

PLAIN TALKS

August/September 1990

Volume 69 Number 5

Troops leave for Mideast from Port of Beaumont



Gulf States' weather watchers

Have you been to the library?

Freedom flight to America

PLAIN TALKS

August/September 1990 Volume 69 Number 5



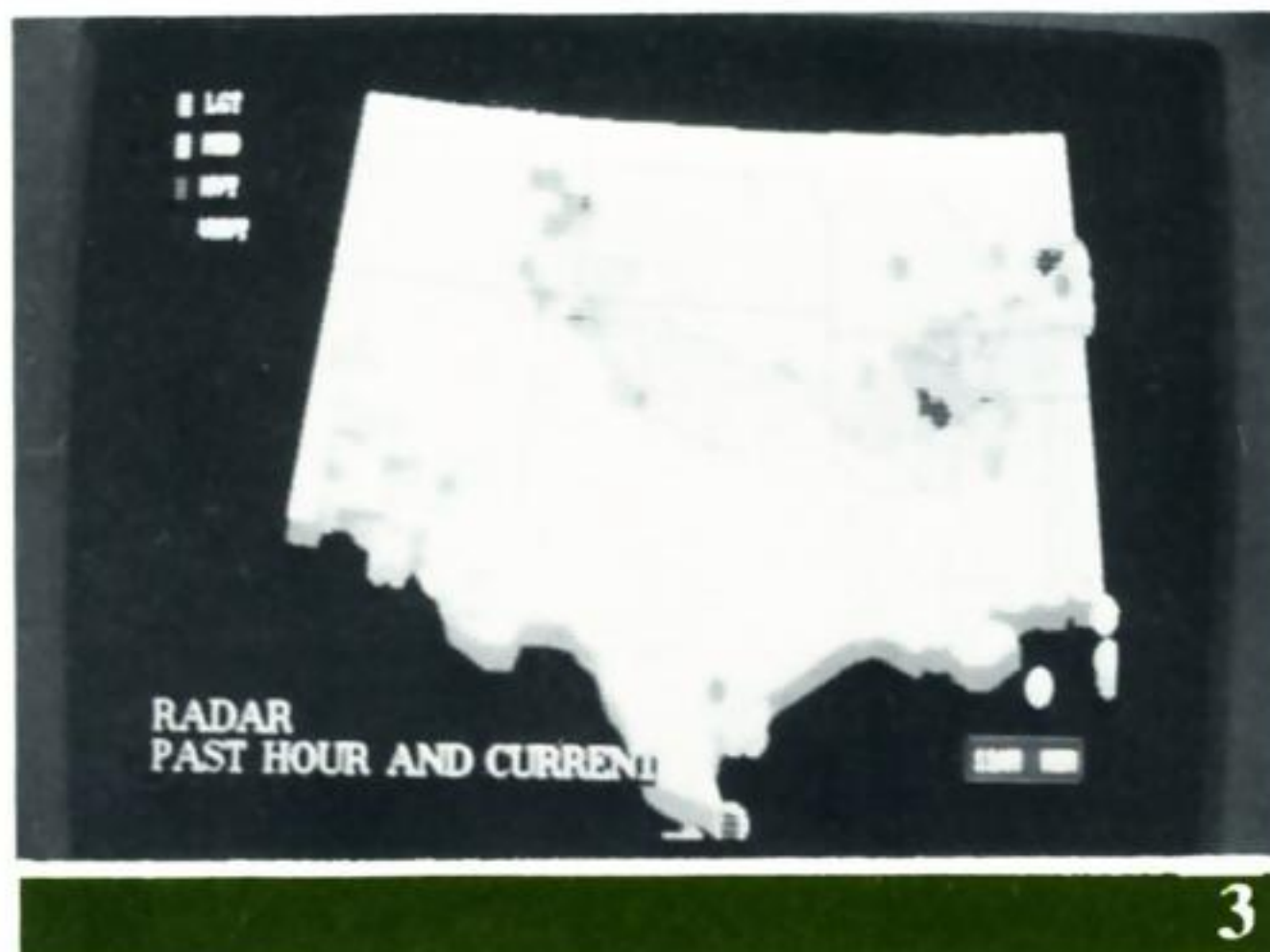
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About the cover

On Aug. 23, military troops and equipment from Fort Bliss and Fort Hood passed by Edison Plaza enroute to the Middle East. Due to the significance, we decided to replace our original cover photo with this picture. Although there was not time for a story, additional photos appear on the back page.



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Executive Editor:
Betty Gavora

Editor:
Scott Harper

Correspondents:

Vickie Albert
Michael Allen
Ronnie Bordelon
Mamie Burrell
Lisa Creekbaum
Betty Dickschat
Andy Dreher
Cherie Ducote
Sharon Englade
Donna Fancher
Pris Gallagher
Charlotte Gautreau
Susan Gilley
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Rick Hatcher
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Delores West
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Kerry Zimmerman

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

Today's forecast: Software improves storm readiness



Dale Fontenot checks the rainfall radar on the new software weather system located in the Energy Control Center.

story by Sharon Englade
photo by Scott Harper

Gulf States Utilities has a brand new weather system—just in time for the 1990 Hurricane Season that runs through the end of November.

