

THE LINEMAN

Lineman, Electrical Lineman, wood walkers, bucket men, hot men, monument builders. Rubber gloves, Live Line tools, and bare hand - all methods of handling electrical conductors and equipment.

Electricity - energy that normally you can't see, hear or smell, has no weight or color until something is done wrong. Electricity is fast, travels at 186,000 miles per second; however, it is lazy and wants to go to ground.

Volts, Amps (current) and watts are all measurements of electricity. To pass current there has to be two things of different potential to make the light bulb light; one of them can be ground (earth).

Like all forms of energy, there are hazards. The hazards of electricity are **shock** - from a tingle to death, **Arc flash** - fire and heat nine times hotter than the surface of the sun and **Arc blast** - explosion and fly pieces of debris. Electrical, hazards, height and weather, heat, cold, rain, ice, wind and snow make for challenging working conditions, however, rewarding work that all men are not suited for. **LINEMEN**

A.E.P. Ohio Power Company trains and provides the tools and equipment to develop safe and productive employees. WOW! What a company, what a vocation, good pay and benefits too.

Hot men - transferring, switching, connecting, disconnecting, handling, and working on conductors and equipment while energized. Voltages from 120 volts to 138 thousand volts. All done with safe work methods and procedures, recognizing the hazards of the area and guarding against or eliminating them. **SKILLS**

WOW! What a job, an adventure, working outside all around the area and sometimes the country. **STORMS**. Having a picnic everyday (the old lunchbox), serving mankind, providing a service and maintaining it 24/7 - no one likes it when the lights go out.

Electricity - energy that powers so many appliances, heat, cools, turns motors, powers computers - the list is endless.

Dig a hole, set a pole, and install all kinds of devices and equipment, building **MONUMENTS**. Wow, where else can you build something with your hands, your mind, your skills with your pole buddies and pass by it 10-50 years later and see it still standing. Remembering the times, the men, the struggles, the dangers, the joys and the accomplishments. **Monument builders.**

WOODWALKERS - climbing, standing, moving and working aloft on poles, up, down and around. Standing on climbers, a small triangular piece of metal, sharpened to a point 1 1/2 inch long fastened to your legs with a steel shank and leather straps and a body belt and safety strap wrapped around the pole to prevent you from falling and making it so the worker can move and support himself on the pole and perform his work. **Lineman**. Not for many men with pole heights from 30 to 120 feet; it's a long way down.

Pole buddy - this is brotherhood and we are our brother's keeper. Pole buddies communicate with each other - the whats, whys, when and who - it's working together. They **share** the work - building, holding and controlling conductors, jumpers, tools and equipment; checking rigging and pinch points. They watch each others' back when tying in conductors, protecting the work area and assist each other.

They develop friendships, **sharing** family life, what's going on at home and school and **caring** for each other and their family life. Sharing dangers, hardships and accomplishments of the job. **Trust Monument builders.**

Pole buddy, not just a word or a term; it's a common feeling of sharing, caring, and trust. Monument builders.

- Stephen M. Harvey