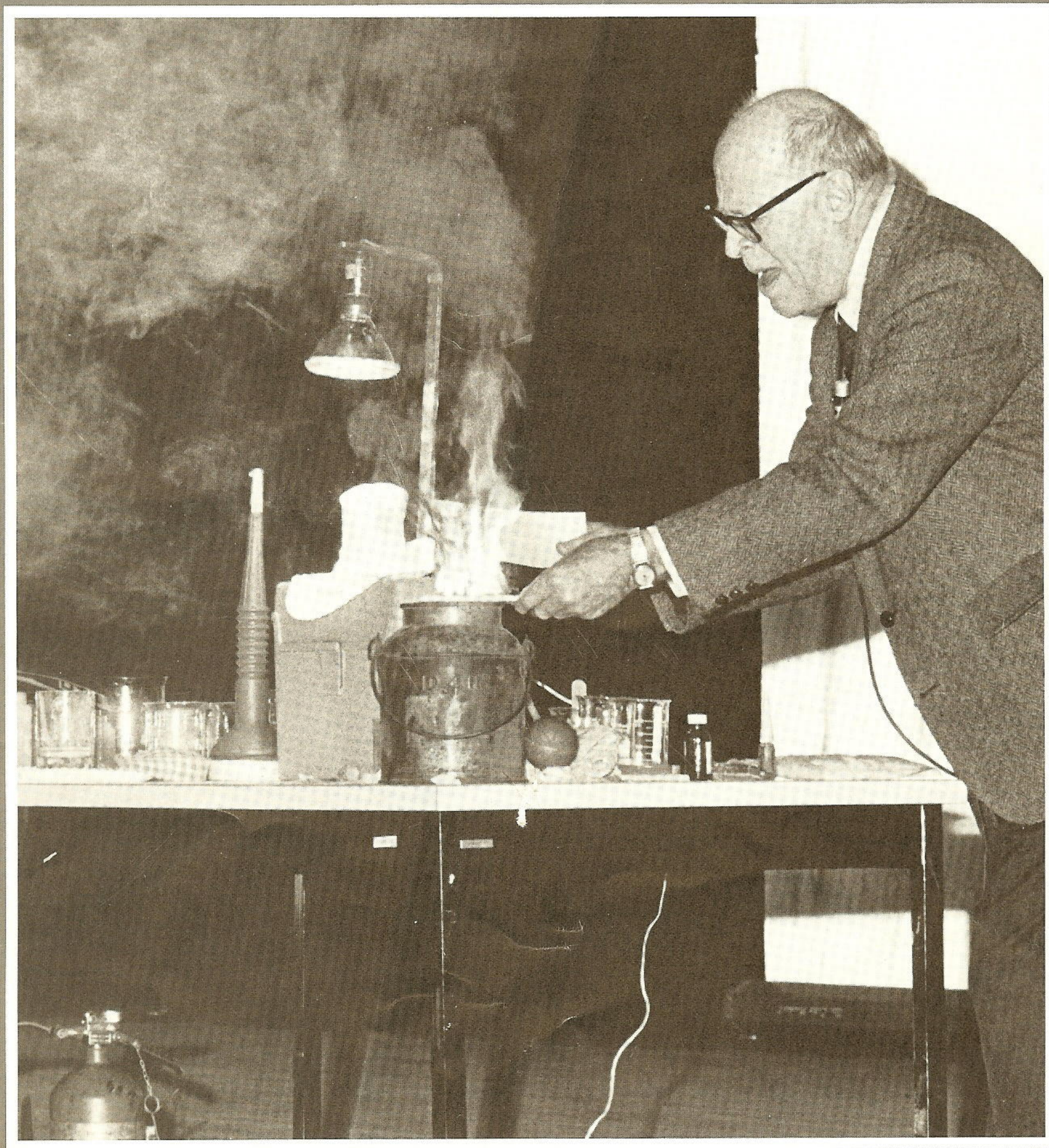


# PLAIN TALKS

January  
February  
1982





# MAIL BOX

## THE COVER

Dr. Hubert N. Alyea, professor of chemistry emeritus at Princeton University, was the opening speaker for the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation's 29th science institute, held Jan. 25-26 at Lamar University.

His manner ranging from highly serious to highly spirited, the noted octogenarian discussed "Lucky Accidents, Great Discoveries and the Prepared Mind."

He urged the 300 Texas junior and senior high school teachers, visiting scientists and other dignitaries to encourage students to become "human" by developing an appreciation for music, art and literature, rather than simply becoming highly trained technicians.

The two-day event was co-sponsored by Gulf States, Lamar, the Edison Foundation and the Texas Education Agency.

Norman R. Lee  
Gulf States Utilities  
Beaumont, Texas  
Dear Mr. Lee:

This past week a little incident happened that I thought might interest you:

My wife sent a small parcel by UPS to her cousin, who lives on Sixth Street in Lake Charles. The cousin tells my wife that she heard someone knock at her door and when she went there it was a Gulf States man with her package — he had found it laying in the street on Fifth Street, apparently after it fell from the delivery truck.

We think this was very helpful on the part of the GSU employee, and we are sorry that we did not get his name so we could write and thank him.

Yours very truly,  
Feltus B. Stirling  
Baton Rouge, La.

Doris Hay  
Gulf States Utilities  
Lake Charles, La.  
Dear Doris,

On behalf of the Calcasieu Women's Shelter, please accept our sincere appreciation for the energy conservation workshop that you presented for our staff, along with the employees from Catholic Charities and the Displaced Homemakers Center.

Your presentation, as well as the pamphlets, were most informative and interesting.

Also, it is heart-warming to see a large company such as Gulf States Utilities concerned about the economical problems of less fortunate people.

Again, thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,  
Sara Edwards  
Director  
Calcasieu Women's Shelter

Roberta Plant  
Gulf States Utilities  
Conroe, Texas  
Dear Roberta,

When I gave the final examination to the class in Aldine, one of the questions allowed them to explore the learning gained from resource persons. The enclosed comments were the best. I thought you would enjoy sharing them with me.

I am looking forward to the panel group in January and the science institute held in Beaumont. These sessions at the institute will be excellent, I am sure, from the descriptions and from the speakers. Thank you again for including me.

My warmest best wishes for a happy holiday filled with peace and love.

Louise McCormick  
Home Economics Dept.  
Sam Houston State University

## PLAIN TALKS

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January-February 1982

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Nina Wiley

W. S. Young

Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) 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.



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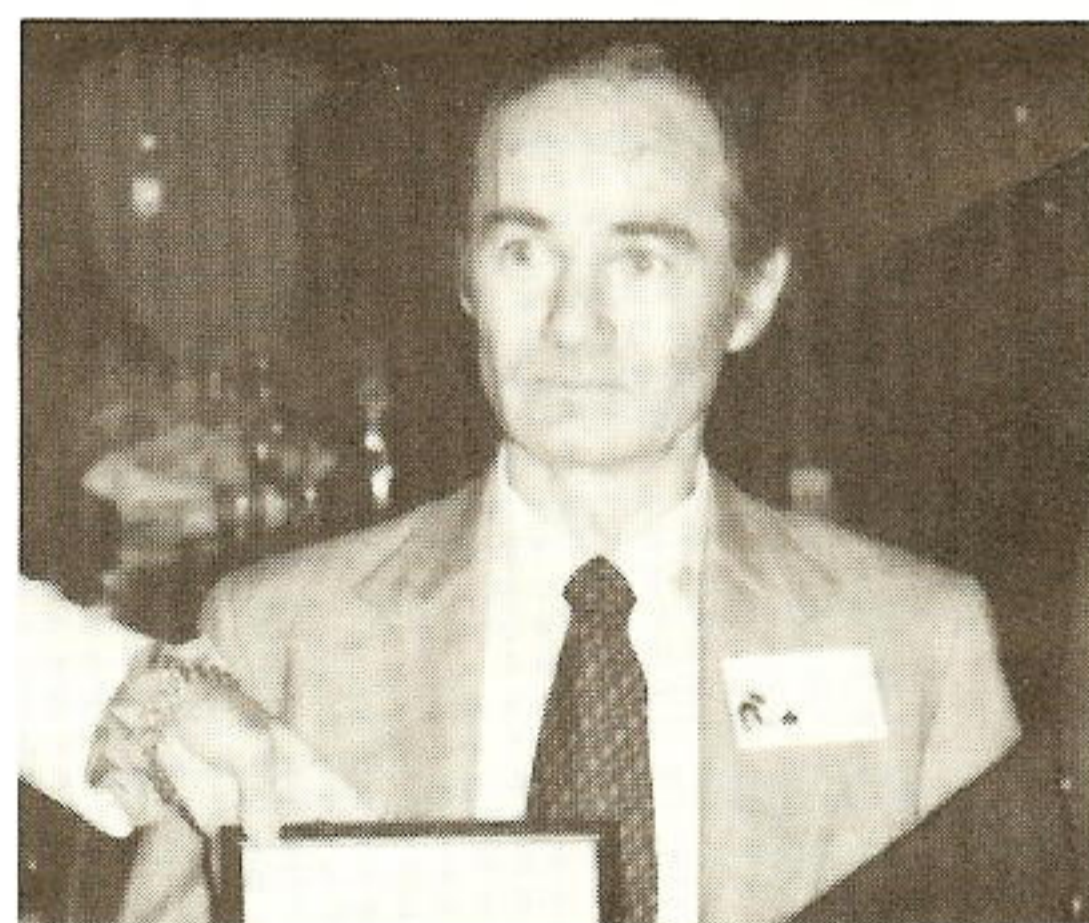
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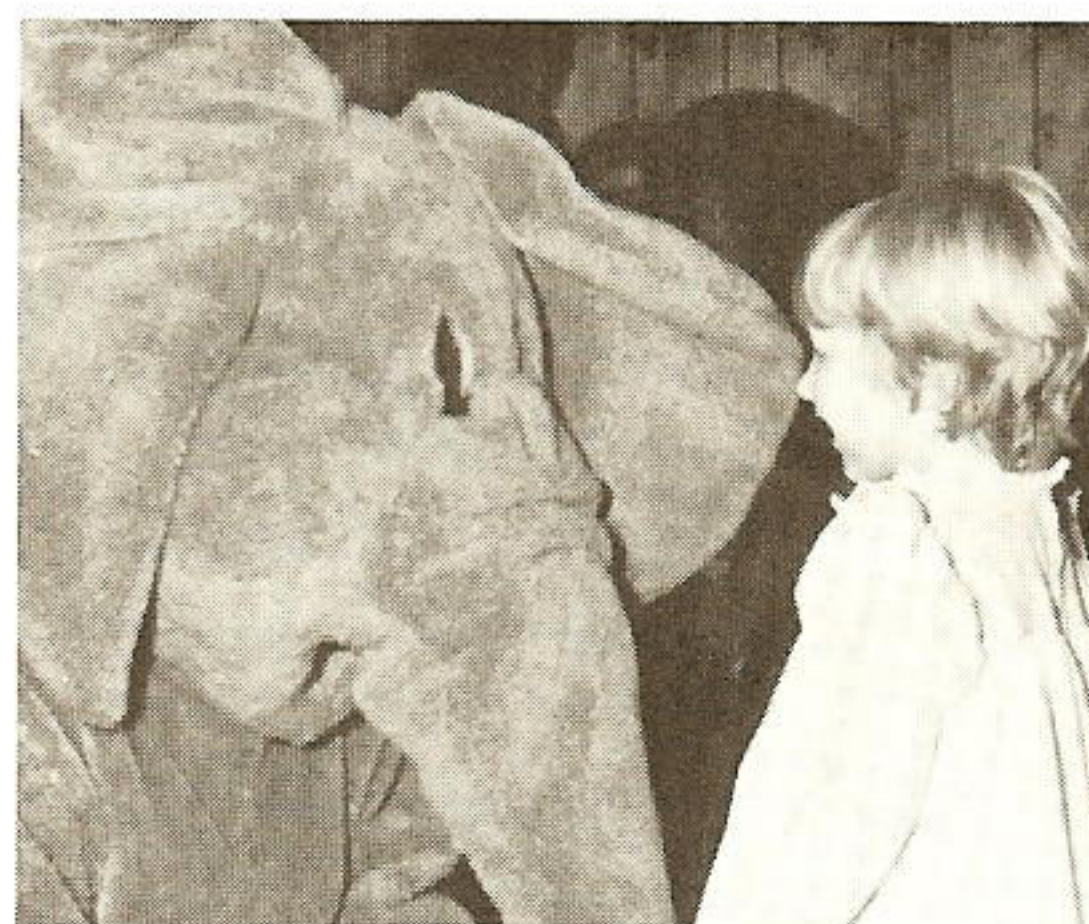
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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Sabine exceeds 1980 donations

Thanks to hard work by eight employees, Sabine Station increased substantially the amount its employees pledged to United Appeals in 1981 as compared to 1980.

