

VANCE D. JOHNSON – CONTINUED

skinned wire, went down the length of the “cable” to Abe where it was twisted together with the two other wires of the cable. Then the DC potential came back up the triple twisted insulated cable and the two tips of the wires that were against my palm sent the electrical charge up my right arm, through my body to my left arm and to my left hand that was hanging onto the lead sheathed cable that went to Earth Ground!!!

“While I was stationed in Cheyenne, **Bob DeVault** invited me and **Jim Donaldson** to come down to Golden, CO, to the Coors Brewery for the CTU Local #31 Union Meeting. The trip down there was 108 miles. When we arrived, we had a tour of the brewery and then we were treated to a meal. A telephone rang, and the man from Coors handed the telephone to Bob. He spoke briefly apparently to the VQ Wire Chief. Bob looked up and said, “I’m sorry, Vance, it looks like there’s a trouble up at Warren Air Force Base and he handed me the telephone hand-set so I could get the details from VQ. I took the phone and it seemed that the ear-phone was dead and about that same instant beer shot out of the mouth-piece! It was all a joke! The “phone-line” to the hand-set was actually a black hollow tube for shooting Coors beer up to an unsuspecting guest. It was nice to have something like that turn out to be a joke, because I always seemed to get called out on every holiday. Once in Albuquerque as I was preparing to go to a party one Saturday afternoon, when the telephone rang I figured it was one of my friends checking to make sure I wouldn’t be late. Instead it was the Wire Chief in El Paso, TX, wanting me to go on a trouble that was to the Space Surveillance Station about 197 miles away.

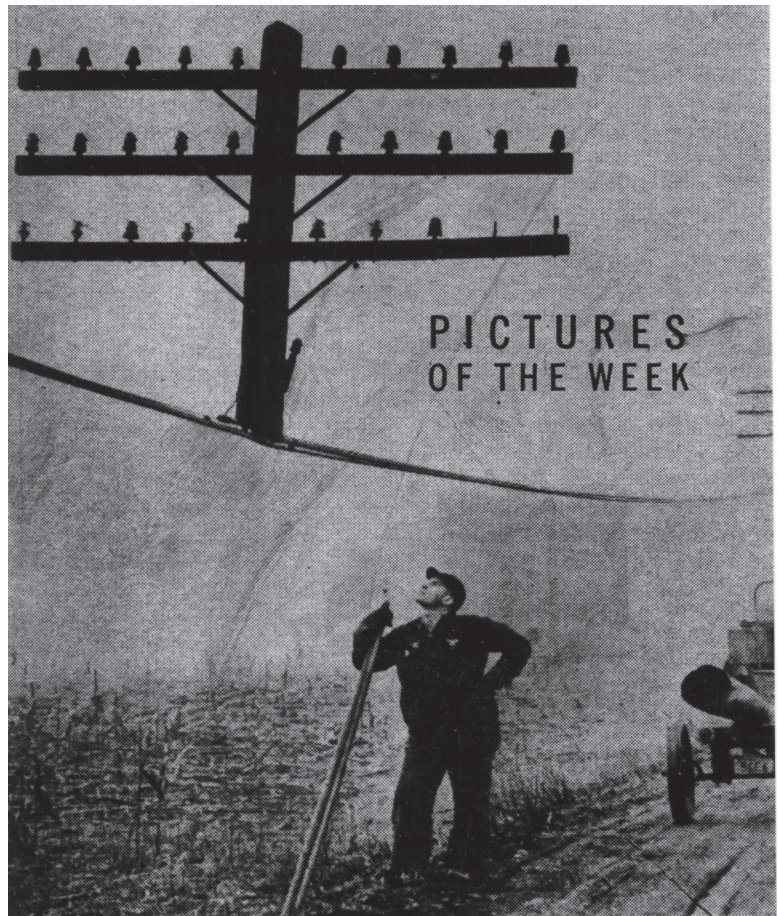
“Things eventually got better.

“*All the names that are underlined are Silent Keys (deceased).”

HARRY CATON – EDGEWOOD, NM

Harry sent us an old photo showing Harry looking up at half a pole balanced on two cables. Harry was working out of Harrisburg and the pole involved was 10 miles east of Harrisburg and 1 mile west of Hummelstown, PA. Harry says he set the replacement pole himself – a 25’ creosoted pine pole, then transferred the X-arms to the new pole and dropped the old pole with a rope.

Harry says that the ATT truck and crew came and drilled a hole in the new pole and transferred the cable to the new pole – 5 of them to do that! The ATT foreman then offered Harry a job with ATT – Harry wonders whether he should have taken the offer!



Wide World
Lightwire Trick: A Harrisburg, Pa., repairman gazes wonderingly at half a telephone pole that is balancing on two cables. The bottom part had been knocked off when a slumbering motorist smashed into it. The driver wasn't hurt