

# Plain Talks & News

JUNE, 1972



## Our Owners Meet

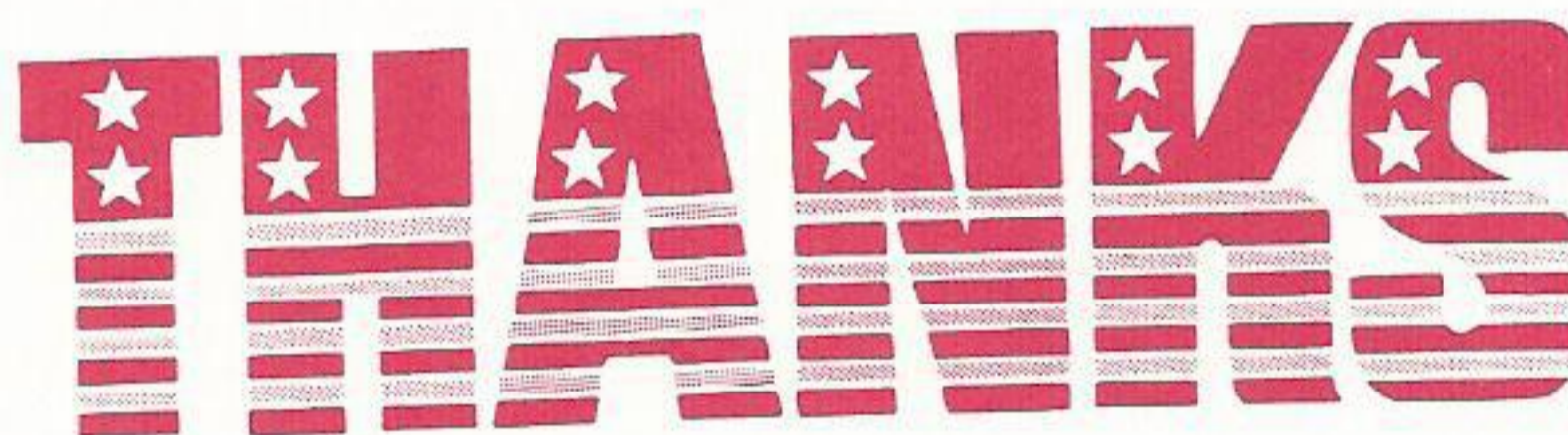
(See Page 2)

On June 14 this nation will celebrate the 195th birthday of our national banner. Americans will see more flags displayed on this day than on any other day with the possible exception of the Fourth of July.

No, this isn't going to be another Patrick Henry type speech, although it would be appropriate. It isn't necessary to remind you what the flag symbolizes.

PLAIN TALKS would just like to say thank you. Thank you for being a hard working American citizen. Thank you for realizing that this nation doesn't owe you anything simply because you were lucky enough to be born a free man. Thank you for having the maturity to recognize just how lucky you really are. Thank God.

P.M.





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Number 5  
June, 1972

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**OUR COVER:**

*Shareholders from around the nation gathered in the main office building in Beaumont for the 47th annual meeting. President Floyd R. Smith told the shareholders that there was every indication that their earnings per share would rise during the coming year, and also announced the promotion of Norman R. Lee to executive vice president of the company.*

# 99th Consecutive Dividend Norman Lee Elevated To

Election of a new executive vice president and declaration of dividends were among highlights of Gulf States Utilities company's annual shareholders meeting last month.

Norman R. Lee, senior vice president of the



Norman R. Lee, newly named executive vice president, told the shareholders that he looked forward to meeting the challenges of his new responsibilities. "I pledge my full attention to the task of providing reliable service to our customers and to keeping your investment profitable."

The Louisiana Public Service Commission held a hearing on May 15 to consider the company's rate increase application pertaining to Louisiana operations. Because of technicalities resulting from the company's filing of actual instead of previously estimated figures, intervenors and commission council moved for deferment of the hearing. Faced with this delay, the company has decided to submit data on a later test period. Date for the next hearing has not been set, but is expected to be soon.

company since 1970 and a director of the company since 1967, was elected executive vice president. The announcement was made by Floyd R. Smith, president and principal executive officer.

The 47th annual meeting of shareholders was held in the company's general offices in Beaumont.

In addition to the election of Mr. Lee, the board of directors, in session prior to the shareholders meeting, declared regular dividends on all issues of preferred stock and a dividend of 26 cents per share of common stock, payable June 15, to shareholders of record May 24. This was the 99th consecutive dividend declared by the company.

Approximately 200 shareholders attending the meeting heard reports on the company's present condition and anticipated growth from Mr. Smith, Samuel L. Adams, senior vice president-engineering and production, and Joseph O. Robichau, vice president-marketing.

Mr. Smith reported that 1971 revenues increased eight per cent over 1970 but net income showed only a slight increase. Earnings per share were three cents less than 1970, dropping from \$1.49 to \$1.46, the first decline in earnings per share since 1961. Primary reason for the decline was inflation, which finally could no longer be overcome by improved technology, increased productivity, and tight operations, Mr. Smith stated.

He explained that the economic squeeze had forced the company last June to request its first electric rate increase in nearly 20 years, and that regulatory authorities with jurisdiction over the majority of our customers in Texas had approved the requested eight and one-half per cent increase, which the company plans to implement in Texas beginning June 1.

Mr. Adams explained that dwindling supplies and the rapidly increasing cost of fossil fuels such as natural gas and low sulphur oil prompted the company to plan its first nuclear power station near St. Francisville, La., on the Mississippi River, 25 miles north of Baton Rouge. Mr. Adams pointed out that Gulf States has been active for many years in both "fast-breeder" fission reactor programs, to which the

# Declared By Company; Executive Vice President

government has assigned major priority because their success will mean the extension of hundreds of years of available energy to provide power, and the nuclear fusion program, which, if achieved, will provide sufficient power supply to last the life of the planet.

Mr. Robichau told shareholders that Gulf States was moving from a "sales" to a "marketing" philosophy, in keeping with today's public concern for consumerism, environment and the quality of life. He revealed that dramatic residential developments in the area served by the company indicated continued accelerated growth in the years ahead.

Shareholders re-elected all incumbent directors as follows: Mr. Smith, Mr. Lee, Mr. Adams, Joseph R. Murphy, Benjamin D. Orgain, and Glenn E. Richard of Beaumont; Seth W. Dorbandt of Conroe; Harrell R. Smith and Oliver P. Stockwell of Lake Charles; John W. Barton, Charles P. Manship, Jr. and Eldon A. Werner of Baton Rouge; Fred V. Wilson of Port Arthur, and Edwin H. Hiam of Boston, Mass.

Mr. Lee was born in Grayson, La., and attended Louisiana State University before serving in the Navy during World War II. Following the war, he earned his degree in electrical engineering from California Institute of Technology. He joined the company in 1949, after working two years with Allis-Chalmers. Mr. Lee began his career as an engineer in Beaumont and held various engineering and managerial posts in the company's Beaumont and Lake Charles divisions until 1967 when he was promoted to vice president responsible for Baton Rouge operations and elected a director of the company. Two years later he was named vice president-Louisiana operations. Mr. Lee returned to Beaumont in 1969 as vice president-division operations, the post he held until elected senior vice president in 1970.

He completed advanced management courses at both the Harvard School of Business and Georgia Tech.

Mr. Lee is active in civic affairs. He is presently chairman of the aviation committee of the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. He has held positions of leadership in the last two United Appeals drives. He serves on the board of directors of the American National Bank.

Married to the former Nell Ray of Beaumont, the Lees have two children, Rebecca and Norman, Jr.

In other business, the shareholders approved the designation by the board of Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery as the firm of independent public accountants to audit the company books for 1972.



President Floyd Smith talks with an interested shareholder during a reception following the 47th annual meeting held in the main office in Beaumont.

# Baton Rouge

## Now Ranks



Dolph McKowen, commercial sales representative, Lee J. Savoy, engineer, and foreman of the downtown lighting project M. C. "Mac" McCormick, pause to look over the new lighting system during construction.

By HENRY JOYNER  
Contributing Editor

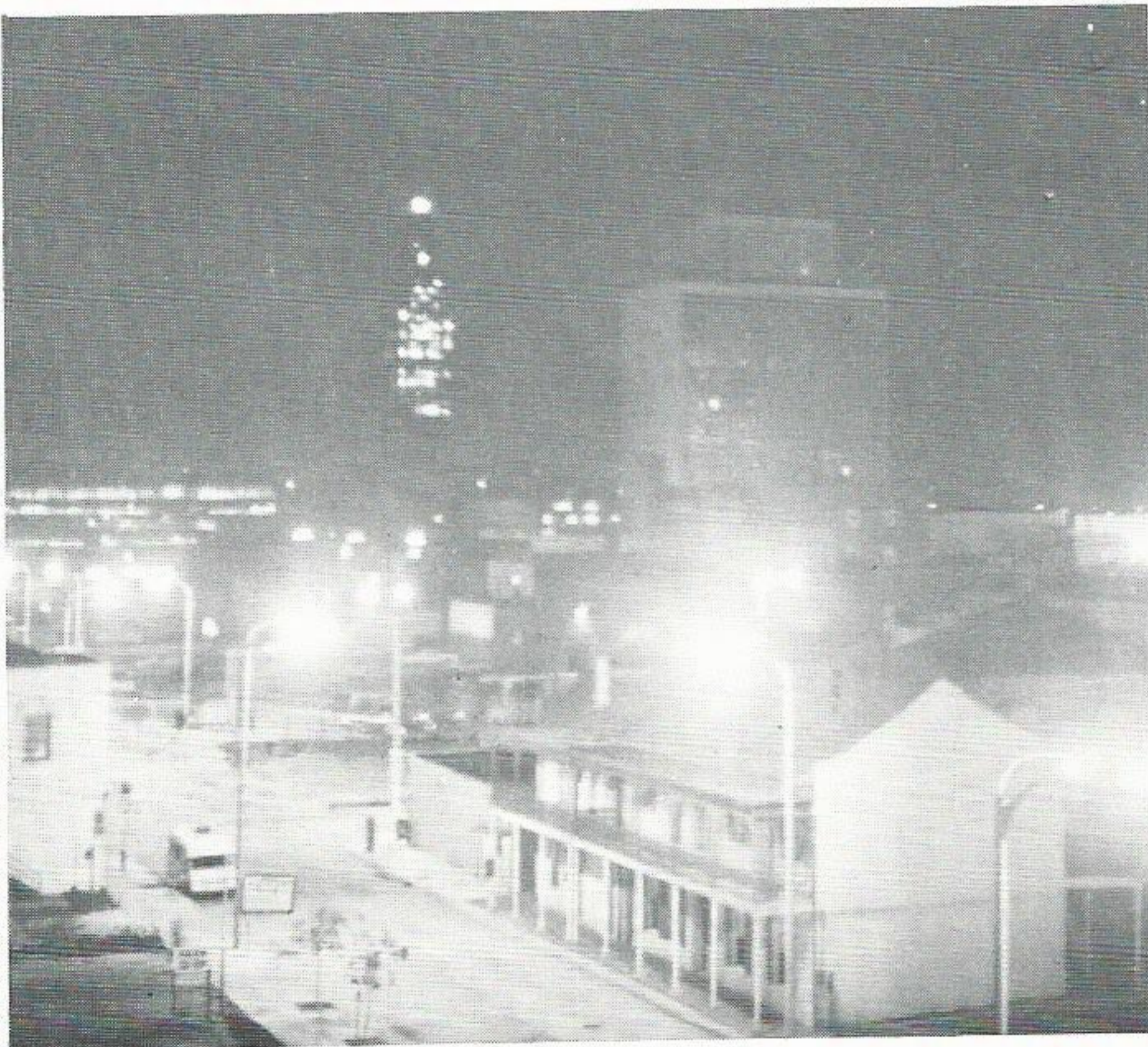
"A community of beauty and functional fitness that enhances the quality of life for all citizens and visitors" was the goal set forth when Baton Rouge, Louisiana embarked on a program of massive revitalization of the downtown area in 1968.

"We had reached rock bottom with respect to commerce, looks and pride," according to Ray Burgess, Director of Public Works, "Downtown was a place people just did not want to go. And, as a result, businesses were moving to the suburban areas and there went jobs and incomes. The heart of Baton Rouge was dying."

The downtown area was a vibrant economic factor in the growth of this active riverfront city in the 1920's, 30's and 40's. But with the rapid industrial and population growth of the mid-50's and 60's, the core of the city was sadly neglected and began to decay. A rehabilitation-revitalization program on a scale the city had never seen was necessary to "turn Baton Rouge around."

One aspect of the project, the high-intensity street lighting, has brought the city national attention and has caused Baton Rouge to be dubbed the "best lighted city in Louisiana."

"A better atmosphere had to be created if we were to attract people back to downtown," says Dolph McKowen, commercial sales representative and coordinator of the project. "We not only had to make the streets safe for people at night, but to make the area as attractive as we could. The first order of business however was to stop the decay as rapidly as we could."



Lafayette Street at night. Lafayette Street looking east to the Capitol is ablaze with lights as a result of the new lighting system. The trend of business moving out of the city to the suburbs has been reversed, and businesses are moving back into the downtown area.

# Sees The Light, As Best In State

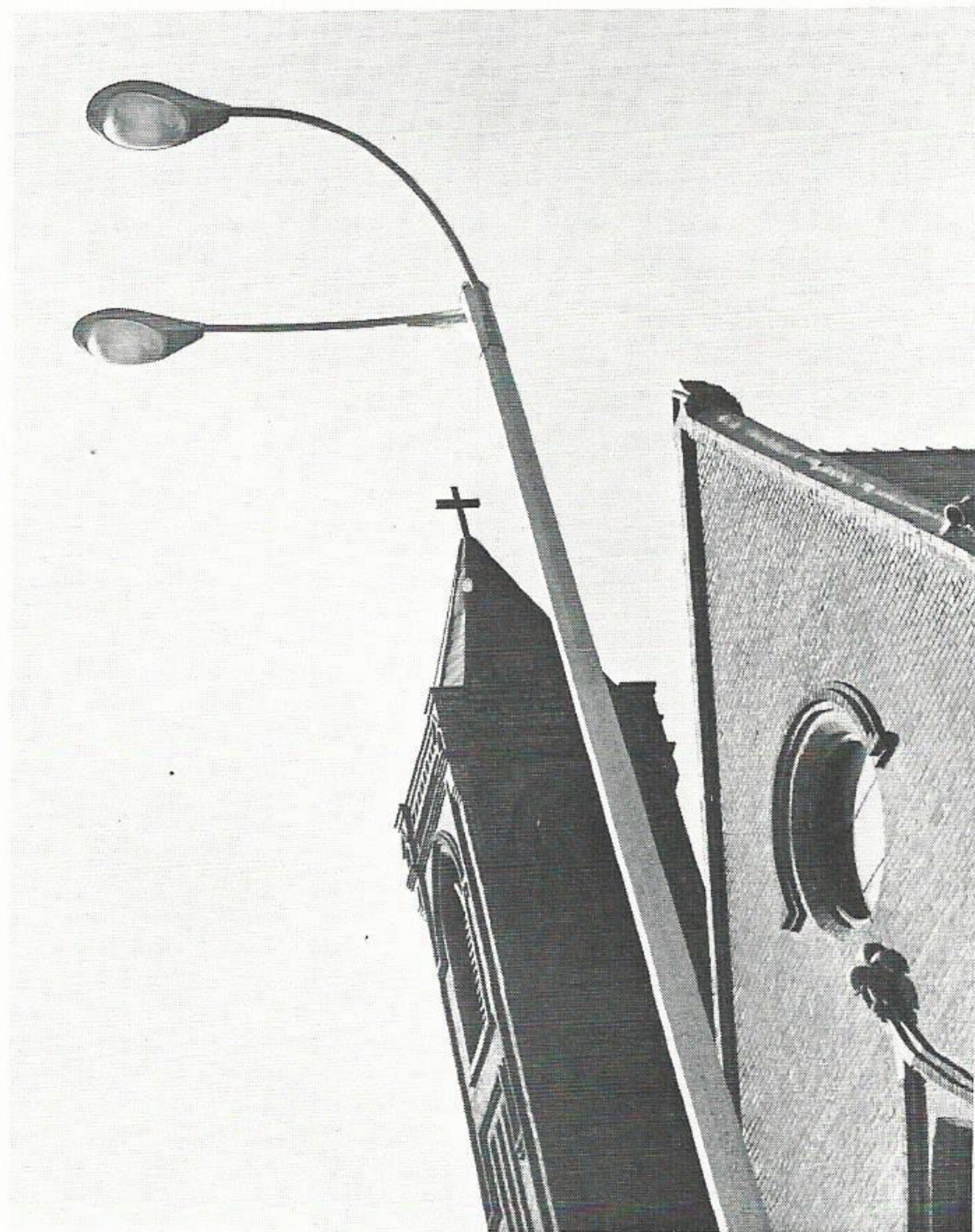
A 40 square block area bordered by the state capitol complex on the north, the city government complex on the south, the Mississippi River on the west and an interstate highway on the east, was the target zone. The average lighting in this area ranged from one-quarter to one footcandle.

