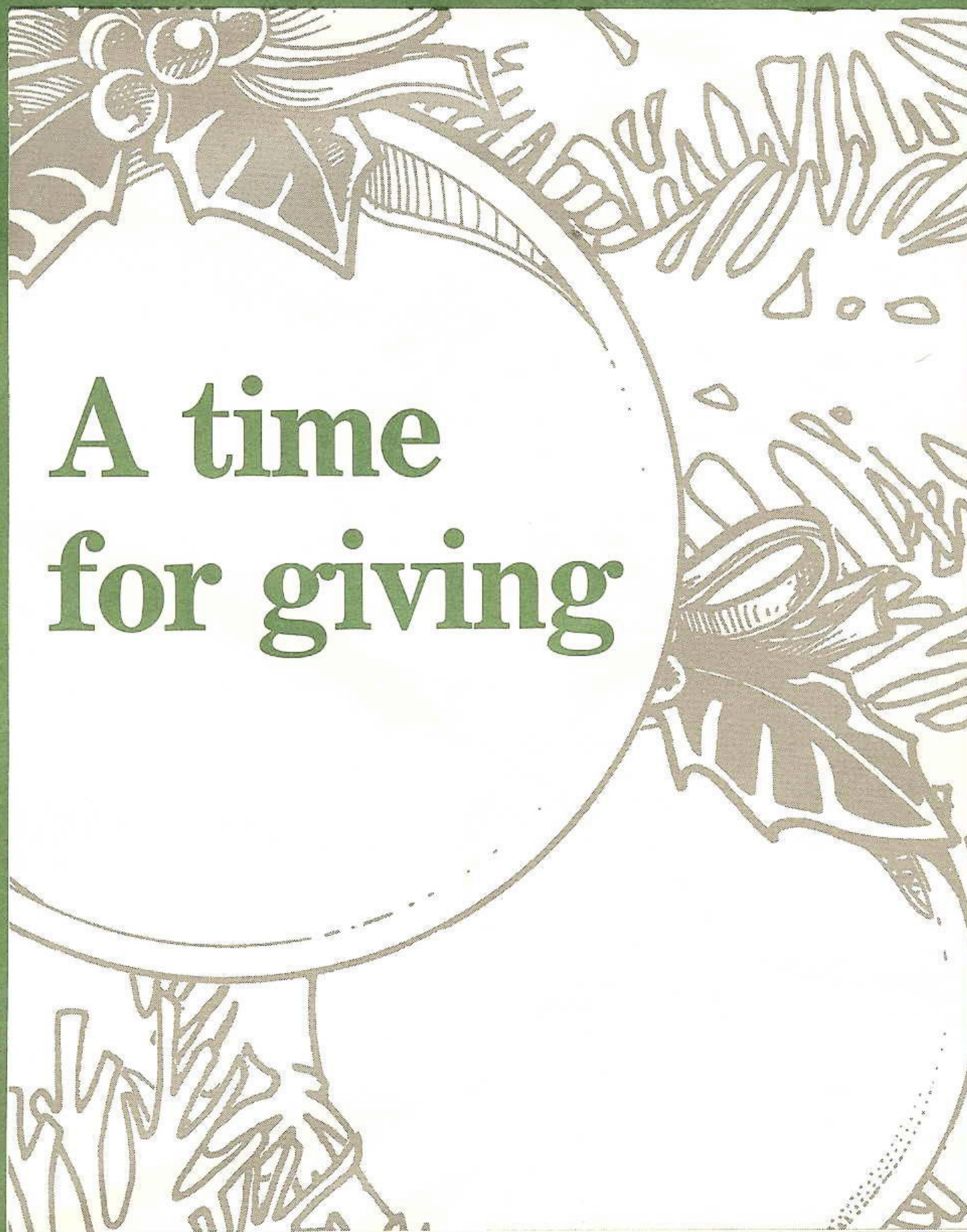


PLAIN TALKS

December 1985



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PLAIN TALKS

December 1985

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.

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change 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.

Customers praise restoration efforts

Editor's Note: Our service area was spared the worst of the damage from Hurricane Danny. But many GSUers worked hard restoring power in areas hit by Danny's accompanying storms. And their efforts did not go unnoticed. Here are excerpts from a few letters written by our customers...

Barry Thompson, president and general manager of radio station KAJN wrote GSUer Virgil Fuse-lier, stating "heartfelt thanks to you for the job you and your work crews did in getting power restored to our transmission site following Hurricane Danny. Our 100,000-watt FM station informs a large number of people. It was important for us to return to the air as soon as possible ... We, and our large listening audience, appreciate your help."

Al Dragg, superintendent in Gonzales, Louisiana, received thanks from Geismar businessman George Furlow. Mr. Furlow wrote "...thanks to the men of Gulf States repair crews for responding so quickly to restore power. I realize our neighborhood was not the only one out of power, which indicates these men worked hard and long hours getting power restored in the wind and rain."

Grand Coteau Mayor Peter Smith Sr. noted "There are times in our lives that we must give thanks for the many blessings we receive. This is the Town of Grand Coteau's time."

"During and immediately after Hurricane Danny, your crews were on our town streets. As many other towns in this area, we experienced a major outage. Grand Coteau is compiled of 90 percent historical structures; the Academy of Sacred Heart, an academic boarding school for

girls from many nations; our order of nuns, St. Charles College of Jesuits; and our many elderly citizens. Many have expressed that just seeing Gulf States' trucks on the streets gave them patience and confidence of safety. The workers were courteous, kind and very professional ... Please convey heartfelt thanks to all personnel from the many cities that truly do concern themselves for their fellow man."

Frances Willard of Lake Charles wrote, "I certainly appreciate you at Gulf States today. Thank you for restoring the electricity ... It was nice of Mr. Broussard to call to find out if my lights were on."

From Editor Jo Cart in the *Rayne Tribune*: "WELL DONE! We want to salute the Gulf States Utilities line crews for their extraordinary efforts in restoring power Friday, after a tornado ripped up the area and snapped several poles in half ... The fast restoration of power was only possible because they rerouted the electricity through other lines ... with the actual full repairs requiring round-the-clock effort throughout the weekend. Well done, GSU!"

The GSU Lafayette office received this note from a grateful customer: "I would like to take a moment and commend all of the employees of Gulf States Utilities. As one of your new customers, I was impressed by the response of your crews during our recent bout with Hurricane Danny."

During the storm an oak tree fell, breaking the lines leading to our home, as well as the home of a neighbor. The downed "live" wires were throwing sparks and arcs, and proved to be very frightening.

Despite the weather and being so busy with other problems, the men from GSU arrived within

minutes and prevented a possible disaster. Not only did they eliminate the danger, but after only a few hours they had diverted power from another pole so that we would have electricity.

It gives me a feeling of security to know that GSU is there whenever we need them.

Thank you and your dedicated employees for a job well done. We appreciate your time and concern in our time of need."

* * * *

Dear Gulf States Utilities Co.:

In these troubled times when I read so many adverse articles about your company, I thought perhaps you would like to hear something good for a change.

I live in a rural area where your transmission lines weave their way through trees which sometimes fall and take your lines down with them.

A few days ago it happened again. At 3:30 p.m., we had no water because the pump wouldn't run without your electricity. No television. No radio. Couldn't cook.

It's times like that when we realize how much your electricity means to us.

Your crew worked into the early hours of night and had the power restored in time for most of the Monday night football game.

Thank you, Gulf States, for being a good and dependable utility company.

The U.S. mail service has nothing on you — through rain and sleet and snow, etc.

Fred P. Coleman

THE COVER

December's holiday season is traditionally a time for giving. Beginning on page 10, read about employee efforts to improve our communities through contributions to the United Way and United Givers campaigns.



George Hickman, newly-elected BUCC president

GSUers receive professional honors

Gulf States employees have received recognition from various professional groups recently.

Jon Trevelise, assistant controller in Edison Plaza, was named an outstanding new seminar instructor by the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA). This award is given to two first-time teachers who receive participant evaluations of 4.4 or better on a scale of 5.0 for knowledge of subject matter and presentation skills. Trevelise taught a three-month course to GSU accountants preparing for the Uniform CPA exam.

Trevelise will also serve as chairman of the TSCPA's Public Utility Accounting and Auditing Committee and as director of the Southeast Texas TSCPA chapter for the 1985-86 term.

Don Ramsey, Port Arthur storeroom supervisor, was appointed area governor of Toastmasters International District 7. Ramsey, who has been a member of Toastmasters for three years, is currently serving as president of GSU's Beaumont Toastmasters.

As area governor, Ramsey plans to promote membership in the organization. He urges others interested in "learning how to speak out" to contact him for

more information about Toastmasters.

George Hickman, senior engineering assistant at the Beaumont Service Center, has been elected president of the Beaumont Utility Coordinating Council (BUCC). Hickman, a member of the BUCC since 1982, has also served as the council's secretary.

