

NEWS LETTER

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EDITOR'S MEMO

Article 11, Clause (a), in the Constitution of the Electrical Inspectors' Association of British Columbia reads as follows:

" To be an Association for electrical inspectors in the Province of British Columbia."

The Association has been in existence for more than two decades; during that the majority of the electrical inspectors in the Province have maintained membership. There has also been at least an equal number of Associate members who have played an important part in supporting the Association.

Surely this indicates that there has been a desire on the part of these members for an Association. Desire on the part of these people to associate. To associate you must communicate. To communicate is what your News Letter proposes to do - with your co-operation. For you cannot successfully associate unless you co-operate.

In reactivating our News Letter we would like to make just what the name spells out, a medium of communication for news, information and comment between our members and others who may be interested. Past years of experience with it has shown that it was well received and we appreciated your reactions. However, the lack of contribution of material from our members was somewhat disappointing and frustrating at times. It is realized that many people are reluctant to express themselves in public print for all to see and criticize. But this need not be a deterrent; for we are prepared to receive your contribution and print it as is, either over your name or your nom de plume; or we will edit it if you wish. - This means that we will remove your bad grammar and spelling and insert our own variety; which is more familiar to our readers. So send in your stuff, your comments or ideas - drop us a line sometime.

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THE CHIEF ENGINEER COMMUNICATES

The following excerpts from a speech by Mr. Geoff Kaneen, P.Eng., made to inspectors and contractors at a workshop in Victoria, ties in with our communication theme; and may be interesting to those who have had the opportunity to read the draft copy of the proposed Safety Engineering Services Act.

Mr. Kaneen said: " No one is enclosed in a vacuum and you can't make a point if you do not communicate. Inspectors must be able to communicate between themselves, and they must communicate with contractors; and the contractors must communicate with the inspectors. Communication to bring the best results must be done with an atmosphere of mutual respect. Contractors fear recrimination if the disputed rulings of an inspector should be put aside. The inspector has not the right to say: this is law, you must accept my decision. If the contractor is thoroughly convinced that he is right, then he must do something about it. To sit down and acquiesce to the inspector when you have a thorough disagreement with him is wrong.

If you disagree with a Municipal Inspector you should appeal to his immediate superior and if you don't get satisfaction, or what you figure is satisfaction there, then you have three channels of communications still open. The first one is appeal to the Council of the municipality. The second one, to the Minister of Public works; the third one to the Chief Provincial Inspector. Although there is no legal procedure for appeal to the Chief Provincial Inspector, I believe that this would be the best route, after you have appealed to the Chief Municipal Inspector. In an area inspected by the Provincial Inspector, if there is a disagreement, the appeal legally lies to the Minister; but I believe that that approach again would be through the Chief Provincial Inspector.

Differences of interpretation are not few and far between. The code book is your Bible and you know how many interpretations there are of the Bible. There are just as many of the code book. I have to admit that Mr. George Harrower is at this time a little closer to the source.

I want to emphasize that every man who reads a book chooses subconsciously a section; and if he is to enforce that section, he tends to enforce it beyond all reason. If the contractor is to know how to install in Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Fort Nelson or anywhere else in this Province, he should be able to do it in the same manner in each place. If he can do something in Oak Bay, then he should be able to do it in Vancouver and he should be able to do it in Fort Nelson. If he can't, then he should find out who is wrong. Is he wrong or is the inspector wrong. No man is ever always right. If you are going to appeal a decision of an inspector, you must do it within the time allotted. There is no use coming to us a month later and saying I want to appeal. You're a dead duck. You have been given a time limit, and this is the time to do it, before the time runs out.

The message that I do want to point out is that there is no clause in the Act allowing an appeal to the Chief Inspector. But I do believe that this would be as good a route as any; and would assist greatly in receiving an overall interpretation.

Some things that I would like to see happen in the electrical field. I would like to see the licensing of all persons who are to install wiring and equipment, exclusive of owners. In this case the owner would be defined as a person living in his own home with no tenants, no commercial or industrial attachments and only one building on any one piece of property. I would like to see also, if possible, some type of test to be given to a homeowner to assure that he can do it himself; but I am afraid that under the B.N.A. Act and the British Common Law, this may not be possible.

I will be looking at bonding of contractors in all fields. This bonding, in my opinion, has worked well for the Gas Inspection Branch. If a contractor has got himself into a position where he cannot, or will not, correct the rejection (and I know of none of you contractors that would ever get yourself into this position), the district or municipal inspector would then request the Chief Electrical Inspector to take action under the bond. The Chief Inspector would receive the rejection, consider it, write a registered letter to the contractor giving him "X" number of days to rectify the installation; and at the same time notifying him that if the work is not done, the bond will be called. If the contractor fails to comply with the Chief Inspector's letter, then the Chief Inspector would write a letter to the surety company, requesting the surety company to meet their obligation under the bond to the Minister of Public Works. This would be in effect, cancelling the contractor's licence, since the contractor's licence would be dependent upon the contractor having a bond. This bond would be of such a nature that the surety company would go to tender to have the job rectified.

