



Vol. IV, No. 10

Eastsound, Washington

27 October 1956

## Orcas Power and Light Co. Has New Manager

At a board meeting held Thursday evening, October 4, Mr. Keith A. MacMillan was hired as the new manager for the Orcas Power and Light Company. Mr MacMillan has recently, since June of this year, been employed by the North American Aviation Company as a senior electrical engineer. Prior to that time, however, he has had a long and successful career as an REA Cooperative manager.

Mr. MacMillan was born and reared on a farm in Indiana. He began his work in the utility field in 1927 with the Northern Indiana Public Service Company at Hammond, Indiana. He remained with that company until 1939. He held several jobs of comparatively short duration, mostly in the utility field, from 1939 to November, 1944 when he became manager of the Stearns Electric Association at Melrose, Minnesota. He remained at Melrose as manager until April 1948. From April 1948 until June of this year Mr. MacMillan served as manager of the FEM Electric Association, an REA Cooperative, at Ipswich, South Dakota. He is reported to have done an outstanding job there as manager.

Mr. MacMillan was chosen from a field of ninety applicants. Many of the applicants appeared to have excellent qualifications, and the board was well pleased with the quality of the applications received.

Those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. MacMillan feel that the community is fortunate to

secure a man of his background for this vital job in our community.

Mr. MacMillan was to assume his duties about October 20th.

## Willie Wirehand wins battle for life

U. S. Federal Judge Harry E. Watkins in a recent decision gave a clear cut victory to Willie after a three year legal battle with power companies, Reddy Kilowatt. Thus, the skipper who adorns our mast-head, can remain in his present capacity.

Reddy Kilowatt and Willie Wirehand are both nice boys insofar as we are concerned, and are both working to make the American people's life more pleasing.

It seems that there were those who thought Willie, who came later than Reddy, looked too much like Reddy and a suit was filed. The judge, it seems, didn't agree. So, we are glad to have Willie Wirehand in our corner with a full right to live.

## Is your wiring up to date?

Four out of five American homes are inadequately wired. This is due to the fact that the average American family is using four times as much electricity today as 25 years ago. Also, it is estimated that family usage will be doubled in the next ten years.

Electricity flowing thru your electric wires is similar to water flowing thru a pipe. Only a given amount of electricity may flow thru a wire of a certain size, just the same as you can only receive a certain rate of flow of water from a one inch pipe. It is a little more difficult to understand with electricity than with water only because we can see water and cannot see electricity.

To begin with, your entrance cable must be large enough to serve all needs of your household. It should be large enough to serve all the loads on the individual circuits and allow for future expansion. The wiring of the individual circuits must likewise be large enough to be used on that circuit.

What happens if the wiring isn't large enough? Your electric servants are starved for electricity and your voltage drops, and your appliances will not