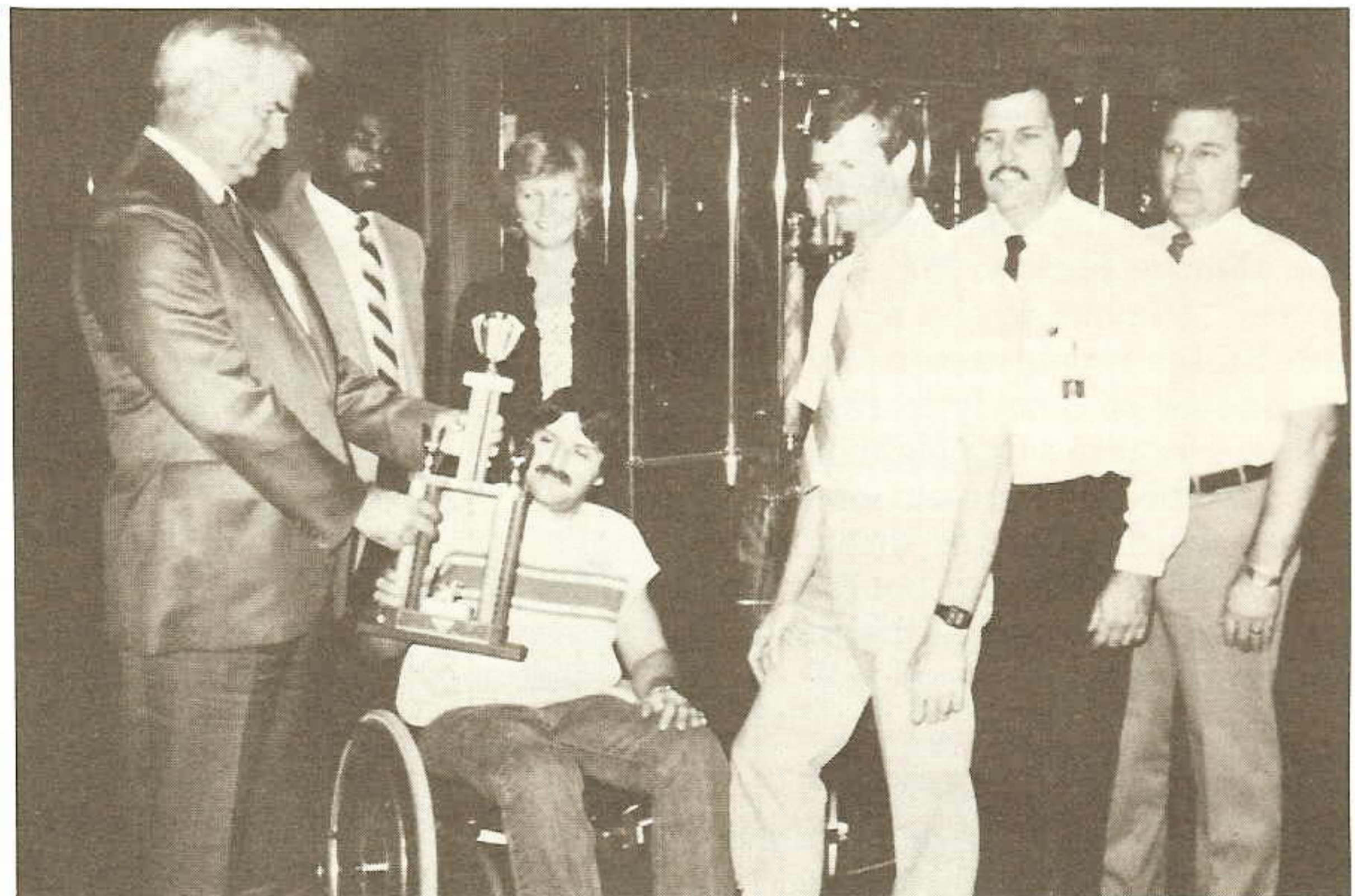
The BUCC coordinates work between area utilities to prevent damage to underground facilities. Other GSUers who serve on the council are Ken Gerstenberg, John Beard and Sherman Powell.

Employees donate to blood bank

Baton Rouge Division employees contributed 504 units of blood in their annual drive earlier this

year. Nearly 1,000 employees donated blood, qualifying them and their families for coverage. That coverage includes the contributing employees, their spouses, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren. Also, retired GSU employees from the Baton Rouge Division are covered. The bank was started in 1980 with the help of Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center Blood Bank.

Board members include: Chairman and Administrator Seigle Hunstock of Choctaw, Ralph Shirley of North Boulevard, Ron Blackburn of Essen Lane, Raymond Creel of Government Street, Ron Bordelon of Choctaw Gas, Marty Martin of Willow Glen, Vickie Albert of Louisiana Station, Joan Lundholm of River Bend and Floyd Gonzales, representing GSU's retired employees.



March of Dimes Walk-a-thon: Steve Bagley presents Senior Executive Vice President Ed Loggins with a trophy for employee participation in the annual walk-a-thon. GSUers made up nearly a third of the 1,000-plus participants. From left to right: Ed Loggins, Travis Harrington, Christine Partain, Steve Bagley, Maurice Sticker, Sam Adams and Gene Koci. Bagley completed the 10-mile course in his wheelchair. GSUer Christine Partain finished first among all female entries while Maurice Sticker was top finisher among male participants. Sam Adams was chairman for the event, and was assisted by Gene Koci and Travis Harrington.

Slogans increase safety awareness

Kathy Bourgeois was a winner in the Orange District safety slogan contest. Her slogan, "Safety is job #1, make it second to none," won her \$50. Ed Hutchins, district superintendent, presented Bourgeois with her cash prize.

Bourgeois is a senior district service representative in Orange.

Nelson Coal employee Oddie Powell Jr. entered a winner in the plant's safety slogan contest. His entry, "When in doubt, think it out," earned him dinner for two at the restaurant of his choice.

Powell is a planning coordinator at Nelson Coal.



Nelson Coal employees (from left) Frank Harelson, Jim Hannen and Kevin Gauthreaux.

Employees suggest winning ideas

Employees with an interest in improving productivity, saving time, money and materials and improving company operations found the Employee Suggestion Program (ESP) a rewarding experience.

Kevin Gauthreaux and Jim Hannen, both of Nelson Coal, received \$250 each for their suggestion to modify the fire eye tester card. Their idea provides a way to check and repair defective amplifiers and scanners. Frank Harelson, test and electrical supervisor, presented

the men, both test technicians-1st class, with their checks.



Beaumont Meter Department employees (from left) Chris Haskett, Byron Franks and Dale Jannise.

Three Beaumont Meter Department employees collaborated on an idea that improves meter testing standards. Byron Franks, Chris Haskett and Dale Jannise designed and built an automatic synchronous on/off switch for the shop test board. The switch eliminates the need for constant attention, freeing the tester for other duties.

Jannise is a utility foreman and both Franks and Haskett are metermen-2nd class. They all work at the Beaumont Service Center.

Robert H. Smith, Orange line foreman, received 3,500 safety bonus points for an idea he submitted to the ESP. Smith suggested that damaged floodlights be converted into trouble lights. The lights could then be used at night when making emergency repairs.



Robert H. Smith (left) receives safety bonus points from Herschel Stagner, assistant general line supervisor.

Yarbrough earns 'Gold Star Award'

John Yarbrough, consumer information coordinator in Baton Rouge, was presented with a "Gold Star Award for Marketing Leadership" for promoting heat pumps.

Jo Ann Smith, manager-consumer information, presented the award to Yarbrough at the first state meeting of the Texas Heat Pump Association on Oct. 24. She commended him for successfully marketing the heat pump in the Baton Rouge Division.

Yarbrough is an 18-year veteran of GSU.



John Yarbrough (left) receives a "Gold Star Award for Marketing Leadership" from Jo Ann Smith.

In memoriam

Plain Talks has received word of the following deaths:

Vernon J. Braud, 71, of Gonzales, Louisiana, died on Oct. 24. The former consumer services representative worked in Port Allen before his retirement in 1976. Braud completed nearly 43 years of service at GSU. He is survived by his wife, Odessa P. Braud.

Johnnie L. Williams, 59, of Silsbee, Texas, died on Oct. 9. Prior to his retirement, Williams was a utility serviceman in the Silsbee office. He retired in 1980 with over 37 years of service. Among his survivors is his wife, Fay S. Williams.

