

PLAIN TALKS

August-September 1987



CONTENTS

Volume 66

Number 7

Gulf States' bond ratings explained	3
Investigating ways to improve customer service	4
Gulf Staters helping Junior Achievers	5
Louisiana Station project goes commercial	6
News Briefs	8
Mailbox	10
River Bend captures the flag	12

THE COVER

For the next 10 years, Louisiana Station Unit 4A will generate power for the huge Exxon chemical refinery in Baton Rouge. Ronnie Paille (left), project superintendent, and Bennie Hickman, project engineer, were members of the Gulf States team who managed the entire project and completed it on budget and in record time.

To learn more about the largest inhouse engineering project in GSU's history, see the story on page 6.

Betty Gavora of Employee Communications shot the cover photograph.

PLAIN TALKS

August-September 1987

Published for employees and retirees of Gulf States Utilities Company. No portion of the contents of this magazine may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. Address all communications to PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P.O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (409) 838-6631.

Executive Editor:

Betty Gavora

Editor:

E. Kelly Merritt

Correspondents:

Robert Adams
Vickie Albert
Ronnie Bordelon
Barbara Broussard
Ella Brown
Mamie Burrell
Debra Cassel
Myra Castello
Laurie Cobbs
Cheryl Crawford
Lisa Creekbaum
Betty Dickschat
Lisa Didier
Betty Dowell
Andy Dreher
Donna Fancher
Charlotte Gautreau
Rhonda Haskins
Connie Herford
Tina Hunt
Les Jones
Lynda Kapalski
Helen Kennedy
Clint Lilley
Audrey McDonald
Carol Morris
Clint Moss
Gerald Nelson
Sherry Overbeck
Edith Patterson
Carol Payne
Myra Ponthier
Casey Richert
Mike Rodgers
Greg Russell
D. W. Rutherford
Jeral Semien
Sue Simon
Monica Thomas
David Thornhill
Jean Tinsley
Delores West
Robby Zeringue

Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.



by Robert Adams

Like other large corporations, GSU raises the large amounts of money, or capital, for construction and other projects primarily through two means — sale of stock and issuance of bonds. Those who buy a share of stock become part owners of the company and are entitled to a share of the profits. On the other hand, those who buy bonds loan the company money. The company pays interest to the bondholder for the life of the bond, after which it must be redeemed for the purchase price.

The amount of interest the company must pay a bondholder for the use of his or her money varies with the apparent risk of the bond. As a service to investors, certain organizations such as Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Moody's Investors Service rate bonds as to their relative risk.

"Bond ratings are similar to your personal credit rating," says Greg Copeland, supervisor—long term finance. "They indicate the financial soundness or credit-worthiness of a company."

S&P and Moody's use different symbols for rating bonds. Both use a combination of letters or letters and numbers in their systems. S&P's and Moody's top ratings are AAA and Aaa, respectively. Bonds with these ratings are considered the safest.

Unfortunately for GSU, S&P and Moody's have lowered our bond ratings as a result of our financial condition. Currently, GSU's first mortgage bonds, those secured with the assets of the company, are rated B+ by S&P and Ba2 by Moody's. These ratings put the company's bonds into the high risk or speculative category, meaning that while the bonds will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. This results in the company paying higher interest on any new bonds it is able to issue. The most recent bonds issued (\$100 million of first mortgage bonds in July 1986) pay 12 1/8 percent in interest to the bondholders.

S&P and Moody's do not use a set formula to determine the relative risk of a company's bonds. Some of the financial criteria that they use to determine a utility's bond rating include cash flow adequacy, earnings protection and financial flexibility. Non-financial rating criteria include characteristics of the service area, fuel and power supply, operations, management and regulatory treatment.

They study all of the statistics, ratios and history of the company and industry. They also talk with management and competitors when judging a company's rating.

"Ratings by the rating agencies are a long-term credit rating of GSU reflecting as many facets of business and business risk as possible," says Copeland. "It takes an individual a long time to establish a credit rating. It's the same for Gulf States. If a person loses his or her credit, it can take a long time to reestablish it. The same goes for Gulf States and its ratings."

