The warm days of July may be an especially appropriate time to appreciate electricity in our lives as we enjoy the comfort of air conditioning. It’s sometimes difficult to remember or imagine a time without the conveniences and affordability of electric lights, indoor plumbing, heating and air conditioning. While electricity was enjoyed in some communities as early as the 1880s, it wasn’t until the 1960s before parts of the rural Ozarks were completely wired as well.

The electrification of the Ozarks—and of America—is a narrative that is large in scope and impact. OPT is privileged to help share this remarkable story in our newest local history documentary, *Empowerment: The Electrification of the Ozarks*.

The arrival of electricity to the Ozarks is one of those uniquely rare and unforgettable events that impacted, and continues to impact, everyone in our region. *Empowerment* delves into how this dramatic cultural shift was made possible by the national REA and regional co-ops that developed and distributed electricity. Equally compelling in this documentary are the first-person memories of individuals who first experienced this new technology and its life-affecting results.

*Empowerment: The Electrification of the Ozarks* is made possible thanks to your continued interest in and encouragement of our mission to document, present and preserve significant aspects of our regional history. We hope you enjoy this special program, and we remain grateful for your continued and generous support.
Legacy Circle — Leaving a Legacy for the Future

For more than four decades, Ozarks Public Broadcasting has been making a positive impact on the lives of our Ozarks neighbors. Through award-winning educational and entertainment programming, OPT and KSMU are proud to serve our viewers and listeners. Generous donors like you, as well as those who have made thoughtful gifts through their estate plans, have enabled us to continue our important mission – to provide lifelong learning for people of all ages and to preserve our Ozarks’ cultural heritage for generations to come.

If you are interested in learning more about including OPT or KSMU in your estate plans, please contact Lori Street at 417-836-3506 or email loristreet@missouristate.edu.

Student Spotlight: Stephen Carr

Meet Stephen Carr, a senior at MSU and one of Ozarks Public Broadcasting’s newest interns in marketing and events. Originally from Utah, Stephen has lived in Springfield since 2000 and now considers himself an Ozarks native.

What made you want to work at Ozarks Public Broadcasting? I love the content that OPB puts out; it’s educational, uplifting and refreshing. I grew up watching shows like Arthur, Zoom and Cyberchase and now I listen to KSMU Radio every day. Working here is a wonderful way to give back, and it helps guarantee my kids will grow up with similar, fantastic programing.

What do you do at the station? Much of my time is spent asking local business to support our fundraising events. I also help coordinate outreach events like Seuss Science Day and the Color Me Rad 5K. It’s a very tangible reward, seeing so many viewers enjoy an event I’ve helped put together.

What do you do when you’re not in class or at the station? I enjoy spending time with my family, as well as woodworking. Cooking with my wife is also something I enjoy; looking up and trying new recipes (mostly desserts) is a good way to liven up any night.

What’s the best thing about working at OPB? It’s a great learning environment. Everyone is helpful, friendly and encouraging. I often forget that I’m a student worker because of the respect with which everyone treats me and my opinion; it motivates me to work harder and to push my personal limits.

What are your post-graduation plans? I hope to land a job at a public relations firm here in Springfield; however, the great thing about my major is that it can be used in all kinds of businesses, so I may end up anywhere!

As a station insider, what’s something listeners/viewers might be surprised to know about the daily operations of the station? Raising funds to run Ozarks Public Broadcasting is a job that never stops! Between pledge drives, everyone at the station is working constantly, out of the public eye, to make sure we can continue providing quality programming to the Ozarks.

New on KSMU

CHANGES TO WEEKEND LINEUP

A mainstay on KSMU since its debut in 1985, Whad’Ya Know? ended production on June 26. For over 30 years, host Michael Feldman has brought our audience many jokes, quizzes, and a variety of hijinks. KSMU even provided technical support when Whad’Ya Know? stopped In Springfield on its many road tours.

While we were sad to see Michael and WYK go, we are excited about the opportunities to bring you new programs to fill the void left on Saturday mornings and Sunday evenings. A big thanks to our listeners over the years for their many program suggestions, which helped shape our decision-making for the following shows that began the weekend of July 2:

SATURDAYS

⇒ 10-11am: Ask Me Another
Featuring puzzles, word games and trivia played in front of a live audience. A co-production of NPR and WNYC.

⇒ 11am-noon: Fresh Air Weekend
A variety of excerpts from the week that was on Fresh Air.

SUNDAYS

⇒ 7-8pm: Ask Me Another (repeat)

⇒ 8-9pm: Ozark Highlands Radio
Old time music performed from the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas; including conversations with the artists.

⇒ 9-10pm: Mulberry Tree

⇒ 10-11pm: Hearts of Space

We welcome your feedback on the new lineup as the shows roll out this month. Email your thoughts to scott@ksmu.org.