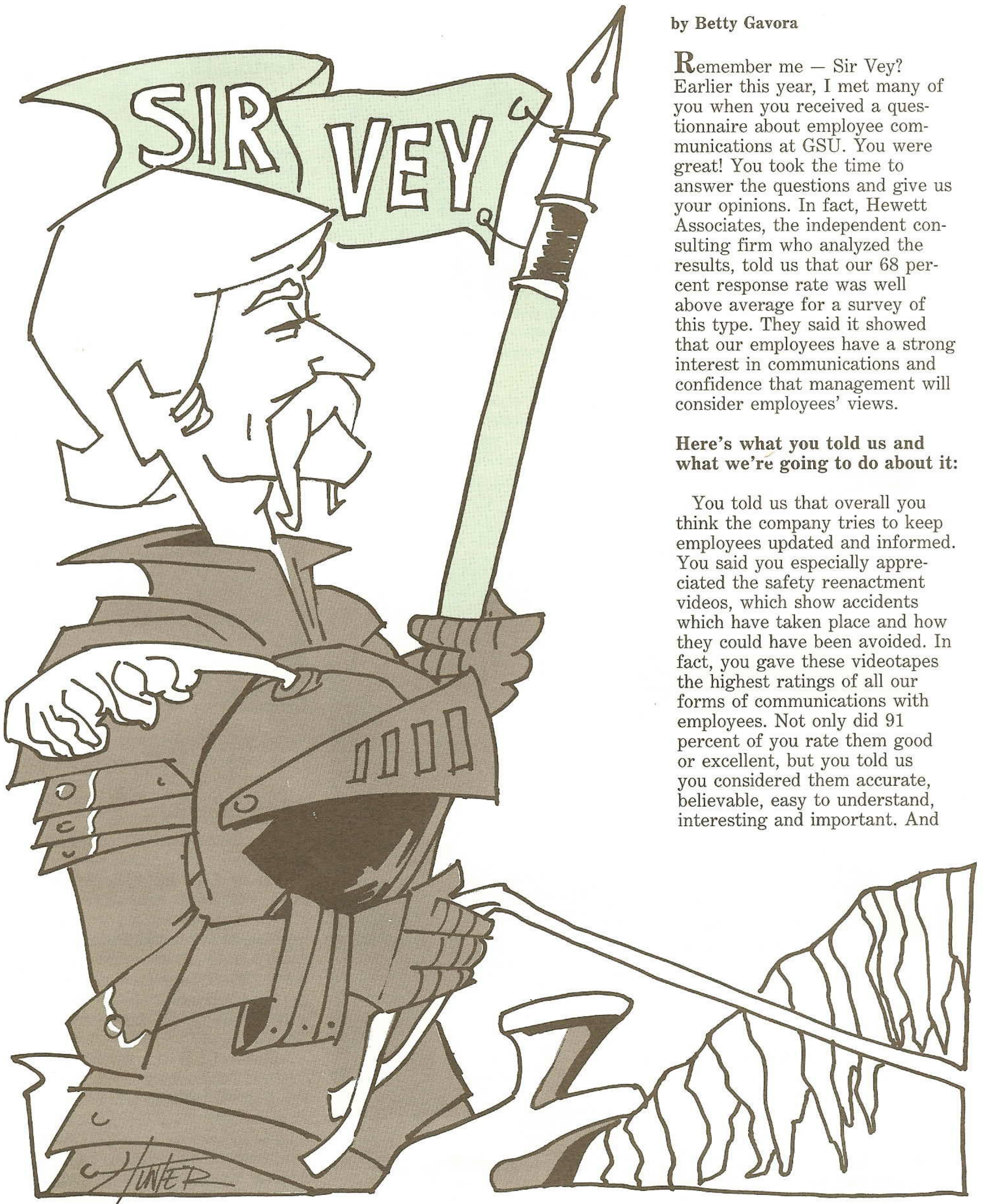
Sir Vey reports on

by Betty Gavora

Remember me — Sir Vey? Earlier this year, I met many of you when you received a questionnaire about employee communications at GSU. You were great! You took the time to answer the questions and give us your opinions. In fact, Hewett Associates, the independent consulting firm who analyzed the results, told us that our 68 percent response rate was well above average for a survey of this type. They said it showed that our employees have a strong interest in communications and confidence that management will consider employees' views.

Here's what you told us and what we're going to do about it:

You told us that overall you think the company tries to keep employees updated and informed. You said you especially appreciated the safety reenactment videos, which show accidents which have taken place and how they could have been avoided. In fact, you gave these videotapes the highest ratings of all our forms of communications with employees. Not only did 91 percent of you rate them good or excellent, but you told us you considered them accurate, believable, easy to understand, interesting and important. And



communications study

most significant of all, 66 percent of you told us that seeing one of these videotapes had caused you to adopt safer work habits. That's wonderful.

You also positively rated *Plain Talks* and *Newsbreaker*. There, again, you said they were accurate, believable and easy to understand. After your supervisor/manager and other employees, you said that *Plain Talks* and *Newsbreaker* were your next two most frequent sources of company information. But you told us you'd like still more company-oriented news in *Plain Talks*, and we plan to give you just that in the months to come.

As far as *Newsbreaker* is concerned, you said you like the short stories and timely information it carries. Over half of you read all of *Newsbreaker* and the majority of you read some of the stories in it. But some of you told us you thought we could improve on the way it is distributed. So, we have updated our distribution for *Newsbreaker* and will post it on company bulletin boards in the future so you'll be sure to have a chance to read it.

The Energy People video report is only two and a half years old, but those of you who have seen it tell us you are impressed with its professionalism. You tell us that *The Energy People* videos give you a better view of what's going on in the company. You say, "It sticks with you better than reading it in a magazine because you can see it — it makes more of an impact." In fact, many of you who have seen *The Energy People* say that seeing a story sequence has caused

you to act differently in your jobs. Someone said, "When you sit at a desk, you have no idea of what others are going through. This allows you to see it and feel proud."

Since some of you did not like the "PM Magazine" format, we are going to be trying a more news-oriented ("20/20 Magazine") approach for future editions. We'll be interested to know what you think of it. Also, you suggested that we use *The Energy People* more often to give you upper management's thoughts on various matters, and we will try to do this. Another suggestion was that from time to time you would like to see segments on work performed at various locations and by various groups of employees. With that in mind, our next edition will feature "a day in the life of a lineman."

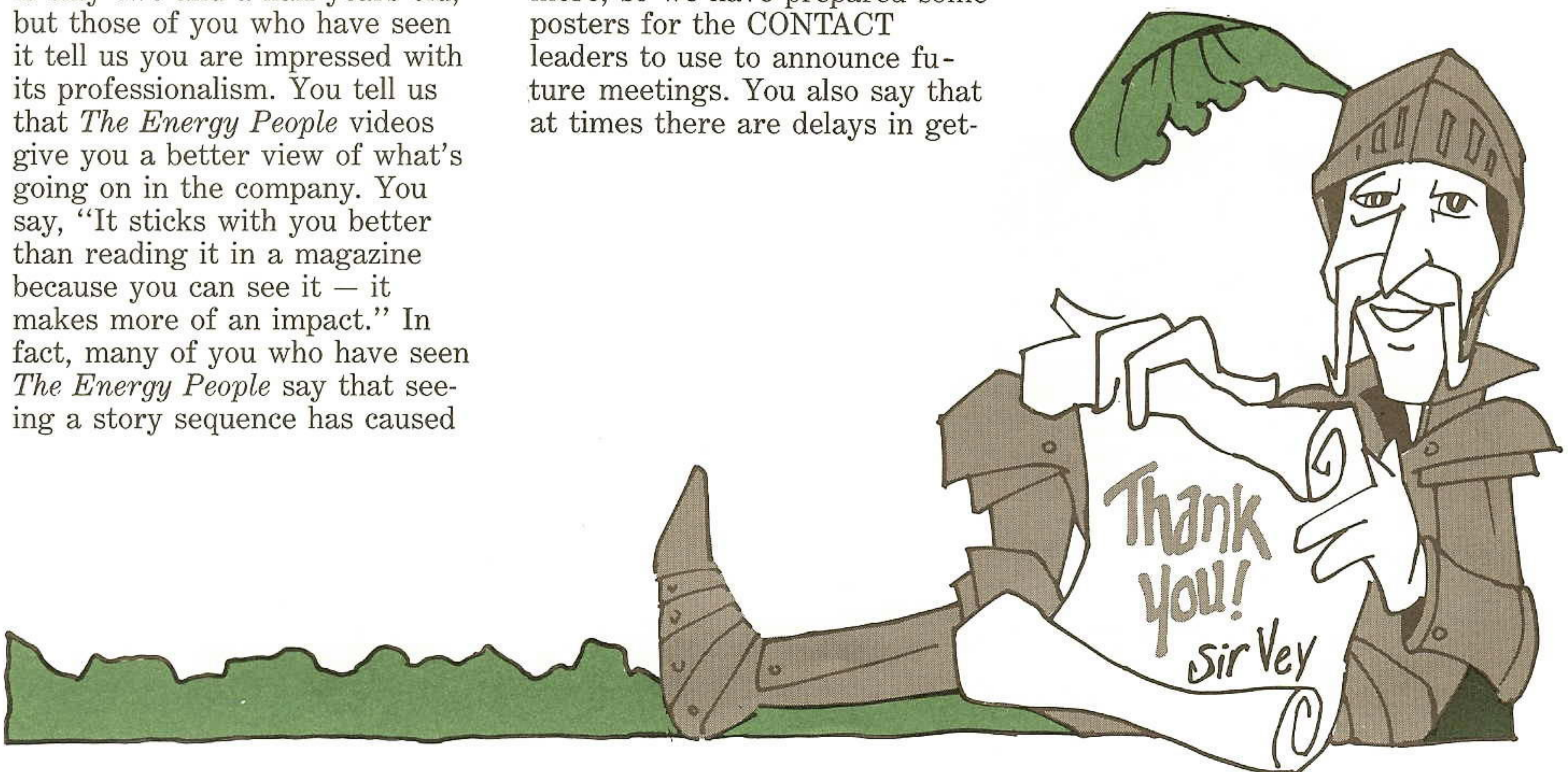
In giving us your views on the CONTACT meetings, you tell us that you consider the information discussed important. A majority of you say that the topics are dealt with satisfactorily and that the CONTACT leaders do a good job. Some of you tell us that we need to publicize the meetings more, so we have prepared some posters for the CONTACT leaders to use to announce future meetings. You also say that at times there are delays in get-

ting answers to your feedback questions on CONTACT topics, so we have refined our system of handling these questions to help you get these answers as soon as possible.

