

# PLAIN TALKS

January-February 1985

**Murrill —  
1985 challenges**



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Volume 64

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## PLAIN TALKS

January-February 1985

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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.

## Commercials educate

Jim Moss  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Moss:

As a consumer and the daughter of one of your employees, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how much I appreciate your latest advertising/commercial spots on television.

Your commercial has very effectively shown the consumers that Gulf States is there to serve us. The way in which you present the situation with the consumer coping and the employees acting is very effective.

But most of all, I would like to personally thank you on behalf of all the families of your employees. Your commercial also shows **real** employees performing their jobs while enduring the elements. It gives the consumer an idea of exactly what a person has to do in order to get "the lights on" and dispels the belief that there's a guy in a control room who simply has to flip a switch and the lights are back on.

For years my Dad has had to work during storms and threatening weather. The commercial said to me, "Now consumers can see how it's really done and can share in the concerns that are in the minds of GSU families. The ones who are waiting for their special someone to return home after working so hard to serve others."

Your latest commercial not only educates the consumer, it is a pat on the back to your em-

ployees because it has told the whole viewing area that Gulf States Utilities is there to serve us, but more so it states quite clearly that **GSU appreciates it's people.**

Thank you again,  
Lisa Toups Batts  
Addis, Louisiana

## Car problems

Gulf States Utilities  
Conroe, Texas

Dear Sir:

When I paid my bill last month at the window I came in contact with two of your lovely young employees.

The gears of my 1973 Nova locked and I was helplessly blocking traffic at the windows. I am 79, and badly crippled. The young lady at the window sympathetically went in and found a young man to try to help me. He was not familiar with a standard shift, nor locking gears, but he pushed the car out of the way and kept trying till he fixed it. His given name is Nick. If you have an opportunity, please tell these precious young people this old lady loves them.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Armstrong  
Conroe, Texas

**Editor's Note:** The two employees who helped Mrs. Armstrong were Candy Johnson, a clerk, and Nick Constantine, an accountant, both in the Conroe office.

## Hazard removed

Tass Young  
Gulf States Utilities  
Pt. Neches, Texas

Dear Mr. Young,

We would like to express our appreciation to you for your immediate action regarding the removal of the service wire in our yard.

We feared an accident would take place because of the low-hanging service wire. You obviously care enough about people to see to it that this wire was removed as soon as possible.

There are not many people left in this world who are concerned with the safety of those unknown to them.

Again, thank you for your promptness in eliminating a potential safety hazard.

Sincerely,  
Steve Foster  
Scaffolding Rental  
Nederland, Texas

## Prompt service

Van Kitchens  
Orange, Texas

Gentlemen:

I appreciate the prompt service that your department gave me in locating my electrical problem. Your response to my call was handled very professionally.

Sincerely,  
Charles A. Cooper  
Mauriceville, Texas

## Beautiful employees

Charles Glover  
Gonzales, Louisiana

Mr. Glover,

...On Aug. 21, our transformer blew out on Camp Drive. You, as supervisor, deserve a lot of credit. Your team had everything repaired in 30 minutes.

My husband and I are in our late years — he is 80 and I'm 60. May I say thank you to all your beautiful employees for such quick service. But you see, it all goes back to having a great supervisor.

It is so nice doing business with your people. Everyone there is always so courteous. I'm happy I live out here. You people surely need a lot of credit; much more than people take for granted.

Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Deen  
Prairieville, Louisiana

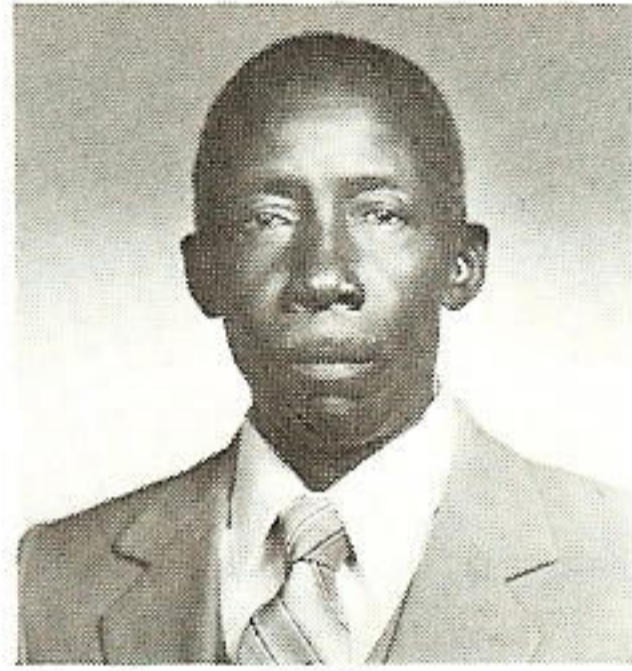
## THE COVER

The beginning of operations at River Bend and the end of the Exxon contract pose two major challenges for GSU in 1985.

Board Chairman Paul Murrill reveals how he believes the company will fare in 1985 in a feature beginning on page 10.

# SERVICE AWARDS

## 40 years

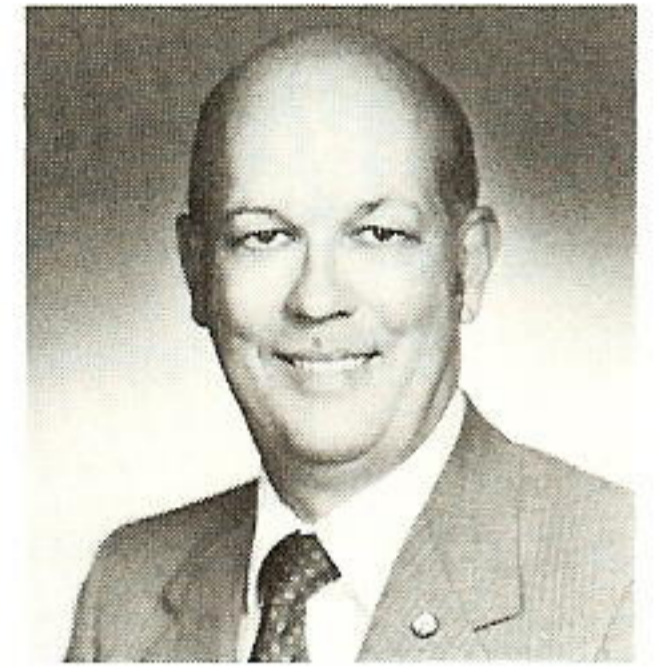


**Arthur Wilson**  
Plant Production  
Louisiana Station

## 30 years



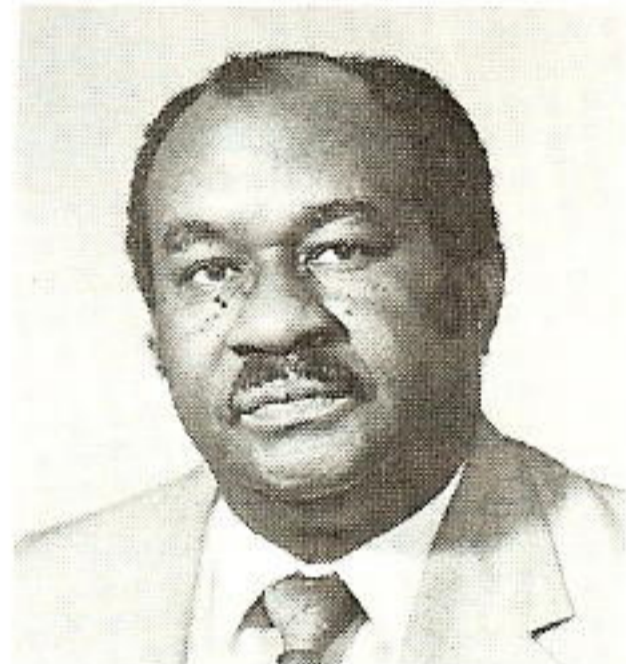
**Ray John Cormier**  
Electric T&D  
Lake Charles



**Van B. Hereford Jr.**  
Div. Accounting  
Baton Rouge

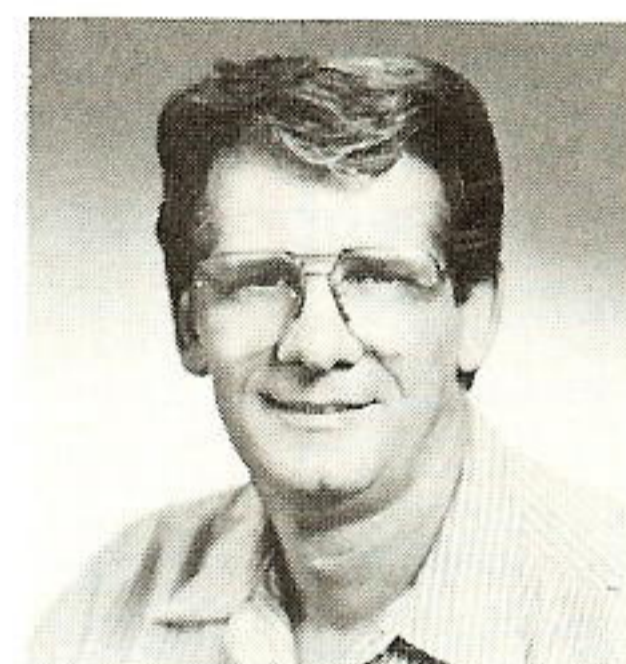


**Gene B. Mullin**  
Div. Operations  
Sulphur

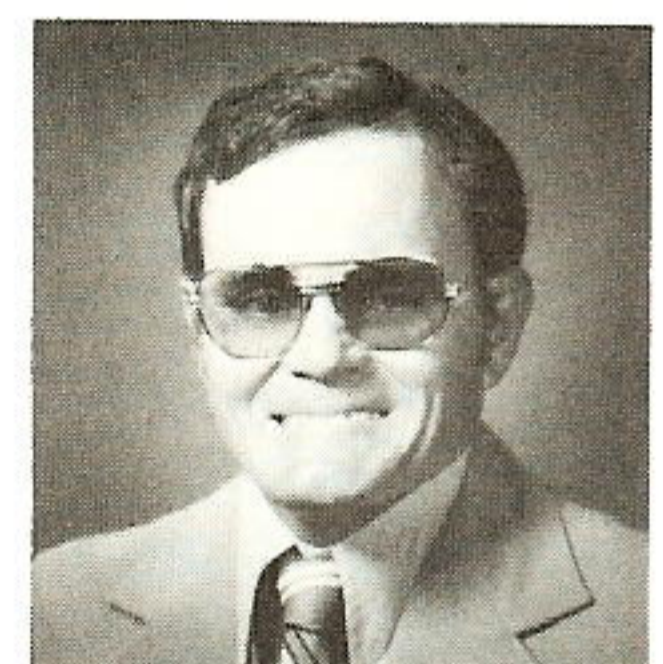


**Andrew B. Reder**  
Electric T&D  
Lake Charles

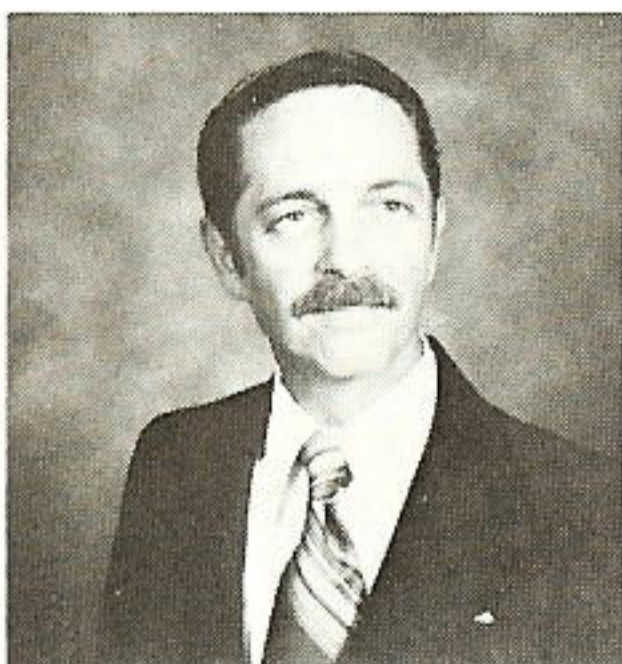
## 20 years



**Joseph G. Favaron**  
Plant Production  
Louisiana Station



**William L. Griffin**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Larry C. Madden**  
Plant Production  
Lewis Creek

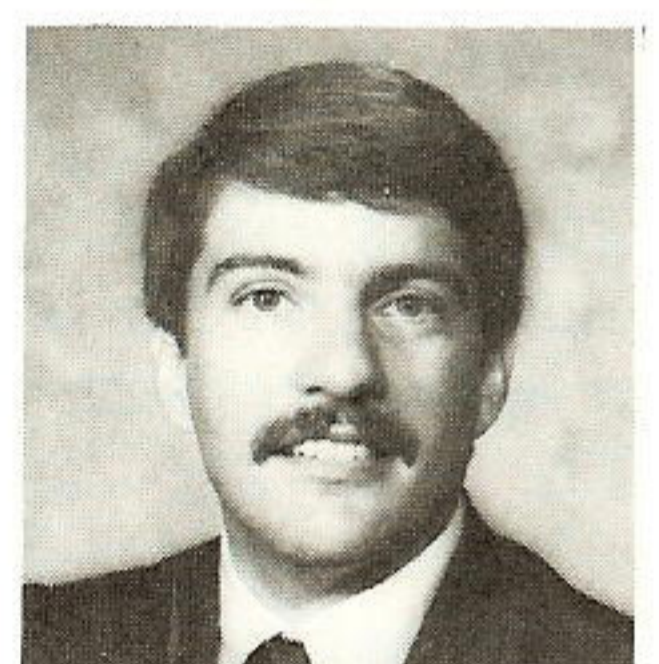


**Barney H. Neal**  
Electric T&D  
Conroe

## 10 years



**Beulah S. Bond**  
Div. Accounting  
Mid County



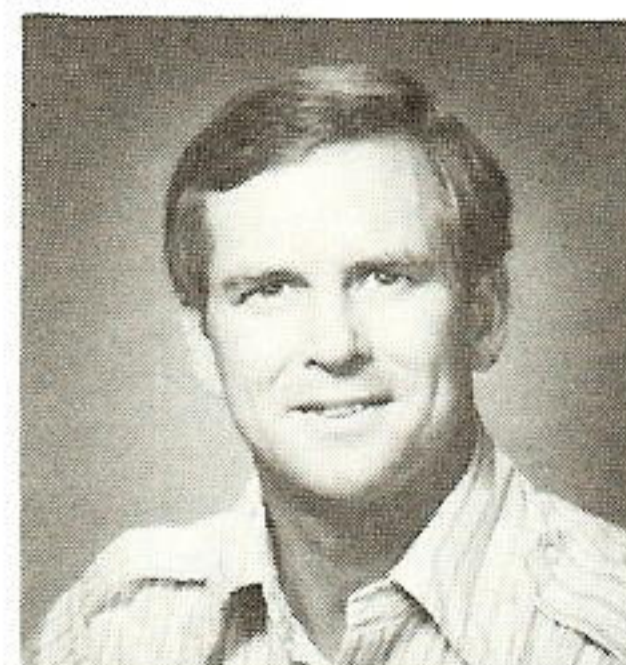
**Randall Harless**  
Computer Applications  
Beaumont



