

Tigerville News

"Remembering the Past – Celebrating the Present"

"Ninth Edition – April 2013 Ephrata, Washington Beverly Mayer"

Ephrata High School 100-Year Reunion



Poster design contest winner. EHS Freshman Krista Claussen was named as the top designer of the EHS-100 Reunion Committee poster design contest. Krista submitted two entries which were both chosen to be among the top ten designs. A prize of \$100.00 will be awarded to her at the EHS-100 Reunion Committee's Launch Party to be held on Friday, April 12th.

The EHS-100 Reunion Committee-sponsored poster design contest was open to all alumni and current students of Ephrata High School. There were a total of 70 entries with 67 coming from current EHS students and three coming from EHS alumni. Beginning with the launch party, the top ten entries will be on display at various 100-year reunion functions.

The top ten designers include from EHS Class of 2016, Krista Claussen and Lexi Lewis. From the Class of 2015 – Kimberlin Bennett and Justice Amsbury, Class of 2014 – Sam Feller, Sydney Cao an exchange student from Viet Nam, Adriana Place and Andrea Lopez, and alumni Connor Sears, Class of 2011. See finalist poster on page 13 of this newsletter.

A copy of the reunion poster will be presented as an incentive to alumni who become life members of the EHS Alumni Association. Alumni Association details are available at ehs-100.com. Beginning in September 2013 copies of the poster will be available for purchase and posters will be mailed to life-members of the Alumni Association. The poster will be used to promote the 2014 reunion. The EHS-100 Reunion Committee was pleased with the success of the contest and very impressed with the quality of the entries.

Launch Party. The official beginning of the EHS-100 Reunion activities will take place at a Launch Party to be held on Friday, April 12, 2013 at the EHS commons area. The party begins at 7:00pm with a program beginning at 7:30pm. The Party will provide for socializing between members of EHS alumni classes, teachers, and administrators that span the decades.

Displays will include the top 10 poster design contest entries and the beautifully designed and crafted quilt offered by members of the Class of 1958 to be used for fundraising. The Ephrata Alumni Association will have an information table and EHS students will display historical information and memorabilia. If you ever wondered what "kove" stood for – now you can find out. The reunion committee will be assisted by members of the EHS student body who will also offer tours of the school.

The program will feature honored guests from the Class of 1938 and a special presentation of the 1911 school song "Orange and the Black". Special guests will be recognized and plans for the EHS-100 Reunion will be highlighted. Light refreshments will be served.

The Launch Party is open to all EHS alumni along with the present and past school administrators, teachers, and support personnel who are urged to come enjoy themselves, catch up with past classmates and discover what they have to look forward to over the coming year and especially in June 2014.

Results for the "50 With \$5.00 Challenge" will be coming in on April 15th for the classes of 1962 and 1963 challenge and on April 30th for the classes of 1981 and 1982 challenge. The generosity of the alumni classes is very much appreciated as these funds help to finance EHS-100 reunion projects. All alumni classes are welcome to issue a challenge to another alumni class. For full details and assistance in issuing a challenge, please check out ehs-100.com.

Tiger Tales

EHS Student Body News with Hunter Sears

Poster design winner. Congratulations to Krista Claussen for designing the winning entry in the poster design contest conducted by the EHS-100 Reunion committee.



Krista is a life-long resident of Ephrata, "I went to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School from preschool through sixth grade, then Ephrata Middle School and now I am a freshman at Ephrata High School." She is a three-generation EHS student, "My parents Jim and Natalie Claussen both graduated in 1989 and my grandma Donna Gudmunson Huesties graduated in 1969."

Krista said she has "always been intrigued by photography and that led me to Visual Communications class with Mrs. Vasquez. I've enjoyed learning how to use Photoshop and am amazed by what you can do with it. I learned art techniques with Mr. Forester in 7th grade and I also took Wood Shop with Mr. Sieg in 8th grade. I recently entered a "Doodle 4 Google" online contest."

School activities keep Krista busy, "I participated in Cross Country in the fall and am a softball team manager this spring." In addition, "I also participate in youth activities at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church." In the future, "Next year I hope to use my Photoshop and art skills in the Yearbook class."