Employees respond to call

Task force selecting ideas to improve customer service

by E. Kelly Merritt

How can Gulf States improve service to its customers? That question was put to all GSU employees and those in charge of collecting the answers have been overwhelmed with the enthusiastic response.

A special Customer Relations Task Force, set up to hear ideas from employees on improving customer service, has been flooded with suggestions from Gulf Staters everywhere.

"All of the departments have done a good job of soliciting input," says Kim McMurray, manager of Public Affairs. "Some have even created task forces within their own districts to come up with suggestions."

The task force is the brainchild of E. Linn Draper, GSU chairman and president. He points out that "although River Bend nuclear plant has been operating now for 18 months, GSU's average residential customer has not seen—and will not see—any difference in his electrical service; the lights still come on when he flips the switch." In light of the rate relief requests now pending, Dr. Draper is emphasizing customer service.

"Although we know the important role River Bend is playing in the area of fuel diversity and stability, many of our customers don't think they should be paying

for a power plant they perceive is not needed," Draper said when announcing the task force. "The challenge confronting us is to show customers they are getting more for the additional dollars they will be paying."

The task force is co-chaired by McMurray and Bill Benedetto, manager of Louisiana communications. It consists of 15 supervisory personnel representing all departments and divisions. They are in the process of sorting and selecting those ideas that will be recommended to the Corporate Improvement Committee (CIC) and to Draper. The CIC is a group of corporate officers who review ways to improve all aspects of the company's operation.

Once the suggestions are accepted, implementation will begin.

"The implementation depends on the nature of the suggestion. We want to get as many of the low cost improvements started as soon as we can," McMurray says. "Ideas with budgetary implications will be studied, and we hope to implement many of them next year."

Task force members were encouraged with the enthusiasm of the response.

"A lot of employees responded to the challenge and it shows they

really care," says Roberta Plant, task force member and supervisor of Consumer Information Services, Conroe.

"It's been encouraging that we've gotten a lot of involvement from employees at Edison Plaza and River Bend, many of whom do not deal directly with customers," McMurray says. "It shows they're just as interested in helping our customer relations improve."

McMurray emphasizes that the program is not a gimmick to make customers think GSU is more interested in customer service, but a genuine attempt at improvement.

"It was important to give everybody a chance to make suggestions," he states. "We wanted all suggestions, all ideas. Dr. Draper made a strong pitch for employee involvement and that has helped to generate participation."

The intensive effort is being implemented even though surveys show that most customers are happy with their service.

"We've got good customer service," says McMurray. "But once in a while it helps to stop, look around and ask yourself if there is anything else you can do better."

Preparing students for the future

by E. Kelly Merritt

With the help of Gulf States employees from several locations and the Junior Achievement (JA) program, young people are learning the free enterprise system and making money at it.

In the 1987 JA program, employees from Baton Rouge, Beaumont and Port Arthur worked as advisors to JA groups. Thanks to the students' youthful enthusiasm and professional advice from GSU people, each of the JA companies assisted was successful.

Junior Achievement introduces high school-aged young people to the free enterprise system. It is funded by personal and business donations. The students form a company, sell stock if needed, then manufacture and market a product. At the end of the year, profits are split among students and stockholders. The products JA companies market are limited only by the young people's imagination. Products made by GSU-sponsored companies ranged from electric meter lamps to decorative clipboards.

Two Baton Rouge JA companies received help from GSU employees. Junior Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (JET), advised by David Schaper, Essen Lane accountant, made straw wreaths, wooden animal magnets and pot-pourri. The other company, called SPARCO, for Students Producing A Real Cool Object, was advised by Major Banks, engineer at Choctaw Service Center; Joe Dawson, Willow Glen maintenance supervisor;



Meter lamps, like the one shown above, are being sold by the Baton Rouge area Junior Achievement to raise money for future activities. Junior Achievement students and some of the Gulf Staters advising them are (from left) Julie Klug; Amy Dunbar; David Schaper, accountant, Essen Lane; Charles Evans, senior engineering assistant, Choctaw Service Center; Cynthia DuBose, staff accountant, Louisiana Station; Major Banks, engineer, Choctaw Service Center; and Clyde Scott. Meter lamps can be ordered for \$35 without the shade through Charles Evans, 754-2117.