"To raise the lighting level to six to eight footcandles, which we felt would insure people's safety after dark and discourage vandalism and burglaries, we chose to use 1000 watt mercury vapor deluxe white lamps (GEM-1000 luminaires)," according to McKowen. "The esthetic values of the surroundings had to be considered too. A specially-designed octagon shaped, polished aggregate finished pole was chosen to help create a more pleasant atmosphere."

Gulf States engineers, working with the City Department of Public Works, designed the new street lighting system which, when presented, was adopted by the city fathers intact. "Two luminaires per pole are mounted 40 feet above the street level on six foot "wishbone" brackets," says Lee Savoy, a company engineer who worked closely with the city on the system design. "The standards are spaced 80 feet apart in a staggered arrangement. There are a total of 808 luminaires in the downtown area."

Construction on the new lighting system began in September, 1968, with completion scheduled for the end of 1972. But immediately after the installation of lights began, changes in the area were seen.

The mayor received feedback almost immediately. "At the beginning I didn't get too many compliments," laughs Mayor W. W. "Woody" Dumas. "Some of the merchants didn't particularly care for it at the time; but today we receive nothing but compliments, not only locally, but from other cities throughout the nation."



Sporting a "wishbone" look, the street light system was designed in part by Lee J. Savoy who worked closely with the Department of Public Works in Baton Rouge. "There are 804 luminaries in the downtown area," said Mr. Savoy.

With the project half-completed, merchants are boasting of the best sales year in recent times, despite construction work on the streets. Some point directly to the high level of illumination as a prime reason for their 25-30% increase in business, particularly in night shoppers. Store owners with both downtown and suburban area locations now report that sales downtown have, in some cases, surpassed those of their store in the suburban areas.

City police officials point to the greatly reduced instances of vandalism and burglaries since the new lights were installed. "The undesirable elements that once hung around downtown street corners at night have all but disappeared. And assaults in this area are a thing of the past," police report.

"The decay of downtown has been stopped," McKowen says, "and rebuilding will come with time."

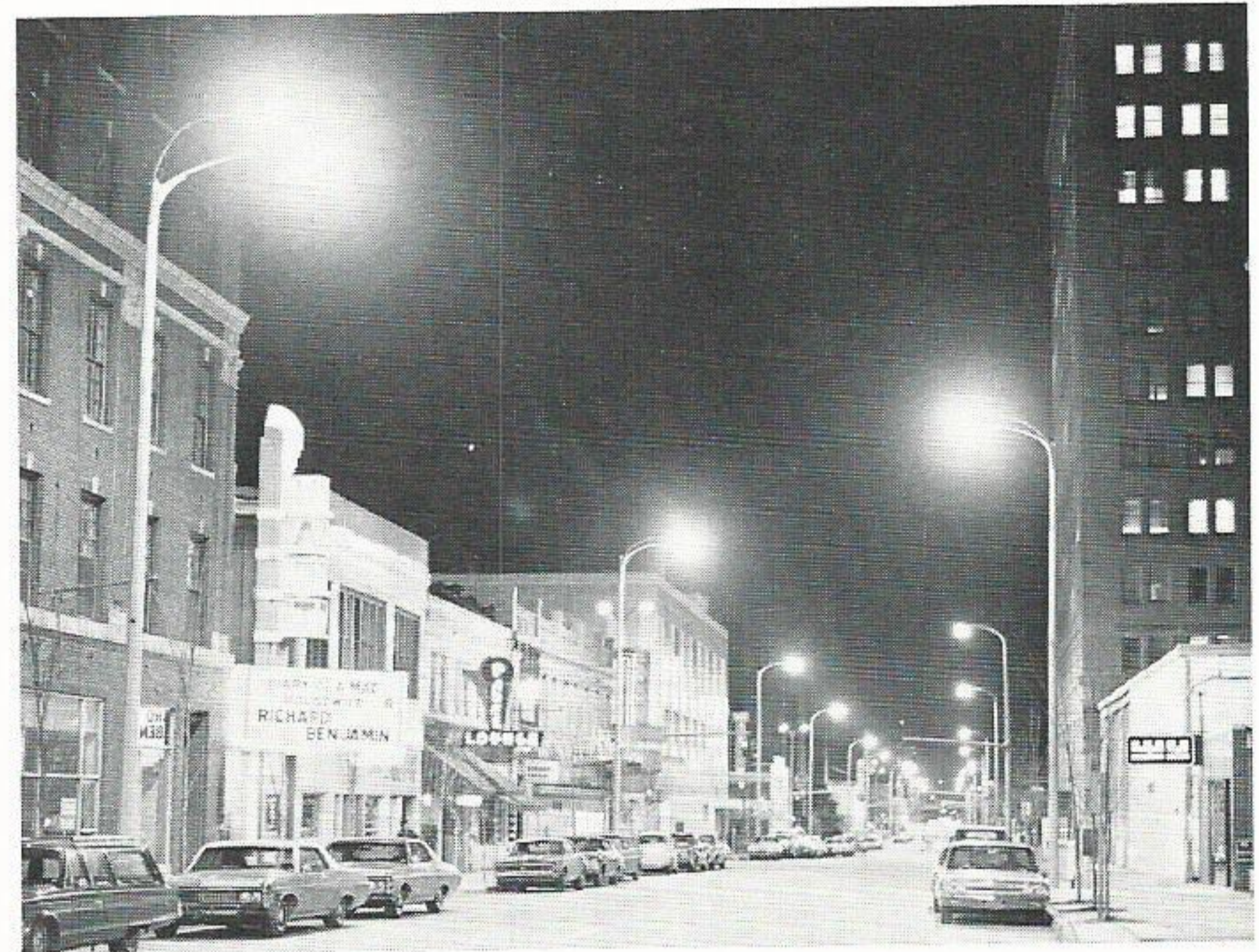
New investment in multistory buildings has already been attracted to the core of Baton Rouge. Savings and loans, insurance companies, brokerage firms, oil companies and banks have relocated headquarters in the downtown area. Multistory state governmental office buildings are being added to the skyline. Plans are on the drawing board for several 22-24 story buildings, and a highrise home for senior citizens is currently under construction.

"We have over 20,000 people working downtown," according to John Bateman, local banker and chairman of the Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Streets and Improvement Committee. "And I see this area of Baton Rouge developing into a governmental and financial district with specialty shops to serve the people who work here. Street improvements, tree planting, underground utilities, new sidewalks and the new street lights have made all this possible. Benches and other street furniture will further improve the looks."

The city government has announced plans to construct a \$28 million municipal and civic complex with a convention center on a 10-block tract of land in a distressed area that was formerly occupied by old houses, vacant stores, warehouses and low income properties. A plaza is currently under construction on the major shopping streets downtown.

Businessmen and city officials speak of the future of downtown Baton Rouge in optimistic terms. Mayor Dumas: "It was a complete reversal. Everybody was moving out, now they are coming back. Money is being spent here, and there is a lot of personal interest in the downtown district now. It is more beautiful now, and that means people care. We see a migration back to the business district, but not in the same way as it was before. There will be no large shopping center; rather small shops set up to serve the office-workers, restaurants and theaters. The heart of Baton Rouge was and will continue to be a well-lighted downtown "business district".

The future of Baton Rouge is indeed bright.



Looking down Convention Street in downtown Baton Rouge, the new high intensity lights have done much to improve, not only the looks of the city, but economic growth as well. The lights have helped Baton Rouge attain the name of "the best lighted city in Louisiana."



# GSU NEWS

## FINANCIAL REPORT

# Mr. Smith Predicts Earnings To Increase During 1972

Floyd R. Smith, president of the company, predicted that rate increases granted in the company's Texas service area could increase common stock earnings per share by nine cents this year.

Mr. Smith made his remarks at the company's annual shareholders meeting held in the firm's main headquarters building at Beaumont.

The company's board of directors also declared regular dividends on all issues of preferred stock and a dividend of 26 cents on each share of common stock, all of these to be paid on June 15. This marked the 99th consecutive common dividend to be declared by the directors.

In recounting activities of 1971, Mr. Smith told shareholders that revenues grew by eight per cent over 1970 but pointed out that net income increased by only \$11,000. Earnings per share, he added dropped by three cents, from \$1.49 to \$1.46, to mark the first decline in earnings per share since 1961.

Inflationary pressures in 1971, said Mr. Smith, prompted the company to initiate electric rate increase proceedings last June. Granting of the 8.5 per cent increase "has been delayed both by normal regulatory lag and by President Nixon's Wage and Price Control Order in the latter part of 1971 and by the utility rate freeze which only ended on March 25."

But, he added, "As of the moment, regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over a majority of our customers in Texas have approved this increase, and it is our intention to bill these customers under

the higher rates commencing June 1."

"This step alone," said Mr. Smith, "should add approximately nine cents in earnings this year to each share of common stock."

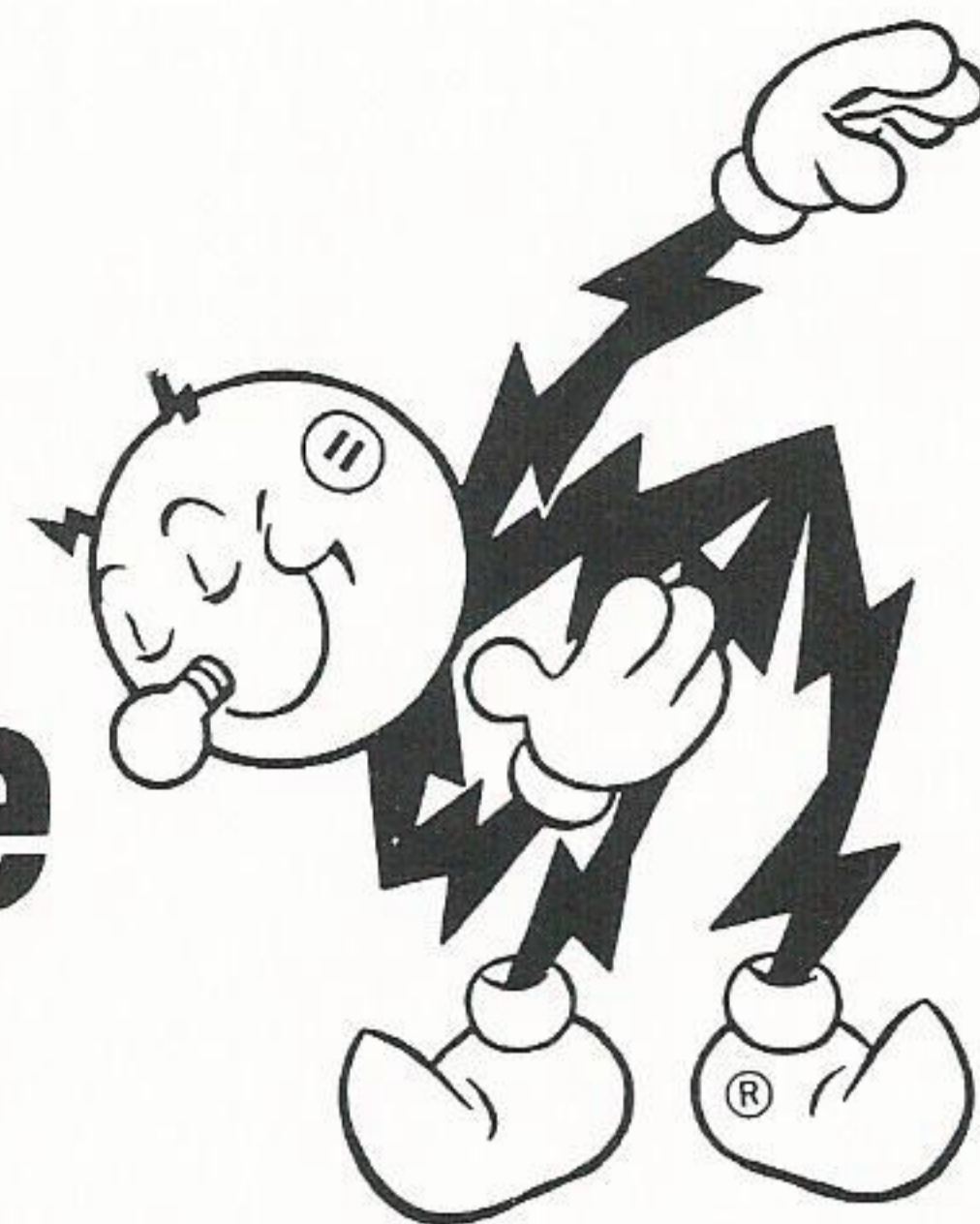
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## Huntsville: A New Home



Employees in Huntsville, Tex. have a new home. Located at 1220 10th Street, the new building is a far cry from the old office which has served the area for the past 34 years. "We're very happy to be moving in," said District Superintendent Frank Robinson, "we've been in the other office a long time."

# Plain Talks Reporters Very Important People



No publication, whatever its size, can long survive without the hard work and cooperation of its news gathering force-- the reporters. PLAIN TALKS is no exception.

Our magazine currently lists 45 employees as reporters. These people, located throughout the system, constantly send in pictures and information concerning company people around them. The majority of this information is used in the Coffee Cup section of PLAIN TALKS, with the major stories and news items appearing elsewhere in the magazine.

Many of the compliments received by the editor can be directly passed on to the reporters who first brought the "idea" of the story to the editor's attention. PLAIN TALKS would like to introduce a few of these reporters to you. It is planned that all 45 will be recognized in coming issues. They deserve a pat on the back. If you don't already know them, take the time to meet them. They will be happy to see you and pass along any news items you have for publication in PLAIN TALKS.



