

# PLAIN TALKS

APRIL/MAY  
1980



## THE COVER

Last year, Gulf States' draftsman Sharrone Sprague accompanied a survey crew as they worked as a part of her training program with the Engineering Design Department.

She and another Beaumont employee, survey crew party chief Marshall Hawkes, are shown on the cover of this issue of Plain Talks in a scene taken during the temporary training assignment.

Hawkes is featured elsewhere in this magazine as the latest recipient of the President's Lifesaving Award, an honor bestowed on employees who have saved the life of another person. In his case, Hawkes' actions preserved the life of GSU retiree Ed Vogel.

That story can be found in the News Briefs section on page four.

Although plans called for using employees' photographs as cover shots for each issue, this month's magazine cover was shot by a freelance photographer. Not enough persons responded to the recent call for entries to the photography contest to stockpile a year's worth of employee covers.

Line Department  
Gulf States Utilities  
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Attention Line Department:

Thank you. I called your office on Wednesday, April 2, concerning a tree in my front yard. The switchboard connected me immediately with your department. I explained that my tree had electrical wires running through it in various places.

I was told that the situation would be cleared up as soon as possible. I also stated that the wires hung pretty low and asked if it were possible to eliminate the tree completely. I was told that it would have to be looked at, but probably so.

On Thursday morning, April 3, at 8:30 a.m., my husband called me at work. He told me that GSU had already started working on the tree. The tree was not only cut down, it was cut below the grass level as to avoid trouble with cutting the grass.

My husband, a teacher who was on Easter break, was amazed as to their quickness. He stated that it even began to rain and they continued with their work. He decided that it looked so good that after they left, he cut the grass and edged our yard. He called me again to say that they had not even left any limbs or branches that he would have to move before mowing.

Thank you for getting my husband to work in the yard and I also want to thank your department for *quick, complete, courteous* and *satisfactory* service.

Mrs. Jes E. Stewart  
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Gulf States Utilities  
Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Sirs:

It has been a pleasure to do business with such a hassle-free company. The tips on energy consumption have helped me save money here and in Houston.

I will be leaving the Golden Triangle to go back to Houston the 5th of April. It's been a pleasure to do business with you. Thanks again.

Kitty L. Kolle

## PLAIN TALKS

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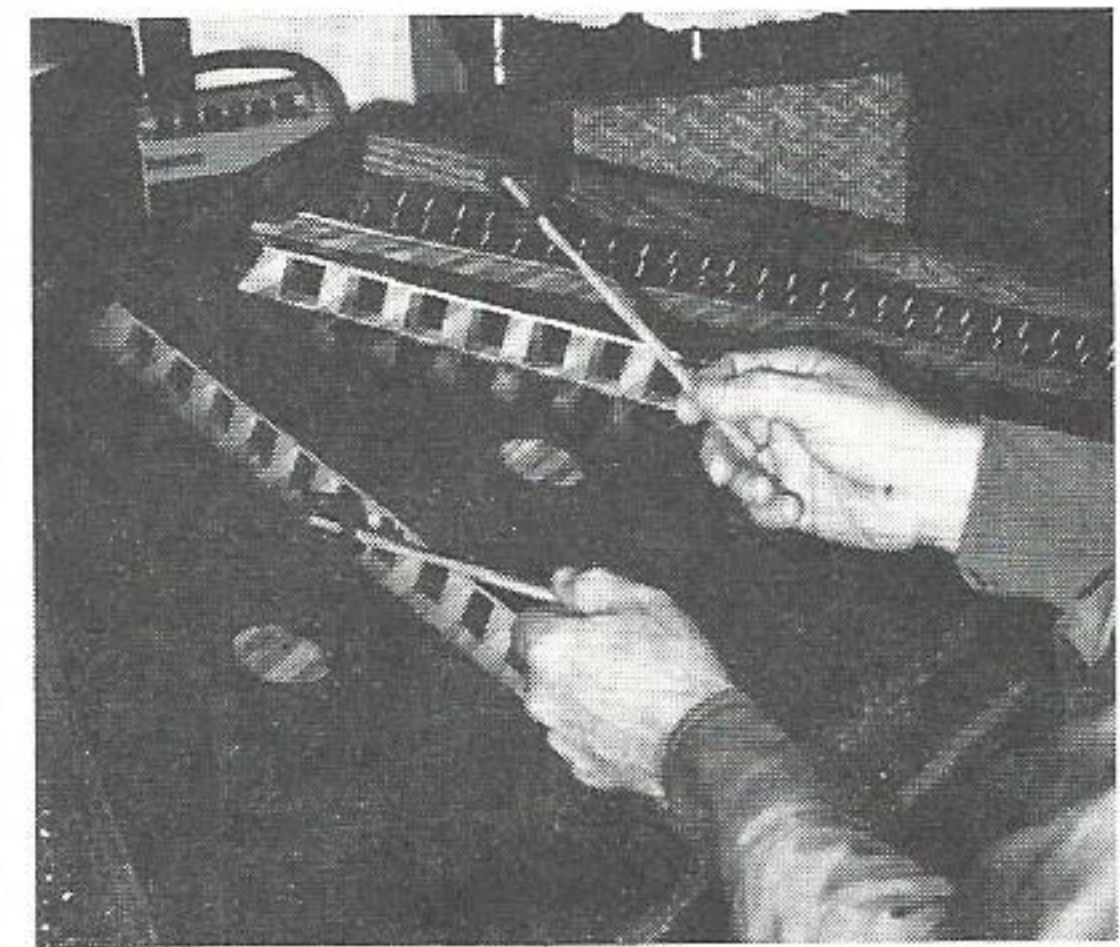
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## Hawkes receives lifesaving award

Thanks to GSUer Marshall Hawkes, retiree Ed Vogel was able to visit with some of his old Gulf States friends on April 17.

That's when Hawkes was presented the President's Lifesaving Award for having come to Vogel's rescue when he was choking on a piece of food.

According to GSU President Norman Lee, both Vogel and Hawkes were attending a meeting for land surveyors in a Beaumont restaurant on January 22 when Vogel choked on a piece of meat. Hawkes, who was seated next to Vogel, applied the Heimlich maneuver for choking victims and immediately dislodged the food.

Lee told Hawkes (shown at the far right), "We're all very proud of what you have done." Also expressing their appreciation were Vogel (second from left) and his wife, Clara.

## Stockholders elect new board member

GSU stockholders elected veteran employee J.R. "Pat" Murphy to the board of directors May 8, while the board paid tribute to a retiring advisory director, B.D. Orgain.

In another personnel matter, the board elevated Edward M. Loggins, formerly senior vice president-administrative services, to executive vice president-administrative services.

Murphy, who is senior vice president for production based in Baton Rouge, was elected to fill a new posi-

tion on the board, which has been expanded from 13 to 14 members. All other directors were re-elected during the annual meeting in Beaumont.

Murphy has worked for Gulf States 44 years and served in various engineering and personnel capacities before becoming vice president of personnel in 1967. He subsequently served as vice president of Louisiana operations and vice president of operations before assuming his present position in 1977. Murphy previously served as a director of the company from 1970 to 1977.

Orgain also has been associated with GSU for many years, having become a director in 1963 and an advisory director in 1975.

Loggins, who joined GSU in 1958, has served in several executive capacities since becoming an officer in 1977. He was vice president-technical services, vice president-personnel and vice president-administrative services before his elevation to senior vice president in early 1979.

Loggins' initial assignment with the company was as an engineer in Navasota, but in 1960 he was transferred to Baton Rouge and spent nine years in that area in various engineering and sales capacities.

In 1969, he moved to Beaumont as industrial sales director and two years later was named superintendent of Sabine Station. He became manager of the Western Division in 1975, the position he held until becoming vice president-technical services in 1977.

## DOE awards grant for UT fusion center

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has chosen the University of Texas at Austin as the site for a new national institute for fusion research.

As a result, UT will be the lead university in a scientific undertaking designed to bring together the world's top fusion energy researchers. To be led by Dr. Marshall Rosenbluth, now of the Princeton

Institute for Advanced Studies, the new Institute for Fusion Studies is expected to begin its work by September.

Unlike the splitting of atoms, which is called "fission" and is the source of energy in nuclear power plants, fusion puts atoms together and in doing so releases enormous energy. That energy can be used to generate electricity.

Fusion does not pollute and produces no radioactive waste. Moreover, the primary source of the hydrogen fuel is virtually inexhaustible—water.

But several major obstacles remain, including the need to reach 100 million degrees temperature in one second. The closest scientists have come so far is between 60 million and 70 million degrees.

The institute, which will work with but remain separate from the Fusion Research Center, will take on complicated theoretical problems in fusion and will become the country's think tank for fusion.

The government will provide \$5 million over the next five years to the institute—a figure that UT will match. The university will also provide as many as 10 faculty positions for the institute.

Initially, the institute is expected to have 20 to 25 professional staff members, including senior scientists, research associates, post-doctoral students and visiting researchers. That number will later increase to about 40.

UT was selected over Yale, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Maryland, New York University and UCLA.

# Mountain music in the lowlands – Nelson Station employee handcrafts dulcimer

The liquid tones of a dulcimer may be familiar to many natives of the Appalachian and Ozark mountains, but they're rarely heard in the lowlands of south Louisiana.

At least one Gulf States' household—that of Nelson Station employee Robert Hebert—can enjoy the sound of a handmade hammered dulcimer, however.