Cynthia DuBose, Louisiana station staff accountant; Charles Evans, Choctaw senior engineering assistant; and William Johnson, Jr., Choctaw utility foreman. SPARCO made and sold meter lamps.

Why are these Gulf Staters spending their free time advising JA?

"This is something constructive that the kids can do," says Evans. "It helps them build a good, solid business foundation which they can use throughout life. It's also good for our public image. It shows an aspect of GSU becoming involved in preparing kids for the future."

JA students in Baton Rouge speak highly of their advisors. "I'm very appreciative," says Julie Klug, president of JET. "I learned a lot. If companies like GSU didn't do things like this, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn."

In Port Arthur, the Golden Achievers JA company used old, discarded meters supplied by its GSU advisors to make the lamps. The group's advisors were Floyd Fortenberry, section head; Kathleen Fuller, executive secretary; Danny Mallet, line utility foreman; Lisa Polk, staff

accountant-Beaumont; and Jim Raleigh, T&D supervisor.

Jim Uncapher, supervisor of mechanical engineering at Edison Plaza, led a JA group in Beaumont. Uncapher explained that spending time with the kids was worthwhile.

"I have a teenage daughter and it wasn't that long ago that I was a teenager myself," Uncapher states. "It helps when you familiarize yourself with how teenagers think and what's important to them."

The Beaumont JA company, Unlimited Inc., sold first-aid kits, fastener kits and decorative clipboards. Assisting them were John Bernard, engineering assistant; Frances Engelbrecht, management development specialist; and Andy Grosze, production engineer.

Two other GSU employees from Beaumont co-sponsored a group with DuPont Chemical Co. The group, New Directions, decorated old meter reader clipboards with Westbrook High School colors and also sold pocket calendars. GSU advisors to New Directions were Nolan Walker, supervisor of mechanical engineering, and Stephen Popielarczyk, electrical engineer.

Louisiana Station Unit 4A— both Gulf States and Exxon win



Project team members (from left) Bennie Hickman, Ronnie Paille and Terry Hernandez with Louisiana Station 4A turbine in the background. "Safety has been a number one consideration on this job," Paille says, noting there were no lost time injuries.

Story and photos by Betty Gavora

The giant stators and blades of the Louisiana Station 4A turbine roar as they crank out electricity and steam for Exxon, GSU's largest industrial customer. And their noise is sweet music in the ears of all those at Gulf States who have worked together to make the project a reality.

Two years ago when the huge Exxon chemical refinery in Baton Rouge considered displacing some 200 megawatts of load from the GSU system and generating that power itself, a team from Industrial Services and Engineering

moved into action. "We knew that if we wanted to keep this important customer, we had to come up with a win-win situation for Exxon and GSU," recalls Doug Watkins, division vice president-Baton Rouge.

"As negotiations proceeded, we found that the 90 MW, gas-powered combustion turbine at Nelson Station (Nelson Unit 7) could be moved to Louisiana Station and adapted to take the place of one of the turbines Exxon was considering," Watkins continues. "The second turbine was dis-

placed by a new rate negotiated with Exxon as part of the package."

On July 31, 1987, when this relocated Westinghouse 501D gas turbine generated its first commercial power at Louisiana station, it marked the beginning of a 10-year contract with Exxon which should earn substantial new revenue for the company. The highly-successful project marks a first for Gulf States since it was managed entirely by GSU employees and completed on budget in the record time of 13

months. Watkins says the average time for a project of this complexity is 24 months.

"We put together an organization to 'get after it,'" Watkins says, "and each key player and his team members did an outstanding job."

