

SUBSTATION AND SERVICE CENTER — At left, Ron Spani, assistant power superintendent, is dwarfed by the huge transformers of the PPL substation adjacent to the service center. Here, 230,000 volt power lines come in from the tie-in with the Bonne-



ville line at Diamond Lake junction and power is dropped to 66,000 volts for distribution in the Copco system. At right, Hank Moore, service dispatcher, is shown making a last minute change on the huge map of the distribution system of the Copco

division. A complete layout of the system is included on the map and various colored pins indicate what work is being done throughout the system. Moore's job also includes dispatching crews for repairs and other work around the system.

PPL's New Industrial Complex Visited

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

"Gin pole, pig tail, switch stick and mechanical hand." These terms all fit into one industrial category although I'll wager they're known almost exclusively to those who actually use them.

The use of these pieces of equipment, for that's what they are, was explained to our uncomprehending minds during a recent tour of the newest \$2 million plus industrial complex added to the Klamath Falls area.

In addition to finding this big complex that had been constructed quietly and with little fanfare over the past two years, we also found one of the last outposts of exclusive male control.

The complex is the service center of Pacific Power and Light, located just south of Klamath Falls off U.S. Highway 97.

Here we found an industrial complex where from 75 to 100 men live and work, and where there is not a single female. What's more, there are no facilities present to accommodate the fairer sex.

The giant substation adjacent to the service center cost about

\$1,750,000 to build while the service center itself cost \$450,000. Much of the PPL operation which formerly was performed in the quarters of the firm at the corner of Fourth and Main are now being conducted at the new service center.

Here one finds equipment and storerooms neatly laid out to provide maximum operating efficiency, with offices and working areas air conditioned. These occupy one side of the service center compound, with a series of various-sized garages on the other side to handle the automotive equipment of the company.

We toured the area with Copco Division Superintendent Sam Ritchey. Roy Rolfs, superintendent of the center, explained the workings of some of the areas, and demonstrated the use of the newest piece of equipment, a \$20,000 truck which provides a pole digging arc of 180 degrees with rear power takeoff.

Rolfs, incidentally, is leaving to become superintendent of the PPL service center at Portland. His replacement here will be announced later.

We toured tool storage rooms

with Hugo "Dutch" Seidemann, electrician, who explained to us such terms as "gin poles," pig tails and mechanical hands. These are specially designed tools for line maintenance, construction and repair.

We watched Hank Moore, dispatch man, make a few changes on his huge map which covers the entire Copco Division servicing area. Here, in one sweeping glance, one can see exactly what work is being done on the far flung lines of this distribution system.

When trouble strikes, it is here that tabs are kept on what is being done to locate and repair that trouble.

We also watched Bob Faus check out some meter complaints by putting the troublesome meters through their paces electrically and checking their efficiency.

We also received a quick course in transformers and switches that left us a little confused but with the ample impression that these men know their business and knew it well.

Following a safety session at which new methods, new ideas and new products were being ex-

plained and discussed, Ritchey presented Leonard Peterson, a 25-year service pin. He is a lineman.

Following a tour of the warehouse section and the garages, we joined Ron Spani, assistant power superintendent, and visited the adjacent substation area.

Here, power to the tune of 230,000 volts comes in from the north intertie with Bonneville which is located in the Diamond Lake junction area. It is tapped and stepped down to 66,000 volts which is then distributed throughout the Copco system. The 230,000 volt lines continue from here to Medford. Power from the John Boyle and the Iron Gate projects are fed into this power network.

Thurman Turner, substation operator, was on duty at the substation, checking meters and switches carefully in a never-ending routine that ensures continued power to PPL consumers.

The first indications of any trouble are felt here, and from here, information dispatched that will lead to the quickest possible repair.

This area is by far the costliest portion of the entire center. The substation cost about \$4 for

each \$1 spent on the service center.