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The OPALGO BEACON



Owned by Those We Serve

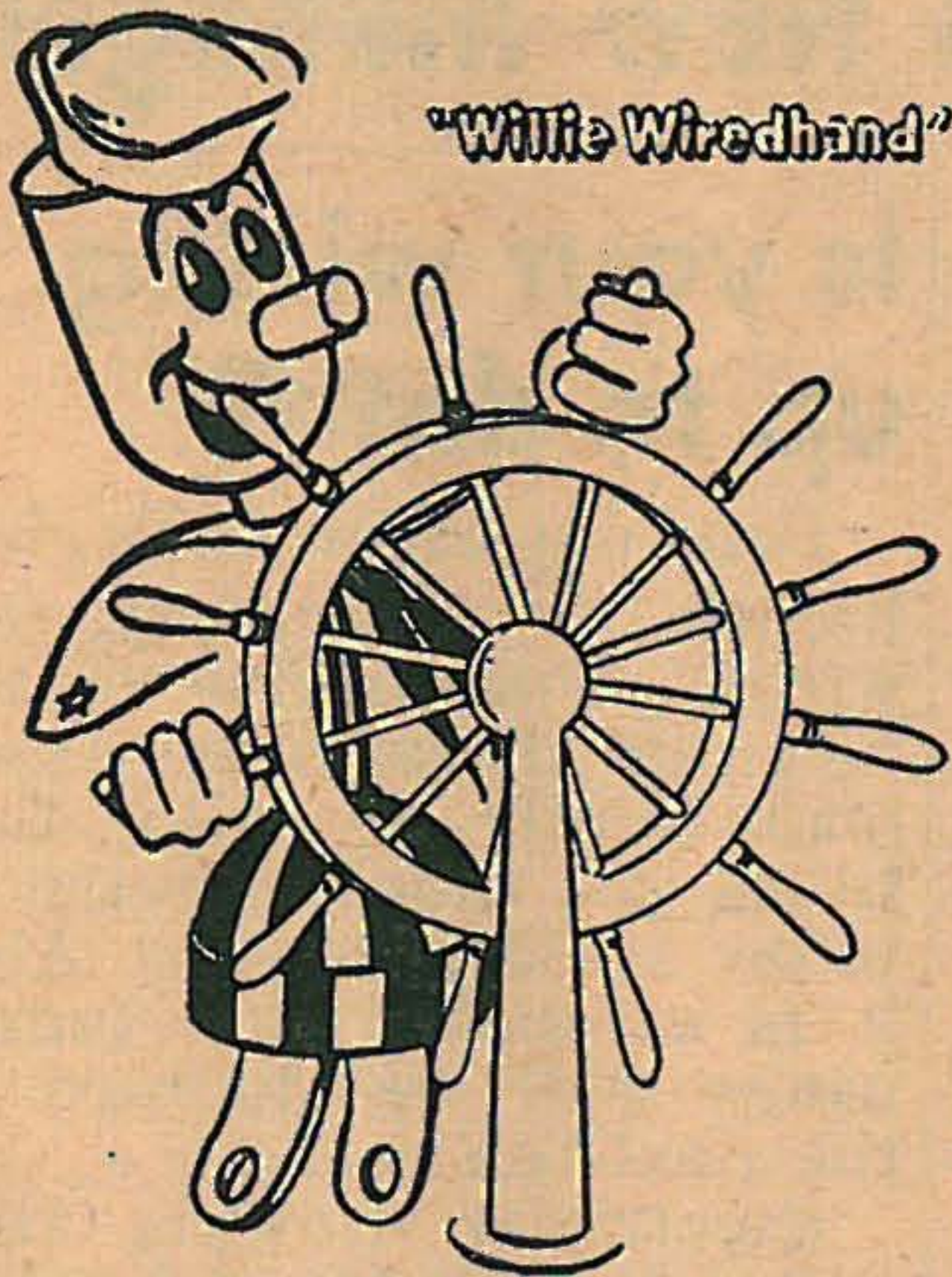
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Editor

P. S. Paull

With the assistance of the employees of the Cooperative



"Willie Wreathand"

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- Orcas Island
- Lopez Island
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Dick Guard, Friday Harbor Lineman.....	DR 8-2761
Lyn Nash, Friday Harbor Lineman.....	DR 8-3814
George Todd, Lopez.....	126
Eber Bruns, Eastsound Lineman.....	523

**Your Wiring**

(Continued from page one)

perform their work efficiently, which costs you money.

With a voltage drop of only 10% it will:

1. Take 1/3 longer to toast your bread and you will use 1/4 more electricity.
2. You will get 1/3 less light from your bulbs and it will cost you more.
3. Other appliances and their operating costs will be affected similarly.

You will want to know how you can tell if your wiring is adequate. Ask

yourself these questions:

1. Do your lights dim or blink when other appliances are turned on?
2. Are your appliances slow to heat?
3. Are you bothered by blackouts, having to replace fuses often, or re-engage the circuit breakers?
4. Is your TV picture shrunken?
5. Do you have many "Octopus" outlets? That is, multiple sockets and extension cords from single outlets?