Hebert constructed the instrument, using parts of two old pianos and other materials, after he first saw a hammered dulcimer when he was vacationing in the Ozarks at Silver Dollar City near Branson, Missouri.

Although the instrument is probably most often used for renditions of American folk tunes like "Barbara Allen" and "Wildwood Flower," it is also suited to gospel music.

The Westlake, Louisiana, resident admits he was fascinated by the instrument's "uniqueness of design, sound and the sight of it being played," but was reluctant to purchase one for the offered price.

Determined to give one to his wife, Pat, a housewife who has played religious music in church since she was eight years old, Hebert decided to build his own.

First he consulted his sister, a music teacher in Connecticut. She, in turn, obtained instructions for building a hammered dulcimer from a man named Howard Mitchell, who has been largely credited with reviving interest in the ancient instrument.

(The dulcimer—or dulcimore, as it is pronounced in Elizabethan English—has been traced back about 3,000 years before Christ, says Hebert. It supposedly originated in Arabia, was refined by the Greeks and had a smaller counterpart in the Orient. Although it went by several different names, the hammered dul-



*Robert Hebert demonstrates the hammered dulcimer he built for his wife, Pat. Hebert plays the instrument by ear.*

cimer was brought to America by Europeans and given a name that referred to its being played with small wooden hammers.)

Hebert worked on his instrument from October, 1979, until mid-February, 1980.

When it was completed, it featured 95 strings that made up 27 notes. It consists of four strings to the note for the treble and three strings to the note for the bass.

As soon as Mrs. Hebert was able to pick out chords on the completed instrument, she began playing songs. She has since performed in other people's homes. Her only previous experience with a dulcimer was with the lap dulcimer she and Hebert purchased while on the Ozarks' vacation. That dulcimer is smaller than the hammered kind, has only four strings and can be strummed or chorded. Mrs. Hebert also is accomplished on the accordion, ukelele and piano.

Musical ability seems to run in the family.

Hebert admits he was reared in a "musical atmosphere," and played the violin as a child. Although he had built furniture before, he had never attempted to craft anything as complicated as the hammered dulcimer.

Teenaged daughter Toni, a high school freshman, plays flute for her high school, where she has been a member of the honor band for the past three years. She was one of her school's band members who played in the Cherry Blossom Festival this year. Toni also knows how to play the ukelele and reportedly wants her father to build her a lap dulcimer.

Son Travis, a first grader, reportedly has even been picking on the hammered dulcimer.

**by Connie Herford  
Plain Talks Correspondent**

# GSU encourages school district in conservation effort

by Susan Huff

One Golden Triangle school district has a jump on other Gulf Coast schools where energy conservation is concerned.

In February, the Port Arthur Independent School District was awarded the first portion of an energy grant which should eventually total more than \$200,000 in federal conservation money for schools and offices.

And Tom Clark, supervisor-consumer services for the Port Arthur Division, reveals that GSU "definitely had a role in the early-on activities" that eventually led to funding.

The Department of Energy (DOE) granted about \$13,000 to PAISD in February to be used to pay for technical assistance in identifying and determining the extent of energy conservation measures needed in the district.

The district applied in 1979 for \$247,000 in federal grant money for energy-savings measures, which was to be matched by school district money. Its board of trustees approved the grant application last July. The school district reportedly budgeted about \$100,000 of its share in the current budget, and has plans to pay the remainder within three years.

Even though the application process began last year, Clark says the school district began working with GSU "way back when we first knew that this sort of thing was needed... The company saw a need for school districts to be concerned about energy on the part of taxpayers" who foot school energy bills.

Back in 1977, Clark approached the Port Arthur, Nederland and Port Neches-Groves school districts about a pilot program that would show the districts how to conserve and "how peak load energy use will affect energy costs in the future."

Since the school districts were receptive to the idea, Clark involved two Texas A&M professors of architecture in his project. The two men—Albert Padulla and Jerry Trost—and several GSUers began holding educational meetings where officials from the school districts were shown "what could be done in typical school buildings" to improve energy efficiency.



The A&M educators conducted energy audits of the structures, and officials were told about energy-saving measures that could save as much as 30 percent without any investment of money. They were also encouraged to seek supplemental funding from state or federal sources to carry out more costly improvements that would eventually show up as a payback in energy savings for the schools.

After the program got underway, Beaumont Division schools were invited to participate.

Clark recalls that in 1977 he realized schools would be confronted with greatly-increased bills for at least two reasons—area schools had recently added air conditioning for the first time and they would also share in the higher energy bills facing all customers.

According to PAISD Superintendent Richard L. LoDestro, the comprehensive school energy conservation made possible by the DOE grant should save the district as much as \$50,000 district-wide during the first year.

Seven PAISD schools were audited for energy use during the first study and the remainder of the schools will be checked later. The \$13,000 technical assistance portion of the grant will permit the district to hire outside technical aid where it is needed.

According to news reports, PAISD was one of 41 hospitals and school districts from throughout Texas to qualify for grant awards which will provide one-half of the total cost of projects designed to reduce energy consumption.

Clark said that other Port Arthur Division GSUers who assisted the school district were Dan Puckett and Sue Williams, both of whom are consumer services representatives in the National Energy Watch program; Kathy Reed, consumer services advisor in the company's school program at-large; and Jack Saxon, consumer services representative in the area of customer service.



# TRASOP statements of account appear in new format

by Frank Loeffler  
Supervisor-Employee Benefits

**Editor's Note:** This is the first in a series of stories focusing on employee benefits. This month Loeffler discusses the newly-designed statement of account for TRASOP 1 and TRASOP 2. Next month he will discuss the new individual benefits statements for employees. Future issues will feature articles on aid to education, merchandise financing, the thrift plan and other employee benefits.

A completely new format for the statement of account for benefits acquired under the Tax Reduction Stock Ownership Plan (TRASOP 1 and TRASOP 2) was distributed to employees in April.

The computer statement lists how many shares of stock were allocated by Gulf States to an eligible employee in TRASOP 1 plan years 1976, 1977 and 1978, as well as listing both employee and employer contributions under TRASOP 2 in plan years 1976 and 1977.

The plan was made possible by two federal laws—the Tax Reduction Act of 1975 and the Tax Reform Act of 1976—which were designed to encourage employee ownership of company stock and to spur capital expenditures by business.

The laws that led to creation of the TRASOP plans allow GSU to take investment tax credit on progress expenditures made to the construction of a new plant, as well as on qualified property placed in service. Under the law, the company can take an additional investment tax credit as a reduction of federal income taxes if it uses the extra money to buy shares of its stock for employees.

Because the company's contribution is based on the previous tax year, most of the participating employees began paying for the TRASOP 2 1978 plan year in January, 1980, and will continue to pay through payroll deduction until October, 1980. *The company share*

*This is how a statement of account would be issued to fictitious employee John Doe. The top portion of the statement lists contributions according to the number of shares, while the bottom portion lists the dollar amount of contributions. Note that under TRASOP 2, the shares resulting from dividends to date is centered between the employer contribution and the employee contribution. That is because the shares are a result of those two amounts combined.*

T R A S O P					
TAX REDUCTION ACT STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN					
GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY					
PARTICIPANT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT					
642-86-2222 John Doe		---SHARES OF GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY COMMON STOCK---			
Plan Year	Source	TRASOP 1	TRASOP 2		Total
		Non-Contributory	Employer Contribution	Employee Contribution	
1976	SHARES ALLOCATED TO YOUR ACCOUNT	33.78	0.00	0.00	33.78
	SHARES RESULTING FROM DIVIDENDS TO DATE	8.73		0.00	8.73
1977	SHARES ALLOCATED TO YOUR ACCOUNT	52.33	21.90	22.28	96.51
	SHARES RESULTING FROM DIVIDENDS TO DATE	7.60		3.95	11.55
1978	SHARES ALLOCATED TO YOUR ACCOUNT	65.25	0.00	0.00	65.25
	SHARES RESULTING FROM DIVIDENDS TO DATE	2.09		0.00	2.09
TOTAL	SHARES ALLOCATED TO YOUR ACCOUNT	151.36	21.90	22.28	195.54
	SHARES RESULTING FROM DIVIDENDS TO DATE	18.42		3.95	22.37
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE				\$ 2,215.55	
EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE				\$ 283.44	
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1978 PLAN YEAR				\$ 798.09	
EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1978 PLAN YEAR				\$ 0.00	
TOTAL DIVIDENDS TO DATE				\$ 271.76	
<p>THE GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY TRASOP IS FUNDED WITH MONEY THE COMPANY REALIZES FROM AN ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT ALLOWED FOR TRASOP PURPOSES. IN 1979, THIS ADDITIONAL TAX CREDIT WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE COMPANY BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT. THEREFORE, THERE CAN BE NO CONTRIBUTION BY THE COMPANY OR BY INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES TO TRASOP FOR PLAN YEAR 1979. THE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT WHICH IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR TRASOP IN 1979 WILL BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE 1980 PLAN YEAR.</p>					

*is matched after the employee's share is paid.* Only those employees who opted to pay their 1978 plan contribution for TRASOP 2 in a lump sum before January 1, 1980, will have an employee contribution listed on their newest statement of account since the statement date is December 31, 1979.

Although the new statement

would not have reflected the 1979 plan year anyway, the 1½ percent additional tax credit is not available to the company for the 1979 plan year because of limitations on the utilization of the investment tax credit.

As the final paragraph of each statement of account explains, no contributions can be made by the

company or by individual employees to TRASOP for 1979.