The key people and their duties were project accountant Mike Cappadonna, supervisor of accounting and administration, Engineering Services; Terry Hernandez, Louisiana Station superintendent; project engineer Bennie Hickman, director of civil and environmental engineering, Engineering; and project superintendent Ronnie Paille, maintenance supervisor at Willow Glen.

Hickman explains how this project was different. "It was the largest in-house engineering project in GSU's history. We took a turbine that had been operating for four years, dismantled it, moved it some 130 miles, adapted it to meet the customer's needs, set it down, tied it to a 30-year-old plant and made it hum." Several unexpected significant repair jobs added some \$200,000 to the cost, Hickman says, "but we still came in on budget."

Hickman says Mike Capadonna had a lot to do with keeping finances on target. "He got involved in answering key financial questions before the project kicked off and set up a good cost accounting system. Daily we could see where we really stood." Hickman continues, "From the start Ronnie Paille was in on the financial aspects. He got with Mike to work out a cost tracking system and Ronnie's people maintained their cost commitment."

As for Hickman, Paille says, "Bennie did a super job of putting together the detailed engineering and design, purchasing and refurbishing the equipment to do the job, matching it

up to Louisiana Station and delivering it."

And what made the project click? "Teamwork and open communications," Paille answers. "There have been few days during the past 13 months when Bennie and I didn't talk in person or on the phone. Every Wednesday the project team met to insure we knew what was going on, what needed to be done, what problems were arising and how we could solve them. We didn't always agree, so we used that constructive conflict to come up with the best solutions to get the job done. We'd argue hard for our way of doing something; but, if the group decided to go another way, once that decision was made, we backed it 100 percent."

Hickman adds, "Ronnie brought his construction knowledge and experience of construction management to the project. His 'can-do' attitude is contagious. I've been to a lot of supervisory training courses, and Ronnie does all those things they tell you to do...It's just the way he operates."

And how is that? Paille says the word "T-E-A-M" is written on the blackboard in the conference room at the site. "It was a daily reminder that this was a team effort—we needed every person to get the job done."

"I think you have to evaluate your team players, know their strengths and weaknesses," Paille continues. "Generally, if you do that, you will wind up with a complete team. Then delegate and keep the whole thing task oriented."

Terry Hernandez adds, "Something significant to me as plant superintendent was the cooperation we received from the construction group. Ronnie knew our regular work had to continue, so he coordinated with us before



Mike Cappadonna

critical things happened. Then we could plan ahead to keep the plant in balance. There was no negative impact on our normal operations."

Paille echoes the group's sentiments toward Watkins as project leader. "Doug always told us that his main function was to make sure we had the wherewithal to get the job done. We knew we could count on him. Many times Bennie has said, 'If Doug is standing behind us, let's go.'"

But Watkins wasn't the only one standing behind the project. Hickman summarizes, "We didn't go anywhere in the company and ask for support that we did not get. T&D, Substation and Line Departments, Purchasing, Controller's Department, Plant Operations, you name it...anybody involved has been dedicated to this project and given it high priority. If we hadn't had that kind of cooperation, we would have been dead in the water."

How do they feel now that the project is complete? "We're all tired," Hickman concludes. "But we're very proud that here is the first GSU generating unit that has been totally put together within our company walls. We've matured some people for this company who are ready to take on a similar or greater challenge in the future."

Lineman earns President's award



B. Kelly Morris

Joe Carter

Joe Carter, lineman-1st class, from Vidor, received the President's Lifesaving Award from Dr. Linn Draper, GSU chairman and chief executive officer.

Carter was at an Austin theater in February for the world premiere showing of the "The Red Headed Stranger" when he noticed a man next to him having trouble breathing. The man's companion said he was okay, but Carter looked again and saw the man slumped over in his seat. Finding no pulse, Carter said everything he learned in the company's safety classes came back to him.

He administered the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the food particles that were blocking the air passage and reviving his pulse. Ambulance attendants said it was Carter's quick action that saved the man's life.

Debbie Morrison



Jo Nell Barrett presents a service award from Franklin School in Orange to Louie the Lightning Bug. Louie was the star of a GSU-sponsored safety program for the school's Head Start classes.