This new computerized system, installed in the Energy Control Center in the Liberty-Pearl building this spring, replaces a local system that had been keeping system operators updated on weather conditions by telephone and facsimile machine.

The very same information, customized for GSU, is available from "The Weather System" and its WeatherCheck-2 software and is "real time," rather than delayed, according to Dale Fontenot, system analyst for power supply. The software is capable of showing where bad weather is happening—or expected—anywhere in the service area.

And when a sudden storm pops up, the computer audibly signals the system operators on duty.

The operators rely on The Weather System to judge the load for the day—how many kilowatt-hours are probably going to be needed, Fontenot explained. This weather tracking system, for example, could tell the operators there's no rain predicted for a hot summer's

day anywhere in the system and, therefore, they will need to keep all power plants on line. Or, bad thunderstorms over Western Division could mean one or more units could be allowed to coast down a bit.

"Another big plus for this system is that we can track down lightning strikes in real time," he says, adding that "this is very important to the system operators."

The operators can pinpoint lighting strikes and crews can be dispatched directly to the trouble spot, explains Bill Richard, manager-system operations.

Richard also points out by being able to accurately track bad weather systems, the company can predict when and where a storm is going to hit and can have crews standing by, ready to help with the restoration of power.

The lightning strikes "age" on the computer screen, Richard says, explaining that the color denoting the strike changes as time passes, enabling the system operators to track the direction of the storm.

"Eventually, we hope to have this system in T&D where it should prove to be an indispensable tool for the service supervisors," Richard predicts. "In

four or five years, we'll wonder how we ever operated without this system."

Fontenot says the company is "in the process of fine tuning the system" and is still working with the software vendor to arrive on an average temperature for the system. "While getting the Jefferson County Airport temperature is no problem, we need the temperatures from Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Galveston and Houston Intercontinental airports to arrive at an average," he says.

One piece of software includes a hurricane tracking map and both Fontenot and Richard mention that a program is being prepared to add "probabilities" to the forecast—what percentage chance, or probability, there is of a hurricane hitting landfall in any given location.

There's lots more information available through The Weather System, Fontenot says, including what the weather's doing along Interstate 10 from Los Angeles, Calif., to Jacksonville, Fla.

Yes, it sure would be nice to know that there's no fog along the Atchafalaya Spillway before you head to or out of Baton Rouge, wouldn't it?

Employees hike to summer camp



Dale Fontenot, far left, assists kids with crafts.

by Mike Rodgers

The children troop off into the forest under the watchful gaze of a group leader who is also a Gulf States employee. As they stare wide-eyed, sunlight peeking through the thick stand of trees turns the forest bed into a mottled display of green, yellow, brown and black. Soon, they're learning to identify leaves, insects and the ever-present Poison Ivy. Some of these children, raised in the city, were making their first trek into the countryside.

Beaumont Business and Education 2000, a group of 35 local business leaders including GSU president Linn Draper, sponsored the first-ever summer camp for at-risk 4th grade students in the Beaumont Independent School District. Many at-risk students come from low-income families, are

behind in school and have low self-esteem. Floyd Broussard, camp director, points out that these students rarely do exciting things, do not take vacations and often come from one-parent families struggling to make ends meet. "Our goal

"I hope I let them know that it's important to have fun in life."

Michael Linden

was to give them some enriching, educational and fun experiences which are success oriented." Broussard gratefully acknowledges the contributions of GSU employees who made up the bulk of the volunteers. GSUers served as group leaders, guiding the children to the various activities scheduled for

the week-long program.

Michael Linden, a marketing coordinator for Beaumont and Port Arthur, divided his time at the summer camp between leading the children in sing-along sessions and giving swimming lessons in the camp pool. For Linden, it was a rewarding experience. "I hope I let them know that it's important to have fun in life, that as they grow older and pursue their careers, they can still have this fun." Under Linden's guidance, the uncertainty evident on the youthful faces gave way to enthusiasm as they joined in on songs such as "Up With People" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." He noticed the changes a week at camp revealed in their attitudes. "They were withdrawn on Monday, but by Friday, all inhibitions



were gone and emotions were flowing freely.”

Carliss Jones, secretary, recalls that one purpose of the camp was to teach participants to work together. “In a game called Tug of Peace, they all sat in a circle around a large looped rope. When everyone pulled the rope at the same time, they pulled each other to their feet simultaneously. If one group member didn’t work with the others, the effort failed.” Jones says their desire to succeed at the various events was obvious. “They took great pride in what they could accomplish by cooperation.” Like Linden, Jones witnessed a change in attitude. One of her students, who was noticeably hostile and aggressive early on, eventually became very affectionate.

