

# The Osborne Connection

It's the **SERVICE** that counts

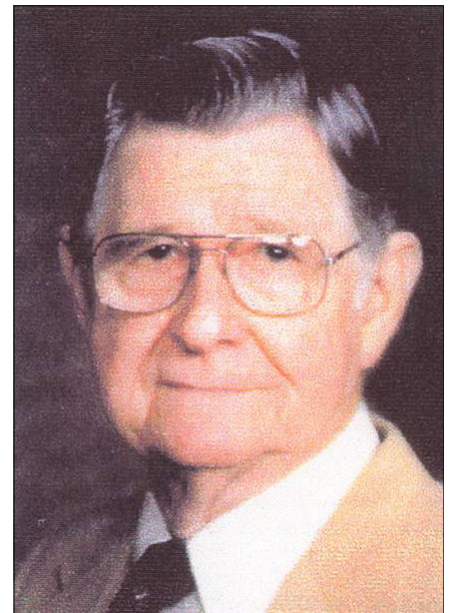
April 2008

## Osborne Electric Company Celebrating Our 65th Anniversary

**I**t was the beginning of an Oklahoma legacy when Marvin R. Osborne began his career in the electrical industry. In 1940, he started Spaulding-Osborne Electric with Fred Spaulding, which was located at 3016 Paseo. In 1943, Marvin went on his own and started Osborne Electric Company at 3018 Paseo. In 1946, he brought in three partners: Glen Murphy, Floyd Smith and John McCharen, Jr. In 1949, Marvin bought out Murphy and Smith.

Marvin didn't remain very active in the contracting business after 1954. Instead, he devoted most of his time to land development and farming. He was also a long-time active member of Downtown Oklahoma City Rotary Club and a director of both Central National Bank and Friendly National Bank. Marvin was one of the founders of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), and signer on the original charter for the Oklahoma chapter.

Marvin's death in 2000 was a loss to those who were lucky enough to know him. This honest, hard-working man set a positive example for all who follow. After all, "Osborne" isn't just a company name; it's the name of the founder of this well-respected, 65-year-old company. These days that kind of stability is impressive. Osborne Electric is among the oldest businesses in the state. We owe Marvin a lot.



*Marvin R. Osborne (above) apprenticed at Oklahoma Electric Supply Company. This is him at an OESCO company picnic in the 1930s.*



*Celebrating Our 65th Anniversary*

# Early Changes for Osborne

The first Osborne Electric office was at 3018 Paseo, in what is now the Paseo Art District. In 1943, Marvin Osborne moved the company to 2411 N. Walker.



*Harry Endicott and Lucille Arwood pose in the showroom of 2411 N. Walker. Harry sold appliances for Osborne and later opened Endicott Appliance. Lucille served as secretary for more than 30 years and was a valuable asset to our company.*



*Here are John McCharen and Marvin Osborne in their showroom at 2421 N. Walker. Osborne Electric was a statewide distributor for Hotpoint appliances.*



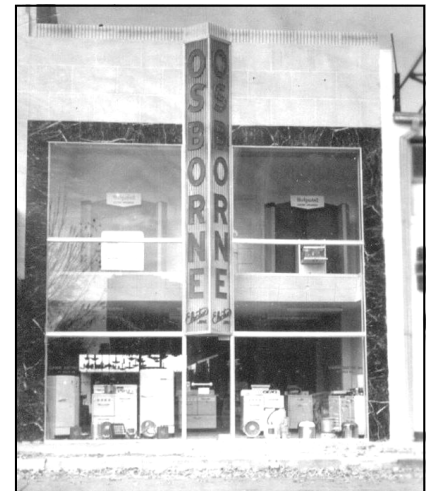
*This photo was taken about 1950 at Osborne Electric. On the front row (left to right) are John McCharen and Marvin Osborne. On the back row (left to right) are Doss Thrasher and H. J. Danstill. Doss was hired in August 1945 and has now been with the company nearly 63 years.*

# Our Company on the Move

In 1946, the company was wiring the new Centre Theatre, when Marvin built a two-story, 25-foot wide building on the east side of the theater for Osborne Electric. The address was 410 W. 2nd, now known as Couch Drive. Today the former theater and the site of Marvin's building are part of the Oklahoma Museum of Art and the Museum Café complex. (The letters OSBORNE on the sign pictured at right, are still being used on a metal building at our current location.)



*Here is a view of the Centre Theater with the former Osborne Electric building next to it.*

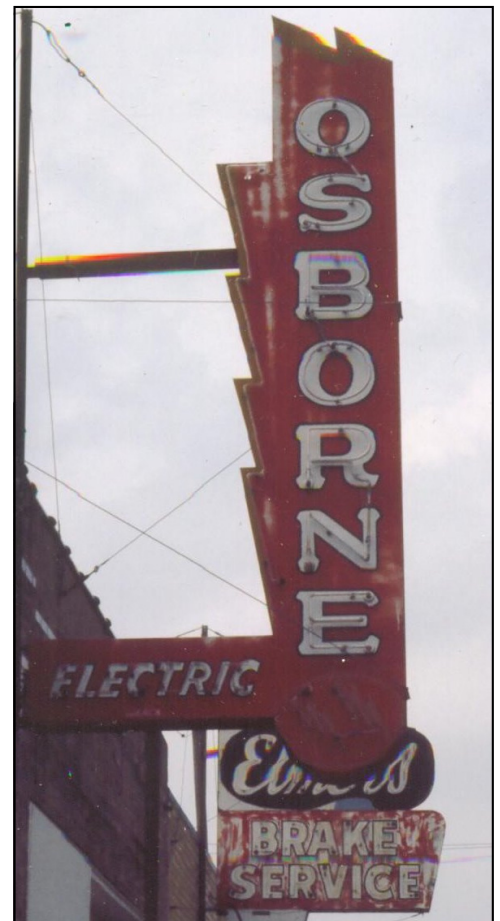


*This photo shows the front of the Osborne Electric Company's building at 410 W. 2nd.*