However, the additional investment tax credit which is not available for 1979 will be carried forward to the 1980 TRASOP year.

How do the TRASOP plans work?

For each year that the TRASOP 1 plan is in effect and the company is able to utilize the investment tax credit, the company will contribute an amount equal to one percent of the qualified investment claimed by Gulf States for investment tax credit purposes for the year. The amount the company contributes each year will vary, depending upon the amount of its qualified investments.

Under the law, this money must be used to buy newly issued GSU common stock, with the price depending on market conditions at the time.

The amount an employee receives is based on his or her total earnings, as reported on the W-2 form for a particular plan year. Each share depends on an employee's ratio of pay to the total pay of all plan participants.

The shares are held for employees in a trust fund managed by Louisiana National Bank. Any dividends that are declared on the stock are used to purchase additional shares of stock.

Participants can receive their share when their company service stops for any reason. If an employee retires or leaves the company for any other reason, he receives all the shares in his account. If an employee dies, his beneficiary receives his shares. Generally this takes about two years because final account balances are not known until then. Those collecting from the plan will receive actual shares of stock, while fractional shares will be paid in cash.

Active employees are not permitted to withdraw stock that has been in the plan for less than seven years. After that, stock may be withdrawn by applying to the TRASOP Committee, which is a group of company officers who administer the plan. Unlike some benefits plans, an employee is *always* 100 percent vested.

Eligibility rules are the same for TRASOP 2, but there are other dif-

ferences, including the fact that an employee can make voluntary contributions to the plan up to limits provided by law. The law also permits the company to contribute an additional amount to the plan if it wishes—up to one-half of its contribution to TRASOP 1, but not more than the total amount contributed by all participants. Employees who contribute to TRASOP 2 are matched by the company dollar for dollar.

Each year the TRASOP Committee estimates how much participants may contribute so as to take full advantage of the maximum contribution the company can put into the plan.

Both TRASOP 1 and TRASOP 2 are subject to available credits and the company's productivity.

Although the original legislation permitted companies to make contributions to the plans only through 1980, legislation passed in 1978 extended them through 1983.

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## Ogden announces company Savings Bond drive

One third of all U.S. families have no savings at all, and many of those who do are dissatisfied with the amount they manage to save.

GSU Corporate Secretary Ann Ogden admits that advice to be thrifty and save regularly is probably easier to give than to follow, but she says she thinks there is a solution.

Successful savers at any income level pay themselves first. Then they live on a scale that permits such savings.

Even easier, 9.5 million savers pay themselves by purchasing savings bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan. Enrollment cards for

the Payroll Savings Plan were to have been mailed to all GSU employees in May, according to Ms. Ogden, who is serving as U.S. Savings Bond campaign chairman for the company this year.

She suggests that employees who are looking for the best time to become better savers should consider their next salary raise. "Since you've gotten along fairly well without the extra money, why not put a portion of your next increase into U.S. Savings Bonds?" she asks.

U.S. Savings Bonds earn a guaranteed 6 percent interest when held to maturity of five years (4.5 percent interest the first year).

A savings bond saver can double his money in 12 years or be one-third richer in five years.

This year, the Gulf States payroll deduction savings bond program is changing from Series E to Series EE. Even current participants in the Series E program must transfer their enrollment to the Series EE program, since the payroll department is not authorized to make the transfer.

Employees interested in joining the plan or in boosting the amount they contribute to buy bonds should fill out an enrollment card and send it to the payroll department.



# SERVICE AWARDS

**40**  
Years



**John T. Graves**  
Plant Production  
Willow Glen



**Edward L. Maris**  
Division Operations  
Calvert

**30**  
Years



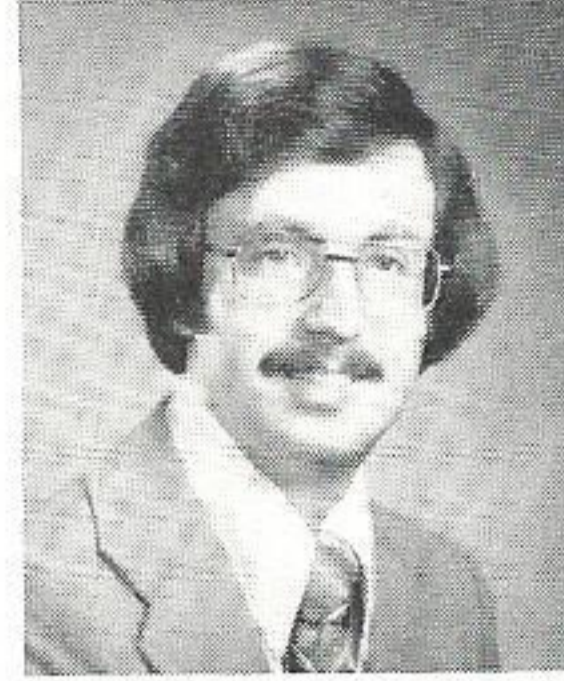
**Odelon L. Romero**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette

**20**  
Years



**K. E. McCullough**  
Plant Production  
Willow Glen

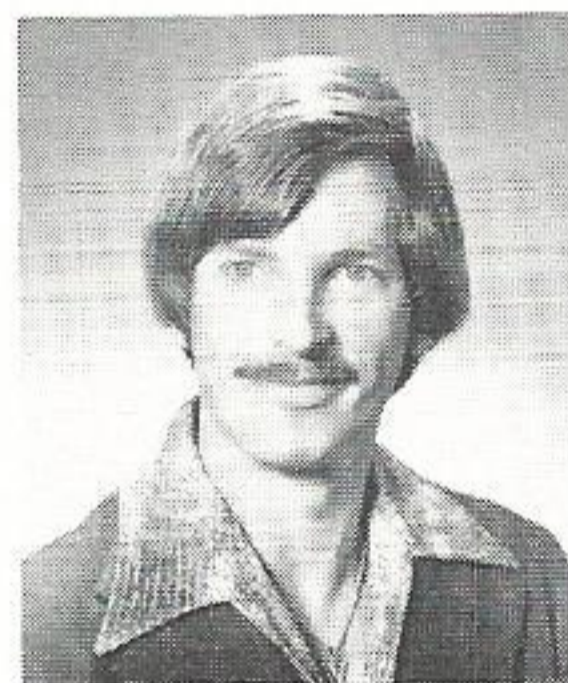
**10**  
Years



**Russell G. Ramsey**  
Nuclear Projects  
Beaumont



**Theda G. Allison**  
Division Accounting  
Lake Charles



**William E. Noble**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge

# Skipper McGehee: New retiree characterizes self as “calculating craftsman”

by Anna Raymond  
Plain Talks Correspondent



*E. Clinton and Anne McGehee display McGehee's carving of Fuchu, wise man of China, that adorns the couple's bedroom door.*

“Artistic? Me? Oh, no!” says E. Clinton “Skipper” McGehee incredulously.

Oddly enough, McGehee is serious about refusing to be called “artistic”—he insists the many unique wood carvings found throughout his Lake Charles home are the result of “just a cold-blooded, calculating craftsman.”

According to the recently-retired Nelson Station employee, “A carver is not an artist; he’s a craftsman. An artist is an emotional person.”

McGehee began carving in 1954.

“What started me whittling was boredom,” he recalls. The former control operations foreman at Nelson had just finished reading 12 volumes containing more than 12,000 pages on the history of Christian religions.

“What can follow that?” McGehee asked, noting that he had no desire to read after such intensive study. With no special hobby or project in mind, he developed a habit of pulling out his pocket knife and aimlessly whittling on a piece of wood.

One day his wife, Anne, challenged him to “whittle me a crucifix.”

He did, and after the crucifix came Madonnas and then ever-more-complicated pieces.

Among the completed items in his home are a five-foot carving of Fuchu, wise man of China, which is mounted on his bedroom door, a bedroom suite of native mahogany that took 10 years to complete and a dining room suite intricately decorated with both bas-relief and the ancient Etruscan sunken-relief.



Mrs. McGehee says her favorite is her little cypress desk and McGehee concedes that "cypress is more difficult to work with than mahogany."

McGehee begins a carving project by marking the measurements first.