Sports activities were sched-

uled frequently, both to reinforce the concept of teamwork and to have fun. At any one time, groups of 10-year-olds could be seen playing volleyball, learning archery, basketball, jumping rope and more. Volunteers assisted students in making crafts and pottery.

“Many of the youngsters hadn’t learned how to work together,” observes Terry Haas, senior draftsman, who served as both a group leader and a sports activities guide. Haas echoes the comments of the others, noting that many of those who were with her began to develop a more positive outlook. “I tried to show them that there are ways to communicate besides fighting.” Looking back on the experience, she says they needed an adult figure to turn to for encouragement and support. Like Linden

Top left, Thomas Lightfoot, holding the ball, prepares to start the kids in a ball toss. Top right, Pam Sasser and Rhonda Walker with children in art class. Above, Walker helps the kids with the tug of peace.

and Jones, Haas hopes to return to the camp next year.

Check out the library



Left to right, Schexnaider and Smith. "We have access to a tremendous amount of information," says Smith.

story by Mark Viguet
photos by Scott Harper

People browse, perusing shelves filled with books, magazines and other periodicals. Some patrons, intent on investigating a specific subject, check the microfiche, reference section and card catalog. Others sit and read quietly.

Is this your local public library?

No. It's another work day at GSU's corporate library on the tenth floor of Edison Plaza.

"Hardly a week goes by without someone coming in who says, 'I didn't know this was here,'" says Gloria Smith, librarian. "And if they do know about the library, they often just think of the books on the shelves. But we have access to a tremendous amount of information."

"Too many people don't realize we have a library and what's available," says Bert Rogers, director-office services. "People who are new to the company or who have been transferred into Edison Plaza need to know about the re-

sources there."

Why does the company need a library? That's a question often asked of Smith, Rogers and Jamie Schexnaider, departmental clerk in the library. In fact, Schexnaider, employed by GSU in May 1989, was surprised to apply for a job in a company library.

"When I interviewed for this job, it had never even crossed my mind that GSU would have a library," Schexnaider says. "But now I realize the need for it."

"People will say, 'Why does GSU need a library?'—they don't realize that most large companies do have libraries for employees," Smith says. "It's necessary. We're here to provide information for employees to help them perform their jobs."

Rogers agrees, "A great portion of utility industry work involves research, for which the library is an invaluable resource. It's a centralized source of information important

to virtually any area of the company including accounting, engineering, production and marketing."

The nature of the utility business makes a library particularly useful.

"Regulatory requirements are a big part of our business—we live by regulations. Those requirements are usually published information that needs to be organized, filed and readily accessible," Rogers says.

The GSU library motto could be, as Smith says, "If we don't have it, we can usually direct you to a potential source."

"The Online Computer Library Center connects us to over 4,000 libraries across the nation, from which we can request a loan of a book or copy of an article or document," Smith says. "We also carry all types of directories that tell where to find specific information. The Edison Electric Institute is a good example. We have a directory of all their holdings which is



"Many people don't know about the magazines we have available," says Schexnaider.



Smith uses the Business Index to search for articles in various periodicals.

quite extensive and helpful."

In June, the company once again became a member of the Electric Power Research Institute. EPRI membership had been dropped during Project Save Cash.

"EPRI funds specialized utility research, and usually it is one of the only places to find that type of data," Smith says. "Interest in the EPRI offerings has been extremely high since we've rejoined. You can tell it's been missed."

Computer database searches provide access to multitudes of publications with the titles, updating schedules and similar information listed in various directories.

"We'll perform a search on request," Smith says, adding that the fees for searches are charged back to the employee's department.

Another important—and popular—library function is the processing of requests for work-related book purchases, magazine subscriptions and

company-paid memberships to work-related organizations.

"The most popular request we receive is to purchase a book or magazine subscription," Smith says. "It's important for these to be requested through the library, so we will know who gets what throughout the company. We're a central location to order these materials and keep track of them."

"We've had two people order the same subscription in the same department, but they didn't know it," Rogers says. "Centralizing those orders can save time and money."

Smith notes, "When an employee leaves the company, books and magazines purchased by the company return to the library for everyone to use."

In addition to current holdings, the library has an extensive inventory of microfiche that contains older publications.

Audiovisual materials are another library service.

"We loan overhead projec-

tors, slide projectors and cassette recorders, as well as video tapes and 16 millimeter films," Smith says. "We offer a lot of information here in many different forms that people just don't think about. But if they ask, we can usually help them."

That information includes self-help and personal growth resources, such as a collection of U.S. maps, encyclopedias, phone books, daily newspapers, physician's desk reference, a directory of toll-free telephone numbers, dictionaries and books on public speaking and other self-improvement topics.

"Employees who have never been here will walk in and ask if they can look around. That's what we're here for," Schexnaider says. "We try to show them generally what's available."