From your comments we can tell how safety conscious you are and that you understand the company's concern about your safety. We are pleased to hear that you think the safety reenactments are impacting you in a positive way. One person told us: "Safety films/videos teach you things that stick in your mind. It's a love-hate relationship. You want to see it but hate to, because people you know get hurt."

Since you don't want any changes in the safety reenactments, we plan to keep on with them as we have in the past.

Finally, we want to again thank all of you who answered the questionnaire. We appreciate your sharing your thoughts with us. We are listening and will try to use your input to make employee communications at GSU better and better.



Children learn safety message

by Mike Rodgers

Louie the Lightning Bug wants children to be very careful around electrical equipment. His songs about safety are familiar to many youngsters in the GSU service area who see him on Saturday morning television.

The animated Louie cautions against such dangers as playing with downed electrical wires, climbing trees near power lines and flying kites near them. The cartoons, originally produced for Alabama Power, have won several national awards.

In an effort to bring Louie's safety message to the younger set, GSU and a Beaumont rock radio station jointly sponsored a live appearance at a local shopping mall. The radio station mascot, a bee, would begin some-



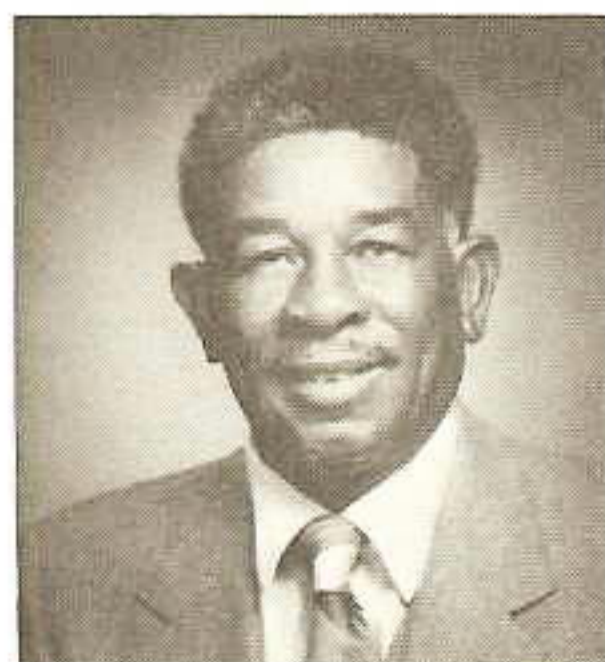
Louie the Lightning Bug

thing dangerous, only to be corrected and shown the proper way by Louie. "We found out that Louie the Lightning Bug is very popular with young children," says

Henry Joyner, administrator-advertising and financial information. "They know who he is and listened to his message on the importance of safety."

SERVICE AWARDS

40 years



Alfred Joseph
Electric T&D
Beaumont

10 years



Priscilla W. Gallagher
Public Affairs
Baton Rouge



Paul Granger of Lafayette helps keep GSU vehicles and equipment in running order.

First-class communicator

by Susan Gilley

Paul Granger's hands are skilled at repairing GSU vehicles and equipment.

But the Lafayette garage mechanic-1st class is an equally skilled communicator.

A 24-year GSU veteran, Granger worked as a sugarcane farmer, spent two years in the U.S. Army and then spent nearly 10 years working as a mechanic for auto dealerships before joining Gulf States.

He sought the change, he says, because the company offered him a chance to continue doing what he loved to do, but with increased benefits and job security.

Although Granger has never had formal speech training, he serves as an Employee CONTACT Program leader and leads CPR and first aid classes

for GSU and the Lafayette chapter of the Red Cross.

The most recent CONTACT topic — "River Bend and Rates" — marked Granger's first time as a leader. "We had a *good* topic," he notes enthusiastically.

Granger's enthusiasm spreads to almost any topic he discusses, and apparently at least one of his three grown children shares his belief in GSU. His son, Mike, is a meter reader in Lafayette.

"I think that Gulf States is one of the best places to work that I know of. I am what I am because I work here," Granger adds.

"It's like a family here. We're like brothers and sisters — in essence, that's it."

Success at work doesn't just happen, however, he cautions. "You make it what it is. Keep the right attitude and people almost always respond to you

that way."

Besides his GSU family, Granger also takes pride in his real family.

He and his wife, Roberta, are members of St. Elizabeth Seaton Catholic Church. While both see a lot of their four grandchildren, Mrs. Granger has begun a new life as a freshman at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. She's presently taking classes in general studies, but plans to earn a degree in horticulture.

The couple apparently shares a love for the earth. Granger has not quite severed his farming roots, since he cares for the livestock on the 40-acre family farm he manages for his brothers and sisters in nearby St. Martin Parish.

United Way/United Givers campaigns



GSUer Pat Ringler stands in front of the Central Day Care Center in Beaumont, a United Way-sponsored agency. The center serves 63 children, ages 18 months to 6 years, who are in danger of abuse and/or neglect, children who are recipients of federal aid and children of low-income households. Ringler, rate engineer, will chair the 1986 United Way drive for Beaumont and North Jefferson County.

The holiday season is a time for giving.

And GSUers across the system must have thought about the approaching holidays during recent United Way and United Givers campaigns.

This year's United Way theme — "More than ever" — seems to sum up the thoughts of employees who organized, collected and contributed to the drive. Many groups, at both department and division levels, met or exceeded their goals for participation and fair share pledges.

The Beaumont Division Substation Dept. distinguished themselves early in their United Way campaign. Everyone in the department contributed to the drive, with 100 percent of them pledging fair share.

Contributions like theirs assist agencies that meet a number of community needs. Young and old, the handicapped, families and individuals benefit from employees' donations.

Mike Shingleur, co-chairman for the Baton Rouge Division United Way campaign, points out, "This

drive helps agencies like our local Cancer Society. And I can't think of anyone whose family hasn't been touched by cancer."

GSUers, through their support of these campaigns, make their communities a better place to live. Totals for various campaigns throughout the company were not available at press time, but one thing is certain. GSU employees traditionally make United Way and United Givers campaigns "a time for giving."



Most of the employees of the Beaumont Division's Substation Dept. were present when Division Vice President Arden Loughmiller (far left) presented the group with a special plaque. The plaque honored the group for 100 percent participation plus 100 percent fair share pledges.



