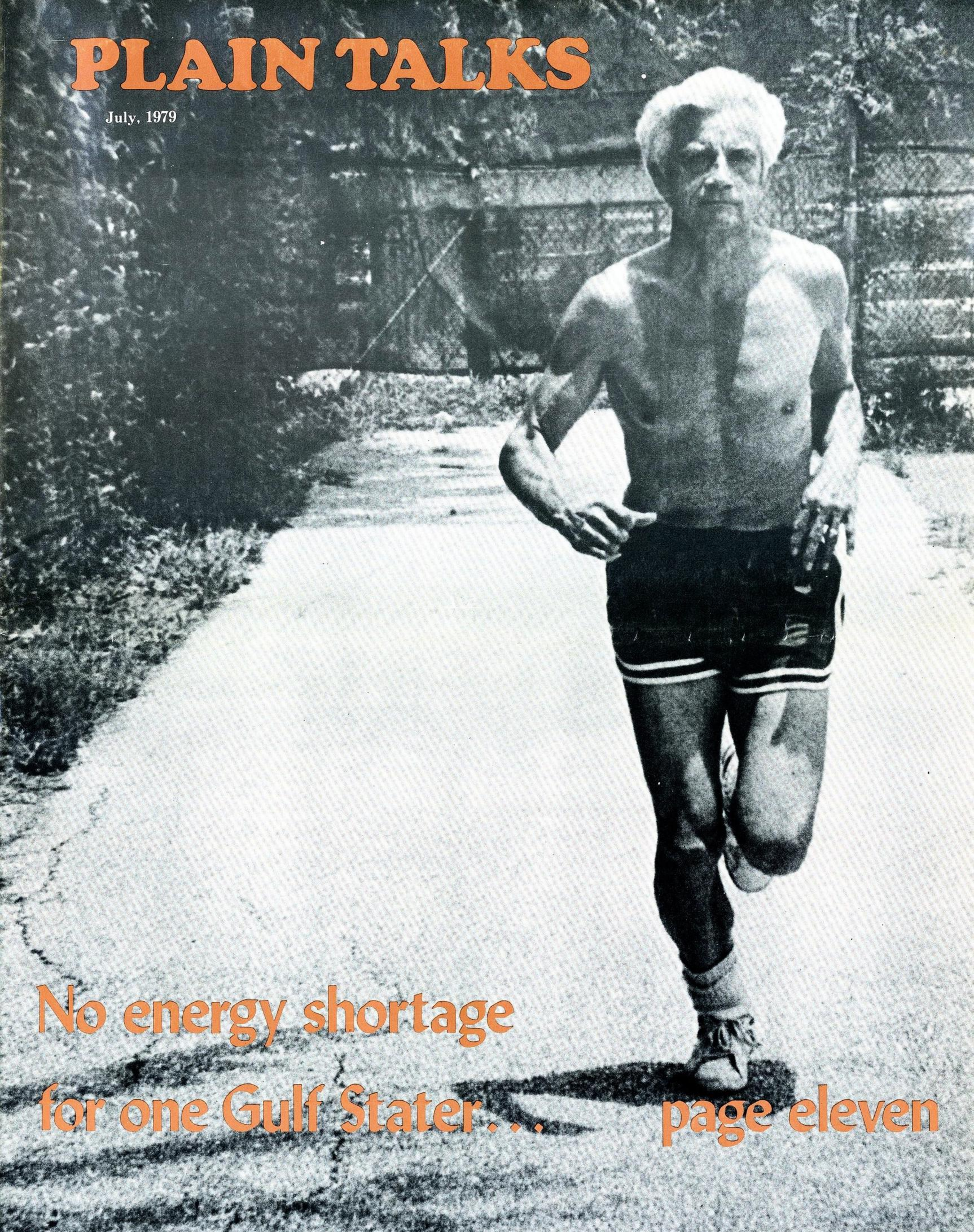
PLAIN TALKS

July, 1979



No energy shortage
for one Gulf Stater...

page eleven

The fuel adjustment

No fairer way to handle fuel costs

Recent customer attitude surveys by Gulf States Utilities Company have shown the fuel adjustment clause is perhaps the most misunderstood element of electricity costs. As such, it also is the most suspect.

In simple terms, the fuel clause is a system that allows utility companies to adjust customer bills up or down automatically as fuel costs paid by the company rise and fall, rather than include it in the base rate component of the bills.

In a recent survey of GSU's Texas customers, only about a third of those questioned really knew the purpose of the clause. In Louisiana, only about 12 percent knew. In neither state did more than 15 percent realize the fuel adjustment is a simple recovery of rising cost and that no profit is involved.

THE CLAUSE IS not new, but only in recent years has anyone paid it any mind. Before the 1973 Arab oil embargo, when our fuel was cheap and electricity prices often went down rather than up, the fuel clause was an insignificant item.

In 1972, before the energy crisis burst upon the scene, GSU had a fuel cost per kilowatt-hour of only a fraction of a cent — 2.37 mills per kwh to be exact. (A mill is a tenth of a cent.) Then came the embargo and the beginning of the end of cheap energy. In 1973, GSU's fuel cost per kilowatt-hour climbed to 3.98 mills per kwh. By 1978, it was 11.55 mills per kwh, nearly five times the 1972 figure — and it continues to climb. In 1970, all boiler fuel was natural gas but in 1974, 89 percent was natural gas and 11 percent fuel oil, while 1978 saw oil rise to 27 percent and natural gas decrease to 73 percent.

The current cost of fuel in the open market would convert to 2.5 to 3 cents per kilowatt-hour, depending on the type of fuel. That is more than 1 cent higher than GSU's current cost because the company has some very inexpensive fuel it has had under contract. GSU customers, therefore, are saving about $10 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours as a result of these old fuel contracts. As these contracts account for lesser amounts of GSU's fuel — and especially when they expire at the beginning of 1985 — the fuel adjustment charge will increase to reflect the higher fuel prices.

THE ADDITION of coal and nuclear to GSU's fuel mix within the next several years may slow the increases in the fuel clause, but it won't eliminate them as such costs will also be reflected in the fuel clause.

The fuel clause usually involves a 100 percent pass-through of fuel costs, a system whose form may differ from state to state but which basically allows the full change in fuel costs to be reflected in the price of electricity. Since GSU pays taxes based on revenue, the company actually experiences a loss because the higher taxes from the increased fuel revenues cannot be passed on to consumers in the fuel adjustment charge.

An oft-heard criticism is that the 100 percent pass-through does not provide an incentive for the electric utility to seek out the lowest possible price. As long as the company can be assured of passing fuel increases on to its customers, critics wonder why the company should worry about finding the cheapest available fuel. The answer is that there are plenty of incentives, beginning with the tax problems already mentioned.

Even if a utility company is allowed to pass on all of its fuel costs, there still is a sizable lag between the time the company has to pay for the fuel and the time it collects the revenues from customers. In GSU's case, the lag varies.

THIS CREATES a cash-flow problem because the company's bills are more than its revenues. This in itself is an incentive for the utility to find the least expensive fuel.

Finally, there is GSU's commitment to provide reliable service to its customers at the lowest possible price. If that obligation is to be fulfilled, the company must purchase the cheapest fuel it can find.

The presence of the fuel clause on each month's bill lets consumers know what is happening to fuel costs, thereby allowing them to alter their electric usage accordingly.

Legislation is proposed periodically to outlaw the fuel adjustment mechanism.

If that were to happen, GSU would have to petition the Texas Public Utility Commission and the Louisiana Public Service Commission for a rate adjustment as fuel prices changed, whether up or down. Since fuel prices are constantly changing, such a procedure would be extraordinarily time-consuming and expensive. And the regulatory process itself would be long and tedious, detracting from the commissions' other responsibilities. In addition, there may be a considerable lag between the time the utility asked for the fuel increase and the time it was actually collected, which could adversely affect GSU's construction program, bond rating and other activities which affect the company's financial stability.

PRESENTLY THE TEXAS and Louisiana commissions treat fuel costs in different ways. Basically, the Texas panel allows GSU (and other electric utilities in the state) to pass on to customers the actual cost of fuel. This is done through an estimating procedure until actual figures are known. Adjustments are then made to make up the difference between estimated and actual costs.

Louisiana instituted a new and more responsive fuel clause, effective with February, 1979, bills. This procedure bases the adjustment on actual fuel costs for the second preceding month, plus or minus a surcharge to take into account the over or under collection based on the prior year's kilowatt-hour sales. The new clause is a vast improvement over the old Louisiana mechanism which saw a two-month lag and considerable non-recovery.

GSU and other electric utilities which operate in Louisiana have to obtain LPSC approval of each month's fuel adjustment charge. The commission holds hearings monthly to review the fuel cost data submitted by the company.

Late last year, the staff of the Texas commission looked at the fuel adjustment clause closely and concluded that "the potential volatility in fuel prices is great enough to imply that a complete abolition of fuel adjustment (charges) would significantly raise the risk and, hence, the cost of capital to utilities." And to their customers, the report could have added.

There is no fairer, more equitable way to presently handle fuel expenses. The charges are based on usage, which means customers can lower their costs by practicing conservation. The fuel clause may seem unpleasant at bill-paying time, but it is the only practical way to charge customers for the fuel ingredient that keeps the electricity flowing to their homes and businesses.

Mail Box

Mr. W. Donham Crawford, Chairman
Gulf States Utilities Company
Beaumont, Texas

Your recent letter to the shareholders reflected a year of progress and achievement at Gulf States Utilities Company. I know your inspring leadership has been a significant factor in meeting the challenges of the past year. You mean much not only to the future of Gulf States Utilities Company but to the growth and development of the great area which you serve.

