

Harry Kliewer Has Run Manitou Hydro Plant for Last 30 Years

By JUNE MINDOCK

Thirty years ago this month a tall, handsome young electrical engineer only two years out of the University of Colorado became superintendent of the Manitou and Ruxton Park Hydro-Electric Plants.

The Manitou Plant, with the second highest water head in the world, and the older and smaller Ruxton Plant, were supplying 85 percent of the electrical energy needed in the industrially young Pikes Peak Region.

This man, who today continues to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the two plants, is Harry Kliewer, of 404 Columbia Rd.

Harry studied at the university after being discharged from active infantry service during World War I. He received his education under the equivalent to the GI Bill today. He and his wife, Josephine, as many young couples after World War II and the Korean conflict, were married while he was a student.

THE KLEWERS and their two small youngsters moved to Manitou in 1925 when Harry took a job as assistant at the hydro plants. He started here only a week after the city of Colorado Springs voted to take over the old Light, Heat and Power Co. and establish a new utilities department.

He was promoted to superintendent two years later. Harry is an active Legionnaire and a past commander of the local post. He has also served as a district adjutant and is at present in his seventh year as post adjutant. The Kliewers have two children—Mrs. R. L. Harper of Bethesda, Md., and Lawrence (Duff) Kliewer, manager of a television station in Norfolk, Va.

The two Manitou hydro plants still supply three to four percent of the total electricity required to keep the booming Pikes Peak Region in power. (The rest is supplied by the Colorado Springs Utility Dept.'s two steam plants, the older south end plant and the modern new George Birdsall plant on the north end.)

This percentage of electricity supplied by natural water flow varies with the amount of water available.

When the forested slopes of Pikes Peak yield a heavier flow than they have during the current dry cycle, the water-generated electricity from the Manitou plants increases to about 14 percent.

THE MANITOU Plant has a 5000-kilowatt capacity, while its partner in Ruxton Park generates a maximum of 1250 kilowatts. Together, if water was available, they could generate over 6000 kilowatts. Now they are generating only about 800.

The staff at the two plants is completed by six operators. They are Glenn Leeper, Warren Walker, Otis Martin, August Dufour, Clark Yowell and Ray Claus.

Harry, as well as the others, are on 24-hour standby call, in case of any power emergency.

A high point in the long service of both Kliewer and the hydro plants came during the 1935 Memorial Day flood. The plants supplied the entire region with electricity for over two weeks.

The South Conejos Street steam plant, the only one in use at that time, was under 10 feet of water after flood-swollen Fountain Creek washed out the West Colorado Ave., South Telson St. and South Nevada Ave. bridges.

HARRY HAD a cot brought up to the Manitou plant and food trays were carried in. He stayed on duty around the clock for the duration of the emergency. All the electricity used in the region till the waters subsided and the steam plant was returned to operation was fed from the Manitou plants.

The Manitou hydro-electric plant was built in 1903 by the Pikes Peak Hydro-Electric Co. and operated under franchise from the city of Colorado Springs to bring down water for city domestic use. The original installation was three 750-kilowatt water wheels. The plant now has two 3500-horsepower wheels.

Pipe line was of riveted design 3¼ miles in length from Ruxton Park to the Manitou plant. The present Mt. Manitou Incline was built to haul the pipe line up the hill, and not as a scenic attraction. The equipment was later purchased and rebuilt for commercial use.

The plant continued to operate under franchise until September,

1923, when it reverted to the city of Colorado Springs. During this time it furnished nearly all of the city's domestic water and a major portion of the electrical energy.

RECONSTRUCTION of the plant in 1939 included installation of new units bringing its capacity to its present 5000 watts, 24-inch pipeline, and a modern remote-controlled switchboard with automatic switchgear.

Gas and electricity for the city of Manitou Springs is now supplied through franchise with the electrical division of Colorado Springs Utilities. Employees of the Manitou Division include

Charles E. Parker, supervisor for the past five years; an outside crew of four men, and an office staff of four women. The crew includes Carl Walker, James Pickett, Larry McDermet and Abe Gaede. In the office are Miss Arlene Emanuel, Miss Caroline Summer, Mrs. Marie Travis and Mrs. Margaret Phillips.

Cascade, Chipita Park and Green Mountain Falls are also served under the Colorado Springs Utilities' electrical division.

Eight percent of the annual gross revenue of this division is turned back to the town of Manitou under the terms of the franchise. In 1956 this totaled over \$12,000.



HARRY KIEWER

Manitou to Tighten Traffic Ordinance

New tighter traffic and public dance ordinances, and an ordinance revamping the police department organization, were

chief and in charge during his absence. A higher salary than patrolman is paid.

The head of the police depart-