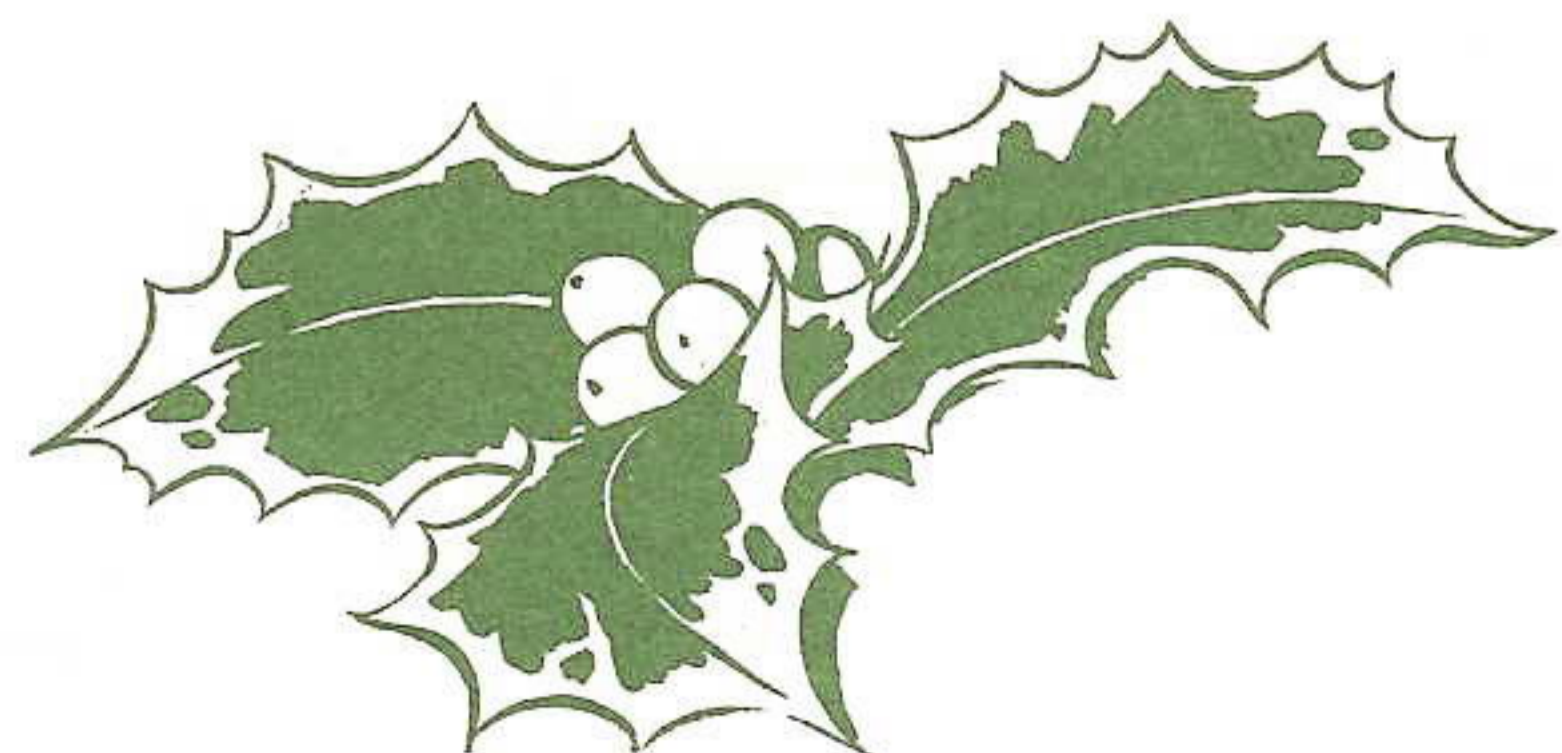
GSUer Virgil Fuselier (far left) and Gordon Roy of the Trans/La Gas Company (far right) present John Hollier and Melvin Clark with a special plaque recognizing Lafayette District employees for their 100 percent participation in the United Givers Fund (UGF) drive. Fuselier and Roy were co-chairmen for the UGF for Public Service Utilities. Clark, serviceman-1st class, served as GSU chairman for our employees' UGF drive while Hollier, senior engineering assistant, was co-chairman.



Kenneth Shaver (left) and Phil Jones visit the Friendship Center in Conroe, a United Way-supported agency providing community-based services for senior citizens. Shaver, lineman-1st class, organized Western Division employees' United Way campaign, with the help of Jones, consumer services representative.



Rosalie Bamber of the Cancer Society of Greater Baton Rouge (far left) shows GSUers Gerald Duplechin, Donna Bush and Mike Shingleur some of the supplies the agency provides for area cancer patients. The Cancer Society of Greater Baton Rouge serves the community through cancer education programs, limited assistance for home cancer patients, and sponsors research through special grants. Duplechin, repairman-1st class, served as overall chairman for GSU's Baton Rouge Division, Bush, energy auditor, and Shingleur, building and grounds maintenance man, assisted.



GSU sponsors 'venture capital night'

by Susan Gilley

Gulf States took the lead in sponsoring a night at the East Texas Venture Capital Group (ETVCG) in mid-October, reports Sheri Kysiak, GSU economic development specialist.

As a result, eight people presented their money-making ideas to the group. The ETVCG board of directors considered the event such a success that they plan to hold a corporate-sponsored meeting once each quarter.

The aim behind the company sponsorship was for GSU employees to bring together people with business ideas and people with money to back such projects. "If even one of those small

businesses commercializes or expands, GSU will have a direct benefit — that firm will need electrical service," Kysiak explains.

In addition to spreading the word about the session, the GSU economic development group helped participants prepare their presentations. "They can't make a formal offering — that would violate Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations — but they can present facts about their proposal."

Even so, privacy is an important part of the ETVCG program. "For one thing," Kysiak notes, "if you're an entrepreneur or inventor with a unique new idea, you don't want somebody else stealing your concept."

Those who finance such ventures often want to do so quietly, too.

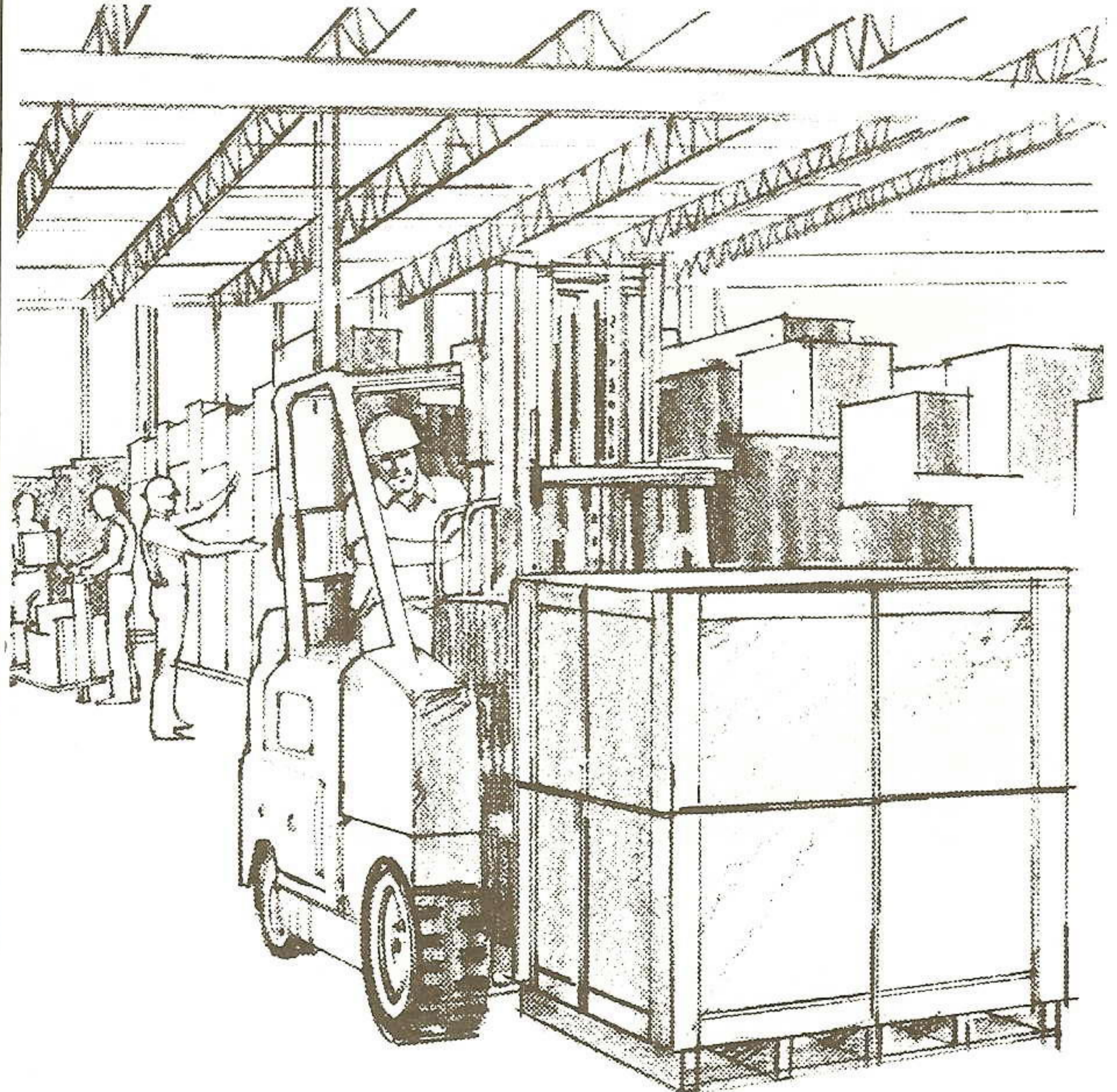
However, Kysiak says the projects presented at the October meeting were quite diverse, ranging from expansion of a computer-based company to establishment of a manufacturing and distributing business for a mechanical seal. Smaller-scale proposals included expanding a catering business and manufacturing Christian theme T-shirts for sale in religious book and gift shops.

Guest speaker for the event was Mike Barbour of Houston, president of Surgi-Medics. According to Kysiak, Barbour said he was excited by the "entrepreneurial spirit" of the Triplex.