A house wired for modern living will have:

1. A big three wire entrance.
2. A general purpose cir-

cuit for each 375 to 500 square feet of floor space.

3. Two or three small appliance circuits to serve the kitchen, laundry and dining room.

4. Separate circuits for each large 240 volt appliance, such as your range, water heater and dryer.

5. Plenty of convenience outlets. Up to one every four feet in the kitchen and about one every twelve feet in the rest of the home.

Summerizing, you should make sure you have a big enough entrance, that you have enough circuits, and enough outlets and switches in the right places. You should know your circuit box. It is your big switch electric control center. That box should have a wiring diagram pasted inside the cover. Each switch should be labeled such as, "Range", "Lights", etc. If you require fuses, keep spares of the right size on hand.

Bulletins available at nominal cost are:

1. "Getting the Most from Your Home's Electrical System" published by The National Adequate Wiring Bureau, 155 E. 44th St., New York 17, N. Y. Cost 15 cents.

2. "Residential Wiring Handbook" published by Industry Committee On Interior Wiring Design, 420 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Price 25 cents.

**SWAP OR SELL**

The Opalco Beacon will publish FREE any "swap or sell" advertisements for electrical goods sent us by members of the cooperative.

NOTE—The items advertised must be electrical goods. No advertisements will be accepted from regular dealers.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—1 Hot-point mangle (about 1950 or 51 mdoel) used only a few times. Owner will sell for \$75.00 or swap as part payment on a good used deep-freeze. Phone Eastsound 14 or write Mrs. Frank Vaccaro, Star Route, Olga, Wash.

cuit for each 375 to 500 square feet of floor space.



The OPALGO BEACON



## Understand your electric bill?

"My electric bill is 600 KWH and costs \$14.75. I understand the \$14.75 but what is the other gobbledey gook?"

You can't be blamed for being somewhat flustered. Engineers and doctors have a language all their own which often leaves the layman in a dither.

Now let's take this odd abbreviation "kwh" apart and see what makes it tick. The first letter "k" is for "kilo"; the French term for "thousand." So you use 600,000 watt hours, but it's simpler for all if we just drop the last three zeros and insert the word "kilo." Easy, wasn't it?

Lets skip to the last letter "h" which stands for "hours." If you wanted to rent your horse to Joe, would you say, "Here, Joe, take him—\$1.00." Not at all. You would say, "Here's the nag, Joe, \$1.00 per hour", so, you just sold a horse power hour. A kilowatt hour is just that simple.

In other words, you buy the use of a kilowatt for one hour to make a "kilowatt" hour. The kilowatt hour and the horsepower-hour are closely related, in fact, a horsepower "hour" is exactly .746, or about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a kilowatt hour.

Now, lets tackle that word "watt". It's not so easily unraveled, but it is a term so closely meshed with the production and distribution of electrical power, its use is a natural. Literally, it's the product of volts times amperes.

Let's apply it to your flatiron, which is rated, say, 600 watts. The service to your house, say, is a constant 120 volts. You plug your flatiron in and it draws 5 amperes from the line—5 amperes times 120

## Keep the weather out and save

This is the time of the year when we should all think about snuggling up our homes for the winter months so that we can have more comfort, and so we can save dollars in fuel costs. How far can we afford to go in this matter?

After reviewing comparative estimated heating costs with various degrees of protection we feel the more pertinent question is, "How far can we afford not to go?"

From Westinghouse heating charts we have just sur-

veyed estimated comparative costs for a small two bedroom home of approximately 800 square feet, based on electric heating. Although estimated costs are based on electric heat, poorer types of construction will permit equivalent heat losses regardless of what type of heating you have, electric, oil, coal or wood. Thus, we feel every home owner should be interested in these estimates, whether he heats electrically or not. Estimates are based on temperatures in this area.

