

PLAIN TALKS

July 1982



MAIL BOX

THE COVER

Do residential solar water heaters have a future in the Gulf States service area? To answer that question, GSU this spring began a demonstration project which involves selling solar water heaters to Beaumont-area customers who meet specific criteria. The marketing effort is limited to two years.

Through this project, the company hopes to evaluate the marketability of the system and to test customer acceptance of solar water heating.

Shown inspecting the first system installed in a Beaumont home is Consumer Services' John Tarver, marketing agent for the solar water heaters.

Andy Dreher
Gulf States Utilities
St. Francisville, La.
Dear Mr. Dreher:

On behalf of all the Hugh O'Brian Foundation State Ambassadors, I extend my thanks and gratitude for taking time out of your busy schedule to give us a bus tour of the River Bend Nuclear power plant.

The plant is very nice and I found it very interesting. The time you took to explain and answer questions was very appreciated.

The tour, presentation and answering of our questions really cleared up my misconceptions about the pros and cons of nuclear power. Now I am fully in favor of it and wouldn't mind if one was built in my town.

It was all a very radiant experience. Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,
Suzette Sand
State Ambassador
Mansura High School

Emery Fruge
Gulf States Utilities
Lake Charles, La.
Dear Mr. Fruge:

I would like to take a moment to extend my deepest appreciation for the performance of your tree crew at my residence.

On May 7, Bob Stokes, with other representatives of the Asplundh Co., were engaged in trimming the trees around the power lines in front of my property. I have never seen a crew display more enthusiasm and pride of accomplishment than this team of obviously dedicated men and women.

Though extensive trimming was required, upon completion of their task the lawn was left immaculate with no trace of debris.

The courtesy and professionalism displayed by Mr. Stokes is most worthy of comment and most certainly deserves recognition.

Sincerely,
Jack R. Hosea

Roberta Plant
Gulf States Utilities
Conroe, Texas
Dear Ms. Plant:

I would like to thank you on behalf of myself and the Manufacturing Processes class for the opportunity to visit your facility on April 14. The visit proved to be most useful in the understanding of certain basic processes in energy. Hopefully, we will be able to visit your facility again in the future.

Your cooperation and the donation of time by your staff members was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jackie R. Elliott,
assistant professor
Michael E. Friesen,
assistant instructor
Industrial Technology
Department
Sam Houston State University

PLAIN TALKS

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

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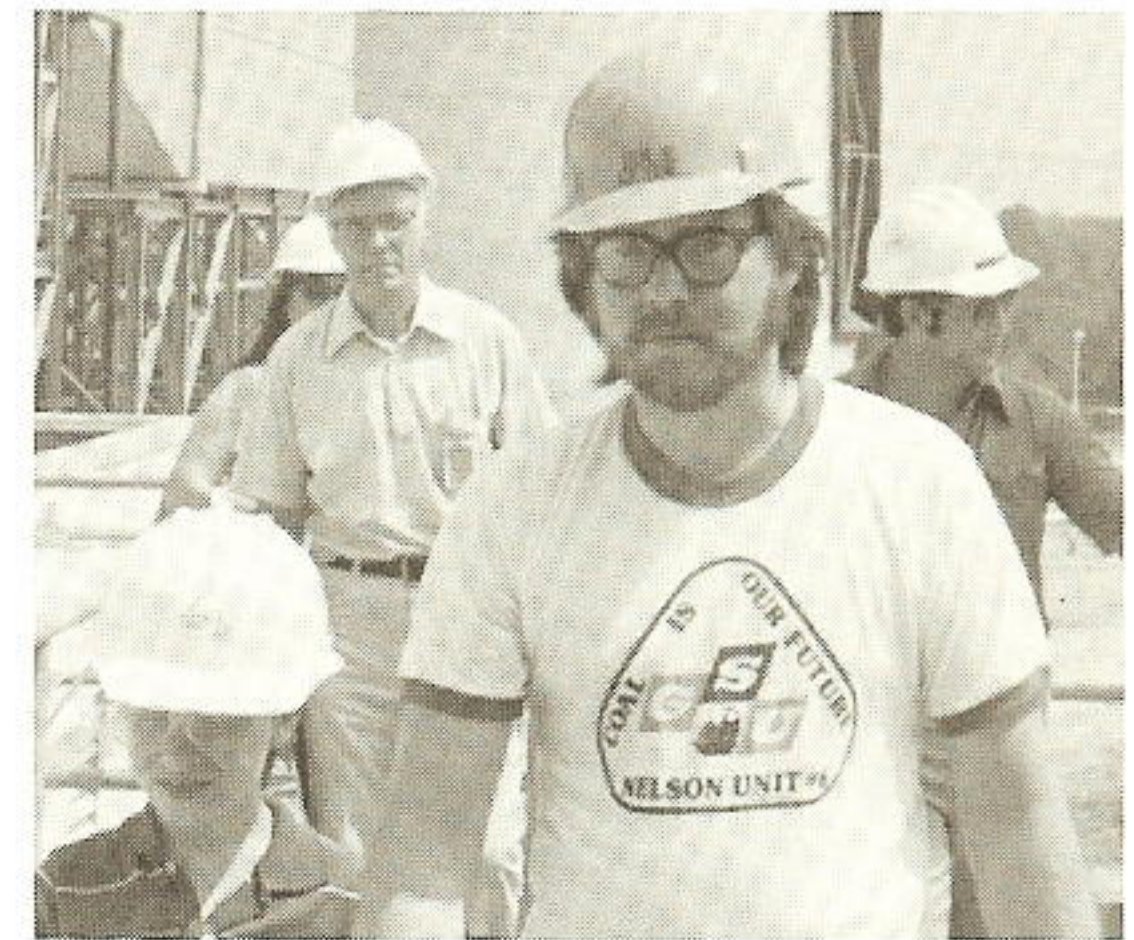
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Suggestion nets \$500 prize

Wanda S. West, customer contact clerk in the Lake Charles Division customer accounting department, recently won \$500 for a suggestion she submitted to the Employee Suggestion Program.

Her prize-winning idea involved not sending a regular bill to a customer who receives his final bill if the regular billing occurs within 10 days of the final bill. The regular billing would be included in the next month's billing cycle.

West's suggestion will save the company about \$8,585, company officials estimate.

For her money-saving idea, she was awarded \$500, the maximum amount in the suggestion program. Dennis Singletary, superintendent of the Lake Charles Division Accounting, presented her with the check.

GSU helps in Arkansas

Gulf States Utilities came to the aid of Arkansas Power & Light Co. in April when a large number of 500-kilovolt towers failed during tornado activity and wind storms.

Lewis Guthrie, engineering manager, said GSU, AP&L, Louisiana Power & Light and Central Louisiana Electric Co. have similar designs on some 500-kv lines. "We help each other out in time of emergencies, such as AP&L experienced," he said.

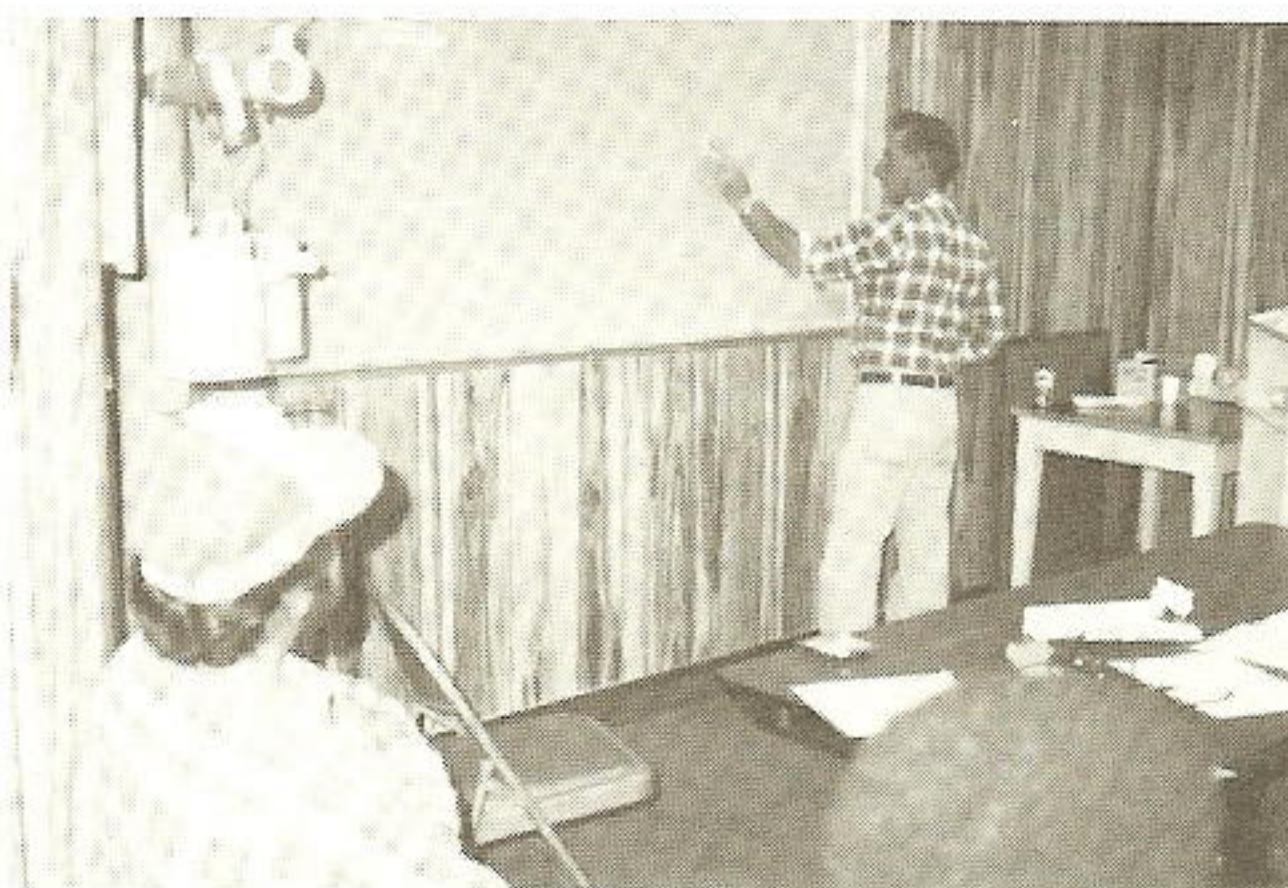
Gulf States sent two towers and the necessary hardware to the beleaguered Arkansas utility company.

The AP&L purchasing supervisor, in a letter to Jim Calcote, chief transmission and substation engineer, commented:

"On behalf of AP&L, I would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Gulf States for allowing AP&L to borrow this material and to

those employees responsible for coordinating the prompt shipment of that material to AP&L.

"If we at AP&L can ever be of assistance, we stand ready to return the favor whenever possible."



Line crews take classes

Rainy days in Lake Charles find the line crews in class where fusing, transformer hook-ups and underground troubleshooting have been taught.

Both new personnel and long-time employees are involved in the classes which use time that otherwise would have been lost because of bad weather. Additionally, the crews are readily available for emergency work.



Blood center recognizes GSU

Gulf States employees were recently recognized by the Blood Center of Southeast Texas for having contributed more than 2,500 pints of blood over the past 25 years. During a drive in June, Beaumont employees gave another 239 pints.

Pictured holding the plaque are Bill Barksdale, vice president of

technical services and the past chairman of the blood drive, and Lillie Babino of Human Resources, the current chairman.

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during June, covering employee deductions and company contributions through May, included the purchase of 16,969 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$203,628. The average cost per share was \$12.

The trustee deposited \$210,764.85 in savings at First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$26,086.60 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Art show set in September

The Second Annual GSU Employee Art Show will be held on the fourth floor in Edison Plaza Sept. 7-9. There are 10 categories for the show and ribbons will be awarded for first, second, third and honorable mention in each category. There will also be a best of show award.

Contestants may enter up to three selections in each category, and all GSU employees and their spouses and children living at home are eligible to enter.