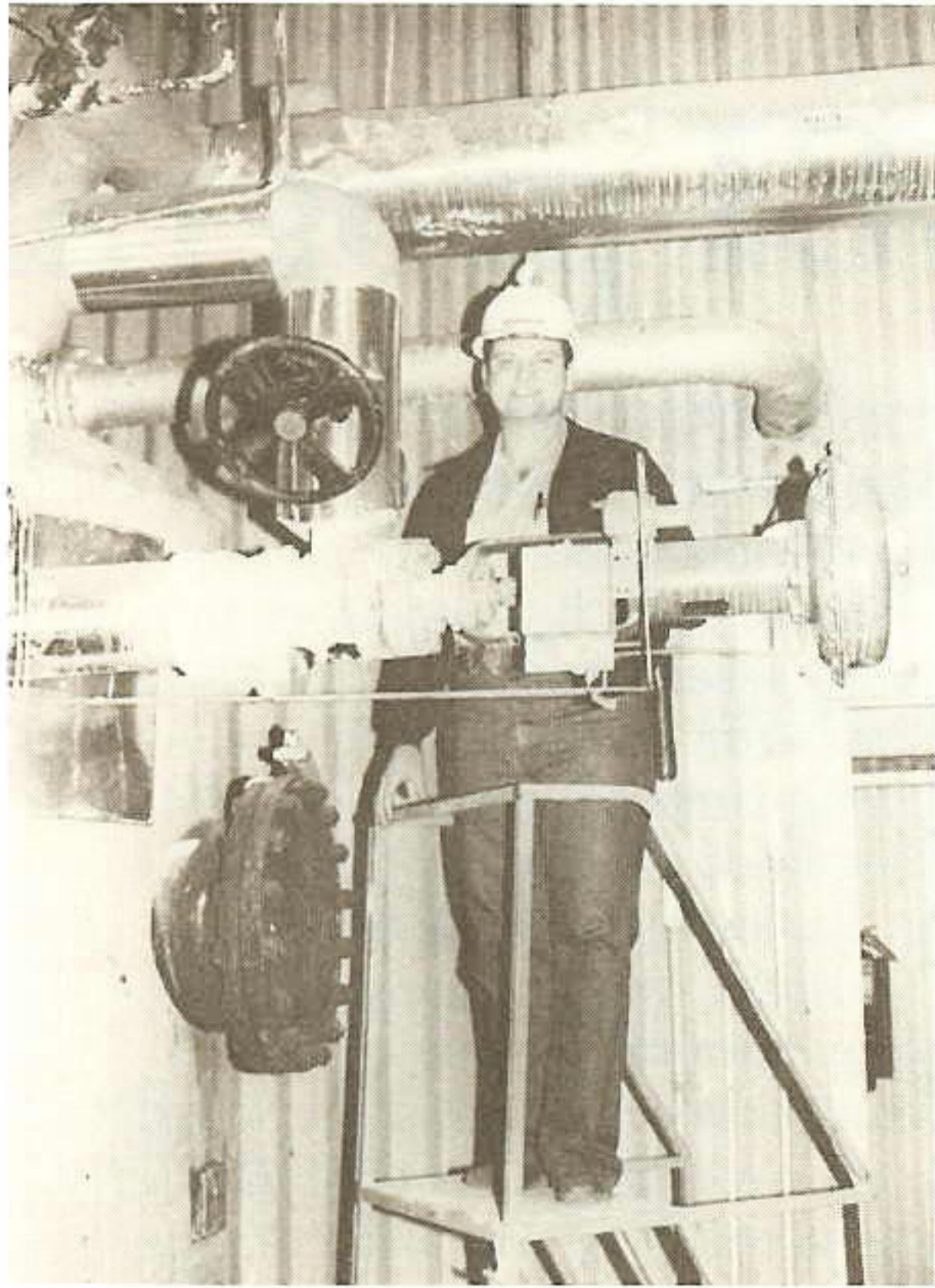
East Texas Venture Capital Group, Inc.

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Proposals made during the GSU-sponsored meeting included a manufacturing idea and several service company concepts.



Lloyd Dawson stands behind the control valve installed on Sabine's Unit #3.



O.V. McNeil (left) and Dawson

Idea benefits GSU, Project CARE

by T.J. Reyes

Long before the Exxon contract expired, many GSU employees sought ways to soften the blow when 20 years of cheap gas would end. Among them was Lloyd Dawson, Sabine Station equipment operator.

In 1983 he developed an idea for a boiler modification that has now won \$500, the largest cash award allowed, in the Employee Suggestion Program (ESP).

Backed by 14 years power plant experience — 10 years in the U.S. Navy and four years at Gulf States — Dawson is no stranger to power plant operations. He suggested installing a control valve in the boiler blowdown line. The valve would allow operators to automatically control and reduce the amount of blowdown, a necessary function but usually considered a loss of heat energy.

Drum-type units "blow down" heated water to remove contaminants that collect in the boilerwater. Otherwise those impurities form a deposit that insulates the tubes, causing overheating. Tube failure from overheating is a potentially expensive repair job since downtime means lost generation. Dawson theorized that con-

trolling and reducing the amount of blowdown would limit the loss of heat energy.

But he realized that the cheap Exxon gas made payback time for the valve and installation too long to be cost effective. However, current gas prices greatly increase the potential savings in fuel costs. Savings, he points out, that could be extended to similar units throughout the company.

"The idea first took shape during graveyard shift discussions with Kearney Gravis," Dawson recalls. "But O.V. McNeil contributed so much that I can't claim total credit for its success."

McNeil, unit supervisor for Sabine's #3, found Dawson's suggestion so promising that he helped finetune the valve and installed one on the unit he oversees. Since then, the unit's operators have been able to reduce the amount of blowdown from 7,800 pounds per hour to 4,000 pounds per hour. Verified by GSU's Performance Engineering, that reduction has shown improvement in the unit's heat rate.

The two men believe the amount of blowdown could drop more, increasing fuel savings even further. "We'll be testing this

valve for bottom limits as time goes on," vows McNeil.

Dawson points out there are other benefits from using the valve besides fuel costs. Additional savings result from using less boiler chemicals that are needed to treat the same amounts of boilerwater. Also, unit availability increases when the chance of a tube failure is reduced.

The joint effort in developing the idea to its present stage continued when the men decided on what to do with the cash award. Sabine Station Superintendent Wes Schattner helped the men donate the entire amount to the Red Cross for distribution through Project CARE.

Mike Durham, manager-occupational health and safety and ESP coordinator, praises the men for their "significant cost-saving improvement in GSU's operations at the plant." He adds that the donation to Project CARE shows Gulf States employees care about our elderly and needy customers.

According to Durham, "We are very thankful to have employees who are interested in improving the quality of our work at GSU and the quality of life for those less fortunate than themselves."

Employees field-test EEI program

by Mike Rodgers

“The elderly want to be treated the same as anyone else,” advises Shirley Taylor, training representative in Baton Rouge. “There’s sometimes a big difference between the way others see them and the way they see themselves,” she adds. In September, Taylor brought together some Baton Rouge Division employees who have regular contact with the public and

tested a pilot program to help bridge the gap with elderly customers.

“Gulf States was one of only two utility companies in the United States to field-test this program,” says Mildred Tribble, assistant to the vice president-marketing. The Edison Electric Institute (EEI), a utility industry trade association, worked with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to co-sponsor the program. The Center

for Aging at North Texas State University developed the materials used in the session. Tribble calls it “an effort to combine research in aging with the concerns of the AARP and at the same time help utilities meet the needs of elderly customers.”

Taylor assembled energy auditors, meter readers, line department personnel and customer accounting clerks to talk over problems of the elderly. As a result of her efforts, she offered suggestions to improve the overall structure of the program and the materials presented. Now the Elderly Customer Awareness Training Program will be offered to other utilities around the country through EEI.

By understanding their needs and becoming sensitive to them, GSU employees can serve older citizens better. The training program includes special suggestions on helping elderly customers. For example, giving them more time to answer the door, being patient, asking probing questions when they call with a problem, helping them get the point across or recommending an agency that can help them in the event GSU is unable to do so.

“Don’t talk down to them, but do remember that they have special needs, such as impaired mobility, that are a natural part of the aging process,” cautions Lloyd Hebert, supervisor-consumer affairs. One of the most common misconceptions about older citizens is their number. By the year 2000, they will account for 13 percent of the population, up from 11.5 percent today. This kind of growth means that utility companies will have more elderly customers in the future. Says Taylor: “The elderly need to know that someone is interested in their problems. It’s really a matter of remembering the Golden Rule.”



Correspondents provide communication link

Plain Talks correspondents serve as a news link for their work location, helping to provide coverage of events around the GSU system.

Pictured here are four employees who have not appeared in previous articles identifying correspondents. They, or any of the *Plain Talks* correspondents, will be happy to discuss your story suggestions.

If you have a photograph or story idea for *Plain Talks*, see your local correspondent. You can find a complete listing of current correspondents on the inside front cover of this magazine.



Test your elderly awareness

How much do any of us know about aging? Surveys seem to indicate that we are all the victims of many common misconceptions. Test your knowledge on this true-false test. The answers are below.

- T F 1. Most older people live in homes they own.
- T F 2. Ten percent of the aged are in nursing homes.
- T F 3. Senility is common in old age.
- T F 4. About four out of every five older persons are healthy enough to carry out normal activities.
- T F 5. Life expectancy has increased about as much as it is likely to.
- T F 6. Most older women are widows.
- T F 7. In older people, reaction times are slower than in younger people.
- T F 8. Older people today frequently feel more isolated.
- T F 9. Older people as a group are more alike than younger people.
- T F 10. People usually think they are younger than others perceive them.