Louie visits grade schools, involves children in learning

Gulf States' own "Louie the Lightning Bug" has been going to school. Not so much to learn, but to teach children about electricity.

Louie, played by consumer information coordinator Jay Gonzales, visits elementary schools in the Beaumont Division accompanied by consumer information coordinator Jo Nell Barrett, a line crew and a bucket truck. Louie and his friends discuss home electrical safety as well as safety in the lineman's job.

Teachers seem to like Louie's

educational visits. "The students learned more from the program than they would have from a week in the classroom," says Edna Joseph, principal of Dunbar Elementary in Beaumont. Louie has visited nearly 9,000 students in the Beaumont Division.

The program is available for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Other divisions offer the program as well. For more information, contact Barrett at 733-3308 or Roberta Plant at 722-2225.

Special mentions

Gene B. Mullin, district superintendent at Sulphur, has been chosen to receive the Community Industrial Volunteer of Louisiana Award by the Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association. Mullin will represent Louisiana at the annual meeting of the Southern Industrial Development Council in Austin, Texas.

Doug Watkins, vice president Baton Rouge Division, addressed the Second Annual Electricity Futures Symposium in Portland, Ore. Watkins helped stimulate new thinking by discussing electrical energy marketing strategies.



Jill Street, curator of the Edison Plaza Museum, plays Dorothy in the Beaumont Convention and Visitor's Bureau production of "The Wizard of Beaumont." Street was congratulated on her performance by Beaumont Councilman Bob Lee Jr. "You made the tourism rally a big success," writes Lee. "I also want to congratulate you and Gulf States for your efforts with the Edison Museum. It is truly an asset our city is proud to have."

