### 'Your distribution plant is in good condition'

Electric co-op manager gives report at annual meeting

### By David Sykes

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op General Manager Thomas Wolff told the gathered crowd last week that all is well with the co-op including a sound distribution system and continued efforts to make improvements. "It's all about the people," Wolff said as he introduced the employees of the co-op who were in attendance at the annual meeting in Heppner last week. "These are the ones who keep the power flowing," Wolff said. This would be Wolff's last annual meeting as he is retiring in February of next year.

He went on to point out some of the improvements to the electrical system over the past 15 years including a re-build of sub stations at Condon, Fossil, Sand Hollow and Ruggs. He said they are in the process of rebuilding the Olex distribution station. He also reported some of these systems were 50-60 years old and in need of rebuild.



now be cut from a previous five to six days to a matter of minutes before power is restored.

In other information, Wolff said the co-op sells nine million in power each year and that the co-op board has made a significant effort to "live within our means and keep Wolff added that with the rates down." He added also said the co-op is con-Ruggs to Ione interchange that they would be paying tinuing in its effort to bring an outage in that area can out \$575,000 soon in cap- high speed fiber internet

ital credits to certain co-op members.

Wolff emphasized that there are political forces that people should be aware of and it is important that the co-op have "grassroot support" when addressing those issues. He urged members to get involved to protect their interests. He

connections to many of the members. He said they are waiting on a federal grant to complete what is called the "final build out" or fiber to the homes. "We are your co-op. We are working well and we strive to keep rates reasonable and we will keep the lights on," Wolff said in closing.

Also speaking at the meeting was Board Presi-



Gerry Arnson, Board President

A new book about the 75-year history of Columbia Basic Electric Co-op was passed out at the annual meeting last week. One of the pages in the book shows long-time employee and CBEC patriarch Billy Gentry (right), now retired, on a pole along with his grandson Tate Gentry, now also an employee of the co-op.

dent Gerry Arnson who also urged people to keep an eye on the legislators and let rick's Catholic Church of them hear from you. "Your numbers count," he told members. He said it may take grass root action to meeting and memorial mass insure the continued availability of steady affordable hydro-electric power. the deceased men of the "Strength goes a long way,"

he told the members.



CEO/General Manager **Thomas Wolff** 

## Catholic men to hold dinner

The men of St. Pat-Heppner and St. William's Catholic Church of Ione will hold their fall dinner on Tuesday November 19.

The memorial mass for parishes will be held at 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Heppner followed by dinner and a meeting in the parish hall.



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