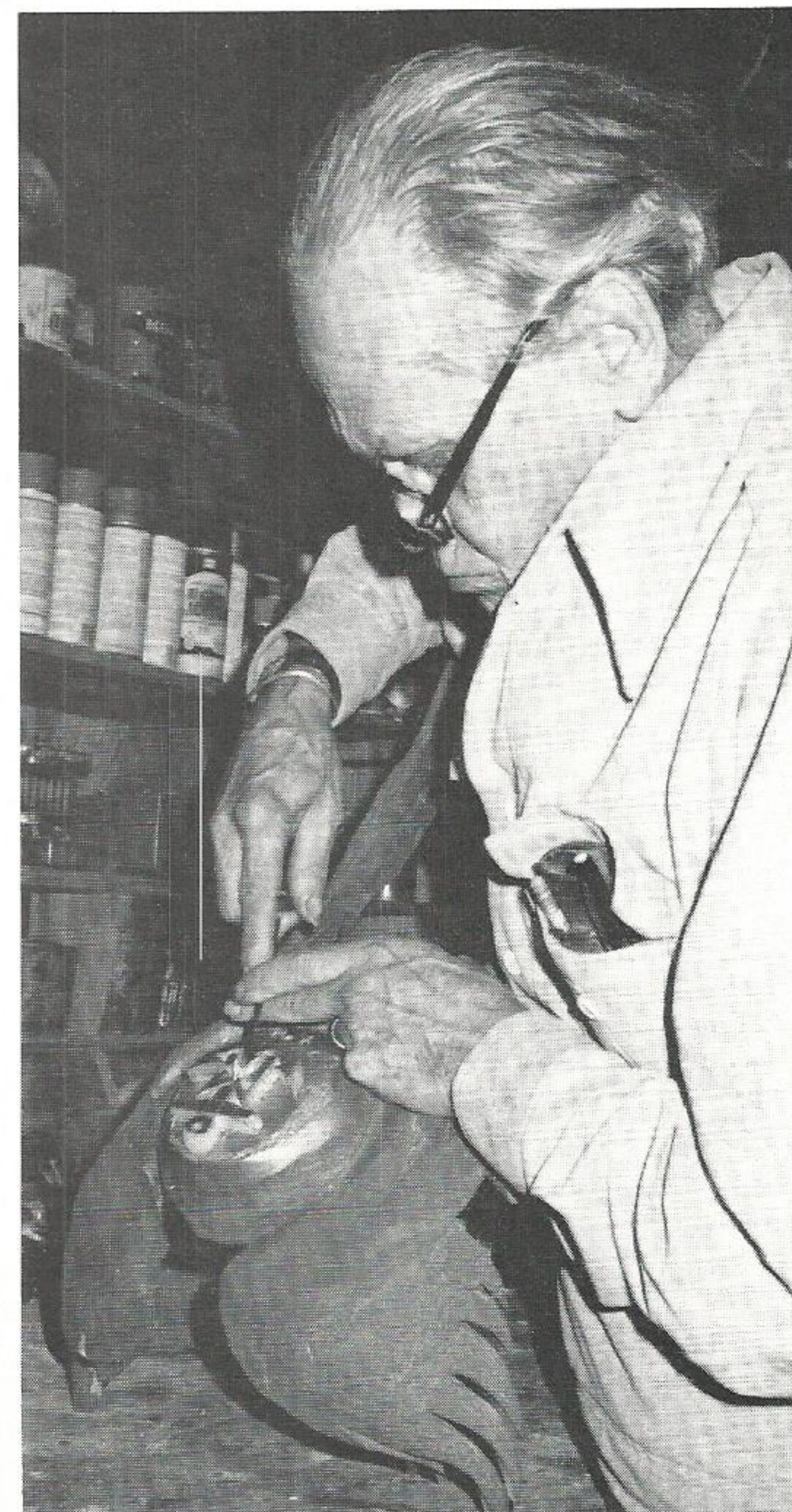
"In carving the human form, I use Grecian proportions," he says, adding, "The body proportions, which are determined by the length of the head, must be marked on the wood before beginning to whittle."

A sketch is not drawn on the wood. He just starts whittling to find the grain, since the way it is carved depends upon the grain.

Since ending his 42-year career with GSU recently, McGehee has begun putting in four hours a day, six days a week in his shop.

McGehee is also officially a "captain"—hence the nickname Skipper—as a result of passing a 12-hour examination conducted by the International Bureau of Navigation.

He explains that he is entitled to handle unlimited navigation or "anything that floats."



# Abbeville retiree recounts Gulf States' career

When Sabre "Pop" Guidry was a youngster, his life in Abbeville revolved around sugar cane harvests, family activities and church.

More than a half-century after leaving the small Vermillion Parish community in 1923, Guidry and his wife, Luvina, returned to their hometown in 1960. He retired from Gulf States Utilities in mid-1959, ending a 35-year career that spanned from the company's Western Division to the Baton Rouge Division.

Perhaps Guidry is best known among fellow members of the Sideliners, GSU's retiree group in the Lake Charles Division, as the Frenchman with the harmonica. He has played since he was 14 years old, when he first picked out "Casey Jones."

Now 85, Guidry still finds plenty to keep him busy around his home and in the community. An avid gardener, Guidry also serves as a volunteer driver for a local funeral home and belongs to several charitable and service organizations. He and his wife attend St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

Guidry recalls that circumstances forced him to leave Abbeville.

"We went broke in 1920 when the depression hit. I tried to farm for three years," says Guidry.

But farming was not enough, and in 1923 Guidry left the little French-flavored town with \$12 in his pocket, heading west toward Port Arthur to find work.

He was employed for 10 months on a pipeline job, where he earned 50 cents an hour—enough money to enable him to send \$30 a month back to Abbeville on a bank note and to pay rent for a home for his family. At that time, he and his wife had only their oldest two children—Anna Lou and Frank. The Guidrys later had a second son, Sabre Jr., who died 14 years ago.

When that job ended on May 31, 1924, Guidry landed work within a few days with a Port Arthur ice company—a business that later became a part of GSU.

During those early months, Guidry just handled ice as a laborer, but five and one-half years later, he had advanced to the chief engineer's position at an ice plant in Bryan, Texas. (Guidry had transferred into what is now the Western Division in 1928, when he went to Navasota to help convert a steam plant into a water plant.)

The Guidrys left Bryan in 1932 when he transferred to the old Lakeside Station back in Port Arthur. During his 17 years at Lakeside, Guidry was a switchboard operator and a watch engineer. In late 1949, the family moved again—this time to Baton Rouge, where he would spend the next 10 years at Louisiana Station.

Guidry recalls having once helped avert a near-disaster at the power plant.

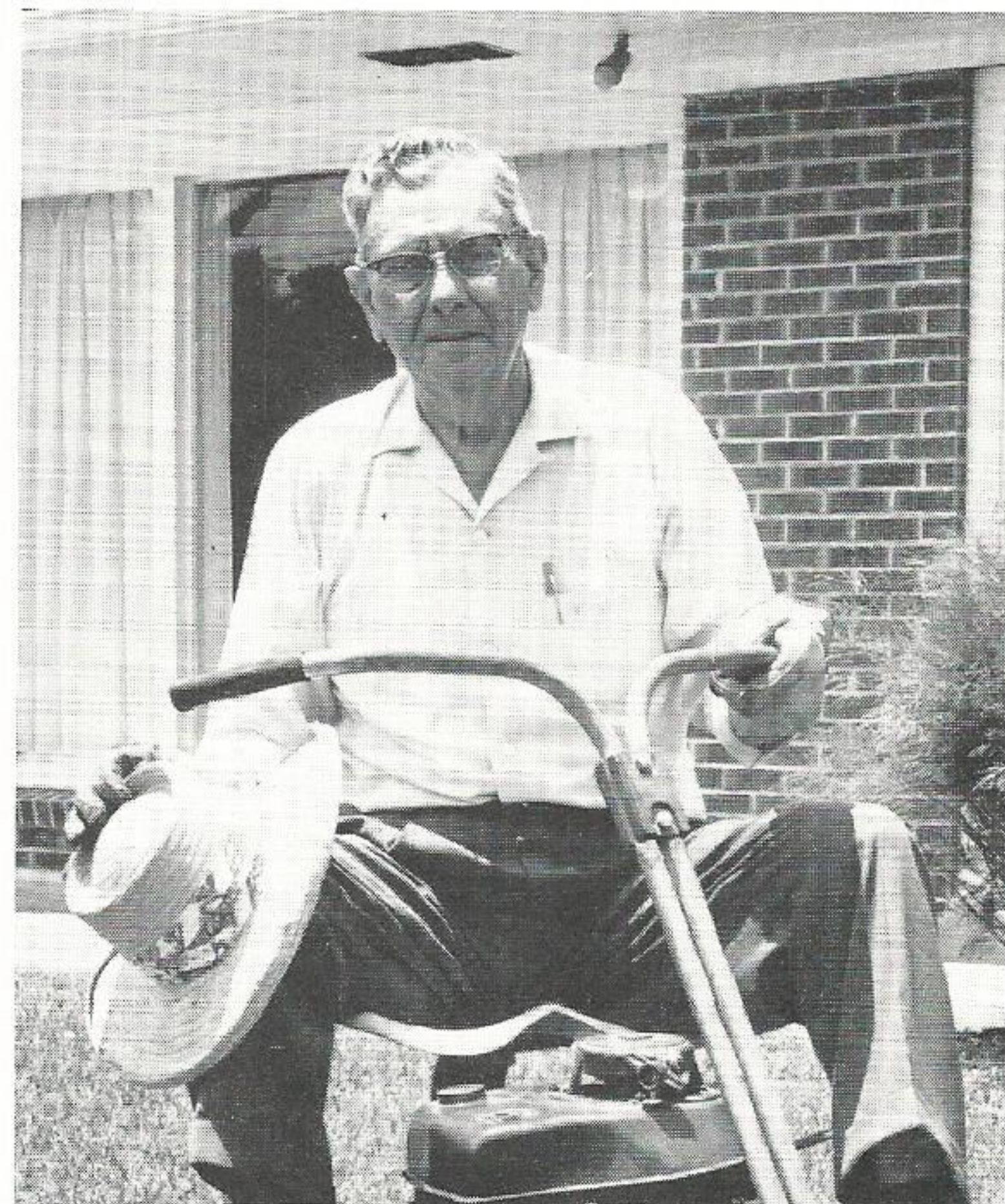
"A tube blew out on the No. 10 boiler," he recalls, "and in five minutes, it was down to zero pressure."

But Guidry knew what to do.

"I had my hard hat on, so I curled down like a possum, crawled over and closed down all the valves. I cut off three trays of valves," he explains.