Answers:

1.T 2.F 3.F 4.T 5.F 6.T 7.T 8.F 9.F 10.T



Vickie Albert,
Louisiana Station



Debra Cassel,
Government Street,
Baton Rouge



Cheryl Crawford,
Nelson Coal Station



Tina Hunt,
Cleveland

ON THE MOVE

A

Allen, Jeffery P., Port Allen, to serviceman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Anderson, Calvin W., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Ashley, Thomas W. Jr., Willow Glen, to insulator-1st class, Plant Production.

B

Beavers, Brenda M., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Beck, Kenneth K., Louisiana Station, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

Blair, Barrett D., Vidor, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Bolyard, Jerry Z., River Bend Station, to radiation protection technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Brown, Judy G., formerly of Beaumont T&D Engineering, to power system engineer, Beaumont System Production.

Brown, Ruby C., Orange, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

Bullard, Larry R., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-1st class, Gas Department.

C

Cain, James R., River Bend Station, to repairman-2nd class/nuclear, Plant Production.

Cambre, Jeffrey L., Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Cargill, Edwin M., River Bend Station, to radiological programs supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Carter, Arthur L., River Bend Station, to helper-nuclear, Plant Production.

Cassidy, Daniel, Beaumont, to senior attorney, Legal Department.

Castle, Darrell G., Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

Champagne, Chris A., Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Engineering.

Chien, Nan-Pin, River Bend Station, to nuclear engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Cicio, Patrick J., Beaumont, to staff accountant II, Rates and Regulatory Affairs.

Clark, Christopher J., Lake Charles, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Cline, Danny R., Louisiana Station, to insulator-1st class, Plant Production.

Cockerham, Kenneth W., Baton Rouge, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Cohee, Gary A., Beaumont, to lead production engineer, System Production.

Colleps, Dale F. Jr., Baton Rouge, to pipeman apprentice, Gas Department.

Coxe, Jeffrey A., River Bend Station, to head fireman, Plant Production.

Credeur, Jeffry, Lafayette, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

D

Daniel, Eugene S., River Bend Station, to repairman-1st class/nuclear, Plant Production.

Davenport, Bruce M., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Davis, Donny G., Denham Springs, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Dillon, Tracy S., New Caney, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Dunkelberg, John R., formerly of River Bend Station, to supervisor-design engineering, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Dunn, Rex W., Gonzales, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Dunnington, Darryl, Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

E

Eimer, Ronald D., Beaumont, to supervisor-occupa-

tional health and safety, Human Resources.

Evans, Charles E., Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

F

Fish, Michael H., River Bend Station, to supervisor-maintenance planning, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Fitzgerald, Joseph E., formerly of River Bend Station, to lead mechanical engineer, Beaumont Engineering.

Flowers, Gale D., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Foster, Craig P., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Foster, Karen S., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Foster, William H., Port Arthur, to utility truckdriver, Electric T&D.

Fox, Travis R., Sulphur, to service foreman, T&D Service.

Frick, James L., River Bend Station, to electrical maintenance foreman, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Fruge, Troy A., R.S. Nelson Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

G

Galloway, Steven E., Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Garner, Scott K., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

George, Marion D., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Glenn, Alan K., Winnie, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Granata, Anthony S., formerly of R.S. Nelson Station, project maintenance supervisor, transferred to Nelson Coal Plant Production.

Guillory, John S., Lafayette, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Guillot, Robert J., Nelson Station, to planning supervisor, Plant Production.

H

Hara, Kevin G., formerly of Beaumont Engineering Services, to production engineer, Beaumont System Production.

Hargrove, John E., Beaumont, to supervisor-communications engineering, Engineering.

Havard, Kirk G., River Bend Station, to repairman-2nd class/nuclear, Plant Production.

J

James, Eric M., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Jernigan, Donald E., River Bend Station, to senior systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Johnson, Wilson A., Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Jones, Carl D., formerly of Beaumont Accounting Services, to systems analyst, Beaumont Computer Applications.

Jones, Edward A., Port Arthur, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Jones, Jesse R. Jr., Louisiana Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

K

Kelly, Thomas J., formerly of Orange T&D Line, to coordinator-MRS, Beaumont System Operations.

Khan, Abdul J., formerly of Beaumont Engineering, to electrical engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

King, Richard B., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Kopecky, Jean T., Beaumont, to staff accountant II, Accounting Services.

Kolbus, Michael W., formerly of Nelson Coal, to general maintenance supervisor, Willow Glen Plant Production.

L

Latinis, Warder S., Beaumont, to senior systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Leggett, Travis L., Zachary, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Lemelle, Henry A. Jr., Lafayette, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Lethermon, Michael W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Litherland, Melissa H., River Bend Station, to radiation protection technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Lusk, Jimmy C., formerly of Beaumont T&D Line, to service supervisor, Beaumont T&D Service.

M

Maloney, Ree V., Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

Malveaux, Myrtle C., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

McCorvy, Brenda H., Beaumont, to coordinator-office services, General Services.

McDuffie, Mark J., Beaumont, to affirmative action analyst, Human Resources.

Montalbano, June A., Nelson Coal Station, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.

Muegerl, Max A., River Bend Station, to nuclear control operator, Plant Production.

Myrick, Donald G., New Caney, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

P

Passman, Kent D., Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Phares, Sissy A., Louisiana Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Podraza, James, Conroe, to shop foreman, T&D Garage.

R

Randall, Claiborne L., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Randall, Darrell W., Port Allen, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Raney, Sammie P., Baton Rouge, to supervisor-safety and health-Louisiana, Human Resources.

Reynerson, Donald M., River Bend Station, to director-nuclear plant engineering, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Rigby, William E., River Bend Station, to nuclear chemistry technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Riggs, Richard D., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Ringler, Patrick J., formerly of Beaumont Engineering, to rate engineer, Beaumont Rates and Regulatory Affairs.

Rose, Robert D., Beaumont, to senior systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Rousseau, Denise M., River Bend Station, to planning and scheduling analyst, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Russell, Gene W., Beaumont, to coordinator-occupational health and safety-Texas, Human Resources.

Ryman, Lloyd E., Beaumont, to utility foreman, T&D Substation.

S

Samuels, Michael R., Port Arthur, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Sanderson, Perry E., formerly of Beaumont T&D Service, to assistant general line supervisor, Beaumont T&D Line.

Schuster, Richard K., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Shankle, Ellis P., River Bend Station, to shift supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Sibley, Tony J., Baton Rouge, to pipeman-2nd class, Gas Department.

Simmons, Russell B., Beaumont, to lead power plant planning engineer, Engineering Services.

Smith, Robert D., Louisiana Station, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

Soileau, Joseph B. Jr., Lake Charles, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Southard, Jay R., Lafayette, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Spedale, Robert G., Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Spurlock, Bryant C., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Stanfield, Iris S., Beaumont, to secretary-administrative, Executive Secretarial Staff.

Still, Randall L., Beaumont, to power plant planning engineer, Engineering Services.

Stricklin, Jeffrey W., Lake Charles, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Suarez, Lloyd W., Sulphur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

T

Talbot, Douglas R., River Bend Station, to switchboard operator, Plant Production.

Talley, Hurshall M., Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Thibodeaux, Russell J., Willow Glen, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Thomas, Willie C., Port Arthur, to utility truckdriver, Electric T&D.

Thompson, Gregory D., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.

Thompson, Ray P., Beaumont, to supervisor-safety and health-Texas, Human Resources.

Trask, Edward N., River Bend Station, to control operating foreman, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Trump, Edward C., formerly of Beaumont Engineering, to production engineer, Beaumont System Production.

V

Vanderheiden, Kent C., Beaumont, to senior systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Varnado, Keith W., River Bend Station, to radiation protection technician-1st class, Plant Production.

W

Walton, Mark E., formerly of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, to technical assistant, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Station.

Ware, Russell D. Jr., River Bend Station, to instrument/control technician-1st class/nuclear, Plant Production.

Warren, Clay C., River Bend Station, to shift supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Warren, Lloyd A., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-1st class, Gas Department.

Washington, Bernard P., Baton Rouge, to meterman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Wellborn, William D., Cleveland, to utility man, Electric T&D.

Whaley, Kenneth D. Jr., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Woods, Leonard W., River Bend Station, to control operating foreman, River Bend Nuclear Group.



J.B. LeBlanc (front) is surrounded by co-workers who presented him with a cake on his retirement. Shown with him are (from left) Pam Thurmon, Ina Smiley, Charlotte Gautreau and Carol Darville.

LeBlanc ends Gulf States' career

Gonzales employee J.B. LeBlanc retired with over 35 years of service. Co-workers presented him with an outdoor cooking pot and burner at a jambalaya dinner held July 24.