**Bobbie Denais**  
Lafayette

**Bobbie Denais** is our "girl Friday" in Lafayette, capital of the Louisiana Cajun country. Of Cajun decent herself, naturally one of Bobbie's favorite hobbies is cooking. Almost as naturally, the other is fishing.

Blessed with an outgoing personality, Bobbie has no trouble in feeding PLAIN TALKS with plenty of information about employees in her area. She is a departmental clerk in the Sales Department, and has been with the company since 1958. Bobbie is married to Lucas Denais, and they have two children, Christina (15) and Stacy (13).

**Betty Dickschat**  
Navasota

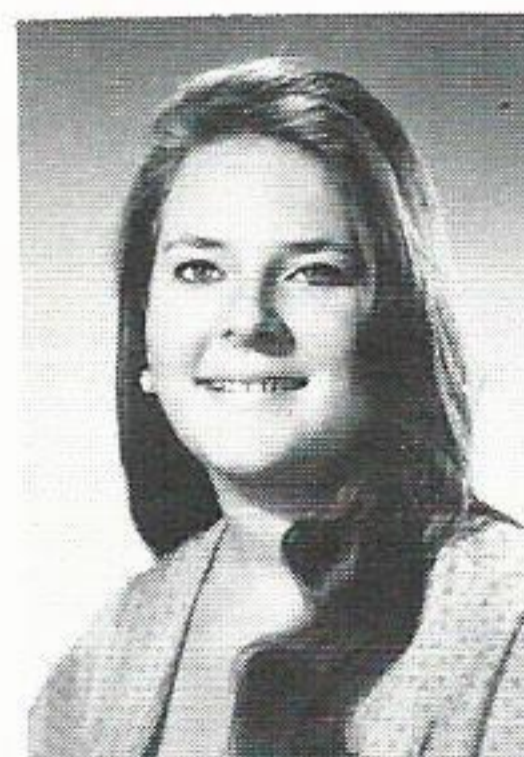


Pretty **Betty Dickschat** takes care of Navasota area news. A native Texan, Betty is a graduate of Navasota High School, and married to Leonard E. Dickschat, owner of Dickschat's Appliance Co., in Navasota.

Betty is the mother of four, Richard Brett (13), Vicky Lynn (12), Darlene Denise (11) and Dean Everett (8).

Betty has been with the company since 1962 and has a sister, Bobbie Burke, who also is a Gulf Stater in Conroe.

**Melanie Hima**  
Baton Rouge



This pretty reporter is **Melanie Hima**, a departmental clerk in the Substation Department. Another sports fan, Melanie enjoys bowling, sewing and skiing both on water and on snow.

Melanie was a single gal until early this year when a helper in the Line Department, George Robert Hima, convinced Melanie that two can live cheaper than one.

A New Orleans native, Melanie is a 1965 graduate of St. Joseph High School and attended LSU for two and a half years as a Fine Arts student. She was employed by the company in 1969.

**Linda McSwain**  
Beaumont



Covering the Beaumont Service Center like wall plaster is **Linda Bean McSwain**. Virtually nothing goes unnoticed by this adept reporter. Linda has not been a reporter for very long, less than a year, but she continues to rate among the best.

A native of Silsbee, Tex., but reared in Kountze, Linda entered Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. Her studies were interrupted by love, and she and her husband, S. W. "Benny" McSwain moved to Beaumont. Linda joined the company after graduating from business school in Beaumont in 1965.

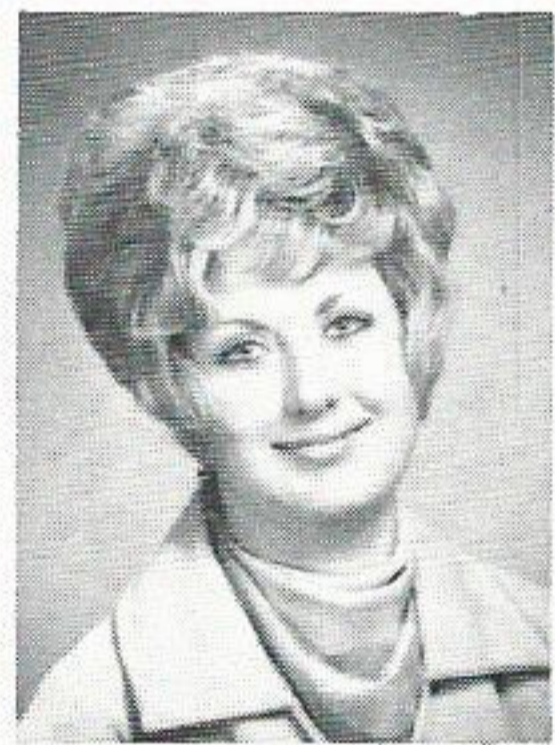
Fishing, cooking, reading and going on hunting trips with Benny are her main hobbies, but she is finding reporting a fun thing too. "This is my first experience at reporting," says Linda. "I wrote stories and poems as a teenager and even sent one (a poem) to a girl's magazine. The poem didn't get published and I think I was secretly relieved at the time."

Del Vavasseur  
Port Allen



When it comes to bowling, reporter **Del Vavasseur** of Port Allen should be an expert. She has been a league secretary for a number of years, and also enjoys gardening and reading.

Del keeps very active with many church and outside activities. She attends Holy Family Catholic Church and is a member of the church's School Booster Club, and Catholic Daughters of America. She also keeps books for Holy Family and for Christ the King Chapel on the campus of LSU. She has been with the company since 1953.



Barbara Lindsey  
Beaumont

**Barbara Lindsey** works as a senior key punch operator in the Information and Data Services (IDS) Department in Beaumont. Another native Texan, Barbara graduated from Sour Lake High School in 1964, and went on to receive a Business College degree in 1966.

Barbara helps keep tabs on the goings on within the main office, and has been with the company since 1966.

Johnnie Harris  
Lake Charles



**Johnnie Harris** must rate as one of PLAIN TALKS's top reporters as she consistently sends in many articles about employees in the Lake Charles area, specifically in the Service Center.

Always with a smile on her face, **Johnnie** is a native of Iowa, La. She is married to **Don Harris**, and they have three children.

**Johnnie** has been with the company since 1967 and enjoys her work as a reporter because she meets a lot of people and always knows what's going on around her.

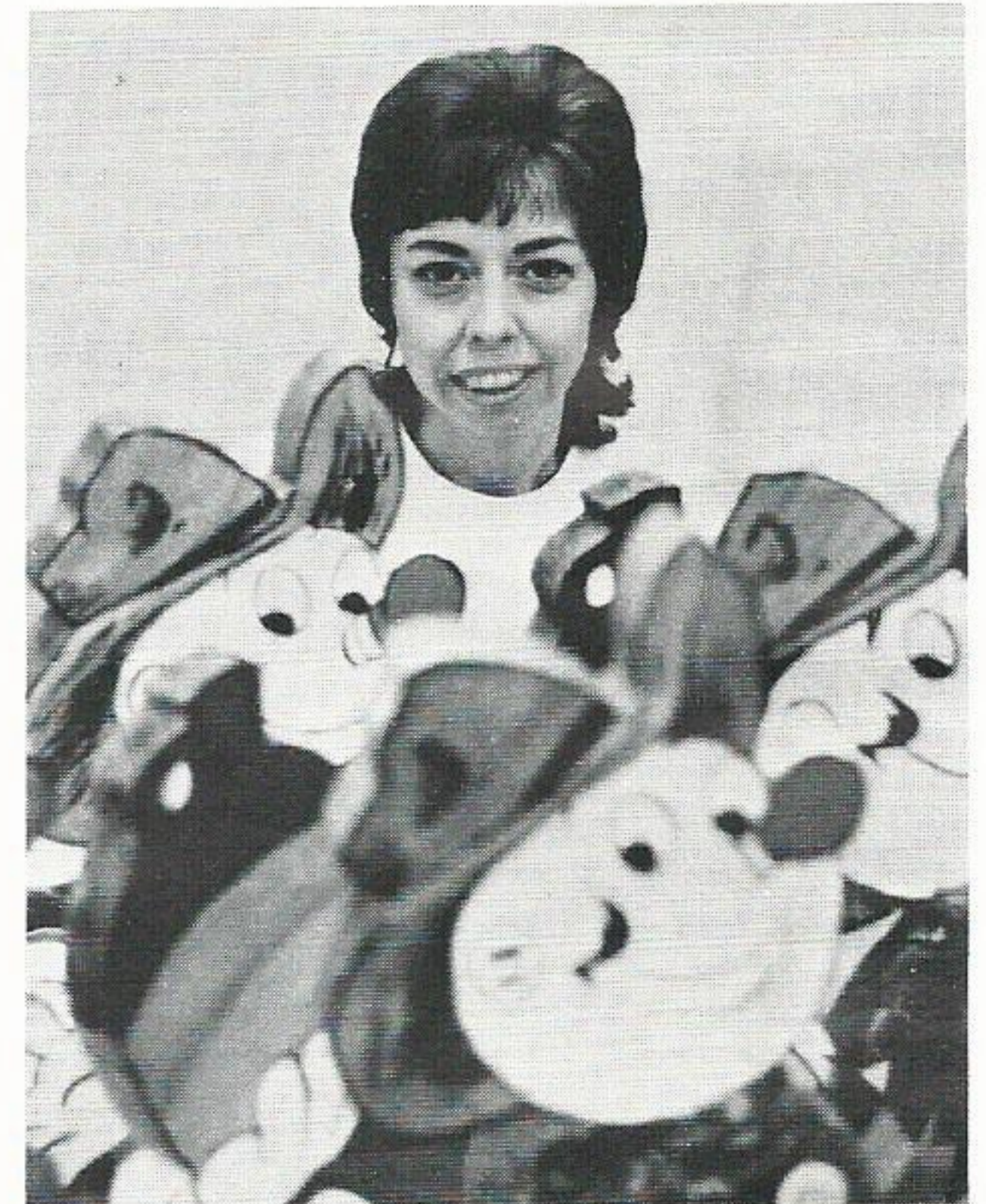


Lenelle Juban  
Denham Springs

Denham Springs (right next door to Baton Rouge) is the area covered by **Lenelle M. Juban**, another talented reporter. Reporting is nothing new to Lenelle as she was once employed by the Denham Springs News.

Lenelle is married to **Alton Ray Juban**, and is the mother of two children, **Mary (7)** and **Tommy (2)**.

A sports enthusiast, Lenelle can be found during the summer months after work keeping score for the recreation and parks commission boys softball program. Hubby **Alton Ray** gets into the act as an umpire. Lenelle also enjoys motorcycling and volleyball.



**Jo Anne Parish**, executive steno in Baton Rouge, had a big hand in making "moonshine" in the Baton Rouge area. She hand painted **Reddy Kilowatt's** moonshine attire as mascot of the sales campaign.

# Moonshine Campaign Is Successful

Employees in the Baton Rouge Division know all about making moonshine, and the law enforcement officers of the area are all for it.

**Walt Wright**, supervisor-residential sales, and **Henry Joyner**, advertising representative in Baton Rouge, have been conducting a Security Lite sale using the theme "Make your own moonshine." The campaign is based on an idea by **Ken Haynie**, artist-Advertising & Public Relations Department in Beaumont.

**Mr. Wright** and **Mr. Joyner**, along with some talented art work by **Jo Anne Parish**, executive steno in Baton Rouge, have taken the basic idea and turned it into a very successful campaign to sell the Security Lites in rural areas. **Reddy Kilowatt**, dressed in overalls and holding a jug, is the emblem or mascot of the sales campaign.

At latest count the **Gonzales District** was leading the pack in the sale of the lights after the first tally. A moonshine party will be given to the winning district.

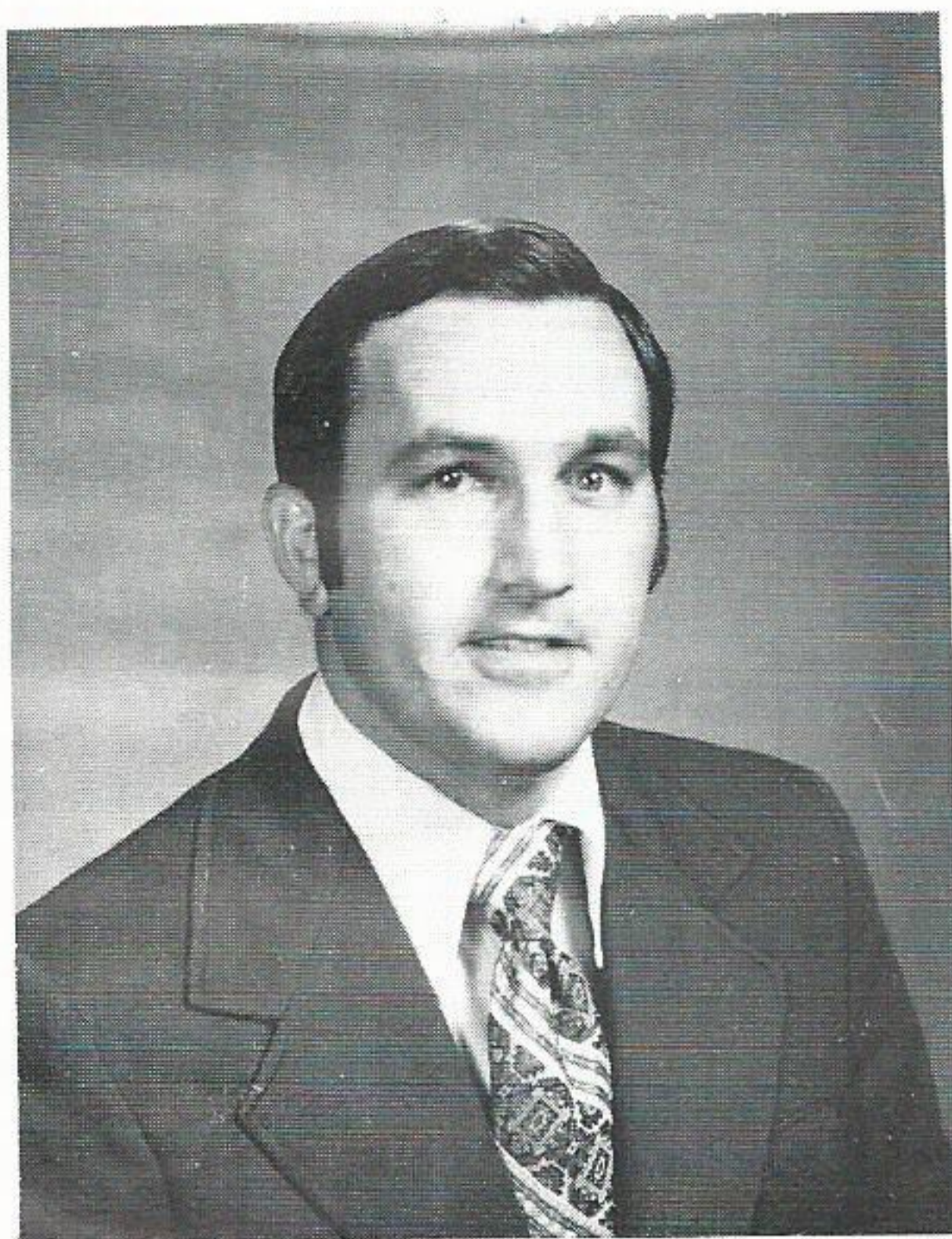
## Thrift Plan

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during April, 1972 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through March, 1972 were as follows:

