

# NEWS LETTER

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## 1967 FALL WORKSHOP REPORT

Once again the Villa Hotel in Burnaby was the scene, of our sixth workshop meeting. Actually, it is the first time that we have held a workshop meeting, as such, in the Vancouver area. The previous meeting that was held at the Villa being a "special" with the emphasis on emergency lighting and fire alarm regulations involving building and electrical inspectors and fire department and prevention people.

Our program chairman, Ed Hammersmark, called the meeting to order at 9.30 am, then called upon President Clarence Dresser, who extended a welcome to all those attending; and explained the purpose of our workshop meetings and what we hoped to accomplish in this manner.

Mr. Hammersmark then introduced Mr. R. Gee, of the Vancouver City Electrical Department. Mr. Gee has had many years experience in the inspection field. During that time he has had much to do with the inspection of illuminated signs. As many people are aware of the fact that Vancouver, as far as illuminated signs is concerned, is probably the most "lit-up" city in Canada. We therefore especially appreciated Mr. Gee's comments and advice and found it to be very enlightening and informative.

He pointed out the need for specifications of signs to be submitted to inspection authorities before being erected; as most signs are not too easily accessible once they are installed. He recommended that inspection of the sign before mounting was desirable. In his remarks he also outlined Code requirements and City By-Laws affecting signs and some of the reasons for them.

An interesting observation was that in many cases it was left to the electrical inspector to decide whether the sign was offensive or obscene, and that it was his responsibility to refuse it, if considered to be so; - subject to appeal to city council. However, when one stops to consider the character, morals and good judgement of electrical inspectors, it is not surprising that this responsible decision should be his - and that it has been handled without undue attention.

Mr. Gee was kept busy answering questions. This indicated, as was suspected, that this is one aspect of electrical inspection that, although it can be very important, has not been getting the attention that it should, and, that many of us were not too familiar with the regulations pertaining to the installation of illuminated signs.

Among the questions and comments from the floor came the suggestion that the Code should require a cut-off switch to be built into the sign, with indication of such on the outside of the sign.

After the coffee break, Mr. Hammersmark introduced Mr. John Kean of the Canadian Standards Association Laboratories in Vancouver. Mr. Kean presented a paper on the past year's activities of the CSA and went on to give us an outline of some of their future plans and developments.

Because of the limited space available in this issue, we will print this paper, as presented, in our next issue. We're sure you will find it interesting.

In the first session after the Luncheon and "socializing" period, Mr. Alan Luck, Assistant Chief Inspector, Electrical Energy Inspection Branch, gave us an illustration of testing methods used on high voltage equipment; with the emphasis on break down testing. Using high voltage equipment.

This most informative and interesting demonstration was certainly something new to many. It proved the desirability of ensuring that equipment, after being handled and transported many miles, was still insulated as stipulated and safe to install; and safe to energize. Thereby possibly saving much time and expense that could be involved should the equipment be not up to specification or be defective.

He went on to explain methods of applying megger and voltage tests to material and equipment and reasons for such.

A question period following this presentation seemed to indicate that here again, may be another facet of inspection that could be employed to better advantage.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS PANEL DISCUSSION

We thought that it might be interesting to have a panel of electrical contractors; with the idea that we might air some of the inspector's problems with the contractors, and vice versa etc. The Electrical Contractors Association of B.C.; and the Vancouver Electrical Association co-operated by delegating the following members to this panel. Messers Dave Osborne ; Ernie Almerling ; Art Chafer ; and Jim Beck.

Points raised from the floor included such comments and criticism as; failure to notify inspection authorities when when work is finally completed on certain jobs ; the practice of installing unapproved equipment and connecting the same, leaving the inspector the unpleasant task of telling the customer about all the trouble that he is in ! Also mentioned was addresses of premises concerned - apparently some contractors are somewhat vague about where they are working, at times. And contractors were again criticized for the practice of letting their builders erect temporary construction poles without first checking the work before calling for inspection. This apparently leads to many rejections and consequent delays in hook-up; and, infact, is not a legal procedure.

There was some discussion about additions and alterations to existing installations. The question raised was - who is responsible for informing the owner that unsafe conditions prevail on his premises and that certain electrical work - (in addition to that being contracted for; and being carried out) should be done, and would probably be ordered to be done when inspection was called for.

The panel, and contractors present, generally, agreed that this was their responsibility; and that they should keep their customers informed along these lines. However, it was recommended that if a dangerous condition exists, that the contractor should notify the inspection authority.

The question was asked, "do the contractors Associations have any method of chastising their members for poor performance or practice". The answer being - "no, not at the present time!"

A suggestion was made that there should be more "responsibility" transferred to the journeyman level; which might be accomplished by some form of licensing or certification of journeymen wiremen and electricians. It is interesting to note that this suggestion is heard at nearly every workshop session, but never seems to be followed up.

It was quite evident that this panel discussion was a success; and brought out some interesting topics and discussions - we can probably look for a repeat performance in the future. We appreciate the co-operation, and extend our thanks to the panel members for their participation and capable performance.