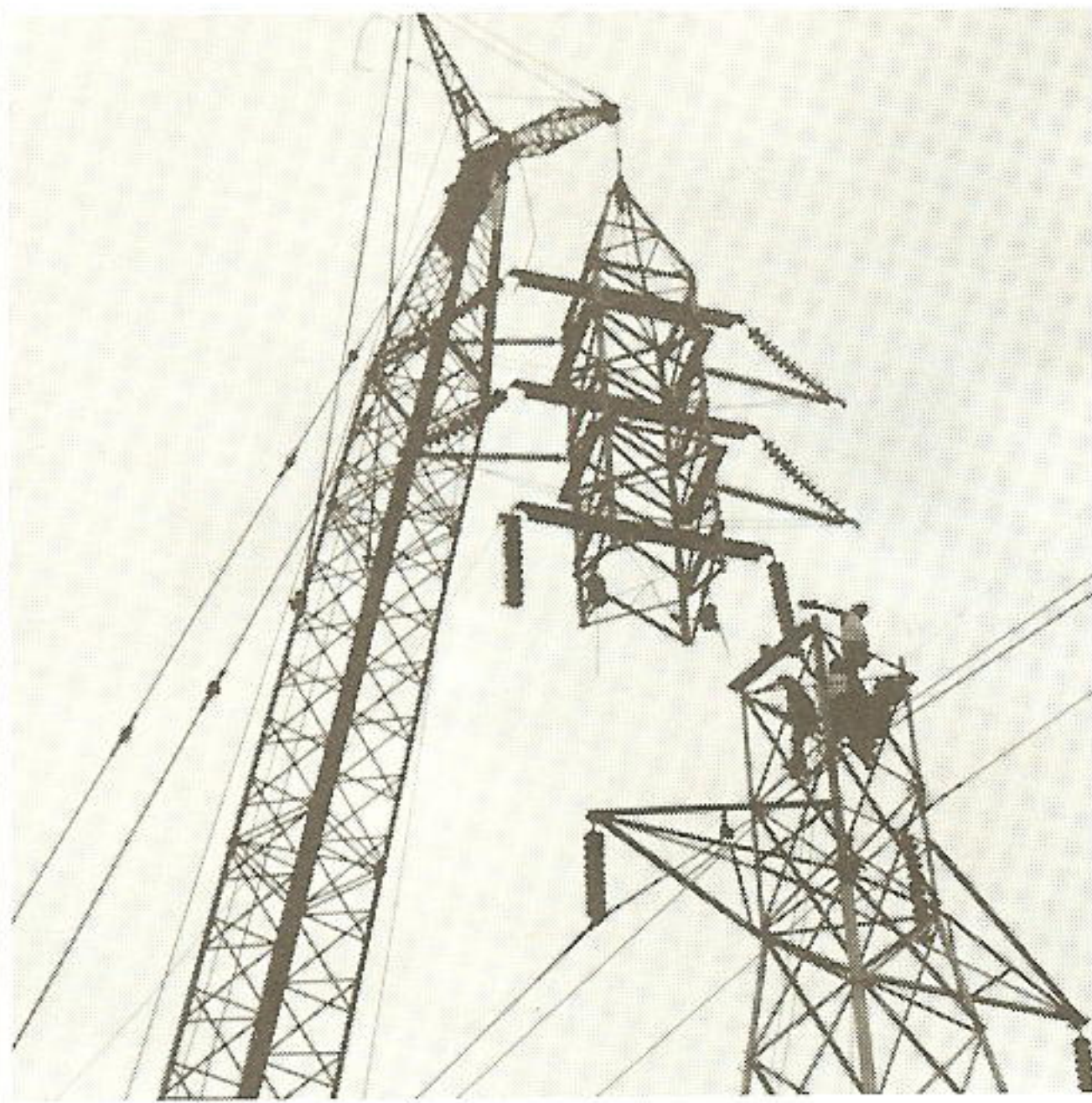
Categories for the show include: original painting, oil or acrylic; copy of painting, oil or acrylic; watercolor; pen and ink; sculpture; handcrafts; photography, portrait or landscape; stained glass; ceramics; and mixed media.

Entries for the appropriate category are subject to approval by the judges and/or art show committee members. Each work submitted must be accompanied by an identification sticker or tag containing the entrant's name and work extension phone number.

To enter, send your name, category, department and location, extension number and the number of entries per category. Print the information and fill out a separate form for each category.

Send the information, but not the exhibit, by Aug. 2 to Colleen Maxwell, 11th floor, Edison Plaza.

Further details on the Art Show will be announced in *Newsbreaker* at a later date. For information now, contact Maxwell at 733-2658.



Tower top is replaced

Neither the heat, the snakes, the mosquitoes nor an occasional lightning storm deterred the crews from their appointed task deep in the marshes near the Neches power plant this summer.

Their job was to replace the top of an 118-foot transmission tower in order to raise the conductors about 22 feet higher on the structure.

Mike Fancher, design engineer in the Transmission and Substation Design Department, along with Doug Sheppard, an assistant general line foreman in Beaumont Division, supervised the contract crews from Midland Construction Co. Everyone — supervisors and crews — got to work each day by barge.

Fancher explained that because

of the lengthy distance between towers in the marsh — about 2,000 feet — the wires tend to sag, to get closer to the ground. In order to keep the wires the prescribed — and safe — distance from the ground, the department designed the new tower top that raised the support points of the lines.

The alternative, according to Fancher, would have been to install another tower to cut down the distance. But, by replacing the tower top, the design engineer estimated the company saved, conservatively, \$100,000.

The actual job of removing the old tower and replacing it with the new took two days, with the crews dodging thunderstorms and lightning, as well as other of Mother Nature's surprises. In addition, it took two days to get set up on the site, a job that included barging a 140-foot crane into the marshes.

After the job was over, Fancher supplied members of the contract crews with copies of photographs he had taken. The crews "like to keep scrapbooks of jobs they've been on. They feel like they've put part of themselves into it," he said.



Utility man builds device

Glynn T. Beck, utility man in the Lake Charles T&D, built the tensioner shown here. This equipment, which is a device for pulling wire, was built for Lafayette for about half the cost of a factory-built tensioner.

Paper features GSU retiree

When Gordon Hatchell ended his almost-37-year career with Gulf States March 1, it was big news in Denham Springs. The local newspaper ran a three-column story and a picture of Hatchell and Dick Smith, Denham Springs office manager.

The article quoted Smith as telling those attending a retirement supper honoring Hatchell that "Denham Springs is losing a lot of experience."

Hatchell, a serviceman-1st class who went to work for the company on Aug. 14, 1945, was the first GSU employee to retire from the Denham Springs office. He had risen through the ranks, advancing from a helper's position.

The newspaper article explained that at one time the Denham Springs office was responsible for GSU power transmission and distribution facilities as far south as Gonzales and below Louisiana State University. According to Smith, "Gordon has put many a mile on his trucks."

In recent years, however, Hatchell was mainly responsible for service calls within the city limits and immediately around the city.

Co-workers gave Hatchell a reading lamp with an old service meter at its base.

Babin addresses Dallas conference

Harriet Babin, supervisor of consumer information services in GSU's Baton Rouge Division, was a speaker at the American Planning Association's annual conference in Dallas in May.

The theme of the four-day gathering was "The Urban Challenge — Building and Rebuilding Cities in Uncertain Times." Ms. Babin spoke to the group on "How Public Planners and Utility Planners Work Together."

She reviewed GSU's involvement with the Baker, La., Energy Commission and two joint workshops the company has cosponsored with the City-Parish Planning and Zoning Commission and the Capital Region Planning Commission.

Several other conference sessions dealt with other topics of interest to GSU, Ms. Babin said, including energy conservation and renewable resources, land-use ordinances and building codes.

Gautreaux gets commendations

Jack Gautreaux, building and grounds maintenance foreman in the Baton Rouge Division, is a two-fold winner, first by preventing what could have been a tragedy and then for submitting a winning safety suggestion.

Gautreaux was driving home from work May 20 when he noticed an aluminum extension ladder placed against a GSU pole in front of the Baton Rouge Athletic and Racquet Club. He stopped to check out the situation and discovered the ladder was in danger of contacting an energized conductor. The three men told Gautreaux they slid the ladder up a sidewalk guy wire attached to the pole and one was planning to climb up and adjust

the flood light while the other two held the ladder steady.

The GSU employee explained if the ladder slipped or the climber made contact with a phase, all three could have been injured or possibly killed. He then stayed on the scene until a ladder wagon arrived to remove the ladder.



Earlier that month, Gautreaux was awarded 3,500 safety points for his entry in the Employee Safety Program. He suggested using a battery operated telephone to identify cables in underground construction. In the past, another device, a Meggar, was used to identify individual cables in three-phase installations.

Gautreaux stressed that the use of telephones would not only save money on the initial purchase of equipment, but would also save time and money by speeding up each job.

On both occasions, Gautreaux, left, was commended by Jim Moss, Baton Rouge Division vice president.

Club tours new grounds

Members of the Sabine-Port Arthur Recreation Club (SPARC) toured the club's new recreational grounds earlier this summer, then showed pictures of the tour during the club's June 17 dinner meeting.

About 100 members and guests attended the session in the Sabine Station assembly hall.

A 20-acre combination picnic/athletic site is being

developed for the club at the power plant, which is located near Bridge City, Texas. Fishing and boat launching are also available on adjoining acreage.

All active and retired Gulf States employees and their immediate family members are eligible to join SPARC.

Among those attending the June meeting were (from left)



Kimberly Broussard and Letitia Alpough, the daughters of Barbara Broussard, a Port Arthur employee.

Rate case requires much paperwork

Any time a utility company files a rate case, a lot of paperwork — and a lot of manpower — is required to get the case ready.

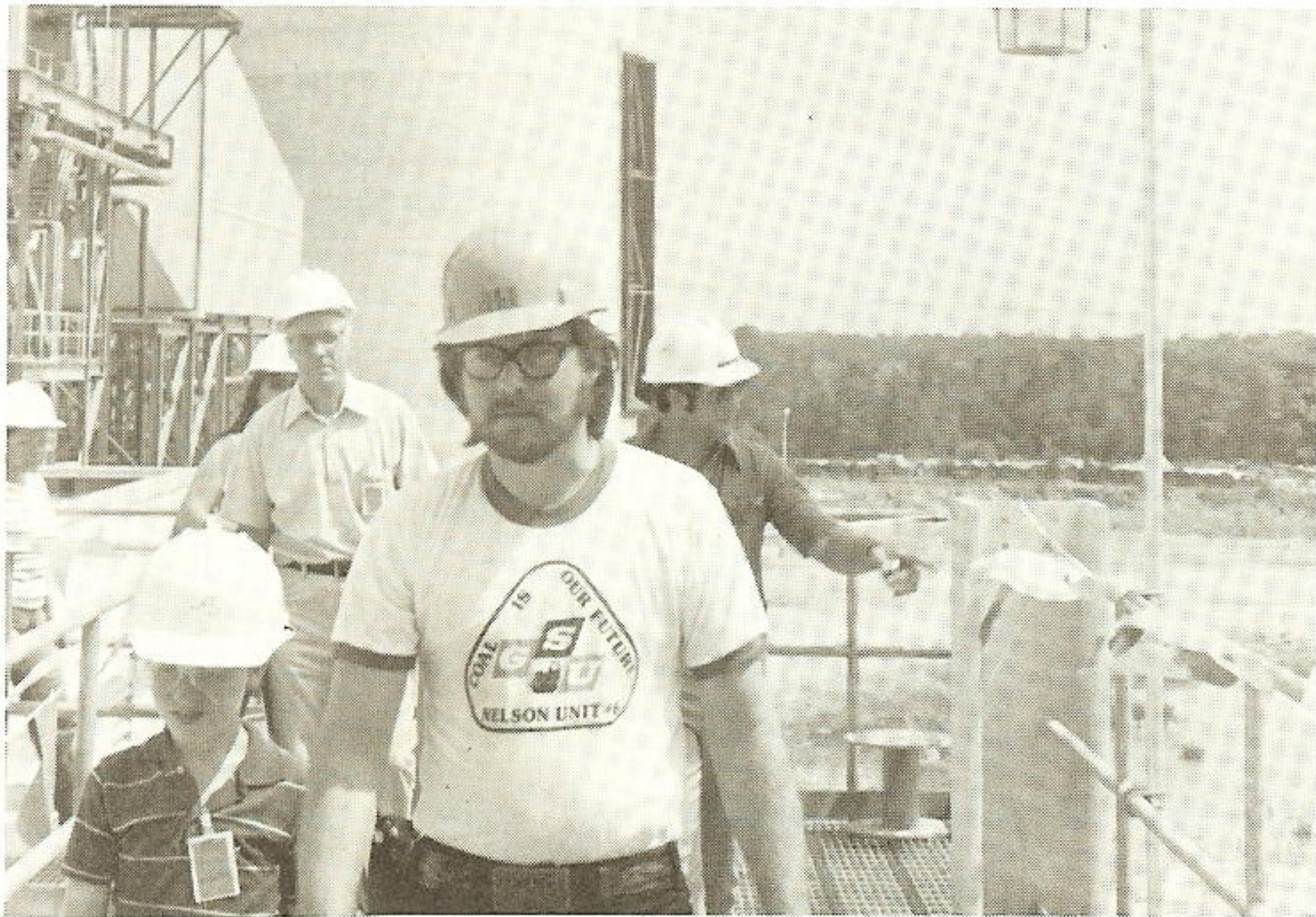
The photograph shows some of both. It was taken on May 27, one day before the company filed requests with more than 60 municipalities it serves in Texas and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) asking for a two-step increase in rates. The first is a \$131 million annual retail electric rate increase this year, and the second is a \$14.8 million next year.



Employees Participate In Nelson Dedication



This was the scene June 8 during the formal dedication of Gulf States Utilities' first coal-fired power plant. Dignitaries from throughout the state of Louisiana participated in the ceremony for Nelson 6.



Richard Harrell, a control operator at Nelson coal plant, leads a group of GSUers through the plant.



Lake Charles Division Vice President Ted Meinscher (left) welcomes Ricky King, T&D helper from Beaumont, to the June 5 employees tour of Nelson coal plant. King drove a van carrying other visiting employees from Beaumont Division.