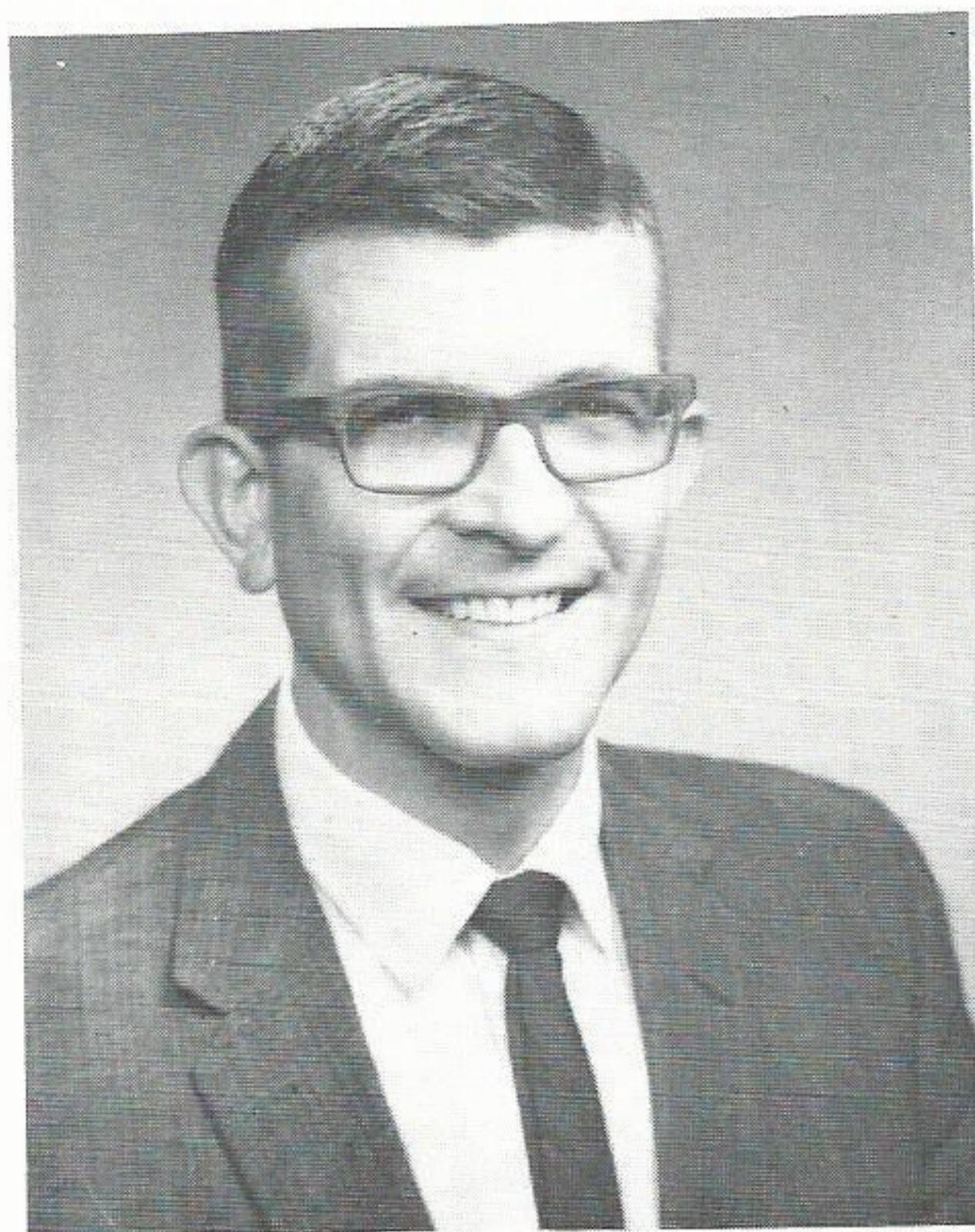
7,888 shares of Common Stock at a total cost of \$158,536.00 or an average cost per share of \$20.098.

217 shares of \$4.40 Preferred Stock at a total cost of \$13,646.80, or an average cost per share of \$62.888.

The Trustee deposited \$46,023.12 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank of Beaumont.



William A. Cropper



Les Calder

## Earn M.B.A.

William A. Cropper, Marketing Services, and Les Calder, System Engineering, both received Master of Business Administration degrees in May from Lamar University.

Cropper, an undergraduate from Texas A&M, has been with the company for three years. He is married to the former Genon Oliver, and the couple has one child, a son, William A. Cropper, Jr.

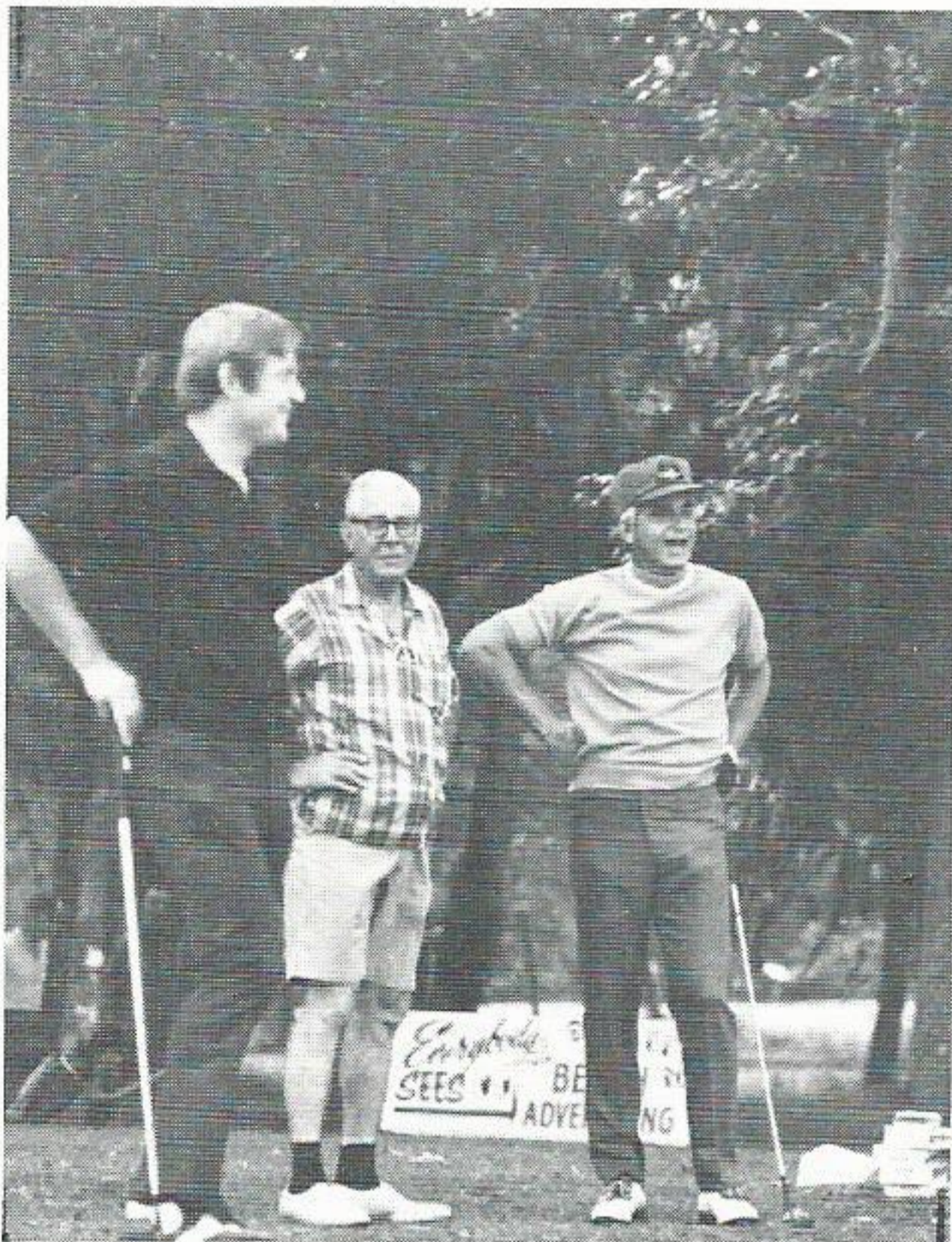
Calder is a 14 year veteran of the company, and is an undergraduate from the University of Oklahoma.

Calder is married to the former Arvella Constien, and they have three children, Lindol (13), Lori (11) and Lee Ann (8).

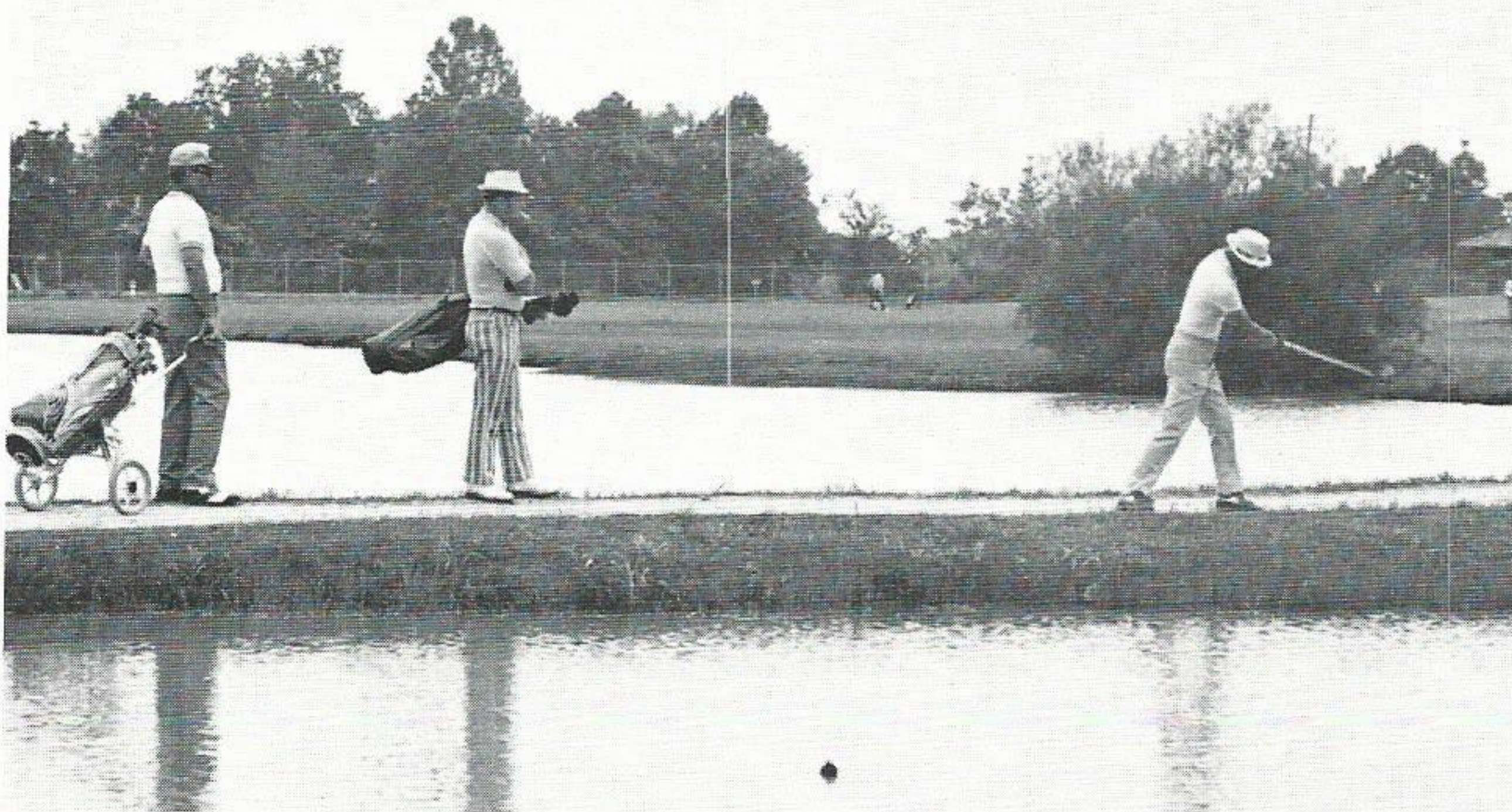
Six Spanish engineers were recently hosted by our engineering department as part of an American tour. The men met our engineers and were shown the 500 KV transmission line, and the 500 KV Substation at Hartsburg. The visitors, all with the electric utility industry in their own country, discussed a number of construction and design procedures used by our company.



# Bill Barksdale Has Low Gross 78, But Loses Low Net To Corley



Action was hot and heavy during the Live Wires Golf Tournament. At left Tom Jasper, Ken Jumel and Ward McCurtain voice encouragement on the first tee. Meanwhile, below, Jim Minner and Bill Barksdale watch as Jack Shirey hit his second shot off the cart path that crosses a body of water.



Bill Barksdale, Port Arthur, fought off a strong challenge by Luther Risher of Beaumont treasury to capture low gross honors in the Annual Live Wires Golf Tournament with a 78, but lost the championship by one shot following the handicap when Rex Corley, playing out of Houston as a guest, came up with a 72 low net total.

Tom Jasper, playing in the third flight, took low net honors for the day with a 70 based on his 121 game. Jim Johnson won the first flight with a low net 72½, while Jim Wilder captured the second flight with a 71½.

Some 56 golfers teed off in the event under the direction of Tom Moses. Joe Fontana, and pretty Judy Bonvillion and Jane Allman kept track of the scores as they came in.

The weather was threatening the golfers all day with an occasional sprinkle adding to the drama. But it was not water from the skies that caused the most trouble, but the water in several lakes along the course.

Complete results of the tournament are as follows: Low net Scores:

**Championship Flight:** 1. Rex Corley; 2. Bill Barksdale; 3. Gene LeFloor; 4. Lyle Gerac; 5. Luther Risher; 6. Roy Shuff; 7. Ed Hodges.

**First Flight:** 1. Jim Johnson; 2. Nig Laughlin; 3. John McCoppin; 4. D. Abshire; 5. Butch Franklin; 6. D. Patrizi; 7. Jim Minner.

**Second Flight:** 1. Jim Wilder; 2. Gene LaFont; 3. Ward McCurtain; 4. Ed Loggins; 5. Weldon Syme; 6. Jim Mouton; 7. Stan Roby.

**Third Flight:** 1. Tom Jasper; 2. Roy Kirkland; 3. H. T. Henrikson; 4. John Scott; 5. Mike Stathos; 6. Pat McMeel; 7. Ollice Steward.

**LOW GROSS WINNER:** Bill Barksdale, 78. **LOW NET WINNER:** Tom Jasper, 70.

# Baton Rouge Bowlers Take Four of Six Titles in Tourney

## Prejean, LeBlanc Lead High Scoring Parade in Annual Company Event

Johnny Prejean of Lake Charles and Gloria LeBlanc of Baton Rouge took top honors in the annual company bowling tournament held at Circle Lanes in Baton Rouge.

Over 110 bowlers from throughout the system gathered in the Captial City for the tourney, which this year was directed by Del Vavasseur and Nikki Falcon. Port Arthur will host the 1973 tournament.

It turned out to be a Baton Rouge tournament as the local keglers won four of the six catagories, Lake Charles took the other two events with Prejean winning all-events with a 1944 score, and Joyce Blanchard taking women's singles with a 697 effort. All scores were based on the individual's handicap.