According to Joe Domino, the Sabine superintendent, the power plant's 185 employees contributed \$7,070 during the 1981 drive compared to \$4,991 the previous year.

Domino said credit for the outstanding showing goes to eight employees — Marcy McKinley, Glenda Duncan, Faye Root, Cyndi Shackelford, Thor Homme, Benny Phillips, Anita Miller and Brenda Benoit.



## Scrap collecting pays dividends

A half-year effort by employees at the Choctaw Service Center during 1981 to collect scraps found in the yard paid off for both the company and individual employees.

According to Dewey Lytle, operating superintendent, Transmission and Distribution employees scoured the grounds for copper, nails, washers and other scattered items, placing their finds in containers.

Undertaken partly because of tire and tube repairs brought about by punctures from such materials, the program resulted in a savings to the Baton Rouge Division tire repair budget of more than \$32,000, Lytle estimated.

In addition, the sale of the scrap provided employees with enough money for a new flag for the

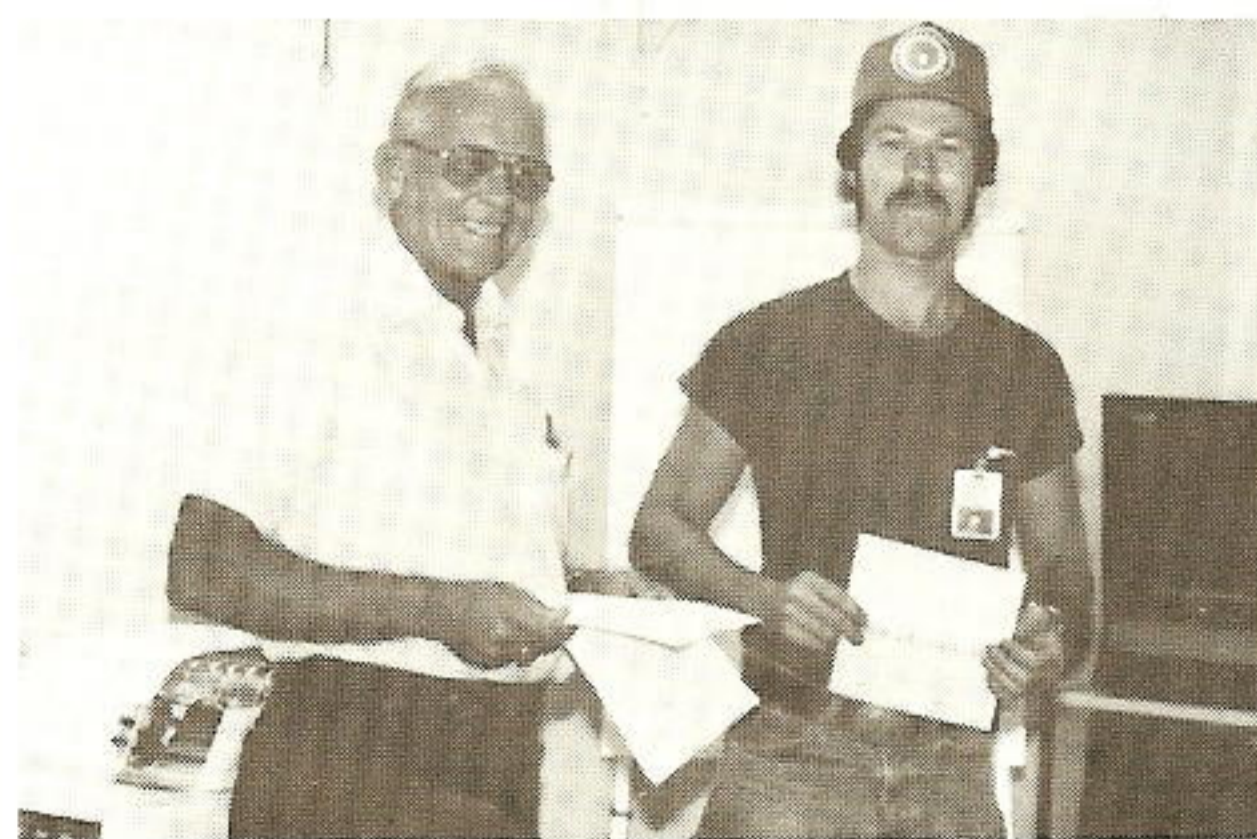
service center entrance and a supper.

Shown with Lytle (at left) in front of a poster detailing the savings is Adrian Cockerham, a helper in the Line Department who participated in the collection.

## Nelson employees given awards

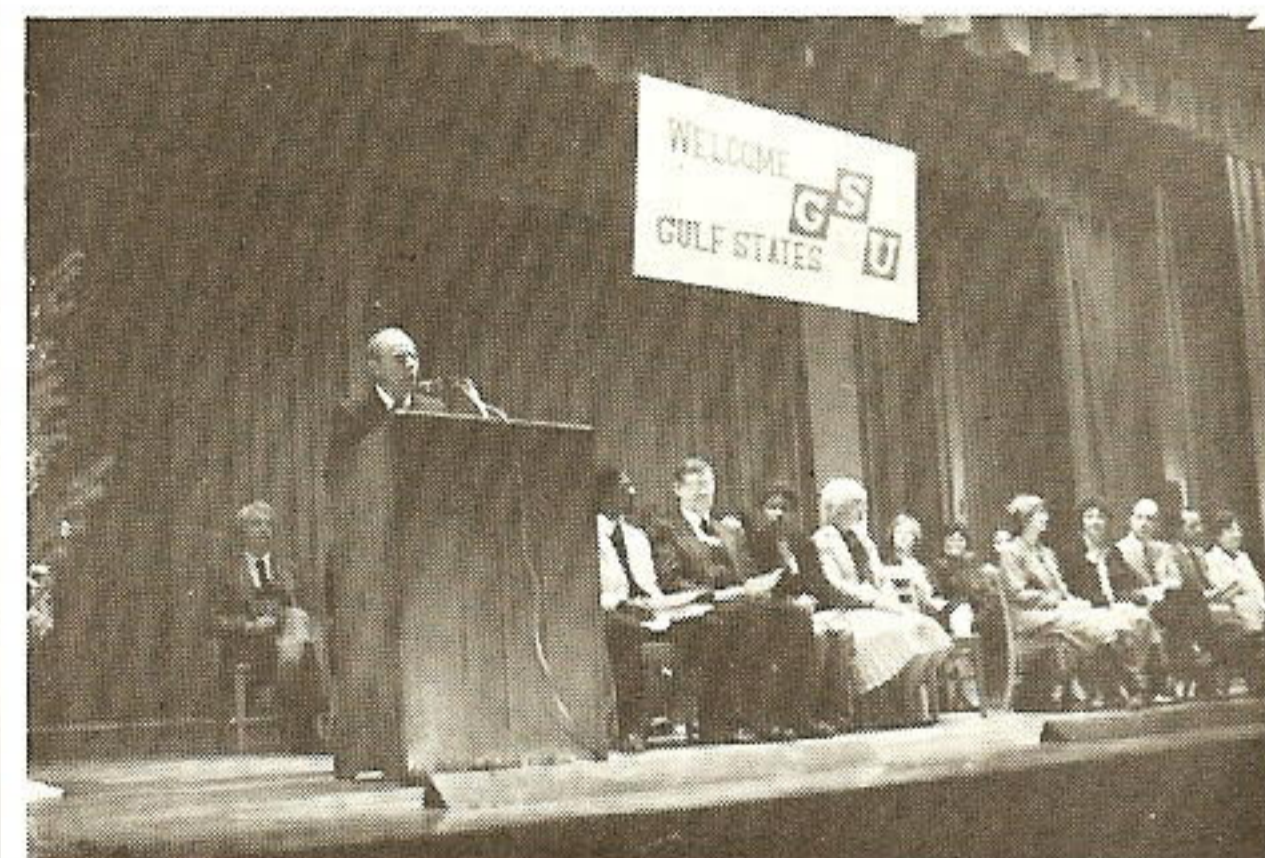
Nelson Station employees received three of four awards possible from the Lake Charles area United Appeal campaign for attaining a 60 percent fair share contribution level during the recent drive.

Rene DeBlanc, plant superintendent, presented separate Gold Awards to three employees representing different areas of the plant.



Shown accepting the awards from DeBlanc are (beginning with the top picture and moving down) Charles Elter (at left), Nelson Station campaign leader and Instrumentation Department representative, Deryl Hart of the

Electrical Department and Michael Matte of the Mechanical Maintenance Department.



## GSU adopts high school

Gulf States has "adopted" McKinley Senior High School in Baton Rouge under that city's Chamber of Commerce's Adopt-a-School program.

Under the program, the company will play an active role in supporting and supplementing public education through a particular school.