SERVICE AWARDS

40
years

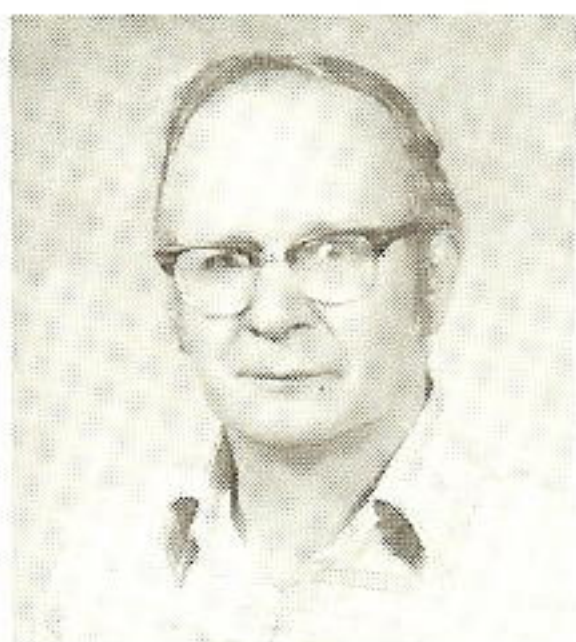


Clifford E. Chambers
Plant Production
Nelson Station

30
years



Clyde O. Ingalls
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Joseph L. Gallier Jr.
Plant Production
Sabine Station

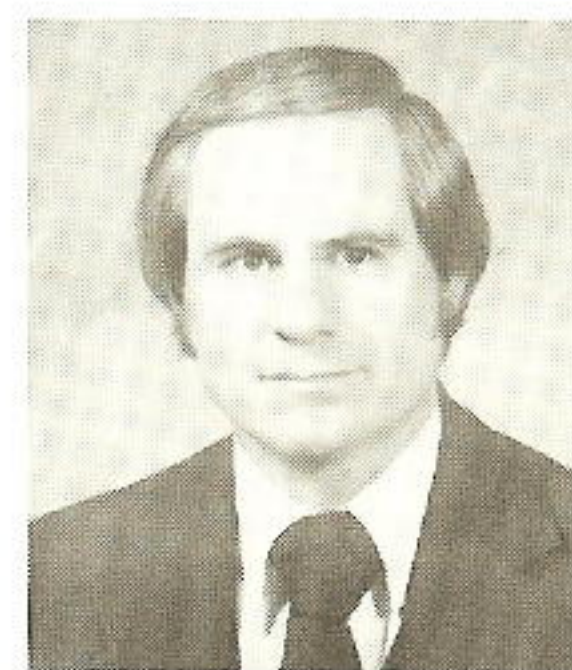


Wilfred St. Julien
Electric T&D
Lafayette

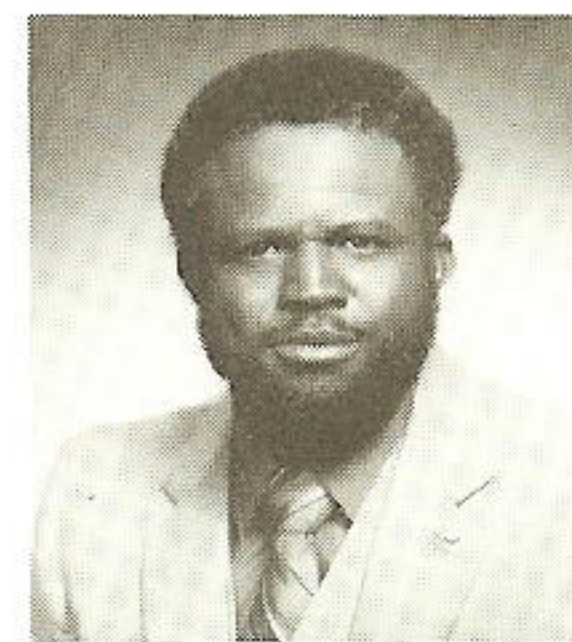


Ben R. Williams
Plant Production
Louisiana Station

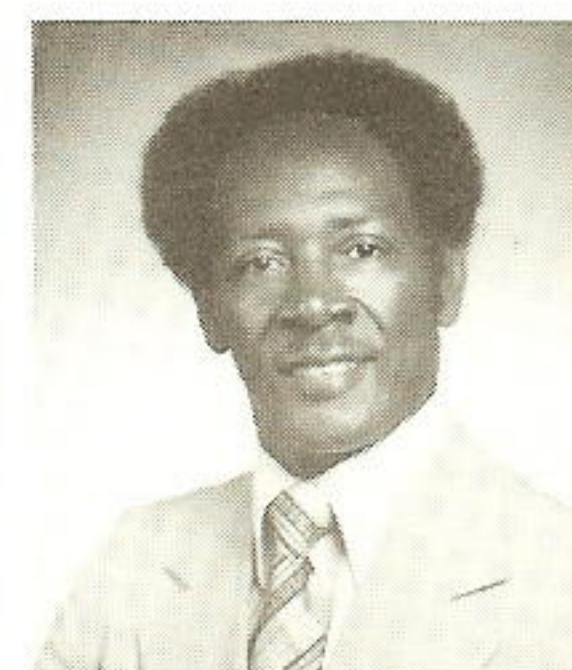
20
years



Fred E. Kressman
Plant Production
Sabine Station



Eddie J. Hills
Gas Department
Baton Rouge



Lawrence Jordan
Electric T&D
Denham Springs

Port Arthur Division



30 years, left to right: *Johnnie Hudson, Donald W. Bescher, Gerald S. DeBlanc and Milton J. Pellerin.*



20 years, *Clabe C. Tuttle and Donnell A. Ramsey.*



10 years, *Dwight E. Anderson and Pamela J. Webb.*



The gang gathers for the annual Bum Phillips Celebrity Golf Tournament in Port Arthur, with the proceeds targeted for the Hughen Center. From left are Darrell Royal, University of Texas athletic director; former astronaut Alan Shepard; entertainer Charlie Pride; Bob Hope; and New Orleans Saints coach Phillips.



Darrell Royal, left, watches the ham radio communications network in action during the Bum Phillips golf tourney. Standing with the UT athletic director is Gulf States' Tom Clark and Elton Conerly is at the microphone.

Golf Tournament

It's pretty well known that Tom Clark has been active in the Port Arthur Bum Phillips Celebrity Golf Tournament for the past three years — and that's as long as Bob Hope himself has been playing in the event.

Clark, along with other members of the Port Arthur Amateur Radio Club, traditionally set up a ham radio communications network to help carry the annual tournament off smoothly. They also are prepared to deal with any emergencies, should they arise.

The golf tourney is held each year to raise money for the Hughen Center for Crippled Children and Adults, part of which is Bob Hope High School. The school was renamed for Hope in appreciation of his interest in it.

At this year's tournament, held May 28-30, Clark, supervisor of consumer information services, and two fellow GSUers, Steve Gomez and Carl Rabalais, took their participation in the charity event another step forward. They helped set up and operate a

closed-circuit TV system for the children at the school.

During the tournament and also during an air show held simultaneously that weekend, the crew worked the television system so that the kids back at the school would be included in the action.

"It was the first time it's ever been done," Clark said. As communications chairman for the golf tournament, he monitored all of the event with other ham radio operators through the weekend. Gomez and Rabalais were stationed at the air show at Jefferson County Airport.

Through the efforts of Gomez, who is in system technical service, and Rabalais, in distribution standards and application (part of engineering), the children back at the school watching the closed-circuit live show were a part of the Golden Triangle Wing of the Confederate Air Force. As the planes dipped and swirled, the exclamations of the children and their excitement were registered on the ham radio equipment.

Back at the golf tournament,

the kids could talk to the celebrity participants. The TV system switched coverage for the kids back and forth between the events all weekend.

"The kids who could not go to the tournament watched on TV and then talked to the celebrities by radio," said Clark. He explained that the video equipment was all built especially for the tournament and the air show.

"For the extremely disabled children, those in wheelchairs or on special life-sustaining equipment, it was just impossible to attend either event. It (the radio and TV equipment) was the only way they could participate and stay close to their support systems," Clark said.

The help with tournament communications and the special attention to the children at the Hughen Center were just part of being trained amateur ham radio operators, Clark said. "One of the services of radio operators throughout the world is to be of assistance in various civic needs or disasters."

Dr. Paul Merrill, GSU chief executive officer, addresses the Sideliners who held their convention in Beaumont this summer.



The GSU Sideliners have had a busy summer so far, with a group of about 40 traveling to Knoxville, Tenn., for the World's Fair in May and almost 150 gathering in Beaumont in June for a meeting and tour of the new corporate headquarters.

Those who didn't make it to the Fair can take heart from S. L. "Chief" Adams who went with a group of Sideliners from Beaumont and Orange. He commented that "we had a great time, but it was a continuing 'stand-in-line' operation."

Called Chief because he was chief engineer for a number of years at Louisiana Station, Adams later became senior vice president of system engineering. He still serves as a consultant for GSU.

Adams said the Sideliners traveled by bus and stayed in the Hilton Choo-Choo Inn in Chattanooga and for two days went back and forth to Knoxville. They also managed to get tickets for the Grand Old Opry in Nashville — without reservations.

"Although tickets for the Grand Old Opry need to be reserved two years ahead, some tickets are not picked up and you can usually get in by going there and asking," Adams said to help future visitors.

He had some other advice for potential World's Fair tourists. "Anyone who goes should indulge in a Belgian waffle," he said about the delectable treat. And, he suggests, get a copy of the official guide book. With the book, "you can see the fair in two days. If not, it will take three days."

China's exhibit was the most popular, and the average time to stand in line there was two hours, he said. After a day of waiting in line, some tired Sideliners amused themselves by sitting on the ground and playing bridge while waiting for the bus to take them back to the hotel in Chattanooga.

Korea's, Egypt's and Peru's exhibits followed closely on the heels of China's as the best, Adams explained. But the U.S.

Busy Sideliners

Retirees Start Convention

exhibit was a disappointment. "It was not very good — probably close to the bottom."

Part of the reason, he said, was that those exhibits that stuck entirely to the energy-related theme were "technical, dry and somewhat dull. The really good ones added a lot of their art and culture to the theme and, therefore, were more interesting and colorful."

Adams recalled another trip to a fair. "I remember the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago. They introduced the first wide use of TV. Other fairs have done that, too, but this year's fair did not offer anything new and exciting."

However, with a good group such as the Sideliners, the trip was worth making, he said. For those thinking of making the trip to Knoxville before the World's Fair closes this fall, Adams had this bit of advice: "The most interesting thing is to see the culture of other places. If you find those things enjoyable, the trip is worth it. If you don't, it's not."

Closer to home, Sideliners from throughout the GSU system convened in Beaumont June 18-19. Retirees from all five divisions attended the event.

On the first afternoon of the convention, the group heard from Evelyn Lord, mayor pro-tem and Beaumont City Council member,

Sideliners

Summer with World's Fair Trip, Convention

who talked about communication. She told the Sideliners and their spouses they should know and like themselves and be able to look into a mirror and see their own best friend. Otherwise, she said, there is a problem.

Dr. Paul Murrill, GSU chairman and chief executive officer, centered his address on the rising cost of natural gas, GSU's main fuel, and told how the company is switching to more economical fuels, such as coal and nuclear.

Murrill praised the retirees for their contributions to Gulf States. He said he was proud to join a company like the one they had made GSU, one that was honest and aimed at doing a good job. He told the former employees that the company had benefited from their work and their ideas in the past and still needed their input now.

Fred Repper, vice president of Public Affairs, pointed out that GSU's economical natural gas contract expires at the end of 1984 and customers' bills will rise substantially. He outlined the company's approach to telling its customers what to expect and showed some of the television commercials now being aired on local TV. He said the commercials are part of GSU's long-range plan to help the public understand the fuel situation.

That same evening, the GSU Sideliners and their guests had dinner in the Edison Plaza cafeteria, after which they were taken on a tour of the 17-story building.

The next day, the group was

free to shop, visit and see the sights in the Beaumont area. The general feeling seemed to be that the meeting had lived up to its advance billing as the "biggest, best, most enjoyable meeting the Sideliners have yet attended."



Taking a bridge break during the World's Fair in Knoxville were, from left, Mrs. Rudy Rougeau, Bill Buckley, Dot White and Toodles Melancon.

ON THE MOVE

Adams, Samuel E., Beaumont, to EDP auditor, Internal Audits.

Anderson, David L., Beaumont, to apprentice, Elec. T&D.

Audilet, Raymond L., Beaumont, to director-scheduling & systems, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Avant, Max C., Jr., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Banks, Vanessa C., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Gas Dept.

Batiste, Willie L., Nelson Coal, to fuel handling operator, Plant Production.

Bell, Ivy L., Oak Ridge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Brady, Mary E., Beaumont, to secretary, Corporate Planning.

Breaux, Linda M., Port Arthur, to stenographer-senior, Division Accounting.

Breeden, Harry O., Louisiana Station, to mechanical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

Burleigh, James S., Nelson Coal, to control operator, Plant Production.

Butler, Frank Jr., Baton Rouge, to senior meter reader, Division Accounting.

Calder, Leslie G., Beaumont, to director-inter-connection administration, Power Interconnections.

Canella, Frank J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Cappadonna, Michael T., Beaumont, staff accountant, to Accounting Services.

Chapman, Robert G., Beaumont, to supervisor-reliability & performance analysis, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Chatlosh, Clifford E., Port Arthur, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Chenevert, Clint E., Denham Springs, to apprentice Electric T&D.

Cleveland, Willie D., Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Daigle, Fabien J., Baton Rouge, to inspector-contract crews, T&D Line.

Daniels, Barry W., Louisiana Station, to master repairman, Plant Production.

Davis, Patricia D., Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Dennis, Henderson L., Baton Rouge, to communication serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Dotch, Albert A., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Dozier, George W., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Edmonston, Gary O., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Elliott, Mickle D., Beaumont, planning & scheduling coordinator, to Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Everett, Calvin D., Port Arthur, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Feast, Wilkins A., Jr., Nelson Coal, to storekeeper, Plant Production.