Krista was very surprised when she was announced as the contest winner during the Candidate Forum held in the Performing Arts Center on March 26th. She will be receiving a cash prize of \$100. Her fellow students at EHS proudly recognize her efforts. Job well done! Picture courtesy of Loren McLaughlin-Grant County Journal

Do you know who the individuals are who fall under the term "classified staff" in the Ephrata School District? These people are critical to the daily operation and maintenance of the schools including the food service, maintenance, custodial, technology, transportation, secretarial and paraprofessional staff members. If you have a chance, thank them for their dedication to our school. They are a big part of why our school is a terrific place and one that we can be proud of.

Candidate Forum. The 15th annual Candidate Forum was held for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade classes so students could hear candidates for Associated Student Body offices present their speeches. All candidates were looking to be elected and serve among the student leaders during the 2013-2014 school years. Election was held on March 27 with the following results: President – Jake Laird, Vice President – Manny Trejo, Secretary – Chloe Spencer, Treasurer – Matt Mortimer, Treasurer Elect – Camille Culbertson, Publicity Manager – Astride Ham, Girls Social Chair – Freddie Ham, Boys Social Chair – Chance Flanigan.

During April the old and new ASB executive boards will meet weekly. On May 1st the new ASB officers will be installed at the student council meeting. The school year 2013-2014 will have a variety of activities celebrating the 100th anniversary of EHS graduations. Good luck to the new officers.

The ASB election is not the only political process at EHS; candidates have until May 8th to sign up as a candidate for the Class Executive Board. On May 22 an election will be held to elect all class officer positions. Results will be announced that day.

FBLA Competition. EHS students successfully represented our school at the Future Business Leaders of America's North Central Regional Conference held in Wenatchee. Many of the top finishers qualified to compete at the state conference set for April 25-27 in Spokane. Results include: **Accounting 1**-Stenn Monson, 1st and Brandon Aldaco, 4th. **Business Math**-Stenn Monson, 3rd. **Creed**-Kristi Billingsley, 6th. **Desktop Publishing**-Kristi Billingsley and Camille Culbertson, 4th. **Graphic Design**-Monae Hendrickson and Abigail McGuire, 1st. **Health Care Administration**-Shelby Koch, 5th. **Help Desk**-Chelsea Rollins, 3rd and Sarah Moore, 5th. **Introduction to Business**-Kristi Billingsley, 5th. **Hospitality Management**-Shelby Koch, 3rd. **Introduction to Business Communications**- Kristi Billingsley, 1st and Adrianna Flynn, 2nd. **Technology Concepts**-Danuel Cortez, 2nd. **Impromptu**-Heather Thomas, 2nd and Matthew Mortimer, 4th. **Public Speaking II**-Matthew Mortimer, 1st. **Word Processing I**-Melody Harris, 1st, Mercedes Brass, 2nd and Ana Giles, 4th. **Job Interview**-Heather Thomas, 4th. **Word Processing II**-Abigail McGuire, 1st. These students have amazing skills and we wish them good luck at state!

Mr. Senior 2013. "Back to the Future" is the theme of this year's Mr. Senior Night. On April 19th eleven seniors will compete in an event that is always very entertaining. The annual fundraiser's proceeds will go toward EHS Grad Night activities. Participating in the "beauty-styled pageant" are Bryan Heer, Evan McMartin, Kieran Rolfe, Benny Carter, Calvin Callahan, Sergio Magana, Garrett Devine, Tyler Clark, Justin Dourte, Hunter Sears and Seth Weeda. Show us your stuff, guys!

Springs Sports 2013. Everywhere you look around EHS there are athletes practicing for the opening of the CWAC competitions. The baseball, fastpitch, girls and boys golf, boys soccer, girls and boys tennis, and girls and boys track and field teams are hoping to either repeat as league champions or climb higher up the ladder. Currently the Ephrata Tiger boys track and field team is league, district, and state champions for the first time in the school's history.

For those who haven't had the opportunity to visit the Ephrata High School campus in a while, you will be amazed at the high quality of the diamonds, fields, courts, and running track. It is by far one of the best complexes in the Central Washington Athletic Conference. Not only are each of the sites first-rate, they are well maintained and definitely a source of pride for the Ephrata High School student body and the Ephrata-area school supporters. Good luck to all the spring season athletes. May you have a successful season!