Cordially,

John E. Gray
President Emeritus
Lamar University

Dr. Linn Draper, Jr.
Gulf States Utilities Company
Beaumont, Texas

Just wanted to take a minute to thank you for your most informative presentation this past Monday evening. I was particularly impressed with your ability to translate the complexities of power sources into understandable terminology for us lay persons. However, it is that special ability that leads me to think that Gulf States' gain is education's loss. As I pointed out at our meeting, my greatest concern is that our public school systems include factual data relevant to energy so that we do not have another generation paralyzed by fear born out of ignorance.

Beaumont is indeed fortunate to have you as a member of the community. If we can ever be of assistance here at City Hall, please give me a call.

Thanks again. It was a real highlight for me.

Sincerely,
Mary Damrel-Murray
Human Resource Officer
City of Beaumont

Mr. Sammie Bono
Gulf States Utilities Company
Lake Charles, Louisiana

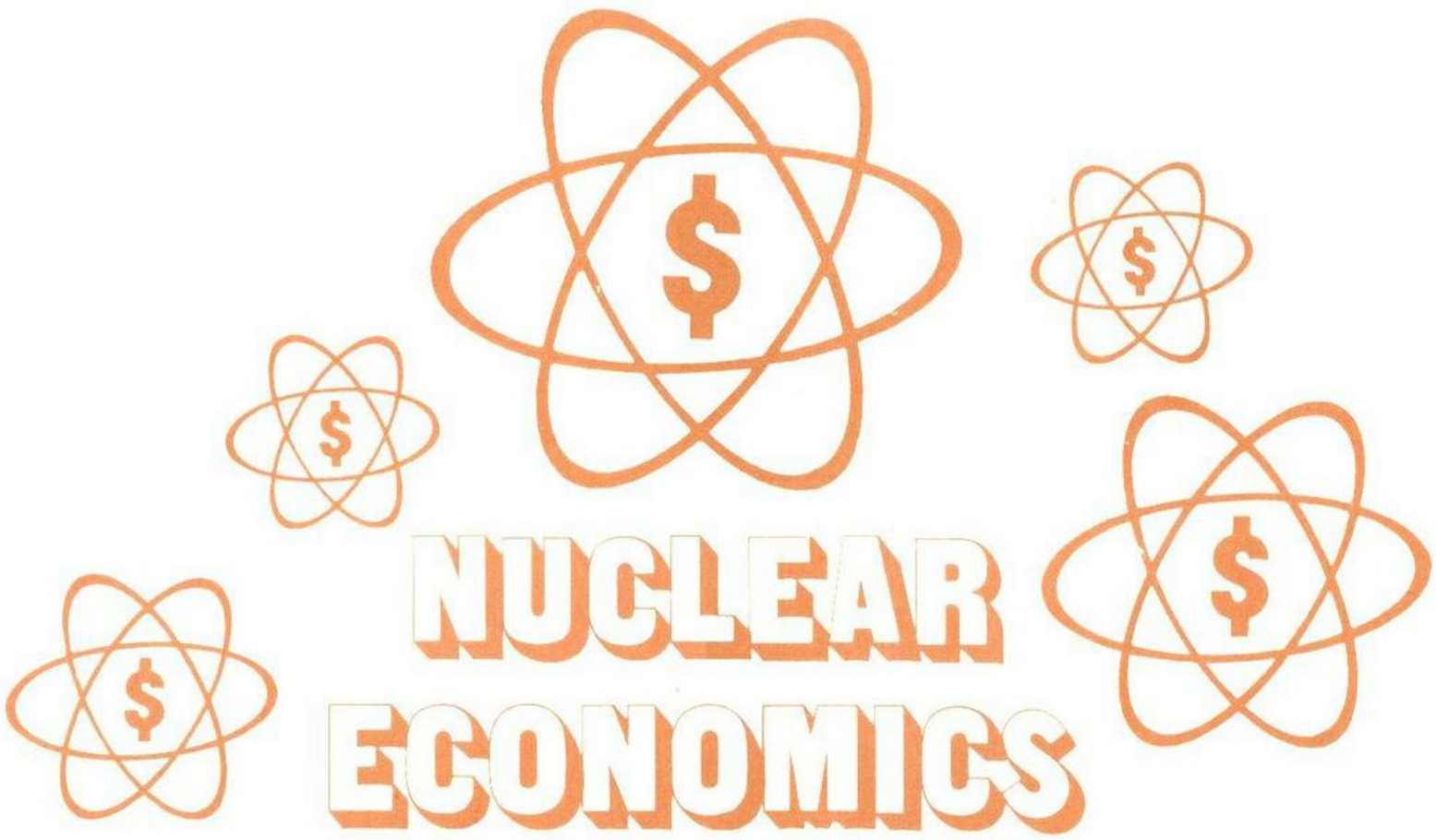
The Louisiana Municipal Association wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your participation in our Municipal Clerks' Spring Conference. We strived in planning this conference to make it the most informative and entertaining ever and with your help, we feel that we have succeeded.

We feel your address at the opening session provided worthwhile information for those attending. LMA received many favorable comments on your presentation.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Pasqua
Executive Director
Louisiana Municipal Association

Editors Note: Mr. Bono, service supervisor in the Lake Charles T&D Department, currently serves as president of the Lake Charles City Council.



When scientists discovered how to generate electricity from the atom, they claimed it might be "too cheap to meter." While mounting construction costs and stringent environmental and safety standards have doomed that dream, nuclear power remains a relatively inexpensive energy choice.

Q. How does the cost of nuclear power compare with other energy options?
A. In 1978 nuclear power cost an average of 1.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, coal-generated electricity an average of 2.3 cents, and oil-generated electricity an average of 4.0 cents. Rising nuclear costs may narrow this difference in the future, but clean air regulations and inflation will also increase the price of fossil-fueled electricity.

Q. Why is nuclear cheaper?
A. The main reason is fuel. Uranium, which fuels nuclear plants, is about 40% the cost of coal, 30% the cost of gas and less than 20% the cost of oil.

Q. What about "hidden" nuclear costs — such as decommissioning or waste disposal?
A. The cost of shutting down, or decommissioning, a nuclear plant is about 5% of the original construction cost, the Atomic Industrial Forum estimates. Decommissioning adds less than 1% to the cost of generation when passed on to consumers over the 40-year life of the plant.

Waste disposal costs would add about one-half of a mill (.05 cents) per kilowatt-hour, according to the Edison Electric Institute.

Q. Aren't nuclear plants much more expensive to build?
A. Nuclear plants cost about 25-30% more to build than coal-fired plants, primarily because it now takes as much as 12 to 14 years to license and construct a nuclear plant. Once built, however, nuclear plants have much lower operating, maintenance and fuel costs, which make them less expensive in the long run.

Q. Can anything be done to reduce the cost of building nuclear plants?
A. Yes. Eliminating some of the regulatory roadblocks and allowing standardized plant design could cut construction cost by about 20% while still satisfying the most stringent safety requirements. Building up a bank of pre-selected plant sites could also reduce licensing time.

Q. Does nuclear power offer any other economic advantages?
A. Yes. Nuclear power brings us closer to energy independence and leaves us less vulnerable economically to high prices set by the oil-producing nations. Our heavy dependence on foreign oil — we're now importing nine million barrels a day — upsets our trade balance, depresses the dollar and encourages inflation. Nuclear power is also much cleaner environmentally than coal or oil.

Q. How much power do nuclear plants produce?
A. Seventy-two plants now operational in the U.S. produce 12.5% of the country's electricity. By 1983 total U.S. nuclear capacity could provide an annual energy equivalent of 500 million barrels of oil, which equals the oil imported from pre-revolutionary Iran.

Q. What would happen if nuclear power were eliminated?
A. According to a just-completed study by the National Economic Research Associates, U.S. consumers would pay $185 billion more for electricity in the next 20 years if all nuclear plants were shut down. In addition, oil imports would jump by two to three million barrels of oil a day.

A Heritage Foundation study indicates that a moratorium on building new nuclear plants would eliminate seven million jobs by 1986, with an annual cost of $87 billion in lost wages. Blackouts would begin in 1981 or 1982, and many regions would experience severe economic difficulties.

Q. Can solar or other alternative energy sources replace nuclear power?
A. Alternative energy sources could help, but they are still many years away from supplying the huge amounts of energy we need. They will also be an expensive source of power.

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Member IABC/Houston

1979 legislative review

Texas lawmakers frustrate GSU

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series examining the effects of this year's sessions of the state legislatures in Louisiana and Texas on the area's electric utility industry, in general, and GSU in particular. This month, Plain Talks takes a look at our victories and defeats during the past session of the Texas legislature. Next month, we'll take a close look at the Louisiana legislative session.

Perhaps the most frustrating part of the 1979 session of the Texas state legislature for GSU and the state's other electric utilities came at the end of the session when a bill that would have transferred original jurisdiction over electric rates from municipalities to the Public Utility Commission died when lawmakers ended the 1979 session at midnight on May 28. The proposal, House Bill 585, won House approval but fell one vote short of the two-thirds majority needed for Senate consideration.

Although a clear majority of the Senate favored the bill, that was not enough. Virtually every bill that comes before the Senate must be brought up out of its regular place on the Senate agenda, which means two-thirds of the senators present and voting must agree to suspend the rules and consider the bill. In a nutshell, this means that bills must often have support from two-thirds of the Senate instead of a simple majority.

The bill won final approval on May 2 and came before the Senate on May 9, where it got precisely the 20 votes needed to suspend the rules and debate the bill. After adopting one amendment, the Senate gave the bill tentative approval by a 16-14 vote.

NO PROBLEMS AROSE until the bill came up for final passage and Pampa Sen. Bob Price changed his vote and said no to suspending the rules. That left 19 of the 30 senators in favor of considering the bill — a solid majority but one short of the necessary two-thirds. So the state's confusing and inefficient method of setting electric rates will remain intact, at least until the 1981 legislative session, when the issue is sure to come up again.

