



Joe Equels, just before his "special delivery."

KCP&L employee returns baby owlet to its nest



A family reunion — the baby owl joins her siblings, hiding behind them.

Bird in a bucket

A two-week-old great horned owlet took quite a lofty spill from her nest last month. But thanks to KCP&L, the baby bird has rejoined her siblings way up in their original nesting site near Shawnee, Kan.

Operation Wildlife, a not-for-profit group that rescues and returns injured birds and animals to the wild, called KCP&L to help replace the fledgling in its nest, more than 20 feet up a pine tree. **Joe Equels**, lone lineman-splicer, used a bucket truck to safely place the baby back in its nest.

"The situation came to me as a trouble call, and when they told

me what it was about I didn't know what to think. But once it was all over, I had a good feeling returning the owl to its nest," Joe said.

Lucky fall

In mid-March, a construction worker found the owlet on the Indian Creek Wastewater Treatment plant grounds, and took it to Operation Wildlife's Shawnee receiving center. The owl was then transferred for treatment to the organization's headquarters north of Eudora, Kan.

"We examined her and nothing was broken — I think her siblings bumped her out of the nest. We fed and hydrated her for a couple of days, and then I called KCP&L," explained Diane Johnson, Operation Wildlife executive director.

Diane commented that it was crucial to return the owlet to the nest quickly because it was in its "imprinting" stage. During this stage, birds develop a mirror image of themselves based on

interaction with parents, siblings and surroundings. Their sexual, social and behavioral orientation takes place between the second and eleventh week of life.

Once on the scene, Diane briefed Joe on the challenge he faced. "Diane told me the mother owl was still sitting on the nest, and that her wingspan could be about four feet wide if she decided to spring.

Best chance of survival

"With heavy gloves, I used one hand to run the bucket, and the other to hold the owl. I pulled up by the tree and that's when the mother owl saw me and flew away. When I returned the bird to the nest, I think it was a little scared because it huddled behind the other two birds that were chirping and snapping," Joe continued.

"Joe did a great job, and he was good at following directions. I told him if the mama comes after you, you'll just have to ward her off," Diane said.

continued on page 6

This is the beautiful baby owl KCP&L's Joe Equels returned last month to its nest for Operation Wildlife. Jack Colaw, supervisor, Distribution Control Center, made arrangements for Joe to handle the call, a first for his years in Dispatch at the company. "In my 34 years at KCP&L, we've had a lot of 'get cats out of trees and off poles' calls, but this was my first owl. It's nice we can help when something like this comes up," Jack said.

Star service

continued from page 1

service is switched or disconnected, it's common for underground cable to be sealed off for potential future service.)

Initial plans required installing new underground cable and providing the *Star* two circuits. The crew's findings allowed KCP&L to provide the *Star* two circuits from two different substations (Sub 24 and Grand Avenue), saving the company thousands of dollars in cable costs and manpower.

"Discovering the existing cable gives the *Star* even better service than they first requested because now we can provide circuits from two separate subs," Smith said. "This means added reliability."

The *Star's* new \$200 million, glass-enclosed facility will feature German-made presses more than 60 feet tall and cover two square blocks.

"It's going to be a showplace," Young said.

continued from page 5

She continued, "It was the best thing that we could have done for that baby owl because babies have a better chance of survival if they're back with their original parents. We've asked KCP&L several times to assist on these types of things because nests can be as high as 50-feet in the air and we have no way of reaching those heights. You really help us out."

SEMINARS COME TO A CLOSE

The last of seven Strategy Development Process seminars, *The Changing Customer*, was held March 26 at the Fairmont Hotel, Kansas City, Mo. A total of approximately 2,300 employees from every Company location attended at least one seminar as part of their involvement in the process. Questions and answers about the process now are posted on the intranet under the Strategy Development Process link on the intranet home page.



Shannon Hamilton (left), field and construction supervisor; and Sonlla Parker, senior clerk; took a moment to converse during a break.

Who's New

Annette Carter to project technical professional, External Reporting

Scott Davidson to senior business risk analyst, Risk Management

Christopher Huffstutter to journeyman lineman-splicer, Distribution Operations-Northland

On the Move

Glenn Bender to operations working foreman, Distribution Systems Operations

Marcella Felix to computer production coordinator, IT Infrastructure/Architecture

Alexander Gsoell to lead lineman-splicer, Distribution Operations-Dodson

Shontell Holmes to analyst, Operations Accounting

Kenneth Klamm to senior clerk, Field & Management Support

Lori Klegseth to senior clerk, Materials

Mechelle Neidholdt to senior clerk, Billing Services

Larry Rhodes to lone lineman-splicer, Distribution Systems Operations

Of Note

Michael Rowe is KCP&L's new director of Distribution Operations' Engineering & Asset Management. Mike, who reports to **Bill Herdegen**, vice president, Distribution Operations, is responsible for development of that business unit's work plan, system performance and engineering construction standards. Mike's team is also responsible for creation and updating of Distribution Operations maps, and exploring and implementing new technologies. Before joining KCP&L, Mike spent 22 years in the electric utility industry where his varied background allowed him to serve in all of the engineering roles we currently utilize, as well as serving as a director of work management and a director of project management.

the source

HOLLY JENKS, senior editor
JANIS KINCAID, associate editor & photographer
LYNDALL BLAKE, contributing photographer
NITA NORRIS, designer

The Source, published twice monthly by Great Plains Energy, is the primary communication medium providing accurate and relevant information about the Company and its employees.

Editorial offices are located on the 11th floor, 1201 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106-2124. Call (816) 556-2364 with your story ideas, comments or suggestions.