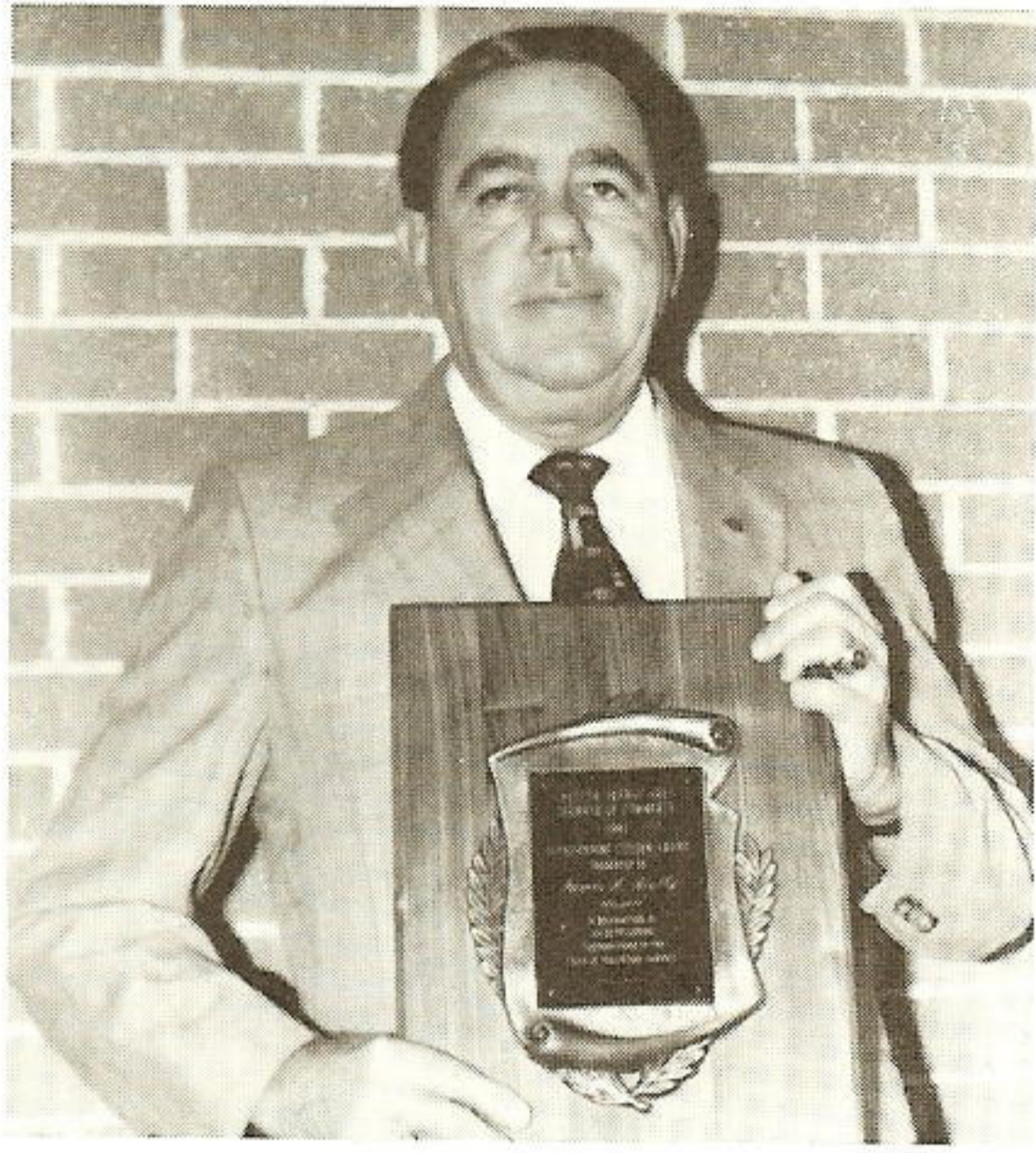
Jim Moss, Baton Rouge Division vice president, participated in the formal adoption ceremonies on Thursday, Dec. 17, by addressing the student body.

The program is a project of the division Consumer Services Department, which plans to teach weatherization in industrial arts classes, provide classroom resource speakers and audio-visual aids and provide field trip opportunities. Other plans include career education involvement, donation of discarded stationery for typing classes, providing school energy audits and several other activities.

According to Harriet Babin of division Consumer Services, the program will ultimately involve the Customer Accounting, Transmission and Distribution, Human Resources, Public Affairs and Plant Production (power plants) departments.



# NEWS BRIEFS



## Stelly cited by Chamber

Jim Stelly, district superintendent for Orange, was recently cited as "Citizen of the Year" for 1981 by the Greater Orange Chamber of Commerce, reports *Plain Talks* correspondent Doris Wallace.

An engineering graduate of Louisiana State University, Stelly joined Gulf States in 1949, serving in Baton Rouge and Port Arthur before transferring to Orange.

According to Howard Slater, president of the Chamber, Stelly has served as chairman, director and president of that group. He has also served as a director and vice president of the Economic Development Foundation and chaired the 1977 and 1978 editions of the city's annual gumbo cook-off.

Slater said the award to Stelly was based on his "overall service to the community."

Stelly and his wife, Billie Rae, have two children, Jayme Rae and Kathy Lyn.

## Woman receives lifesaving award

Juliette Holsomback, a GSU meter reader, received the President's Lifesaving Award on Dec. 11 for having saved the life of a 13-year-old Bridge City youth who most likely would have drowned if she had not come to his aid last spring.

President Norman Lee made

the presentation in the Orange Service Center, remarking that the award was the "highest commendation" he could give.

Mrs. Holsomback, who lives in Mauriceville, was honored with the plaque because of action she took last May 23 as she was reading meters off Round Bunch Road. She noticed two young men in a boat on a pond. Later, she saw that one of the boys had fallen overboard and his friend was calling for help.

Unable to swim, Mrs. Holsomback instead ran for assistance. She stopped a passing motorist, and another man on a motorcycle also saw her and stopped. The two men ran to the boy's rescue while Mrs. Holsomback telephoned for an ambulance.

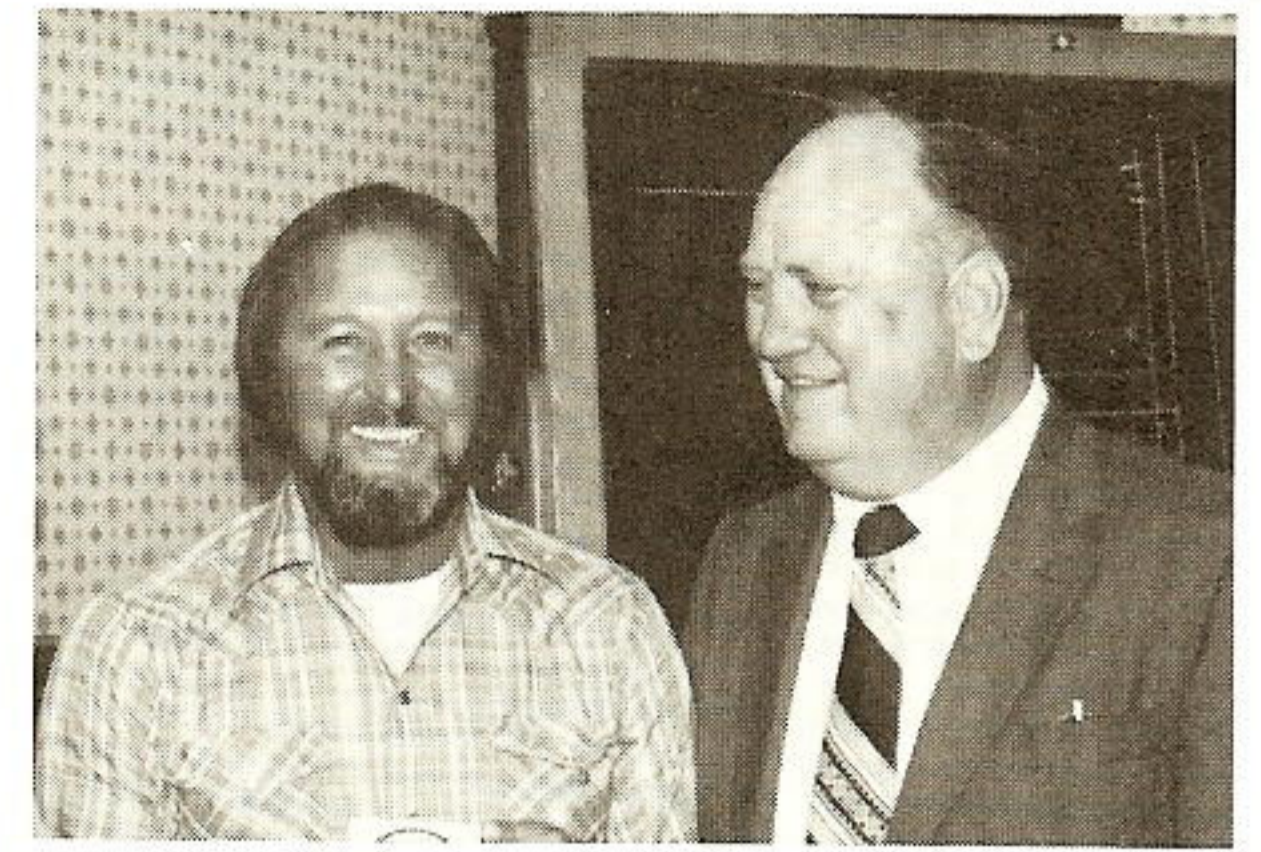
After the boy was pulled from the pond, the men administered CPR for several minutes. The youth was hospitalized for two days in the intensive care unit at St. Mary's Hospital in Port Arthur following the accident but suffered no permanent disabilities.



Lee said the President's Lifesaving Award is given to a GSU employee when there is almost certain evidence that a death would have occurred had the employee not taken quick action.

## Hayes cited for actions

George Hayes, a serviceman-1st class in the Sulphur district office, was also presented a President's Lifesaving Award on Dec. 11 for having saved the life of a woman last July.



President Norman Lee made that presentation in Sulphur.

Hayes earned the plaque because of action he took last summer after a woman had passed out in her home. As Hayes was checking meters in the neighborhood, two children ran up to him and said their mother needed help. He followed the children to their home, where he discovered the woman, who had been injured in a car accident a few months before, lying on the floor unconscious and not breathing.

Hayes immediately cleared the woman's air passage and administered CPR. A nearby resident called an ambulance, and by the time it arrived, the woman was conscious.

Hayes had been trained in GSU's American Red Cross CPR course, which is offered to all GSU employees.



# A Demonstration of Potential

When Terry French arrived in southeast Texas from Wyoming a few years ago, she sought work as a draftsman — something entirely new for the former advertising artist.

But French was a quick study who found her new work challenging. She later progressed to her present position as a senior draftsman in Engineering Design, Beaumont.

That same quest for challenge prompted the petite, red-haired Gulf Stater to sign up for a developmental workshop offered by the company for classified employees specifically interested in supervisory careers or in determining their potential for such careers. French was notified that she would participate in the December 1981 session in Beaumont.

"I had heard others who had participated talk about how

valuable the workshop had been," she recalled later. And, after having taken part in the one-day program, she said she is convinced that she has "developed skills and learned some things about myself." Surprisingly enough, she admitted to discovering that the workshop "confronted me with things that are kind of frightening — such as how I handle personnel situations, something that I rarely really think about."

Arrangements for the developmental workshops — eight are scheduled for 1982 — are coordinated by Frances Engelbrecht, supervisor-operations training. She revealed that the December 1981 session was the company's 22nd, bringing to 248 the total number of employees who have participated in the workshop since it was initiated in the summer of 1979.

"About 20 percent of those who have gone through the program have since been promoted to management," Engelbrecht noted. Developmental workshops are among her favorite programs because they provide the individual an opportunity to demonstrate skills which otherwise might go unnoticed in that person's present job, she revealed.

In addition to workshop participation, the employees are invited to participate in a one-day personal skills development program. It is an overview of skills that have been determined necessary for a supervisor to possess to perform effectively.

As the developmental workshop is set up, 12 participants are observed throughout the day by six trained Gulf States' assessors. Assessors are management employees in supervisory positions who have volunteered to undergo special training. They themselves go through the developmental workshop exercises as "participants" and then are required to critique their performances, which have been videotaped. The experience enables them to objectively ob-

serve and record behavior, evaluate performance and produce written reports for feedback to workshop participants.

Ron McNeil of the consulting firm, Frye, Joure & Associates, conducted the session attended by French. Other participants were Fred Roffman of Beaumont, Carolyn Jarreau of Vidor, Thor Homme of Sabine Station, Joyce Viltz of Beaumont, Bobby Lebert of Sour Lake, Bill Fox of Dayton, Harold Oates of Silsbee, William G. "Skip" Hopper of Beaumont, Ralph H. "Buck" Pryne of Neches Station, Linda Thomas of Beaumont and D. L. "Bud" Miller of Orange. The assessors were Ron Ciesiel, Pam Webb, Carolyn White, Molly Field, Ted Zorn and Engelbrecht.

In opening remarks, McNeil noted that the participants would perform as first-level supervisors in a series of controlled exercises. Participation and behavior would be observed and recorded by the assessors, he explained.

Although the participants had completed their role by 5 p.m. that day, the work of the assessors was only beginning. That evening, the assessors prepared drafts of reports on each participant's performance, which were presented the following day for deliberation by the entire group of assessors.

On the third day, Engelbrecht and McNeil conducted individual, confidential interviews with each participant, sharing the results of their participation and making developmental recommendations.