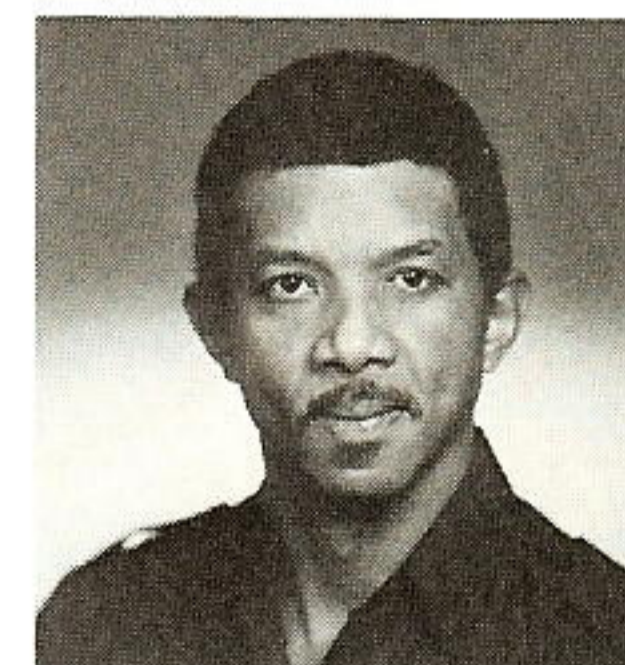
**Billy R. Locke**  
Plant Production  
Nelson Coal



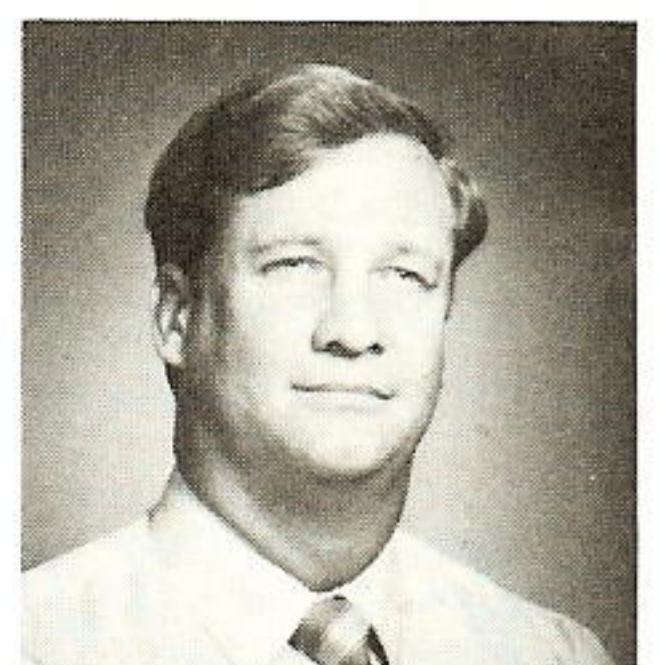
**Helen C. Mack**  
Office Services  
Beaumont



**David L. Smith**  
Eng. & Tech. Svcs.  
Beaumont



**Leon Smith**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge



**Nolan E. Walker**  
Eng. & Tech. Svcs.  
Beaumont

## In memoriam

*Plain Talks* has received word of the following deaths:

**Charles R. "Tony" Jones Jr.**, 64, of Baton Rouge, died on Oct. 19, 1984. He retired in 1982 as garage foreman at the Choctaw Service Center with over 37 years of service.

A native of McCall Creek, Michigan, Jones served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II.

His survivors include his wife, Helen Wooten Jones of Baton Rouge; one daughter, Linda Drummond; one son, Charles W. Jones; and two grandchildren.

**Jack S. Hemphill**, 69, of Burkeville, Texas died on Nov. 26, 1984. He retired from GSU in 1980 as hydro-plant supervisor at Toledo Bend with over 42 years of service.

A native of Port Arthur, Hemphill attended Louisiana State University and Southwestern Louisiana College (now University of Southwestern Louisiana). He also served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

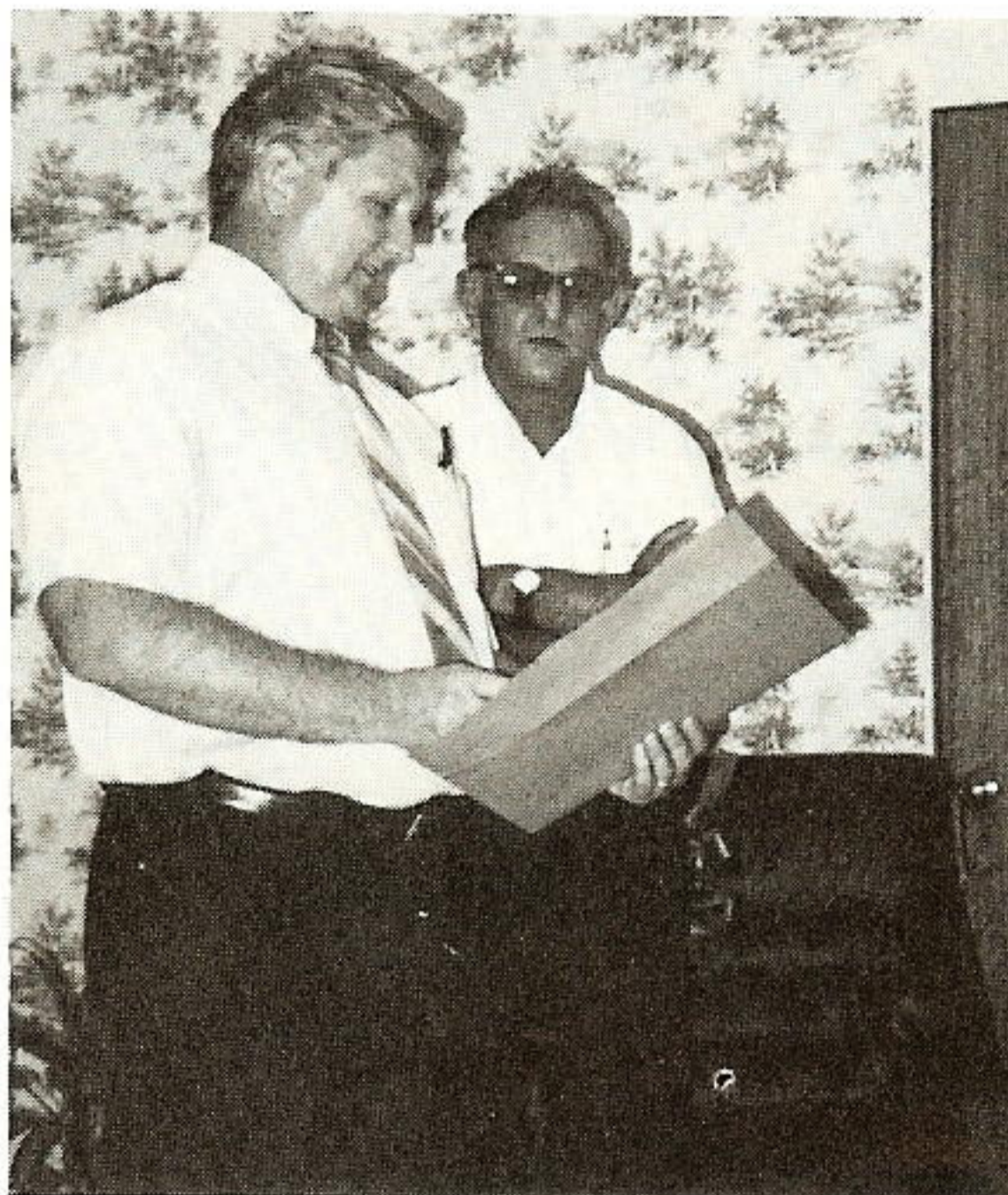
Hemphill is survived by his wife, Dixie R. Hemphill of Burkeville, Texas; and a daughter, Mrs. Francis Forehand of Duncan, Oklahoma.

## Mayor proclaims special day

Nov. 1 was a very special day for Jack David. It marked the end of his 29-year career with GSU. While friends, family and co-workers gathered to honor the Northern District accounting supervisor with a retirement party, the recognition didn't stop there.

Silsbee Mayor Darrell Shine issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 1 as "Jack Holland David Day." Robert Sheffield, GSU's superintendent for the Northern District, read the proclamation from the mayor at David's retirement party.

Presents given to David included a recliner chair.



*Robert Sheffield, left, shows Jack David the Mayor's Proclamation.*

## Ourso clan joins in celebration

Nearly 150 friends and co-workers attended Lloyd Ourso's retirement party held Nov. 15 at the Port Allen Service Center. He was joined by his wife, Virgie, and their eight children at the party which featured barbecue chicken with all of the trimmings.

Ourso, who was a repairman-1st class prior to his retirement, ended his career at GSU with nearly 36 years of service.



*The Ourso family: (from left) Julie, Lloyd Jr., Susan, Stan, Virgie, Lloyd Sr., Diane, Linda, Gary and Benny.*

## Bowen honored by Sideliners

Al Bowen, tour director for the Beaumont Sideliners, was given a plaque for his contributions to the group during a surprise presentation at the Sideliners' quarterly meeting.

Bowen, a former systems operator who retired from GSU in 1977, coordinates the group's tours. Travels during the past year included visits to Disney World, Natchez, Mississippi and Pensacola, Florida.

## Air show thrills retired travelers

The Beaumont Sideliners traveled to Pensacola, Florida, to see a performance by the U.S. Navy's precision fliers, the Blue Angels. The GSU retirees were VIP guests among the 10,000 plus spectators, with special front-row seating for the air show.

Henry Zahn, Beaumont Sideliners' correspondent, reports that the Navy provided a basket lunch for each GSU retiree and introduced them to the crowd attending the show.

While in Pensacola, the Sideliners toured some of the city's refurbished homes.

## Donna Bush

# Energy auditor likes helping customers

Story and photo by Mike Rodgers

“I like to continue learning, and there’s always something to learn in this job,” says Donna Bush, an energy auditor for GSU in Baton Rouge. Her willingness to work hard, positive attitude and sparkly personality make Bush popular with GSU customers and her fellow employees.

Four years ago, Bush started working for Gulf States as a mail courier. Her family had moved to Baton Rouge from Indiana where she had been a teacher. Now her days as an energy auditor are

filled with listening and talking — working out bill complaints and helping customers find ways to save energy in their homes. “It’s a real challenge and very satisfying to help people manage their utility bills,” she notes.

It is this concern for customers that makes Bush effective, according to Bruce Nolen, supervisor-energy audits. “She cares about the customers and puts herself in their shoes,” he says.

Her ability to identify with customer needs may stem from personal experience — raising six

children. Donna and her husband, Bob, a chemical supervisor at Kaiser in Baton Rouge, are kept busy with their active family. Joe, 20, is studying astronomical engineering at MIT. Bill, 19, is majoring in broadcast journalism at LSU. Pete, 18, Polly, 16, Tom, 15, and Andy, 14, are in high school. “I have a large family, so I watch my utility bill too,” she stresses.

In dealing with customer complaints, Bush finds patience a definite virtue. “Once I had to meet with an elderly man and tell him that there was no error in his bill, that he really had used that much electricity.” Bush recalls the man got angry, started shouting and kept pushing her arm. Finally he stopped and asked her, “How do you feel right now?” When she said, “Fine,” he sighed and answered, “So do I. I feel like eating some cake and Jello. How about you?” Then, Bush remembers, “He told me his wife had been dead less than a year and he had no one to talk to. Once I gave him an outlet for his loneliness and frustration, we parted as friends.”

A member of Toastmasters, Bush feels the experience in speaking before a group keeps up her confidence. Writing is another creative outlet. Besides putting out the Toastmasters newsletter, she enjoys writing light humor, poetry and on one occasion, a country song. “I write down my goals in life on a piece of paper I keep in a drawer. When I meet a goal, I cross it off,” she says. Her ultimate goal is to write a book. “Sometimes when you have a goal, the time isn’t right. My time will come,” she says confidently.



*Bush inspects insulating material provided by a visiting vendor.*



## Company completes United Gas disbursal

by Susan Gilley

More than \$103 million had been distributed to Louisiana and Texas GSU customers by Nov. 21 from the \$112 million settlement from United Gas Pipe Line Co., reports Mike Yennie, manager-accounting services.

In addition, GSU recovered \$250,000.00 for bad debt losses in Louisiana and applied \$272,631.96 against bad debt losses in Texas. About \$750,000 helped offset administrative costs in both states.

The process of issuing checks to various classes of customers took several months, and was expected to end in late December with completion of the Louisiana disbursal. At press time, about \$3.5 million, plus \$465,000 in earned interest, remained for future claims.

Gulf States received the money from United Gas Pipe Line Co. in late 1983 in settlement of a breach of contract lawsuit. GSU

filed suit in federal district court in New Orleans in 1974 after United defaulted on its contract to deliver natural gas. The curtailment forced GSU to purchase more expensive fuel, and led to extensive, costly construction expenditures at some power plants to allow them to burn oil as well as natural gas.

Gulf States customers paid for these extra costs; therefore, the company filed the suit on their

behalf to recover damages.

The Texas refund plan was far less complex than the Louisiana approach. According to Yennie, the Louisiana Public Service Commission required extensive research for locating and verifying eligible customers. About 85 temporary and five GSU employees were needed to carry out the Louisiana plan, while all Texas refunds were handled by GSU personnel.

### United Gas Disbursal In Dollars

Customer Class	Texas	Louisiana
Residential .....	\$12,251,863.46	\$10,147,187.34
Commercial .....	7,304,673.37	9,935,090.81
Industrial .....	25,466,736.67	36,986,420.53
Streetlight .....	137,724.32	221,901.51
Public Authority .....	386,170.86	233,061.27
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$45,547,168.68</b>	<b>\$57,523,661.46</b>

# Family stresses seatbelt use



*Deborah Cropper  
refuses to start  
her car until  
Jewelann and  
Joseph buckle up.*

Joseph and Jewelann Cropper know the importance of buckling up, because the two youngsters have parents who insist that seat belts be used every time they ride in a vehicle.