"I think it is very important for employees to explore the resources of our library and use them," Rogers says.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness



"Freedom means happiness," says Danny Tran.

story and photos by
Pris Gallagher and Scott Harper

Ask a first grader what Independence Day means and you're likely to hear, "It's a fireworks holiday." But ask Danny Tran about freedom and independence and he'll tell you, "It's the freedom to do whatever you want to do. It's the chance to improve your education."

And Tran should know. He became a naturalized citizen last year, culminating many years of efforts to escape communism in South Vietnam.

Tran, an LSU co-op student majoring in electrical engineering and computer science and currently working in the Baton Rouge Division Engineering Department, has an easy smile and a sense of humor which has helped him overcome obvious communication barriers. He's quick to share his story and say what life in a free country means to him.

"Freedom means happiness,"

says Tran, who saw his life change in 1975 with the fall of Saigon. His father, an undercover translator for the U.S. Government, was imprisoned by the Viet Cong, leaving his mother to support four children. Tran's brother was eventually arrested trying to flee the country leaving Tran, a sixth grader, no alternative but to quit school and help his struggling mother by selling items on the black market. Tran spent most days buying and selling such sought-after items as medicine, magazines, even rice, which was rationed after the Communists took control.

In 1982, without word to his family, he escaped. Seven days without food and water, with 281 other Vietnamese on an 18-foot boat, brought him to freedom in Indonesia, where he worked for two years, saving money for passage to America. He arrived in Florida in 1984

and worked as a cook for a year before joining friends in Louisiana.

But most Vietnamese were not that fortunate. About half of his fellow countrymen attempting escape died at sea. His own brother made 17 unsuccessful attempts before finally escaping communist rule.

After arriving in Metairie, La., Tran convinced the school system to test him for placement. He passed all requirements, with the exception of English, and was able to graduate from high school after only one semester.

With his father home after 14 years in prison, Tran looks forward to the day when his family can join him in America. But that requires money in the bank and stable employment. For now, his efforts are toward an education. His current college program in-



On a map of Vietnam, Michael Uy locates the snake-infested jungles he lived in while avoiding the Communists.



"Freedom is the most important thing for a human being," says Charles Bui.

cludes alternating semesters of college classes with semesters of practical work experience. Next spring will find him in Beaumont and the following fall at River Bend.

Michael Uy (pronounced "we"), Lamar University co-op student, in Beaumont, shares the same feelings as Tran about freedom. "In the United States, everyone has a chance to improve themselves and do or be whatever they want," says Uy.

Uy came to America in 1982, after a very trying escape. "On my first attempt to escape, I was caught and put in jail," recalls Uy. His mother paid the guard some money and Uy was released after three days.

Uy and two others then fled to the jungles of Vietnam where they lived for a year and a half hiding from the North Vietnamese. "We had a canal nearby that we would use to

hand-catch fish," says Uy. "Sometimes we didn't have any food."

Uy's younger brother would get some food to them, but mainly they ate the animals they could catch in the jungle. They stayed in the dangerous snake-infested areas knowing the North Vietnamese would not look for them there.

Uy's father was a police officer for the South Vietnamese Government and was immediately jailed after the fall of Saigon. In 1981, he was released and took his son and some others to the town of Vung Tau, within 100 miles of Saigon. There, they boarded a 25 ft. x 9 ft. boat to escape. Seventy-one people were on-board. "The night we left, the Communists spotted us and opened fire on us," says Uy. "Luckily, only one person got hit in the hand. He's in Australia now."

The refugees spent four days and five nights on the boat with no food and little water. "We were very hungry and thirsty. We prayed to survive and be alive. The women would pray to God that we would live while the men used buckets to dip water out of the boat."

An oil research ship came nearby and the refugees' captain purposely rammed their boat into the ship, spilling escapees into the ocean and causing the small boat to sink. "The ship had to pick us up or we would have drowned," says Uy. The ship took them to Indonesia where Uy, his father and brother, waited one year to get a flight to America.

Uy arrived in San Francisco, Calif., and then went on to Atlanta, Ga., where he, his dad, and his brother found employment. After three jobs, Uy decided to move to Port Arthur, where some of his friends lived,

"I remember my teardrops falling as I watched on TV when the flag of South Vietnam came down and the North Vietnam flag went up...I had lost everything...my country."

Charles Bui



"People shouldn't burn the American flag...If they had lived in a communist country, they would appreciate the American flag," says Uy.

to become a shrimper. "That didn't last long because I got too sick on the boats," laughs Uy. In 1986 Uy started school at Lamar University to become an electrical engineer.

Uy feels fortunate to be in America. "All Americans are lucky to be born here. You need to preserve this freedom; don't allow any Communists to come in."

Uy and Charles Bui, senior system planning engineer, Beaumont, also a Vietnam immigrant, revere the flag as a sacred symbol of one's country

and have strong opinions about flag burning.

"People shouldn't burn the American flag. If they don't like the flag, they should live in Vietnam or Russia," states Uy. "If they had lived in a communist country, they would appreciate the American flag."