Workshop participants who volunteer are selected on the basis of seniority. When a classified employee is being considered for promotion into a management job, often their performance in their current and any previous jobs is the only clue their supervisors have as to how they might function in a new supervisory job. According to Engelbrecht, the workshop results provide "another bit of data on how they would perform in the considered job."



*Terry French discusses her personal interests and her job responsibilities.*



Gulf States is utilizing two forms of advanced sensor technology to cut fuel costs at some power plants, according to Kevin Hara, performance engineer in System Production.

Both methods involve monitoring the level of carbon monoxide in the flue gas so as to make adjustments that would improve combustibility. One method — a Measurex 2002 Energy Master combustion computer — is actually capable of controlling boiler conditions.

So far, the savings have been significant.

According to Jimmie Smith, Neches Station superintendent, the Measurex system cost \$126,000. During the last five months of 1981, it saved the company \$196,000, he revealed.

The second method, the combustion test van, which has the advantage of mobility, saved an estimated \$400,000 in fuel costs over a year's time for Willow Glen 3. It also resulted in annual fuel savings of \$220,000 for Willow Glen 4 and \$450,000 for Nelson 4. Although the company purchased its own test van last autumn for \$150,000, Gulf States first participated in a year-long test program with the firm that sells the vans.

This mobile technology will ultimately be put to use in all GSU power plants, although the com-

# Cutting Fuel Costs With Technology

by Susan Gilley  
Plain Talks Editor

puter is now in use at Neches Station only.

To the layman, all the talk about improving combustibility may be confusing. According to Hara, a measure of carbon monoxide is an indication of the amount of unburned fuel leaving the units. By minimizing both excess oxygen and carbon monoxide, one also minimizes the amount of heat that escapes through the stack. "The main purpose of the van," noted Hara, "is to improve combustion, identify maintenance problems and give Operations personnel better guidelines in order to give better operations." While the van collects data, the performance engineers determine critical adjustments to the air and fuel mixtures.

In more technical terms, here is how it works:

After measuring the carbon monoxide and/or the oxygen levels in each boiler's flue gas, either the computer or manual adjustments can be used to maintain the combustion in each boiler at maximum thermodynamic efficiency. The levels of carbon monoxide and/or oxygen can also be used by plant

operators to troubleshoot faulty burners and poorly adjusted air registers. Again, this increases combustion efficiency, resulting in more fuel savings.

The main difference between the van and the computer, noted Hara, is that the device at Neches actually controls the boiler, while the van only monitors. But the two purchases do not represent unnecessary duplications, Hara maintained. "The purpose of the van is to tune the system. Also, you can lose the benefit of the computer if you have burner problems, causing the computer to overcompensate," he added.

System Production is utilizing yet another form of technology to improve maintenance procedures in power plants. (The performance efficiency of a piece of equipment often depends on what kind of shape it is in.) Under the latest program, Operations employees equipped with programmable calculators are able to collect data about power plant equipment. The data is compiled on a computer to provide an efficiency number. "When there is too much variation, then we know some maintenance precautions are called for," Hara explained.

This system was developed by Marty Wilson, engineer in the performance group, and is now implemented at Louisiana Station. Eventually, each power plant will be outfitted with both a calculator and a printer for under \$500 to perform the efficiency calculations to predict maintenance needs.

The justification for the three projects is simple enough — "Consumers wind up saving when Gulf States is able to cut fuel and maintenance costs," Hara asserted.

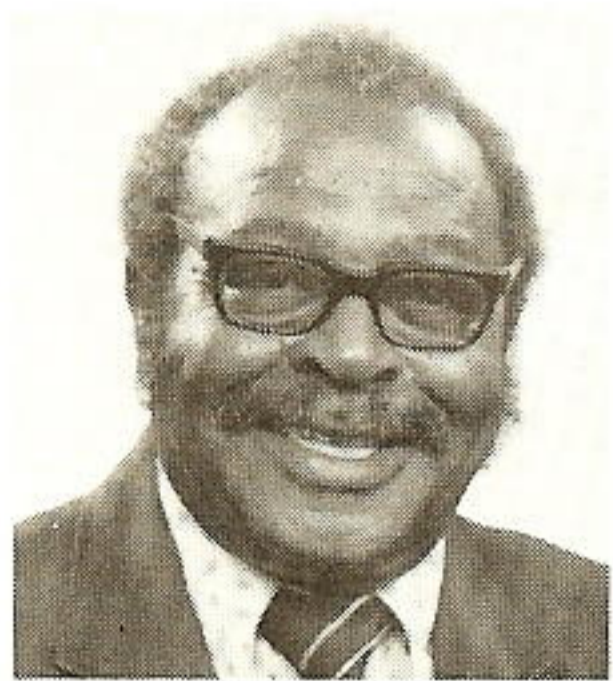


*This shows the test van performing tests at Nelson Station.*



# SERVICE AWARDS

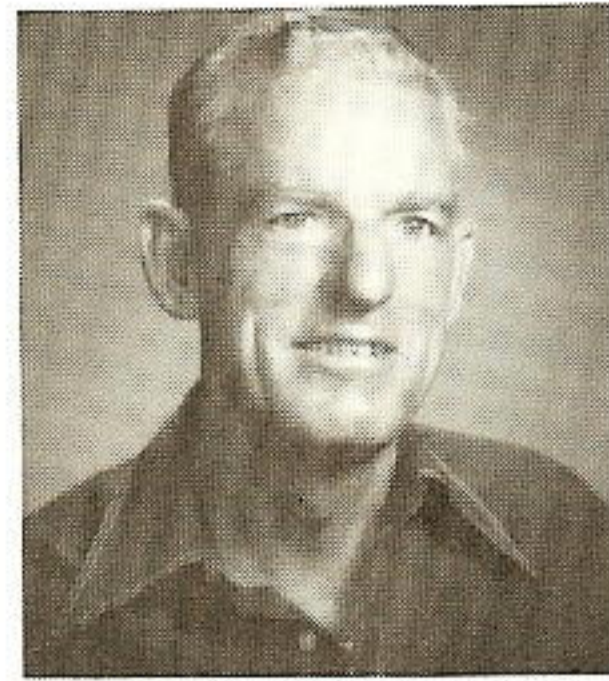
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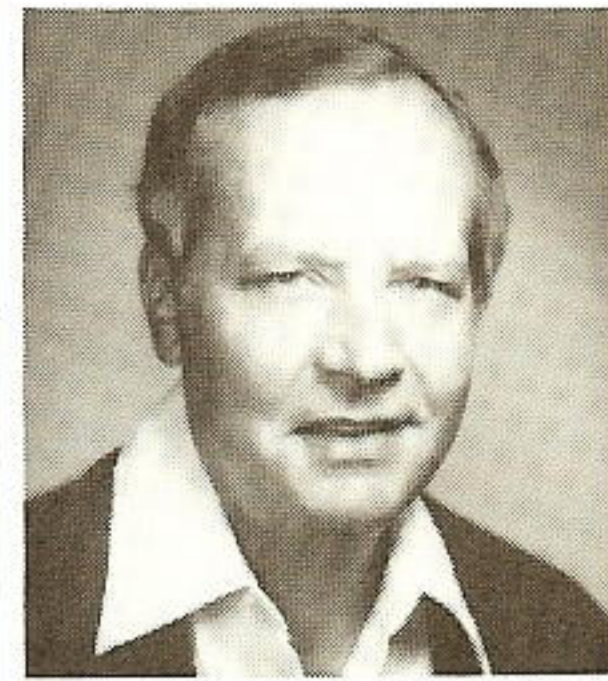
**Leroy Anderson**  
Division Accounting  
Sulphur



**Gerhard W. Smith**  
Electric T&D  
Conroe



**Douglas C. Sheppard**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont

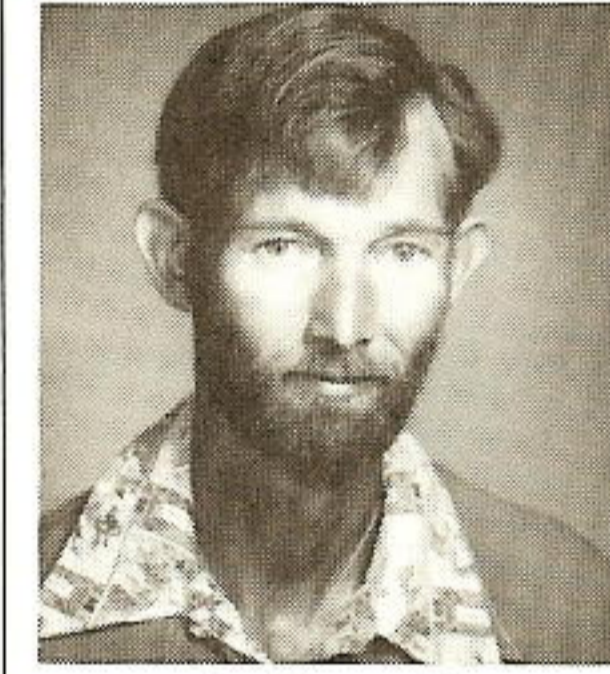


**Raymond Holm**  
Materials Management  
Beaumont

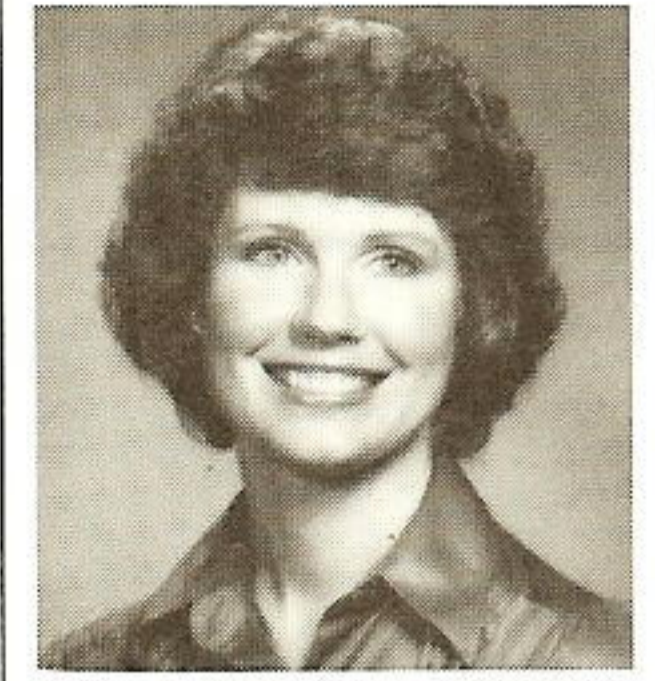
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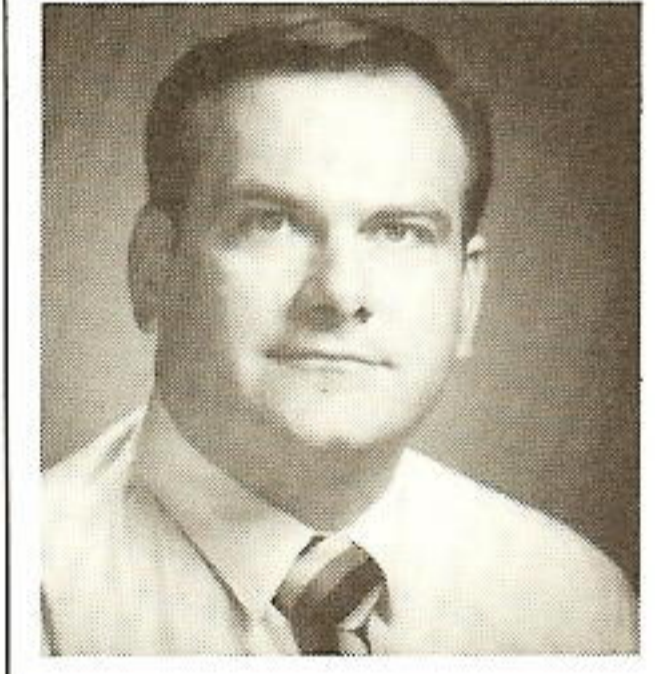
**Wonderful C. Yates**  
Electric T&D  
Conroe



**Arthur C. Morrison Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Terry K. French**  
Engineering Design  
Beaumont



**William P. Tindall III**  
Engineering Design  
Beaumont

## LIBRARY LINES

by Karen McConnell  
Corporate Librarian

The Corporate Library has moved to the 10th floor of Edison Plaza. Employees will find the new, more spacious setting near the elevator bank on that floor.