According to their mom, Deborah, the children's dad, Steven, began stressing seat belt safety in 1979, shortly after joining Gulf States. That is when he viewed the film, "Room to Live," in which an actual highway patrolman discusses the dangers of not buckling up. Not only was Cropper convinced of the importance of buckling up in company vehicles, but he implemented the same safety rule at home.

Mrs. Cropper recalls, "When our son was born, we got into the bad habit of only buckling him in his seat occasionally. He soon learned if he screamed loud enough, we would unbuckle him. It's amazing how quickly children learn this trick!"

Joseph was 1 when his dad saw the film, and from then on he was adamant about seat belt use. Among other tactics, Cropper encouraged his young son to pretend that the child-restraint seat was a rocket seat. Now a test technician-1st class at Sabine Station, Cropper and his wife started out right when their daughter, now almost 3, was born.

"She buckled up for the first time on her way home from the hospital," reveals Mrs. Cropper. The Croppers view their commitment to buckling up as "an extension of our love" for the two children.

Ray Thompson, GSU safety coordinator, says the Croppers had the right idea long before new legislation in Texas and Louisiana required seat belt use for young children.

Thompson quotes the results of a study carried out in Michigan in 1983 to evaluate the effects of child restraint laws. The study by

the Michigan Transportation Research Institute was designed to determine if fewer children were injured in accidents as a result of the law which went into effect in March 1982. Study results showed that the number of injured children under 3 years of age declined by 50 percent. That translated into the prevention of injuries to about 458 children each year.

Thompson offers scarier statistics, too. For instance, the National Safety Council predicts that every American can expect to be in a motor vehicle crash once every 10 years. For one person out of 20, it will be a serious crash. But for one out of 60 born today, it will be fatal. The Council maintains that 15,000 of the 44,600 lives lost in 1983 could have been saved simply by using seat belts. Thompson says such statistics more than justify GSU's safety rule requiring seat belt use in company vehicles.



## River Bend Station

# Construction budget revised

by T.J. Reyes

For the first time in three years the River Bend construction budget has been revised. After completing the 1984 budget review of construction costs, Gulf States is projecting a \$220 million increase, pushing the total cost for the 940-megawatt unit to \$2.72 billion. This figure does not include carrying charges during construction or capital expenditures after the plant goes into operation in December 1985.

A bright note from the review was the affirmation of the plant's aggressive construction timetable, with fuel loading still scheduled for April 1985. That will give River Bend, now about 95 percent complete, the best schedule performance for any nuclear plant since the early 1970s.

According to Project Manager Jon Curless, the budget increase is required for technical and other manpower needs to complete testing and startup of the system on schedule and to cover the cost of some additional construction activities. Curless says the effort required to accomplish a current nuclear plant startup on schedule has increased tremendously over the last two years as reflected by experience at other plants, which has impacted regulatory policies. These regulatory policies apply to River Bend.



Regulatory rulings also have affected River Bend's design. The boiling water reactor's final design was not totally complete when the budget was compiled. The NRC has put into effect or clarified certain design changes since then which have been implemented as the project progresses. These have added to the total cost of the project.

In most cases these design changes have required additional material and manpower. Other material needs have resulted as construction progressed to the

point where actual amounts could be better determined.

While continuing cost overruns and other problems have plagued some other nuclear projects to the point of cancellation, River Bend has continued to receive high marks in terms of construction, design and safety, according to CEO Paul Murrill. In addition, when completed, River Bend will provide Gulf States and its customers needed fuel diversity and protection from future increases in fuel prices.

# CEO views 1985 challenges

by Betty Gavora

As the New Year begins, we felt it would be an appropriate time to sit down with GSU Chairman Dr. Paul Murrill to hear his thoughts on what challenges 1985 holds for the company and its employees. The first part of the two-part interview follows:



*Dr. Paul Murrill: "There are two major challenges — the expiration of the Exxon natural gas contract ... and beginning of operations at River Bend."*

**PLAIN TALKS:** Dr. Murrill, what do you see as the major challenges we will face in 1985?

**DR. MURRILL:** There are two major challenges — the expiration of the Exxon natural gas contract and the resultant changes and the completion of construction and beginning of operations at River Bend.

Let's look at the expiration of the Exxon contract first. This is something Gulf States has dreaded for 20 years, knowing that favorable contract would come to an end. And it ended Jan. 1, 1985 at 7 a.m. Now that we no longer have a low-cost natural gas contract, the increased costs to our customers will be somewhere between \$350-\$400 million. That's an incredible amount of money, and it produces obvious difficulties for our customers because, although it is technically a fuel adjustment increase, it is a cost increase.

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**"We will be going through a period of 'white water'..."**

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No doubt, the majority of our customers will not see this from the aspect of their having enjoyed the benefit of natural gas at below market prices for 20 years, but rather as an increase in costs. And I understand that very well. It is understandable. So if people will view it that way, then we just have to work with it. We will be going through a period of "white water" as we and our customers accommodate to this change. I anticipate there will be a lot of anxiety, a lot of adjustment, a lot of uncertainty as we make this transition. In one sense, 1985 will be a year of digestion of that phenomenon.

The second major event coming to a head in 1985 will be the completion of construction of River Bend. I want our employees to realize that the construction of River Bend has taken place

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**“... It will be the fastest construction period of any nuclear power plant in the United States since 1972.”**

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very quickly. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) defines “when construction starts” as when we lay down the first piece of construction steel, and that happened in August of 1979. The NRC says we “finish construction” when we load fuel in the reactor. Of course, we have six to eight months of low-power testing and operation before River Bend can become commercial, but we “finish construction” when we load fuel. Our goal is to do that in April of 1985.

When that goal is met, the time that will have elapsed from first rebar laydown to fuel load will be 68 months. Now that may seem like a long time, but it will be the fastest construction period of any nuclear power plant in the United States since 1972. This is praiseworthy.

It is also clear that, quite aside from the construction, the licensing of River Bend is going very smoothly. At the present, we don't have any intervenors, which is a unique situation among power plants under construction. Unique.

For years we've been talking about construction when we've talked of River Bend. At the moment we're “knee deep” in start-up and testing, but '85 will

be the year in which the focus turns to operations. Clearly, in '85 as that happens, much of the public activities of GSU will focus on the cost of River Bend and what that does to electric bills. This, combined with the close proximity to the Exxon contract expiration, will make it a kind of “one-two” punch. No doubt, the media and our customers will focus on that. It will be very much in our corporate consciousness during 1985.

Our employees will be beset with many questions about this cost problem from their friends, relatives and other people with whom they come in contact. So our employees need to understand what is happening and need to be able to discuss it intelligently with those who ask.

For years we have been a low-cost producer of electricity. In 1985 our costs to the customer must go up due to the expiration of the Exxon natural gas contract and the economics involved in putting River Bend into operation. How we handle that will be extremely important to our customers.

I'd like each of our employees to view this as our challenge in 1985, to look at it in terms of what each of us as individuals can do to help. As we all do our jobs as best we know how, I'd like us to ask ourselves two questions — What can I as an individual do to make GSU more cost competitive? What can I do to help the company provide better service to our customers at less cost?



*Murrill: “River Bend will give us the advantage of fuel diversity.”*

**PLAIN TALKS:** In late November of 1984, we learned that the projected costs to put River Bend into service had increased by approximately \$220 million, from \$2.5 billion to \$2.72 billion. Would you like to comment on this?

**DR. MURRILL:** Yes. It is true that the estimate on River Bend was increased by 8 percent; that is, the "life of the project" estimate. In other words, the total cost of the "life of the project" was increased to \$2.72 billion. The 1981 estimate was \$2.5 billion.

While we are distressed by that increase, it is remarkable in these times that the increase is not more. All you have to do is look around the country to be aware of the cost increases of other nuclear projects. Once you do that, you see that this really represents a very good performance. When we look at River

Bend, we must look at the whole picture and that includes the positive aspects, as well.

The problem of River Bend is economics, but River Bend will give us the advantage of fuel diversity. We will be able to

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**"I don't believe the current gas bubble will last forever, and River Bend gives us incredible fuel diversity."**

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supplement natural gas-based power with River Bend. Now River Bend may not look too good compared to \$2.50 gas; but, when you compare it to \$8 gas, a very favorable picture emerges.

We have a gas bubble at the moment, but you have to remember what happens to a bubble at the end of its lifetime. It bursts.

I don't believe the current gas bubble will last forever, and River Bend gives us incredible fuel diversity. It gives us protection from rising gas prices, and it is inevitable that they will rise. When they do, it will not be a smooth rise, but rapid and dramatic. So, if you look at the momentary economics of River Bend, they look difficult. But, if you look at the long-term economics, they're very reassuring and promising. Also, from the standpoint of construction, design and safety, River Bend is a model plant.

I think people will try to shape the public discussion of River Bend as a discussion of the difficulty of the economics, but we can't let the debate be restricted solely to that. We've got to talk about fuel diversity and long-term economics. We've got to build in a litany of the advantages of River Bend, which are considerable.

**PLAIN TALKS:** At the beginning of this New Year do you have a special message for GSU employees?

**DR. MURRILL:** Well, this also is the beginning of my fourth year with the company, and I continue to be impressed with our people. I think, as much as anything, I'd like to express my appreciation and gratitude to our employees for the good work they have done in the past and continue to do. We have very dedicated and capable employees. I think they're proud of the work they do and I'm proud of them.

**NOTE:** Dr. Murrill talks about the effect upon the company of the economic situation in the GSU service area and cogeneration in the March *PLAIN TALKS*.



*Murrill: "I continue to be impressed with our people."*

# Lake Charles Sideliners honor Walter House and Phil Allen

Story and photo by T.J. Reyes

Usually people make their most noteworthy contributions to the company they work for while they are active employees. But Walter House may find his name in the annals of GSU history most often for his work since retirement.

House is the founding father of the GSU Sideliners, the retirees' club which boasts a chapter in each of the five divisions. After 12 years as president of the Lake Charles Division Sideliners, House has decided to step down so those in the group he calls "youngsters," retirees who are 62 to 65 years old, can take charge.

When he retired in 1971 as supervisor of sales in Orange, House and his wife, Catherine, moved to Lake Charles. They wondered how they would keep in touch with all of the friends they had made during the nearly 42 years House worked for GSU. That's when his idea to form a retirees' group first began to take shape.

But it wasn't until House received encouragement from Joe Bondurant, now an executive vice president, before the idea became reality. Bondurant suggested that House first organize Lake Charles Division retirees as sort of a pilot program, and then work from there.

After the first group was formed in Lake Charles, House went on to organize similar groups in each division, with the assistance of many others, he is quick to emphasize. "There were

so many people who contributed their support." House adds, "I'd like to personally recognize each one, but the list would go on and on."

House points out with justifiable pride that all five chapters participate in a system-wide retirees' meeting, held annually for the last three years in Lake Charles.

At their Nov. 29 meeting, the Lake Charles Sideliners honored Walter House, along with fellow retired employee Phil Allen, for their contributions to the organization. While the two men's wives looked on, current Lake Charles Sideliners' President Melvin Garman presented

House and Allen each with a gift — lapel pins with their initials. Garman credited the existence of the club to the two men.

Allen, along with House, was a member of a retirees' committee that traveled to the other divisions to help them organize. Allen also has served as secretary/treasurer, and later treasurer of the Lake Charles club from its beginning until 1984.

While both men have stepped down from their positions as club officers, they vow they will continue to stay active with the group. After all, House says, "Sideliners' meetings are a good place to meet and talk over old times."



*Catherine and Walter House*

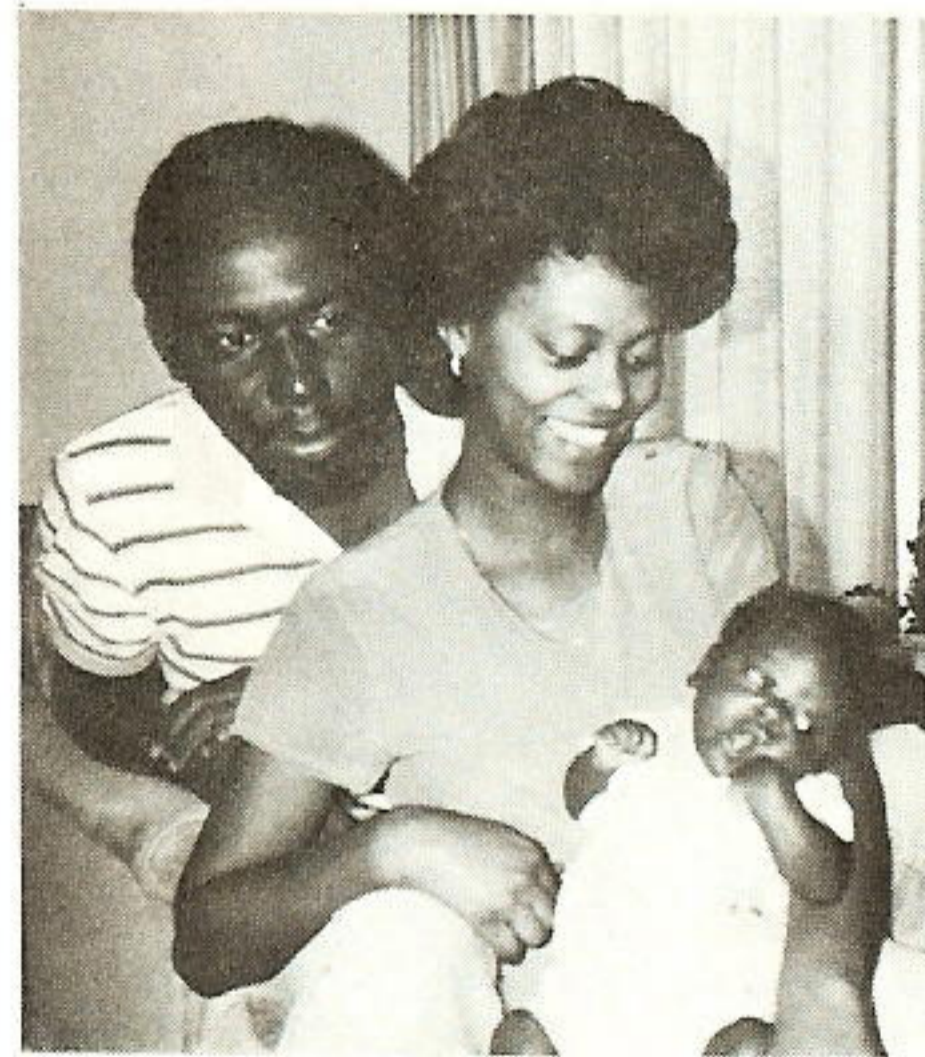


*Chuck and Carol Hughes*

## Employee weds in Dickinson

Charles "Chuck" Hughes married Carol Marie Taeuber at the First Presbyterian Church in Dickinson, Texas on Aug. 25, 1984.