His Louisiana Station career included serving as a turbine engineer on No. 7 unit, second fireman in the 600-pound boiler room, then turbine engineer in the 600-pound turbine room, control room operator and head fireman for the 900-pound boiler room.

He retired July 31, 1959—a day when co-workers observed his leave-taking by giving him a riding lawn mower. To show his appreciation, Guidry entertained them with his harmonica.



# Company to hold first "Pick the Peak" contest

What is the largest amount of energy—measured in megawatts—that GSU customers will demand this summer? When will the peak take place and what will be the high temperature that day?

Employees who correctly guess the answers to these questions, as well as closely guessing the time of day the peak will take place, could win one of five prizes in Plain Talks' "Pick the Peak" contest. The prizes will be a microwave oven, ceiling fan, food processor, crock pot and lawn edger.

The contest is sponsored by GSU's public affairs department as part of a continuing effort to keep employees aware of the growing demand for electrical energy throughout our two-state service area.

GSU must plan years in advance for future energy requirements, explains R. J. Stout, system planner, adding, "Continuing growth along the Gulf Coast area, coupled with hot weather, plays a major role in company calculations of future electric generation requirements."

While the actual megawatt peak and the day it occurs will be precise answers, the correct temperature will be the system's *average* maximum temperature, Stout says.

Since GSU's service area covers such a large geographical area—a 28,000 square mile portion of southeast Texas and south central Louisiana—the winning answer will represent an average of the temperatures at three major airports located within our service area. They are Jefferson County Airport near Beaumont, Lake Charles Municipal Airport and Ryan Airport in Baton Rouge.

And Stout points out that the winning time of day that the peak takes place will actually be later than when the average maximum temperature was recorded. He explains that there is a lag time after the high temperature is reached before the heat seeps into homes

and businesses, prompting customers to cool more. A peak has never occurred on a Saturday or a Sunday.

Last year's peak was 5229 megawatts on July 2, 1979, at 5 p.m. at an average maximum temperature of 91.7 degrees Fahrenheit, rounded off to 92 degrees. (The actual maximum temperature for each of the three airports was 90 degrees at Jefferson, 90 degrees at Lake Charles and 95 degrees at Ryan.)

Company projections for 1980 show a 4.8 percent increase in peak for 1980, when the summer peak is expected to reach about 5478 megawatts. While the estimated figure certainly gives contestants

a starting point, Stout emphasizes that the actual peak may vary from the estimate quite a bit.

Completed entry forms should be sent to the PLAIN TALKS Pick the Peak Contest, 6th floor, Goodhue Building, Beaumont. All retired and active employees are eligible to enter. Deadline for submitting entries in the company mail is Monday, June 30. None will be accepted in mail arriving at the Goodhue Building after July 1.

Winners will be judged first on the peak in megawatts, then on the date, the temperature and, finally, the time of day.

Winners will be named and prizes will be awarded soon after October 1.

## Peaks of the 1970s

Peak	Date	Average Maximum Temperature*	Time
1970—3039 megawatts	September 10	93 degrees	5 p.m.
1971—3285 megawatts	July 16	93 degrees	5 p.m.
1972—3603 megawatts	August 21	94 degrees	5 p.m.
1973—3790 megawatts	August 21	95 degrees	5 p.m.
1974—3896 megawatts	July 29	93 degrees	4 p.m.
1975—3977 megawatts	August 18	92 degrees	5 p.m.
1976—4162 megawatts	September 9	93 degrees	5 p.m.
1977—4657 megawatts	July 25	95 degrees	5 p.m.
1978—5138 megawatts	August 23	94 degrees	5 p.m.
1979—5229 megawatts	July 2	92 degrees	5 p.m.

\* Average figures that have a fraction are rounded off to the nearest whole degree.

### Plain Talks' Pick the Peak Contest

#### Entry Form

Return to Plain Talks' Pick the Peak Contest  
6th floor, Goodhue Building, Beaumont

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Division \_\_\_\_\_

The peak load in 1980 will be \_\_\_\_\_ megawatts

The date the peak will occur will be \_\_\_\_\_

The temperature at peak will be about \_\_\_\_\_ degrees

The time the peak will occur will be \_\_\_\_\_



## Lake Charles employees honor retiree

Lyndred Montgomery, a retiree from the Lake Charles Service Center, was honored with a barbecue dinner February 15.

Montgomery retired last August 1 because of a medical disability. He had worked as a garage mechanic since May 11, 1949.

Montgomery and his wife, Betty, (shown above) received gifts of cash, a plaque and a one-cent framed check that the company had refunded to him years ago because of an overpayment, reports Plain Talks Correspondent Edith Patterson.



## Employee ends 32-year GSU career

When Lucina Ory, Lake Charles customer accounting clerk, retired March 1, it marked the end of a 32-year career with Gulf States. She began working for the company on July 16, 1947.

Mrs. Ory received a cash gift, along with a Union Retirement Pin, presented by Ed Brawner.

## Gulf States' children play soccer

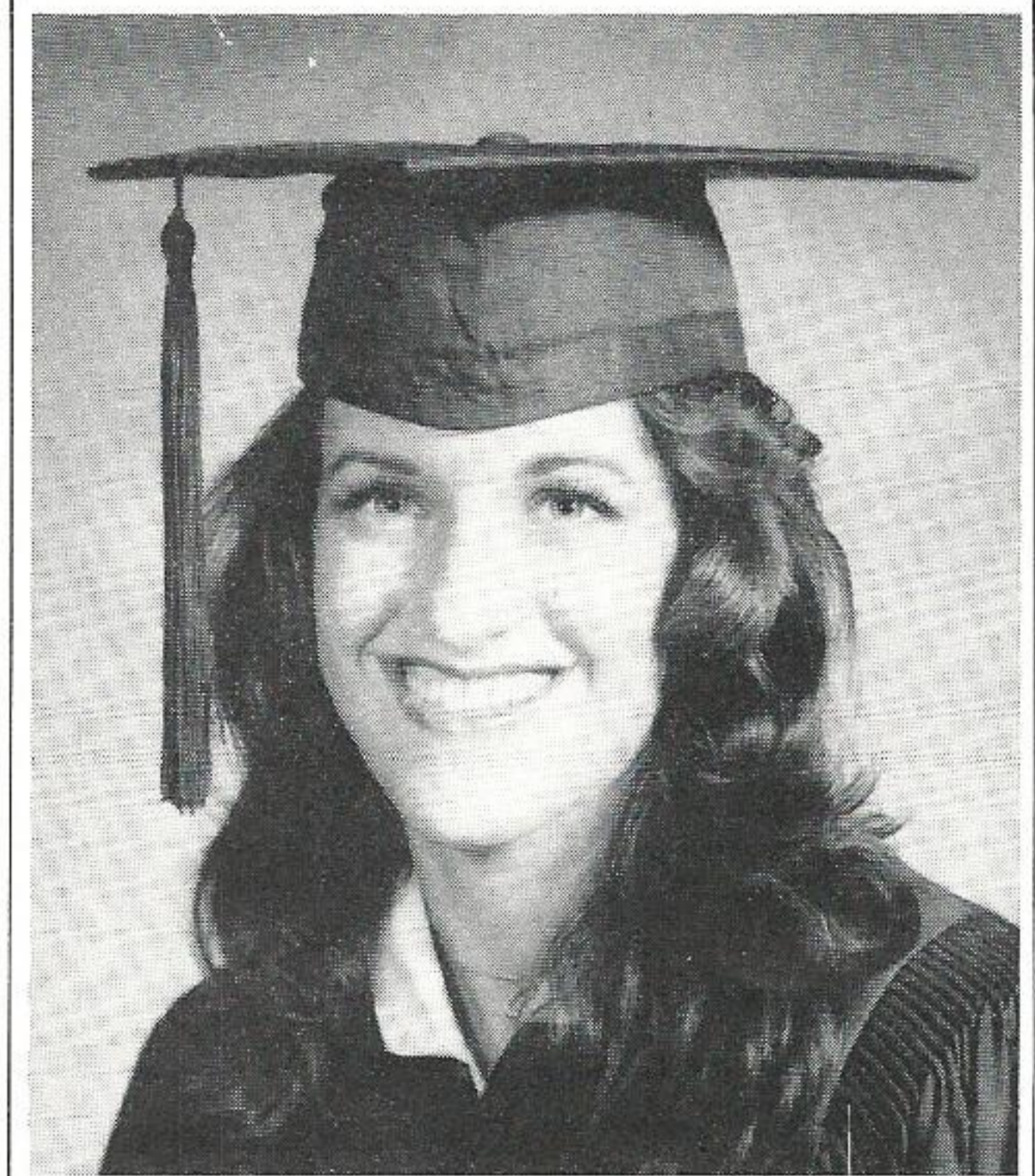
Two soccer teams belonging to the Spindletop Youth Soccer Association in Beaumont included the children of Gulf States' employees on their winning team rosters.

In the first picture, GSU employee Joe Russian, coach of the Hurricane team, is shown with the team that includes David Colley (second from left on the front row), the son of GSUer Rob Colley, and Chris Russian (second from right on the front row), Russian's son.



In the second picture, team members on the Hot Shots include Kevin Joyner, son of GSUer Henry Joyner (first on the left in the middle row), and Joseph Russian, Russian's other son (kneeling next to Kevin).

Both teams placed in the state championships recently.