### Environmental Topics

A data base review entitled "Pollution Abstracts" is a leading resource for references to environmentally-related literature on pollution, its sources and its control.

Among the subjects covered are air pollution, environmental quality, noise pollution, pesticides, radiation, solid wastes and water pollution.

Covering the period from 1970 to the present, the data base

contains about 76,000 citations. It is updated bimonthly and produced by Cambridge Scientific Abstracts of Washington, D.C.

### New Books

**The Manager's Bible**, by Carl Heyel. Free Press, 1981.

**Advanced Project Management**, by F. T. Harrison. Wiley, 1981.

**Energy Management**, by The Association of Energy Engineers. Fairmont Press, 1981.

**Bargaining; Power, Tactics and Outcomes**, by Samuel B. Bacharach and Edward J. Lawler. Jossey-Bass, 1981.

**The Business of Business**, by Robert Heller. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981.

**The Forever Fuel, The Story of Hydrogen**, by Peter Hoffman. Westview Press, 1981.



# Timely Topics Highlighted

Topics covered by speakers participating in the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation's 29th Science Institute, held Jan. 25-26 at Lamar University, included "Plate Tectonics," "Computers," "The Eruption of Mount St. Helens," and "Laser-New Light of the Century."

Other speakers, some of whom captured the attention of the local media, spoke on such varied topics as genetic engineering and the geological aspects of nuclear waste disposal.

Perhaps the most renowned speaker addressing the conference was former Astronaut Commander Alan Bean, the fourth man to walk on the moon, who spoke to the gathering during a banquet closing the first day's activities.



*Colene Crawford (left) and former astronaut Alan Bean (right) admire the framed letter presented to Don Crawford by the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation. It was an actual letter written by Thomas A. Edison on Dec. 5, 1916, to Dr. C. H. Townsend, director of The Aquarium, Battery Park, New York City.*

## Murrill Assumes Company's Top Post

As *Plain Talks* went to press in early February, Gulf States' board of directors named W. Donham Crawford as honorary chairman of the board and elevated Dr. Paul W. Murrill to chairman and chief executive officer of the company.

John W. Barton, chairman of the GSU board's executive committee, said the changes were approved by the directors during a Feb. 4 meeting in Beaumont. Dr. Murrill was to begin his new duties on or before March 1.

Crawford, who was to begin taking medical retirement on March 1, has been on medical leave as chief executive officer since last August. He has been suffering from an unusual form of motor neuron disease. Norman R. Lee, who has been acting chief executive during the interim, remains as president and chief operating officer of the company.



*Board Chairman Paul W. Murrill*

In making the announcement, Barton said that "the addition of Paul Murrill to the GSU management team gives the company the best of two worlds. In Dr. Murrill, Gulf States will have a chairman and chief executive officer with proven administrative ability and an excellent understanding of our company and our industry. In

Norman Lee, the company has one of the best chief operating officers in the business. With Paul and Norman at the helm and a loyal and hard-working group of employees backing them up, the board is confident that the company will continue to meet the critical challenges confronting us."

Dr. Murrill, who is currently senior vice president for research and development at the Ethyl Corp. in Baton Rouge, has been a member of the GSU board of directors since 1978. Before joining Ethyl a year ago, he had been chancellor of Louisiana State University for seven years.

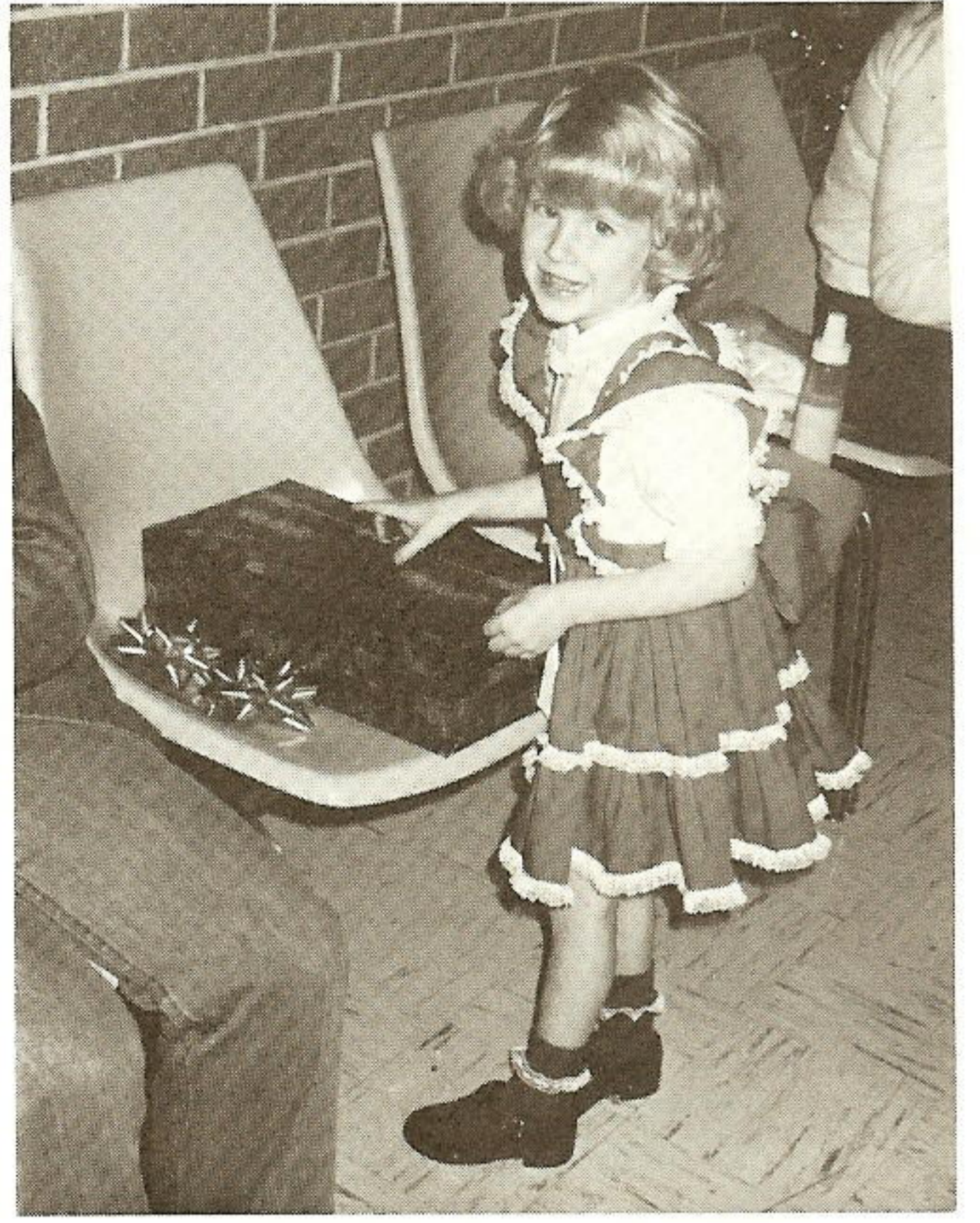
Dr. Murrill, 47, received his B.S. from the University of Mississippi and his M.S. and Ph.D. from LSU. All of his degrees are in chemical engineering.

He and his wife Nancy have three sons, ages 13, 18 and 21.



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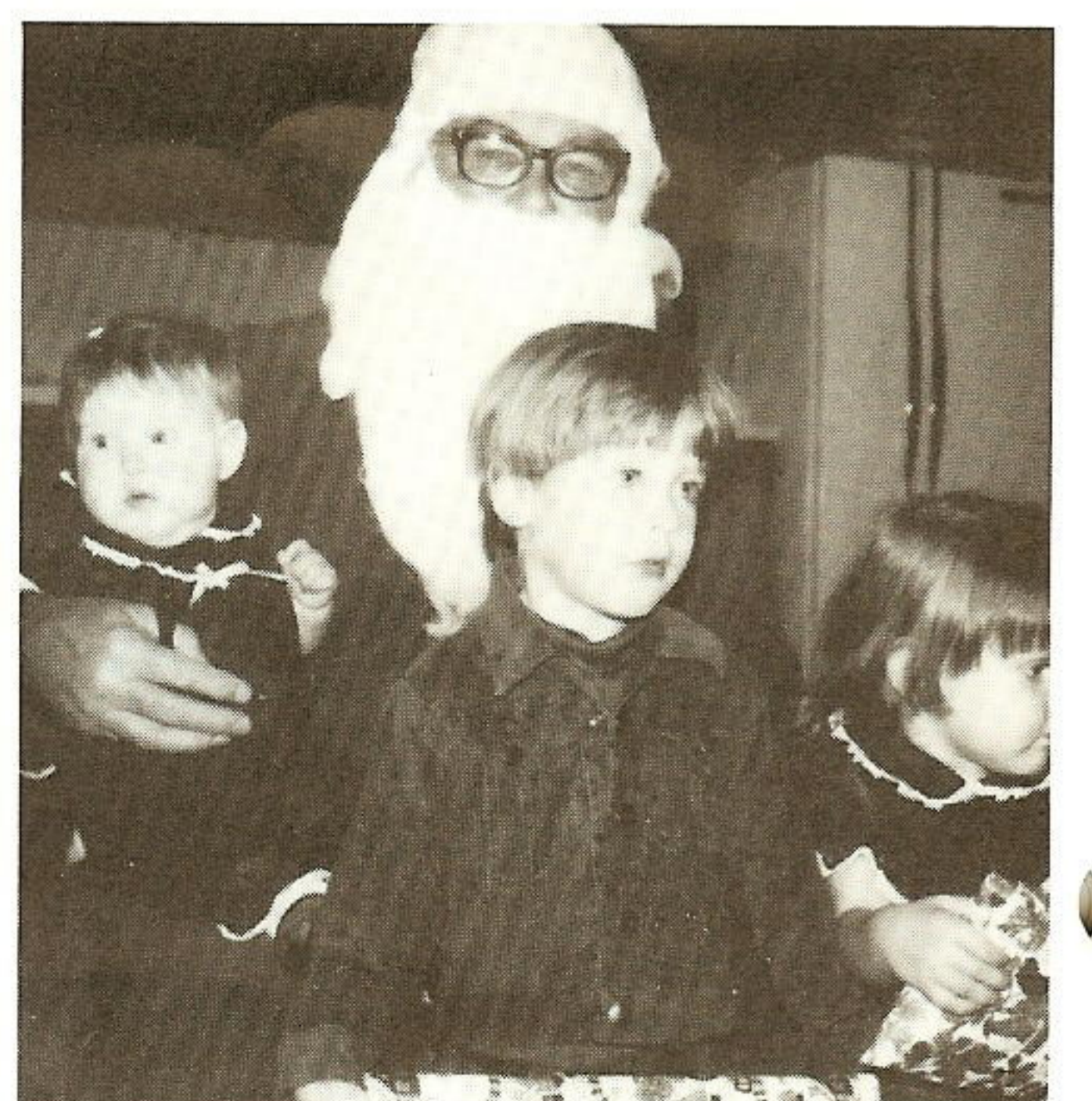


