



FALL CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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100 Years Later, and Weather Can Still Set Us Back

Yesterday I arose at three A. M. and helped a farmer down in the White River Valley pump his water and milk his cows.

Today a child turned the dial on her radio and I brought her a lullaby from Radio City.

Last evening I curled the tresses of a young Miss with a school girl complexion as she hummed a tune of "Moonlight and Roses."

REDDY KILOWATT I also stood in a still, quiet room with a doctor and a nurse as they whispered over a life that hung in the balance.

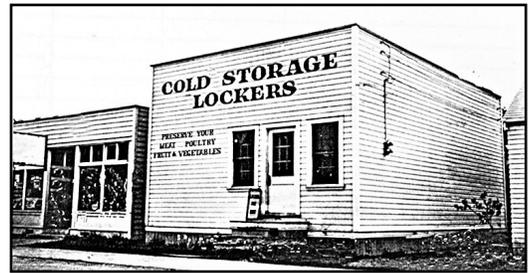


Reddy Kilowatt Logo, Puget Power News 1937

An electric incandescent light bulb flickered to life for the first time in Seattle (and west of the Rocky Mountains) on March 22, 1886, and in 1917, Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company cut its first log, the second all-electric lumber mill in the country. Here in Fall City, it wasn't until 1921 that Puget Sound Power & Light began to provide service to businesses, schools and homes. Fall City Brick School, built in 1915 and equipped with a gasoline generator that had to be started each morning, was one of the first to be connected to power lines in 1921.

In 1922, two businesses opened that embraced this new opportunity. Chapman's Store was the first grocery to have a refrigerated meat case, and Jesse Kelley opened Fall City Electric Shop, providing plumbing, heating and wiring service. Son Jack Kelley recalls "Mom began tending shop back in 1924, when they first began retailing electrical and plumbing goods."

Although electric appliances were popular, in 1939 Frank Thomas built and opened his business, Cold Storage Lockers, where families could keep their frozen foods as home freezers hadn't been invented yet. As Irene Parmelee Pike remembers, "We rented a locker at the Cold Storage Lockers where we kept mostly fruits and vegetables. There were rows and rows of lockers and when we wanted something we went down, unlocked the wire-covered door, and took out what we needed. It was very handy." Expanding electric power service and its



Thomas Bldg., 1941 WA Archive
"Preserve Your Meat Poultry Fruit & Vegetables"

conveniences to Fall City homes took years, and here is what some Fall City residents remember:

- ◇ Edith Emanuelson Sillery recalls "In 1928, we finally got electricity, and couple of years later, indoor plumbing."
- ◇ Janet Moore Ewing (b. 1924): "I was about five when electricity came to the farm: no more coal oil lamps or battery powered radios. The electric milking machines made doing farming much easier for my dad."
- ◇ Kay Stroming Boyle: "We always had electricity and well-water. In the mid-fifties we had a new electric stove (prior was a wood stove) for cooking, and indoor plumbing came about the same time."

Today, 100 years after electric power service began in our town, winter storms always remind us how much we appreciate having electricity and appliances in our homes and businesses!

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