The winning totals in every event save one, men's singles, were higher than the scores rolled in 1971 when the tourney was held in Lake Charles. P. E. Whithead won this year's men's singles event with a fine 683 series, while Danny Blanchard of Lake Charles, who captured men's singles with a 697 in 1971, was far back in the pack this year.

Gloria LeBlanc had little trouble in outdistancing her nearest rival in the all-events. The Baton Rougean averaged 216 to amass her nine-game total of 1931, 65 pins better than Sara Gully, also of Baton Rouge.

The Nutcrackers (Baton Rouge) won the team event with 19 pins to spare in a close race with another Baton Rouge team. the Rebel Rousers, 2480 to 2461. Members of the Nutcrackers were Tom Carr, John Mathis, Gloria LeBlanc and Glenn LeBlanc.

Joyce Blanchard burned the lanes for a 697 series to take women's singles, over 50 pins higher than last year's winning effort of 647 rolled by Beaumont's Linda Bryant. Joe Covington and John Hillyard (Baton Rouge) took the doubles crown with a 1329 score, 62 pins better than the 1971 total of 1267 rolled by Baton Rouge's Lynn and Jan Graham.

Beaumont bowlers, who entered the tournament with the highest averages overall, did not scratch in the winner's circle. Zack Brown, a 185 average bowler came the closest to giving Beaumont a win with a second place finish in the men's singles with a 654. Wally Thomason and Fred Roffman gave Beaumont a third in the doubles for the next best effort.

Not one defending champion repeated his or her crown.

The high handicap game rolled during the tournament was a 273 by the all-events champion Johnny Prejean. High for the women was Sara Gully with a splendid 272.

### WOMEN'S ALL EVENTS TOP 25

Name	Town	Score
Gloria LeBlanc, B. R.		1931
Sara Gully, B. R.		1866
Barbara Long, B. R.		1829
Joyce Blanchard, L. C.		1822
Jan Graham, B. R.		1810
Denise LeBlanc, B. R.		1781
Sis Babin, B. R.		1737
Myrtle Raborn, B. R.		1724
Frances McCulloch, B. R.		1721
Mae Gautreaux, B. R.		1715
Nikki Falcon, B. R.		1708
Sandra Winslow, B. R.		1707
Dixie Erickson, B. R.		1706
Gerry Picou, B. R.		1690
Wanda Hart, Bmt.		1690
Edna Fredericks, L. C.		1688
Sonja Paris, L. C.		1682
Jo Campbell, L. C.		1681
Judy Cooke, L. C.		1670
Gerrie Elisar, B. R.		1669
Gastria Fox, L. C.		1654
Wilda Hanks, Bmt.		1653
Mebel Fontana, Bmt.		1645
Carolyn Rouse, B. R.		1637
Imogene Whitehead, B. R.		1631

**MEN'S ALL EVENTS  
TOP 25**

Name	Town	Score
Johnny Prejean, L.C.		1944
P. E. Whitehead, B. R.		1905
John Bass, B. R.		1848
Joe Covington, B. R.		1837
Fred Roffman, Bmt.		1836
S. P. Lyons, P. Arthur		1824
Glenn Stokes, B. R.		1820
John Mathis, L. C.		1807
David Atkinson, B. R.		1806
Frenchie Doucet, B. R.		1803
L. O. Holden, B. R.		1793
Roger Paris, L. C.		1785
Columbus Hanks, L. C.		1784
Mickey Waller, B. R.		1783
Roland Sanchez, B. R.		1783
Curt LeBlanc, P. Arthur		1768
Wayne Huff, B. R.		1760
Elder Babin, B. R.		1757
Wally Thomason, Bmt.		1755
Sam Elisar, B. R.		1745
Jim Watson, Bmt.		1738
Brooks Gully, B. R.		1738
Tom Carr, B. R.		1738
Nathan Knox, B. R.		1732
Bob Guidry, L. C.		1732

**MEN'S SINGLES  
TOP 25**

Name	Town	Score
P. E. Whitehead, B. R.		683
Zack Brown, Bmt.		654
John Bass, B. R.		645
Jim Watson, Bmt.		644
Johnny Prejean, L. C.		628
Glenn Stokes, B. R.		623
Bob Guidry, L. C.		619
L. O. Holden, B. R.		617
Brooks Gully, B. R.		617
Clyde Hearn, B. R.		611
Ricks Bryant, Bmt.		611
John Hillyard, B. R.		610
David Atkinson, B. R.		608
John Mathis, B. R.		606
Curt LeBlanc, P. Arthur		602
Emery Fruge, L. C.		602
Fred Roffman, Bmt.		602

Joe Covington, B. R.	599
Vernon Gautreaux, B. R.	595
Tom Carr, B. R.	595
Frenchie Doucet, B. R.	593
Charles Campbell, L. C.	593
Gene Long, B. R.	583
Mike Carpenter, B. R.	581
Elder Babin, B. R.	576

**TEAM RESULTS  
TOP TEN**

Team	Town	Score
Nutcrackers, B. R.		2480
Rebel Rousers, B. R.		2461
Bes-Fo, B. R.		2383
Roy's Rangers, P. Arthur		2333
Aces & A Joker, L. C.		2328
Willow Gleners, B. R.		2319
4 Aces of Bmt., Bmt.		2302
Goofers, B. R.		2285
Keglers, B. R.		2268
Pin Busters, B. R.		2263

**WOMEN'S SINGLES  
TOP 25**

Name	Town	Score
Joyce Blanchard, L. C.		697
Mae Gautreaux, B. R.		633
Gloria LeBlanc, B. R.		625
Nikki Falcon, B. R.		625
Sara Gully, B. R.		624
Barbara Long, B. R.		616
Frances McCulloch, B. R.		615
Denise LeBlanc, B. R.		615
Jan Graham, B. R.		614
Geraldine Russell, Bmt.		608
Gerrie Elisar, B. R.		593
Dixie Erickson, B. R.		586
Myrtle Raborn, B. R.		578
Annie Horstmann, L. C.		576
Mabel Fontana, Bmt.		558
Sandra Winslow, B. R.		556
Jo Campbell, L. C.		553
Judy Cooke, L. C.		553
Mary Lee Best, Bmt.		549
Debbie Harris, B. R.		548
Wanda Hart, Bmt.		548
Sonja Paris, L. C.		547
Sue Marchand, B. R.		547
Melaine Hima, B. R.		546
Gastria Fox, L. C.		543

**DOUBLES  
TOP 25**

Names	Town	Score
Joe Covington-John Hillyard, B. R.		1329
Sonja Paris-Roger Paris, L. C.		1267
Wally Thomason-Fred Roffman, Bmt.		1234
Myrtle Raborn-Dewey Raborn, B. R.		1233
Lynn Graham-Jan Graham, B. R.		1212
Roland Sanchez-John Bass, B. R.		1210
Leonard Roy-D. P. Lyons, P. Arthur		1209
P. E. Whitehead-Frenchie Doucet, B. R.		1208
Gloria LeBlanc-Imogene Whitehead, B. R.		1201
Tom Carr-Denise LeBlanc, B. R.		1194
Sam Elisar-Nathan Knox, B. R.		1194
Joe Cloutier-Johnny Prejean, L. C.		1187
Wayne Huff-Glenn Stoke, B. R.		1180
Columbus Hanks-Wilda Hanks, L. C.		1175
Michael Carpenter-Carl Denmark, B. R.		1172
Jo Campbell-Charles Campbell, L. C.		1171
Sandra Winslow-Dixie Erickson, B. R.		1166
Jay LeBouf-Curt LeBlanc, P. Arthur		1163
Vernon Gautreaux-Elder Babin, B. R.		1161
Barbara Long-Gene Long, B. R.		1160
Joyce Blanchard-Country Blanchard, L. C.		1154
L. O. Holden-Lois Holden, B. R.		1149
George Hima-David Atkinson, B. R.		1140
Frances McCulloch-Amos McCulloch, B. R.		1138
Harry Stelly-Emery Fruge, L. C.		1133
John Mathis-Calvin Bergeron, B. R.		1133



T. G. "Butch" Franklin, Lake Charles Division Accounting Supervisor, has recently been elected treasurer of the Lake Charles Credit Bureau. Franklin has been with the company 16 years. He is married to the former Patsy Kendrick of Nacogdoches and they have two sons, Glenn (10), and Terry (9), and a daughter, Shelly (5).

# Deaths



Curtis E. Johnson

Curtis E. Johnson, retired test supervisor at Louisiana Station in Baton Rouge, died in late April in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Johnson had retired from the company Feb. 1, 1971 after 38 years of service.

He is survived by his wife, Lucille Ray Johnson, and two children, Mrs. Larry K. Lalumandier of Baton Rouge, and Mrs. Raymond F. Hodgson of Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Johnson first joined the company in 1933 as an assistant fireman at Neches Station in Beaumont. In 1937 he was promoted to auxiliary operator, and in 1939 he became chemist at Neches Station. In 1947 he was transferred to Lake Charles as a test engineer, and remained there until he was moved to Baton Rouge as a test engineer at Louisiana Station in 1954.

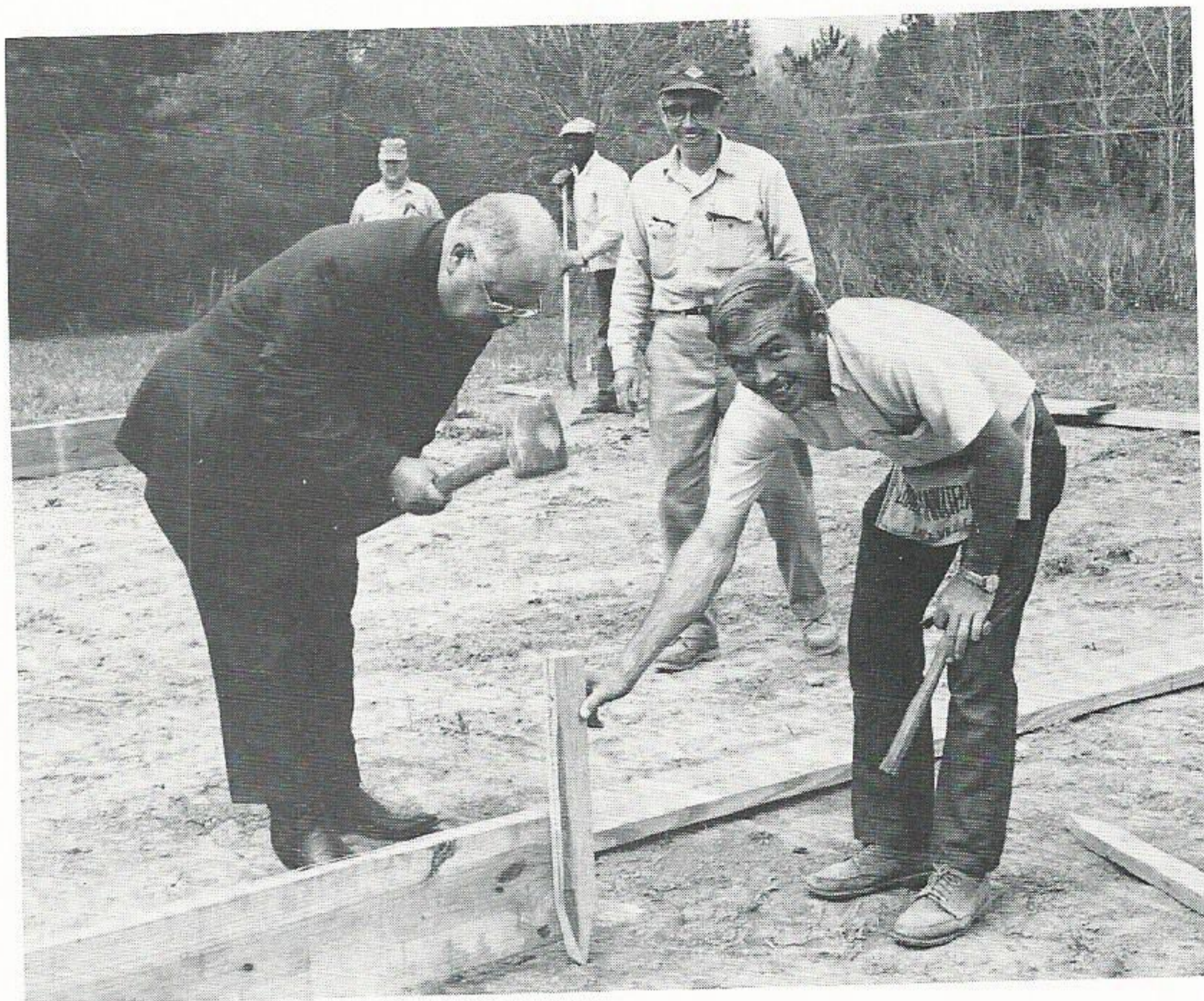
He was a 1929 graduate of Gordon High School, Gordon, Tex., and a graduate of Texas A&M.

Jake Davis, retired Baton Rouge employee, died April 13 in the Veterans Hospital at New Orleans. He was 80 years old.

A native of East Baton Rouge Parish, Mr. Davis resided in Baker, La. He was a member of the Redwood Benevolent Society and American Legion Post 502.

Burial was in Southern Memorial Gardens.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mattie Davis, six nephews and five nieces.



Virgil M. Shaw, Baton Rouge Division Manager, drives the first stake into the ground marking the beginning of construction on the expansion of Camp Avondale Scout Reservation near Clinton, La. A ranger cabin will be built with funds raised during the "Boy Power '76" campaign. Our company was the first company to contribute to the fund raising drive. The camp is a recreation facility for more than 12,000 scouts in the 13 parishes comprising the Istrouma Area Council.



