On May 5, 1943, the first Central Lincoln switch was thrown, and the citizens of central Lincoln County were immediately served with clean, renewable hydropower from the Bonneville Power Administration. That tradition continues 75 years later. During this, our 75th year of operation, we’ll be looking back, and looking forward at milestones reached, and innovative ways we’ll serve you in the future.

The inscription on the back of this photo reads: “Transferring West Coast Power Company’s [infrastructure] to Central Lincoln PUD [at] First National Bank, Portland, Oregon, April 6, 1943. (left to right) Central Lincoln Secretary Frank Unger, BPA Asst. Administrator McGlendin, Central Lincoln President Thomas Kane, (no i.d. for person #4), Treasurer C.W. Edenfield, and Attorney W.H. Waterbury”

1930  Oregon voters approve the formation of community-owned utilities known as People’s Utility Districts (PUDs)
1937  The Bonneville Power Administration is formed
1940  Voters in the central portion of Lincoln County, including Newport, vote to create a People’s Utility District
1943  The assets of West Coast Power are purchased by the newly-created Central Lincoln PUD. (West Coast was a for-profit electric utility known for unreliable service that could be shut down for days at a time)
1943  Voters in Florence, Lakeside, and Waldport vote to become part of Central Lincoln’s service area
1946  The city of Siletz is created; it was already served by Central Lincoln
1960  Voters in Reedsport, Toledo, and an unincorporated portion of Douglas County vote to join Central Lincoln’s service territory
1963  Voters create the city of Dunes City (this portion of Lane County was already served by Central Lincoln)
1967  The city of Yachats is created (that part of Lincoln County was part of Central Lincoln prior to this)
1973  The city of Depoe Bay is formed; the area within its city limits was already part of the Central Lincoln service area
2018  Central Lincoln serves 55,000 people in ten cities in parts of four counties on the Central Coast

Here’s to 75 More Years Serving You!
By Cody Christian
Central Lincoln Safety Coordinator

We take pride at Central Lincoln in handling outages in the quickest, most professional manner possible. Even when nature blows limbs or trees at power lines, or drops a rare snowfall on infrastructure, we are here with one purpose: to serve you.

Sometimes during spectacular storms, our infrastructure can take a hit. When that happens, our first priority is employee and customer safety because downed power lines are always a concern.

Fallen lines can be very dangerous as they may carry electric current that can instantly injure or cause death.

There is no way for you to determine whether downed power lines are energized or not because we cannot smell, see, or hear electricity. Downed power lines will not always be arcing or sparking like you see on TV. Even our well-trained employees with years of experience stay clear of fallen power lines until they know the lines’ status. Proper personal protective equipment and safety procedures must be followed to assure the line is de-energized and grounded before working on a downed line.

**Always** keep your distance and always assume a fallen wire is energized and dangerous.

Also, **never** touch anything or anyone that may be touching the line. Objects can become energized just by coming into contact with a downed power line. Telephone or cable lines, fences, even tree limbs that are in contact with lines can become energized. In addition, de-energized lines can become re-energized during power restoration efforts or by improperly installed generators.

**Do not guess.** Stay away from all wires, and keep others away as well. Call 911 and Central Lincoln (at 1-866-484-3783) as soon as it’s safe to do so, and let our professionals handle the job.

A squall during the Thanksgiving weekend last year slammed a tree down on power lines with such velocity a utility pole snapped.