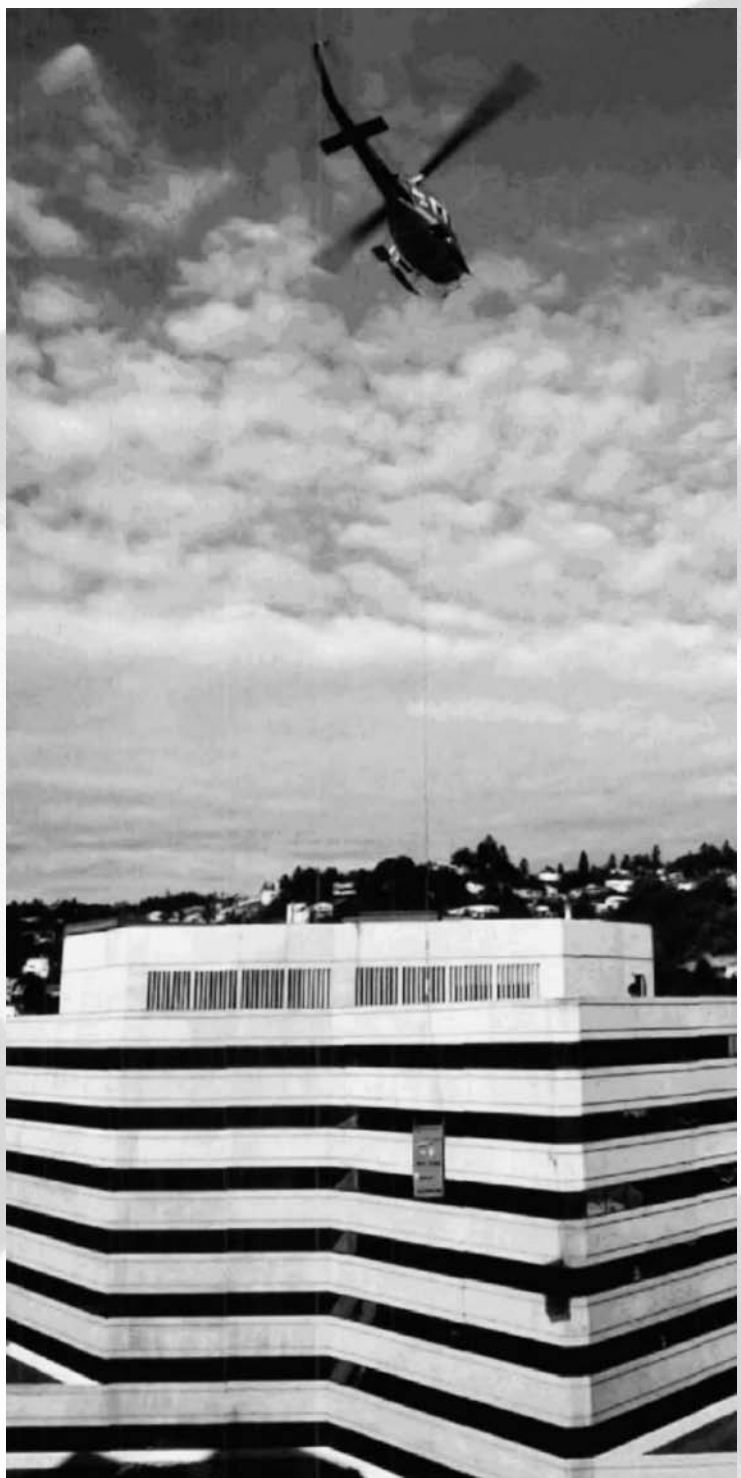


# DAWN OF THE DIGITAL AGE

**1990** NECA/IBEW Local 48 negotiates a first ever industry wide Drug Free Workplace Program including both Labor and Management with testing, education, rehabilitation and reemployment as the core values. 100% of all NECA/IBEW contractors implement the program that now covers 7 IBEW locals and 4 NECA Chapters in the Pacific Northwest.

**1991** The nation began the longest period of peacetime economic expansion in U.S. history – 10 years without a recession. Technology jobs increased 20%, topping timber, which declined 20%.

**1993** The challenge of electrical contracting in 1990s was illustrated by NECA contractor McCoy Electric and Local 48 electricians' replacement of an electric power system on the top floor of 10-story Parkside Center in Portland. Using a helicopter, the NECA/IBEW Local 48 team lowered four 3000-amp electrical switchboards, each weighing 1,600 pounds, through a six-foot square hole cut into the roof. They restored power in under 30 hours.



McCoy Electric Company installs 1,600 pound units on the top level of the Parkside Center in Portland.



Foreman Chuck Schuurmans of Oregon Electric Construction at the OHSU Biomedical Center.



Ed Rasmussen and Tom Malloy of Christenson Electric install a crane light on Portland's One Oak Plaza building.



Christenson Electric's Ray Buschert installs a lighting rod atop the dome of Portland's 1000 Broadway tower.

**1995-2000** Technology firms, from garage-startups to Intel, Tektronix, LSI, Fujitsu, Wacker and Mitsubishi, invested \$10 billion in plant construction and expansion.

NECA/IBEW Local 48 contractors and electricians expanded or constructed facilities for many of the 1,800 high technology firms that by the late 1990s employed 60,000 people.

NECA contractors Christenson Electric, EC Company and Oregon Electric Group each exceeded 500,000 man-hours of work, ranking them among the 30 largest electrical contractors nationally.

**1999** Portland completed the five-year, \$963 million MAX light-rail extension to Hillsboro. The west side tunnel was the deepest transit station in North America.

The Internet took hold. Dotcom era boomed. Oregon's economy completed its 50-year transition from timber with 50,000 workers, to high technology, which now employed more than 70,000 workers.

The new \$6 million NECA/IBEW Local 48 Electrical Training Center opened near the Portland International Airport. NIETC was designed to meet the New Millennium's demand for apprentices and journeyman with the confidence and expertise to meet the technical challenges of the 21st Century.



NECA/IBEW Local 48 Electrical Training Center (NIETC), opened in 1998.

*"We probably did close to 50% of the modern high-rises downtown. High-rise office buildings are an electrical contractor's annuity! I know it was a good year for us."*

**Brian Christopher  
Christenson Electric**