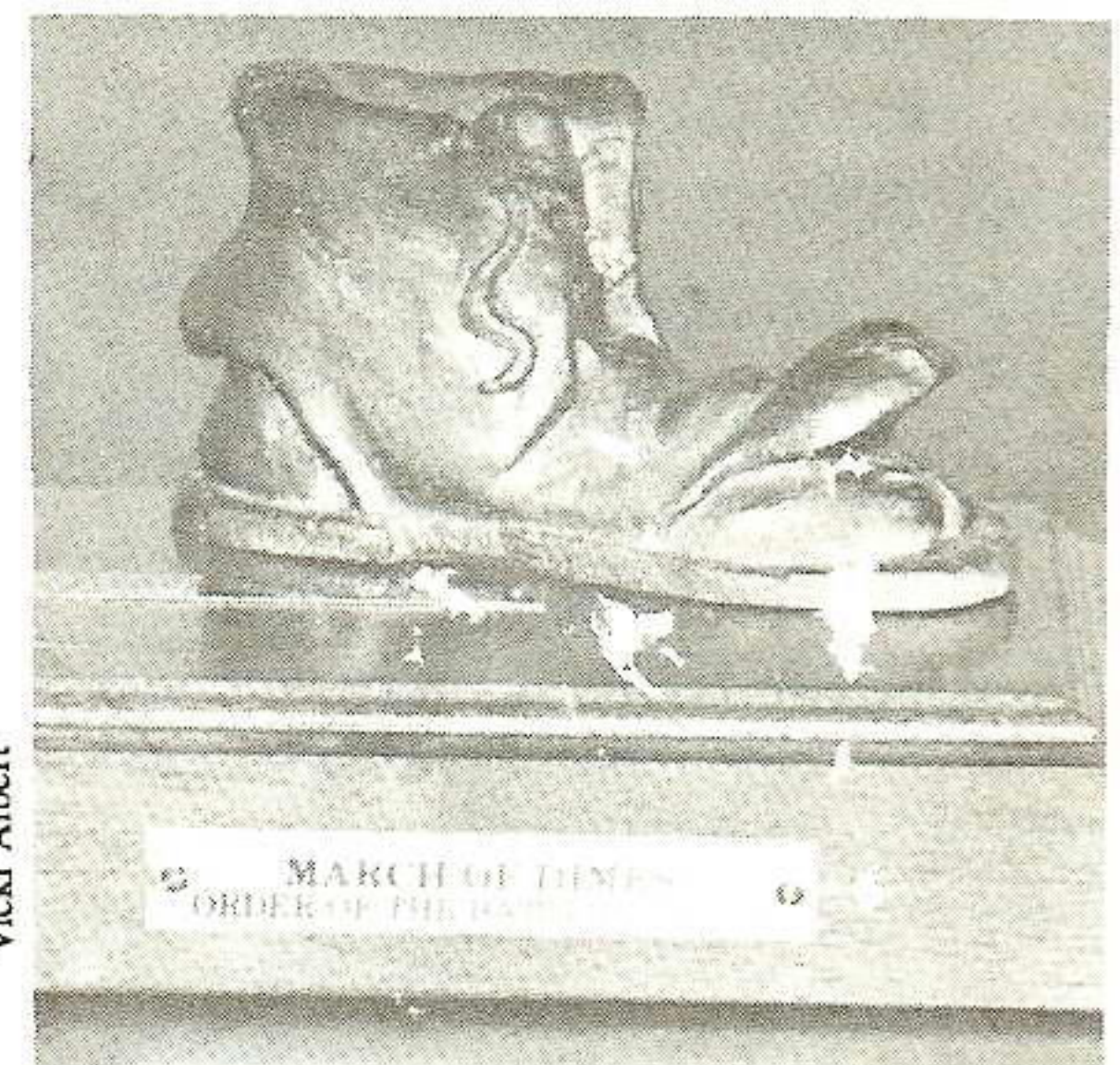


The Neches Station baseball team took the honors at the GSU Cajun Classic II Baseball Tournament held last spring. Ten teams representing Baton Rouge, Beaumont, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Neches Station, River Bend, The Woodlands and Willow Glen participated in the event. Neches Station defeated second place Blind Factory twice for the championship. The Woodlands team finished third.



Audrey McDonald

Few people get a day named in their honor, but Eugene W. Salonek is an exception. The city of West Orange, Texas, proclaimed March 28, 1987, as "Eugene W. Salonek" day for his 25 years of service to the city's volunteer fire department. Mayor Carl K. Thibodeaux issued the honor. Salonek is an Orange substation operator.



Vicki Albert

Louisiana Station walkers are the proud owners of the above bled and battered boot. A team of walkers from Louisiana Station won the "Order of the Battered Boot" in the GSU-sponsored March of Dimes spring Walk-a-Thon. All of the power plants except River Bend competed for the boot.

MAILBOX



Thanks GSU

A word of thanks to the customer contact clerks at the Sulphur office. Margret Decker, executive director of Care/Help of Sulphur, a charitable group helping disadvantaged individuals pay their bills, says she often deals with **Robin Stutes**, **Angie Wilks**, **Sandra Ray** and senior clerk **Pal Sonnier** and "they are always polite, helpful and caring. I think you should be informed of what a good job they do," she says to **Gene Mullin**, district superintendent.

And former customer Calvin Hayes, who recently moved out of the GSU service area, writes "just a quick note to tell you how we appreciate the way we were treated while GSU customers. Best wishes to you and your company."

Always thoughtful

Customer contact clerk **Norma Williams** and local office clerk **Linda Tharp** deserve a word of praise, according to GSU customer Virginia Waldvogel. She says Norma and Linda are thoughtful, considerate, helpful and courteous every time she pays her bill. "These days too many compliments are not given and I do not want to be guilty of not passing on one when it is so due!"

Quick and courteous

Jane Woods of Beaumont writes to commend **Cliff Morrison** and **Robert Granger** for their quick and courteous work when her electricity went out. "The GSU representatives were courteous and sincere in their apologies for any inconvenience." Granger is a division substation operator and Morrison is a serviceman-1st class.

