

Hood River County Library

ELECTRIC SERVICE WITH SAFETY

The Importance of Fuses

This is one of a series of articles prepared by the International Association of Electrical Inspectors to encourage safety in the use of electricity in homes.

The misuse of electricity is responsible for a small percentage of the annual fire loss but this percentage can be reduced if proper attention be given to fusing of circuits. Over-fusing and tampering with fuses is one cause of electrical fires which can easily be overcome. The fuse is the safety valve of the electrical system. It consists of a small link of soft metal which melts when too much current passes through it. It has been said that a fuse gives up its life to save the circuit. If a short circuit occurs anywhere in the wiring system, an excessive current flows through the wires and through the fuse, and if the fuse operates properly, it will melt, cutting off the current before any harm can be done. If the fuse fails to operate, the wires may become hot enough to ignite the insulation, possibly causing a fire. Because of the very important function that fuses have to serve, they should never be tampered with or their purpose will be defeated. Persons who fail to realize the function of the fuse sometimes look upon its "blowing" as a nuisance, and sometimes try to defeat its operation by tampering—fixing it so that it cannot blow. Fuses blow because something is wrong. If the fuse is defeated a definite hazard will exist the next time the circuit becomes faulty, there will be no indication that trouble has developed until the circuit wires become hot and the insulation starts to smoke. If this fails to attract attention a fire may develop. Tampering with fuses is like putting a clamp on the safety valve of a steam boiler. Never permit the use of make-shift fuses or fuses of improper ratings. If there is any possibility of the fuses in your house having been tampered with,

it would be wise to remove them and inspect the sockets and the condition of the fuses. Fuses have a second function. Besides protecting in the case of short circuit, they protect in the case of overload. If too many appliances are connected to one circuit, more current will be drawn through the supply wires than the wires were meant to carry. Overloaded wires become hot, sometimes to the point of injuring the insulation. When circuits are overloaded, the fuse, if properly selected, will melt or "blow," thus



Underwriters' Lab. Insp. 15 amp T-3

Look for this label on fuses.

protecting the wires. When a fuse blows, a wire, an extension cord or an appliance is defective or there are too many appliances connected at the same time on one circuit. Find the trouble and remedy it, otherwise when the blown fuse is replaced the new one will also blow out immediately. The power company maintains a crew of men to answer service calls promptly and restore service when fuses have

blown out. For those who prefer to keep a supply and change their own fuses a word of advice is appropriate. It is very important, for the safety of the wiring system, to use reliable fuses which will blow whenever the safe current values are exceeded. As in the case of the selection of flexible cords, mentioned in the preceding article, it is wise to take advantage of the safeguards provided by the Underwriters' Laboratories and buy fuses which comply with safety standards and which carry the Laboratories' Inspection label. It is usually advisable to open the main switch before changing fuses, although this will require the resetting of all electric clocks throughout the house. If fuses are replaced without opening the switch, all appliances should be disconnected from the circuit before the new fuse is inserted.

Most house circuits are wired either with No. 14 or No. 12 wire, the latter being the larger size and having the greater current-carrying capacity as shown in the following table:

Wire Size	Current Capacity	Proper Fuse Rating
No. 14	15 Amperes	15 Amperes
No. 12	20 Amperes	20 Amperes

Unless some qualified person advises that the circuit wires are larger than No. 14, fuses used should be marked "15 amp." It is frequently advisable to have the circuits supplying the laundry and kitchen, where the larger electrical appliances are used, wired with No. 12 wire protected with 20 ampere fuses. More appliances or larger appliances can be connected to such circuits without overloading and without causing the annoyance of blowing fuses.

Hood River Hi Tramples Pendleton

The Hood River High School Apple-pickers emerged victorious Friday night over the Bucaroos from Pendleton to the tune of 31-25, in a basketball game played in the Hood River High School Auditorium. The Pendleton squad just didn't seem to be able to hit the hoop, though the floor work of the Cow Punchers was credible. Half-time

saw the local squad in the lead 12-11. Steele, husky center, for the Apple-pickers, was high-point man with 12 counters, while Kavanaugh, Pendleton center, led his teammates with seven points. Tommy Johnson served as referee.