Hughes, an engineering assistant in Beaumont, attends Lamar University. His bride, Carol, was a December 1984 graduate of Lamar.



*Sheldon and Cynthia Johnson admire baby JoRel Gerard.*

## Johnsons greet first-born son

Cynthia and Sheldon Johnson are proud first-time parents of a baby boy.

The father, who is an energy auditor in Baton Rouge, says he has big plans for little JoRel Gerard Johnson.

## Little Sharon Lynn joins Tsai family

Little Nicholas Tsai was concerned when his brand-new baby sister made her appearance recently — without any teeth!

Even so, 3-year-old Nicholas joined his parents, Pat and John Tsai, in welcoming the infant to the Baton Rouge family.

The mom, Pat, is a senior stenographer in Baton Rouge Division Marketing & Consumer Services.



*Sharon Lynn Tsai*

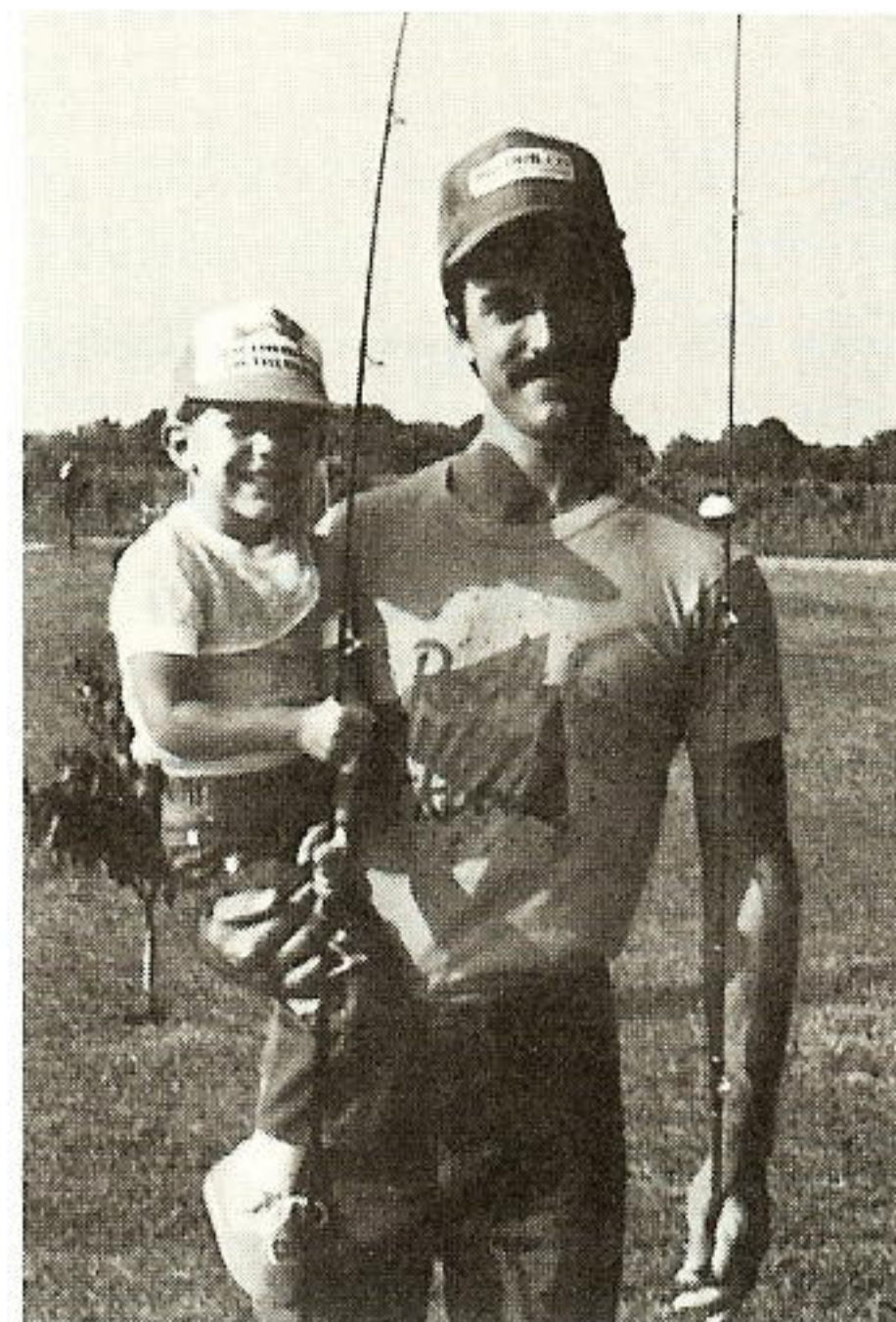
## Megan Dawn joins Becker family

Megan Dawn Becker joined the Ron and Kathy Becker family on May 23, 1984. She weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 21 inches at birth.

Her father is an electrician-1st class at Lewis Creek Station.



*Megan Dawn Becker*



*Kasey and Leonard Patin*

## Duo enjoys fishing trip

Three-year-old Kasey Patin, daughter of Leonard Patin, enjoyed her first fishing trip. Kasey, who has one brother, 4-month-old Korrey, went fishing with her father.

The children's father is a lineman-3rd class while their grandfather, Claude Patin, is shop foreman/garage. Both men work in Lafayette.

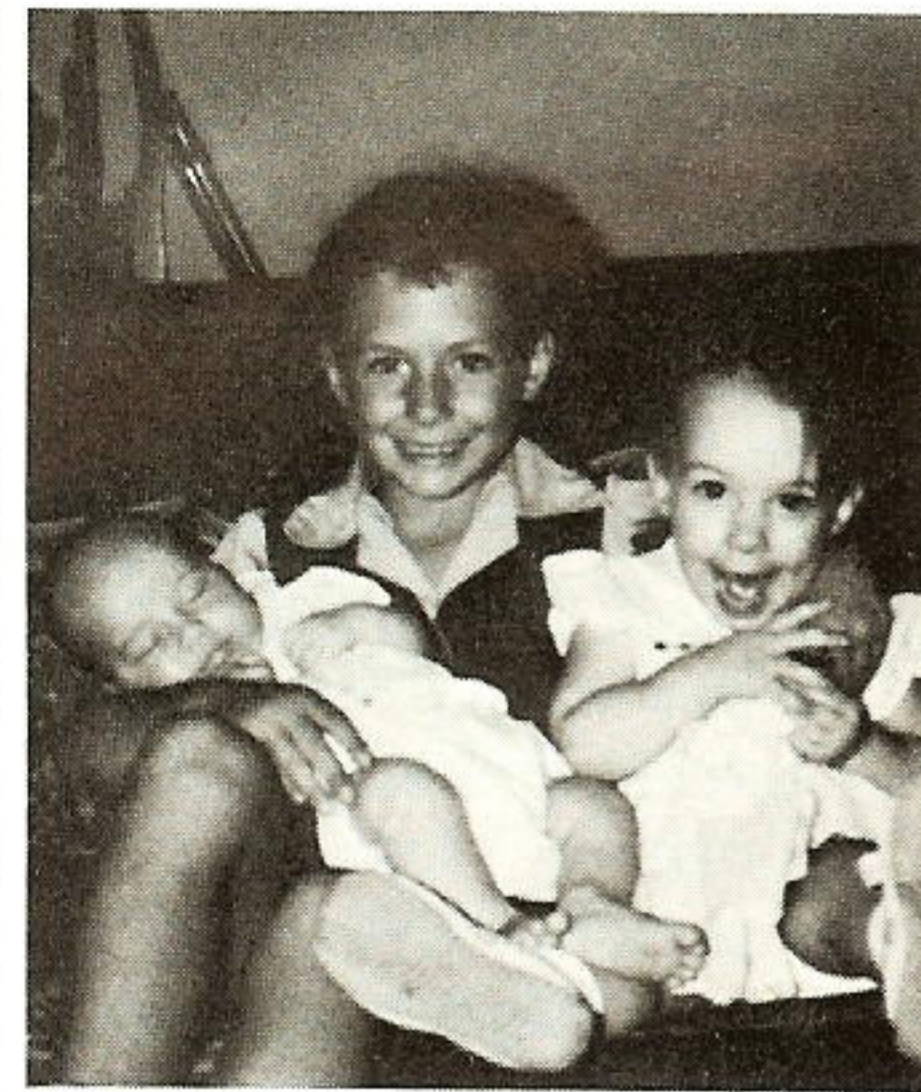


*Saying farewell to Cronin (seated) were Karen Yates (standing left) and Harriet Babin.*

## Co-workers hale Cronin's job move

Co-workers celebrated Carol Cronin's promotion to a new job at River Bend Station with a party in the North Boulevard office.

Cronin, formerly a senior stenographer for Baton Rouge Division Marketing & Consumer Services, moved to River Bend Aug. 16 as secretary to the manager of quality assurance.



*Jenny Gallagher shows off little sisters, Emily (in her arms) and Megan.*

## Third daughter joins Gallaghers

And Emily Reagan Gallagher made five for the Bill and Pris Gallagher family, reports *Plain Talks'* correspondent Debi Patin. The little girl, born July 25, is the third daughter. Her big sisters are Megan and Jenny.

According to Patin, the mom is a communications representative with Public Affairs in Baton Rouge.



*Desmond Laurant Fontenot*

## Fontenot reports new baby boy

Desmond Laurant Fontenot was born on May 26, 1984 to

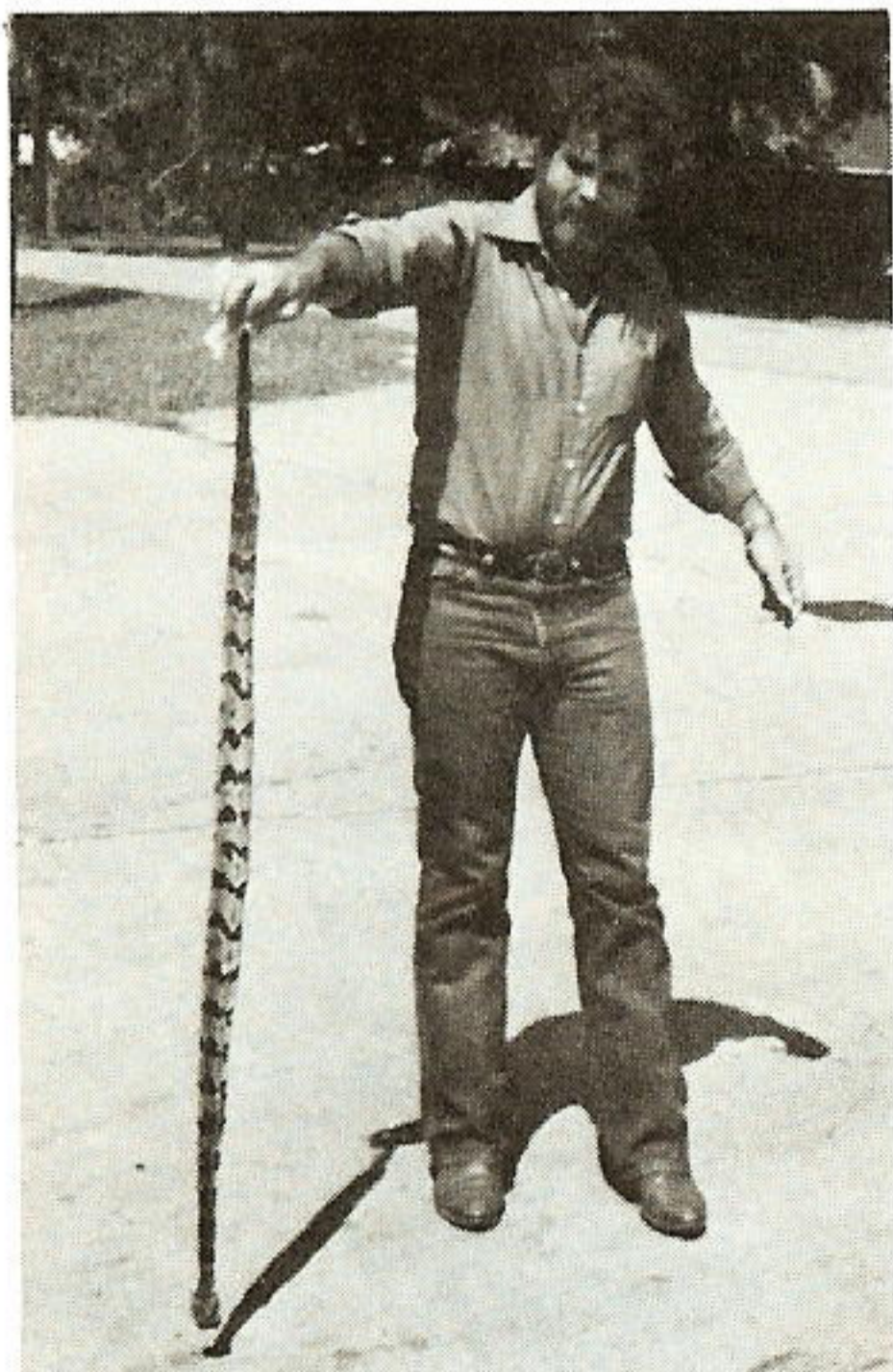
Gloria Fontenot, weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces. He was born at 2:06 p.m. at St. Patrick's Hospital in Lake Charles.

The baby's mother is a fuel handling operator at Nelson Coal Station.

## Employee captures new belt, hatband

It was a bit out of the ordinary when Engineering Assistant David Bowman saw a rattlesnake crossing the road in front of his truck. Bowman, who works in Denham Springs, captured the 5-foot, 8-inch rattlesnake and discovered that it had ten rattles.

According to *Plain Talks'* correspondent Michael Bergeron, Bowman has made a belt and a hatband out of the snakeskin.