Bui recalls, "I remember my teardrops falling as I watched on TV when the flag of South Vietnam came down and the North Vietnam flag went up on April 30, 1975. I had lost everything...my country."

Bui had an easier passage to America. His country sent him in 1972 on a government scholarship to study electrical engineering before Saigon fell. He was a First Lieutenant in the South Vietnamese Army.

"Freedom is the most important thing for a human being," says Bui. "It's very serious."

Bui came to Gulf States in 1979. "I really enjoy living and

working here. I have good people to work with and have real good friends. I never thought my coming here would happen."

Both American citizens, Uy and Bui are thankful and happy to be in the United States and have hope for the future.

"Anytime I hit hard times, I think back on the jungle and the boat and I realize I can do it," says Uy. "This country gives me a lot of freedom and opportunity to do things and I need to give back to it."

Bui hopes to show his children their "lives are worth something in America." "I tell them there is a lot of opportunity in this country. You have to use it.

"My daughter dreams of becoming a doctor," concludes Bui. "In America, she can do it.

"It would never happen in Vietnam."

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

May

1990

30 YEARS

Rosalie C. James
Division Accounting
Lake Charles
Clifton Etienne
Electric T&D
Lake Charles
Fedrick Green
Plant Production
Nelson Station
Limuel H. Jackson
Gas Department
Baton Rouge
Bert E. Rogers
General Services
Beaumont
William E. Heaner Jr.
Legal Services
Beaumont

10 YEARS

David L. Davenport III
River Bend Nuclear Group
River Bend
Wesley C. Lee
Plant Production
River Bend
Debra H. Green
Plant Production
Sabine Station
Maxie M. Rodriguez Jr.
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge
Steve R. Bernard
Electric T&D
Denham Springs
William E. Dugger III
Plant Production
Lewis Creek
Andrea R. Bounds
Electric T&D
Beaumont

Gary W. Creel
Plant Production
Neches Station
Annette L. Scott
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge
Marvin J. Spafford Jr.
System Operations
Beaumont
Calvin G. Walker
Electric T&D
Beaumont
James E. Gatlin
Plant Production
Nelson Station
Dennis A. Lytle
Gas Department
Baton Rouge
Sandra K. Gaspard
Customer Service
Beaumont
Daniel B. Gray
Fuel Services
Beaumont
James E. Hurley
Plant Production
Nelson Coal

Kutay O. Mahoney
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge
Gloria H. Smith
General Services
Beaumont
Terrence L. Pickle
Plant Production
Nelson Station
Sheila W. Burd
Human Resources
River Bend
Loyce F. Colbert
Division Accounting
Beaumont
Lisa G. Sherman
Rates & Regulatory Affairs
Beaumont
Carl D. Woodall
Engineering
Beaumont
Glenda B. Broussard
Plant Production
Sabine Station
Darrell C. Edmond
Electric T&D
Conroe

Safety awards show employee commitment

by Scott Harper

GSU employees are saying "Yes...to safety." Several awards were recently presented by Linn Draper, GSU chairman and president, recognizing outstanding safety performance.

At Sabine Station, Dr. Draper presented to Mike Kolbus, plant superintendent, the President's Safety Award for employees accumulating over 4 million workhours without a lost time accident. No other fossil plant in the company has ever reached the 4 million workhour mark. The previous record was held by Louisiana Station. "This record is especially significant in that you have achieved it during a

period when the plant has been called upon to produce power without letup," Draper told employees. "The need to keep the units running has placed great demands upon all of you, and I'm grateful for the effort you have put forth."

While at Sabine Station, Draper presented the President's Lifesaving Award to Bryant Block, mechanic helper. In September 1989, Block and his family were at church when his 4-year-old child, B.K., got a piece of candy lodged in his throat. Block remembered his training in the Heimlich maneuver and applied the abdominal thrust, popping the candy out. "I

know there is no amount of recognition that can produce the happiness you felt when you were successful in saving your child's life," said Draper. "However, I would like to add my thanks and congratulations by presenting you with the highest award I can bestow upon an employee."

In Baton Rouge, Draper presented safety awards to Louisiana Station and Baton Rouge Division. Each year, power plants compete with each other to see who can achieve the best overall safety record. Louisiana Station posted the best record among operating plants for 1989. "We can tell a great deal about a work unit by the results of their safety efforts," said Draper. Louisiana Station had no lost time accidents, no chargeable vehicle accidents, and only two minor doctor cases. "This was an extremely good record for a plant your size, and I congratulate you for a job well done," said Draper.

Baton Rouge Division received the President's Safety Award for being the safest division for 1989. The rating of Baton Rouge Division was 99 with the nearest competitor scoring 187. "Your safety record speaks highly of your quality as individuals and as a group," said Draper.



Draper presents Lifesaving award to Block at Sabine Station.



