
PERSONAL STORIES

CHARLES W. COPE – SEDRO WOOLLEY, WA

Charlie sent in a note along with his check for two years dues and a contribution besides. Charlie says he got a chance to move across the street to a bigger double wide home that will accommodate his son and daughter along with his son's two children when they come to visit (not all at once). His son came up from Upland, California for a couple of weeks in late June and Charlie took the two children, Daniel (14) and Sarah (10) fishing on Lake Shannon. The boy drove the boat, a 15 foot Marlin with a big 90 HP Mercury outboard (big blast for a teenager!) and Grandpa and Sarah caught the fish. When his daughter comes for a visit in September, Charlie says they will go out and catch King Salmon. Charlie says he didn't get to go to California this summer because of moving and getting the old place ready to sell.

Charlie says he was saddened to read about the passing of Leonard White. They worked together when Charlie was Manager T.S. in Santa Ana, California.

Charlie says he has been retired 22 years now and still hunts and fishes but stopped playing golf due to positional vertigo. Otherwise, Charlie says he is still active and healthy.

Thanks for writing, Charlie, and stay healthy!

J. B. CASPARIS – AUSTIN, TX

JB sent me a note thanking me for a list of Austin members I had sent him. In his note, he told of both a "short, short story" about his 100th birthday on NBC on June 26 and also a BIG Dinner Party for him in Austin with 75-100 guests expected. He says he isn't a big shot, just an ordinary Texan with lots of friends.

He notes that LBJ and he were schoolmates at the Johnson City High School. They "were also THE DEBATING TEAM representing the JCHS (now LBJHS) in the State-wide Inter statewide Literary Events Chapter. We won the local JCHS local events and advanced to the district at San Marcos, Texas, where we won the bronze medal. The JCHS did not have enough money to buy the medals, so I ended up buying my own medal! LBJ graduated in 1924. I graduated in 1925, was still on the Debating Team, but there was no opponent. 73's Cas"

VANCE D. JOHNSON – FLAGLER, CO

"I was usually a Relief Man. I started in Albuquerque, December 7, 1959, as the Relief Section Maintainer for the State of New Mexico. **Harry A. Fee** was the District Plant Spvr in Los Angeles, CA, and the lead man who brought me in was **John Riggs**. I relieved three men in Albq, one in Sante Fe, two in Roswell, one in Alamogordo, one in Clovis and one in Las Cruces. The WU Ofc Mgr in Albq was **Clyde Meador** and the Wire Chief was "**Zack**".

"I held that position until May 1962 when I bid on and got awarded the Plant Maintainer position in Denver, CO. **W. T. Boatwright** was the City Plant Spvr. It wasn't bulletined that it was a relief job, but that's what I did, relieving every maintainer in Denver, when they were away to school, sick or on vacation. Some of the names of men in Denver were: "**Galley**" **Gallatin** who was the expert on M-28 printers, **Leon Lewis** who was the expert on 5-A, 4-A tickers and TransLux, "**Mart**" **Martin** who kept the spare-parts cabinets stocked. "**Brownie**" **Brown** who was a Printer maintainer and was the expert on the 6500-A Desk Fax and **Merle Hendricks** who took care of a minor comm-center for one of WU's PWS customers in a building in downtown Denver. Then there were all the other Plant Technicians who were virtually experts on anything that had a WU label on it: **Bob DeVault**, **Don Kelley**, **Don Richardson**, **Buck Venden**, **Fred Dinse**, **Chet Huston**, **Gene Chalupsky** and **Randy Nold**. **Dick Lakenan** was the Cable Splicer and he had an assistant that I unfortunately cannot recall his name. The Storeman was **Dave Fults**. The Dispatcher was "**Fritz**" **Johnson**. The Shop Foreman was **George** ***** (can't remember his last name), he had two wooden legs. The Asst. District Plant Spvr was **Jerry Flesner**. Some of the W&R techs I can remember were **Al Hector**, **Gene Yates** and **Oren Durbin**. Some T&R techs were **Ray Tyler** and **Wendell "Fitz" Fitzpatrick**. **Irbie Fults** was the Spvr of VQ.

"One of the routes was North-Eastern Colorado including Akron and Sterling (I don't remember the name of the guy that had this route). On one trip to Sterling, I was too sick to get to work in order to drive back to Denver and was in bed @ the motel all day. There was a snow-storm that day as well. On my way back driving a typical WU pick-up truck with tool boxes mounted on the sides and ladders on a rack on top, I-80S (Now it's I-76) was icy, snowy and slick so I was driving conservatively and keeping to the right-side. Cars were passing me frequently going like 60! They were all doing the same thing, there was a bare place in the pavement on the left edge of the SW-Bound lane, and they were all driving with their left wheels in that bare strip. When I crested a certain hill, all the cars that had passed me were on one or the other side of the road in the ditch! There must have been ice in that strip that caused them to lose control. Upon arriving in Denver, **Mr. Boatwright** sent me to the Teletype Model 28