Joe Zammit, mechanical maintenance foreman at Louisiana Station, was chairman of the Retarded Children's Program for the United Commercial Travelers of America in Baton Rouge. Here he presents a check for \$700 to Sister Vita, director of Special Education for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. The check was only part of \$1600 raised by Zammit's group during the campaign. (from Leslie Jean-sonne)



Jimmie Smith, mechanical maintenance supervisor at Louisiana Station, was recently installed as Senior Counselor at the April meeting of the United Commercial Travelers of America in Baton Rouge. Sammie McKenzie (center), also from Louisiana Station, is the outgoing Senior Counselor. Installing officer is Johnny Cap (right). (from Leslie Jean-sonne)



# SERVICE AWARDS

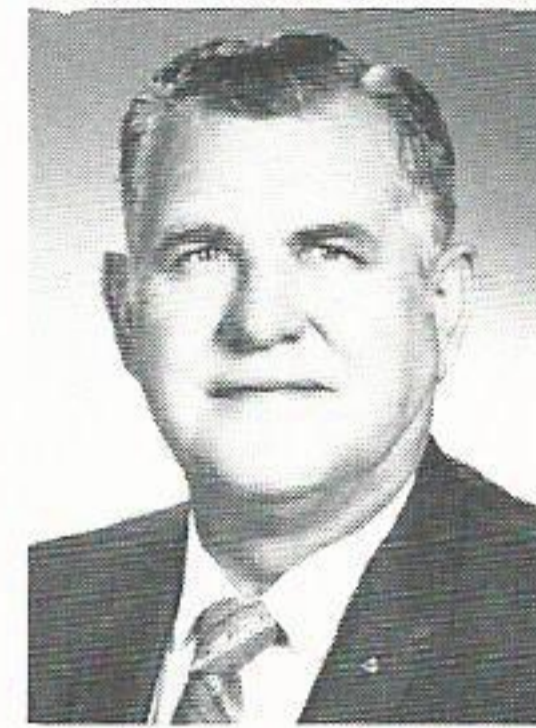
## THIRTY YEARS



**Bernard L. Campo, Jr.**  
Treasury  
Baton Rouge



**Stanley E. Davis**  
Production  
Baton Rouge



**Wilson L. Milton**  
Distribution  
Baton Rouge

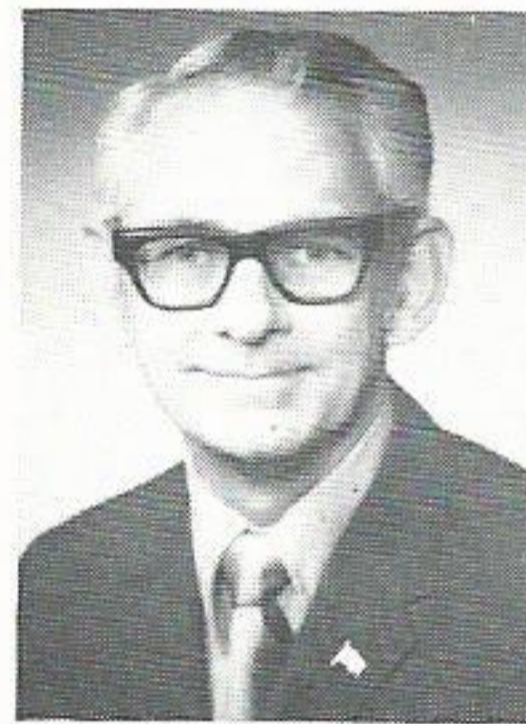


**Calvin Oubre**  
Production  
Baton Rouge

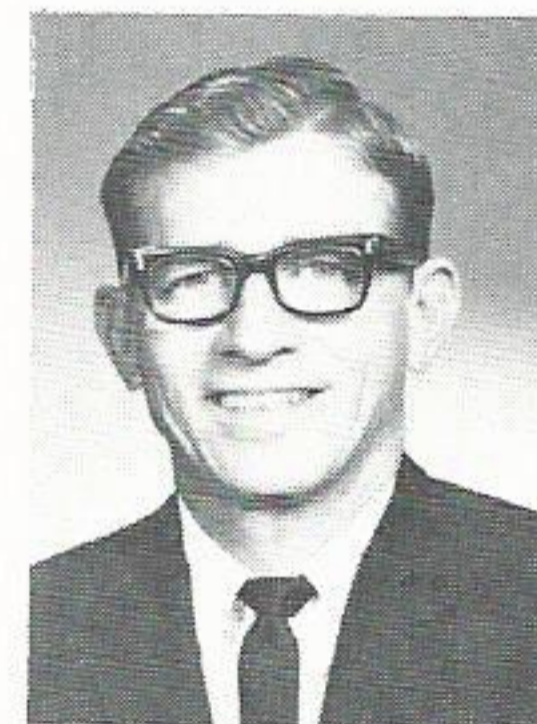
## TWENTY YEARS



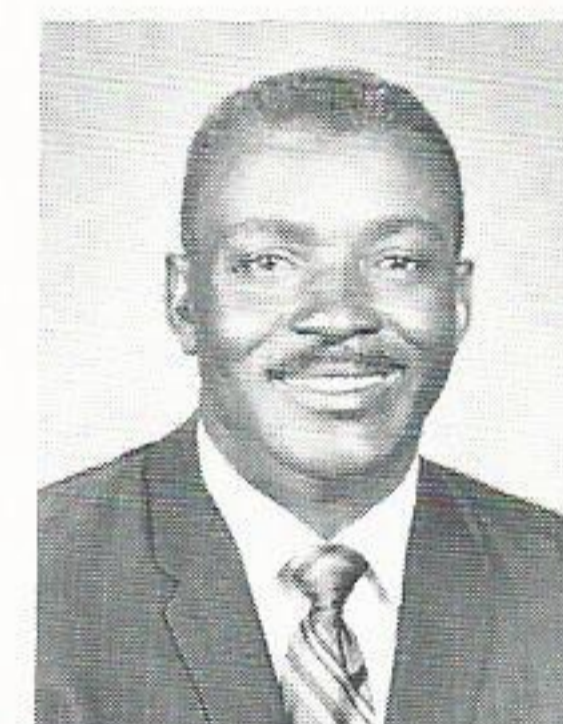
**Sheldon P. Fruge**  
Production  
Conroe



**Charles R. Kelly**  
Production  
Beaumont



**Charles E. Lucas**  
Production  
Baton Rouge



**John L. Woods**  
Distribution  
Baton Rouge

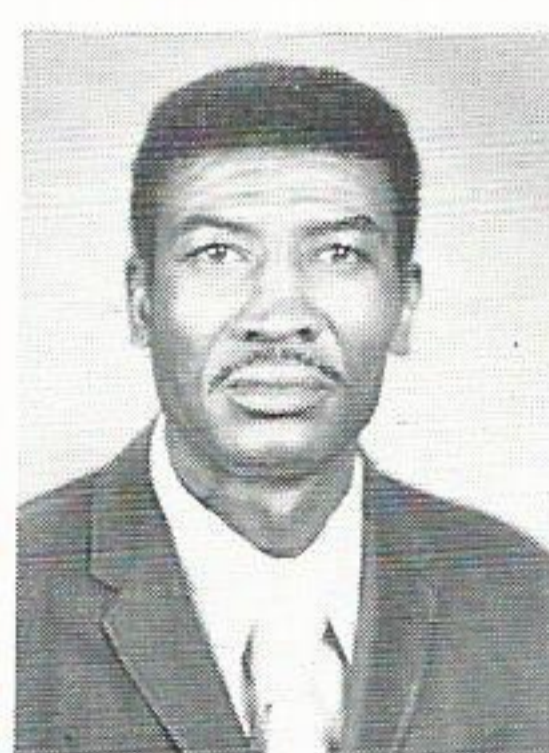
## TEN YEARS



**William D. Bates**  
Distribution  
Lake Charles



**Chester O. Draper, Jr.**  
Production  
Conroe



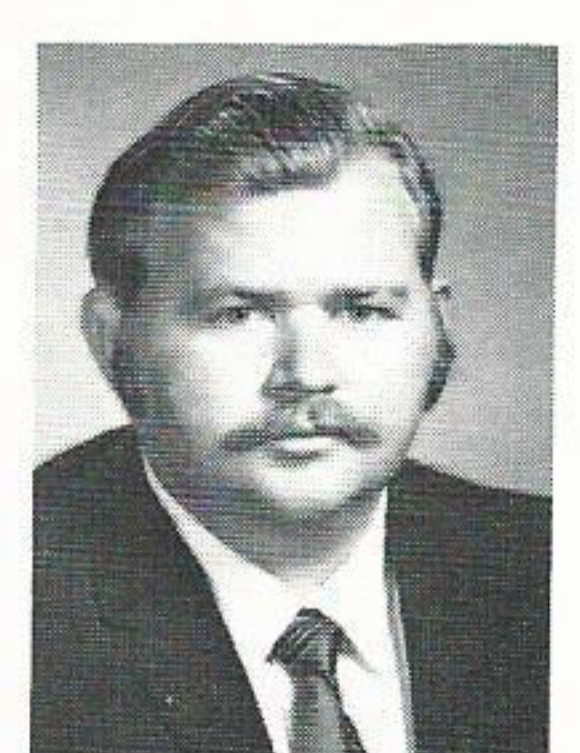
**Louis W. Jones**  
Distribution  
Baton Rouge



**Charles E. Petry**  
Production  
Beaumont



**Johnnie L. Reed**  
Production  
Bridge City



**Guerry W. Weathers**  
Distribution  
Beaumont

# People On The Move



Harriet  
Babin

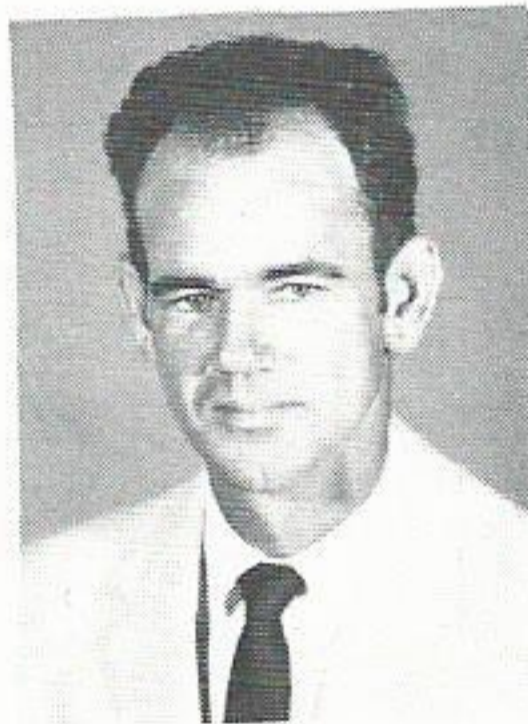
Harriet S. Babin, formerly home service advisor, has been promoted to home services supervisor for the Baton Rouge Division.

Miss Babin, a native of Dutchtown, La., had served the Baton Rouge Division as home service advisor since 1960.

Miss Babin holds the bachelor's degree in vocational home economics education and the master's in home economics: family life/home management from Louisiana State University. While in graduate school, she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi scholastic honorary society.

She holds memberships in numerous professional groups. She is present secretary and past chairman and vice chairman of the Louisiana Home Economists in Business Section; south central district chairman of the Louisiana Home Economics Association, and she is past chairman of the LSU Home Economics Alumni Association.

Miss Babin also is a member of the American, Louisiana and Baton Rouge Home Economics Association, Phi Upsilon Omicron and Alpha Omicron Pi Alumni Associations and the Baton Rouge Spinsters.



Peter  
Seymore

Peter C. Seymore, formerly lineman in Baton Rouge T&D, has been promoted to utility foreman.

Mr. Seymore joined the company at Baton Rouge in 1954. He has progressed through various job classifications in T&D line and service sections.

A native of Morganza, La., Mr. Seymore graduated from high school there. He served in the Navy from 1950 to 1954 and has served for two years in the National Guard.

Mr. Seymore is married to the former Mary Jane Gueho of New Roads, La., and the couple has six children. They are Gloria Ann, 16, Tammy Louise, 12, Penny and Glenny, 11, Peter Jr., 9, and Tina Marie, 7. The family attends St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.



Floyd  
Langois

Floyd T. Langois has advanced to director-technical services in System Production at Beaumont.

Mr. Langois, an employee of the company for 20 years, formerly served as mechanical engineer. He also has held a number of power plant posts at Neches, Willow Glen and Louisiana Stations.

Born in New Roads, La., Mr. Langois was graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He is a Navy veteran, having served from 1944 to 1946.

Mr. Langois is a member of the Young Men's Business League and of the Northwest Beaumont Lions Club.

He and his wife, the former Mary Madole of Beaumont, have two children, Judy Ann and Thomas. The family attends St. Anne's Catholic Church.

Jo Ann  
Smith



Jo Ann Smith has been promoted to home services supervisor for the Beaumont Division.

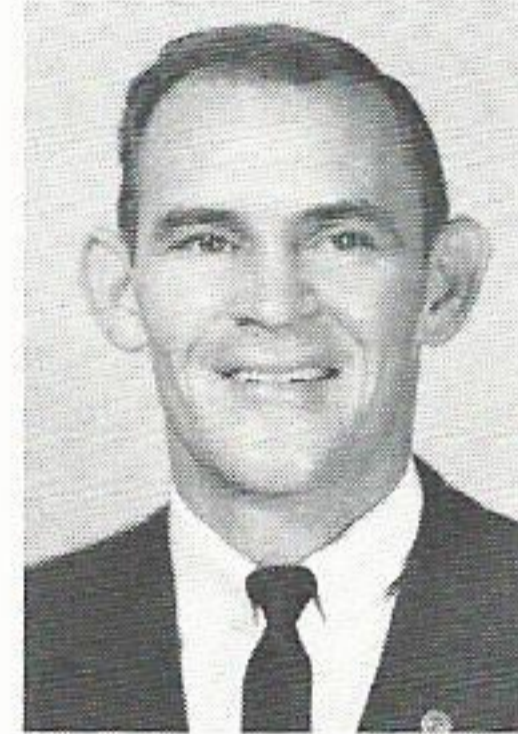
Mrs. Smith formerly had served as home service advisor at Beaumont since 1965.

A native of Fields, La., Mrs. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in home economics education from Northwestern State University at Natchitoches.

Mrs. Smith is a member of numerous job-related organizations, and she is chairman-elect of the South Texas Home Economists in Business group. She also holds memberships in the American Home Economics Association, the Sabine Area Home Economists Unit and the Lamar University Women's Club.

She is married to Joe Lee Smith, sports information director for Lamar University in Beaumont.

Gene  
Brown



Gene E. Brown, formerly serviceman in the Dayton District, has been transferred to Madisonville and promoted to superintendent.

Mr. Brown, an employee of the company for the past 18 years, succeeds Volz D. Elliott who is now superintendent of the Cleveland District.

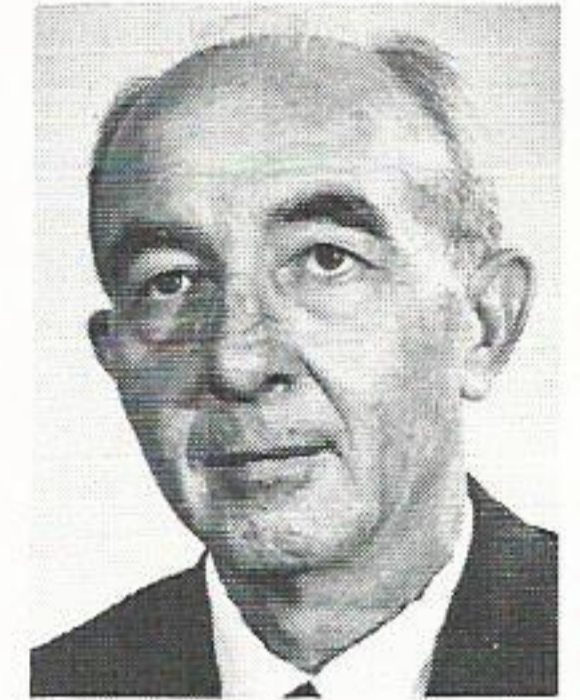
Mr. Brown joined the company in the Line Department at Beaumont in 1954 and has progressed through various job classifications as lineman and serviceman.

Born in Port Arthur, Mr. Brown graduated from Dayton High School. He also has attended Texas A&M and Lamar Universities. He is a veteran of the Army and served for 17 months in Korea.

Mr. Brown is an active member of the Masons, having served as membership chairman of Scottish Rite Bodies of Liberty, Chamber and Hardin Counties. He also is a past master of the Liberty Masonic Lodge.

Married to the former Rachel Williams of Beaumont, he and his wife have a daughter, Babette Lyn, who is a freshman at the University of Texas.

E. L.  
Maris



E. L. Maris, formerly residential sales representative at Navasota, has been transferred to Calvert and promoted to superintendent.

Mr. Maris is a 32-year employee of the company, having started out as assistant serviceman and cashier at Calvert in 1940. He also has worked in the Franklin office and has held sales posts in Navasota.