In 1949, Marvin Osborne and John McCharen moved the company to 606 N. W. 4th Street. (The former location of Ben Wear Electric, which Marvin also acquired) At that time, our company had a fleet of nine trucks.

Osborne Electric Company remained at 606 N.W. 4th until 1973, when we moved to our present location at 101 N.E. 46th.

*Pictured below is the front of the office at 606 N.W. 4th. The photo to the right is the Osborne Electric sign that graced this building from 1949 to 1973.*



# Serving the Community

Whether it's helping during the war effort of World War II, after the tragic Oklahoma City bombing, or restoring electrical service to customers statewide after the recent ice storm, Osborne Electric has a legacy of excellent service.

In the company's early years, John McCharen created the company's slogan "It's the Service that counts," and continues to be a goal everyone works toward.

*This article about Marvin Osborne and the company was published in the Home Builder's magazine around 1950.*



**Above, Marvin (left) stands with E. L. "Wimpy" Wilmoth in the lobby of Central National Bank, which was under construction in 1949. Below, Marvin (left) stands with L. D. Lacy, president of the bank, in the completed lobby.**



**Osborne Electric**

**Helps Sell 'em**

**(Homes, That Is)**

AN ELECTRICAL contractor who is also a good home seller—this distinction is claimed by Marvin R. Osborne, of Osborne Electric Co., 606 N.W. 4th, Oklahoma City. As a member of the National Association of Electrical Contractors, Osborne Electric gives a written guarantee with each job, thus assuring both the contractor and the home owner of quality workmanship and materials.

As a selling point this written guarantee is furnished the contractor for transfer to the home purchaser, and provides for replacement of defective parts or workmanship within a period of one year from date of completion.

Marvin Osborne has the necessary experience in the electrical business. He started as an electrician's helper for the Oklahoma Electrical Supply, progressing rapidly to electrician, and later to estimator. After 12 years with Oklahoma Electrical Supply, he went into partnership with Fred H. Spaulding to contract government defense work.

THIS PARTNERSHIP continued for 1½ years, until in July of 1942, Mr. Osborne went into business for himself as the Osborne Electric Company. Since its beginning, the Osborne Electric Company has contracted for more than 50 major government construction projects alone, amounting to almost \$1,000,000 in volume. Since the war, the company has been engaging more and more in residential as well as industrial construction.

Some of the government projects for which the Osborne Electric Company contracted the electrical work were the engine test building and engine repair building, Midwest Depot; Altus, Okla., air force station, Tonkawa, Okla., alien enemy internment camp; and various jobs at Ft. Sill, Clinton, Norman, and Enid, Okla.

IN 1946, a corporation was formed. The bulk of stock was sold to several em-

**Osborne Electric . . .**

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ployes of the company. This same year the firm began to get into the industrial field and out of war work. Among the first such jobs contracted were the OG&E power plant at Harrah, Okla., and the Oklahoma City water filtering plant at Bluff Creek.

The corporation was dissolved in 1948, when the outstanding stock was repurchased by Mr. Osborne, who continued as sole owner, and the firm took up residential work.

With Mr. Osborne is H. J. Dansdill, formerly of Dansdill Electric Company, in charge of fixtures. He looks over the home under construction, and picks out the most suitable fixture group to go with the color scheme, type of architecture, and owner's taste.

Chester Kyle is the estimator in charge of bungalows, and John McCharen is the estimator in charge of industrial contracts.

UNDER THE DIRECTION of Doss Thrasher, purchasing agent, the Osborne Electric Company buys a 3-months supply of materials and equipment at a time, keeping enough on hand at all times to wire 100 houses. The company has a large storage yard, and a warehouse in which the fixtures and other more fragile materials are kept. A crew of 18 trained electricians, and a fleet of nine well-equipped trucks make possible the great amount of work done.

Operating from its modern, well-equipped building on Fourth street, Osborne Electric maintains an attractive showroom for fixture displays.

The fixtures are a general assortment and represent 25 different manufacturers. Other merchandise on display are fireplace sets, including screens, shovels, poker and andirons. To this display room contractors, builders, and home owners go to select their fixtures and other items.

MR. OSBORNE'S talents and activities are not confined to the electrical business. He owns a fine herd of Holstein dairy cattle, on his farm south of the city. Called the Triple H Farms, the land also supports 125 Hampshire hogs, and several saddle horses, belonging to the Osbornes' two daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Osborne make their home at 905 N.W. 38th, Oklahoma City.

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