Left to right, Terry Hernandez, plant superintendent-Louisiana Station; Doug Watkins, vice president-Baton Rouge division; Draper and Mike Durham, manager-occupational health and safety, at the awards ceremony in Baton Rouge.

MAILBOX



Banner thanks

"Thank you for your support on out 5th Annual Mardi Gras Parade," writes Nelson Quibadeaux, secretary, Carencos Mardi Gras Association, Carencos, La., to **Melvin Clark**, service foreman, Lafayette.

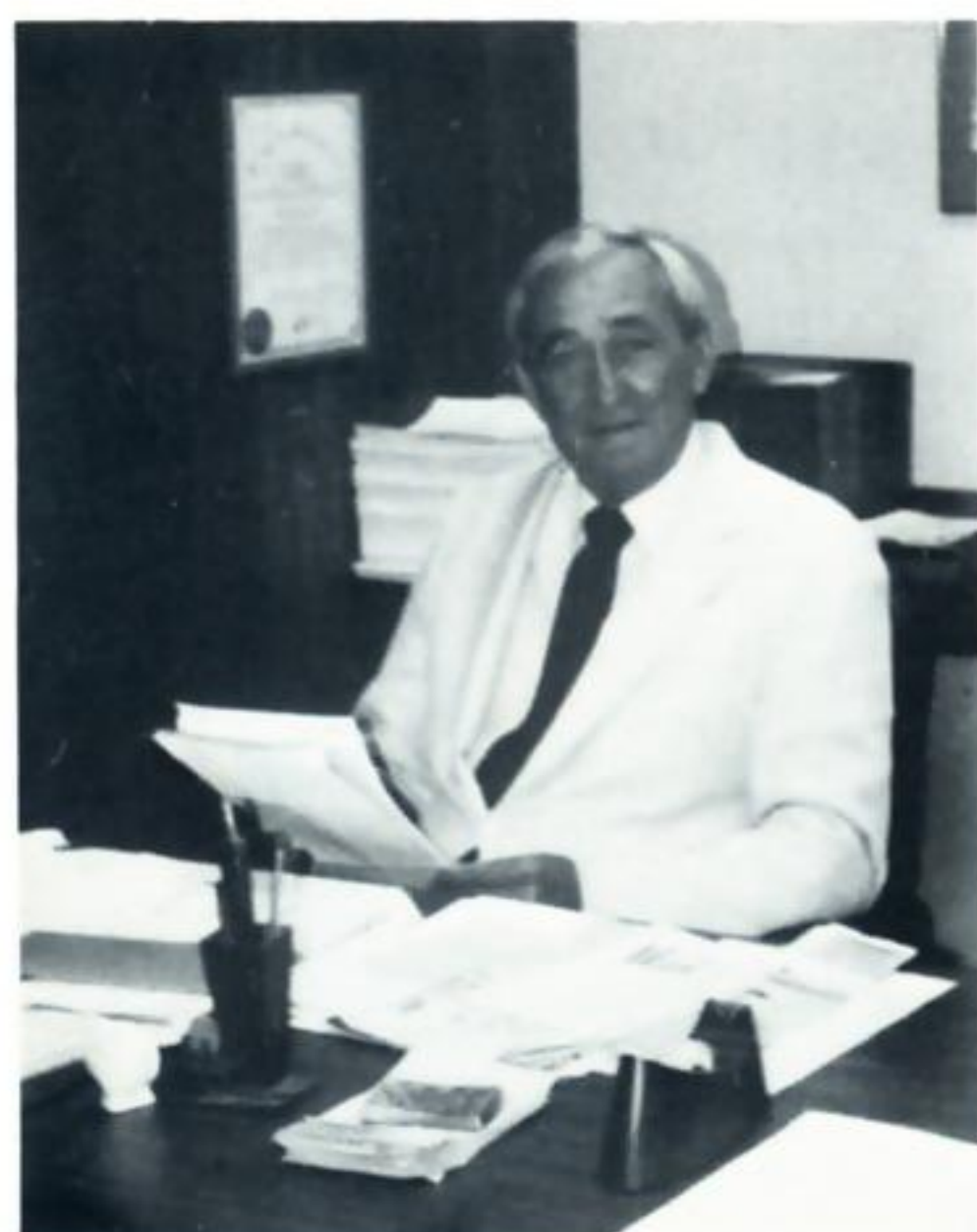
"The two banners that you hung entering our city really help inform people of our Mardi Gras Parade. Many thanks for your efforts."

Working together

Gonzales Mayor-Administrator John A. Berthelot writes this thank you letter to **Alvin Dragg**, district superintendent, and Gonzales employees.

"I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for the support and help you have given to the city throughout the year, i.e., hanging Christmas decorations, nets at the ball parks and many more projects.

"In order for a community to be productive and grow, it takes all of the citizens working together. GSU is an integral part of our community's activities and, again, we sincerely appreciate all of your assistance."