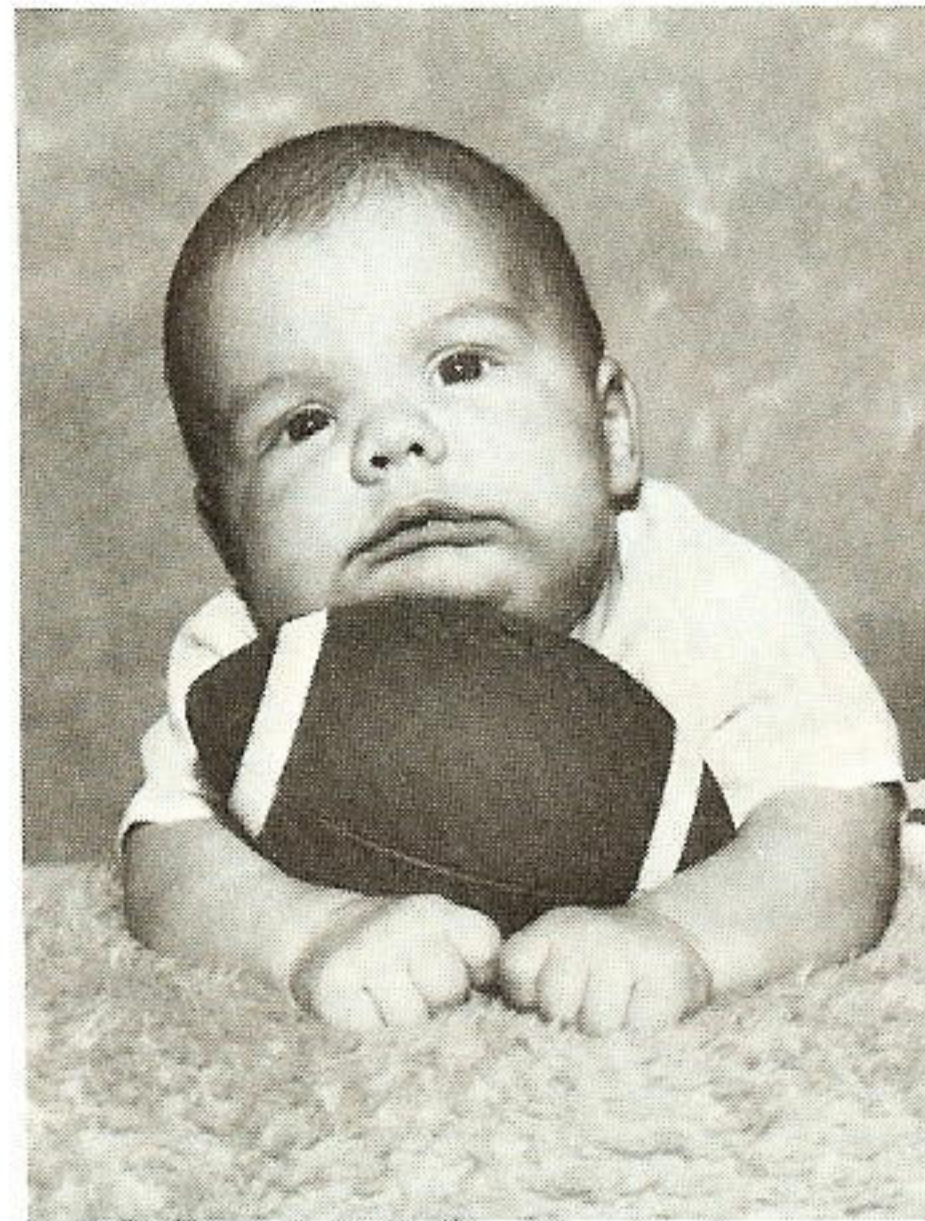
*David Bowman displays his catch.*

## Lovetts add Adam Michael

Adam Michael was born July 1, 1984 to Liz and John Lovett, weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces at birth. He measured 19½ inches.

Adam has one sister, Kristin, who will be two in February.

Mother Liz works as a senior clerk in Plant Accounting in Beaumont while the baby's uncle, Mike Lovett, is an operator at Neches Station.



*Adam Michael Lovett*

## Grandpa announces baby's birth

Mary Louise Jones, born May 29, 1984 to Candace and Tom Jones, is the new granddaughter of a GSU employee and his wife. Al and Pye Dragg report that their daughter's baby weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20 inches at birth.

The baby and her parents make their home in Ashland, Kentucky. Her grandfather is an assistant line supervisor in Gonzales, Louisiana.



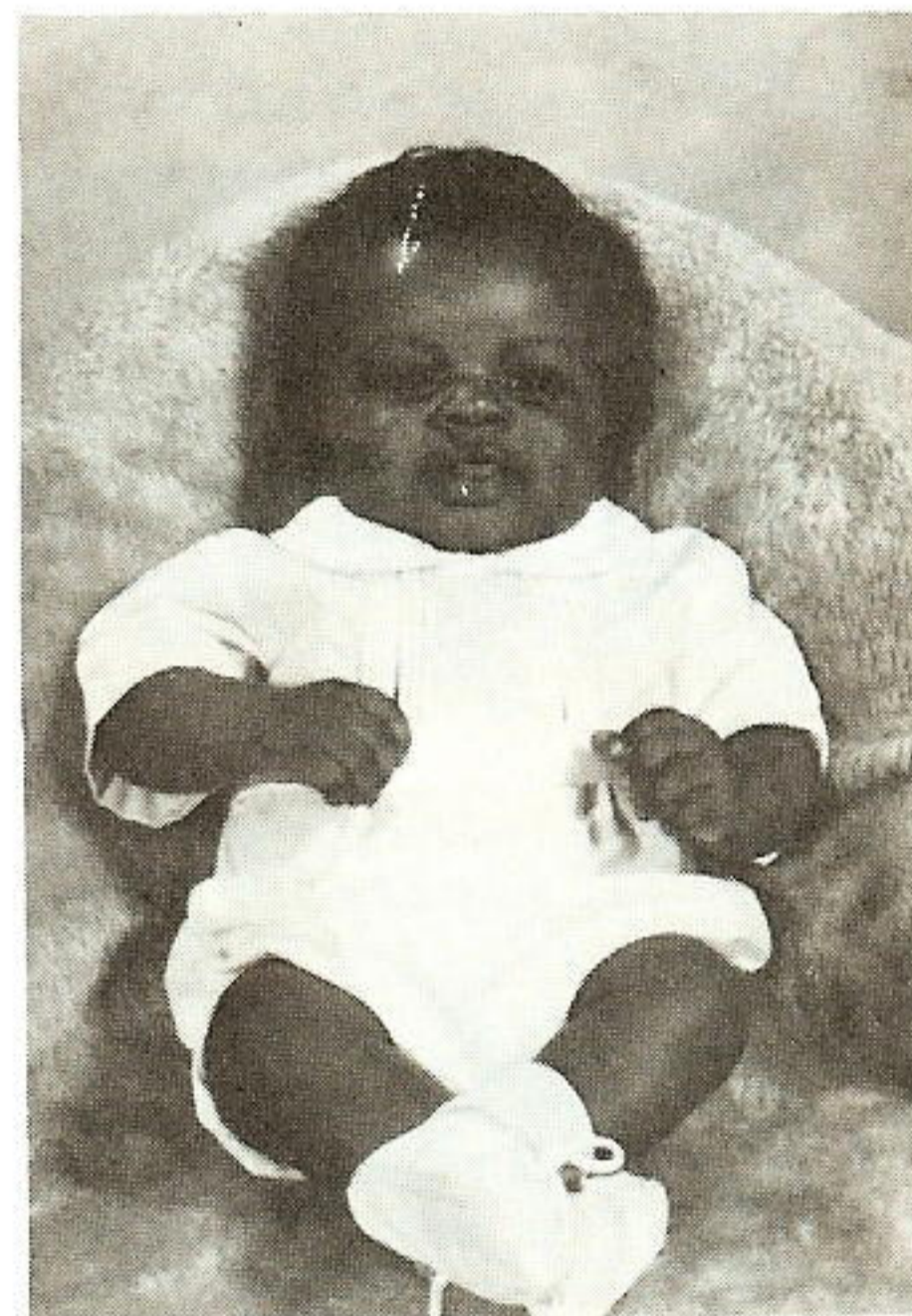
*Mary Louise Jones poses with grandparents Al and Pye Dragg.*

## Junior version joins family

Dwight Stacy Phillips Jr. joined the Dwight and Gloria Phillips family of Denham Springs June 29.

According to his proud dad, the youth weighed in at 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 21 inches.

The senior Phillips is a lineman-1st class in Denham Springs.



*Dwight Stacy Phillips Jr.*

## Twirler performs at football game

Michela Darville, daughter of Mike and Carol Darville, performed a baton twirling routine as part of the pre-game entertainment for the East Ascension-St. Amant football game held Nov. 2 in Gonzales, Louisiana.

The young twirler is a student at St. Theresa School. Her mother is a customer contact clerk in the Gonzales office.



*Michela Darville*

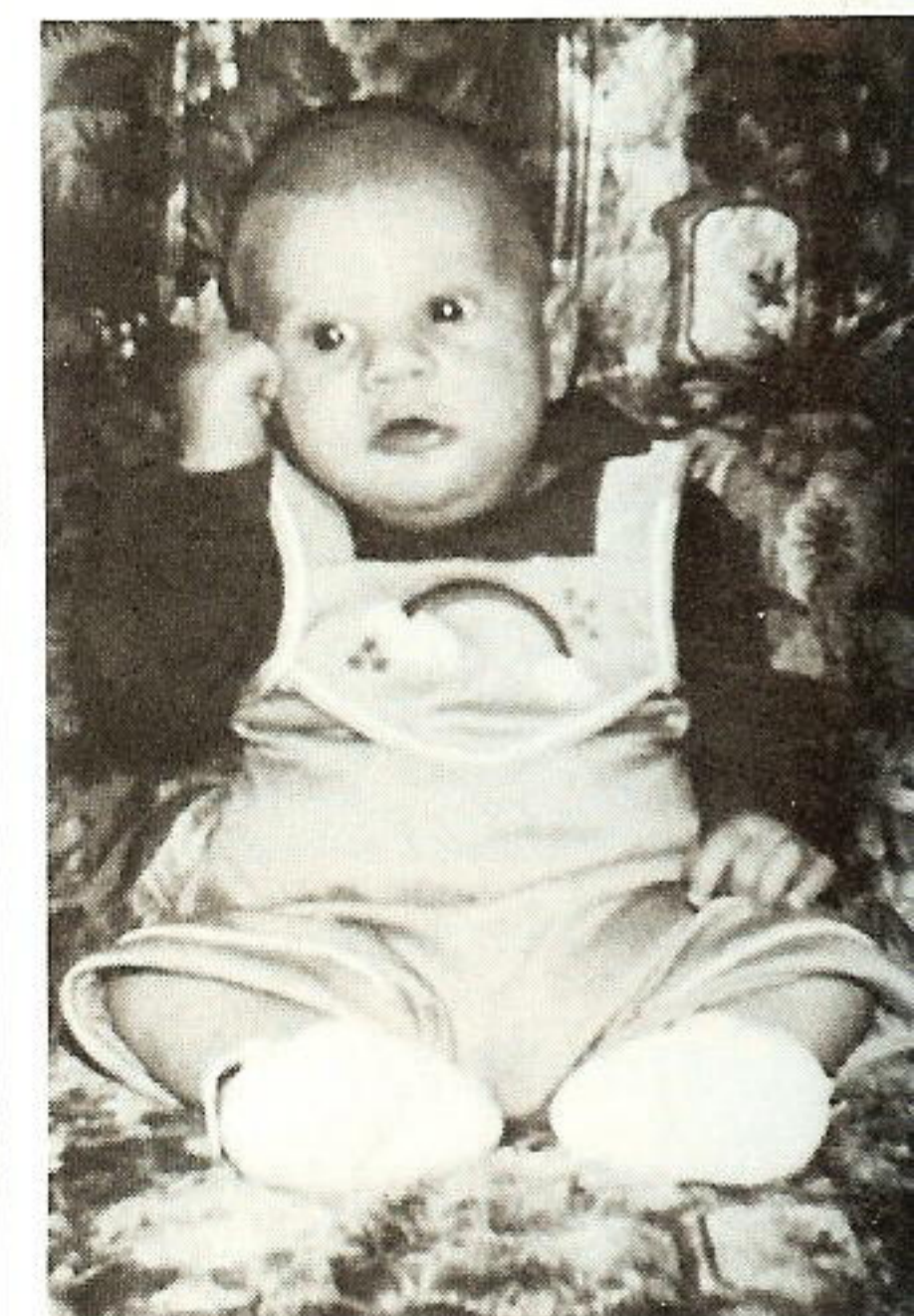


*Tammy Andretont Guillory*

## Guillory surprised by bridal shower

Tammy Andretont was surprised by co-workers with a bridal shower on July 11. That was just three days before her marriage to Brent Guillory.

Tammy, who transferred to Lafayette from Port Arthur, is a departmental clerk in Lafayette. The couple was wed in Opelousas.



*Blake Scott Johnson*

## Johnsons welcome Blake Scott

Blake Scott Johnson joined the Gus A. Johnson III family Aug. 15, 1984. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces at birth.

His mother, Sheila, is a clerk in the Lake Charles credit department.



*Nathan Lyle Dodson*

## Dodsons add Nathan Lyle

Debbie and Walt Dodson are the new parents of Nathan Lyle, born Aug. 27, 1984. He weighed 5 pounds and measured 18½ inches at birth.

The baby's mother is an accountant in Lake Charles.



*Justin Ferguson*

## Grandpa shares fishy story

Justin Ferguson, 3, recently caught a fish that was almost as long as he was tall.