Baseball: The Tigers find themselves in early season with a 1-3 record. Coach Jason Laugen has a strong defensive team but he is going to need some of his players to step up and produce on the pitching mound. The team has six starters from the 2012 squad that finished second in the CWAC last season. There are 40 athletes on the roster which includes 13 freshmen. The team has seven games to go, five are double headers. They have plenty of time to move up in the standings. Players expected to contribute in that effort include: Chandler Gribble, Tyler Clark, Zack and Bryan Wulf, Justin Van Ess, Tyler Johnson, Erik Scheib, Dylan Derr, Justin DeHoog, Justin Dorte, Josh Kallstrom, Robert Lund and Cameron Ball.

Fastpitch: So far the Tiger girls have a 2-0 record and have high hopes of continuing on the winning side of the score. Heather Wood is the Tiger coach. Last year's young team was 7-11 in the CWAC, but most of its players, including two all-leaguers and one of the best all-around players in the league, will be on the field again this year. They are looking to be the team that "surprises" some of the other teams. This is a 12-member team so everyone is expected to see action including Brianna Bazaldua, Kayla Brissey, Sara Dodson, Monae Hendrickson, Kaiya Hunsaker, Marissa Krausse, Lauren Laird, Becca Lester, Asha Merred, Brook Stutzman, Clarissa Vela and Stephanie Wulf.

Girls Golf: Coach Heidi Burns sees "more improvement ahead". The girls finished second in the league last year losing only one league match. They went on to finish third in district, fifth in the region and sent district champion Kendall Sage to State. The returning Tigers are young, but experienced, and are anticipating success. Members of the team are Sage, Maya Garcia, Zoe Tannler, Kaitlyn Autry, Kailey Lieualien, Tressa Davis, Katie Hilliard and Ana Giles. The team recently finished 7th out of 15 in the Dolquist tourney, Yakima.

Boys Golf: The Tiger linksters have three boys who have the ability to be the top contender for the team-two of whom are just sophomores. Senior Bryan Heer and sophomores Aaron Whalen and Josh Johnson are expected to be the team leaders. Coach Greg Hewitt believes that the team is talented and good enough to be challengers for CWAC team titles. At the 22-team Greyhound Invitational the Tigers won the championship. Team leader was Whalen who finished in 4th place. All ten teams from the CWAC were competing – this is a good indication of future wins. On the team with Heer, Whalen and Johnson are Tember Newman, Aaron Larsen, Mason Buchert, Leo Huerta, Mikenzie Whetstone, Josh Gillespie, Elliott Boyd and Owen Rollins.

Boys Soccer: With a 1-4 league record the Tigers are going to have to find a way to score some points. Coach Keith Laughlin and assistant Ivan Garay have worked hard getting the seasoned veterans back into shape and the new guys into the system. Laughlin believes that defense will give the team more opportunities on offense and this is their goal. Among positions to be filled includes goal-keeper with both Leo Garcia and Dylan Benthem contending for the position. Looking for a break-out season are Garcia, Benthem, Justin Cassidy, Kenton Cleveringa, Armando Farias, Saul Gutierrez, Pablo Lopez, Tyson Martin, Martin Mendoza, Gerry O'Campo, Alex O'Neel, Riley Pheasant, Hunter Stucky, Manny Trejo, Nikita Wall and Josh Williams.

Girls Tennis: Coach Missy Beierman has to work out which girls will be playing where because half of last year's team has to be replaced. With a 25-girl roster there will be lots of netters to choose from. Naomi Kooistra is strong as the team's No. 1 singles player with a last year's record of 9-3. Doubles teams will include experienced players Tessa Ratigan, Kim Beck and Demi Breckhus who all may fill in at No. 2 spot in singles. So far this season doubles teams include Beck with Breckhus, Teighan Moore teaming up with Stephanie Oliveras and Aubrey Smith with Katherine Bunakov. At the team's last outings the Lady Tigers beat the Grandview Greyhouse and dominated the Othello Huskies by 5-0 team scores. The team enters CWAC competition April 9th at Toppenish.