Ferrari, Peter J., III, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Gallet, Kim A., Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Gauthier, Malcolm A., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Goth, Thomas G., Beaumont, staff accountant, to System Production.

Gregory, Joellen H., Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Guillory, Danny G., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Hart, Deryl C., Nelson Station, to master electrician Plant Production.

Hayes, Reginald L., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Hebert, Clark J., formerly of Louisiana Station, to supervisor-planning & administration, Plant Production, Willow Glen Station.

Hebert, Earnest, Baton Rouge, to collector, Division Accounting.

Hennesy, Ricky E., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Hillin, Nester M., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Jordan, Roy M., Beaumont, to operations analyst, Computer Applications.

Knowles, Lewis D., Beaumont, to supervisor-relay design & coordination, System Engineering.

Knox, Patricia V., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production.

LeBert, Betty T., Beaumont, to section head, Accounting Services.

Lorring, David N., Beaumont, nuclear engineer, to River Bend Nuclear Group.

Marks, Carl J., Lafayette, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Martin, Philip M., Woodville, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Miller, Ronald D., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Mobley, David W., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Neeb, Steven A., Neches Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

Papineau, Earl R., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Peters, Dennis J., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Raven, Hugh A., Gonzales, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Reeves, Rose N., Beaumont, to personnel stenographer, Human Resources.

Richey, Stephen J., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production.

Robinson, James, Beaumont, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Roe, Nathan W., Conroe, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Romero, Jeffery L., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Roshto, Arthur D., Willow Glen, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Salsbury, George H., Nelson Coal, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Samuel, Eugene, Beaumont to utility worker II, Office Services.

Saunders, Raymond L., Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Sims, Bryan L., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Sturdivant, Daniel W., Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

Syphrett, Daniel W., Beaumont, to claims coordinator, Legal Services.

Thomas, Gloria D., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

Turner, Johnnie W., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

Vice, Rickey E., Louisiana Station, to auxiliary operator, Plant Production.

Victorian, Joseph L., Beaumont, to director-load research, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

Wallace, Frank S., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

Library part of large network

by **Karen McConnell**
Corporate Librarian

The corporate library belongs to a network of almost 3,000 other libraries throughout the United States. Called OCLC (On-line Computer Library Center), the system can be used for numerous library functions.

One of the system's primary functions is to catalog library material. However, it is also used for interlibrary loans and acquisitions.

We are able to catalog our materials more easily and we have access to materials catalogued by the rest of the libraries through the interlibrary loan program.

Any employee who has difficulty locating specific books or

articles or other data in our library should check with the librarian who may be able to borrow the material from another library.

Database Review: Power

Comprehensive information on all planned and operating utility-owned steam electric generating stations in the United States is available through Edison Electric Institute's Power Data Base.

The compilation of this material allows users to find plants with similar characteristics and provides data for surveys of industry-wide practices.

The information is divided into five subsets. They are: site — site-

specific information which applies to the entire plant; equipment and fuel — unit-specific design and operating data; biocide — the use of chemicals; ash — ash handling and disposal practices; and PSD (prevention of significant deterioration) — unit-specific data on those power plants subject to PSD regulations in the Clean Air Act.

The data base is updated whenever a substantial amount of information becomes available.

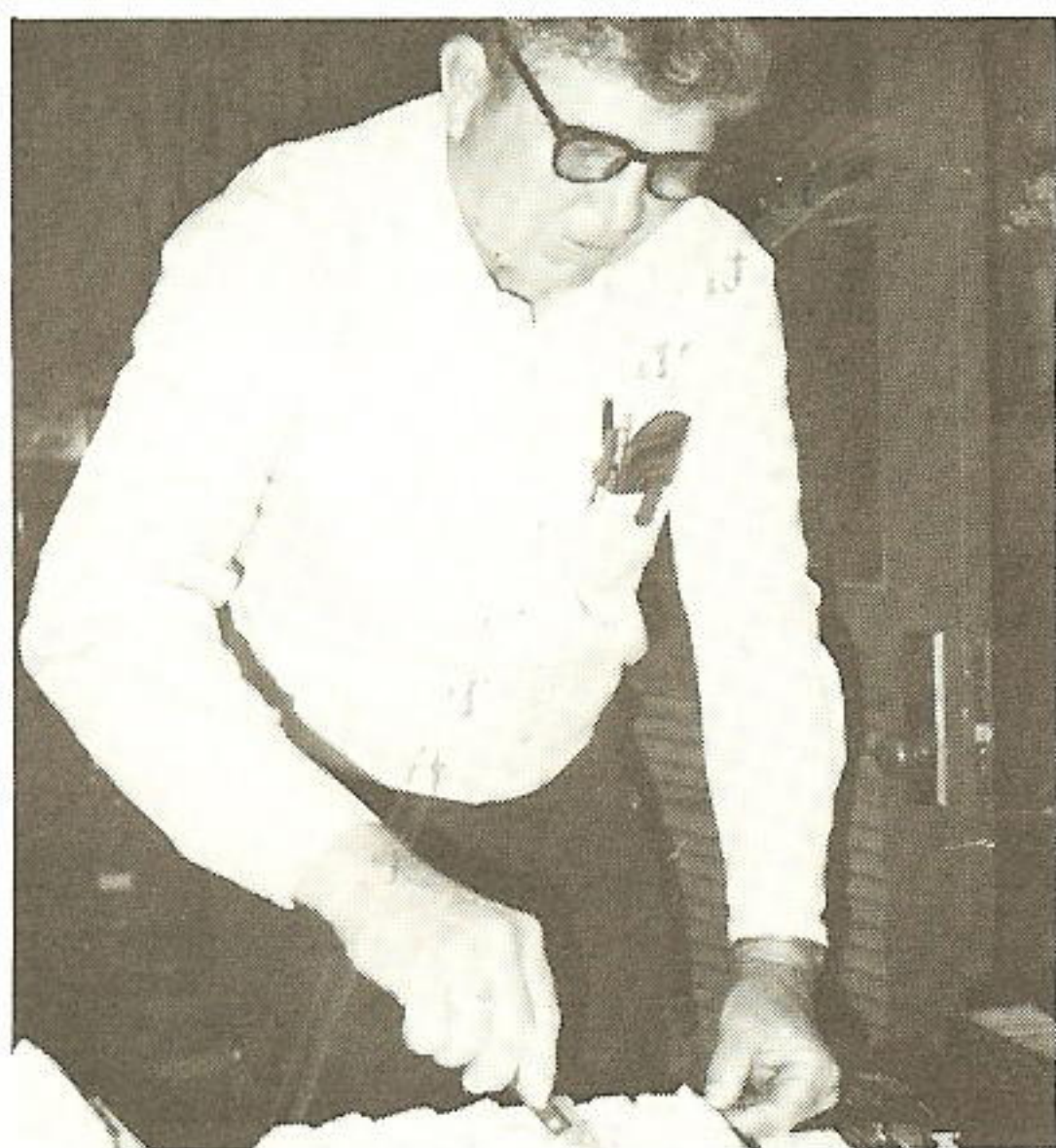


Co-workers honor bride-to-be

On the eve of Wanda Mancil's wedding to Johnny Lawrence, the Materials Planning clerk's co-workers honored her with a bridal shower on the 11th floor of Edison Plaza on March 19.

The new Mrs. Lawrence, shown in the center of the picture, was married on March 20. She and her husband make their home in Beaumont.

Among those hosting the shower were (back row, from left to right) Sandy Brantley and John Atwood and (front row, far left and far right) Evelyn Wakefield and Sherry Smith.



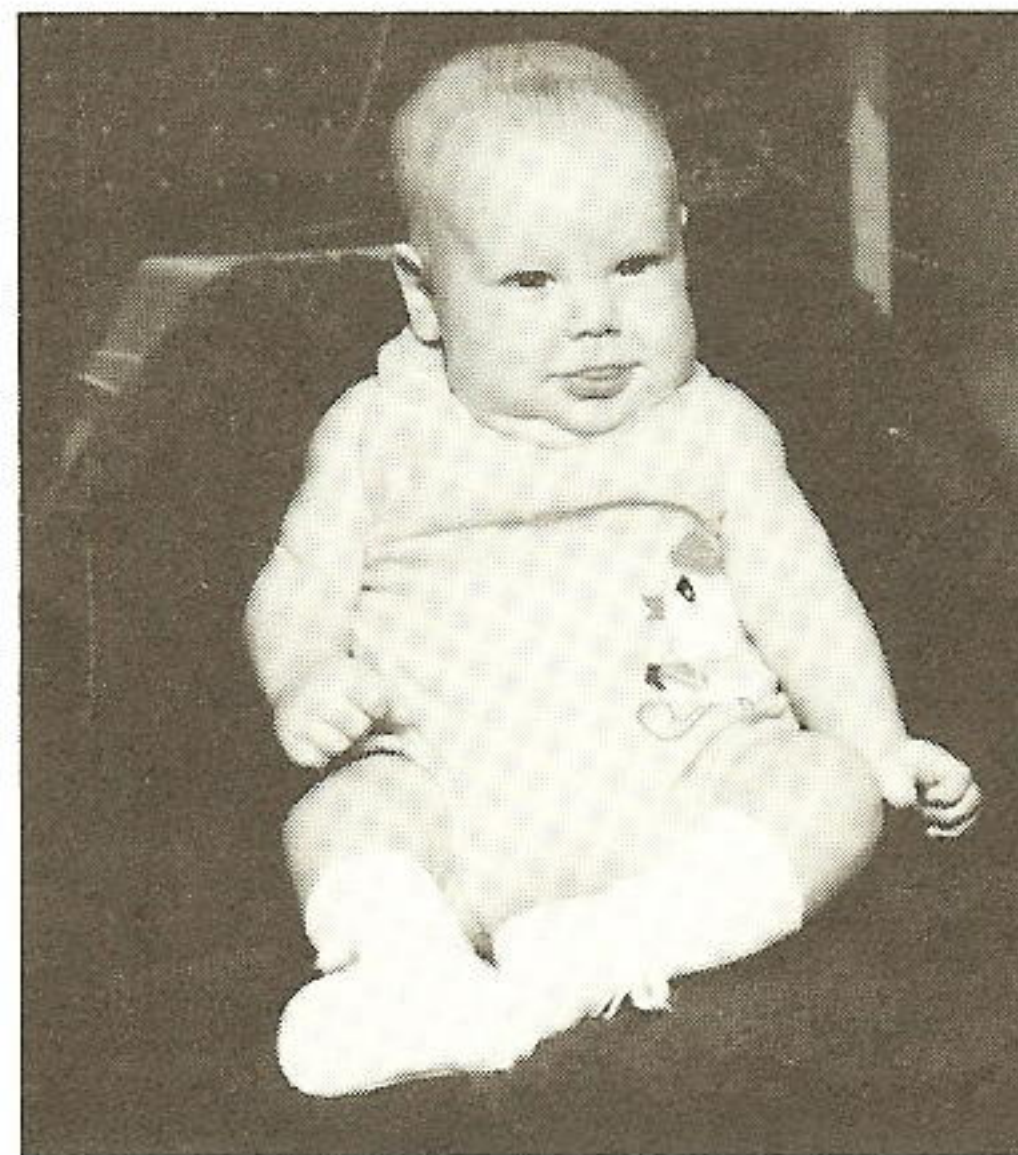
Surprise party honors Byrd

M. D. Byrd, assistant line supervisor in the Lake Charles office, was surprised recently with a birthday party. Fellow workers provided the cake and helped Byrd celebrate.

Baby joins GSU family

Little Michael Lee Wier is going to hear a lot about Gulf States as he grows up.

Born Jan. 20, he is the son of Don Wier who works in a Baton Rouge substation; the grandson of Bill Gordon who works in the Zachary, La., Northern District; and the nephew of William Earl Gordon, a meter reader in the Baton Rouge office.