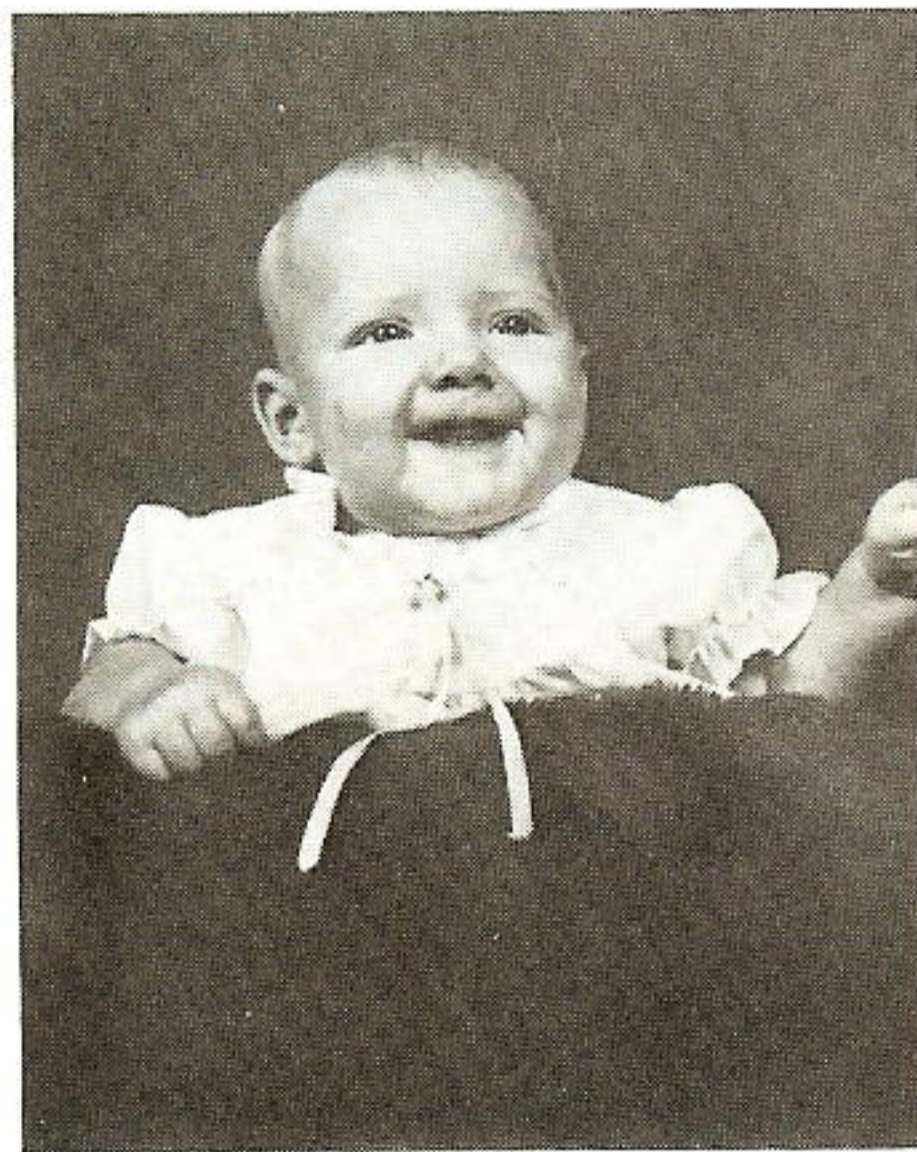
And his grandpa — Grady Smith, who works in Beaumont as director-regulation for Louisiana — was only too happy to share the fish tale.

The youngster, who will turn 4 Jan. 11, caught the five-pound redfish in Galveston's East Bay.

## Kings have new granddaughter

Six-pound, 3-ounce Heather Deshea King joined the Alan and Mysterie King family in Denham Springs on March 10, 1984. Heather's grandmother is Lorraine King, a customer contact clerk in the Denham Springs office.

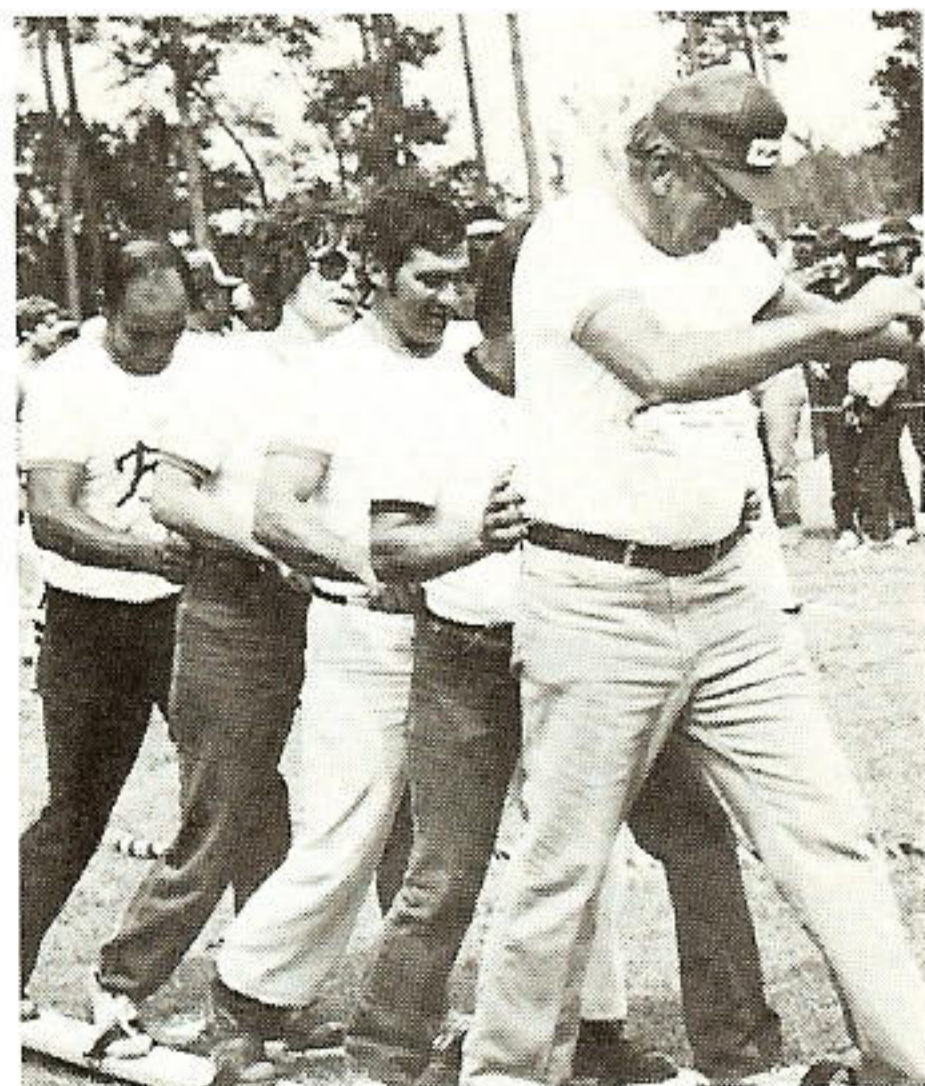
Lorraine and her husband, Billy, report that their new granddaughter was born at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge.



*Heather Deshea King*

## Division holds safety fair

Lake Charles Division employees enjoyed the safety fair held Sept. 28. From the activities of the day comes this photograph of the Line Dept. ski racers.



*From left, L.J. Benoit, Sue Bige, Charles Berry, Lois Chargois and Pete McCrosky made up the ski-team entry from the Line Department.*

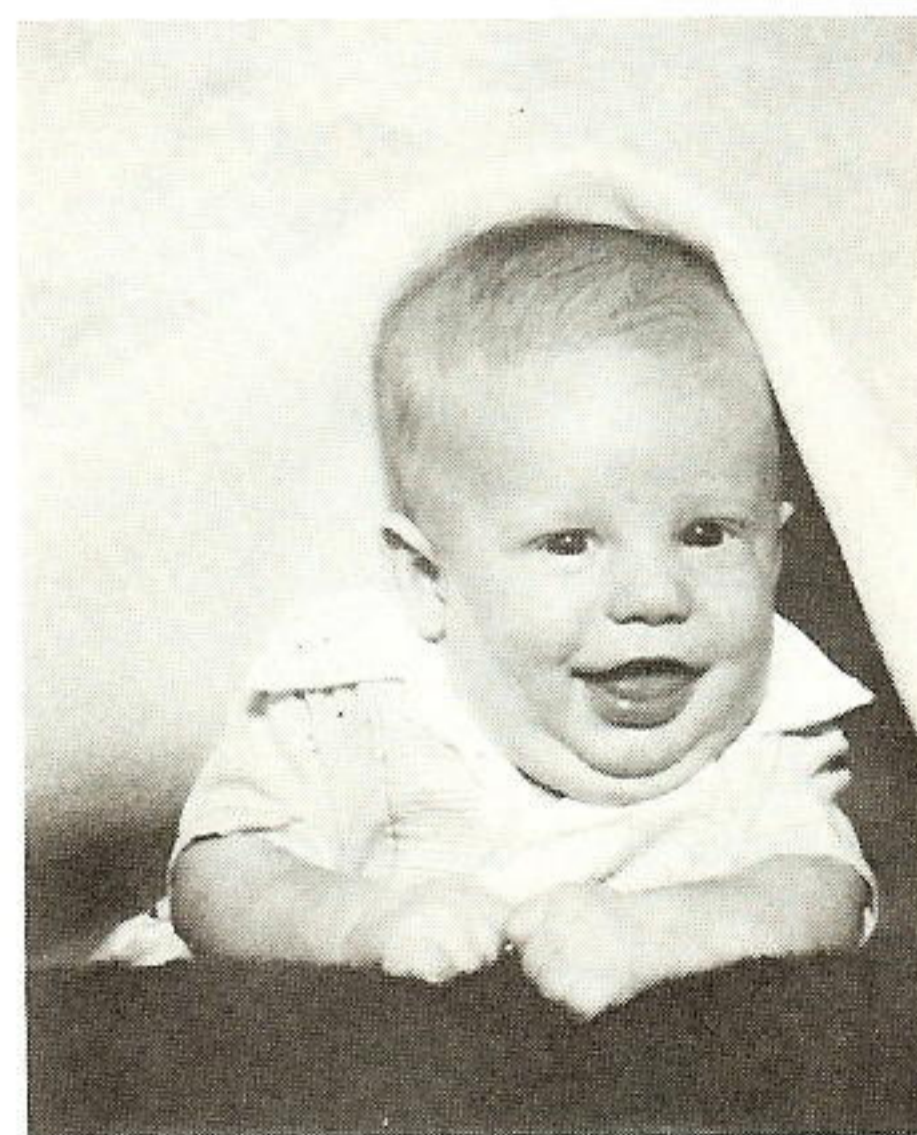


*Newlywed Brenda Crisler Aucion*

## Newlyweds settle in Baton Rouge

Brenda L. Crisler, daughter of Harold Crisler, married Kenneth Aucion May 19, 1984. The bride graduated from Istrouma High School while the groom is a graduate of Central High School.

The bride's father is a serviceman-1st class in the Gas Department and has been employed at GSU for over 37 years.



*Paul William Virva*

## Virvas announce birth of son

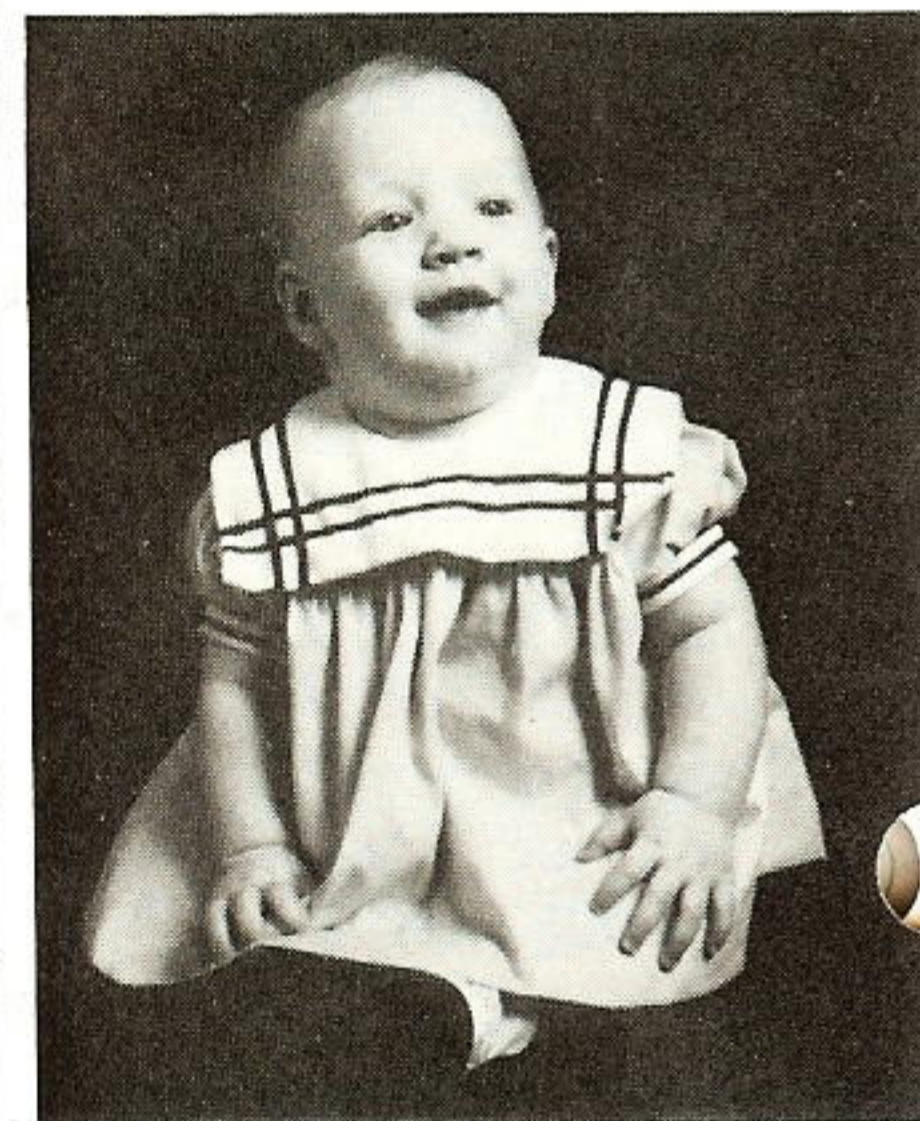
Paul William Virva was born on June 10, 1984 to Frank and Diana Virva. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 4 ounces.

The proud father is a production engineer at Sabine Station.

## Erin Grace joins Duncan family

James and Teresa Duncan are the proud parents of Erin Grace, born Feb. 22, 1984. Erin weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Her daddy is a training representative in Beaumont's Human Resources.



*Erin Grace Duncan*

## Youth serves as drum major

Eric Soileau, son of Jim and Cindy Dumesnil, will serve as drum major for the 1984 Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School band.

His father is a relayman-1st class in the Beaumont Relay Department.