A home owner, in my estimation, should be limited to one permit every three or four years. He may have more than one permit on the same piece of property within that time, but he shouldn't have it on two, three or four different pieces of property. I feel that the fee schedules from the Provincial Regulations need revision, that they should reduce the number of categories, and where possible, simplify the fee schedule.

An annual meeting of Provincial Inspectors is going to be held every year and basically the organization of the annual meeting will be up to the Chief Inspector. If he wishes to include an outside body, all he will have to show is that it is of the benefit to the Provincial Inspectors that these people be present.

Inspection is always based on disagreement, and when these disagreements are reported to the Chief Inspectors code section, a consensus of opinion can be entertained, and if it is required, a new rule or a modification of the existing rule, or clarification of the rule can then be handed down and can be made known to the whole Province.

It is up to you people to communicate."

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A customer told a hardware-store clerk that she wanted a three-quarter inch pipe plug. The man asked, "Do you want a male plug, a female plug, or both?" "I just want to stop a leak," the woman replied, "I don't plan to raise them!"

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V . I . P N E W S



Bert Westgarth has retired from hi position as Chief Electrical Inspector, Municipality of Burnaby. Bert and his wife, Doris, are presently touring his home land, the British Isles. We wish him the very best, and hope to see him at our meetings occasionally.

Steve Nirmal, P.Eng., has been appointed Chief Electrical Inspector for Burnaby. Mr. Nirmal is a graduate from the University of Delhi in India. Welcome to the Association Steve .

Charles Moon has joined the Electrical Inspection Staff in Burnaby. Charles prefers to be called Chuck - Hi Chuck welcome to the club.

Stan Evans, retired, from the Burnaby Inspection staff is presently enjoying the sun and sea at Birch Bay in his Airstream; about ready to follow the geese when they fly south, lucky guy-- he earned it.

Birch Bay is also serving as a "retreat" for such notables as our friends Jack Dooley and Freddie Moore who have mobile units there and of course Jimmy Walker is living there I think he is the water commissioner or something.

Allan Horwill, formerly a Provincial Electrical Inspector, Alberta, is now working with Harry Robertson on the City of North Vancouver staff. He's in good company.

Hugh Lindsay has been appointed Electrical Inspector for the Municipality of West Vancouver. Hugh was formerly in business for himself and often assisted the late lamented Frank Holden whenever it was necessary. Welcome to the club Hugh.

Eric Ramsden, of the Municipality of Surrey Inspection staff, has recently returned from a trip that he and his wife, Irene, took to La Belle Province of Quebec, where they visited their son Doug and Mrs. Ramsden and getting acquainted with their grand children.

While in the east they took time to visit the Chalk River Project which they found to be very interesting.

The Ramsdens returned in time to be present when their daughter, Barbara DeBruyn, presented them with an additional grandson. - Congratulations to you-all.

Bob Mitchell, who has been the District Inspector, Provincial, at Quesnel, has resigned to go into business for himself in the Quesnel area. We wish you all the best Bob and hope you will be successful in your new venture.



THAT'S where it's AT

THE ANNUAL

FALL FROLIC

Mel Andress is the MAN

to SEE - It's 6 dollars per person

THE TIME - FRIDAY, OCTOBER the 30th.

There's one thing about baldness - it's neat.



/// VOX POPULI ///

Every one has read definitions of "power factor" ; where such expressions as cosine of the angle and ratio of the cyclic average and stuff like that, are mentioned. Well, have you ever thought that surely there must be a simpler, more down to earth explanation or definition? It has been found !

We have received a definition, (sorry but we cannot divulge the author, nor the contributor), that the sender describes as very edifying. Quote:

" Power Factor can be described as example: 3 HP motor can easily to turn as 5 HP motor, that mean 3 HP motor did not use all the energy or power, automatically 2 HP motor act like generator produce the current back through the line, it build up greater current than they can & yet it make less power has been use. "

This chap is absolutely right you know. The thing is he is wasting his time in the electrical business - he should be in public relations. Read it again and you'll see.

FOR THE SAKE OF AGUMENT_____

Could it be that the burden of the cost of electrical inspection is not being shared by those who benefit by it ? Certainly Inspection has been instrumental in saving countless lives, and dollars in property loss. Therefore, it can be argued that inspection has been to the benefit of insurance companies, and eventually, of course, the public; in the matter of keeping premiums down.

Others who benefit from inspection are Power Authorities, who are saved the cost of many man hours by inspectors reports. Manufacturers and distributors benefit by the "protection" provided when inspectors ensure that only approved materials and equipment are used.

Most, if not all, electrical inspection operations pay their own way, through the levying of permit fees - paid by the installer; with the cost being passed on to the customer. It can then be argued that the customer pays the total cost of electrical inspection.

When we look at the people who support the Canadian Standards Association, and those who are members of Code Committees and who they represent, we see who are interested in maintaining the safety standards decided upon.

The question is : - Are these intersted institutions, represented by the people mentioned, paying their share of inspection costs ? For the setting up of standars and regulations are useless without constant supervision - provided at the expense of the customer ? Is this as it should be ? What say you ?

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BY THE WAY_____ If you have any electrical problems send them in - we haven't got the answers, but we know where to get them!