

Team Effort a Key for Goldendale Crew

By Barbara Patterson

Teamwork ranks high in the minds of KPUD's Goldendale line crew.

"This crew takes a lot of pride in its work," says Line Foreman John Starr. "They are a dedicated group."

Completing the team are Journeyman Linemen Tim Garrigus and Bob Fitzsimmons, Apprentice Lineman Lake Howard and Equipment Operator John Moore.

"With teamwork, there's a thought process involved—a communication process—with everyone knowing what's expected," John Starr says. "There is efficiency because we line out what we're going to do and how we're going to do it at the job site."

The efficiency paid off for eight property owners on Wheatland Road in the Old Mountain Road area of Goldendale.

Bringing in power to their properties was projected to cost about \$30,000. The Goldendale line crew placed 13 new poles and 3,300 feet of overhead line into the area at half the estimated cost to the property owners.

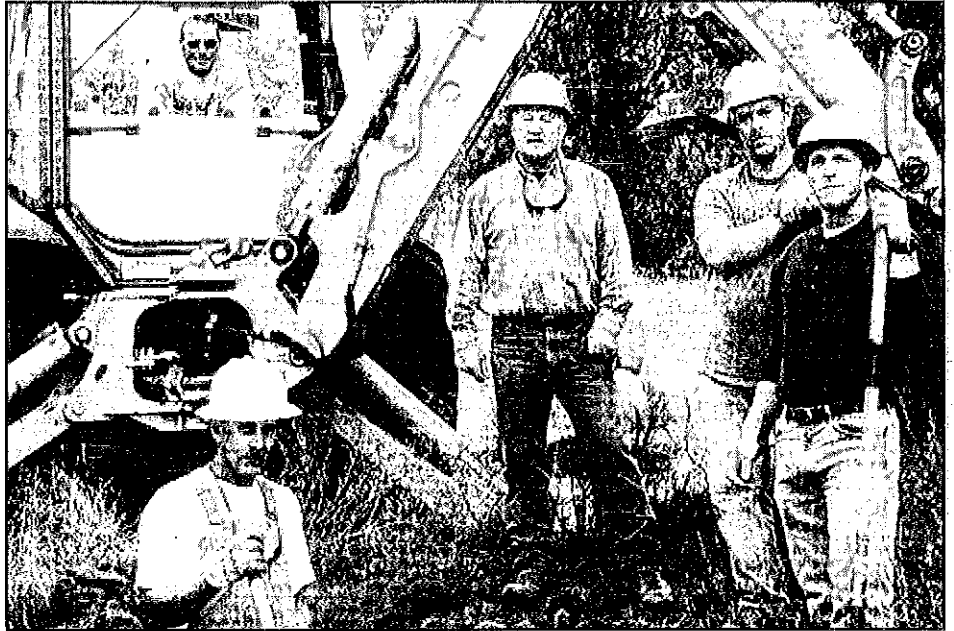
The job was completed in fewer than two days.

On another recent job in the Orchard Heights area, the crew placed 22 poles and strung 15,000 feet of line in just four days.

This is significant when you consider the time it takes to dig each hole and install each pole.

It is a prime example of how work can be accomplished when a crew works well together.

John Moore—a crew member since 1998—digs holes for the poles. The linemen assemble the poles while they are on the ground,



Top, the Goldendale line crew includes, from left, John Moore in the backhoe, Tim Garrigus, Bob Fitzsimmons, Lake Howard and Foreman John Starr. Above, John Starr, John Moore, Lake Howard, Bob Fitzsimmons and Tim Garrigus.

adding hardware such as insulators and cross arms. When the poles are in place, the lines are strung.

The Goldendale line crew's territory covers long stretches of road, from the west end of the High Prairie area east to the Alderdale area and north to Bickleton.

"We have to be flexible," says John Starr. "If one or two of our members is sent out on another job somewhere, the rest of us re-group.

We all fill in for who's missing. It's never a problem. Each guy is a jack-of-all-trades."

The crew receives praise for doing its job quickly and safely.

"I get a lot of positive comments from customers on how well we work together," says John Starr. "Our number one priority is always safety. Number two is production.

"We work hard to save the PUD and its customers money." ■