Born in Franklin, Mr. Maris graduated from high school there and attended Sam Houston State University. He is an Army veteran, having served from 1942 to 1945.

An active participant in community affairs, Mr. Maris is a member of the Grimes County Library Board and of the Navasota Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the United Fund board of directors and is a past noble grand of H. L. Stewart Lodge 98-International Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Maris serves as vice chairman of the Arrowmoon District Council-Boy Scouts of America and received a plaque from that group for his service as commissioner in 1971.

Mr. Maris and his wife, the former Ava Copeland of Jewett, Texas, have a son, Robert, who is a senior honor student at Navasota High School.

# Retirements

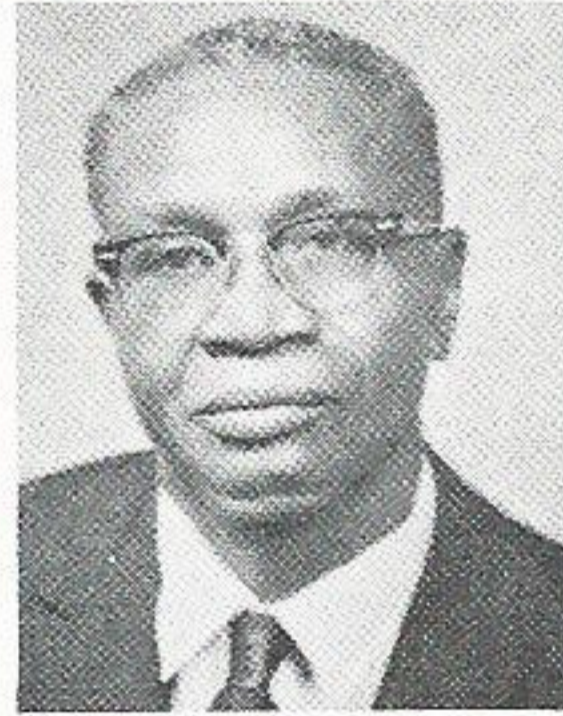
**William Smith Crockum, Jr.**, a janitor in the general office in Beaumont, retired June 1 after more than 24 years of service.

A Norwood, La. native, Mr. Crockum is married to Lugenia Turner. The couple has two children, Mrs. Rosa Lee Crockum Martin, and William Crockum III, both of Beaumont.

"I have enjoyed every day I worked here," said Mr. Crockum, "especially with my fellow workers and friends."

He plans to spend his days with a fishing pole, or perhaps working with his garden.

Mr. Crockum is an avid church worker and is a member of the male choir of the Scott Oliver Baptist Church.



W. S. Crockum, Jr.

**Charlie L. Waller**, who began his company career as an ice delivery man in Kosse, Tex., back in 1927, retires July 1 after more than 45 years of service. He is a district serviceman in Corrigan, Texas.

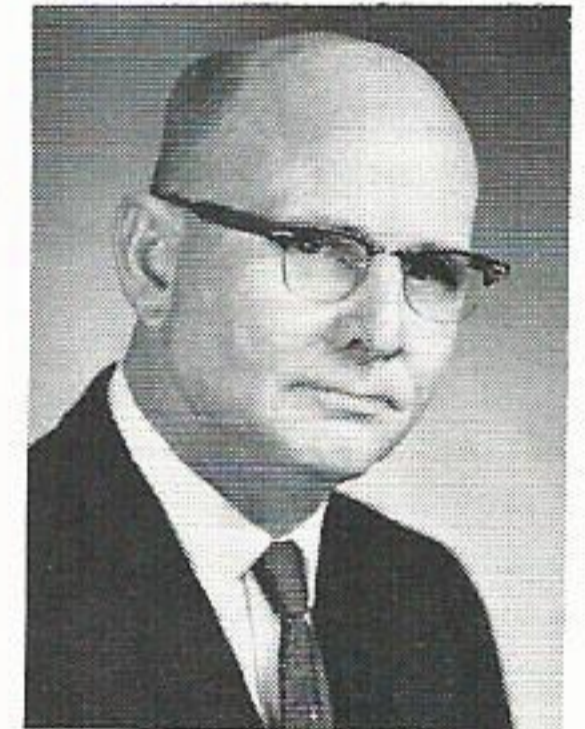
A native of Kosse, which is furthest most point in the Western Division, Mr. Waller has really been too busy to think of retirement. "We district servicemen are really kept busy, I just haven't had time to think about what I'm going to do."

Mr. Waller and his wife, Ila Fay, have one son, Charlie Fred, and two grandchildren, Lynn (8), and Brian (2). He is active in civic affairs and has served as president, and secretary-treasurer of the Corrigan Lions Club. He is also a member of the Masonic Lodge of Corrigan, and the Church of Christ.

"I think I'll just rest up for awhile after I retire," said Mr. Waller, "I've been hitting it pretty hard for a long time."



C. L. Waller



Felton T. Hargrove

**Felton T. Hargrove**, a 46 year veteran with the company, retired June 1.

Mr. Hargrove, appliance repair foreman in Port Arthur, first joined the company back in 1926 as a trainman. During his entire career he never worked outside the Port Arthur Division.

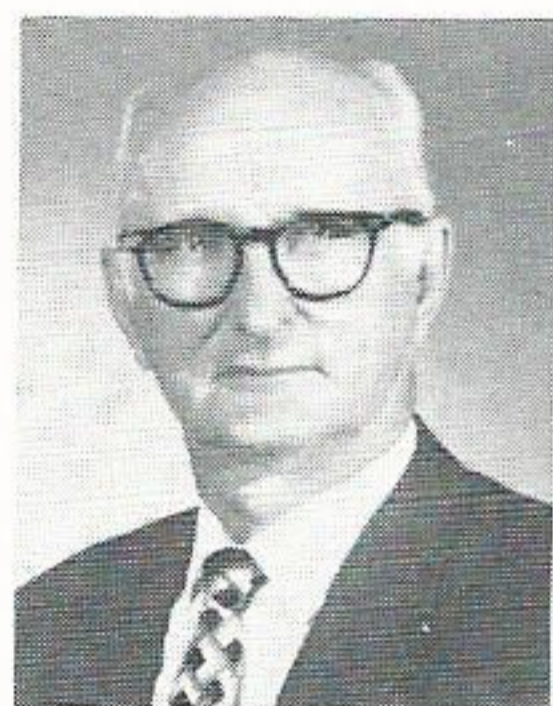
In 1929 Mr. Hargrove was promoted to District Representative, and in 1930 was moved to T&D as a student repairman. In 1936 he was promoted to appliance repairman, followed by appliance repairman first class in 1941. He was named foreman in 1959.

Mr. Hargrove is a native of Iola, Tex. He is married to the former Rhoda Alice Bennett, and they have one daughter, Mrs. Betty Sue Winkler of Ft. Worth.

"I have had many memorable moments at GSU," says Mr. Hargrove. "Perhaps the happiest days were when our president, Mr. Floyd Smith, was a senior engineer at Port Arthur and we organized a softball team. We'd play any team not afraid to get in the same ball park with us."



Ed Hodges, manager of Information and Data Services, speaks to a crowded room of over a hundred well wishers and friends of John Sam, left, who retired after 27 years of service. The gathering took place in the main office in Beaumont, and many retirees also returned to shake the hand of the popular man. Mr. Hodges described Mr. Sam as a man who "has been many things to many people, a right hand man to many of our executives, and a true friend."



Howard Chaney

**Howard Chaney**, planning supervisor at Louisiana Station, retired June 1 after more than 42 years of service.

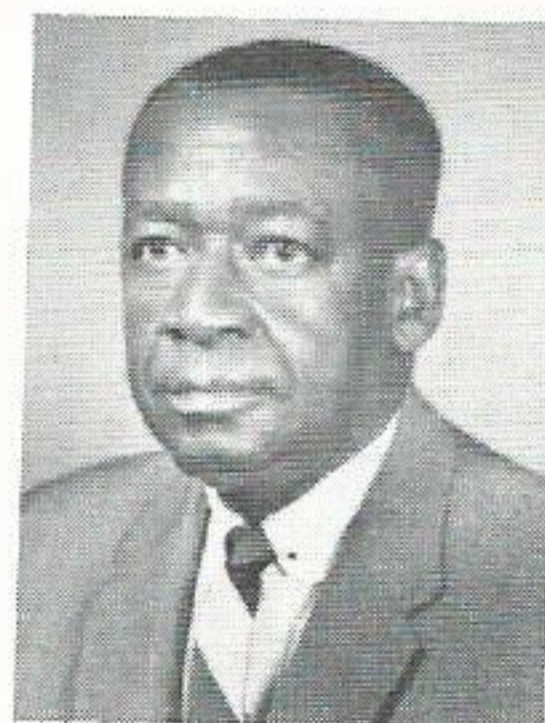
Prior to joining the company in 1930 as an auxiliary operator, Mr. Chaney had spent his working time on the Mississippi as a steam boat engineer. According to his brother-in-law, J. D. Fleming (also a retired company employee), when Howard married his wife, Edith, he wanted to get off the river and get a land job.

From auxiliary operator, Mr. Chaney worked as turbine operator, switchboard operator, head fireman, station engineer, operating engineer, operation supervisor and finally, planning supervisor.

Mr. Chaney is an avid fisherman and recently bought a camper for use on False River, north of Baton Rouge. He also likes hunting, especially turkey.

He is a member of the Masonic Lodge, and the First Methodist Church of Baton Rouge.

He still maintains his river license as an engineer.



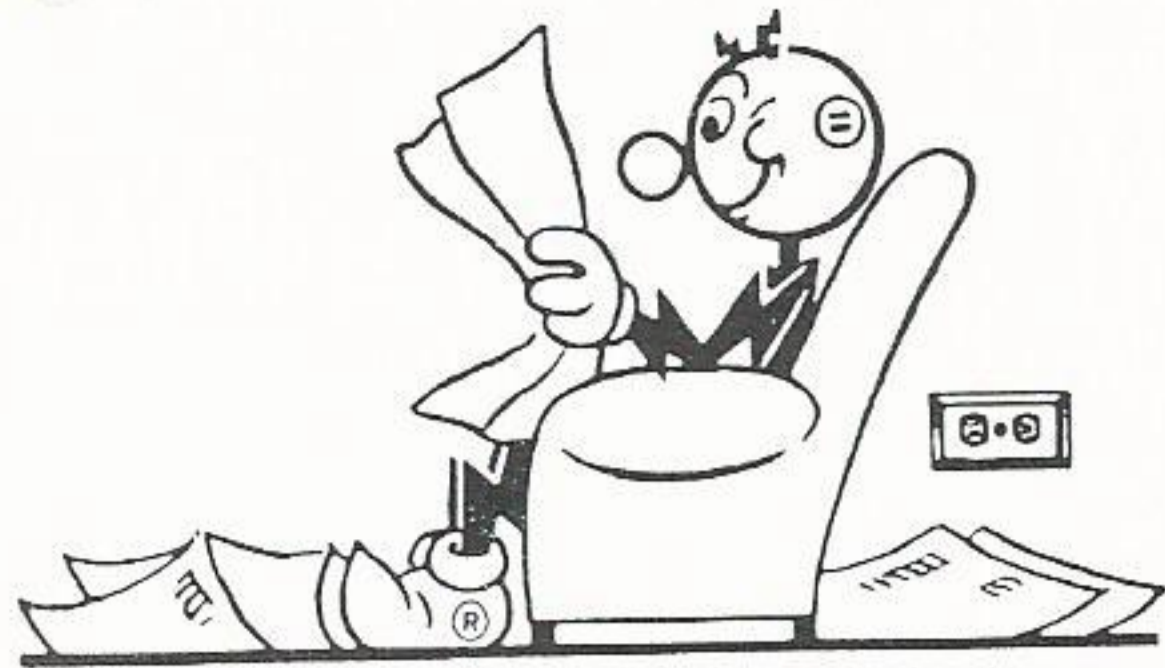
John Sam

**John Sam**, Records Management in Beaumont, retired June 1 after 27 years of service with the company.

Hired just following the end of World War II in 1945, Mr. Sam leaves behind many friends and memories. "John Sam is many things to many people," said Ed Hodges as he emceed Sam's retirement party, "a right hand man to many of GSU's top executives, a man of influence, a confidant, and a rare friend."

A native of Grand Coteau, La., Mr. Sam was honored by a hundred friends who crowded into the 20th floor auditorium. Among the gathering was one of his four sons, George, with his family. His other sons, Wilbert, William and Willard were in California unable to attend.

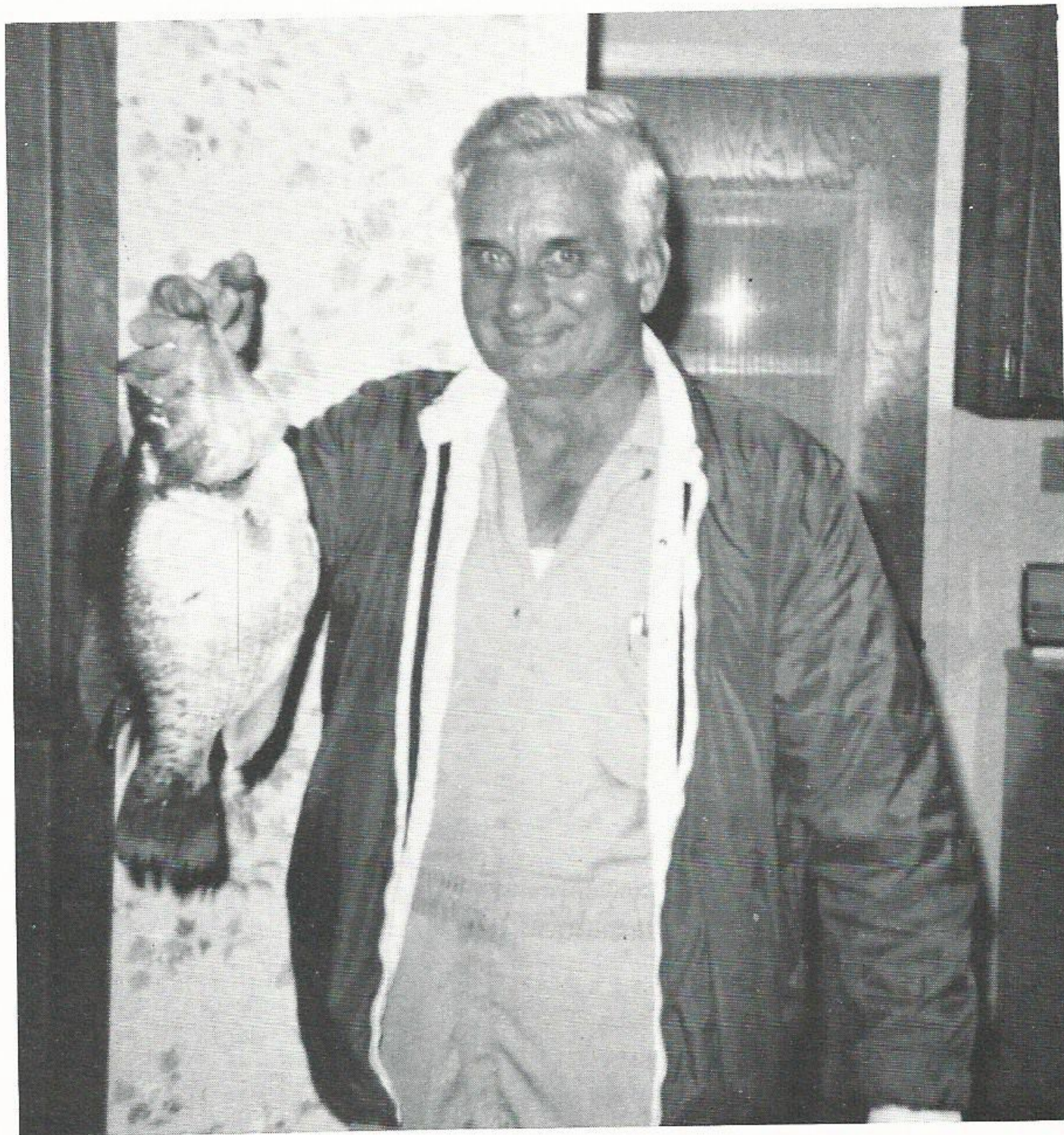
Mr. Sam is a member of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, and helped to build the Knights of Peter Claver, a church organization he has served as secretary. "Whenever the Knights of Peter Claver had something going," James Braswell fondly recalls, "John Sam would be around selling tickets. We always bought them."