The summary:

Hood River (31)	(25) Pendleton
Carnes 7	f 6 McKee
Bentley 8	c 2 Mumm
Steele 19	c 7 Kavanaugh
Herley 2	g 2 Miller
	s 3 Granger
	s 1 Lundell

MOSIER DEFEATS LOCKS

The Mosier high school basketball team climbed to third place in the Oregon Trail Conference as a result of their 32 to 29 victory over Cascade Locks Bucaneers last Friday. The game was closely contested from start to finish. Mosier led 18 to 11 at the half.

H. Brink of the Locks was high point getter of the evening with 18 points. He was closely followed by Webb of Mosier with 16.

Lineups:

Mosier (32)	(29) Cascade Locks
Webb, 16	F L. Brink
Duvall, 1	F 18. H. Brink
Huskey, 4	C Kyle
Wilcox, 8	G 2. Woodward
Morelli, 1	G 5. Smith

Substitutes: For Cascade Locks: Murray, 4; for Mosier: Buce, 2; Gholston.

Referee: Noble.

All Plants Depend Upon Leaves to Produce Food

Plant leaves form a direct link between nature's storehouses of food elements and the food requirements of plant and animal life. All animals are dependent on plants either directly or indirectly for their food, and plants depend upon their leaves to make food out of raw materials.

Plants make many uses of the products they manufacture, the uses varying greatly with the kind of plant. The foods may be made into wood, gums, resins, flowers, fruits, or seeds. They may be stored away as starches or sugars to serve some future need of the plant or to be used in the growth of new plants.

Ten chemical elements are required by plants in this process, notes a writer in the Chicago Tribune. They are carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, sulphur, iron, potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium. A few others usually are found, but most plants seem to grow without them. Nature makes ample provision for the two that come from the air—carbon and oxygen. Soils often are deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium and sometimes calcium and sulphur. These are added to the soil in fertilizers.

Tracing the White Indians

Definite indications that the mysterious "White Indians" of Panama are descendants of white men who came to America before Columbus are reported by an archeologist. Many scientists have held these people were albinos. But albinos usually are childless, and when they do have children they also are always albinos. But there were instances where the "White Indians" gave birth to brown-skinned children.

"Sino" Combined With Japanese

"Sino" instead of "Chinese" is combined with Japanese because it is more euphonious. It is derived from "Sinai," the Greek and Latin name for an Oriental people mentioned by Ptolemy, who lived in the Second century, A. D., and supposed to have been the Chinese. Some writers, however, prefer "Chino" to "Sino" and write "Chino-Japanese" after the analogy of "Russo-Japanese," "Franco-Prussian," etc.

El Templete in Havana

El Templete in Havana dates from 1827 and commemorates the landing at Puerta Caranas of Don Diego Velazquez in 1519. An obelisk bears an inscription commemorating the mass sung at the town meeting held at the time in the shade of a giant siba tree. A tree shading El Templete is believed to be a slip from the original tree, cut down in 1753.

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Political Red Herrings

A red herring is a herring that has a red color through being cured by smoking. The Oxford dictionary has a quotation dated 1686, concerning the employment of a red herring in fox hunting: "The trailing or dragging of a dead cat or fox (and in case of necessity a red herring) three or four miles and then laying the dogs on the scent." Just as a dog's scent may be led astray by drawing a red herring across the track, so the public may be misled in a political campaign by bringing in a false issue intended to divert attention from important questions.

Captain Kidd Parson's Son

One of the most celebrated pirates of all time was the son of a Scotch minister, according to the Standard American Encyclopedia. He was William Kidd. Kidd took to sea and established himself in New York City as a landowner and shipper. Commissioned by William III in 1697 to suppress pirating, he met with mutiny and discord on the way to Madagascar and turned pirate himself, to prey on commercial ships. He was tried, found guilty and hanged in London in 1701.

Enduring Blue

It is believed by scientists that the blue seen on mummy cases, having lost nothing of its brightness, must be either ultra-marine or cobalt. Modern analyses have shown that blue on ancient pottery, both Egyptian and Chinese, was sometimes derived from cobalt.

Fingerprints used as signatures have been discovered on ancient Chinese documents.

A bass fishing club maintains a pier on San Francisco Bay 2500 feet long.

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