Boys Tennis: Coach Beierman indicated that she anticipates success for the team as it boasts No. 1 singles player in the CWAC, Hunter Sears. He goes into the season with a 20-2 record, the league championship, and a 4th place finish at State tournament. No. 1 doubles team of Michael Bosnar, former No. 2 player, and Matt Jones show early success playing together for the first time. No.2 team members are sophomore Stenn Monson and freshman Garner Sears who have also been successful at adding points to the team scoring. With 14 players and eight varsity positions to fill at each match, there is still pre-season shuffling of players going on. Seeing action in the singles court have been Mauricio Contreras, Jordan Brzezny, and Calvin Callahan. Other team members expected to fill in at the doubles position include Conner Maddalozzo, Nicholas Petersen, Zach Brown, Tate Sircin, Derek Paynter, and Seth Weeda. The team's early record is 5-1.

Girls Track: The 50-girl team is filled with young talent according to Coach Dan Martin. They will be depending on points from the distance runners and field athletes for high placing. That includes district cross country champion Hannah Gunderson and Jeanna Segaline in distances. Hurdler Brittany Harris, pole vaulter Nicole Virden; javelin throwers Kristen McDonnell and Sarah Pheasant are expected to contribute. In early outings the girls have finished 4th in the 26-team Ray Cross Memorial meet and were champions of the Best in the Basin meet in Quincy where 1st place finishers included Haley Berryman in both the 400 and 800 meters, Gunderson in 1600 meters, Harris in 100-meter hurdles, Alice Turnbull in 300-meter hurdles, Team Ephrata in 400-meter relay, Casey Etter in shot put, McDonnell in javelin, Virden in pole vault. Next competition for the track and field teams is the Pasco Invitation on April 13th.

Boys Track: The 90-boy team has a huge title to live up to as the defending State Champions, the first-time championship for the Tigers. They also have CWAC and district titles to defend. Coach Martin expects defending state 200 meter champion Jonnie Green to lead the way in three different sprints. Chance Flanigan and Brice Turnbull are also talented sprinters. Kieran Rolfe leads a contingent of distance runners with field event competitors in the jumps Layton Lange and Dekker Lovitt, and throwing events competitors Sergio Magana, Preston Sandberg, Isaac Matus, Jake Laird and Erik Berens. Evan McMartin is strong in the hurdles. In early-season the Tigers were six-peat victors at their own Ray Cross meet. Top performer was Jonnie Green who won individual titles in the 100 and 200 meters. He also ran in the 400-meter relay with Loyd Burleson, Dekker Lovitt and Dalton Balentine; the winning team. Layton Lange was first in the triple jump and Jacob Laird won the discus competition.

Trackman to the Core

George Smethers is a very important man in the history of the Ephrata Track and Field sports program...that's because he has made it his mission to record the historical statistics of nearly 10 decades of the program's accomplishments. The information fills six volumes with over 3000 pages. The earliest records are from the 1910 season. The primary driving force that kept Smethers going over the past 30 years of his project was to make sure that the exploits of generations of Tiger track athletes were never forgotten. He feels that just because a record is broken, it doesn't mean that the information has to be thrown out. That's the old track coach talking.

Smethers found this to be a difficult project as people don't tend to keep records. He dug through newspapers and old year books to put it all together. The earlier records he discovered were a little easier to find because there was just one county-wide track meet in 1910 and for a few years after that. There were also periods of frustration when he discovered the school suspended the sport for a variety of reasons such as two World Wars and the Great Depression.



George retired from teaching in the Ephrata School District in 1990. During a portion of his teaching years, beginning in 1973, he was the track coach – first as the girls coach and then as the combined-team coach. He feels it is important that “the hard-working youngsters who compete in Ephrata High School track events should have their achievements as a permanent part of Ephrata history, now and in the years to come.” The name of Smethers’ scrapbook history of Ephrata High School Track and Field is “They Are All Winners” and that’s because that is what he truly believes.

George and his wife Jeanette were presented with a Community Leadership Award plaque for the efforts they put forth in the book. The Smethers have donated this gift of history to the Ephrata School District.

Ephrata Past and Present

City Power by Herb Jenkins

“A lot of us didn’t have electric lights in our homes so part of the kids’ chores was to clean and fill the oil lamps. We didn’t call it kerosene – that was kind of affected to call it kerosene. I remember we had an old aluminum lamp and you couldn’t tell how full it was. I always ran it over and then had to wipe it off with newspapers.