Dragg

Finding honesty

Van Hereford, division accounting superintendent, Baton Rouge, received this letter from Baton Rouge Customer **Ronnie Dauzat** regarding an overpayment.

"On Friday afternoon at around 4:30 p.m., I went to the GSU office on Plank Road and went through the drive through window to pay my bill (\$74.03). I gave the lady four \$20 bills for my payment, but also a \$100 bill that I had in the envelope. By the time I discovered the overpayment, the office had closed.

"Monday morning, I called the office and my money was returned. I just want to express my thanks to **Leona C. Wells** with this letter and to thank Gulf States, also. Honesty is hard to find these days."

Wells is a customer contact clerk in Baton Rouge.

School assistance

"On behalf of the staff at Dick Dowling Elementary School, I wish to thank you for allowing your employees' participation in the School/Business Partnership," writes **Norman Traylor**, principal, to **Dr. Linn Draper**, CEO and chairman. "Over 120 of your employees participated...This was more than any company in the program.

"The school received many benefits from the program that cannot be measured in dollars and cents. TEAMS test scores improved as a result of the tutoring provided by your employees... Others served as special friends and brought the special spark that was missing from many student's lives. During the cold of last winter, employees purchased coats for 10 students who did not have coats.

"You and your employees are to be commended for your interest and concern...I am convinced the problems in education will never be solved with money, but with the many human resources available from the business community."

Professional help

A.K. Roberts, Roberts and Associates, Bloomington, Calif., writes to thank **Michelle Borsky**, customer contact clerk, Essen Lane, for help in clearing up a communication error.

"Thank you very much for your assistance in helping us straighten out this situation as it is crucial for us to have continuous utility services...You were most professional in your help and not enough people credit those that help them."

Tourism support

"Many a day we write letters asking for this and that, but this note asks nothing but that you accept our sincere thanks for your generosity and support for the Tourism Awareness week functions this past May," writes the staff of the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau to **Becky Watson**, supervisor-customer services, Lake Charles.

"We offer grateful appreciation for the role you have played in enabling us to expose the local citizens to the importance of tourism...Your loyalty and confidence in our pursuits have contributed greatly...It has been a real pleasure to serve you, and we shall strive constantly to merit your friendship and untiring support."

Clear and to the point

"I want to thank you for the way your billing service is handled," writes **Catherine McManus**, Baton Rouge customer. "It is clear and to the point.

"What's really nice is the envelope which you furnish the customer (no tacky window with the address which has to show)."



Menard

Much appreciated

Maurita Menard, departmental clerk, Lafayette, received this note along with a bouquet of flowers from Customers **Mark and Lisa Broussard**. The couple was about to get married and needed service immediately. Menard helped get the job completed sooner than expected.

"Thanks to you and the staff of Gulf States Utilities for the rush on installing our electricity. It was much appreciated."

Community spirit

Johnnie Taylor, secretary, Human Resources, Beaumont, received this letter from **Gene Landry**, safety activities committee, E.I. DuPont Nemours & Company, Beaumont.

"Thank you for letting me use your videotapes on safe driving in order for our employees to be reminded of that element. The tapes did present the message that aggressive driving may be our mode, unless we consciously think about defensive driving.

"We appreciate GSU's community spirit and your contributions to our Beaumont society. We appreciate you!"

Employees discuss non-traditional roles at Career Day

Employees at River Bend took part in a Career Day program at Jackson High School in Baton Rouge which featured workers in non-traditional jobs. Sheila Burd, employee relations coordinator, recruited Glen Bergeron, departmental clerk; Cynthia Jones, repairman 2nd class-nuclear; and Peggy Fox, electrician 1st class-nuclear to speak to the high school students.

According to Burd, employees



L to R, Bergeron, Fox, Jones

discussed their own education, work experience, how they got into their fields, how they were hired by GSU and their likes and dislikes about working in non-traditional

jobs.

"The employees did an excellent job of stressing the importance of education and their careers," says Burd.

Beaumont Division Sideliners recently visited Big Bend National Park led by "Wagonmaster" Al Bowen, tour director for the group. Approximately 30 people toured the Y.O. Ranch in Kerrville, the Woodward Ranch in Ft. Stockton and then on to Lajitas. The group went rafting on the Rio Grande River, toured Big Bend, enjoyed a real chuck wagon cook-out meal and visited the McDonald Observatory and the Chisos and Davis Mountains. Everyone had a great time and can't wait for the next trip!



GSU Book of World Records

All of us have had interesting and unique experiences during our lifetime. While they may not be appropriate for The Guinness Book of World Records, they may be just what the "GSU Book of World Records" is looking for! Sift through the categories below and see if any apply to you. If so, fill in the appropriate categories, tear this sheet out and mail it back to Scott Harper-EP 8, **Plain Talks - World Records**. Our deadline for receiving entries is Friday, Sept. 28. Copies of this form will be accepted.