Another disappointment for GSU came with the defeat of Senate Bill 318, a piece of legislation geared to help the needy and elderly pay their utility bills. The bill would have directed the state Department of Human Resources to implement an assistance program for the 249,000 Texans who are elderly, needy, handicapped and receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). In addition, a proposed constitutional amendment, Senate Joint Resolution 12, would have amended the Texas Constitution to provide funding for the program. One percent of the 7.5 percent natural gas severance tax would have been set aside for the utility relief program.

S.B. 318 won a 10-0 endorsement from the Senate Human Resources Committee but there was not enough support to bring the measure up for floor consideration. Senate Joint Resolution 12 never received a committee hearing.

ALTHOUGH THE COMPANY'S two major legislative goals were not achieved, there were successes, said Bob Jinnette, GSU's governmental affairs director for Texas. A number of bills that could have adversely affected Texans' electric bills were defeated or withdrawn.

One potentially damaging bill was quietly laid to rest after GSU and other utilities showed its sponsor the negative impact it could have on electric customers.

The bill, proposed by Rep. Wayne Peveto of Orange, would have made the state's natural gas tax applicable to volume instead of market value, as is now the case. Presently intrastate natural gas users pay a much higher tax than interstate customers because of federal price controls. Although the bill would have made out-of-state consumers pay more in taxes to the state, it also would have had a dramatic impact on GSU and other companies who use gas to generate electricity. GSU estimated the measure could have cost its customers $36 million a year.

LEGISLATION MAKING it easier to convict persons who steal electricity and other utility services won Senate approval on a voice vote, but was buried under an avalanche of other bills in the House.

On the final day of the session, Senators killed a bill that would have given the State Health Department control over the disposal of low-level nuclear waste.

In the session's waning hours, the Senate did approve a bill aimed at individuals who threaten terrorist acts, trespass or file false reports involving an electric generating plant. The Senate disagreed with an opponent of the bill, who suggested the bill might be used to stifle anti-nuclear demonstrations, and rejected, by a 26-5 vote, a motion to send the bill to a conference committee and, in effect, kill it.

Lafayette youths build N.E.W. model home

Two Lafayette youths were recently recognized by GSU for their construction of a scale model home built to National Energy Watch (N.E.W.) standards.

Derek and Craig Meche, 14 and 13, used less than $35 and over six months of spare time to construct the energy efficient model home.

The brothers became interested in energy conservation when their father asked them to assist in turning the family garage into a bedroom.

"He helped us figure the 'R' factors for the walls and ceiling of the garage and we computed the amount of insulation and helped dad put it up," smiled Craig, the younger brother.

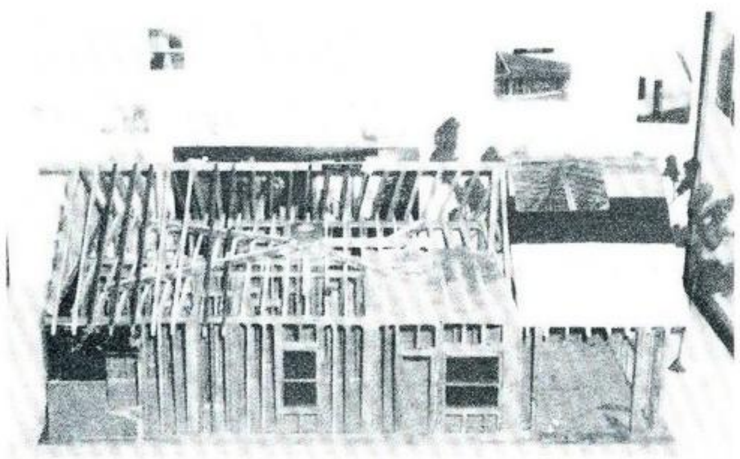
During the project of revamping the garage, both boys decided to build a scale model of the family home to N.E.W. standards.

"We made blueprints of our house and reduced them on a scale of one inch equals two feet," said Derek, proudly pointing to the miniature walls of the model. With the help of Jim Simon, a GSU consumer services representative, the boys gathered material on energy conservation to apply to their construction of the scale model.

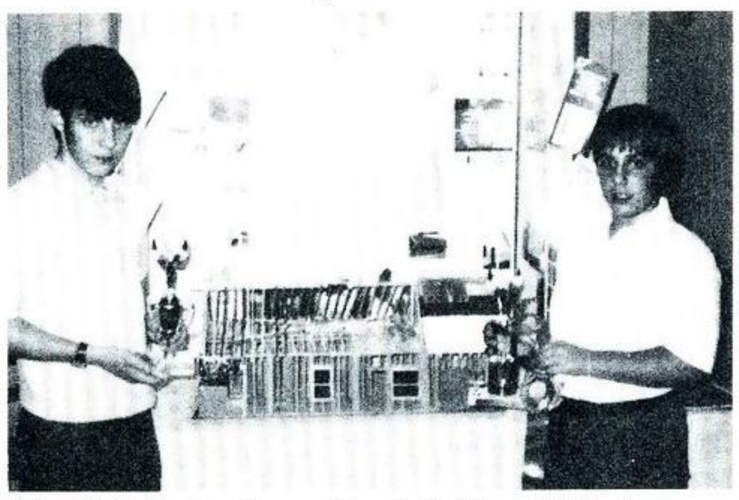
Doak Meche, the boys' father, related how he became interested in energy conservation several years ago. "I was fifteen years ahead of you," he stated. "When I built my home, I used every energy saving device on the market. Since then, when new devices come out, I install them in the house."

The father's influence on the boys was evident as both brothers displayed a wealth of knowledge about energy conservation. They proudly recalled winning first place in the Arnaudville High School Science Fair with their N.E.W. model.

—Ray Funderburk



This scale model of a home built to National Energy Watch (N.E.W.) standards claimed first place in the recent Arnaudville High Science Fair.



The Meche brothers, Derek (left) and Craig, pose beside their award-winning exhibit.

On display in the Port Arthur division office recently were energy conservation posters, courtesy Port Arthur cub scout pack No. 109. According to Joyce Owens, den leader, the posters were done by the 8, 9 and 10-year-old scouts as part of a unit on energy conservation. By doing the posters, the boys were able to earn arrow points for their uniforms. Energy conservation was originated as one of the cub scouts' monthly themes in 1977 by President Carter. Pictured above are the cubs who participated in the project. They are (front row, from left) Bryan Boudreaux, Chase Boudreaux, Brad Owens, Robbie Long, Mike Feidler, (back row, from left) Sean Wilson, Darill LaBove, Kyle and Steven Bombek. Pack 109 is chartered through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Port Arthur.

GSU files for rate increase

GSU filed for a $50 million rate increase in Texas July 2, filing petitions with the Public Utilitiy commission (PUCT) in Austin and with incorporated cities in the company's Texas service area.

The rate increase, if granted by the PUCT would mean an increase of approximately 22 percent for the company's average residential customer in Texas. It would raise the monthly bill of GSU's residential customers in the state by about 27 cents a day.

In announcing the move, Board Chairman Don Crawford said that the company regrets asking customers to shoulder additional energy costs, especially in this time of inflation and uncertainty about energy matters.

"But inflation, costs incurred by excessive federal regulations and the absolute necessity to receive adequate income if we are to replace and expand the electric generating facilities required to serve our customers, force the request for rate relief," said Crawford.

Rate relief, he added, is the only way Gulf States can show the earnings that will attract investors to finance the more than $2.2 billion the company projects it will be spending to construct five major power plants in the next six years.

Crawford said that the company's electricity generating capacity is planned to increase by 2500 megawatts or 45 percent over the next six years. GSU's last oil/gas burning unit at Sabine Station is scheduled for completion late this year. After that, federal mandate requires that additional capacity must be coal or nuclear plants, which are much more expensive to build.

Rate relief requests will be made to the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission later this year.

EPRI official urges U.S. nuclear power development

If America fails to develop nuclear power the result could be long-term consequences more harmful to worldwide human well-being than any of the risks related to making use of the nuclear option.

And that, Dr. Chauncey Starr told a special luncheon meeting of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) in Atlanta recently, means the U.S. and other industrialized countries have an obligation to the developing countries to reduce dependence on limited oil and gas supplies by developing all alternate energy sources, including nuclear.

Starr, former president and now vice chairman of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), headquartered in Palo Alto, California, made the remarks in accepting the American Nuclear Society Power Division's Walter H. Zinn Award, presented for "outstanding contributions to the advancement of nuclear power". It was the fourth such award ever presented by the group.

Noting the growth of Third World populations and economies, Starr told the meeting "we perceive the threat (of catastrophe) resulting directly from the pending unavailability of petroleum and natural gas at a reasonable cost."

"This unavailability," said Starr, former Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at UCLA, "could lead to global tensions and political instabilities, economic crises, and ultimately, military conflicts based on the need to obtain and control liquid fuel resources."

"We believe that past history and current events substantiate the threat inherent in the international struggle for raw materials."

If the industrialized nations of the world make use of available nuclear energy technology, he said, it will free up rapidly depleting fossil fuels for use by the developing Third World nations. Failure to make use of the nuclear option, he said, will increase world tensions as nations grope for a share of the oil, gas and coal reserves.

"The catastrophe that could be avoided (by making use of nuclear energy) is at least as threatening as the one projected by those who oppose the use of nuclear power," Starr continued, adding, "and, I would argue, more realistic . . ."

In discussing alternatives to using oil and gas, Starr said: "As a nuclear proponent, I do not view the future as either solar or nuclear. In fact, nuclear power may well be a transition fuel to a solar future, if such a future develops. But the question remains: Will such a future develop?"

If the antinuclear groups are incorrect in their assessment of non-nuclear alternatives, and nuclear development is halted, then the potential for massive social and political upheaval is substantial.

Noting that this focus on catastrophic risk has made nuclear opposition appear to be socially responsible, Starr said nuclear proponents have failed to bring home to Americans the fact that a "concern to avoid worldwide catastrophe is central to the broader case for nuclear power."