INSPECTORS PANEL DISCUSSION

Following the coffee break, the inspectors panel took their places. This panel was made up of - Messers Ed hammersmark, of the Dist. of North Vancouver, as chairman ; John Taylor, City of Vancouver; Alan Luck, Assistant Chief Inspector, EEIB; and H.Robertson, City of North Vancouver.

In this panel discussion we had hoped to keep the emphasis on Code changes appearing in the latest edition, (of which there are many) however, after the interest shown in the use of 90° X linked poly conductors and such as where , why and how; and the problem of obtaining this type of wire and cable at this time, the questions were allowed to drift off to other topics as they came up.

The question of the ampacity of 90° wire was brought up - we were referred to Table 2. However, as Table 2 does not specifically list this type of insulation , there still appears to be some doubt about this.

Question - "when is a ceiling outlet box a junction box"? Some discussion on this and it seems that if the box, as installed, was intended to be used as a junction box, then it is to be considered as such.

There was the perennial complaint from contractors about work being carried out by maintenance men under annual permits (or no permits) , which is probably a valid complaint, but somewhat out of our jurisdiction and control, under present conditions.

There was another "repeater", about ammendments, in the form of bulletins, not being sent out to all individual contractors, with the result that they become aware of the requirement the hard way.

Mr. Luck replied to this, to the effect that they were getting organized to set up and maintain a continuing information bulletin, to be sent out to all contractors.

The use of TW insulated conductors for wiring to gasoline pumps at service stations was questioned. It was considered to be a satisfactory material for this use.

The use of wire connectors of the set screw type, (Marr, to name one), for connecting bonding conductors in junction boxes was questioned because Bulletin No.13 specifies crimp or pressure type connectors for this purpose. However, it was stated that the new revised bulletins would include the use of set screw type connectors, and any connector approved for this purpose. It was also stated that where a Bulletin appeared to conflict with the Code - that the Code rule should apply.

A comment from contractors about a general lack of communication between Inspectors, Contractors and Consultants. This was considered to be a valid statement. However, We of the Electrical Inspectors Association take exception to this "complaint". In fact we are emphatic about reminding the contractors and consultants and others who may be interested that We, the EIA, stage at least two workshops annually, which are open meetings, for this very purpose. We also send out, and offer the use of, a News Letter at frequent intervals and some of our members are often seen (and heard) at contractors meetings. It is also noted that all of the above activities are sponsored by this Association or by the individual inspector member.

Along with the above items, there were other discussions and remarks which, unfortunately, we were unable to record, but we hope that this will give you some idea of the proceedings.

And so another successful workshop was adjourned. We welcome comments from anyone interested .

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V . I . P . N E W S

Our congratulations to Mr. George Harrower, who recently received his Diploma in Public Administration from the University of Victoria.

+ + +

Yet another electrical inspector has seen the light - (sunlight that is), and moved out to sunny Surrey, name of Jack Thompson of the Vancouver City staff.

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President Clarence Dresser represented this Association at the annual Vancouver Electric Club's Christmas Banquet. Reports it to be a very impressive and enjoyable affair, and took advantage of the occasion to do a little "public relation" work on your behalf.

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Val Lavender needs a pair of caulked boots and a life preserver ! (must be CSA approved).

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It comes to our ears that Ed Braun and Norm Stephenson play a mean game of golf - how about that - Do we hear a challenge - Like the Interior Indians VS the Webfoot Warriors - With the "Rejection Cup", to be donated by the News Letter, going to the losers - wth obligations. What do you say Al ?

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Welcome to the club, to Jim Muir, latest addition to the Electrical Inspection staff of Surrey Municipality.

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The Advisory Committee on Qualifications for Certification of Electrical Inspectors is to be - Mr. George Harrower, Chief Electrical Inspector, EEIB.

Mr. Mel Schwartz, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Victoria.

Mr. Chris McGregor, Consulting Engineer, appointed by the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Harrower will be chairman of this committee.

You will be pleased to hear that your application forms will be mailed to all Inspector Members very soon.

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Dr. Harry M Ellis has been appointed manager of system planning and development for B.C.Hydro. He succeeds Philip J.Croft, who has retired.

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Harold K.Pratt has been appointed manager of B.C.Hydro's engineering division. He succeeds Mr. J.H.Steede, who is now Cief Engineer and member of the board of directors.

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Just a reminder ----- Don't forget to send in your 1968 dues.



KEEP THIS DATE OPEN

FEBRUARY THE 19th at 7.30 p.m.

ITS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE .

It will be held at the Villa Hotel in Burnaby.

Included in the program will be a report on the B.C.Code Committee and Code discussion.

We hope to have framed inspector membership certificates on hand for presentation to inspectors attending.

and yes

WE EXTEND A SPECIAL INVITATION TO ALL OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

IT WILL BE A GOOD ONE ---- DON'T MISS IT.

This looks interesting --- THE ILLUMINATING ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION is holding an all-day seminar on street lighting at the Villa Hotel in Burnaby. The date is February 7th, it starts at 9 A.M. Registration is \$7.50, including luncheon. The Hon. P.A.Gagliardi, Minister of Highways, will be guest speaker at the luncheon.

There will be five speakers ----- followed by a panel discussion. All those interested are invited to attend.

ACCOUNTS  
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FEB 12 1968  
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FLOW



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