LeBlanc is a former collector in the Gonzales office. He retired on Aug. 1.



Jennifer Core holds her new sister, Sara.

Family welcomes second daughter

Sara Elizabeth was born on May 14 to the Donnie and Ginney Core family of Beaumont. She weighed 8 pounds and measured 18 inches at birth.

The baby's father is a building technician at Edison Plaza. They have one other daughter, 5-year-old Jennifer.

Division holds annual safety fair

Lake Charles Division employees and their families enjoyed a full day of events at their annual safety fair, held last September.

Those attending had many activities to enjoy. Two *Plain Talks* correspondents report they spent the day taking pictures of children sitting on a pony. Monica Thomas, Lake Charles customer accounting clerk, and Cheryl Crawford, Nelson Coal planning clerk, took time out to pose for this photograph during the safety fair.



Monica Thomas (left) and Cheryl Crawford pose with one of the attractions at the Lake Charles Division safety fair.

Rory joins Balko family

Danny and Raine Balko of Conroe are the new parents of Rory Dane, born Aug. 14. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 inches. Rory's daddy is an energy auditor in Conroe.



Rory Dane Balko



Mike Durham (left) and Clarence Bailey (right) present Calvin Comeaux with a safety plaque.

Comeaux continues cooking tradition

Former right-of-way representative Calvin Comeaux has developed a reputation for his cooking talents. Many GSU gatherings have been centered around his jambalaya and other tasty dishes.

So when he retired on May 1, friends honored Comeaux with a party. Mike Durham, manager of occupational health and safety, was on hand to present Comeaux with a plaque. The plaque recognized Comeaux for completing his GSU career without a single lost-time accident.

But it didn't take Comeaux too long before getting involved in Sideliners' activities. He was chief cook for the annual retirees meeting, held in Baton Rouge last August.



Jamie Orlando competes in the FFA Youth Rodeo.

Children compete in youth rodeo

Jamie and Justin Orlando, children of GSUer Marti Orlando, are following in

their mother's footsteps. All three are avid riders who enjoy competing in figure eight barrel racing.

Nine-year-old Jamie placed second in the sub-junior class of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Youth Rodeo, held earlier this year. His brother, 6-year-old Justin, also competed in the same class.

Their mother works as a customer contact clerk in the Navasota office.



Justin Orlando finished second in his class at the FFA Youth Rodeo.

Employees play 'safety' volleyball

North Boulevard employees held their safety dinner last June, and celebrated with a volleyball tournament.

Employees and their spouses participated in several relay games, and enjoyed barbecued chicken with all of the fixings.

Tom Young's winning team was presented with a "Give a hand for safety" trophy. The award was a taped and banded "hand" that represented the outcome when safety is not used.



Donna Bush (left) presents Shivaun Tessier with the "Give a hand for safety" award.



Christopher Crile

Youth wins Hollywood trip

Four-year-old Christopher Crile won an all-expense paid trip to Hollywood for his entire family. The youth is the son of Vidor serviceman-1st class Larry Crile and his wife, Vicki. Christopher won the trip in a drawing held at Hanna-Barbera Land in Houston.

Christopher, his parents and their two other sons plan to take their trip next March.



Ed Sanchez (on the drums) and his band entertained at the Sideliners' annual meeting.

Sideliners meet in Baton Rouge

The 1985 annual system-wide Sideliners meeting was held Aug. 7 in Baton Rouge. According to Sideliners' correspondent Dorothy Sanchez, nearly 200 GSU retirees attended and enjoyed a fun-filled day of entertainment and cooking by Calvin Comeaux. She adds that a special thanks goes to Calvin

Oubre, who did much of the planning and preparation for the day.

Among those entertaining the retirees was Tiffany Ambrose, granddaughter of Leslie and Lucille David, Baton Rouge Sideliners. Tiffany is a student at the DeFrances Academy of Dance, a group that performed a dance revue for the retirees. After dinner, Ed Sanchez and his band played music for dancing and listening.



Viva Parkhurst (right) gets help from Orange District Superintendent Ed Hutchins in showing off one of her retirement gifts.

Parkhurst retires after 31 years

Viva Parkhurst was guest of honor at a retirement dinner held Aug. 23. The former Orange senior clerk retired with 31 years of service.

Among gifts from her co-workers were two Windberg prints and a gift certificate. Parkhurst also received a plaque for completing her GSU career without a single lost-time injury.

Baby joins GSU family

When Erica Rachel Marino was born on June 24, she chose her great-grandmother's birthday to make her appearance. She is the daughter of Tony and Nelda Marino. The baby's father is a relayman-1st class at the Beaumont Service Center.

But Erica's connection with Gulf States doesn't end there. Her grandmother, Sarah Marino, also works for GSU in Beaumont's Edison Plaza. She reports that Erica weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 21 inches.



Sarah Marino holds granddaughter Erica while the baby's father, Tony Marino, looks on.

Romero wins queen's crown

Tami Romero, Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson High School homecoming queen, smiles as she receives her crown from school principal Rouel Rothenberger.

Tami is the daughter of Leon and Jean Romero. Her mother is a clerk in the Port Arthur accounting department.



Tami Romero receives her homecoming queen's crown in this photo by Port Arthur News photographer Scott Rathburn.

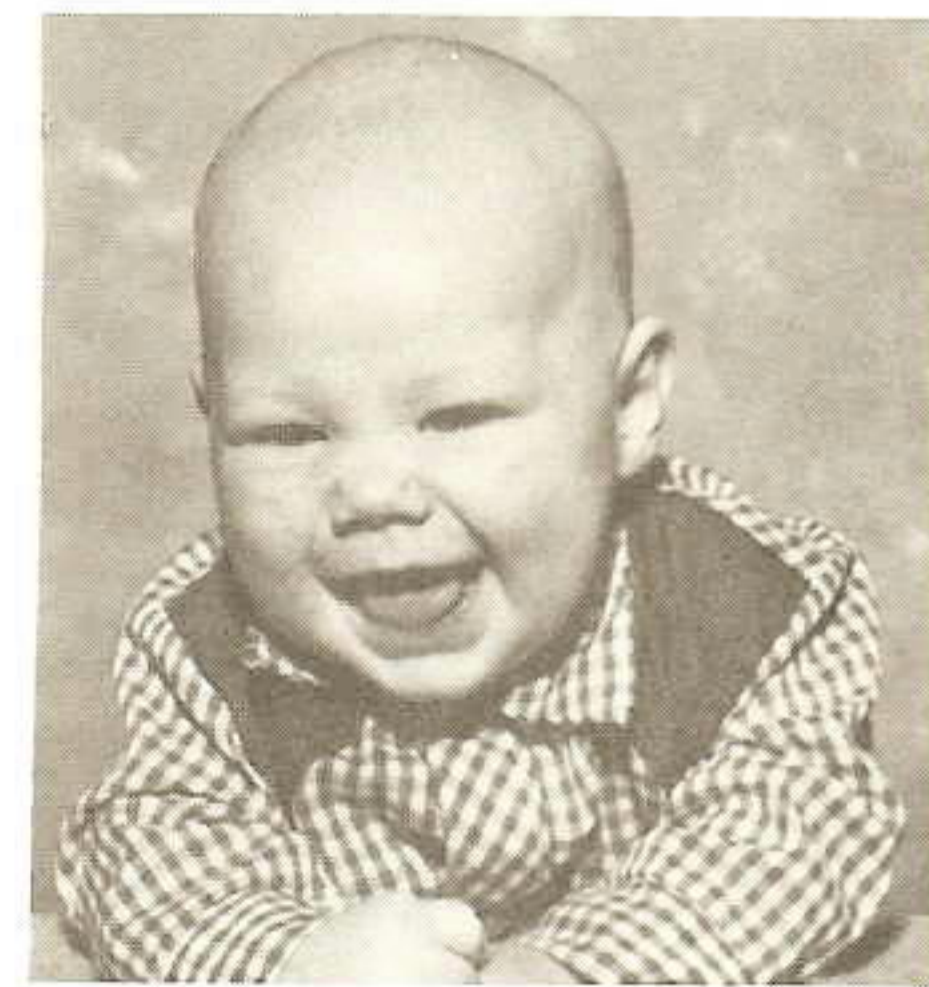


Erin Michelle Riedinger

Riedingers add third child

Erin Michelle arrived April 11, weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measuring 21 inches. She is the third child of Greg and Nannette Riedinger of Baker, Louisiana. The baby's father is a repairman-1st class/nuclear at River Bend Station.

On hand to welcome Erin home were her two brothers, 2 1/2-year-old Luke and 4-year-old Travis.



Justin Lee O'Neill

Justin Lee joins O'Neill family

Michael and Debbie O'Neill became first-time parents on Aug. 8 with the birth of their son, Justin Lee. Justin weighed in at 5 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 inches.

The baby's father is a utility worker II in the Edison Plaza garage.

Justin is also the first grandson for another GSU employee. His grandmother, Ann O'Neill, is a secretary in Beaumont's Human Resources.

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