Memorial fund set up for Darla Kay Seales

A memorial fund has been established at Beaumont's Florida Avenue Baptist Church in memory of Darla Kay Seales, a 20-year-old GSU employee who died in an automobile accident May 21.

The fund will be used to purchase a sound system for the church in Darla Kay's name. Contributions to the fund can be mailed to the Florida Avenue Baptist Church, 645 W. Florida, Beaumont.

A graduate of Lumberton High School in 1977, where she was named valedictorian, she was voted Miss Lumberton High. A member of the National Honor Society for four years, Darla Kay was very active in school sports, including volleyball, basketball and track. She was a cheerleader in 1974 and was nominated for Who's Who Among American High School Students for the years 1975-77.

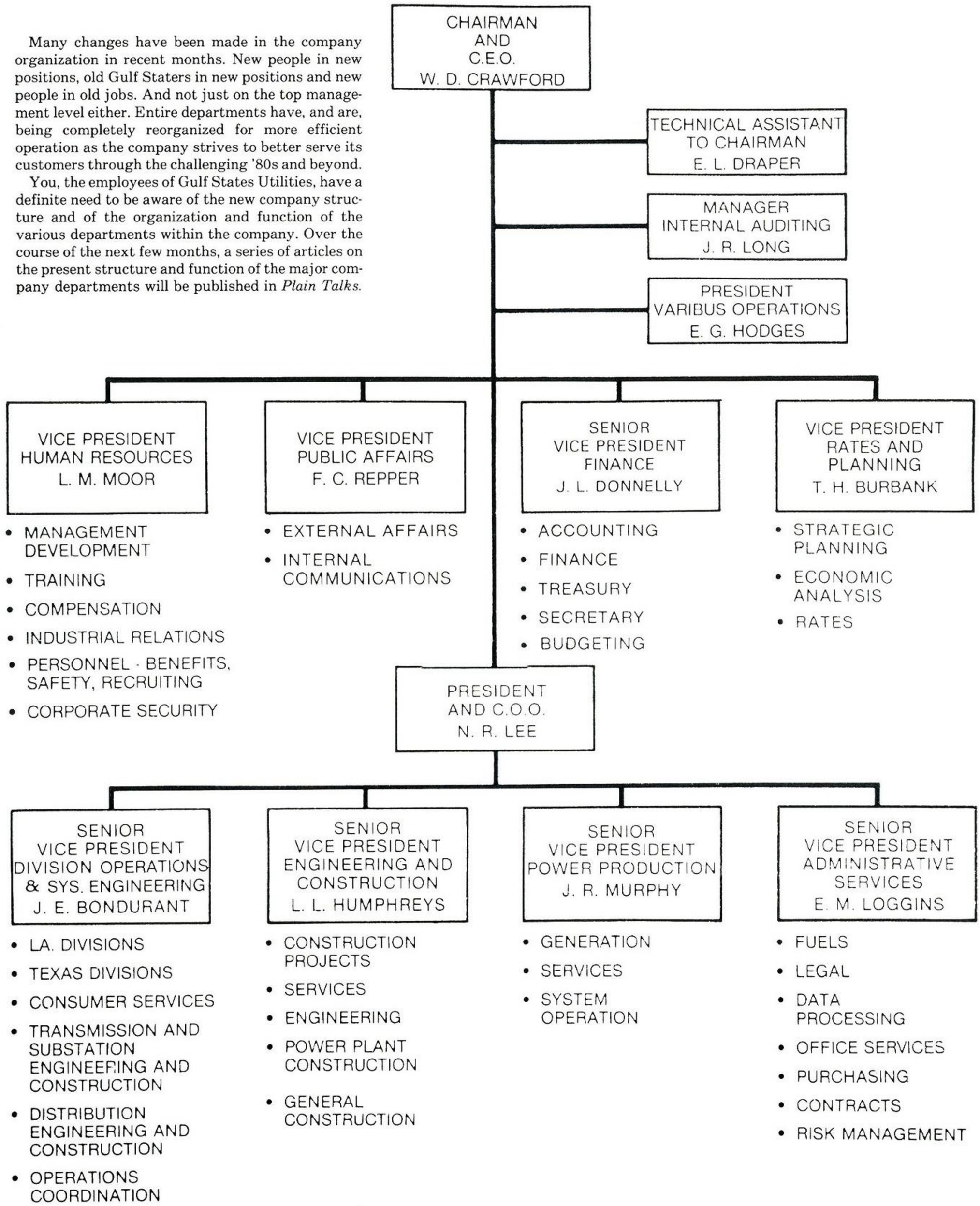
Darla was a member of the church trio for four years and also was an excellent soloist.

Her survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Seales of Lumberton.

Company organization to be explained

Many changes have been made in the company organization in recent months. New people in new positions, old Gulf Staters in new positions and new people in old jobs. And not just on the top management level either. Entire departments have, and are, being completely reorganized for more efficient operation as the company strives to better serve its customers through the challenging '80s and beyond.

You, the employees of Gulf States Utilities, have a definite need to be aware of the new company structure and of the organization and function of the various departments within the company. Over the course of the next few months, a series of articles on the present structure and function of the major company departments will be published in *Plain Talks*.



Top organizational structure of Gulf States Utilities Company.

SAFETY MEMO
TO GSU EMPLOYEES

Medical Emergencies

How to handle them

When an emergency occurs, there's no time to plan your actions. When minutes — even seconds — count, you've got to know what to do.

You must think about emergencies before they occur so you'll know what to do "just in case." Here are some medical emergencies that do occur along with the information you'll need to deal with them.

For all medical emergencies there are specific things that must be done. But for any emergency there are four general rules.

1. Don't panic; keep your wits about you.
2. Call or send for help immediately.
3. Do what must be done in priority order.
4. Things are expendable; people are not.
   Take care of people first, things later.

Clip this article and save it. Take the time to read it over from time to time so you'll be ready in case there's a medical emergency. Remember, a life may be involved.

HEART ATTACK

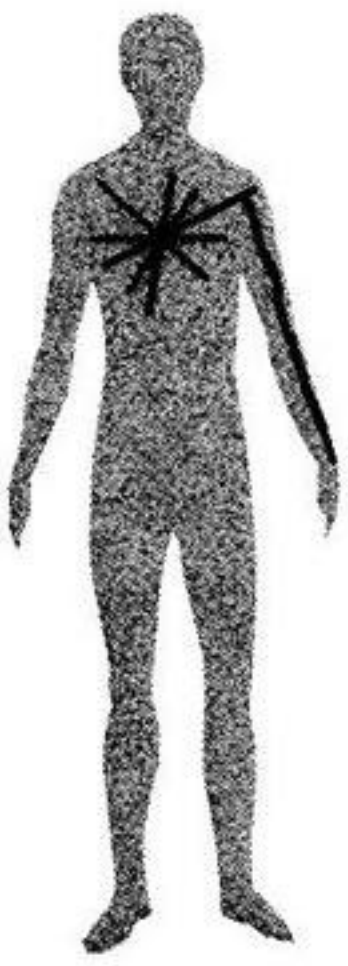
A person suffering a heart attack will complain of pain in, or just below, the chest and may have a sharp pain down the left arm. There may be faintness and shortness of breath.

Send for medical aid at once.

Have the victim lie down and remain quiet. Do not let him walk. Loosen clothing but prevent chilling.

If he feels faint, elevate his feet.

If he complains of shortness of breath, prop him up to a half-sitting position.



SEVERE BLEEDING

Place a pad of the cleanest material available over the wound and apply firm hand pressure until the bleeding stops. (See figure 1 below) Then bandage the pad firmly.

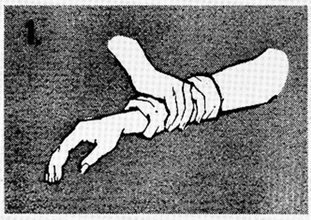
When blood is spurting from a wound on an extremity, direct pressure alone may not be enough to stop the flow. Apply additional pressure between the wound and the heart with your fingers or hand.

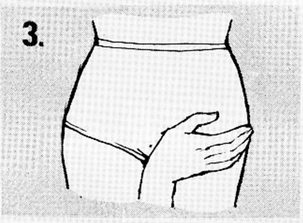
For a wound on the arm, apply finger pressure on the brachial artery in the upper arm. (Figure 2)

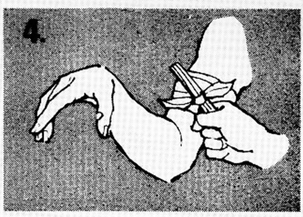
For a wound on the leg, apply hand pressure on the femoral artery in the pelvis. (Figure 3)

In all cases of severe bleeding the victim should be treated for shock. (See next heading for details)

A tourniquet (Figure 4) should only be applied in cases where an extremity has been severed or severely mangled. Wrap a strong, wide piece of cloth around the upper part of the limb above the wound. Tie a halfknot, place a short stick on it and tie a full knot over the stick. Twist the stick just tight enough to stop the bleeding. Mark the letters "TK" and the time on the victim's forehead with anything available (pen, soot, crayon) and get him to a doctor immediately . Do not remove a tourniquet once it has been applied. Leave that to the doctor.







PHYSICAL SHOCK

Physical shock is the collapse of the nervous system following a severe injury or emotional upset. Respiration and circulation are seriously affected and extreme shock can cause death.

Shock usually can be detected by a victim's pale face; cool, moist skin; shallow breathing; nausea; and a detached, semiconscious attitude toward what's going on around him.

Send for medical aid immediately.

Lay the victim on his back with head level with or lower than his feet. Loosen tight clothing. Cover to keep warm.

If the victim is conscious and able to swallow, raise him momentarily to a sitting position and give

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Doctor _____

Ambulance _____

Police _____

Fire _____

Poison Control _____

him sips of fluid (water, coffee, tea) unless he is nauseated.