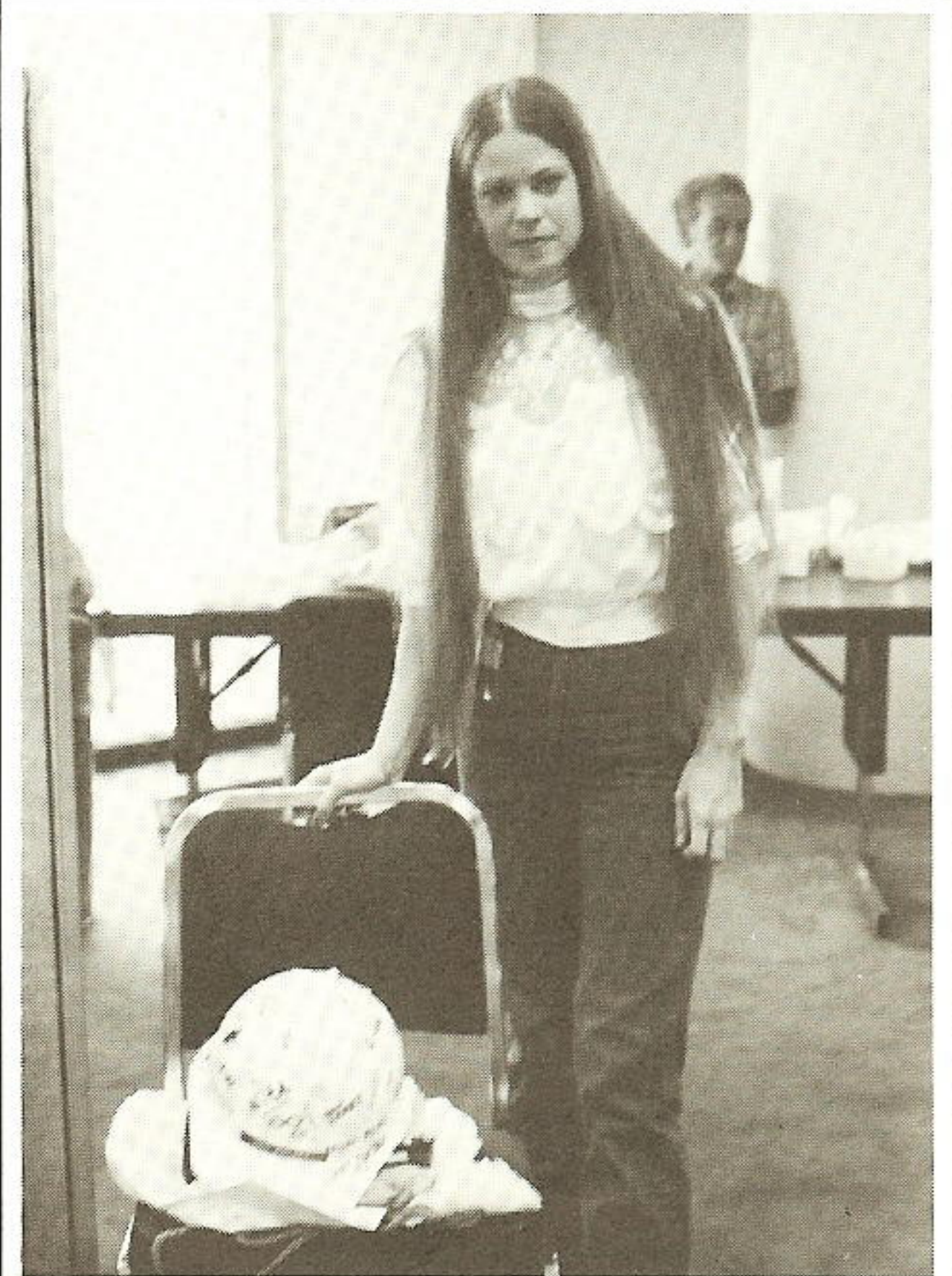
The picture shows Michael at 3 months.

Snake surprises garage worker

Utility worker Melvin Grimes had a little surprise recently while working in the parking garage of Edison Plaza. While busy on the second level, he encountered a snake of undetermined species.



Following his shock, the snake was shocked with a piece of two-by-four across the head. Melvin survived the ordeal. However, the snake, as you can see, was a little worse for wear.



Palmer honored with party

Nan Palmer, shown with a decorated hardhat that was a going-away gift, was honored with a party June 18. The party was held on the last day she worked in drafting on the sixth floor in Edison Plaza. Palmer was transferred to Neches Station to be a utility worker. The hardhat was autographed by her co-workers.

Toastmaster chief attends confab

William D. Hamilton of Phoenix participated in the Toastmaster's conference held in Baton Rouge in late April.

Hamilton, international Toastmaster president, is pictured with Jim Moss, Baton Rouge Division vice president, left, and Ward McCurtain, manager of community affairs.





Finance holds picnic

Assistant Treasurer Clyde McBride gets set for the dunking he's about to get at the Finance Department's first picnic.

The event, which may become annual, was held June 19 at the Live Wires Club near Silsbee.



Winners receive savings bonds

The winners of GSU's first poster contest for children of System employees were presented with their \$50 savings bonds by Aubrey Sprawls, vice president of Consumer Services.

Pictured with Sprawls, from left, are Trina Hendrix of Silsbee, grade 5, daughter of E. L. Hendrix; Tracey Mathis of Beaumont, grade 6, daughter of Candy Craft; and Kellie Lynn Davey of Beaumont, grade 5, daughter of Tom Davey.

The poster contest, held in all five divisions and in system operations, is part of the employee energy conservation program, according to Brooks Bishop, senior energy analyst. "The contest is just one way of encouraging the employee and his family — this time, the

children — to think about energy conservation. We believe we've accomplished that with this poster contest," he said.

Bishop said the department has plans to use copies of the winning posters on bulletin boards throughout the company.



Davis feted with party

Carla Davis, who was recently promoted from stenographer in the Port Arthur Accounting Department to secretary in Edison Plaza in Beaumont, was guest of honor at a "going away" party. Helping Davis, center, celebrate were Ronnie Carlin, left, and Jean Andrews.



Baby shower honors Reed

Kathleen Reed, Consumer Services representative, Port Arthur, took maternity leave in July, but before she left, her co-workers and friends hosted a baby shower.

Pictured with Reed, center, are Kathleen Fuller, left, and Jean Andrews, behind Reed.



Clerks feted at luncheon

The clerks at Willow Glen Station celebrated National Secretaries Week with lunch at a local restaurant. The supervisors complimented them for a job well done, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Lydia Mitchell.

Pictured, from left, are student Karen Ambeau, and clerks Linda Sanchez, Peggy Stewart, Beverly Hull and Lydia Mitchell.



PA Hackers hold tourney

The 1982 edition of the Port Arthur Hackers Invitational Golf Tournament drew 32 players to the Babe Zaharias Golf Club April 3.

Two teams tied for first place. They were Jim DuBois, Carl Byrd, D. P. Lyons and Wayne Barnett and Randy Hebert, Ronnie Carlin, Tom Droddy and Steve Moore. Tying for third place were the teams of Ken Girouard, Phil LaLonde, Ted Meinscher and Don Ramsey and Greg Hutchins, Ed Hutchins, Jim Minner and Craig Lee.

Jim Minner won the "Hacker

of the Year" award and the team of James Fernandez, Glen Maxon, Louis Allen and Ronnie Trevino took the "Hackers Team of the Year" award. "Closest to the Hole" trophies went to Trevino and DuBois.

The Lake Charles Division has challenged Port Arthur to a tournament scheduled for June 26 in Lake Charles.

Youth wins writing contest

Bill Bush, the son of a Baton Rouge employee, has won the Liberty Bell Editorial Writing Contest sponsored by the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate and State-Times newspapers.

His entry, entitled "How a Free Press Helps Democracy Work," was published in the April 20 edition of both dailies.

Bill, a 16-year-old junior at Belaire High School, is the son of Donna Bush, mail courier at the North Boulevard office.



Jacob joins Gaiser family

Little Jacob Andrew Gaiser was born March 10 to Debbie and John Gaiser. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 13½ ounces and was 21¼-inches long.

Debbie is a department clerk for Lewis Creek power plant and John works in Conroe.

The proud daddy has already provided Jacob with a fishing pole, but the trouble is the pole is longer than Jacob, reports *Plain Talks* correspondent D. W. Rutherford. Never mind, says the father, Jacob will grow into it.



Gulf Staters bag 59 ducks

Three Gulf Staters killed a total of 59 ducks on a two-day hunt near Grand Chenier, La.

Pictured, from left, are Joe Zammit and Joe Guericio, supervisors at Willow Glen station, and James Gremillion, supervisor at Louisiana Station.

Awards granted to Khan duo

Salma and Salman Khan, the daughter and son of Dr. Abdul Khan of the River Bend Nuclear Group, recently won top honors in Louisiana State Rally competition. Both Salma, who placed first in civics, and Salman, who took second place in chemistry, will be 11th-grade students next fall at Zachary High School. The top students from high schools in Louisiana competed at the rally.



Co-workers fete bride-to-be

Sailing enthusiast Muriel Hayes, center, system engineering in Beaumont, shows a toy sailboat she received from co-workers before her recent marriage.

The honoree's supervisor, George Hayes, no relation, and her mother, Agnes Hayes, look on.

A cake decorated with a sailboat and a gift of cash completed the celebration.



Hillhouse boys enjoy picnic

Mike Hillhouse, supervisor, I&C engineering, gives his sons a birdseye view at the Power Plant Engineering & Design picnic at the Live Wire's Club May 22.

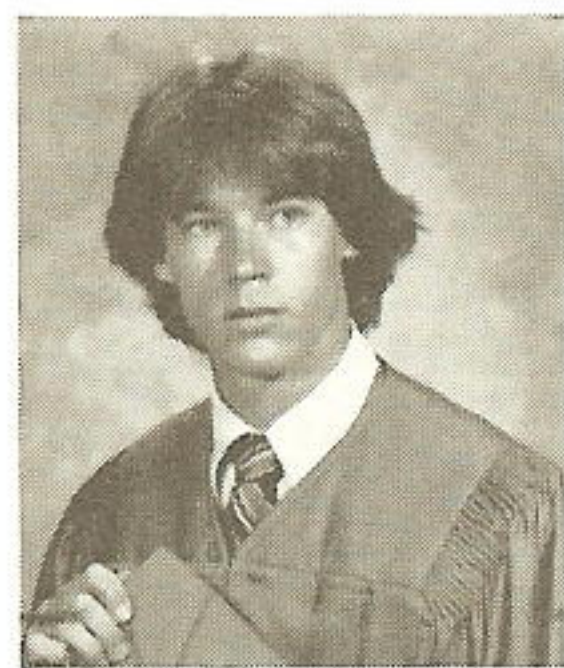
David is perched on his father's right hand and Kevin on his left hand.

Couple married in Baton Rouge

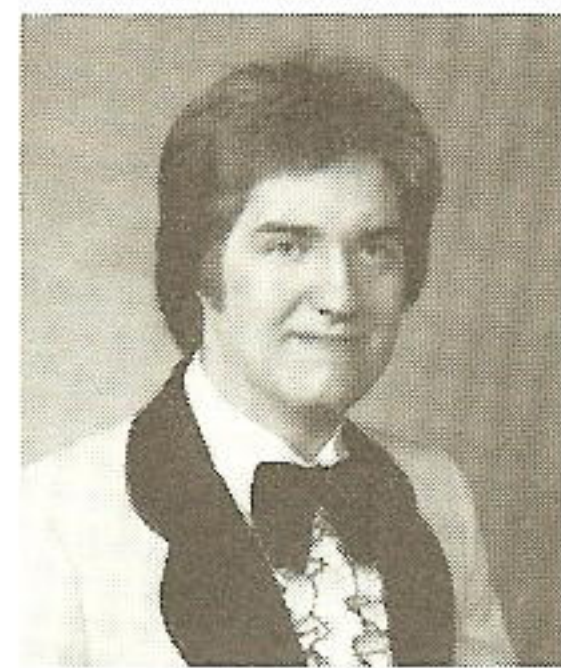
Marlene Guidry, consumer service representative in the North Boulevard office in Baton Rouge, and Carl Frederick Brandt Jr. were married April 24 at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church.

Marlene's parents were married on the same date in 1949.

High School Graduates



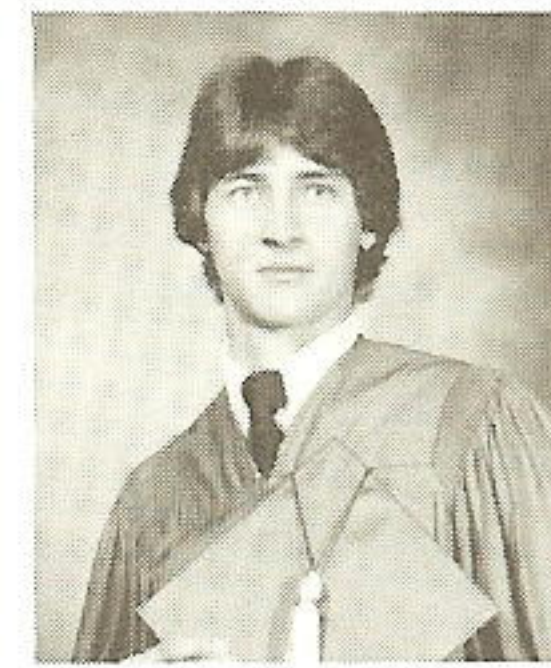
Bryan M. Booker
Forest Park High School
Son of Jimmy Booker
River Bend Nuclear Group
Beaumont



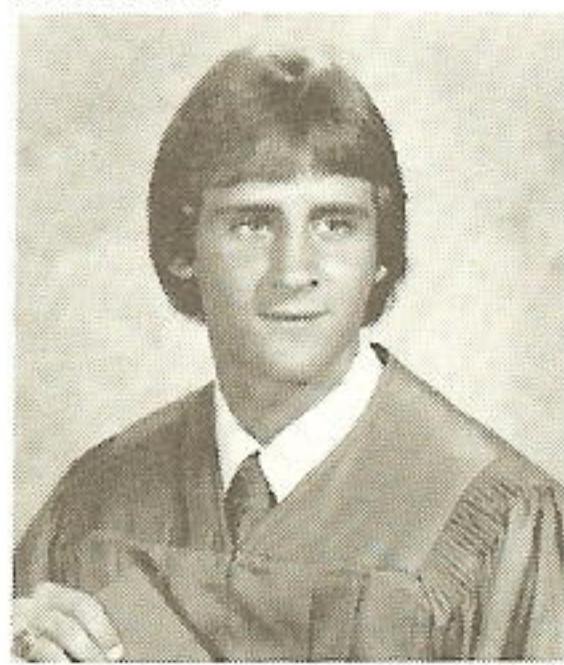
Joseph R. Bush
Baton Rouge High School
Son of Donna Bush
Division Accounting/Building Services
Baton Rouge