There is still another area adjacent to these two. Here, most of the work of pre-forming parts and storing equipment was done for the John Boyle dam. This is the construction yard area. Here, when the time comes, the preparation work and equipment will be prepared and collected for the Salt Caves dam which may be the next project for PPL in its move for maximum power development of the Klamath River.

Our concluding impression was that everything possible had been incorporated into this substation and service center to provide for the most efficient operation yet also provide maximum working conditions for the mainstay of the entire operation, the men that make it work.

When you drive south on U.S. 97 and get by the bend just south of town you will see the service center off to the left if you're travelling south. At night, it is a well-lighted beacon along the way.

Here, the men labor unceasingly to provide you with the electricity that makes our modern day wheels go 'round.



NEW AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT — The newest rig obtainable is brought out for inspection. Costing \$20,000, the new rig provides a powered digging arc of 180 degrees with the power takeoff at the rear. Here, equipment operator Glenn Clevon prepares to demonstrate the equipment while Roy Rolfs, superintendent of the service center, looks on.



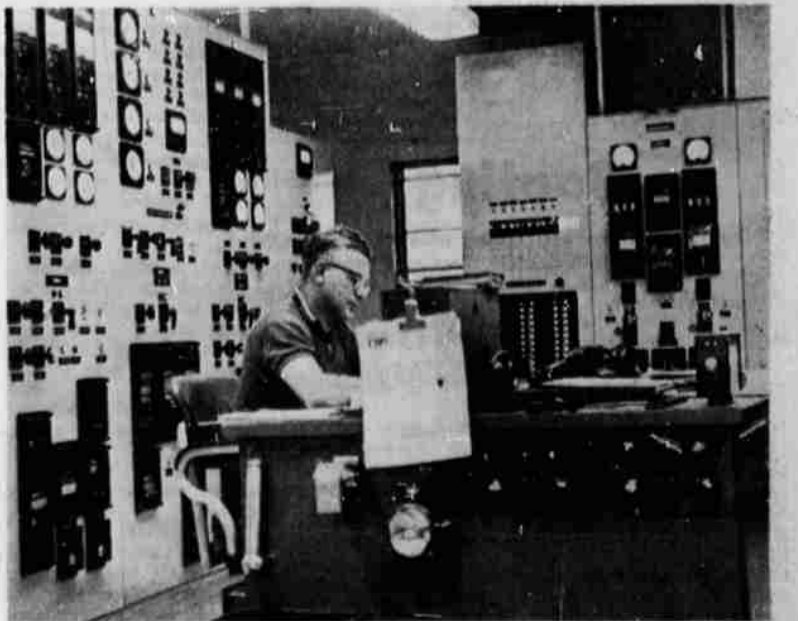
METER CHECKER — Complaints about meters reading too high are referred to Bob Faus. As meter checker, Faus subjects each new meter and any questionable old meter to a special check, determining how accurate they are.