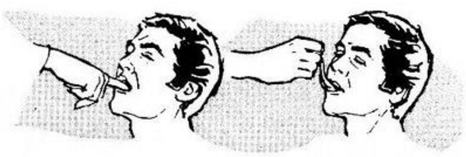
Always transport a shock victim in a reclining position.

POISONING

Do not induce vomiting if the victim (a) is unconscious, (b) is in convulsions, (c) is in severe pain, (d) has a burning sensation in mouth or throat, or (e) is known to have swallowed a corrosive agent or petroleum product.

Call a nearby hospital or poison control center for help and ask for further instructions on what to do until medical aid arrives. If possible, save the container to identify the poison so that the doctor can advise the most effective treatment.

Give the victim water or milk to dilute the poison. If you have determined that it is safe to induce vomiting, do so by placing a finger at the back of the victim's throat or by giving him two teaspoons of syrup of ipecac.



When vomiting begins, place the victim face down with the head lower than the hips to prevent vomitus from entering the lungs and causing further damage. The victim should continue until only clear fluid is vomited.

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

When a person stops breathing as a result of drowning, electric shock, suffocation or other cause, artificial respiration must be given immediately.

The most effective way of giving artificial respiration is the mouth-to-mouth method.

1. Remove any foreign matter from the victim's mouth and place him in a face-up position.
2. Lift his neck and put a folded coat, blanket, etc., under his shoulders. Tilt his head back and keep his jaw jutting out so that the air passage remains open.
3. Pinch the victim's nostril's shut, take a deep breath and place your mouth over his, creating a tight seal. Blow in until you see his chest rise. For an infant, place your mouth over both mouth and nose while blowing in.
4. Remove your mouth and listen for an outflow of air. Repeat 12 times a minute for an adult, 20 a minute for a child, using short breaths.
5. If you are unable to inflate the victim's lungs with the first few attempts, roll him on his side, slap him sharply between the shoulders several times to loosen any obstruction, clean out his mouth and repeat the entire procedure.

BURNS

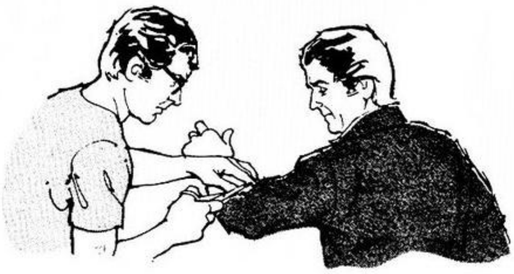
Burns are classified into three degrees of severity:

First Degree: The outer skin is reddened and slightly swollen.

Second Degree: The under skin is affected and blisters are formed.

Third Degree: The skin is destroyed and tissues underneath are damaged.

Burns of the second or third degree require emergency treatment. Remove or cut away loose clothing and apply a sterile dressing large enough to cover the burn and thick enough to exclude air from the area.



Never break a burn blister or apply oily or greasy medications to second or third degree burns.

Shock is always a dangerous possibility following a serious burn. Keep the victim lying down and well-covered. Move to a hospital, preferably by ambulance.

In the case of a minor first degree burn, immerse the affected area in cold water until the victim ceases to feel pain. Then apply a burn ointment.

In the case of a chemical burn, remove the contaminated clothing and flood the affected area with water. The bathroom shower or garden hose are both good for this.

If the chemical splashes in the eye, flood the eye with running water for 15 minutes while holding the lids open. If the victim is wearing contact lenses, remove them first.

All serious burns should receive medical treatment as soon as possible.

FRACTURES

In the case of a broken bone, do no more than is necessary to prevent further injury.

Fractures are divided into two types:

Simple fracture — Bone is broken but there is no open wound.

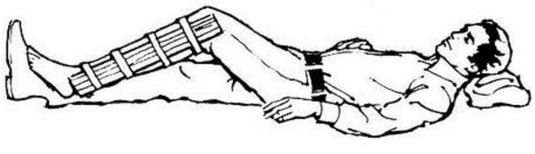
Compound fracture — Broken bone which may have punctured the skin or is associated with a nearby wound. (Control bleeding; apply sterile dressing before splinting)

Never move a fracture victim unless the injury is well-splinted.

If the break is in a limb, place it in as normal a position as possible without causing excessive pain.

Apply well-padded splints made of any rigid material, such as a board, sapling, ski, canoe paddle, and long enough to extend beyond the joints above and below the injury.

Fasten the splints with bandages of wide strips of



cloth in three or more places so that the joints and point of break are immobilized.

Use extreme care if there is suspicion of:

Fractured spine: Keep the victim flat and perfectly still.

Fractured neck: Keep the victim on his back with head in line with the spine and well braced on each side.

(Do not attempt to apply splints to neck or spine fractures)

Fractured skull: Keep the victim quiet. If he is unconscious, remove any foreign matter from his mouth and turn head to one side so secretion may drain from the mouth.

ELECTRIC SHOCK

Never touch a person who is in direct contact with an electrical current. You could receive a serious electrical shock, too.

If the accident occurs indoors, pull the plug or shut off the current.

If outdoors, push the wire away from the victim or the victim away from the wire, with a dry, unpainted pole or board, or pull it away with a loop of rope or other non-conductive material.

Send someone for medical help and start artificial respiration immediately.

Continue the resuscitation until normal breathing is restored or the victim is declared dead by a physician.

FOOD CHOKING

Sometimes called "cafe coronary" — results when a piece of food becomes lodged in the throat. If you are unable to dislodge the food by reaching into the victim's throat, you could try the "Heimlich Maneuver."

Stand behind the victim and wrap your arms around his waist. Allow his head, arms and upper torso to hang forward. Make a fist with one hand, grasp the fist with the other hand and place it against the victim's abdomen — slightly above the naval and below the rib cage.

Press your fist into the victim's abdomen with a quick and forceful upward push. The idea is to compress the air in the lungs and force the object out of the airway — much like a cork from a bottle — It works.

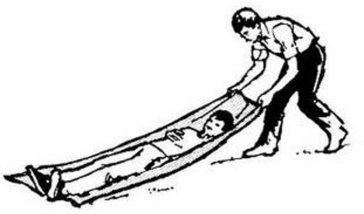
If the victim is too heavy to hold, lay him on his back, kneel astride his hips, place one hand against the back of the other and push into his abdomen with a quick thrust. The hands should be just above the navel and below the rib cage.

You can use the method on yourself if there is no one else to help you.

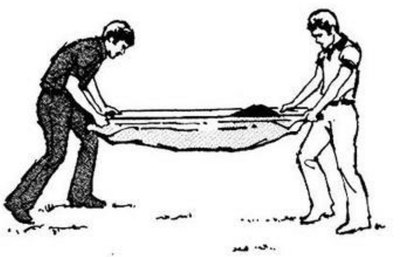
If the victim still has difficulty breathing after the air passage is cleared, give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and get medical help.

TRANSPORTING THE INJURED

Seriously injured persons should be moved only when it is absolutely necessary and then with extreme care.



If a victim must be pulled from a danger area, he should be pulled head, preferably, or feet first, not sideways. If possible, a blanket or coat should be placed beneath him to act as a skid.



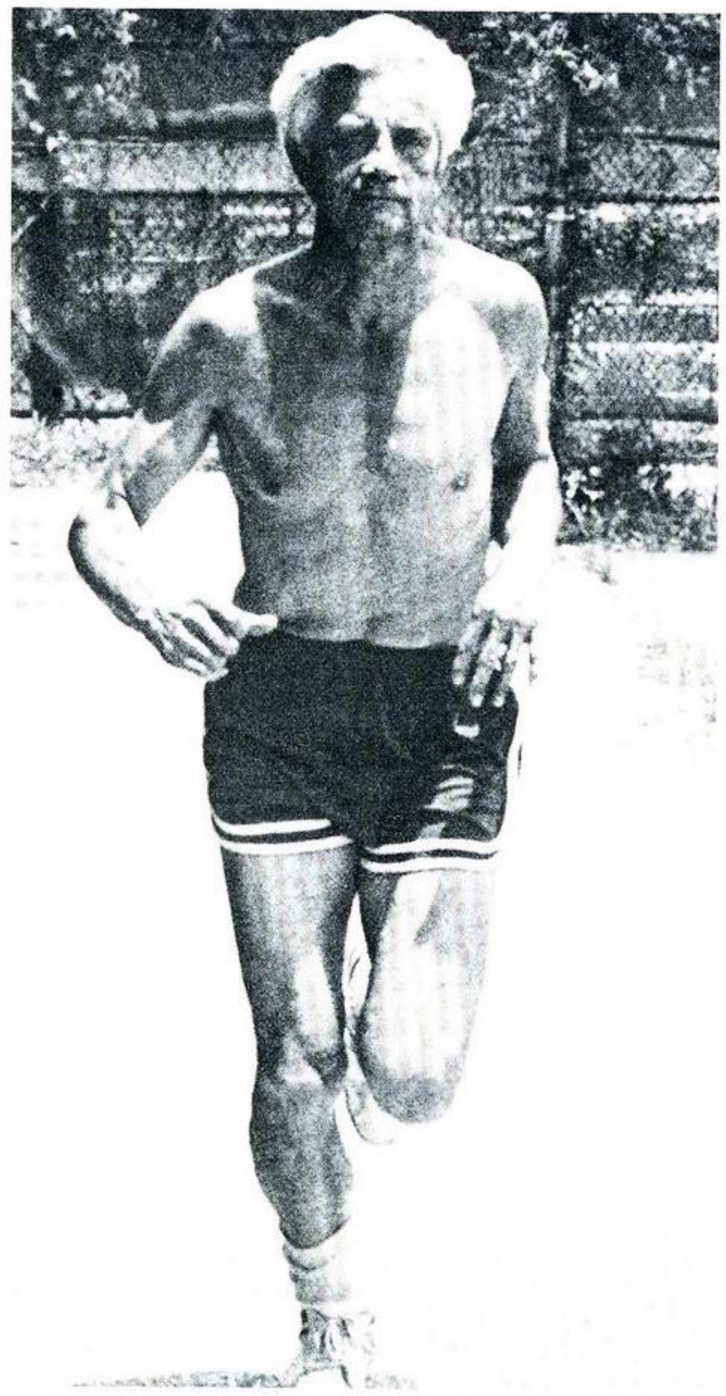
A stretcher should be used whenever one is available. Often one can be improvised out of pipes, poles, blankets and clothing.

