher deserves a living wage, but I can't afford to pay more."

We say together "We want federal legislation that addresses worthy work, worthy wages."

Parents, bring your stories as to why you support your child's teacher making a worthy wage. Teachers, bring your pay stubs. Together, we will give them to Senator Hatfield to support the need for federal legislation such as the child Care and Development Block Grant.

12.30 p.m. Senator Hatfield's Office (World Trade Center); corner of SW Salmon and Front Ave.

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IF YOU CAN

Run

(or Walk)

to the nearest phone, you can register yourself (or your company, or your family, friends etc.) for the American Cancer Society's 1994 **Relay for Life**. Join or create a team of 8-12 people and prepare for a fight against cancer. For 24 hours on May 13 and 14, **Relay** teams send members running or walking around the Gresham High School track relay-style. *Meanwhile*, the rest of the team enjoys the food, entertainment and camaraderie of the **Relay for Life**. If you want to help fight cancer by **having fun** for 24 hours, or just volunteer or make a donation, start dialing the number for your American Cancer Society — **295-6422** or **1-800-ACS-2345**.

RELAY FOR LIFE
A TEAM EVENT TO FIGHT CANCER