Nice words from Boeing Louisiana...John R. Stevens of Boeing returned to his company's Wichita division, but not before he passed on his appreciation to **Brian Cross**, Lake Charles division supervisor of Industrial Services. Stevens wrote to thank all the Gulf Staters he had worked with since July of 1986 when he first arrived to work out power requirements and distribution for Boeing's Lake Charles facility. "In spite of delays, inclement weather, and other adverse occurrences, Gulf States met every target date, all the while maintaining an optimistic attitude and displaying professional ability and conduct. For all this, may I say 'Thank you Gulf States!'"

The races go on

"Your help in restoring our power is greatly appreciated," writes Charles Ashy of Evangeline Downs in Lafayette. Ashy thanks **George Irvin**, Lafayette general superintendent, and his staff, especially **Tim Sharlow**, district substation operator. The power went out July 6 just before the first race, with 2,700 people in attendance and more than 400 employees on the payroll. "We were able to keep our attendance informed of the status of the failure and they didn't leave." Ashy says the extra effort kept The Downs from losing \$150,000.



Tim Sharlow



Linda Tharp

Reddy comes through

Leah Ryan of Vidor is grateful to **Ronnie Hale** and the Vidor line crew for reconnecting her power. Mrs. Ryan's medical condition requires her to use an electric oxygen concentrator to assist her breathing. "Needless to say, I was grateful in having old Reddy Kilowatt to start the meter running again," she writes. Hale is district superintendent of the Vidor office.

Fine presentation

We could use more teachers like her...Charles Martin, a teacher at Thomas Edison Middle School in Port Arthur, writes to thank **Sue Williams** for her fine presentation to his students. He says the students were so interested they actually hated to hear the bell ring to end the class period. "Mrs. Williams always does a very professional job and she is a credit to your organization," writes Martin. Williams is supervisor of Consumer Information Services at Port Arthur.



Norma Williams helps customers

Speedy Luddie

The Baton Rouge Gas department has the compliments flowing. Dispatcher **Gary Green** and serviceman-1st class **Luddie Weaver** were thanked for their performance in handling customer **Clint Ivey's** gas problem. "The speedy and efficient way in which Luddie Weaver handled my problem could be viewed as a model example. You and GSU probably already know the value of these two men and their service, but I still felt that I should relay to you my appreciation for their help to me. Thank you." Also writing thanks was **Jerry Bennett**, East Baton Rouge Parish deputy sheriff. "**Vanessa Banks** is the most polite person that I have ever seen in the maintenance field. She explained the how to as well as the dangers. In my opinion, Gulf States has a top-notch representative in **Vanessa Banks**." Banks is a serviceman-1st class.

More kudos to Baton Rouge...**Richard Heine** writes to say he is pleased with the quality of the electrical installation by Gulf States...**Donna Montgomery**, nutrition specialist with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, thanks **Marlene Brandt** for taking the time to judge the 4-H Short Course Dairy Foods program. "It means so much to have judges who are really interested in today's youth." Brandt is senior district service representative.

Extra effort

Not one to leave a person stranded, **Clint Moss**, Winnie collector, was thanked for helping **Mrs. Ralph H. Sauer** of Houston when her car had a flat tire recently. "It was a scary situation as the highway was narrow and we were unable to get very far

off of the road." She says she will be forever grateful to Moss for his helping hand and wanted others to know about his kindness.

Faith restored

"In this time of hurry up and every man for himself, it restores my faith in my fellow man when I come across someone like your employee **Mr. Polo Mouton**," writes **Sherry McWillie** of Baton Rouge. Mouton rescued McWillie's 78-year-old mother, **Effie Becnel**, after she had tripped and fallen on her driveway. Mrs. Becnel lay on the ground for 15 minutes before she got the attention of Mouton while he was backing out of a neighbor's driveway. "He helped her up and into the house, put her arm in a sling and an ice pack on her shoulder, called me at work and stayed with her until I got there," McWillie says. Mouton also returned to check on the woman two days later. "We are grateful and thankful for his kindness and care and will never forget him," she writes. Mouton is a Baton Rouge serviceman-1st class.