If this is not possible, the one or two-man carries are suitable for asphyxiation or drowning victims. Persons being driven to medical aid should be kept in a prone position. A station wagon or flatbed truck is better suited for this than a passenger car.

When transporting an injured person, drive carefully and within the speed limit. Don't complicate matters by having an accident yourself.

Ward McCurtain

GSU's senior speedster



Remember those television commercials for hair care products which ended with the catchy line "Because you're too young to look old."

Well, it appears at least one Gulf Stater may be too young to *grow* old — despite the 50 years borne out by his birth certificate.

Most others his age may be content to slow down a bit and watch the years pass by until they can enjoy a well-deserved and long-awaited retirement. But not Ward McCurtain, GSU's manager of community affairs.

COMPETING IN THE 50-55 age bracket, McCurtain recently grabbed three first place finishes at the Gulf AAU Masters Track and Field Championships in Houston, winning the 100, 200 and 400-meter races. His winning time of 12.5 seconds in the 100 meters set a new record in that event. By virtue of his three victories, the lanky senior speedster advanced to the Regional AAU Meet in Waco, Tex., on July 14.

Several weeks earlier, McCurtain competed in the Dallas Baptist University Masters Track Meet and won the 100-yard dash in the 45-50 age bracket with an 11.3 clocking.

McCurtain has been competing in masters track meets for only two years and has qualified for the AAU Regionals both times, although this will be McCurtains' first time to actually compete on the regional level. "Nobody told me about the regionals last year so I didn't go," he grins.

IN LAST YEAR'S Gulf AAU Masters Meet, McCurtain blazed to a record-setting victory in the 100 meters in the 45-50 age group. And, although his latest victory gives him the record for 100 meters in two age categories, McCurtain jokes that one year has slowed him down considerably.

"I ran 12.1 in last year's meet and only 12.5 this year. And last year I pulled a hamstring and limped across the finish line."

A former collegiate trackster, McCurtain was a sprinter in junior college and a cross country runner at the University of Texas, where he received his BBA Degree in Accounting in 1952, the same year he came to work for GSU.

Nowadays, he only runs about 10 miles a week, concentrating mainly on building up his speed. "Jogging's not real good for speed," he says.

TO MCCURTAIN, his involvement in masters track is simple. "It's something I do better than a lot of people, so I do it."

Aside from running, McCurtain keeps in tip top physical condition with frequent visits to the tennis courts at Beaumont's Downtown YMCA, which he serves as treasurer. And in top condition he is.

In fact, he finished first in his age group last year in the annual all-around athlete competition sponsored by the YMCA. He finished second in the same competition this year.

For Ward McCurtain at least, he's not getting older. Life's getting better.

— Gary Dias

On The Move

ANAWATY, PAUL W., Engineering Assistant, Beaumont Engineering Design, promoted to Coordinator-Consumer Affairs, Beaumont System Consumer Services.

BARNETT, DONALD W., Substation Mechanic First Class, Port Arthur T&D, promoted to Utility Foreman, Port Arthur T&D Substation.

BELL, LLOYD D., Line Foreman, Beaumont T&D, promoted to Assistant General Line Foreman.

BONURA, CARMELO J., Supervisor-Survey, Beaumont T&D, promoted to Survey Coordinator, Beaumont Real Estate.

CAYWOOD, SUSAN M., Stenographer, Beaumont System Production, promoted to Stenographer-Executive, Beaumont Power Supply.

CHANEY, JOSEPH F., Right-of-Way Agent, Beaumont T&D, promoted to System Right-of-Way Supervisor, Beaumont Real Estate.

COOK, JOHN P., Quality Assurance Representative, Quality Assurance, River Bend Site, changed to Quality Systems Representative, Nuclear Projects, River Bend Site.

CREEL, RAYMOND W., Senior Engineering Assistant, Baton Rouge T&D, promoted to Meter Reader Supervisor, Baton Rouge Division Accounting.

CUNNINGHAM, RONALD D., Supervisor-Order Processing, Beaumont Material Services, changed to Contract Administrator-Sabine 5, Beaumont Contract Services.

DAVIS, LAWRENCE S., Industrial Engineer, Baton Rouge Division Consumer Services, changed to Engineer, Beaumont Engineering Design.

DIAMOND, GARY E., Project Quality Assurance Supervisor, Beaumont Quality Assurance, changed to Supervisor-Operational Studies, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design.

DUGAS, PAUL D., District Serviceman First Class, Lafayette T&D, promoted to Utility Foreman, Lafayette T&D Line.

FONTENO, LOYCE M., General Clerk, Beaumont Accounting Services, promoted to Confidential Records Clerk.

FOREMAN, THOMAS A., Engineer, Beaumont System Production, promoted to Maintenance Planning Engineer.

GAUTREAUX, CORBIN P., Serviceman First Class, Gonzales T&D, promoted to Utility Foreman, Gonzales T&D Line.

HARLAND, BILLIE E., Right-of-Way Representative, Beaumont T&D, promoted to Right-of-Way Agent, Beaumont Real Estate.

HESTER, ROY L., Senior Valuation Representative, Beaumont Tax Services, promoted to Supervisor-Property Valuation.

KATTELMAN, RONALD H., Inventory Analyst, Beaumont Material Services, promoted to Coordinator-Methods & Procedures, Beaumont Administrative Services.

KOEHLER, MICHAEL J., Nuclear Training Representative, Beaumont Personnel Services, promoted to Coordinator Nuclear Training, Beaumont Nuclear Projects.

KUCERA, DEBORAH K., Stenographer-Executive, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design, transferred to Beaumont Nuclear Projects.

LACKEY, PEGGY A., Stenographer, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design, promoted to Stenographer-Executive.

LANDRY, JOHN E., Line Foreman, Lafayette T&D, promoted to Assistant General Line Foreman.

LYLE, ROBERT M., Quality Assurance Representative, Beaumont Quality Assurance, changed to Engineering Analyst, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design.

MCGUIRE, JUNE W., Departmental Clerk, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design, promoted to Section Head.

POWELL, SHERMAN R., Utility Foreman, Vidor T&D, promoted to Line Foreman, Beaumont T&D.

RETHERFORD, EDWARD J., Utility Foreman, Port Arthur T&D, promoted to Electrical Maintenance Foreman, Neches Station.

SMITH, LAURENCE S., Quality Assurance Representative, Beaumont Quality Assurance, changed to Quality Representative, Beaumont Fossil Projects.

VAN EMAN, EMMITT C., Utility Foreman, Beaumont T&D, transferred to Vidor T&D Line.

WEAVER, FRANK H., Right-of-Way Representative, Beaumont T&D, promoted to Right-of-Way Agent, Beaumont Real Estate.

WISEMAN, BERNARD W., Coordinator-Methods & Procedures, St. Francisville Material Services, changed to Inventory Analyst, Beaumont Material Services.

THRIFT PLAN

Investments made by the Trustee during May, 1979 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through April, 1979 were as follows:

Purchase of Common Stock
Number of Shares — 10,472
Total Cost — $134,827.06
Average Cost Per Share — $12.875

The Trustee also made the following deposits:
First Security Bank of Beaumont, $104,123.56 in Savings.
The Equitable Life Assurance Society $14,915.74 Guaranteed Fixed Income Fund.

GSU employees' children top BISD high school grads

Three of the top four graduates of the Beaumont Independent School District's two high schools for the 1978-79 school year are the children of GSU employees.

Honored as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, at Beaumont Charlton Pollard were Samuel Roby (son of F. S. Roby, Beaumont Engineering Design) and Joyce Lynn Castleberry (daughter of J. R. Peckham, Jr., Beaumont Division T&D). Robert Lemire (son of Frank Lemire, Beaumont Accounting Services) was salutatorian at French High School.

Roby, named BCP's representative to the American Legion Boys' State, was the marching band's drum major. He earned the title of outstanding chemistry student from the American Chemical Society.