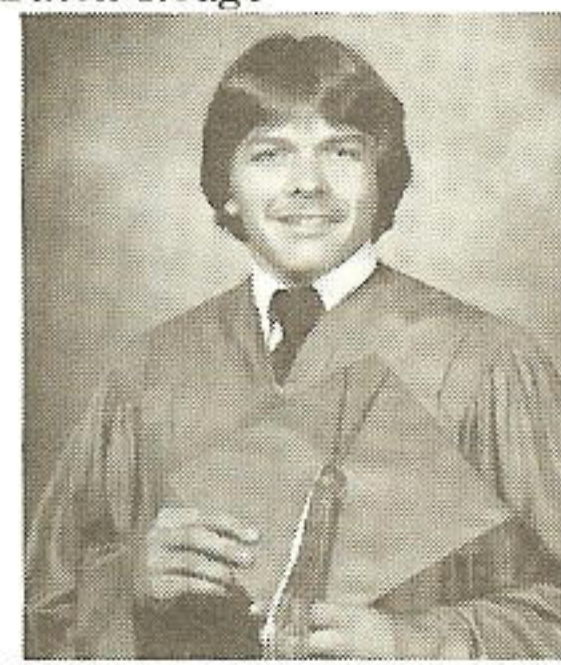
Teri Callahan
Sulphur High School
Daughter of Charles Callahan
Division Accounting
Lake Charles



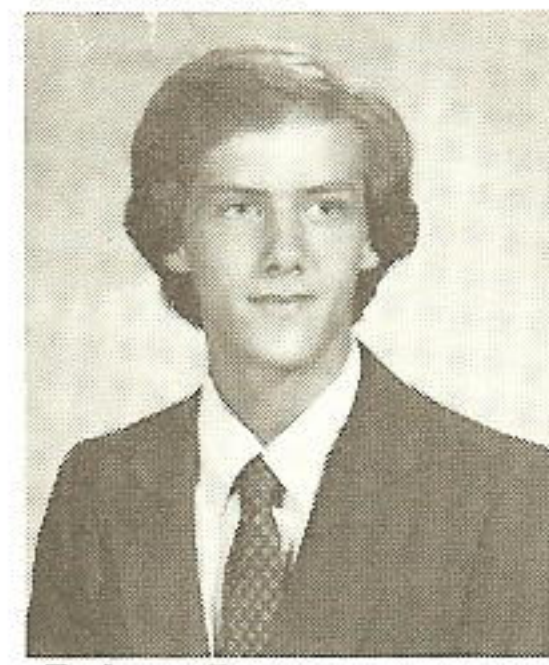
John Michael Crowe
Lumberton High School
Son of Tom Crowe
Power Plant Engineering & Design
Beaumont



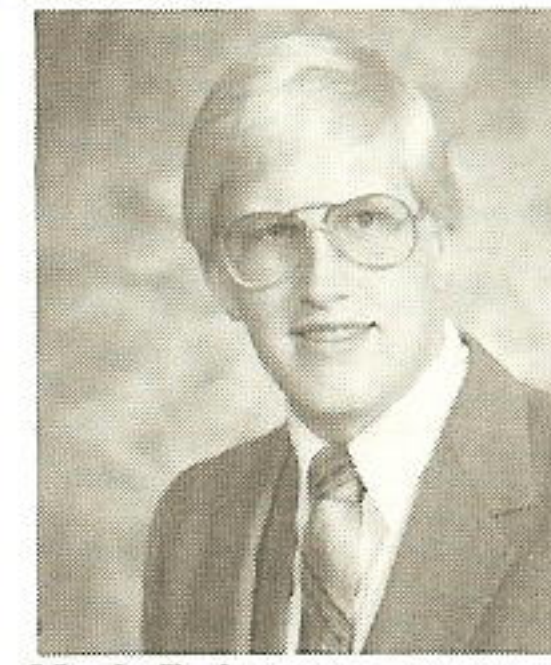
James Darrell Cunningham
Forest Park High School
Son of Ron Cunningham
Contract Services
Beaumont



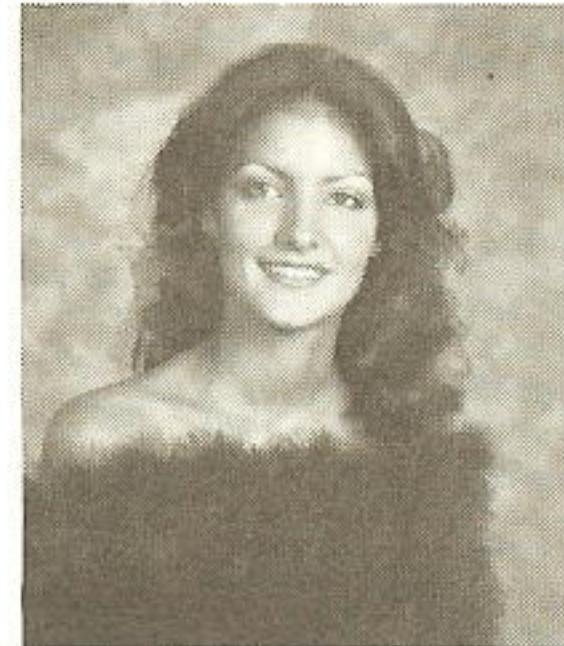
Milton Dixon
Hardin Jefferson High School
Son of Betty, Bob Lebert
Accounting Services & T&D Service
Beaumont, Sour Lake



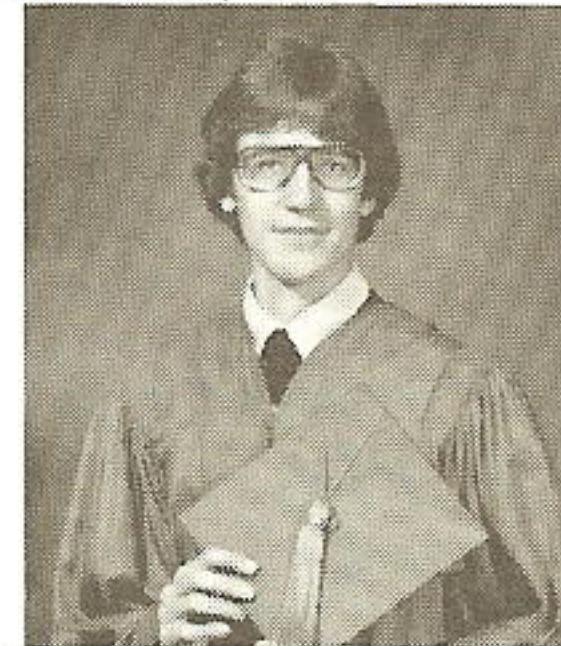
Robert Draper
Forest Park High School
Son of Dr. E. Linn Draper
Executive Department
Beaumont



Mark Dube
Conroe High School
Son of Weldon Dube
Production
Lewis Creek Station



Lisa Foster
Conroe High School
Daughter of Virgil Foster
Division Operations
Conroe



Tom Frank
Kelly High School
Son of Richard Peterman
Consumer Services
Beaumont



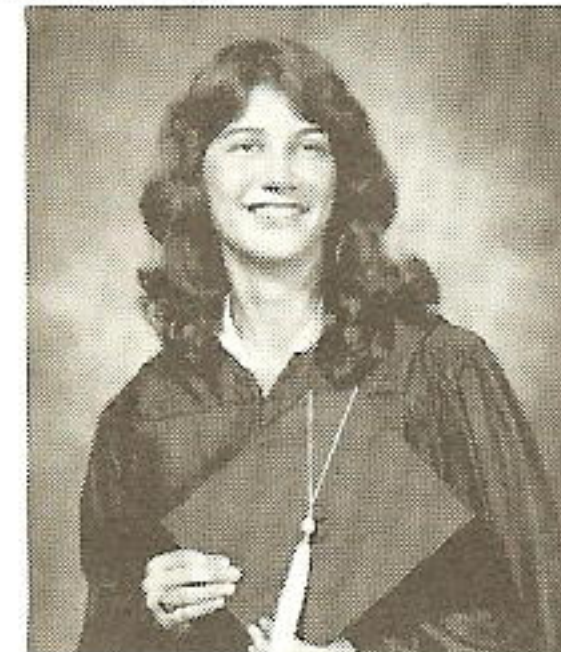
Shelly Franklin
Forest Park High School
Daughter of T. G. "Butch" Franklin
Accounting Services
Beaumont



Tammy Hawkins
Nederland High School
VOE Student, Line Department
Port Arthur



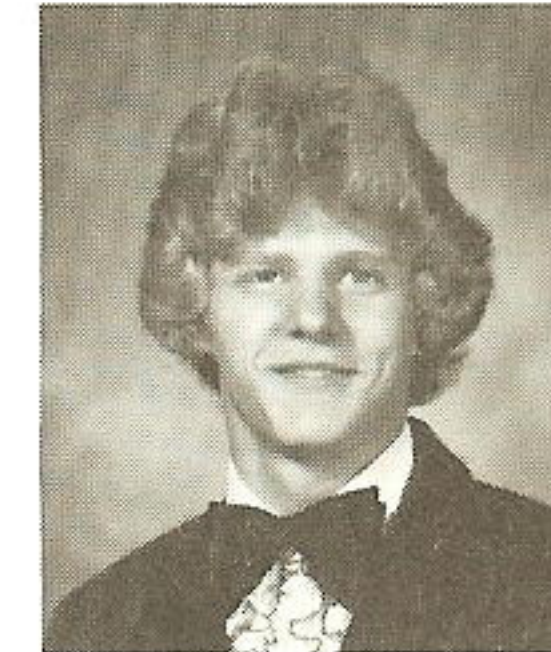
Michelle Hebert
Forest Park High School
Daughter of Calvin Hebert
Executive Department
Beaumont



Tawnya Hendrix
Silsbee High School
Daughter of Ed Hendrix
Computer Applications
Beaumont



Candace Dawn Jaetzold
Alfred M. Barbe High School
Daughter of Calvin Jaetzold
Human Resources
Lake Charles



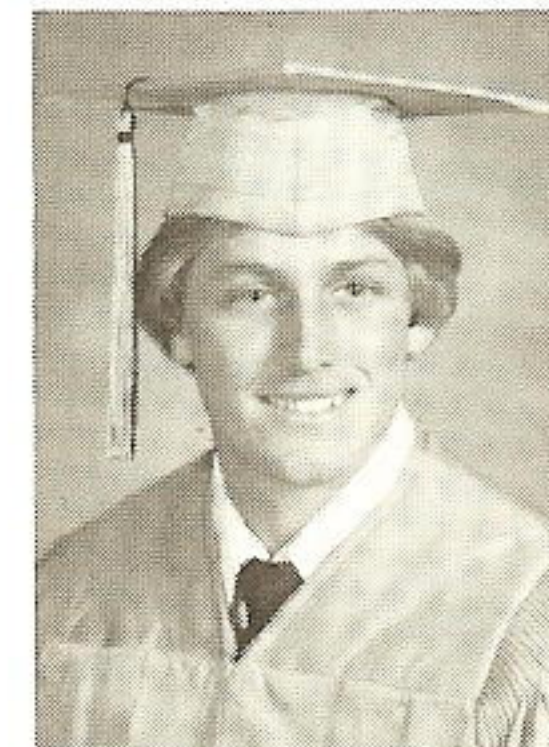
Nathan Kitchens
Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School
Son of Van Kitchens
T&D Services
Orange



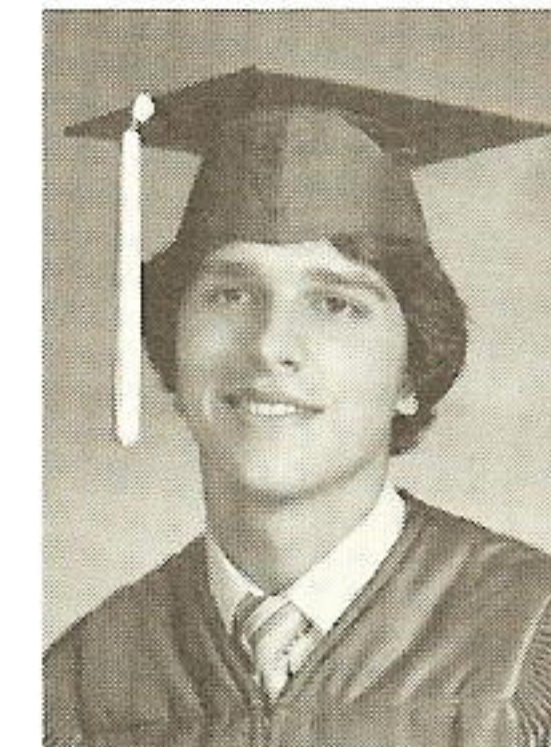
Sherry LeBlanc
Forest Park High School
Daughter of Betty LeBlanc
System Engineering
Beaumont



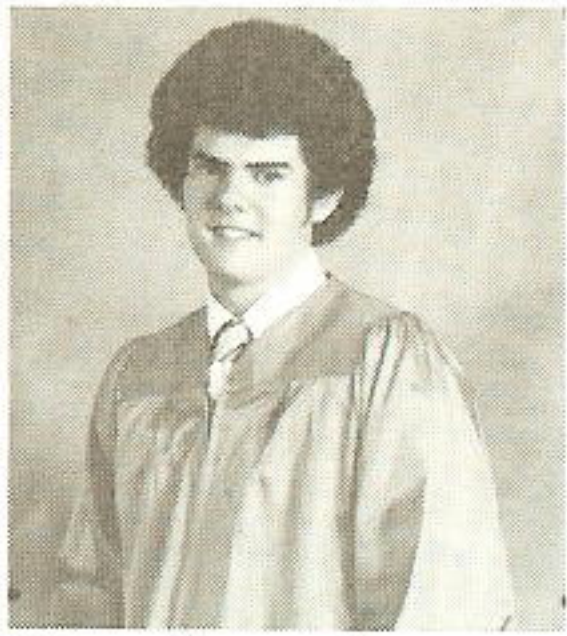
Lori Lilley
Cleveland High School
Daughter of B. E. Lilley
T&D Line
Cleveland