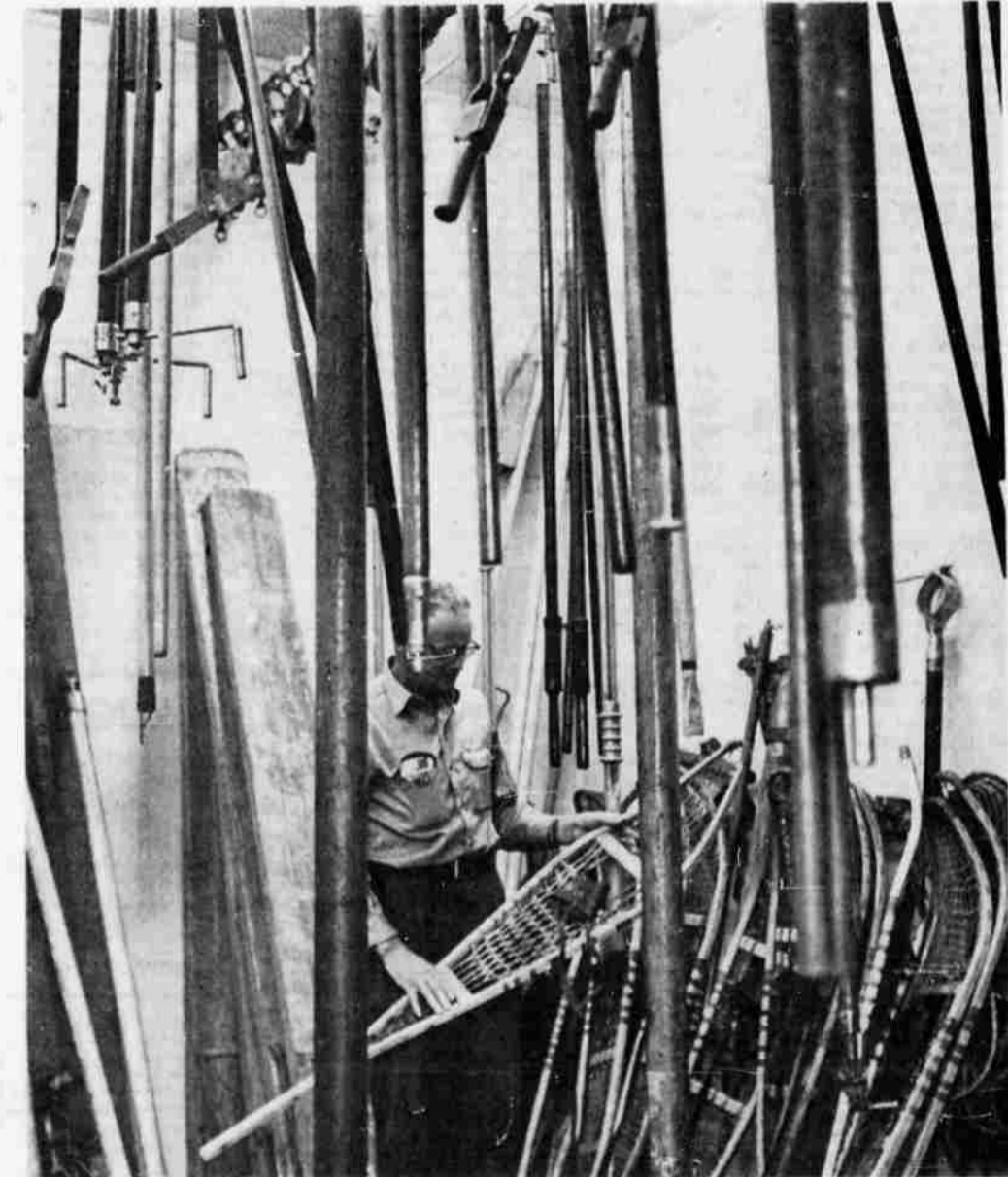
SAFETY SESSIONS — Frequent sessions on safety are not only helpful but necessary. There can be no substitute for safety when handling charged lines and engaged in dangerous repair work. Here, new products are demonstrated, new techniques explained and procedures discussed.



MIGHTY IMPORTANT TOOL — This little tool is known as the "mechanical hand," and it serves just about that purpose for linemen. Each hole and indentation has a specific purpose for use in handling power lines. The tool actually serves as an electrician's hand in power line tasks. "Dutch" Seidemann, left, electrician, and Sam Ritchey, superintendent of the Copco Division of PPL, examine the tool.



SUBSTATION CENTER — Thurman Turner, substation operator, is shown checking figures amid his maze of switches and dials. Here power is fed to all the PPL service area in this vicinity including such places as far away as Alturas. To this point comes the first indicator of trouble, power drop or other difficulties.



HOT TOOL ROOM — "Dutch" Seidemann stands amid the maze of poles and equipment used by electricians when handling hot wires. Each tool has a specific purpose and has been specially designed to meet a need. Dutch

looks over a set of snowshoes used when maintenance men have to check power lines in winter time inaccessible areas.