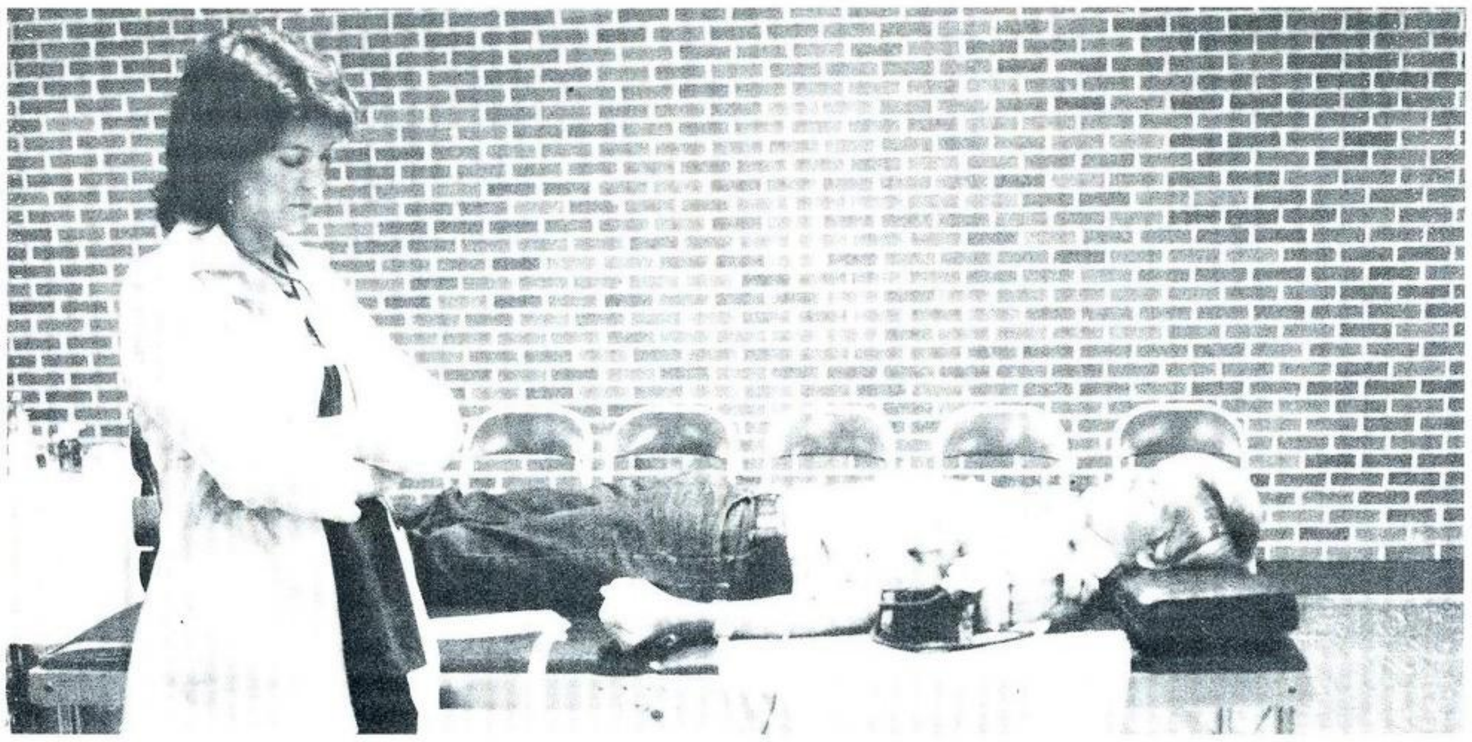
Castleberry was a member of the National Honor Society and the Anchor Club. A winner in drill team competition, she also served as a second lieutenant of the Gold Dusters Drill team.


Roby


Castleberry


Lemire

A member of the National Honor Society and the Junior Engineering Technical Society, Lemire was listed in the national "Who's Who Among American High School Students." He was also French High's representative to the American Legion Boys' State.



John Garner, Port Arthur Coop Engineer, shown above giving blood was one of many Port Arthur employees participating in a blood assurance drive on April 2. Tom Clark, Port Arthur Consumer Service Supervisor, was drive coordinator. (Photo courtesy Sue Williams)

Service Awards

Edward E. Julian
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
40 Years

Arthur L. Aucoin, Jr.
Electric T&D Dept.
Clinton
30 Years

Lloyd D. Bean
Electric T&D Dept.
Port Arthur
30 Years

Rolland J. Broussard
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
30 Years

Robert W. Butler
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
30 Years

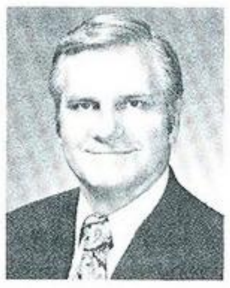
Geraldine Cabaniss
Div. Accounting Dept.
Baton Rouge
30 Years

Johnnie C. Carter
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years

Harold J. Doyle
Division Production
Beaumont
30 Years

Kenneth W. Ferrell
Division Production
Lake Charles
30 Years

J. E. Follmer
Material Servs. Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years



Charles D. Glass
Executive Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years

William M. Gordon
Electric T&D Dept.
Zachary
30 Years

Harold C. Hill, Jr.
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
30 Years

Joseph G. Jennings
Electric T&D Dept.
Port Arthur
30 Years

Eugene D. Keller
Electric T&D Dept.
Jennings
30 Years

William B. Linnehan
Division Production
Conroe
30 Years

Betty Joe Lum
Human Relations
Beaumont
30 Years

Rufus J. Mier, Jr.
Div. Marketing Dept.
Port Arthur
30 Years

L. A. Montgomery
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
30 Years

Major R. Saunders
Div. Accounting Dept.
Baton Rouge
30 Years

Aubrey D. Smith
Division Production
Beaumont
30 Years

James A. Stelly
Division Operations
Orange
30 Years

Billy Lee Toups
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years

Horace L. Craig
Electric T&D Dept.
Port Arthur
20 Years

Elizabeth R. Jolly
Gen. Svs.
Beaumont
20 Years

Theodore Matte
Div. Accounting Dept.
Lake Charles
20 Years

Harold L. Ney
Division Production
Lake Charles
20 Years

Joseph H. Sanco
Division Production
Beaumont
20 Years

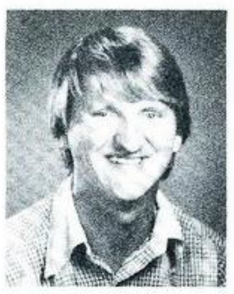
Robert L. Sellars
System Production
Port Arthur
20 Years

Edwin E. Sims
Division Production
Baton Rouge - WG
20 Years

Huey D. Stafford
Electric T&D Dept.
Denham Springs
20 Years

Claude E. Carter
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years

Bill D. Horelica
Information & Data Sv.
Beaumont
10 Years



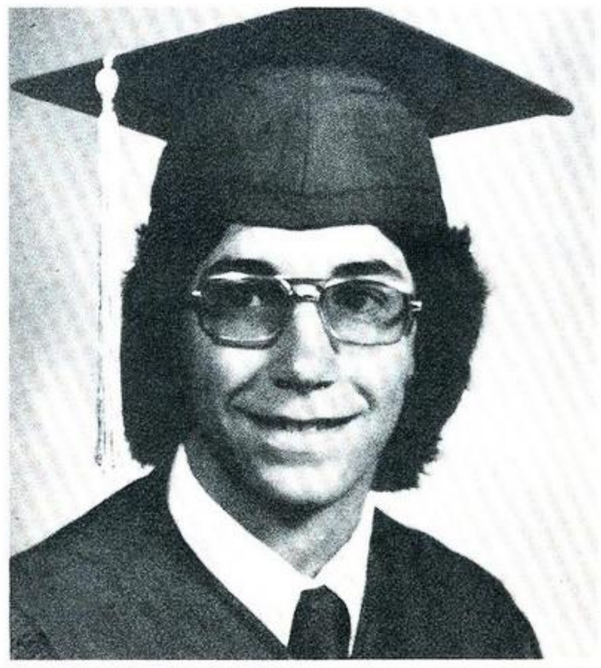
Michael Manley
Electric T & D Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years

Ronald W. Rider
Systems Operations
Beaumont
10 Years

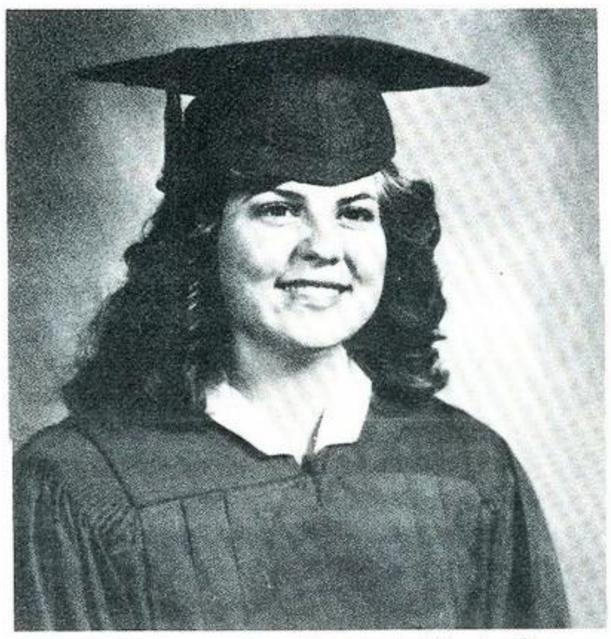
Herbert E. Stein
Acctg. Services Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years

Inside GSU

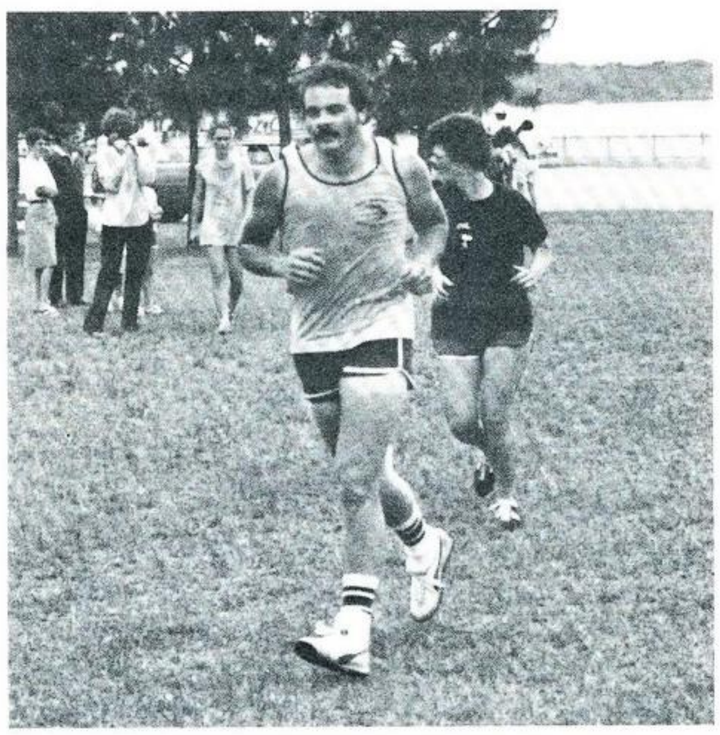
Louis Sandidge (superintendent, Madisonville) coached his girls' basketball team to the title in the recent Junior Division Girls' Little Dribbler City Tournament in Madisonville. Among those playing on the team, pictured above, were Stephanie Tinsley (No. 11, front row on left), daughter of Jean Tinsley (Madisonville office clerk) and Shelli Clary (No. 10, second row, second from left), daughter of Ann Clary (part time clerk, Madisonville). Sandidge is pictured on the back row, at left. (from Jean Tinsley)



Kevin Mark Clarke, son of L. D. Clarke (assistant general foreman, Lake Charles Line Department), has received a music scholarship from McNeese State University. A recent graduate of Barbe High School where he was a band officer, CYO officer and tour captain for the bike club, Kevin plans to enroll at McNeese in the fall.