Polo Mouton

Economic development

"The economic development activities at GSU are strictly first-rate," writes **Mark Glick**, an economic development consultant working for Lamar University in Beaumont. Glick thanks **Tom Clark**, an economic development research analyst at Edison Plaza, for guidance during Glick's research. "It is perhaps an understatement to say that your physical and human resources in business and economic development are simply the best in the region."

Second to none

John Focke, senior vice president for economic development of CRS Serrine, a Houston engineering and development giant, writes to thank **Malcom Williams** for the great support of the Houston-Beaumont SSC (superconducting supercollider) proposal. "The package of services and incentives offered by Gulf States Utilities was second to none in the state and became a very important part of the incentive package in our proposal." Williams is manager of Business Development in Beaumont.

Excellent help

Conroe Industrial Representative John Adams was placed on the Texas Economic Development Commission's TEXCEL Honor Roll for his help in administering an economic development certification program for communities throughout the state. "Economic development is a task that is shared by all citizens," writes the commission's **Cheryl Pink**. "Thank you for your active role in working to strengthen the Texas economy."

PLAIN TALKS

P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Address Correction Requested

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Beaumont, Texas
Permit No. 11

River Bend nuclear plant “captures” the safety flag



Andy Dreher

From left, Jim Deddens, Bill Cahill, J.E. Zammit, Mike Doyle and GSU Chairman and President E. Linn Draper display the flag that River Bend received for its 1987 safety performance.

by Rick Harvin

Remember the children's game of capture the flag? In an updated version, the “new kid” on the GSU block got the flag from a veteran of the company. Since safety was the object of the game however, everybody won.

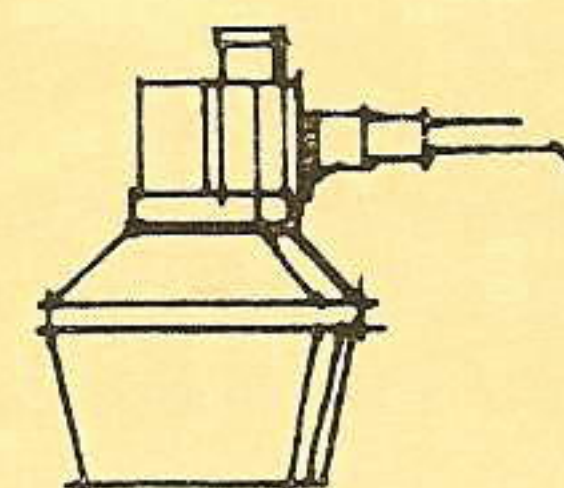
On July 23, J.C. Deddens, senior vice president-River Bend Nuclear Group, received a flag from Willow Glen Station Superintendent J.E. Zammit declaring River Bend station the safest GSU power plant in Louisiana for its safety performance during the first six months of 1987.

River Bend is now leading the company's Louisiana power plants in the competition for the President's Safety Award. In the overall standings, only Lewis Creek Station is ahead of River Bend for the honor, presented an-

nually to the GSU power plant with the best safety record.

River Bend site employees have actually worked more than 5 million manhours without a lost-time accident. The count began Jan. 1, 1979. Eight years later, on July 8, 1987, the River Bend site employees celebrated the 5 million mark.

The current safety record for a single-unit nuclear power plant is 7.4 million manhours without a lost-time accident, held by Consolidated Edison's Indian Point Unit 2 in New York. Interestingly enough, GSU Senior Vice President-Special Projects William Cahill, who supervised River Bend's construction, and Safety and Health Representative Michael Doyle worked for ConEd in helping to build Indian Point as well.



Winning slogan sought for lighting campaign

Test your talent! Demonstrate your ingenuity! Create the winning slogan for GSU's fall lighting campaign and show the world (of GSU) how clever you are. The annual fall sales campaign will run from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30. During September, all employees are eligible to enter (and win!) the contest to name the campaign theme. Program rules and prizes were announced through *Newbreaker*.

ENTRY FORM

Slogan: _____

Employee name: _____

Work location: _____

Department: _____

Title: _____

SSN: _____

Return completed form to Bobbie Ireland, EP-8 by Sept. 21, 1987.