*Beaumont*





*Port Arthur*



*Jennings*





*Cleveland*



*Navasota*



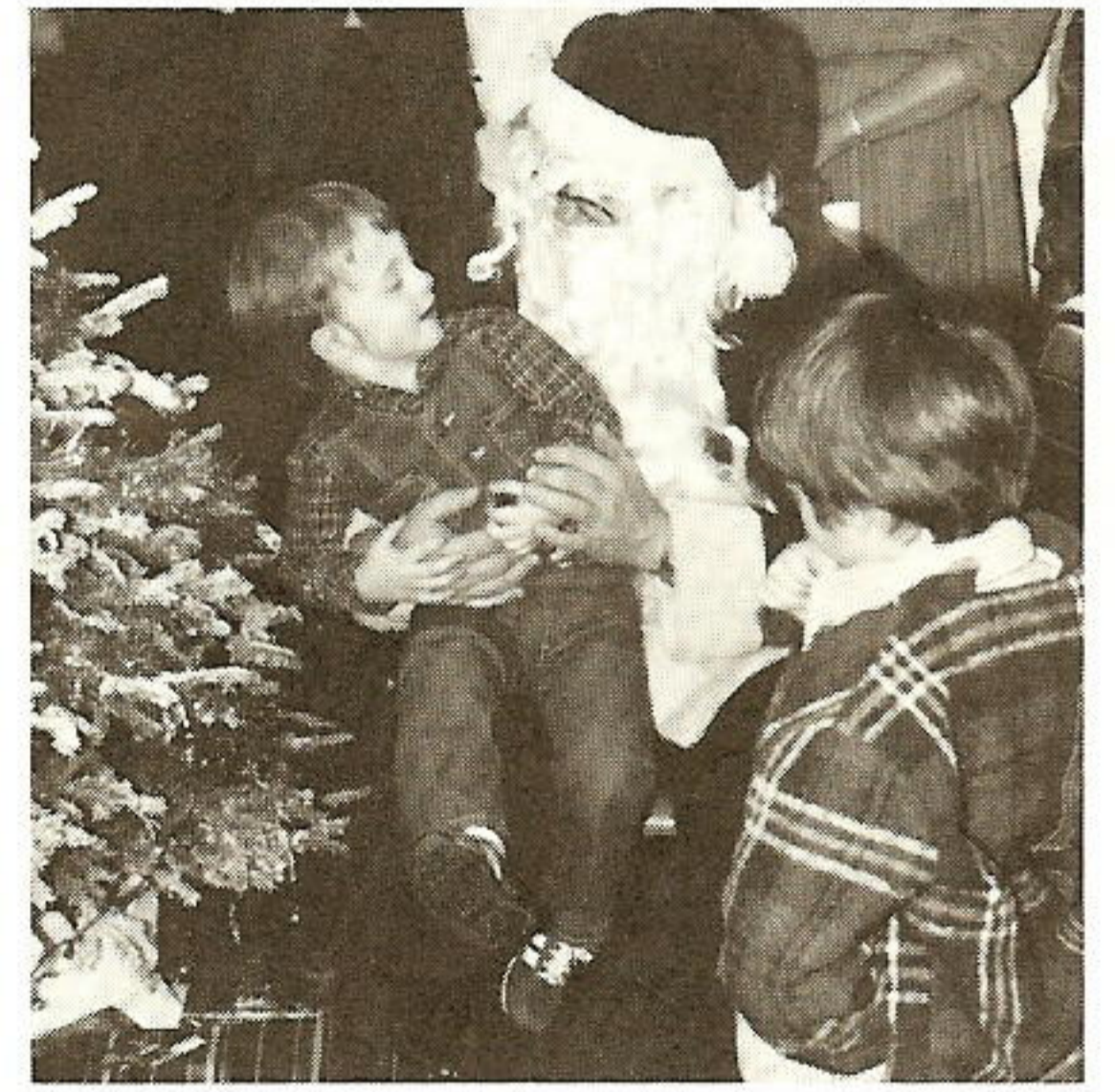
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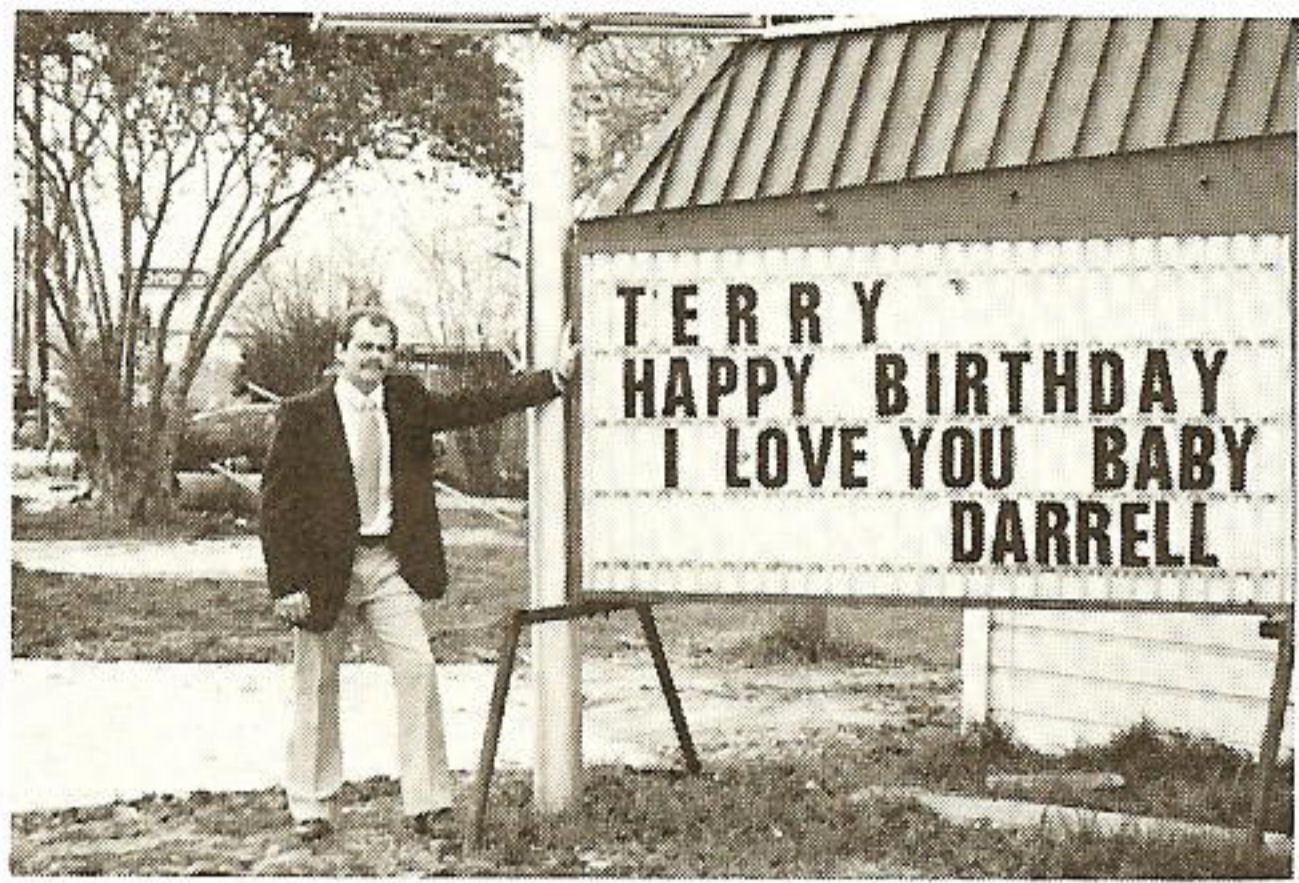


*Silsbee*



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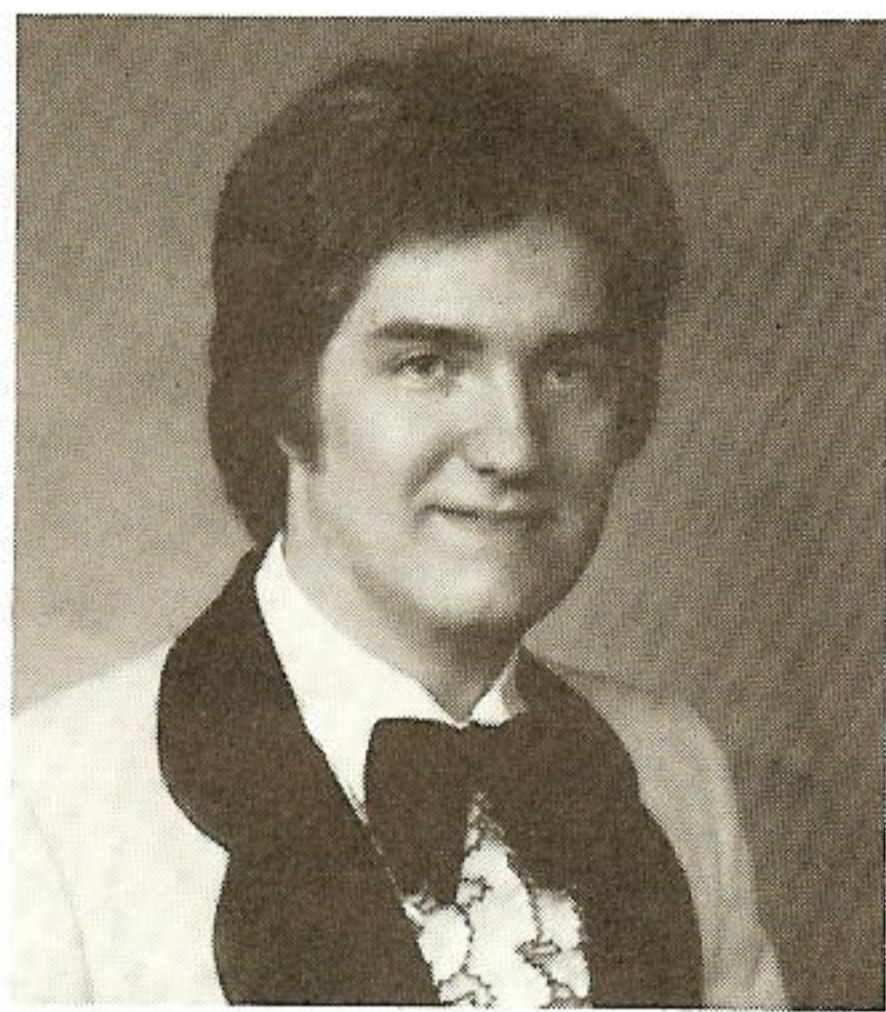




## Guidroz plants birthday message

Darrell Guidroz of Human Resources, stymied about what to get his wife, Terry, for her Dec. 29 birthday, finally decided on a special birthday message.

He rented space on a portable sign located in front of a Beaumont store — just where his wife would see it on her way to work as office manager for Smith Brothers Machine Works.



## MIT accepts GSUer's son

Joe Bush, 17-year-old son of Donna Bush, a mail courier for Gulf States based in Baton Rouge, has been selected by the Admissions Committee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for admission as a member of the freshman class of the fall of 1982.

Young Joe, who will graduate from Baton Rouge High School this May, plans to work at MIT in an interdisciplinary course of study consisting of astronomical, chemical and electrical engineering.

According to his mom, Joe's dream of attending MIT began when he was in the sixth grade.

"He's worked hard to make his dream come true," Mrs. Bush said.

Joe is the oldest of six children in the Bush family. Their father, Bob, is a supervisor at Kaiser Chemicals.