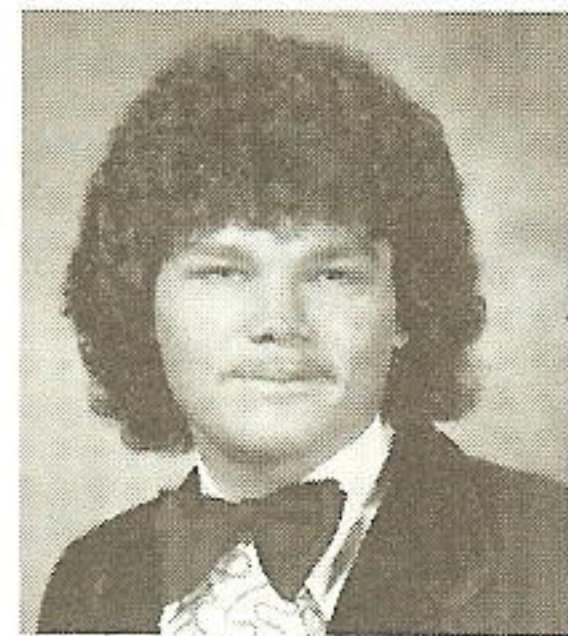
Kenneth R. Long
Vidor High School
Son of John R. Long
Internal Audits
Beaumont



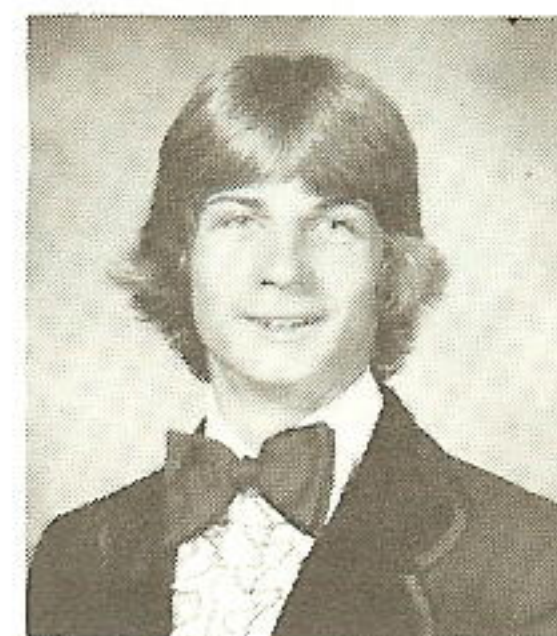
Jeffrey Mack
LaGrange High School
Son of Howard Mack
T&D Operations
Lake Charles



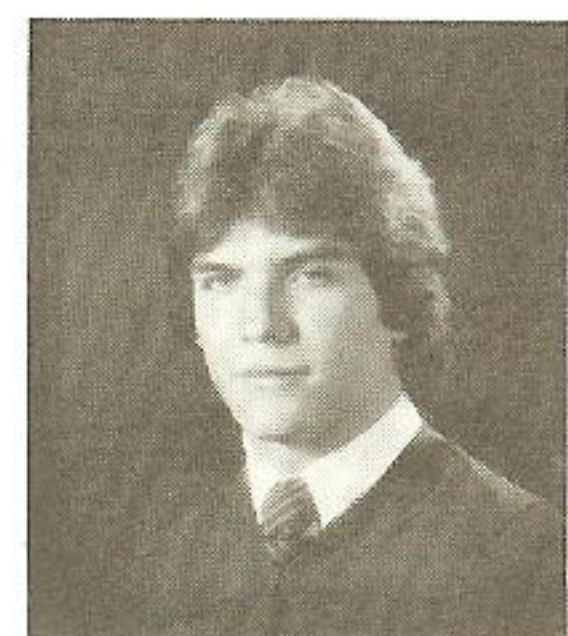
Steven Norwood
Pt. Neches-Groves High School
Son of Karen Norwood
Customer Accounting
Nederland



Michael Joseph O'Neill Jr.
Hamshire-Fannett High School
Son of Ann O'Neill
Human Resources
Beaumont



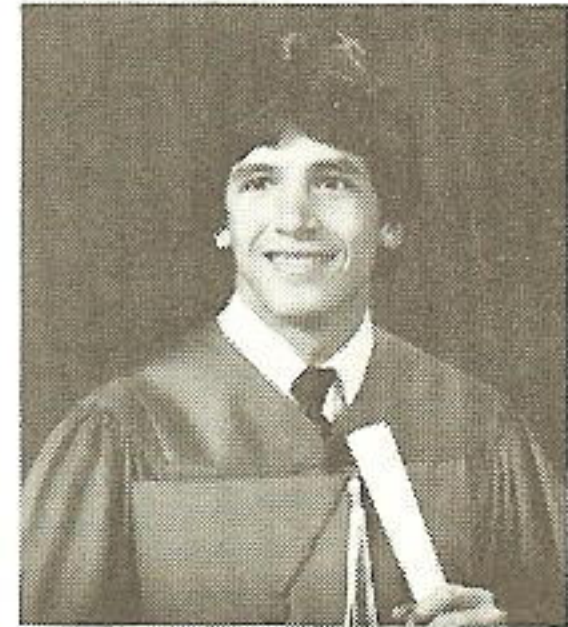
Bryan Pharo
Nederland High School
Son of Ray Pharo
T&D Department
Port Arthur



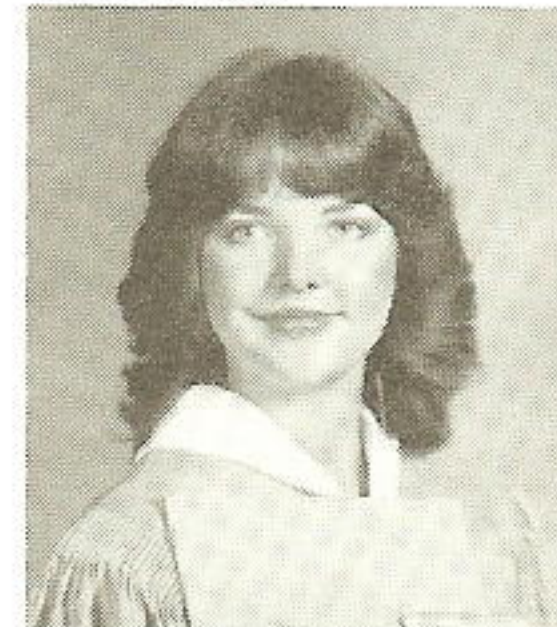
Robert "Greg" Phelps
Nederland High School
Son of Robert D. Phelps
Computer Applications
Beaumont



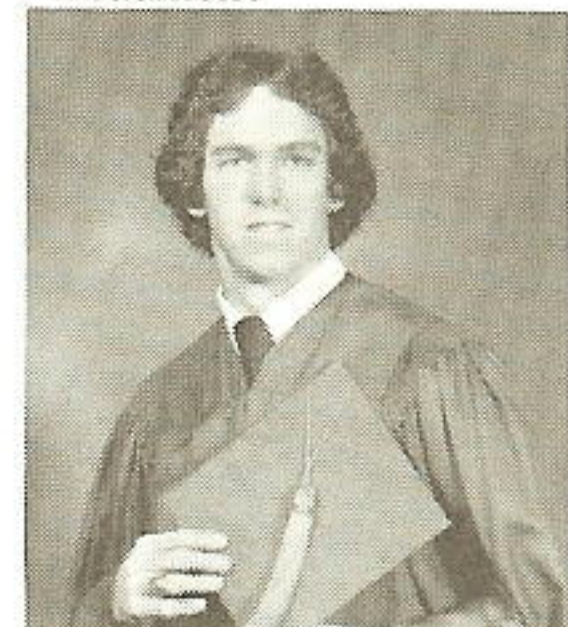
Beth Roby
Forest Park High School
Daughter of T. A. Roby
Human Resources
Beaumont



Michael David Roccaforte
Pt. Neches-Groves High School
Son of Marie Roccaforte
Division Accounting
Nederland



Kellye Ann Simpson
Vidor High School
Daughter of Bill Simpson
Engineering Services
Beaumont



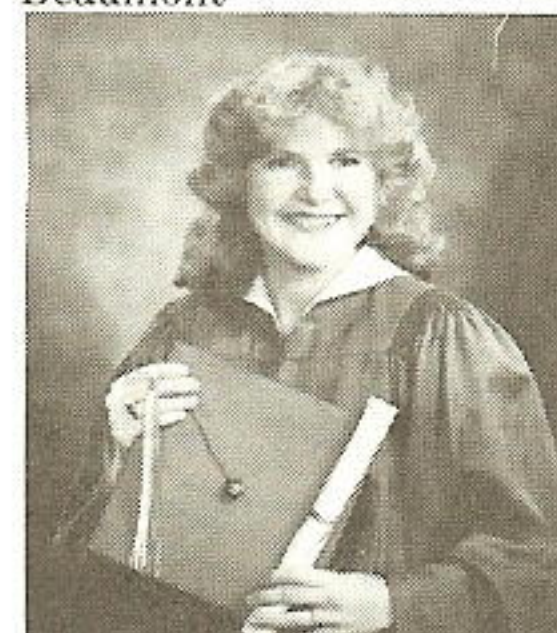
Frank Walton Smith
Beaumont Charlton-Pollard High School
Son of Edwin B. Smith
Materials Management
Beaumont



Robin Stahl
Vidor High School
Daughter of Ruth Stahl
Computer Operations
Beaumont



Becky Summerlin
Forest Park High School
Granddaughter of Helen Byrd
Retiree
Beaumont

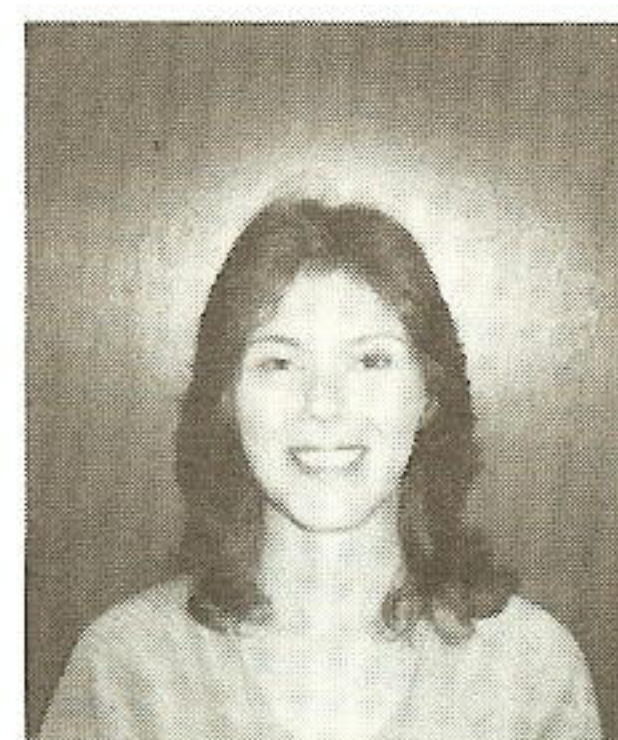


Jodie Lynn Terro
Pt. Neches-Groves High School
Daughter of Lee Terro
T&D Substation
Port Arthur

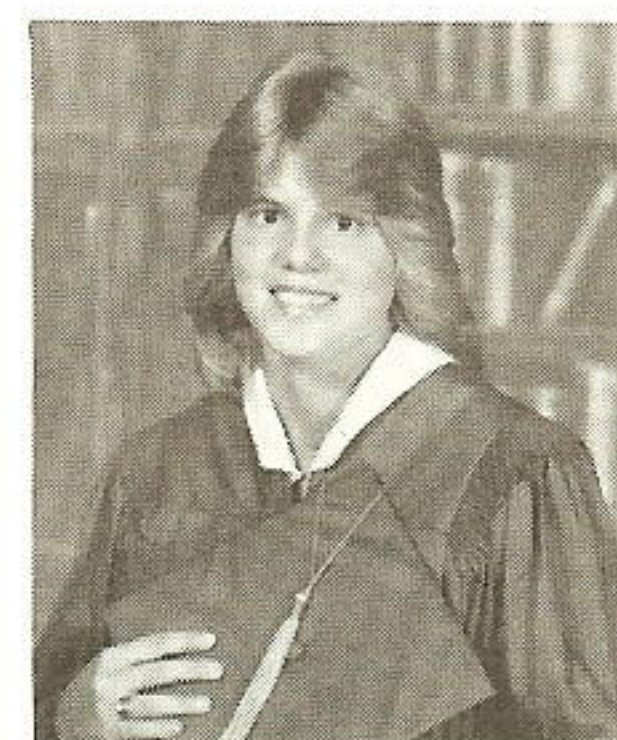
College Graduates



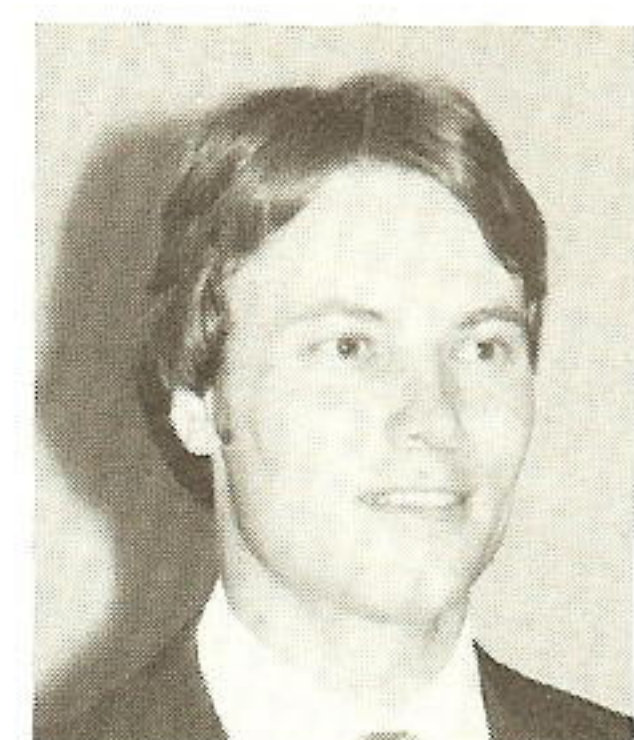
Dr. Mel Cole Jr.
University of Texas Medical Branch
Son of Mel Cole Sr.
Power Supply
Beaumont