*Eric Soileau*

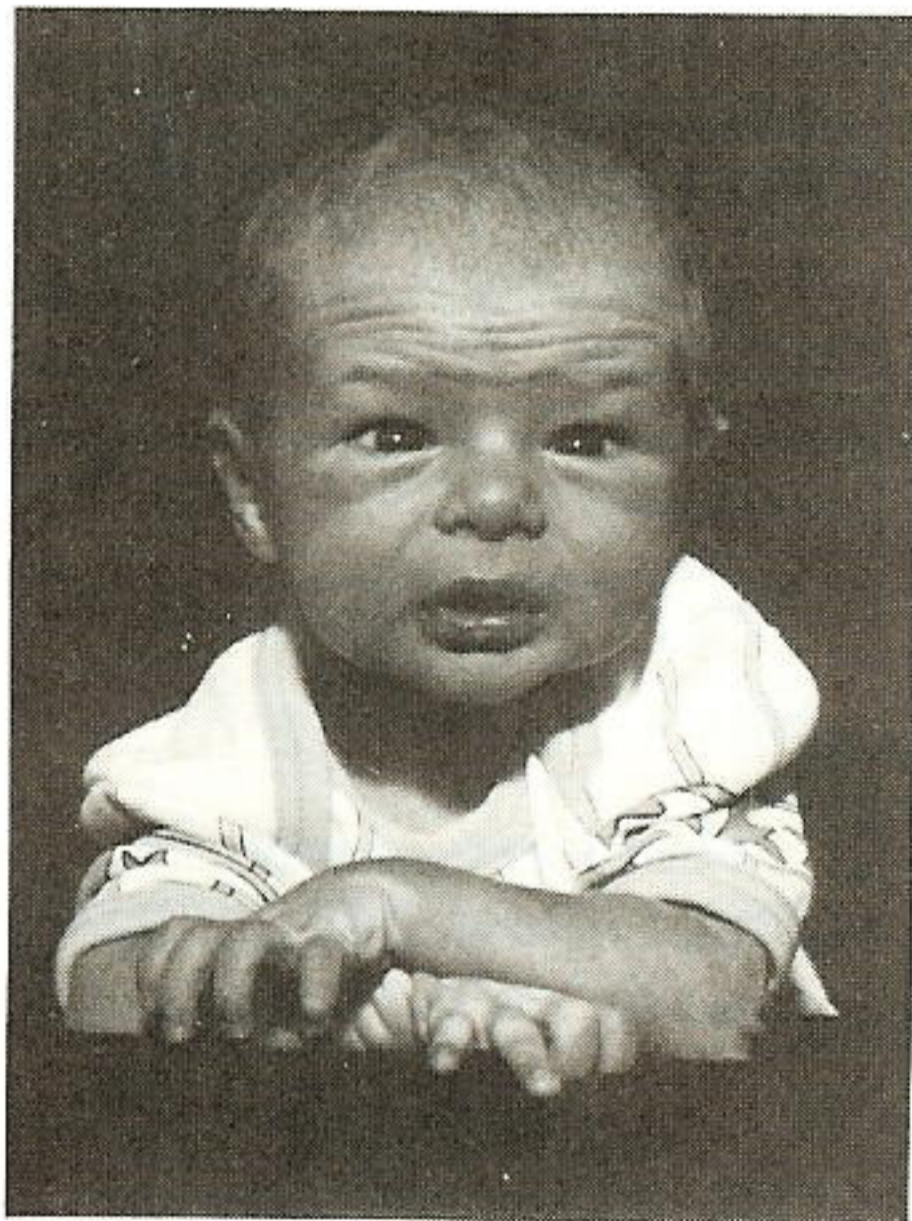




*Summer Lee Ann Gillard*

## Gillard announces daughter's birth

Little Summer Lee Ann Gillard weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20½ inches when she was born Oct. 15, 1984. That's the news from her father, Bobby Gillard. Gillard, a 2-year employee of GSU, is an apprentice in the Lake Charles T&D Line department.



*Brandon J. Bunner*

## Bunners report new grandchild

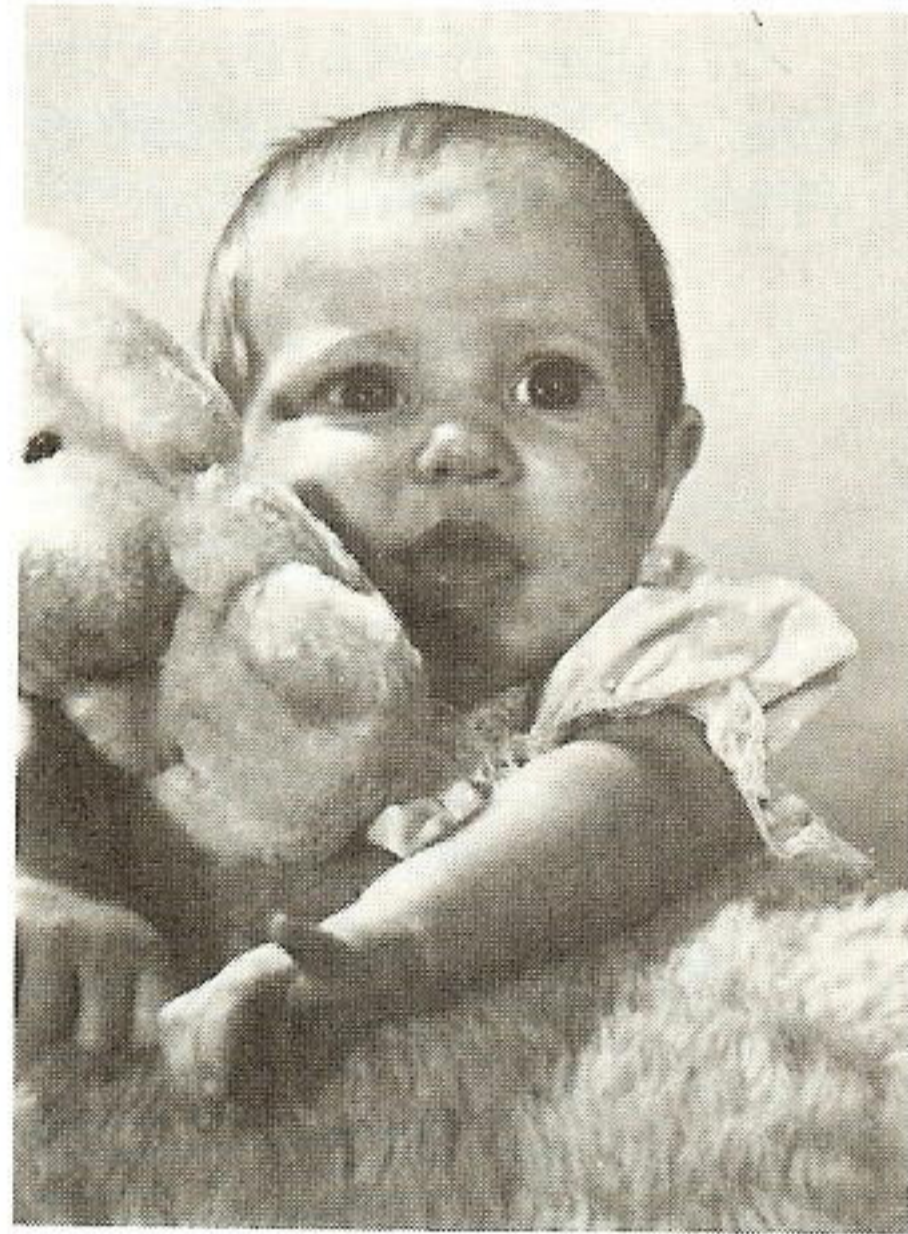
Bob and Norine Bunner announce the birth of their grandson, Brandon J. Bunner, born to Victor and Mattie Bunner on Sept. 2, 1984.

The baby's grandfather, who is a repairman-1st class at Sabine Station, reports that Brandon weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces at birth.

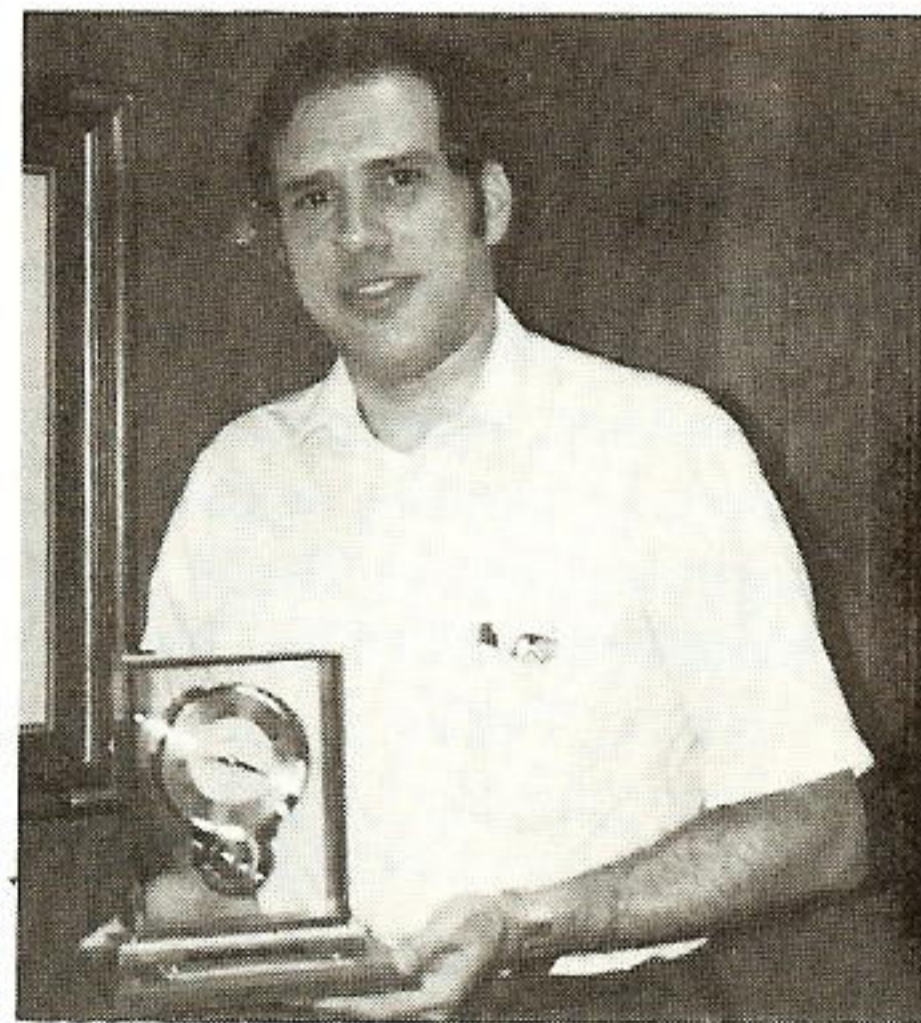
## Johana joins family early

Little Johana Nickens just couldn't wait for her mother's expected due date. She was born two weeks early on Aug. 4, 1984, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 20 inches.

The baby and her parents, James and Glenna Nickens Jr., make their home in Port Vincent, Louisiana. Proud daddy James is a lineman helper in Gonzales, Louisiana.



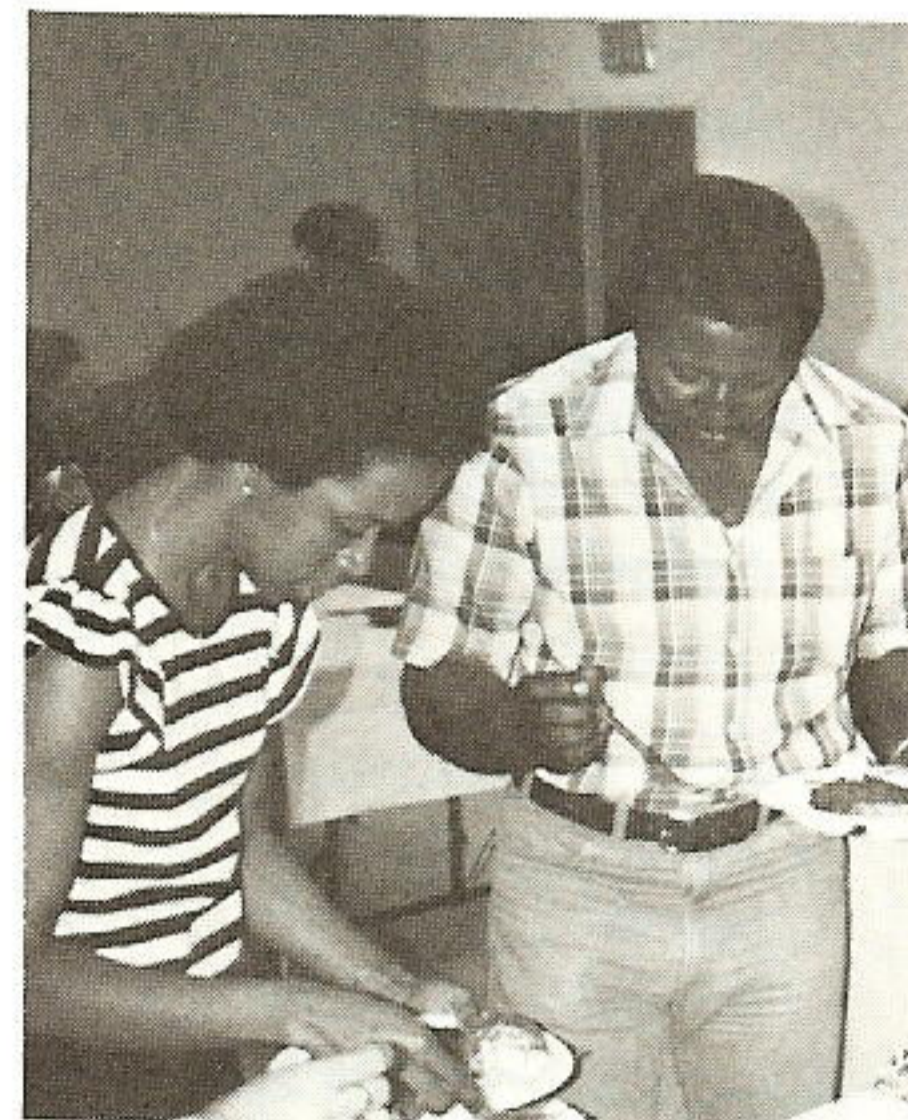
*Johana Nickens*



*Friends at Sabine Station gave Joe Domino this clock*

## Domino leaves Sabine Station

Joe Domino, former superintendent at Sabine Station, was feted on his transfer to another job in Beaumont. Fellow employees gave a party in his honor where Domino was given a clock, an engraved letter opener and an edge trimmer.