## "Senior Spotlight" features Westlake girl

Stephanie Schatzle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Schatzle of Westlake, La., was recently featured in the Westlake/Moss Bluff News' "Senior Spotlight" section.

Her father is an employee at Nelson Station in the test department.

According to the newspaper article, Miss Schatzle is a Banner Roll student who is currently in the Art Club, serves as Ramette captain and editor of the Ram-ler yearbook and a member of Future Business Leaders of America and the Beta Club.

She has also participated in recreation basketball for two years.



## Port Arthur employees host party

Port Arthur Division employees hosted a going-away party for Marlene Belk on February 21.

She left her position of stenographer-marketing for a position as personnel clerk in the Wilson Building in Beaumont.

## Preston Davis retires in Beaumont

"No frills, no prizes and no surprises—just dinner with my friends," that was Preston L. Davis' request when co-workers asked how he would like to observe his retirement.

As a result, Davis, who retired March 31 from a position as section head of transmission and distribution engineering in Beaumont, was honored with a retirement dinner, reports Plain Talk Correspondent Les Jones.

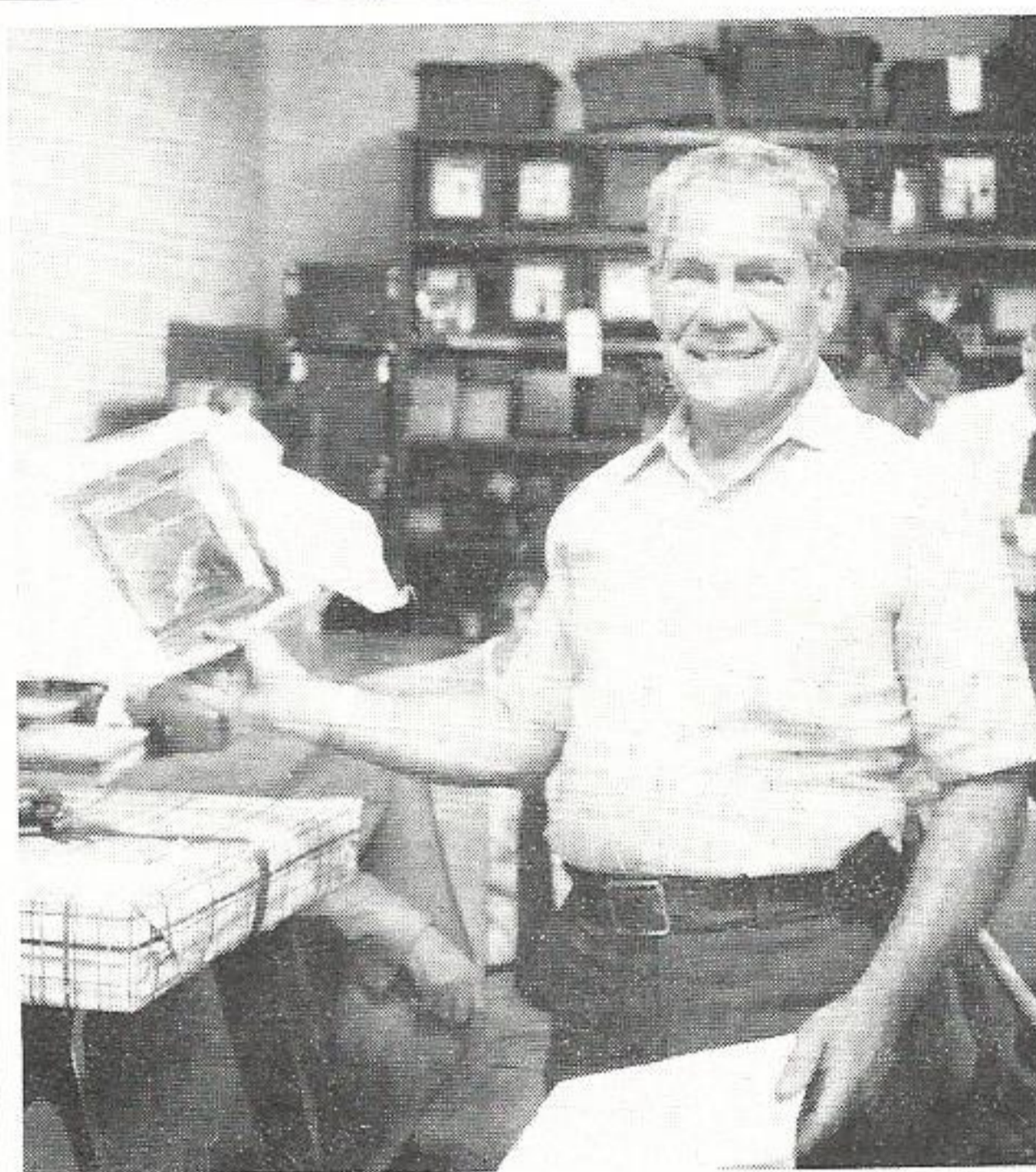
A native of New Orleans, Davis attended Rice Institute in Houston. He worked for Western Electric for five years before joining GSU for what turned into a 40-year career with the company.

## Beaumont stenographer leaves for San Antonio

Maureen Traynor, former stenographer to Beaumont transmission and distribution engineering, resigned March 31.

She was honored with a going-away party, reports Plain Talks Correspondent Les Jones.

Mrs. Traynor moved to San Antonio, where her husband, Frank, has accepted a position with the ABC-affiliate television station. Traynor previously served as weekend anchorman for Channel 4 news in Beaumont.



## Co-workers honor Saunders on promotion

Co-workers at the Beaumont Service Center wished Charlie Saunders "good luck" March 1, in observance of his promotion and transfer to system operations in the Beaumont Main Office.

Saunders was previously with the meter department.



## Tom Wier receives singing telegram

Engineering employees in the Beaumont Main Office honored their boss in March by throwing a noon luncheon.

But Tom Wier (shown at right) had another surprise after the plates were cleared away. He was the recipient of a "singing telegram from Texas Onion."

The sailor-suited girl above serenaded Wier while co-workers watched.

## VOE clerk receives state trophy

A vocational office education (VOE) employee at the mid-county district office in the Port Arthur Division won second place in the Office Education State Conference in Dallas March 20-22.

Eileen DeVillier, a senior at Port Neches-Groves High School, was to compete in the national meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 17-22.

Before placing in the state contest, where she was awarded a trophy, Miss DeVillier first placed second in the Office Education Association Conference at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. She received a plaque for that win.

Competition required each participant to respond to five situations involving composing and typing correspondence within a one-hour time limit.

Miss DeVillier plans to major in office procedures at Lamar University after she graduates from high school in May, reports Plain Talks Correspondent Rose Reeves.

# ON THE MOVE

## DECEMBER

**Allen, Merle R.**, Port Arthur, to truckdriver, T&D Line Dept.

**Augustus, Wayne L.**, Baton Rouge, to repairman-2nd class, Louisiana Station.

**Anderson, Mary B.**, Beaumont, to secretary-executive, staff of executive vice president-operations, Beaumont Executive Dept.

**Bailey, Patricia A.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Production, Fossil Projects and Project Services.

**Buchanan, Kathy A.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Causey, Douglas H.**, Baton Rouge, to mechanic helper, Louisiana Station.

**Cormier, Michael J.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Cormier, Ray J.**, Lake Charles, to building technician, T&D Substation.

**Deason, Michael E.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Dodge, Elba G.**, Beaumont, to secretary to the chairman of the board, Beaumont Executive Department.

**Duplant, Craig N.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Edgerton, James C. Jr.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Sabine Station.

**Ellis, Clara S.**, to secretary-executive, staff of the president, Beaumont Executive Dept.

**Evans, Malcolm.** Conroe, to engineering assistant, T&D Engineering Dept.

**Feast, Wilkins A. Jr.**, Lake Charles, to storeroom assistant, Nelson Station.

**Fontenot, Winston L.**, Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-1st class, T&D Communications Dept.

**Fredieu, Gary B.**, Beaumont, to garage mechanic-1st class, T&D Garage.

**Gipson, Melba A.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-division accounting, Customer Accounts.

**Guttery, Frederick D.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Department.

**Harris, Wesley Jr.**, Port Arthur, to master electrician, Sabine Station Electric Dept.

**Hart, Curtis.** Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Gas Department.

**Hebert, Mervin J.**, Port Arthur, to engineering assistant, T&D Engineering Dept.

**Howard, Irwin G.**, Baton Rouge, to mechanic helper, Louisiana Station Electric Dept.

**Johnson, Cinda F.**, Lake Charles, to stenographer-senior, T&D Engineering Dept.

**Jones, Louis W.**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman-3rd class, T&D Service Dept.

**Martinez, David J.**, Baton Rouge, to mechanic helper, Louisiana Station.

**Melton, Alan B.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Department.

**Pajak, Stephen.** Baton Rouge, to test technician-2nd class, Willow Glen.

**Raymond, Anna C.**, Lake Charles, to stenographer-senior, Division Consumer Services.

**Russum, Claiborne F.**, Beaumont, to building technician, T&D Service Dept.

**Sing, Cleveland D.**, Baton Rouge, to building technician, T&D Substation.

**Sirmons, Calvin W.**, Woodville, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Smiles, Raymond Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to second fireman-Louisiana Station.