In 1916 L. R. Nelsen, a Dane, installed a diesel generating plant to supply electric lights and power for his garage located on the corner of First N.W. and C Street, across from the Methodist Church. Ephrata residents decided they wanted electricity so Nelsen started serving them. The Town of Ephrata, as it was known then, had Nelsen install a few street lights,



and almost before he realized it Nelsen was in the electric generating and distribution business. Nelsen and Charlie Reeder was the entire line crew, with Nelsen doing all the pole climbing. Art Healy, a high school student with a natural gift for electrical problems, was the ‘engineer’ for the power plant and distribution system.

Soon Nelsen was serving 122 customers, which was a sizeable percentage in a town of perhaps 750 residents. The charge for DC service was 15 cents a kilowatt-hour. All of the wiring was the knob and spool type, with a drop cord hanging from the center of each room and one service outlet to a room, if requested. An old bill shows that the cost of bringing the service from the pole to the house and the cost of wiring a large two-story house with four bedrooms was \$40.00; this included the bulbs.

Every evening at sunset Nelsen would start up the diesel engine and its steady ‘chucka-chucka-chucka’ was a familiar sound until midnight. When the engine was shut down the lights went out all over town, there was no other source of supply. As a matter of course, all electric customers had oil lamps in their homes for use after midnight or in case of emergency.

The midnight deadline had some unusual and sometimes annoying sidelights. For example, for years a passenger train from Spokane arrived in Ephrata at 11:55pm. The arriving traveler would usually get just about halfway home when the street lights would go out. And until you have experienced it you have no idea how dark a town can be without a single street light or porch light burning.”

Washington Water Power Electric Jubilee

A Jubilee to 'Celebrate the Coming of Power' was held by the citizens of Ephrata and Grant County in 1922. The celebration marked the advent of electrical power for homes and businesses in the Ephrata area.

The Jubilee Celebration lasted two days and according to news articles, "the plans included a caravan in the electrical project; starting at Ephrata, motoring to Neppel (Moses Lake), from there back to Stratford, Grant Orchards, and Soap Lake." Other events included an industrial parade, barbeque on the Grant County Courthouse lawn, a banquet, baseball games, dancing in the big pavilion, speeches, special events for the children, races, and an Indian pow-wow.

Grant County PUD Anniversary

"Public power region-wide prevailed in 1930 when state lawmakers backed an initiative to allow county agencies to provide municipal power and water service. At the time Grant County was part of the vast, dry, sparsely populated, powerless Columbia Plateau. On November 8, 1938 a delegation from the Grange dissatisfied with the status quo and distrustful of distant urban utilities, petitioned the Grant County Commissioners to form Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County. The matter was presented to voters and duly passed. The first organizational meeting was held on December 21, 1938 at Hartline. The fledgling PUD used its state-given legal rights to take control of what little private power infrastructure was in place and expand on it. This year marks the PUD's 75th anniversary of the first organizational meeting and the all-important vote.

Anniversaries are important, but what is truly astonishing is the progress, development and general human betterment that was wrought by those pioneers of the sagebrush. They acted, in a time of national economic crisis, to take control of their own destiny. They started building what would become a major utility, producing vast amounts of clean power for farms, homes and industry in Grant County and across the region. The utility today serves over 41,000 customers and maintains hundreds of miles of rural electrification and fiber-optics powered, physically or financially, by its Columbia River dams, Priest Rapids and Wanapum, and provides some of the country's lowest electric rates.

The people of Grant County continue to be astonished at what their ancestors accomplished, and how much benefit there is today from that long-ago foresight, courage and determination." From pages of Wenatchee World.

Grant County PUD Takes Risk, Builds Own Dams

By the early 1950s irrigated farming was well under way in the Columbia Basin. Farmers recognized the importance of abundant low-cost power for future irrigation pumping. Northwest power supplies were struggling to meet regional needs. Grant County PUD Commissioners looked for a solution. The Priest Rapids Dam had been sited but not funded by the federal government. Grant County said, "We'll build that dam." As before, when the Grand Coulee Dam project was first proposed, local residents were laughed at and ridiculed.

The project looked daunting. Grant County was only assessed at a worth of \$25 million. The entire project would have to be financed at \$355 million. Grant PUD attorney Nat Washington said it best, "We desire to develop our own power so that neither the state nor federal government will be in a position to tell us what we must pay for it."