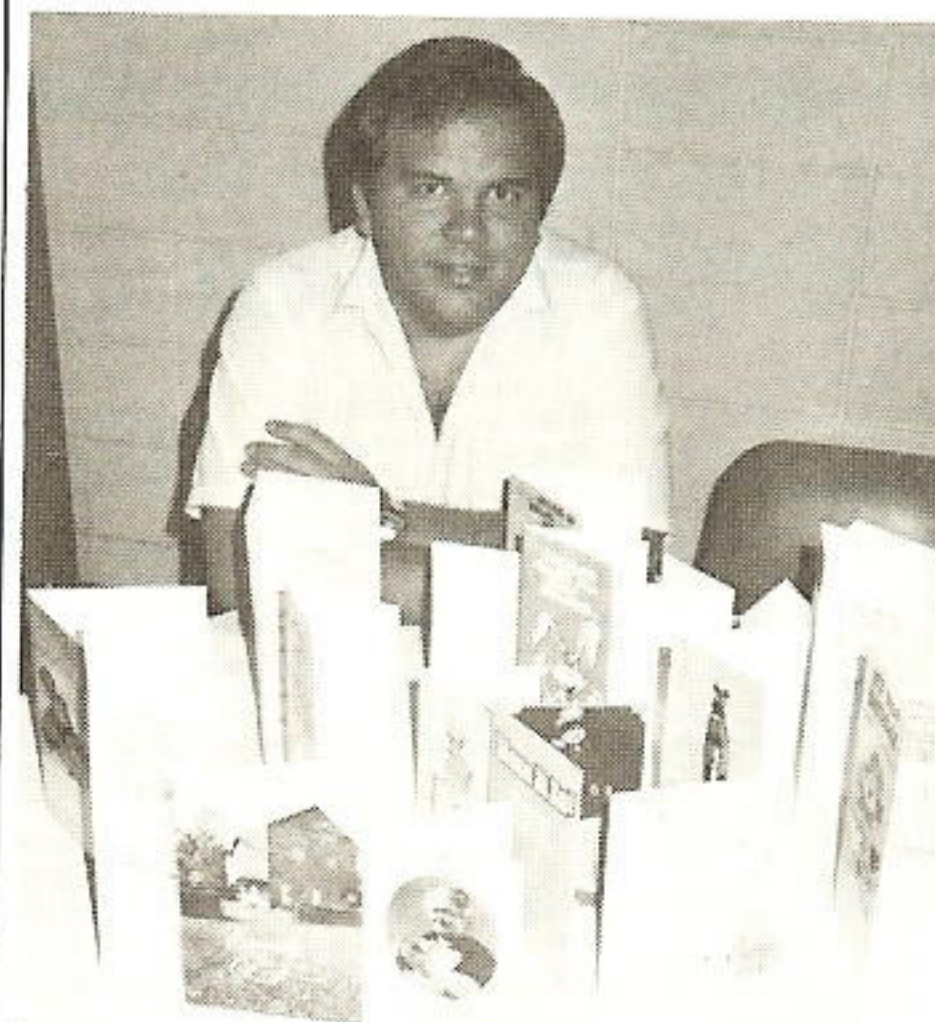


*Sheryl and Hugh Raven attended the special dinner held in Gonzales.*

## Attendance record celebrated in Gonzales

A dinner was held at the Gonzales Service Center for several employees who were recognized for their 1983 attendance. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moss, spouses of the honored employees were special guests.

Among those employees recognized were: Tommy Allen, Shelby Brignac, Fred Coppenbarger, Alvin Dragg, Donny Elliott, Lloyd Engler, Charlotte Gautreau, C.P. "Bean" Gautreau, Marvin James, Odis Jones, Johnny Prejean, Hugh Raven, Ina Smiley and Pam Thurman.



*Don Perio and his birthday cards*

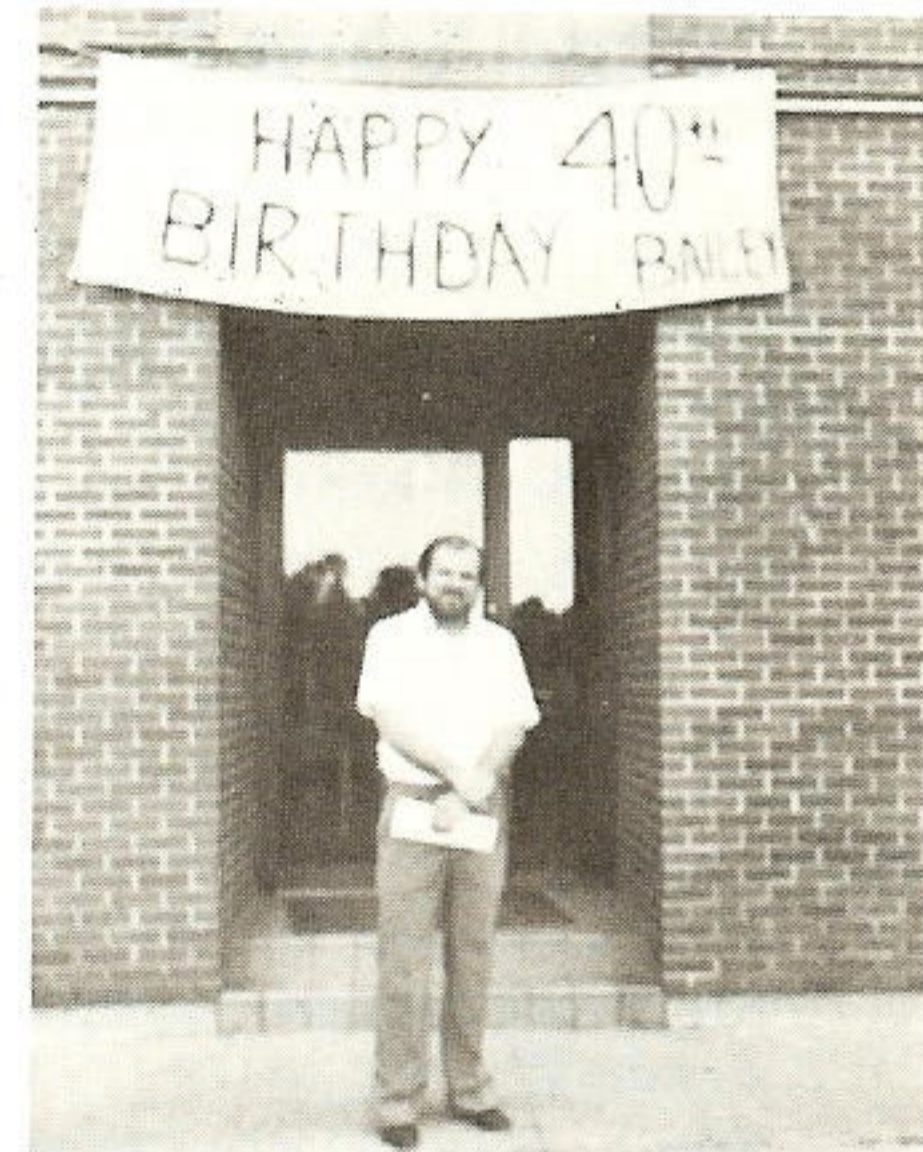
## Friends celebrate two birthdays

Port Arthur employees had two birthdays to celebrate

Aug. 29, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Sue Simon.

Gerald Bailey, service foreman, was greeted with a banner, balloons and black crepe to mark his 40th birthday.

Celebrating his birthday also on Aug. 29 was Don Perio, supervisor-credit and collections. Friends marked the day with a number of birthday cards and a pancake and sausage breakfast.



*Gerald Bailey found this banner when he arrived at work on his 40th birthday.*

## Joshua Jay makes appearance

David and Lisa Reeves are the proud new parents of Joshua Jay, born Aug. 20, 1984, at the Moss Regional Hospital in Lake Charles. Young Joshua weighed in at 7 pounds, 8 ounces when he was born.

The baby's father is a utility worker I at Nelson Coal Station.



*Joshua Jay Reeves*

## A

**Albert, Maurice A.**, Woodlands, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Alexander, Nelson Jr.**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

## B

**Baker, John C. II**, Conroe, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Beavers, Brenda M.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Benefield, Walter E. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Bennett, Kathryn A.**, Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

**Bennett, Kelly D.**, Louisiana Station, to storeroom assistant, Plant Production.

**Bernard, Jay G.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Blair, Barrett D.**, Vidor, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Blanton, Karen B.**, Vidor, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Boullion, Dallas J.**, Conroe, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Boyce, Richard B.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Brittain, Ellen M.**, formerly of Nelson Coal, to general clerk, Lake Charles Division Materials Management.

**Bryant, Melanie R.**, Beaumont, to utility man, Electric T&D.

**Buchanan, Kathy A.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Bush, Clarence E. Jr.**, River Bend, to head fireman, Plant Production.

**Bushnell, Raymus D.**, Nelson Gas & Oil, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

## C

**Causey, Alton R.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Clark, Christopher J.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Cockerham, James R.**, Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.

**Connelly, Donald J.**, Vidor, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Cote, Timothy A.**, Woodlands, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Couvillion, Steven C.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Credeur, Jeffry**, Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Creel, Gary W.**, formerly of Neches Station, to repairman-2nd class, Willow Glen Plant Production.

## D

**Darville, Carol C.**, Gonzales, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Davis, Donny G.**, Denham Springs, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Desormeaux, Christine M.**, Lake Charles, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Devall, Gregory M.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

## E

**Edmond, Darrell C.**, Conroe, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Evans, Timothy W.**, Conroe, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

## F

**Faulk, Kathleen L.**, formerly of The Woodlands, to meter reader, Trinity Division Accounting.

**Finch, Joy S.**, Beaumont, to storekeeper, Plant Production.

**Flowers, Gale D.**, Conroe, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Ford, Lynn R.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Forston, Toni L.**, Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services.

**Foster, Craig P.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Frederick, Lynette D.**, Lafayette, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Fruge, Troy A.**, Nelson Gas & Oil, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

## G

**Glenn, Alan K.**, Winnie, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Gravatt, William D.**, River Bend, to senior cost engineering specialist, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Gribble, Keith D.**, Nelson Gas & Oil, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

## H

**Hammons, Joe G.**, Conroe, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Harrison, Harrell L.**, Louisiana Station, to master test technician, Plant Production.

**Hayden, Stephen D.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Head, Melvin K.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Hebert, Cindy R.**, Lafayette, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Hebert, Randall**, Port Arthur, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Hebert, Richard P.**, River Bend, to quality assurance engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Hunt, Peter L.**, Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

## J

**Jarrell, Bertha M.**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Johnson, Anthony**, Baton Rouge, to utility worker II, Division Accounting.

**Jones, Jesse R. Jr.**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

## K

**Kelly, James D.**, Port Arthur, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Kennison, Marshall R.**, Baton Rouge, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**King, Ricky D.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Krebs, Michael G.**, Sour Lake, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

## L

**Lantz, Randal P.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Lee, Mark B.**, Denham Springs, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Lemelle, Henry A. Jr.**, Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Lemere, Gary J.**, Cleveland, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Lethermon, Michael W.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Lewis, Charles E.**, Port Allen, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

**LeBlanc, Cynthia B.**, Nelson Gas & Oil, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Linder, John H.**, Louisiana Station, to planning coordinator, Plant Production.

**Little, Harold E. Jr.**, Conroe, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

## M

**Meadows, James M.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Miller, Lafayette Jr.**, Nelson Gas & Oil, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Minton, Roger D.**, Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Mitchell, Larry D.**, Conroe, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Moore, Larry J.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Morris, Terry L.**, Conroe, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Myrick, Donald G.**, New Caney, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**O**

**Ott, Jimmy O.**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**P**

**Padgett, Charles T.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Pasquinelli, James J.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Peron, Deborah A.**, Port Arthur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**R**

**Ramsey, Hayward**, formerly of Neches Station, to repairman-2nd class, Willow Glen Plant Production.

**Randall, Claiborne L.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Randall, Darrell W.**, Port Allen, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Rathcke, Michael J.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Richard, James R.**, Lafayette, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Richardson, Darrelton D.**, Orange, to heavy equipment foreman, Electric T&D.

**Richardson, Pamela J.**, Beaumont, to storeroom assistant, Materials Management.

**Rideau, Raymond**, Lake Charles, to garage mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Ringo, John**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Rook, Terry A.**, Willow Glen, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Ross, Dwight M.**, River Bend, to radiological health supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**S**

**Samuels, Michael R.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Savoy, Douglas N.**, Lafayette, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.

**Scott, Jeffrey C.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Scott, Robert C.**, Port Arthur, to division substation operator, Electric T&D.

**Sholar, Windle L. III**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Simon, Anthony W.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Sims, Mary S.**, Beaumont, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Skeen, Gene T.**, Beaumont, to switchboard operator, Plant Production.

**Small, Marvin M.**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Southard, Jay R.**, Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Spurlock, Bryant C.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Stahl, David R.**, Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Staneart, Loyal L.**, Conroe, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Stephenson, David C.**, River Bend, to instrument/control technician-1st class/nuclear, Plant Production.

**T**

**Taylor, Joseph III**, Woodlands, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**Thibodeaux, Rita F.**, Lake Charles, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Tucker, Steven L.**, Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

**W**

**West, Richard J.**, Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Whaley, Kenneth D. Jr.**, Conroe, to apprentice-T&D, Electric T&D.

**White, Carol B.**, Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Engineering.

**Wilkerson, Maureen T.**, formerly of Nelson Gas & Oil, to communications serviceman-3rd class, Lake Charles Division Electric T&D.

**Williams, Mitchell L. III**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Williams, Terry W.**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Wilrye, Albert**, Nelson Gas & Oil, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Woods, Yvonne T.**, Baton Rouge, to supervisor-consumer credit, Division Accounting.

**Worthy, Gene B. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Y**

**Yates, James E.**, Beaumont, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Young, Valerie C.**, Baton Rouge, to consumer service representative-senior, Division Marketing and Consumer Services.

## Living longer may depend on working harder

The harder you work, the longer you may live is a theory postulated by those with a firm belief in the benefits of the work ethic.

A California organization called the Committee for an Extended Lifespan believes it has discovered some clues to longevity. The clues were provided through interviews with hundreds of centenarians. Mem-

bers of the committee asked the elderly about their life styles and patterns of behavior; then they compiled a list of five factors the centenarians had in common.

Majority said:

- They were hard-working, active people all their lives.
- They abided by the early-to-bed and early-to-rise philosophy.

- They drank or smoked in moderation, or not at all.
- They refused to allow the problems of life to distress them.
- They were religious and accepted the trials of life as "God's will" ■

# PLAIN TALKS

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## Winter on the lake

**A** year ago, winter winds whipped into the GSU service area. But the unusually cold weather was not all bad.

For example, Milton Smith captured this starkly beautiful scene on film while at Gulf States Lake, located at Lewis Creek Station.

Smith is operating superintendent for the Western Division.

