

KPUD Remembers Glen Benjamin

Former employee was an exemplary electrical engineer locally and in third-world countries



By Kathy Loveland

Glen Benjamin, a 30-year Klickitat PUD employee who retired in 1979, died May 21.

Glen began his career with KPUD in June 1949. He received his electrical

engineering degree at University of Idaho following his service in the U.S. Navy.

Glen married Patricia Dallas from White Salmon, and the couple had four children. Some of his hobbies included camping, square dancing, hunting, bowling and photography.

Glen's first focus on the job was to supervise the construction of a new transmission line and substation at the John Day Dam site. He also supervised the construction of a new line from the dry ice plant to Klickitat that also served part of the St. Regis Lumber Company. By 1968 he had advanced from chief engineer to manager of engineering and operations.

In August 1964, Glen was "on loan" for three months to work in San Jose, Costa Rica, for the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association. His wife and children joined him in Costa Rica. His study resulted in the development of three rural electric cooperatives in that region.

As a result of Glen's outstanding performance, in 1968 the Agency of International Development specifically requested his assistance in Nicaragua. Glen's work resulted in the development of four rural electric cooperatives to serve more than 35,000 families.

Glen later spent five weeks in Panama for NRECA, exploring the possibilities of developing a rural electric cooperative to serve its outlying area. He served as chairman of Northwest Public Power

Association's engineering and operations section, and American Public Power Association's safety committee chairman during his tenure at KPUD.

Glen was a progressive thinker and pioneered the engineering of underground installations in Klickitat County. He was recognized as an exemplary leader in the field of electrical engineering at KPUD, throughout the Pacific Northwest, and in third-world countries.

Shortly after Glen retired from KPUD, he worked for NRECA for 15 years in Yemen and the Philippines, until 1994.

We are proud of Glen's accomplishments. His legacy lives on through the growth of our utility, and through continuation of services to our friends and neighbors. ■

Changes during Glen Benjamin's career

	Start of Career, 1949	At Retirement, 1979
Miles of line	374	1,338
Number of customers	3,236	7,884
Annual revenues	\$318,551	\$3,197,134
Total utilities plant	\$2,226,770	\$16,117,198

Joli Munkers Joins Klickitat PUD as GIS Specialist



Klickitat PUD welcomed GIS Specialist Joli Munkers to its team June 1.

Joli has many ties to Goldendale and KPUD. She was born and raised in Goldendale. Her father, Ken Hill, recently retired from Klickitat PUD after 10 years of service as a meter reader.

After graduating from high school, Joli attended Central Washington University and earned her bachelor's degree in business administration. It was while attending CWU that Joli found her true

calling: geographical information systems, or GIS. Specifically, her fascination began with precision agriculture, which took her to University of Idaho, where she earned her master's degree in geography, specializing in GIS.

Joli's master's degree led her to Moro, where she was the Sherman County watershed coordinator for three years, lending her skills in GIS while writing grants for conservation work. In 2008, she and her husband, Ryan, moved to Goldendale. Joli has worked for Pioneer Surveying and Engineering for the past four years as an outside contractor for the PUD.

As a mother of two girls—an 8-month-old and a 3-year-old—Joli doesn't get much down time. When she does, you can find her on horseback, riding one of her many quarter horses. She admits riding is a bit of an addiction she hopes to pass on to her daughters.

Joli and Ryan are also taking over the operation of a 14,000-acre wheat ranch in Mikkalo.

Although during the day her GIS duties are focused on the operations of Klickitat PUD, when away from work Joli still gets to dabble in her love for precision agriculture.