The Priest Rapids Project developed into two hydroelectric dams located 18 miles apart – Priest Rapids Dam where construction was begun in 1956 and Wanapum Dam which was begun in 1959. This became the largest hydroelectric project ever undertaken in the United States by any public agency other than the federal government. Grant County residents were still thinking big. The Priest Rapids Project joined an eventual total of 56 major hydroelectric projects on the Columbia River and its tributaries. This is the world's largest hydroelectric system.

The dams provide flood control, irrigation, power generation, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and municipal water supply and quality. It was a long and difficult path. This local success story is shared by generations of families that stuck it out and made it happen.” Grant County PUD - Columbia Basin Herald

Ephrata Graduates Important to Grant County PUD's History



Herb Jenkins, who was the author of the “City Power” article that appears earlier in this newsletter, was a graduate of Ephrata High School 90 years ago, in 1923. At EHS he participated in football and track as well as played the violin in the school orchestra (pictured front row, second from left). This was the first year of organized instrumental music in the school.



The 1923 annual, the “Orange Moon”, noted Herb’s nickname was “Awky”. His hobby was “kidding the teachers” and that’s probably because his ambition was to get “all A’s for life”, but his classmates determined that his fate would be “writing unpopular songs”. His appearance was described as “under-nourished” though lanky would have been a kinder description.

As a young man growing up in early-day Ephrata he had many memorable experiences. After graduating from Ephrata High School he attended and graduated from Washington State College in 1932 with a major in journalism. After a short stint in the publishing business in California he returned to Washington State where he served as Editor of College Publications for Washington State College. In 1939 he returned to Ephrata to assist his ailing father in the family’s funeral business. During the early 1940s he acted as a correspondent for the Wenatchee Daily World; he was able to share, with great humor, his early stories of local history.

Jenkins joined the Grant County PUD February 1, 1956, just one month before the bids were opened for the construction of Priest Rapids Dam. In addition to his regular duties with the PUD he handled all publicity for the \$165,000,000 Priest Rapids Dam and for the \$196,000,000 Wanapum Dam on which construction started three years later. More than 4,500 articles and photos were published on the construction of these two power projects.

Over the years Jenkins earned awards from the American Public Power Association and served on its various committees. He wrote articles for public power magazines and appeared on panels and programs pertaining to public power. He retired January 1971 as Information Officer for the Grant County PUD after 15 years of service. He lived in retirement until his death in 1985.



Nat Washington was a 1932 graduate of Ephrata High School where he served as student body president and was captain of the football and basketball teams. Nat went on to attend the University of Washington and the University's law school where he was elected to govern the student body as president. Ever political, his next elected office was as Grant County Prosecuting Attorney.

In 1947 Nat and his law partner Jim Wickwire became attorneys for the Grant County PUD. By the early 1950s he had assumed a principal role in finding a way to finance the Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams on the Columbia River. He helped develop a strategy by which the PUD could use the financial strength and credit worthiness of the big utilities that would contract to purchase power from the PUD. This enabled the PUD to sell bonds at a favorable rate, making construction of two dams not only feasible, but also financially sound.

In 1952 the PUD commissioners passed a resolution to construct Priest Rapids Dam and applied to the Federal Power Commission for the appropriate permit. In 1954 the State Power Commission filed a competing application for the same project. They scoffed at Grant County's ability to construct major dams. The fight went all the way to the State Supreme Court where Nat successfully argued the case. Six years later Grant County PUD was supplying power throughout the West. In recognition of his many contributions to public power, Nat received the 2001 Henwood Award from the National Hydropower Association, the industry's most prestigious award.

During this time, in 1948, Nat was elected to the Washington State Legislature where he served one term. This was followed by election as a State Senator; he was re-elected six times. He worked across party lines to win funds for farm-to-market roads in his central Washington district; retiring in 1979.

Nat enjoyed hiking, searching for ancient Indian campsites. As an amateur archeologist, he learned how to catalog sites for the professionals. He later guided them on scouting trips to identify which sites should be scientifically excavated. The results added significantly to his understanding of Native American lore; enabling him to maintain friendships with tribal leaders from the Wanapum and other tribes for more than 45 years. He was considered an expert on Grant County History. Washington had an enormous impact on the successes of Ephrata and Grant County. He passed away in 2007.