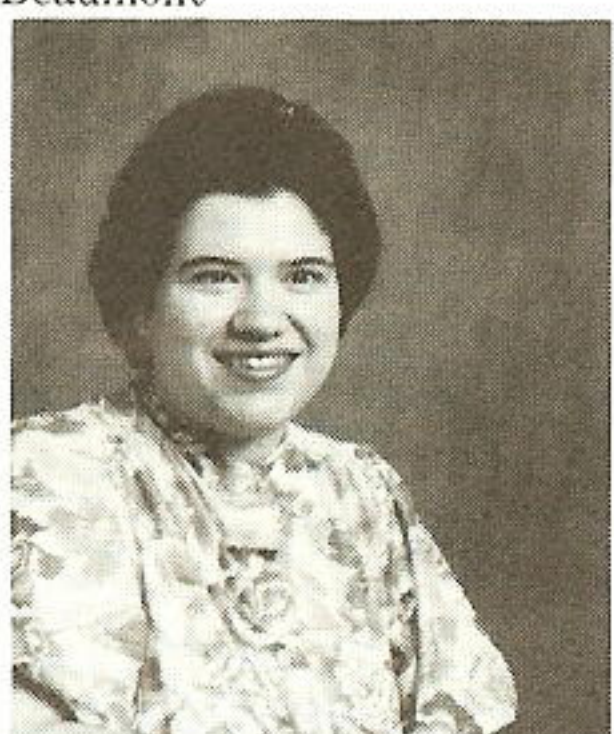
Ivy Davey
Lamar University
Wife of Tom Davey
Power Plant Engineering & Design
Beaumont



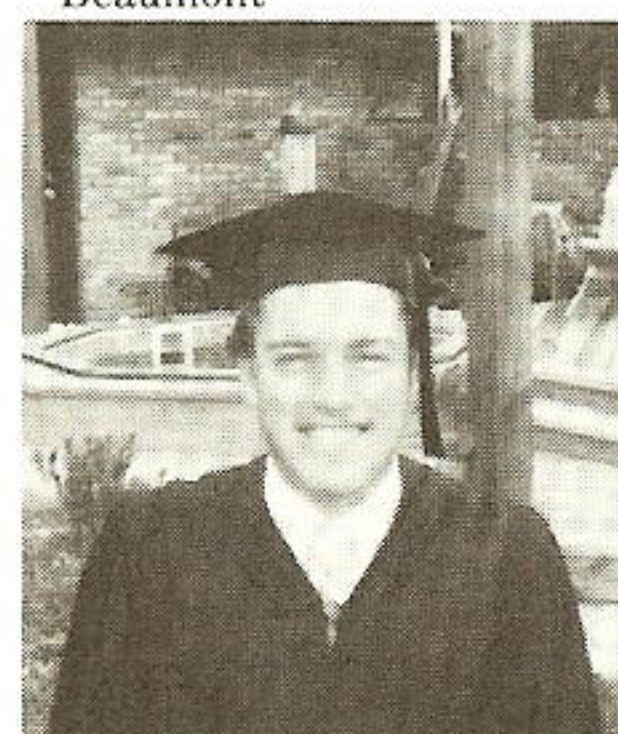
Kim Kitchens
Lamar University
Daughter of Van Kitchens
T&D Services
Orange



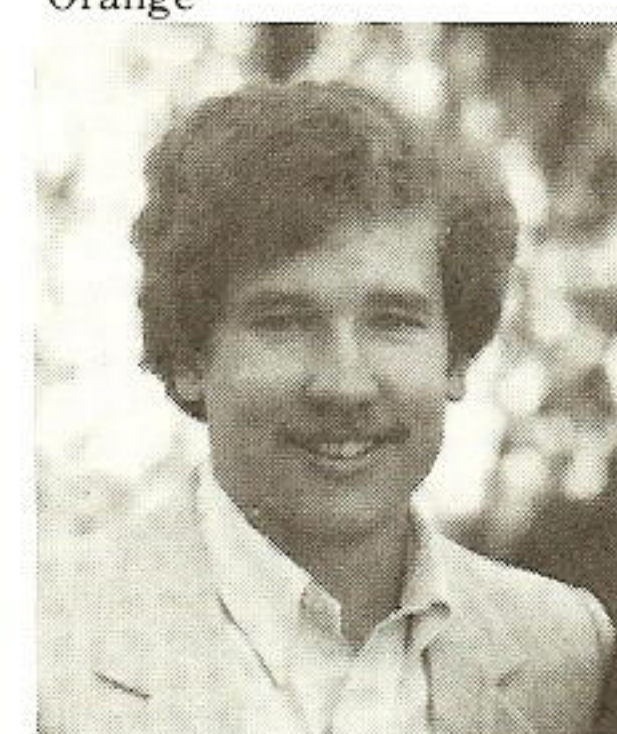
Dr. Johnathon P. Richard
University of Texas Medical Branch
Son of Bill Richard
System Operations
Beaumont



Teresa Marie Sciarillo
Lamar University
Daughter of Lucy P. Sciarillo
Engineering T&D
Orange



Mark Byrd Whitehead
Southeastern Louisiana State University
Son of Kelton R. Whitehead
Materials Management
Baton Rouge



S. Clayton Wood
Texas A&M University
Master's, Mechanical Engineering
Son of Barbara Wood
System Operations Beaumont

COMMENTS

Executive Reviews Social Security Problems

Editor's note: Most of what you read about Social Security is either too complicated or too boring to make an impact. Recently, however, we came across the text of remarks made by Robert A. Beck, chairman and chief executive officer of the Prudential Insurance Co. of America, which put the Social Security issue in perspective — and did so in clear and understandable language. Beck is a member of the National Commission on Social Security Reform.

There are 36 million people receiving Social Security benefits today. Most of those people depend on these benefits as basic income.

I think everybody recognizes how important the program is. There isn't any question at all — Social Security is here to stay.

Both of our major political parties support the program. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans in Congress want to see the system fail. But neither party is doing very much right now to put Social Security on a sounder footing.

You'll see why as we go along.

Some politicians say we don't have any real problems with the Social Security system. That's just not true.

The problems are very real. But there are also solutions. And the solutions are not nearly as painful as many people imagine.

Getting our lawmakers to take the actions that are needed is difficult because there's so much misunderstanding about Social Security.

To illustrate what I mean, let me test your knowledge with a few basic questions.

In 1950, 16.5 workers supported each Social Security

beneficiary. How many workers now support each beneficiary?

1. 15
2. 10
3. 5
4. 3

The last answer is correct. Actually, the number of workers who support each beneficiary today is 3.2.

When the program was started, the number of people receiving benefits was relatively small. But we have a lot more older people nowadays. They're becoming a bigger and bigger portion of our population.

When the "baby boom" generation retires, there will only be two workers to pay the benefits of each beneficiary — or even fewer if the birth rate doesn't increase.

Within what time period will current retirees receive benefits equal to their total contributions?

1. 1½ years
2. 3 years
3. 6 years
4. 10 years

Let's assume we're talking about people who retired at 65, who paid the maximum Social Security taxes right along, and who have no spouses.

The correct answer is 1½ years. And that's the *longest* repayment period.

Most people think they've paid for the benefits they receive from Social Security. They believe they're just getting back money they put into the program. But they're mistaken.

The average wage earner, with a spouse who doesn't work outside the home, gets back all his contributions within just 11 months after he retires. And since either the husband or wife is likely to live for another 25 years, they can

expect to receive Social Security benefits for that long.

During the past three years, average wages increased by 30 percent. During this period, by what percentage did Social Security benefits increase?

1. 10 percent
2. 20 percent
3. 30 percent
4. 40 percent

The correct answer is No. 4. Social Security benefits, which are tax-free, increased by 40 percent during the past three years.

So the question really is this: Should the benefits for people on Social Security go up faster than the wages of those who are paying for the benefits?

If the increases in Social Security benefits had been held to the level of wage increases, the cost of the program this year would be \$11 billion less.

In 1940, the life expectancy of a person age 65 was 12.8 years. How many years can a person who is age 65 today expect to live?

1. 10 or less
2. 12
3. 14
4. 16 or more

The last answer is correct. Today, someone who is 65 can expect to live 16.6 more years.

Life expectancy is increasing, and the rate at which it is increasing has accelerated. In the future, people will no doubt live even longer.

That may be great news, but it's creating a tremendous financial strain on the Social Security system, which must pay benefits for so many years.

The increase in longevity shown above added about \$30 billion to the cost of Social Security last year.

In 1981, Social Security payments represented what percentage of the national budget?

1. 10 percent or less
2. 15 percent
3. 20 percent
4. 25 percent or more

The correct answer is 25 percent or more.

Last year Social Security benefits cost \$184 billion. This year the cost will exceed \$200 billion. That's more than one-quarter of all federal spending — more than we spend on defense. In 1950 — just to show you how much the cost has grown — Social Security accounted for only 1 percent of all federal spending.

The cost of Social Security has gone up so dramatically because many more people are receiving benefits, more benefits are being provided, and the level of benefits is indexed to keep up with inflation. When the Consumer Price Index rises, so do Social Security benefits.

Just from the sheer magnitude of benefits being paid, it's easy to see how important Social Security is. Now let's take a look at where the problems are. There are four major problems, and each of them must be addressed.

PROBLEM NO. 1: Lack of public understanding.

The first problem is that most people don't understand how the program actually works.

They've been led to believe that Social Security is a funded insurance program and, when they receive benefits, they're really just getting back money they've contributed.

But as we've seen, that's not what happens. The Social Security taxes collected from workers and their employers are paid out almost immediately to those who are receiving benefits.

Take, for example, someone who has paid the maximum amount of Social Security taxes, who retired

at the end of 1981 at the age of 65, and who has a spouse who also is 65. They receive an annual Social Security retirement benefit of \$14,206. The *maximum* amount that any individual paid into Social Security from the beginning of the program in 1937 through 1981 was \$14,767.

PROBLEM NO. 2: Lack of public confidence.

The second major problem is the public's lack of confidence in the Social Security system. It's at an all-time low. People see the headlines about the danger that Social Security will run out of money, and they're worried.

Nobody in Washington and no responsible study group has ever recommended the kinds of cut-backs that many of our older people fear. So we must remove their fears and restore their confidence in Social Security. We need the public's support to enact the kinds of changes that *are* necessary.

PROBLEM NO. 3: Short-term financing.

Short-term difficulties in financing Social Security are the third major problem.

There are three Social Security trust funds. The largest of the three — the one that pays retirement benefits — is expected to run out of money by the middle of next year.

The primary reason is that retirement benefits paid out have increased more than the amount of Social Security taxes collected. As we saw earlier, benefits, indexed for inflation, went up 40 percent during the last three years while wages went up only 30 percent. That 10 percent differential costs Social Security an additional \$11 billion each year.

Another short-term problem is high unemployment. That reduces the amount of money collected in Social Security taxes.

PROBLEM NO. 4: Long-term financing.

If we look further ahead, financing difficulties get much worse. That's the fourth major problem area.

When the "baby boom" generation retires, there will be many more people receiving benefits — and proportionately fewer workers paying the taxes. And retired people will be living longer, too.

Unless changes are made in the Social Security program, our children and our grandchildren will face Social Security taxes that are two or three times the rate we're paying today.

So these are the four major problems. The real question is what can we do about them?

For one thing, the public needs a better understanding of how the Social Security program really works. And people need to understand the necessity of making reforms now.

Those who are already receiving Social Security benefits are a very potent political force.

Their elected representatives in Washington are very sensitive to their fears about the Social Security program.

We need to reassure people that the program isn't going to fold. We've got to bolster public confidence in the program if we're going to put it on sounder footing.

The solutions aren't that severe or difficult. We have both the time and the ability to solve the problems.

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PLAIN TALKS

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Beaumont, Texas 77705

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

Q.

How many windmills would it take to replace a nuclear power plant?

A.

The most advanced wind turbines are rated at about 4 megawatts (4,000,000 watts). Assuming an average wind speed of 20 miles an hour — a pretty stiff breeze — you'd need at least 250 of these towering machines to equal the 1,000-megawatt capacity of a single nuclear plant. It would take about 50,000 "backyard windmills" to generate that much electricity.