House Number	Good Insulation			Equip. KW of Heating Required	Estimated Annual KWH Used	Estimated Annual Cost at 1c per KWH
	Glass	Ceiling	Walls			
1.	Single	None	None	20	18,000	\$180.00
2.	Single	4"	None	14	12,200	122.00
3.	Double	4"	None	12	10,200	102.00
4.	Single	4"	2"	10	9,000	90.00
5.	Double	4"	2"	8	7,800	78.00

Based on estimated cost of electric heating, we can see that \$58.00 would be saved by ceiling insulation alone in one year. Cost of this insulation would be saved in about two years savings on fuel. Better insulation and glass protection, of course, results in further savings in heating costs.

volts equals 600 watts. So if you use it one hour, you have used 600 watt-hours (note that hours are used again).

So 600 watt-hours is.6 of a kilowatt-hour, and the meter outside will record the fact, add to it other "units" of use, and it gives the total usage at the end of each month.

Veteran of the South Seas—While in the Marshalls, I saw the screwiest bird. It lays square eggs and talks.

She—Oh yeah; What did it say.

Vet—Ouch.

## Inter-Island COOPERATIVE

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LOPEZ ISLAND  
SAN JUAN ISLAND  
SHAW ISLAND  
DECATUR ISLAND

BULK RATE  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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Friday Harbor, Wash.  
Permit No. 1

FORM 3547 REQUESTED  
The OPALGO BEACON

## California Casserole

By now, this years salmon pack should be reaching the grocer, and we encourage the housewife to take advantage of the good quality and low price of this local product. If, like so many others, you always keep some cans of salmon on your pantry shelf, you might want to try this recipe:

- 1 pint salmon
- 5 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 (8 oz.) can sliced mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons chopped green pepper
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2½ cups cooked rice
- 2 medium onions
- ½ teaspoon chili powder

Saute onion and pepper, mix altogether and bake. Serves 10.

## HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Beets practically pop out of their skins after they're boiled if you dip them in cold water.

Next time you boil rice, save the water to add to gravy. It thickens itself.

Soak neglected paint brushes in hot vinegar to make them clean and new.

Old but laundered powder puffs are handy for cleaning and polishing silverware. They won't scratch the delicate metal.

Many cheeses, (Swiss, American, Muenster, etc.), are tasty even when dried out. Simply grate and use in spaghetti, vegetables and soup.

### HOW TO PROLONG THE LIFE OF A SHEET

Here are hints on sheet care from the Ohio State Extension Service:

Before taking sheets off the bed, loosen them on all sides from under the mattress.

Make needed repairs before washing.

Use a mattress pad between mattress and the springs to prevent tears. Reverse sheets often, putting top hem at the foot of the bed.

If sheets are dried outside, try to hang them where they won't flap in the wind. Strong winds may whip out hem cor-

The worm family decided they should move into the neighboring pasture. Daddy worm crawled through the fence first, mother worm next and finally little baby worm crawled through. Baby worm said "I'm glad all five of us got through the fence safely."

Now why did the baby worm say, "All five of us

Now whgkLthef got through safely?" Well, he was just a baby worm and couldn't count yet.

To clear the fat in your electric French fryer, add potato slices and fry until slices are brown. The potato will sponge up unwanted flavors and sediment.

**RIGHT OFF THE COB—**  
"How was I born?" said the little ear of corn. "I've told you again and again," answered her mother, "the stalks brought you." Which we will agree makes this

"I'll never go anywhere again with you as long as I live."

"And why not?"

"You asked Mrs. Smith how her husband was standing the heat, and he's been dead two months."

The Smiths were well started on their vacation when Mrs. Smith had a horrible thought.

"Oh George, I forgot to turn off the electric iron," she wailed.

"Never mind, dear," George reassured her. "Nothing will burn. I forgot to turn off the shower bath."

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**A Non-Profit**  
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U. S. POSTAGE  
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