Everett Gibbons was a member of Ephrata High School Class of 1923 where he participated in basketball, football, track, and was business manager of the "Orange Moon", EHS' first annual. Everett was described by his classmates as having the nickname of "Ratz", whose hobby was "cooking". His ambition was to become an "engineer" but would probably become a "matinee idol" because he was "good looking".

In 1906 Everett, his parents Robert and Matilda and his brother Wallace came by immigrant train to settle in the Ephrata area. The family located in a dry-land farming area north of town. It was difficult making a living farming so, in 1917, the Gibbons family, which now included Jay and Louise, moved into town where Everett's father supported the family by operating a dray and transfer business. His mother Matilda died in the 1918 influenza epidemic, leaving the housekeeping to the older boys while their father entered into the service of Grant County through various elected positions.

In 1981 Everett prepared an autobiography about his time in Ephrata and his family has generously agreed to share excerpts from his story which tells of his memories and connection with the Grant County PUD.

In 1922, while Everett was a junior in high school, the Washington Water Power Electric Jubilee was held. He remembers that at that time, "the Washington Water Power Company extended their electric power lines into certain areas of Grant County. May 12 and 13, 1922 a big two-day "electric jubilee" was held in Ephrata to celebrate the energizing of these lines. Strings of colored lamps had been strung in the downtown area; a speaker's platform and a large tent-covered dance pavilion were built. Several activities were provided to make for a grand celebration.

Three steers were barbequed electrically in a large pit and other food prepared to feed 5000 people on the 13th. Governor Hart, senators, congressmen and other dignitaries were in attendance. Cheers went up when Governor Hart closed a switch and the power came on.

Early in the evening, when everything was in full swing, the power went off and lights went out. A circuit braker at the main substation, then at Stratford, had not been set properly and had tripped out. The station operator had joined the celebration in Ephrata so, Mr. H. I. Klehn, the Washington Water Power Company's Ephrata manager, pickup up the operator and drove to Stratford to turn the power back on. Somehow they managed to drive to Stratford, recalibrate the braker settings and get the power back on in about 30 minutes without mishap. The old graveled road zigzagged all the way between Ephrata and Stratford in 1922.

The Washington Water Power Company had acquired franchises for an electric distribution system in Grant County and in the towns being served by part time electric systems at that time – Wilson Creek, Ephrata, and Quincy. Mr. L. R. Nelson owned and operated a small diesel electric-generating plant in Ephrata. Besides the street lights there were very few business and residential customers being served. Mr. Nelson would run his plant for an hour or two Monday mornings so the women who owned electric washing machines could do their washings and he would run an hour or two Tuesday mornings for ironing. The plant was run every evening from dusk 'til about 11 o'clock for the street lights, shows, etc. and on Saturday nights it would run later for dances.

There were very few jobs available in the '20s and early '30s. I was fortunate to get a two or three weeks job on a survey crew for Charlie Duncan, Grant County Engineer, during the fall of 1919 and again for a few weeks in the summer of 1920. In the survey crew was Norval Enger, civil engineer, who ran the transit, Morgan Porter and Wes Robinson on the chain; I carried the stakes and Mr. Duncan marked and set the stakes. Morgan and Wes were just home from the War and still wore their khakis. The first year, the survey covered the rebuilding of some roads near Marlin and north of Almira. We boarded and roomed in the hotels in those two towns. When we finished the survey north of Almira the county commissioners had requested Mr. Enger to go to the site of the proposed Grand Coulee Dam and report on his findings. Mr. Enger spent some time walking around the area examining the rock formations and the hills on both sides of the Columbia River. He then set up his transit and made some more observations and calibrations, making notes in his log book. He later reported to the commissioners that it was one of the best sites for a dam he had ever seen and that, in his judgment, a large dam could be built there. This survey was done in 1919. If I recall, my wages on this crew were \$2.00 a day.

I graduated from Ephrata High School in 1923. After graduation I got a summer and fall job with an orchardist in Wenatchee. In the spring of 1924 I enrolled in a pre-medical course at Washington State

College. After completing my second year of college in 1925, Mr. James Griffith, Mayor of Ephrata, asked me to be Town Marshall and Water Superintendent. Although I was given a pistol to carry on my hip, it was really more of a shovel job!

