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**May 8, 2009**



## **Tom Heck, CPUD Meter Reader, Retiring After 23 Years**

May 29th will be the last day Tom Heck spends as Clatskanie PUD's meter reader. His career started in 1986, as he beat out 125 other applicants for the meter reader/utility worker position. Tom was the first full time meter reader for CPUD and remained in that position his whole tenure at CPUD.

With 2,800 meters to read initially, former CPUD lineman Dave Hansen taught Tom how to read meters. Technology was not all that great back then, often losing meter reads due to the fact that equipment was not waterproof. Tom recalls the different meter reading technology he has used over the years. From writing reads by hand to the current day technology, Tom has used three different sets of meter reading systems.

Over the years, Tom has made lots of friends in the community. He will miss certain customers who come outside each month and talk with him, as well as those he has worked with at the PUD over the years. Tom always keeps a pocket full of dog treats just in case he needs to make friends with a dog along his route.

Tom's post-retirement plans involve traveling with his wife Jenelle, improving his golf game, and riding his Harley. The public is invited to attend an open house in Tom's honor on Thursday, May 28th from 1-4pm in the PUD Conference Room, located next door to the main office in Clatskanie.