Name _____

Work location _____

Phone number/extension _____

Best "late to work" excuse _____

Most hot dogs eaten in one sitting _____

Most embarrassing moment _____

Movie seen the most times _____

Largest movie collection _____

Most states travelled to _____

Most countries travelled to _____

Lived in the most places _____

Lived in the most houses _____

Most positions held within the company _____

Most famous relative _____

Most unusual pet _____

Most successful diet _____

Tallest employee _____

Shortest employee _____

Most trophies _____

Largest fish caught _____

Longest telephone conversation _____

Most pets at one time _____

Lowest/highest golf score _____

Lowest/highest bowling score _____

Married longest _____

Most children _____

Most grandchildren _____

Most unusual collection _____

Most U.S. Presidents seen in person _____

Most unusual celebrity encounter _____

Most simultaneous magazine subscriptions _____

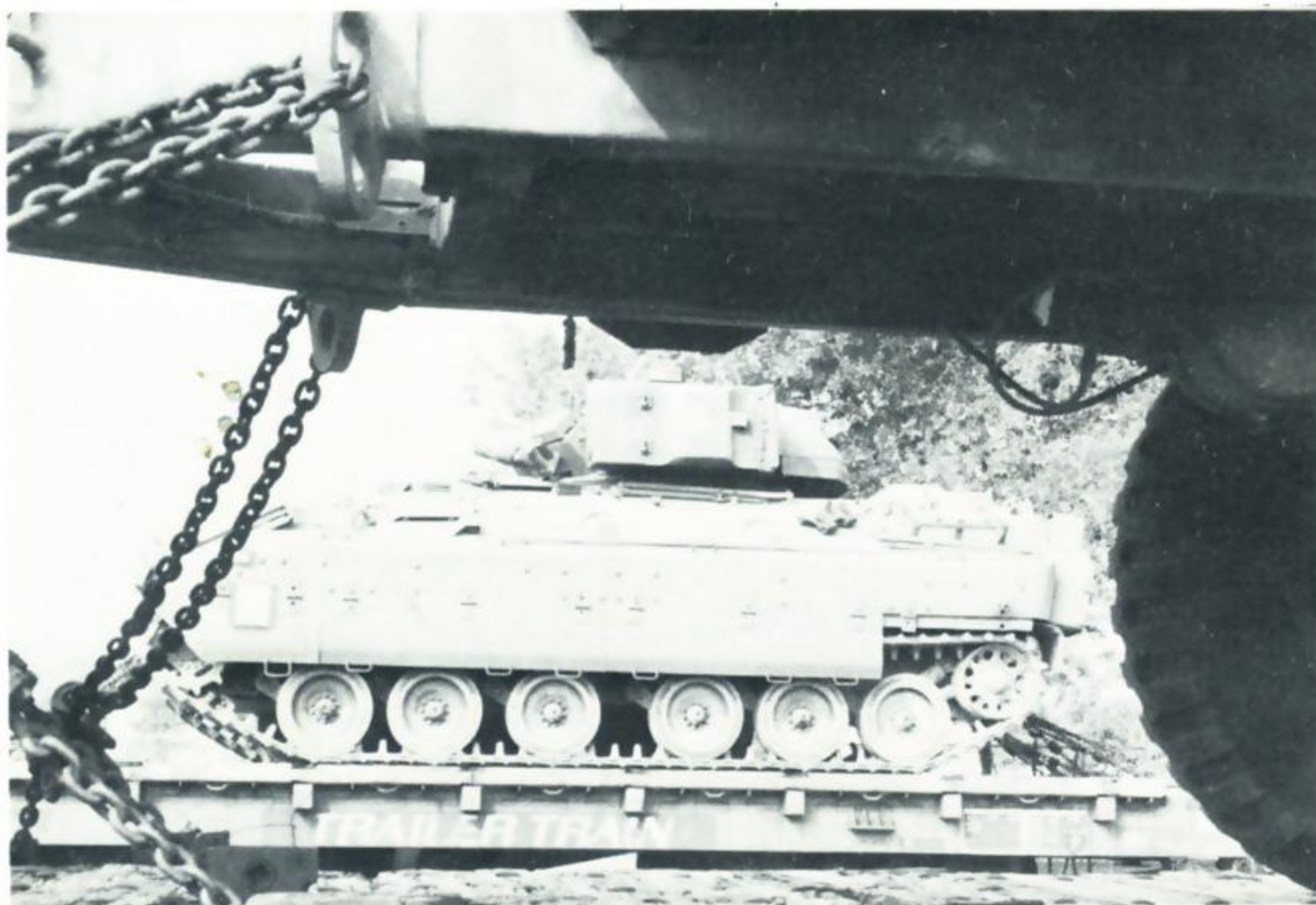
PLAIN TALKS

P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

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To date, several GSU reservists have been recalled to active duty. Relatives of numerous employees are serving in the Middle East. As additional information becomes available, it will appear in Newsbreaker. Photos by Scott Harper.