Jayne Dotson, daughter of W. A. Dotson (section head - maps & records, Lake Charles) has been awarded a freshman nursing scholarship to Northwestern State University at Natchitoches, La. She graduated from Lake Charles High May 21.



Alan Spencer (engineer, Lake Charles T&D Engineering) heads for the finish line of the Contraband Five Miler. The May 12 race was sponsored by KSNS radio, Lake Charles Memorial Hospital and the Seven-Up Bottling Company. One of 607 participants in the event, Alan is a 1978 graduate of Louisiana Tech.

Janell Clarissie Penny, daughter of Albert and Clarrissie Penny of Baton Rouge, is the first grandchild of Malcolm and Nell Holmes. Malcolm is head fireman at Louisiana Station. (from Marilyn Nicholson)

This 20-pound blue catfish was caught on a trot-line in a neighborhood pond in Westlake, La., by Clayton Gallein (left) and Charles Jenkins. Charles is the son of Charles Jenkins, Sr. (control operations foreman at Nelson Station). Both boys are students at Westlake High School. (from Martha Caldwell)

Laisse les bon temps roulle'

Laisse les bon temps roulle'

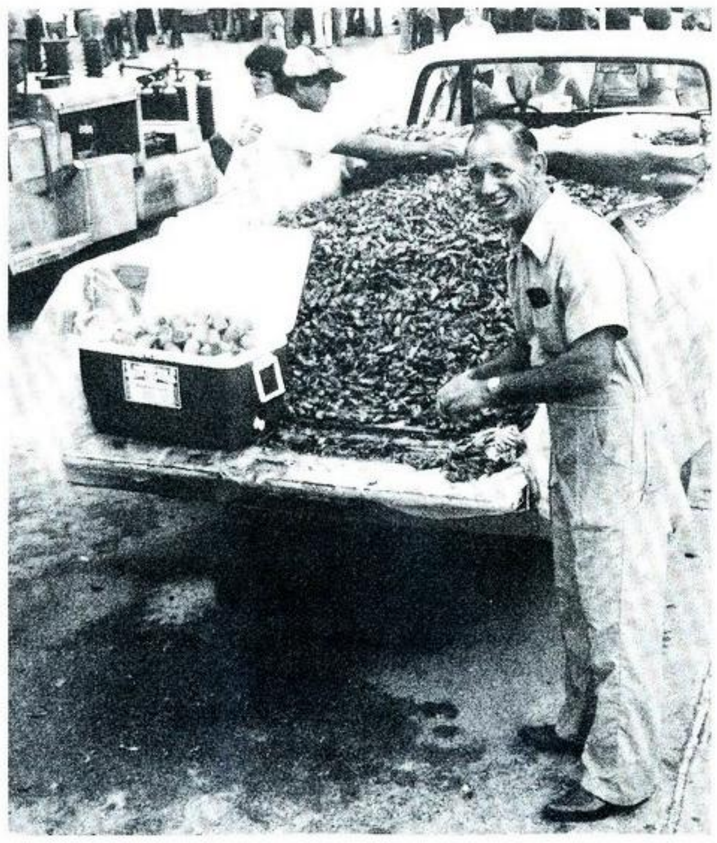
In French that means "let the good times roll" and in Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas good times often mean boiled crawfish and plenty of it.

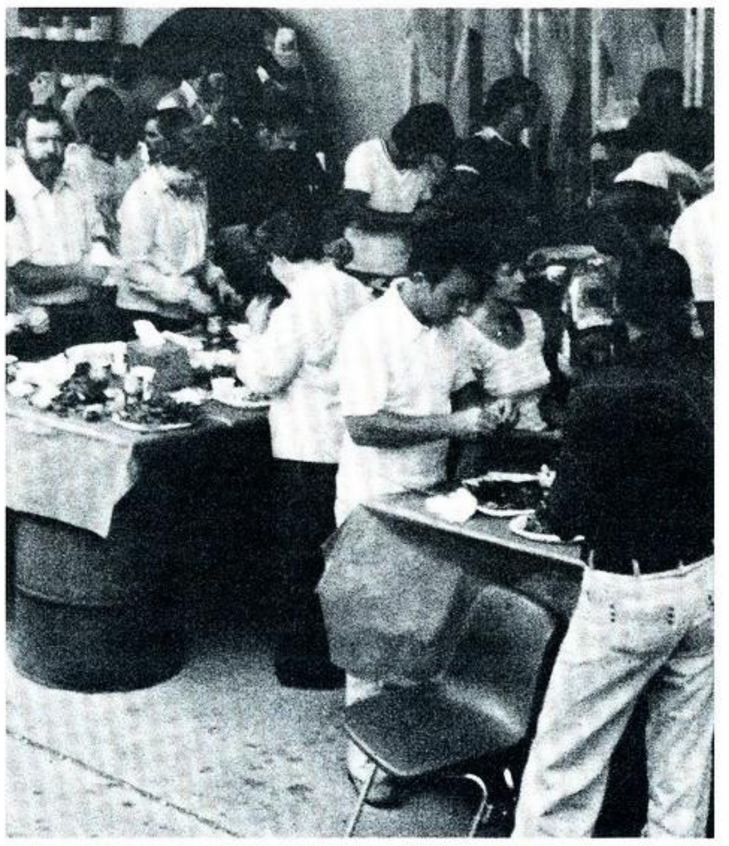
GSU employees in Lafayette, Lake Charles and Port Arthur recently enjoyed crawfish boils in their locations and showed they know how to have a good time — Cajun style. In total, GSU employees and guests consumed some 3800 pounds of the Cajun delicacy and, in at least one location, the festivities have been labeled an annual affair.

Photos on this page are courtesy Pam Dattalo (Port Arthur), Mona Burris (Lafayette) and Edith Patterson (Lake Charles).

Port Arthur employees consumed 860 pounds of boiled crawfish prepared under the supervision of Rufus Mier (superintendent-Consumer Services).

Horace Trahan and wife enjoy the Lafayette crawfish boil.



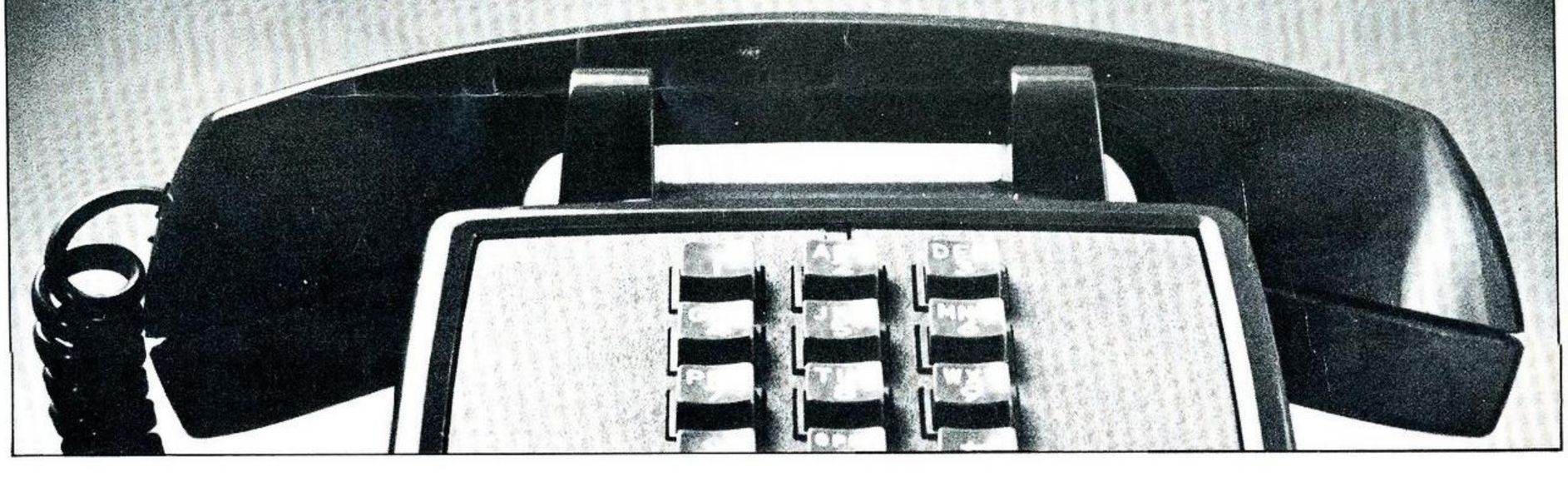


Lake Charles employees show how to eat those "mudbugs" — 1500 pounds of 'em.

Bulk Rate
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Beaumont, Texas
Permit No. 11

PLAIN TALKS
P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

GAS SAVER



You can save a lot of gasoline—and a lot of money—if you use the phone *before* you use your car.

By calling ahead, you can be sure the restaurant is open . . . the store has what you want . . . or the friend you want to visit is home—*before* you waste time, gas and money on an unnecessary trip. On the average, you waste about a dollar's worth of gas on every unnecessary trip—and just two wasted trips a week can cost you more than $100 worth of gas a year.

Saving energy is easier than you think, and with the rising energy costs we're facing today, it's never been more important. So the next time you pick up your car keys and head for the door, ask yourself whether a phone call could save you the trip—and the wasted gas.

U.S. Department of Energy

For a free booklet with more easy energy-saving tips, write "Energy," Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

ENERGY. We can't afford to waste it.