At this time water was scarce and the old wooden pipelines were giving out and springing leaks everywhere. It wasn't easy or a very clean job as the Water Superintendent, to dig down to those old pipes; through the mud and water to pound oakum into the cracks and place shingle wedges, under the spiral wire that held the pieces of wooden pipe together to tighten it up.

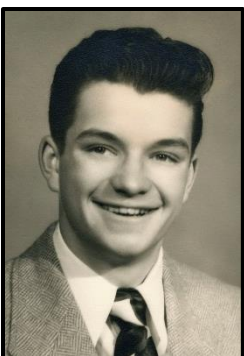
The following March 1926 I went to work for the Washington Water Power Company in Ephrata. I started as a storage clerk, meter reader and collector. My starting salary was \$110.00 a month. Mr. H. O. Klehm was manager of the Ephrata District which covered the areas of Marlin, Wilson Creek, Stratford, Adrian, Grant Orchards, Ephrata, Moses Lake and Quincy. We worked under no union in those days so if I got caught up on my work I could go out and work with the line crew and help with electrical wiring jobs, repair electrical equipment, etc. No additional pay was ever given for this extra effort. I wanted to learn everything I could about the business and my fellow workers were always glad to help me.

On the 18th of June 1928 I married Loretta Grover. We somehow lived through the Great Depression and we had two sons, Gerald born in 1931 and Robert in 1935.

In September 1938 I was promoted to the position of District Manager, Ephrata District of the Washington Water Power Company. I held this position until June 14, 1945 when the Public Utility District #2 of Grant County acquired most of the electrical distribution properties of the Washington Water Power Company by condemnation. I was offered the position of Superintendent of the PUD, which I accepted. Mr. Glen Smothers was the Manager.

In 1954 I became Assistant Manager of the Grant County PUD and in 1955 became Manager. At this time Priest Rapids Dam was under construction. No start had yet been made on the Wanapum Dam. However, they were both completed and in full operation while I was Manager.

On August 23, 1965 I was unceremoniously fired by a three-to-two vote of the five-man PUD Commission. Reason given - "will of the Commission". For the next one and a half years I worked for the Bonneville Power Administration in its Portland, Oregon office. As a result of a recall election, which resulted in three members of the Grant County PUD Commission Board being recalled, I returned to Ephrata to work for the District as a consultant until my retirement November 1, 1969."



Gerald Gibbons graduated from Ephrata High School in 1949. He added some tidbits to his father Everett's story. Jerry (Gerald) reminisced, "I grew up during the Washington Water Power "Reddy Kilowatt" years and knew all the office staff, linemen, meter readers, etc. who covered all of Grant County. I have a picture of the Ephrata staff in front of the original office building. I have fond memories of the linemen Denny Corcoran and Ben McKeen who would let us kids pull the tool bucket up and down the poles they were working on. I also remember going with Dad to Moses Lake (Neppel then) and Quincy in a little coupe-pickup that Washington Water Power supplied for the meter readers to use.

The transition from the WWP to the PUD in 1945 was a traumatic time for our family. Dad wanted to stay with WWP and so we went to a town in northern Idaho to visit so he could see if we should move there with the WWP. Of course, my brother Robert and I did not want to leave Ephrata. We were relieved when Dad stayed with the PUD as Superintendent.

After graduating from Ephrata High School in 1949 I went on to attend college in Pennsylvania, graduated from the University of Washington, went to medical school in New York and eventually entered a surgical training program at the University of Washington before finally becoming a general and vascular surgeon. I spent nearly 50 years practicing at the Wenatchee Valley (Clinic) Medical Center.”

Because of individuals like Herb Jenkins who recorded public and personal stories, individuals with such stature as Nat Washington whose life events are recorded state wide, individuals who choose to write auto-biographies telling their personal experience in particular situations, and individuals like Jerry Gibbons who have a love of history and believes history should be preserved and shared, various stories of the Ephrata area are available to learn from and enjoy. Those opportunities are appreciated.

KEEP GOING IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE OTHER FINALISTS IN THE POSTER DESIGN CONTEST.

Finalists in the EHS-100 poster design contest. Thanks to EHS teachers Shelley Yenney and Sarah Vasquez who provided the incentive for their students to participate. The winning poster can be found on page one.

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