**Smith, Dan I.**, Baton Rouge, to repairman-2nd class, Louisiana Station.

**Stevens, Shelton W.**, Beaumont, to serviceman-4th class, T&D Service Dept.

**Thomas, Linda R.**, Beaumont, to engineering helper, Production, Power Plant Engineering and Design.

**Tousand, Donald R. Jr.**, Lake Charles, to engineering assistant, T&D Engineering Department.

**Verrette, Raymond.** Baton Rouge, to repairman-2nd class, Louisiana Station.

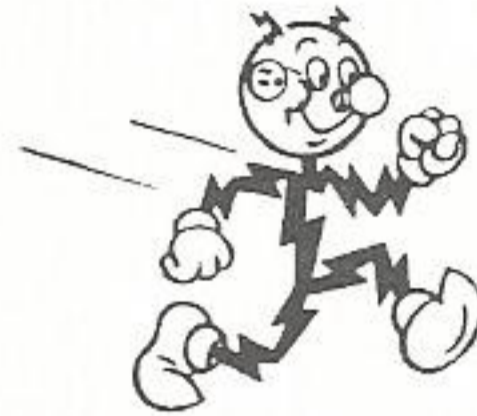
**Walker, Bryan J.**, Baton Rouge, to auxiliary operator, Louisiana Station.

**Whaley, Robert R.**, formerly of Lake Charles, to senior accountant, Beaumont Accounting Services.

**White, Leonard D.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-3rd class, T&D Substation.

**Wisener, Timothy A.**, Beaumont, to draftsman-Engineering Design, T&D Engineering Drafting.

**Young, Sevear.** Baton Rouge, to meterman-2nd class, Gas Department.



## JANUARY

**Adams, William J.**, Beaumont, to test technician-1st class, Neches Station.

**Ball, John M.**, Baton Rouge, to turbine engineer, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Ballard, Milton L.**, Beaumont, to master repairman, Neches Station.

**Bell, Eugene A.**, New Caney, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.

**Beshears, Eric P.**, Baton Rouge, to turbine water plant operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Braud, Kenneth P.**, Gonzales, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Buckner, Donald R.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Callahan, Alvin E.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Sabine Station.

**Cambre, Gregory P.**, Baton Rouge, to turbine water plant operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Cannon, Lee O.**, Lake Charles, to electrician-2nd class, Nelson Station.

**Carter, Johnnie C. Jr.**, Port Arthur, to communications serviceman-1st class, T&D Communications Dept.

**Corkern, Keith L.**, Baton Rouge, to turbine water plant operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Dailey, Rodney.** Orange, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Darcey, Wayne P.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Sabine Station.

**Dattalo, Pamela L.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-executive, Beaumont Financial Services.

**Duplant, Charles T.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design.

**French, Johnny D.**, Conroe, to communications serviceman-3rd class, T&D Communications.

**Gardiner, Marolon A.**, Beaumont, to planning analyst, Beaumont Corporate Planning.

**Guillory, Alex Jr.**, Lake Charles, to mechanic helper, Nelson Station.

**Hebert, Paul W.**, Port Arthur, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Heider, Ricky L.**, Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Engineering Design, Relay Design.

**Henson, Richard E.**, Conroe, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

**Herring, Bruce D.**, Beaumont, to planning and scheduling analyst, Beaumont Fossil Projects.

**Jackson, John.** Beaumont, to mechanical maintenance foreman, Plant Production, Neches Station.

**Johnson, Ardes E.**, Baton Rouge, to turbine water plant operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Kaufman, Alfred L.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-economic analysis and corporate modeling, Beaumont Corporate Planning.

**King, Michael W.**, Beaumont, to substation mechanic-3rd class, T&D Substation.

**Marshall, Larry D.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Marshall, Richard A.**, Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**McAfee, Elizabeth J.**, Beaumont, to administrative assistant, Beaumont Rates and Economics.

**McKinley, Suzette A.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-executive, Beaumont Legal Services.

**Miller, David L.**, Conroe, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

**Miller, Louis J.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Mouton, Leslie R.**, Lake Charles, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Owens, David F.**, Baton Rouge, to auxiliary operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Peters, Dennis J.**, Baton Rouge, to helper, T&D Helper Crews.

**Reedeo, Venoy.** Conroe, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Roberts, Walter L. Jr.**, Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.

**Robinson, Michael W.**, Lake Charles, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Sells, Earllester C.**, Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.

**Shaver, Kenneth R.**, Conroe, to substation mechanic-3rd class, T&D Substation.

**Shoemaker, Wallace A. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to electrician-2nd class, Willow Glen.

**Van Winkle, Sharilyn L.**, Beaumont, to accountant, Beaumont Tax Services.

**Vance, Edna R.**, Beaumont, to keypunch operator-senior, IDS Operations Services.

**Wesley, James.** Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

**White, Loring J. Jr.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Winger, John F.**, Beaumont, to test technician-2nd class, Neches Station.





# ON THE MOVE

## FEBRUARY

**Addison, Van A.**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman-2nd class, T&D Service Dept.

**Albrecht, Robert P.**, Silsbee, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Atkins, Anna J.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Engineering Design, Engineering Services.

**Barnett, Rodney J.**, Beaumont, to second fireman, Neches Station Operations.

**Belk, Alzena W.**, formerly of Port Arthur, to personnel department clerk, Beaumont Human Resources.

**Bergeron, Beverly J.**, Baton Rouge, to head fireman, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Blair, Ramon**, Jennings, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Bodden, Doris S.**, Baton Rouge, to stenographer-senior, Division Customer Accounts.

**Booker, Otis**, Baton Rouge, to auxiliary operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Brady, Don T.**, Beaumont, to superintendent-transmission construction, Beaumont Transmission Construction.

**Brandon, Randy J.**, Baton Rouge, to second fireman, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Broussard, Barbara G.**, Port Arthur, to stenographer-senior, Division Consumer Services.

**Brown, Horace E.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-field accounting, Accounting Services.

**Bush, Gregory A.**, Port Allen, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Castile, Iona M.**, Beaumont, to stenographer, Office Services.

**Corkran, Burl A.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Courville, LeRoy**, Conroe, to storeroom supervisor, T&D Storeroom.

**Craig, Gary J.**, Conroe, to relayman-3rd class, T&D Relay.

**Creel, Billy G.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-consumer services, Division Consumer Services.

**Cryer, James E.**, formerly of Beaumont, to supervisor-procurement, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Site.

**Davis, Charles R.**, River Bend, to senior accountant, Accounting Services, River Bend Site.

**Davis, Donald R.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Davis, James L.**, Beaumont, to line foreman, T&D Line Dept.

**Debbs, Joyce L.**, Beaumont, to senior mathematician, Beaumont Corporate Planning.

**DePoy, Marvin E.**, Baton Rouge, to second fireman, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Dudley, Maribeth**, Port Arthur, to storeroom assistant, T&D Storeroom.

**Duncan, Charles G.**, Beaumont, to storeroom foreman, Beaumont T&D Storeroom.

**Dunshie, William E.**, Conroe, to relayman-1st class, T&D Relay.

**Elkins, Eddie W.**, Port Arthur, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**Fruge, Clifford L.**, Port Arthur, to storeroom supervisor, Port Arthur T&D Storeroom.

**Gallagher, Priscilla W.**, Baton Rouge, to consumer services advisor-senior, Division Consumer Services.

**Gibbens, Carl D. Jr.**, Beaumont, to electrician-1st class, Neches Station.

**Goodman, Tony C.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Granger, Darrell W.**, New Caney, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Dept.

**Graves, Robert L.**, Baton Rouge, to storeroom foreman, Baton Rouge T&D Storeroom.

**Greer, Stuart A.**, Orange, to Sabine Station mechanic-4th class, T&D Substation.

**Gresko, Joseph J.**, Lafayette, to utility foreman, Lafayette T&D Line Dept.

**Guidry, Harry**, Lafayette, to substation foreman, Lafayette T&D Substation.

**Guinn, Jesse III**, Baton Rouge, to switchboard operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Harmon, Murry R.**, Baton Rouge, to electrician-2nd class, Willow Glen.

**Hebert, Randall**, Port Arthur, to apprentice, T&D Substation.

**Heiman, Jeffrey S.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Production, Neches Station.

**Hill, Robert L.**, Conroe, to meterman-1st class, T&D Meter Department.

**Holmes, Joseph**, Baton Rouge, to auxiliary operator, Louisiana Station, Operations.

**Johnson, Rayford E.**, Conroe, to communication serviceman-2nd class, T&D Communications.

**Jolissaint, Larry F.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Department.

**Jones, Michael L.**, Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, T&D Line Department.

**Jordan, Mary F.**, Beaumont, to division accounting coordinator, Beaumont Accounting Services.

**Joseph, Norman L.**, Beaumont, to repairman-1st class, Neches, Station.

**Kendall, Thelma M.**, Beaumont, to consumer affairs coordinator, Beaumont Division Consumer Services.

**McBride, Clyde W.**, Beaumont, to director-financial analysis, Beaumont Financial Services.

**McCarley, Bobby D.**, Baton Rouge, to turbine water plant operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**McGinty, Timothy J.**, Navasota, to apprentice, T&D Line Dept.