## Tolley accepts new position

Cleo Tolley, who has been with the company 21 years, recently transferred from Consumer Services on the eighth floor of Edison Plaza to Power Plant Engineering and Design, which is located on the third floor of the new headquarters.

Co-workers and other well-wishers presented a cake and desk accessories to Mrs. Tolley as she prepared for the Jan. 16 position change.

Formerly executive secretary to Aubrey Sprawls of Consumer Services (shown in the picture), she is now executive secretary to Jim Derr of Power Plant Engineering and Design.

## Hart honored with shower

When co-workers discovered Bill Hart was getting married on Nov. 20, 1981, they decided to throw a surprise shower for the Beaumont building technician, who had been "batching" it for years.

Hart is now married to Virginia Leigh Hart and the couple lives in Beaumont.

The surprise party was planned by Candy Craft of System Operations and John W. Hemby of Office Services, but Hart says that Lonnie and Mary Jane Leger, a Gulf States couple, and all the

employees on the 10th floor of the old Main Office helped with the event. Hart has been with the company for 28 years.

## Employees receive engagement rings

Two Baton Rouge-North Boulevard office employees received engagement rings at Christmas, reports *Plain Talks* correspondent Opal Temple.

Lena Giacone of Division Accounting announced that her wedding will take place July 31. She will marry Dean Moran.

Katie M. Allen and John L. McNabb plan to marry on May 29. Miss Allen works in Division Accounting, while McNabb is in the T&D Service Department.



## Young Sandidge wins contest

Clint Sandidge, the son of Navasota Superintendent Louis Sandidge, recently won first place in an art contest revolving around a fire prevention theme.

The youngster, a second-grader, received a \$75 savings bond as his prize from Sweetbriar Nursing Home, which sponsored the contest.

Shown with Sandidge (at far right) are (from left) Jeffrey Noto, second place winner, and Hyan Chu Chan, third place winner. Standing behind the boys is their second grade teacher, Cindy Slaydon.





## Clay bags big buck

Bobby L. Clay, a test foreman at Lewis Creek Station, killed an eight-point buck during a recent hunting trip in Montgomery County.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent D. W. Rutherford, it was the biggest deer Clay had ever bagged.

## Employee dies in Lake Charles

Billie Jo Belvin, 51, a GSU employee based at the Lake Charles Service Center, died Monday, Dec. 7 in a Lake Charles hospital.

Services for Mrs. Belvin were held Wednesday, Dec. 9 in Glad Tiding Assembly of God Church in Lake Charles. The Rev. Carter Rogers officiated. Burial was in Palestine Cemetery in Grant under direction of Hixson Funeral Home.

A native of Reeves, Mrs. Belvin made her home in Moss Bluff near Lake Charles.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Earl Belvin; two sons, David Belvin and Robert E. Belvin Jr., both of Sulphur; two sisters, Mrs. L. J. Hollingsworth of Ragley and Mrs. Paul Brown of Moss Bluff; three brothers, Richard Rion of Moss Bluff, and Howell Ernest and Joseph P. Rion, both of Reeves; her mother, Mrs. Elsie Johnson of Reeves, and two grandchildren.

## Romero dies in Lafayette

Odelon L. Romero, district station operator for T&D Service Department in Lafayette, died Jan. 6.

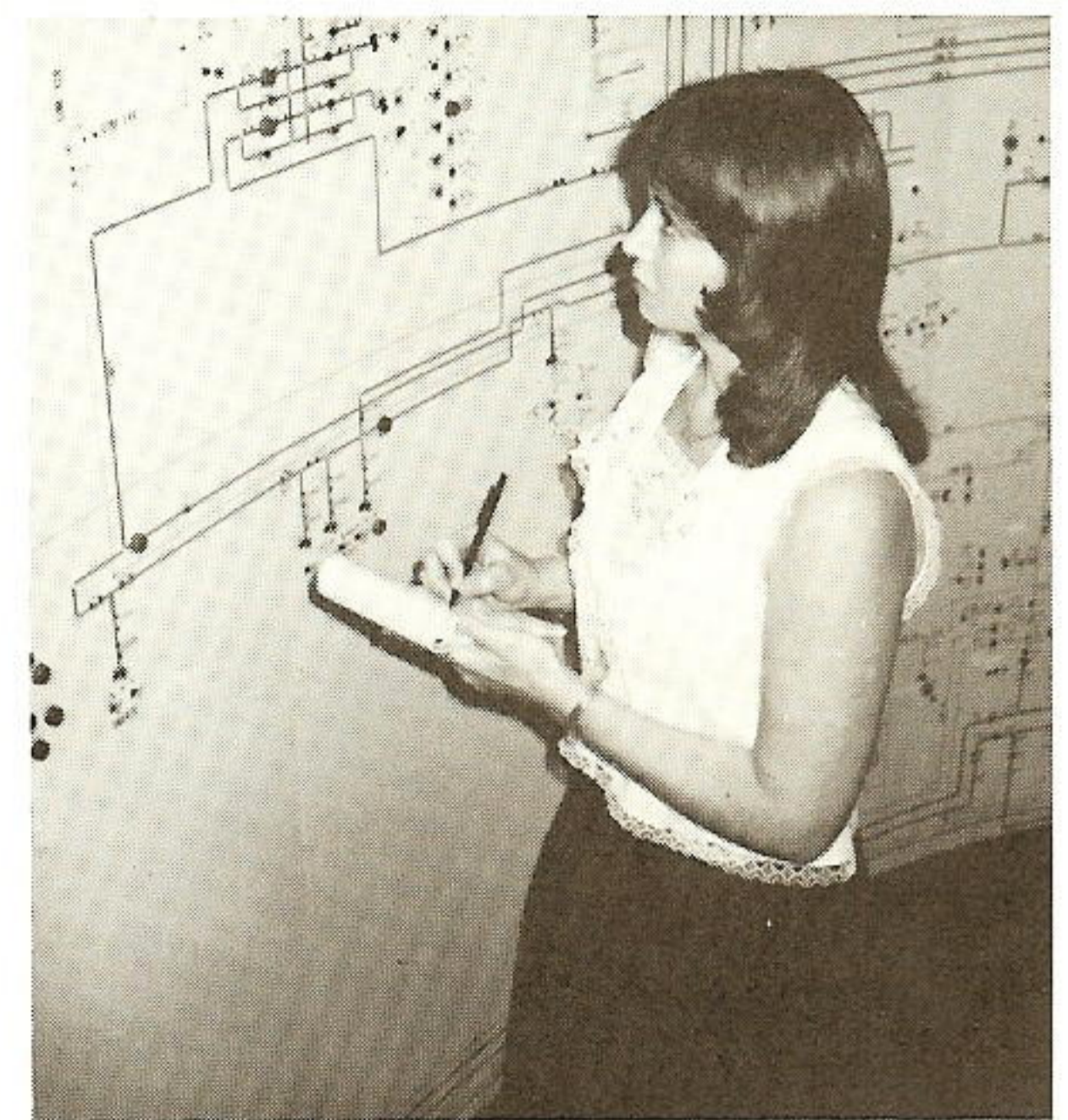


## Helen Kennedy has daughter

Helen Kennedy, an 11-year GSU employee based in Lafayette, recently returned to work from maternity leave.

She and her husband, Larry, became the parents of a baby girl on Oct. 29. Little Tara Letha Kennedy weighed seven pounds, nine ounces and was 20¼ inches long.

The Kennedys also have a son, 5-year-old Kyle.



## Saurage "mans" the radio

During major electricity outages, Sue Saurage sometimes feels as if she needs a dozen hands.

The Beaumont Service Center dispatcher, a mother of three who is holding a traditionally male-filled job, nevertheless finds the work "challenging."

"During an emergency, such as a major outage, we must keep up with four radio frequencies and 29 phone extensions and at the same time coordinate crews in the field and issue switching orders," she explained.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Saurage can find humor amid the bustle. Her funniest experience, she revealed, involved "answering a phone during a very busy time and trying to talk into the wrong end."

A 2½-year employee of Gulf States, Mrs. Saurage is a native of San Diego, Calif., who moved to Texas about four years ago. She began her Gulf States' career as a departmental clerk in the Meter Department.

She said the shift work schedule permits her more time with her children, two sons and a daughter.

Shortly after becoming a dispatcher in early 1981, she spent a month in the field with the Relay Department, Line Department, Substation Department and servicemen and troubleshooters. The experience, she said, helped "clear up the mud and make things a lot clearer" about her job.



# RETIREE UPDATE



## McCord honored with parties

Betty McCord was honored twice in December for her Feb. 1 retirement.

The 33-year company veteran was treated to dinner at Beaumont's Gallagher's Restaurant and then given a party in the office.

A general clerk in System Billing, she announced plans to take it easy in the new recliner presented to her by co-workers.

The honoree (at left) is pictured with her supervisor, Camilla Adams.

## Henry services held in Sulphur

Robert Lee Henry, 76, of Sulphur died Dec. 1 in his home. He was a Gulf States' retiree who had been with the company for 48 years.

Services for Henry were held Dec. 3 in Immaculate Conception Church, Sulphur, with the Rev. Herman Ogea officiating. Rosary was recited Dec. 2 in the chapel of Hixson Funeral Home. Burial was in Orange Grove Cemetery.

Henry had lived in the Lake Charles area for 16 years.

Survivors include a son, Robert F. Henry of Sulphur; two brothers, Roy Henry of Pleasanton, Texas, and Raymond Henry of Rockport, Texas; three sisters, Edith Gardiner of Beaumont, Hazel Gilbert of Rockport and Olive Buck of Seabrook, Texas, and five grandchildren.

## Dates given for retirement

Among those retiring Jan. 1 was Thomas D. Williams, utility worker II, Building Services, in Jennings.

Among those retiring Feb. 1 were John T. Graves, director-operations development, Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge; Morris J. Reynaud Jr., switchboard operator, Production, Baton Rouge; and Artis Foreman, equipment operator, Plant Production, Sabine Station.



## Gurney reports popular name

When Bill Gurney and his wife, Alida, celebrated their 50th anniversary recently, they were able to see their brand-new great-granddaughter, another Alida.

Gurney, who makes his home in Baton Rouge, retired in January 1965 as system superintendent of results.

But there were two other Alidas visiting the Gurneys that day — their daughter and her daughter, the great-granddaughter's mother.

As if that were not enough, Gurney reports that his wife's mother was also named Alida!

The two youngest Alidas are shown in the picture.



## Flanagan retires in Beaumont

Bob Flanagan was honored with a retirement party in December, as he ended his 33½-year Gulf States' career.

Before the party was over, Flanagan was trying out the rocking chair given to him by co-workers. He and his wife (standing) also admired the wrist watch he received.

Flanagan was a storekeeper in the storeroom at the Beaumont Service Center.

## Huntsville retiree dies in Houston

Robert Edward Leake, 55, of Huntsville died Dec. 21 in Houston. He was a retired engineering assistant.

Services were held Dec. 23 in the chapel of Huntsville Funeral Home with the Rev. Reagan Cooksey officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Memorial Park.

A veteran of the U. S. Army and the Navy, Leake had served in World War II and Korea.

Survivors include his wife, Jo Leake of Huntsville; a son, Robert Leake of Huntsville; a daughter, Carolyn L. Roe of Freeport; a brother, John Leake of Houston; two sisters, Francis Spence of Argyle and Mary Weeks of Lewisville, and three grandchildren.



# ON THE MOVE

**Barbay, David P.**, Baton Rouge, to engineering helper, Electric T&D.

**Bellair, Jesse M.**, Port Arthur, to assistant general line foreman, T&D Line.

**Bernard, Steve R.**, Denham Springs, to helper, T&D/Helper Crews.

**Blackburn, Ronald R.**, Baton Rouge, to property services representative, Division Accounting.

**Blue, Robert W.**, Dayton, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Bonner, Larry A.**, Beaumont, to section head, Accounting Services.