**McGowan, Michael E.**, Beaumont, to repairman-2nd class, Neches Station.

**McNabb, John L.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

**Meaux, Wilson J.**, Lafayette, to utility foreman, Lafayette T&D Substation.

**Morris, Carol L.**, Beaumont, to consumer services representative-senior, Division Consumer Services.

**Nelson, Gary L.**, Lake Charles, to apprentice, T&D Line Department.

**Oates, Harold L.**, Silsbee, to lineman-2nd class, T&D Line Dept.

**Prejean, John E.**, Lake Charles, to storeroom supervisor, Lake Charles T&D Storeroom.

**Prejean, Nalton L.**, Beaumont, to insulator-2nd class, Neches Station Maintenance.

**Protho, John T.**, Beaumont, to storeroom supervisor, Beaumont T&D Storeroom.

**Provost, Douglas J.**, Lafayette, to assistant general substation foreman, Lafayette T&D Substation1

**Richard, Albert**, Port Arthur, to assistant general line foreman, Port Arthur T&D Line Dept.

**Richards, James A.**, Beaumont, to repairman-2nd class, Neches Station.

**Rodgers, Fred R.**, Beaumont, to equipment operator, Neches Station Operations.

**Rowe, Robert J.**, Beaumont, to electrician-2nd class, Neches Station.

**Sanchez, George**, Beaumont, to meterman-2nd class, T&D Meter Dept.

**Schumacher, Weymond J.**, Beaumont, to power supply scheduler, Beaumont Power Supply.

**Shannon, Frank L.**, Beaumont, to draftsman, Engineering Design.

**Sikes, Walter L.**, Beaumont, to utility foreman, T&D Line Dept.

**Simpson, James W.**, Beaumont, to senior purchasing agent, Beaumont Materials Management.

**Smith, Arthur**, Beaumont, to car pool foreman, Beaumont General Services.

**Smith, Aubrey D.**, Beaumont, to repairman-1st class, Neches Station.

**Smith, Leon**, Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-3rd class, T&D Garage.

**Sport, Harry C.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-3rd class, T&D Line Dept.

**Stanley, Donna G.**, Beaumont, to auxiliary operator, Neches Station Operations.

**Staton, John A.**, Conroe, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Stephenson, Sammie E.**, Baton Rouge, to storeroom foreman, Baton Rouge T&D Storeroom.

**Taylor, Clifford D.**, Beaumont, to building and grounds maintenance man, Beaumont Building Services.

**Tholborn, William H.**, Beaumont, to safety representative, Beaumont Division Operations.

**Thompson, Joel B.**, Beaumont, to line foreman, Beaumont T&D Line Dept.

**VonNetzer, Franz C.**, Beaumont, to repairman-1st class, Neches Station.

**Walker, Elizabeth G.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Production Power Supply.

**Wallace, Marlin E.**, Baton Rouge, to second fireman, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Wenzell, Lawrence E. Jr.**, Beaumont, to switchboard operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**White, Charles E.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-fixed asset accounting, Beaumont Accounting Services.

**White, Tommy L. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to auxiliary operator, Louisiana Station Operations.

**Whitehead, Kelton R.**, Baton Rouge, to storeroom supervisor, Baton Rouge T&D Storeroom.

**Whitfield, Larry W.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, T&D Line Dept.

**Whitley, Larry**, Baton Rouge, to pipeman apprentice, Gas Dept. Construction.

**Whitman, Quentin R.**, Beaumont, to supervisor-EDP Technical Services, Beaumont IDS.

**Wileman, Richard C.**, New Caney, to truckdriver, T&D Line Dept.

**Wilson, Ethelyn G.**, Beaumont, to personnel clerk, Beaumont Human Resources.



## Michigan utility to continue nuclear plant construction

The board of directors of Consumers Power Company of Michigan authorized the company's management to continue with construction of the Midland nuclear power plant.

Following the March decision, Board Chairman John D. Selby said that "completion of the two-unit plant will provide the lowest cost electric power and most assured source of additional generating capacity of the alternatives available."

The board initiated a review of the project after a revised cost and construction schedule was submitted in January by the prime contractor, Bechtel Power Corporation.

Bechtel's study, which reflected changes that have occurred since the previous estimate and the effects of the Three Mile Island accident on plant design and regulatory delay, increased the cost of the project to \$3.1 billion and added about three years to the construction schedule.

## Swedish voters ratify nuclear power program

During a late March election, 58 percent of Swedish voters gave a go-ahead to Sweden's nuclear power program. Sweden currently has six reactors on line providing 25 percent of the country's electricity. Four reactors are completed and waiting to be fueled and two more reactors are under construction.

Sweden has no plans to expand beyond the current nuclear program.

According to news reports, 74.3 percent of registered Swedish voters participated in the March 23 election. The results break down as follows:

—18.7 percent voted for an option calling for the 12 reactors to

go into operation and for Sweden to decrease its oil dependence. This option also encouraged development of alternative energy sources and no future development of nuclear beyond the 12 reactors. It also called for phasing out of the reactors after their useful life at a pace proportionate to available alternative energy source and maintenance of a healthy economy.



—39.3 percent voted for a second option that was identical to the first option, except for additional stipulations for placing the main responsibility for production and distribution of nuclear power under control of the state and making any future production facilities—both nuclear and otherwise—either state or municipally owned.

—38.6 percent voted for a third option calling for no more nuclear power plants beyond the six plants now operating. These plants would have been phased out within a maximum of 10 years. The option also prohibited uranium mining and reprocessing in Sweden.

The election reportedly was a direct result of the accident at Three Mile Island about one year earlier in the United States.

## EPRI research projects aimed at goals

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) has several research projects in progress that are aimed at meeting the 10 goals of the institute.

While all of the goals are focused on technologies that can be readily applied by utilities, one specific goal is to "develop technical advances to achieve conservation of energy and natural resources through more efficient generation, transmission and use of electricity."

As an example of projects aimed at achieving that goal, EPRI intends to find out what effect stretches of extreme weather will have on the backup energy demand for heating and cooling commercial buildings that have solar heating and cooling.

To accomplish that, EPRI will monitor solar heating and cooling installations on six different commercial buildings, including a Connecticut delicatessen and an Indiana credit union office. Instrumentation should be in place by mid-1980.

Data will be transmitted to systems contractor Arthur D. Little, Inc., where it will be analyzed.

## API reveals federal stumbling blocks to energy development

It's easy to criticize government laws and regulations that impede energy development, but it's often difficult to cite specific examples. The American Petroleum Institute (API) has stepped forward with plenty.

Despite its breathtaking title, the API's "Major Legislative and Regulatory Impediments to Conventional and Synthetic Fuel Energy Development" is a compelling indictment of government's excessive meddling in the energy area.

Included in the publication are 26 examples of energy projects that have been delayed or cancelled because of governmental constraints, as well as four case histories detailing regulatory excesses.

The API points out that 30 percent of the nation's crude oil and 43 percent of its natural gas are estimated to be on federal lands. But only 6 percent of domestic oil and gas production comes from federal property because millions of acres are closed to exploration and development. In Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho, several million acres—much of it in the promising "overthrust belt"—are off limits to energy development because grizzly bears live there.

Among the specific projects that have fallen victim to government overregulation are:

- **Exxon's attempts to drill in the Santa Ynez Unit of California's Outer Continental Shelf.** The project has been delayed for six years by federal, state and local regulatory obstacles. There have been three major environmental impact studies, 21 major public hearings, 10 major governmental approvals, 51 consultant studies and 12 lawsuits. Exxon has invested more than

\$380 million and has yet to produce a single drop of oil from an area that is expected to yield 27,000 barrels of oil and 30 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

- **The Hampton Roads Energy Company oil refinery in Portsmouth, Virginia.** There has been an eight-year delay caused in large part by the Environmental Protection Agency's slowness in approving the state Clean Air Act implementation plan and the Army Corps of Engineers' reluctance to grant a dredge-and-fill permit. The refinery is supposed to produce

- **The Kaiparowits power project in Utah.** This 3,000 megawatt project became uneconomical and was cancelled after costs increased six-fold during the 13-year delay in securing the necessary air and water permits.

- **The Geysers geothermal energy project in California.** Local environmental restraints triggered by the Clean Air Act have prevented development of 630 megawatts of capacity. The withholding by federal land agencies of property from lease sales has blocked development of other geothermal projects.

- **The Sohio marine terminal and pipeline.** This pipeline, which was intended to carry 500,000 barrels of Alaskan crude oil daily from Long Beach, California, to Midland, Texas, was cancelled after a five-year delay in obtaining the necessary federal, state and local air quality permits made the project economically unfeasible.

The API study listed 16 federal laws that, to varying degrees, have slowed energy development. These range from better-known statutes such as the Clean Air Act to lesser-known ones such as the Antiqui-

ties Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The report should not be interpreted as an attack on the goals embodied in the various laws. As the API notes, its purpose is "not to fire broadsides at entire laws that in large part clearly are worthwhile, but rather to call attention to specific provisions in those laws that hinder, indeed jeopardize, the development of energy supplies, both conventional and synthetic, needed for use now and in the years to come."

Last fall, the Ford Foundation released a report entitled "Energy: The Next Twenty Years," which concluded that current legislative and regulatory concepts and programs "make the conflicts between energy and environmental values more severe, disruptive, and costly than they need to be—and threaten to damage both energy and environment in the long run."

In unveiling the report, Dr. M. Gordon Wolman of Johns Hopkins University stated: "While there has long been persuasive evidence that human health is impaired by breathing polluted air, science has not been able to determine which pollutants, in what combinations, at what exposures, cause which health effects. In fact, it becomes increasingly clear that such simple questions have no simple answers ... if action must be delayed until science has all the answers, it may be too late."

Both the API and Ford Foundation studies should be required reading for all members of Congress.

by Kim McMurray

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