**Cambre, Robert P.**, Willow Glen, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Canizaro, Dennis J.**, Beaumont, to civil engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

**Carter, David G.**, Beaumont, to meterman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Causey, Alton R.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Clark, Melvin J.**, Lafayette, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Cockerham, Kenneth W.**, Baton Rouge, to relayman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Coody, Mark D.**, Beaumont, to utility worker II, Office Services.

**Craig, Gary J.**, Conroe, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Creel, Raymond W.**, Baton Rouge, to safety representative, Division Operations.

**Cutrer, Donald K.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Dufrene, Kathryn J.**, Lake Charles, to consumer information coordinator, Division Consumer Services.

**Edmond, Darrell C.**, Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Ephrom, Michael K.**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Font, Kenneth R.**, Baton Rouge, to helper, Gas Dept.

**Foster, James R. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Fulton, Jeffrey E.**, formerly of Lake Charles, to industrial representative, Division Consumer Services, Lafayette.

**Gautreaux, Louis W.**, Sulphur, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Geo, James R.**, Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D.  
**George, Ronald G.**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Guidry, Mark V.**, Conroe, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

**Hebert, Lloyd J.**, Beaumont, to coordinator-consumer affairs programs, System Consumer Services.

**Hinson, Sandra C.**, Port Arthur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Hunt, Peter L.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Jasper, John T.**, formerly of Willow Glen, to PMS project supervisor, System Production, Beaumont.

**Jones, Clifford E.**, Conroe, to master electrician, Plant Production.

**Krebs, Michael G.**, Dayton, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Landry, Karen L.**, Lafayette, to consumer information coordinator, Division Consumer Services.

**Langston, Brian G.**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Malveaux, Randy P.**, Lake Charles, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Marino, Henry A.**, Beaumont, to EDP education administrator, Computer Applications.

**Mayeux, Ricky J.**, St. Francisville, to second fireman, Plant Production/Operations.

**Morrissey, James P.**, Beaumont, to civil engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

**Nelson, Gerald C.**, Beaumont, to relayman-2nd class, Engineering Design.

**Newman, Robert C.**, Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Norwood, Billie D.**, Mid County, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Randall, Claiborne L.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Randall, Darrell W.**, Port Allen, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Santos, Joy S.**, Beaumont, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.

**Scallan, Edward J. III**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Schaefer, Marvin J.**, Conroe, to service foreman, T&D Service.

**Shelly, Melvin L.**, formerly of Huntsville, to utility foreman, T&D Line, Trinity.

**Skipper, Karyn R.**, formerly of Beaumont, to accountant, Plant Production, Lewis Creek Station.

**Smith, Thad R.**, Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, Transmission Construction.

**Sonnier, Joseph C.**, Abbeville, to district serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Spedale, Robert G.**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Stahlman, Charles S. Jr.**, Port Arthur, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Thigpen, Thomas C.**, Willow Glen Station, to supervisor-contract crews, Plant Production.

**Thompson, Lionel R.**, River Bend Site, to instrumentation & controls supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Warren, Lloyd A.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Gas Dept.

**Weaver, Luddie P. III**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman-2nd class, Gas Dept.

**White, Steven A.**, formerly of Beaumont, to division forester, T&D Operations, Baton Rouge.

**Winckler, Steven L.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Worthy, Gene B. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Editor's Note:** Two recent issues of *Plain Talks* inadvertently listed incorrect information about two employees who had been promoted. In the September issue of the magazine, a listing for Robinson, Thomas A. of Beaumont should have read Roblin, Thomas A., Beaumont, to director-special projects, Power Plant Engineering and Design. In the November issue, Hallmark, Steven A., formerly of Beaumont, was incorrectly identified as division forecaster for Western Division T&D Operations. Instead, Hallmark is the division forester.



## Funding assured for test plant

The development of synthetic fuels in the United States took a major step forward recently when funding was assured for starting construction of the nation's first power plant based on integrated coal gasification-combined cycle technology.

The step was made possible Dec. 10, 1981, when participants in the \$300 million Cool Water Gasification Program committed additional money to close the funding gap, including an increase of up to \$76 million over the \$50 million previously committed by the electric utility industry through the non-profit Electric Power Research Institute. This additional funding brings the Palo Alto-based EPRI's total funding commitment to the project to as much as \$126 million.

The Cool Water facility, using the Texaco Coal Gasification Process, was to start construction in late December at Southern California Edison's Cool Water generating station site at Daggett, 11 miles east of Barstow, California. That announcement was made by Dr. L. T. Papay, chairman of the Cool Water Board of Control and vice president of advanced engineering for Southern California Edison.

The program was officially initiated in 1979 by Texaco Inc. and Edison. These companies were later joined by EPRI, Bechtel Power Corp. and General Electric Co.

The demonstration project is designed to process 1,000 tons a day of Utah coal to a medium-Btu gas for electrical generation in an advanced G.E. combined cycle unit, Dr. Papay explained. Various other coals, including Eastern varieties, also will be tested. Final engineering design of the plant is 50 percent complete.

Although a funding plan has now been assured for the project, the Cool Water Program is still inviting others to participate

in the project.

EPRI's total funding by far exceeds its commitment to any other single project in its history, and demonstrates the electric utility industry's strong support for the potential of integrated gasification-combined cycle power systems as a major coal-based electricity generation option.

The concept, which features modular application, will enable utilities to install new generation capacity in increments — manageable both financially and in terms of generation needs, Papay stated.

## Nuclear power edges coal

U.S. nuclear power plants in 1980 once again had a favorable, though modest, edge over neighboring coal plants, both in the total cost of producing electricity (about 10 percent) and in overall plant performance standards. This was shown in an Atomic Industrial Forum survey covering 44 nuclear utilities representing 56 nuclear, 36 coal and 21 oil units. The results were released Dec. 18, 1981.

The survey indicates that in 1980 a kilowatthour cost an average of 2.3 cents to produce by nuclear power, which accounted for 11 percent of our electricity. It cost 2.5 cents by coal, which accounted for 51 percent of our electricity and 5.4 cents by oil, which accounted for 11 percent. These costs are up from the 1979 survey, which indicated total costs of 1.9, 2.3 and 4.3 cents, respectively.

In 1980 overall performance, nuclear units averaged a fair 59.3 percent "Capacity Factor" and a good 10.8 percent "Forced Outage Rate," comparing favorably with 58.2 and 13.9 percent for coal. Both scored well in "Availability Factor," with coal at 75.1 percent and nuclear at 67.4 percent. The figures for oil in these performance gauges were

39.5, 6.2 and 77.1 percent, respectively.

("Capacity Factor," a key gauge in power unit performance, is the ratio of the kilowatthours actually produced by a unit, compared with the amount it could have generated running at full capacity 24 hours a day all year; therefore, the higher the figure, the better the performance. "Forced Outage Rate" is the percent of time a unit is not available because of component failure or other cause; therefore, the lower the figure, the better the performance. "Availability Factor" is the percent of time a unit is available for operation and, here, too, the higher the figure, the better.)

The AIF survey covered all utilities having at least a 10 percent interest in one or more nuclear units. Specifically, the survey included these utilities' baseload units of 400 megawatts' capacity or larger which use nuclear, coal or oil and which began commercial operation from 1970 through 1979 and were in service for all of 1980.

(Continued from page 19.)

when repairmen get to them, but they still walk them out to see what the source is, just to make sure, Loupe said.

For the most part, men are more careful when they are working under these conditions, he added, referring to the ice and water lining the street.

As the bucket lifted Loupe toward the broken line, repairman Jose Hamilton shook his head:

"What a way to make a living!"



## Public Cites 'Beautiful People'

by GSU President Norman Lee

During the icy weather in mid-January, which brought outages to every division of the company, many Gulf States employees — especially those assigned to line crews — worked extra-long hours.

Aching muscles weren't the only hardships resulting from the chore. Since Gulf Coast residents don't often see such biting cold conditions, our warm-natured bodies found it difficult to adapt to the chill.

It was rewarding to restore service to customers so quickly, but the greatest reward may be in the fact that the public responded to our extra effort with their expressions of encouragement and appreciation. Many wrote letters to local offices and to the editors of local newspapers. In addition, Baton Rouge and Orange newsmen wrote articles that detailed the conditions our crews endured and commended their performance.

Following are excerpts from some of the pleased writers:

— From Lake Charles, customer L. J. Blanchard wrote the *Lake Charles American Press*: ". . . The men and women of GSU, like all the hundreds of public and private employees who worked tirelessly in the severe weather, are beautiful people any way you size up the situation . . ."

— From Jennings, Mayor W. T. Cagnon Jr. informed Jennings District Superintendent Al Gann: ". . . you can be sure that I have heard nothing but praise about the GSU Service Department and how they restored our electrical service in bad weather . . ."

— From Lake Charles, customer Mrs. Lewis Eiselstein told the local office: ". . . A sincere thank you for all the hard, cold work that is necessary to keep people like my family warm on such a cold day . . ."

— From Bob Axelson of *The*

*Orange Leader*, in his "Post Scripts" column; ". . . A special tribute goes to other service personnel who fought the good fight. Standing out are the service crews of the Gulf States Utilities Company here, most affected by such weather conditions . . ."

Perhaps the best description of the ordeal was offered by Bob Anderson, staff writer for the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate*. That city suffered the brunt of both ice storms, the one on Tuesday, Jan. 12 and the one the following day. Portions of his story are reprinted below:

Icy rain pelted the yellow slicker suits.

Cold drops found their way between necks and collars.

Inside the gloves that gripped power lines, fingers had long been cold.

"I just wish it would quit raining," said Ray Loupe as he prepared to climb into the white hydraulic bucket that would carry him up to another broken line, snapped by ice-laden limbs.

He was thankful he could reach this one in the bucket and didn't have to climb a pole.

"Climbing poles is the worst part," he said.

Loupe, ice clinging to his mustache, was one of 400 men repairing Gulf States Utilities Co. power lines Tuesday.

The GSU repair crew has only 135 men, but Tuesday GSU was sending anyone who knew how to do the job into the field.

There was even a claims adjuster helping to repair lines, one of the regular repairmen laughed.

It was one of very few laughs.

By Tuesday afternoon

most of the weather jokes had grown old, and faces were grim, set on finishing a job, getting back into the dry warmth of the truck and moving to another site. It was a cycle that had been going on for hours and would continue well into the night.

"It's terrible, just terrible," GSU spokesman Bill Benedetto said early Tuesday afternoon. "The problems are spread all over the parish."

Limbs breaking under the weight of ice and landing on lines and transformers was the major cause of the power losses, he said.

It's hard to say how many people were out of electricity at one time or another during the winter storm, Benedetto said early in the afternoon.

The amount of financial damage the company has suffered and the cost of the extra work by repair crews wasn't known Tuesday afternoon. The overtime didn't look like it was going to end soon.

"It looks like we'll be working into the night," Benedetto said.

In the field, members of the repair crews wondered how much longer they would have to work.

One repairman speculated the company would soon start sending some crews home to get eight hours' rest.

The company is concerned about safety, and when a man has been working too long, he's not as careful as he would be otherwise, the repairman said.

Most of the lines are dead

(Continued on page 18.)



# PLAIN TALKS

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# Q.

# A.

## Are utilities guaranteed a profit?

Regulated utilities are supposed to be permitted a fair and reasonable profit, but there are no guarantees. Last year, for instance, utilities were authorized to earn an average 14 percent return on equity. Their actual return was 11 percent — too low to attract many investors. Unfortunately, regulators don't always allow for such utility expenses as the rising costs of capital (15 percent last year) when they set limits on utility rates.