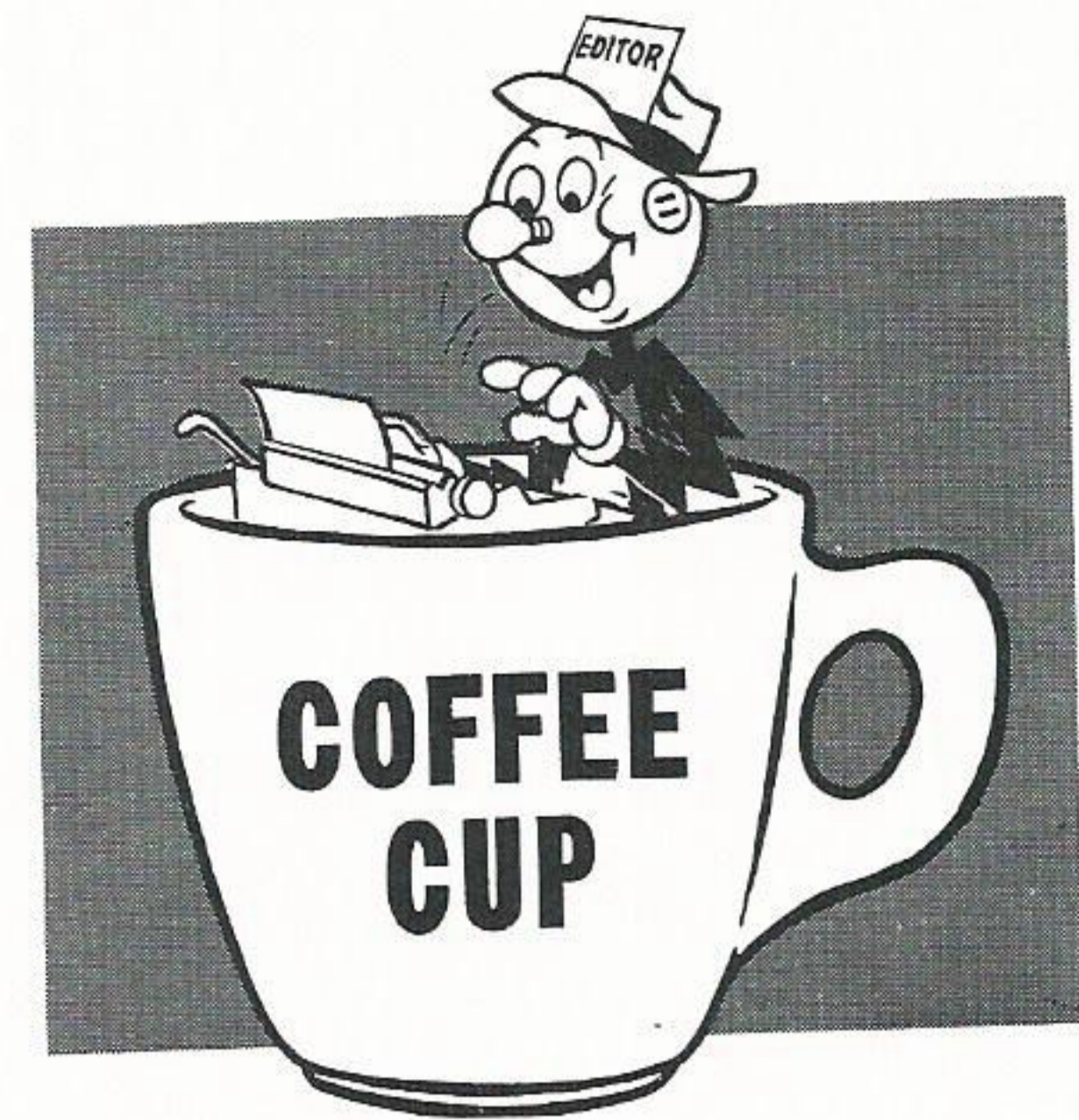
## NEWS FROM -

If you have any story you think is interesting and would like to see in PLAIN TALKS, just contact the reporter nearest you, and he (or she) will see that it gets to the editor. A complete list of the reporters and their location can be found on the first page of each Coffee Cup section.

## —Conroe—



Vic Norvell, sales superintendent of the Western Division, holds up a big three-pound crappie he caught while fishing north of Huntsville off the Trinity River. According to Vic it's a sure sign of Spring when a man can catch one this big. (from The Editor)



## REPORTERS

If you have any news for "Plain Talks," simply send the information to one of the following local reporters. They will be happy to assist you in getting the material to the Editor.

**BATON ROUGE:** Henry Joyner, Margie Force (T&D), Fay Hebert (T&D), T. Boone Chaney (T&D), Melanie Hima (T&D), Charles L. Miller (T&D), Jack Gautreaux (T&D), Clyde Cannon (T&D), James W. Bello (T&D), Beverly Hull (Gas), Opal Temple (Acct.), Robert Graves (T&D).

**BEAUMONT:** Linda McSwain (S.C.), Bill Toups (S.C.), Barbara Lindsey, Ann Ogden, Edy Waltmon, Linda Marks.

**CALVERT:** Janis E. Wilganowski.

**CLEVELAND:** Pat Jones, Edd Mitchell.

**CONROE:** Frances Elliot.

**DENHAM SPRINGS:** Lenelle Juban.

**GONZALES:** Billy Fortenberry.

**HUNTSVILLE:** Dewey Allbritton.

**JENNINGS:** Earl Mayfield.

**LAFAYETTE:** Bobbie Denais.

**LAKE CHARLES:** Johnnie Harris (T&D), Pam Case.

**LA. STATION:** Leslie Jeansonne.

**LEWIS CREEK:** James Veatch.

**MADISONVILLE:** Wanda H. Tinsley.

**NAVASOTA:** Betty Dickschat.

**NECHES STATION:** Gene Russell, Hazel Higginbotham.

**NELSON STATION:** Martha Caldwell.

**ORANGE:** Davie Carpenter.

**PORT ALLEN:** Adele Vavasseur.

**PORT ARTHUR:** Sue Williams, Lorraine Dunham (S.C.).

**SABINE STATION:** Kathleen Fuller.

**SILSBEE:** Maxie Bell.

**SULPHUR:** Pearl Darbonne.

**WILLOW GLEN:** Dora Landaiche.

**WOODVILLE:** Alene Waggoner.

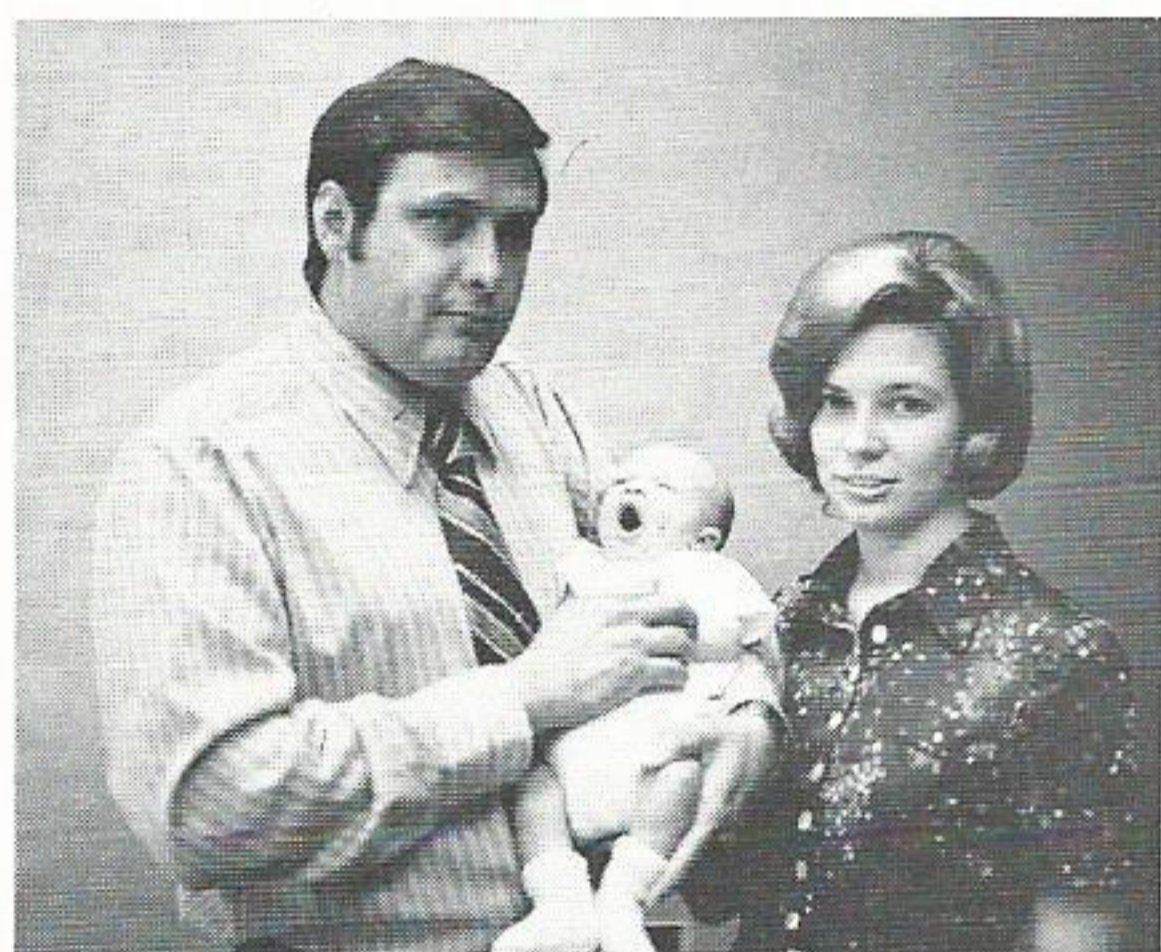
**ZACHARY:** Myra Kirby.

*(Editor's Note: If any of the above reporters are no longer reporting or with the company, we would appreciate knowing about it. This holds true also if any reporter's name has been omitted.)*

# Baton Rouge

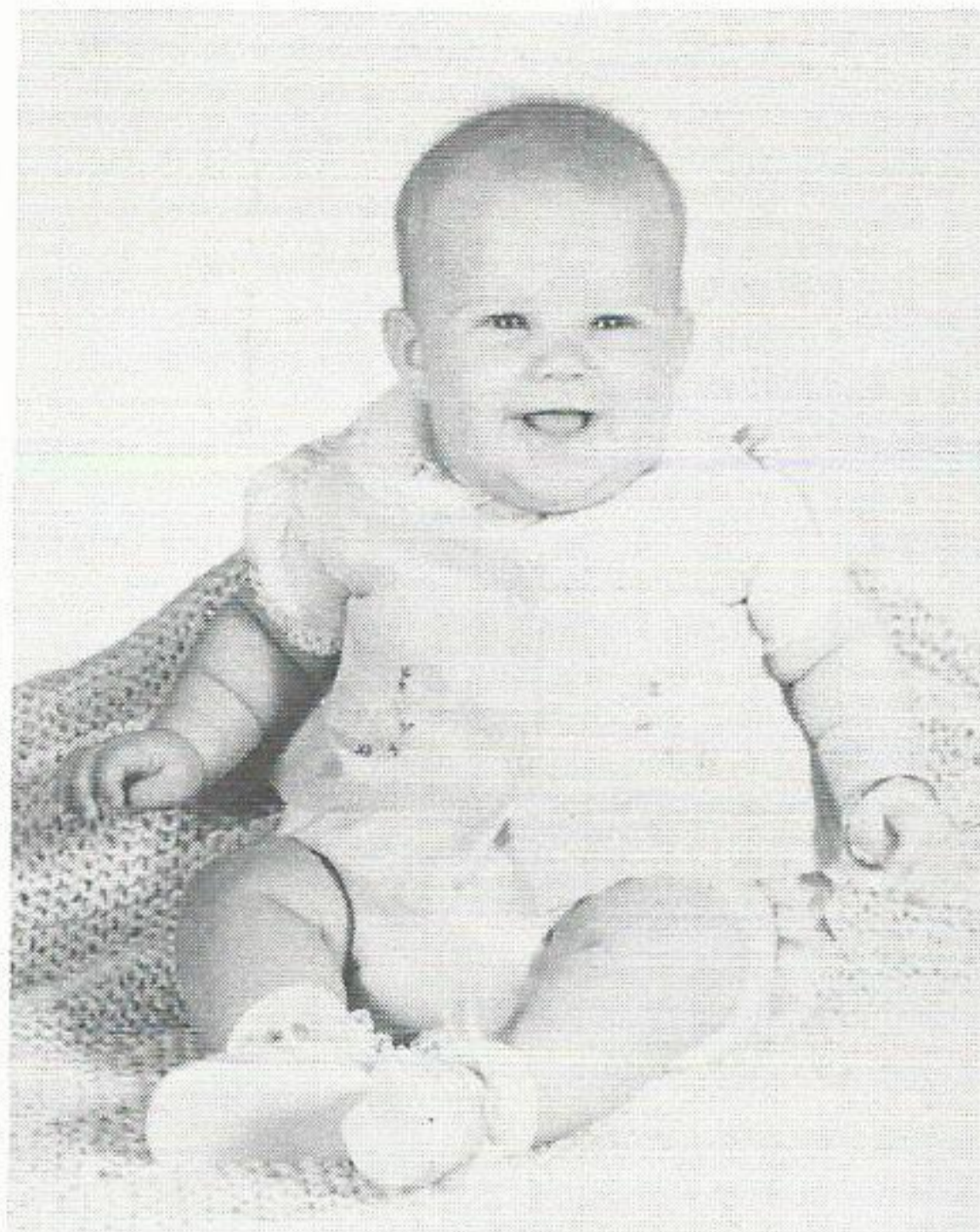


Walter R. Freeman, third class relayman in Baton Rouge, is shown here with a buck he killed while hunting in the massive Atchafalaya swamp below Krotz Springs. Walt brought down the deer (nine points) in a January hunt. (from **Melanie D. Hima**)



It looks as if young William Heath Stokes is destined to follow in his father's footsteps as a salesman -- he already has his mouth open. William was born in February, and weighed in at 7 lbs. His mother is the former Ethel Cavell, Accounting Dept. and his salesman father is Glen Stokes, residential sales. (from **Henry Joyner**)

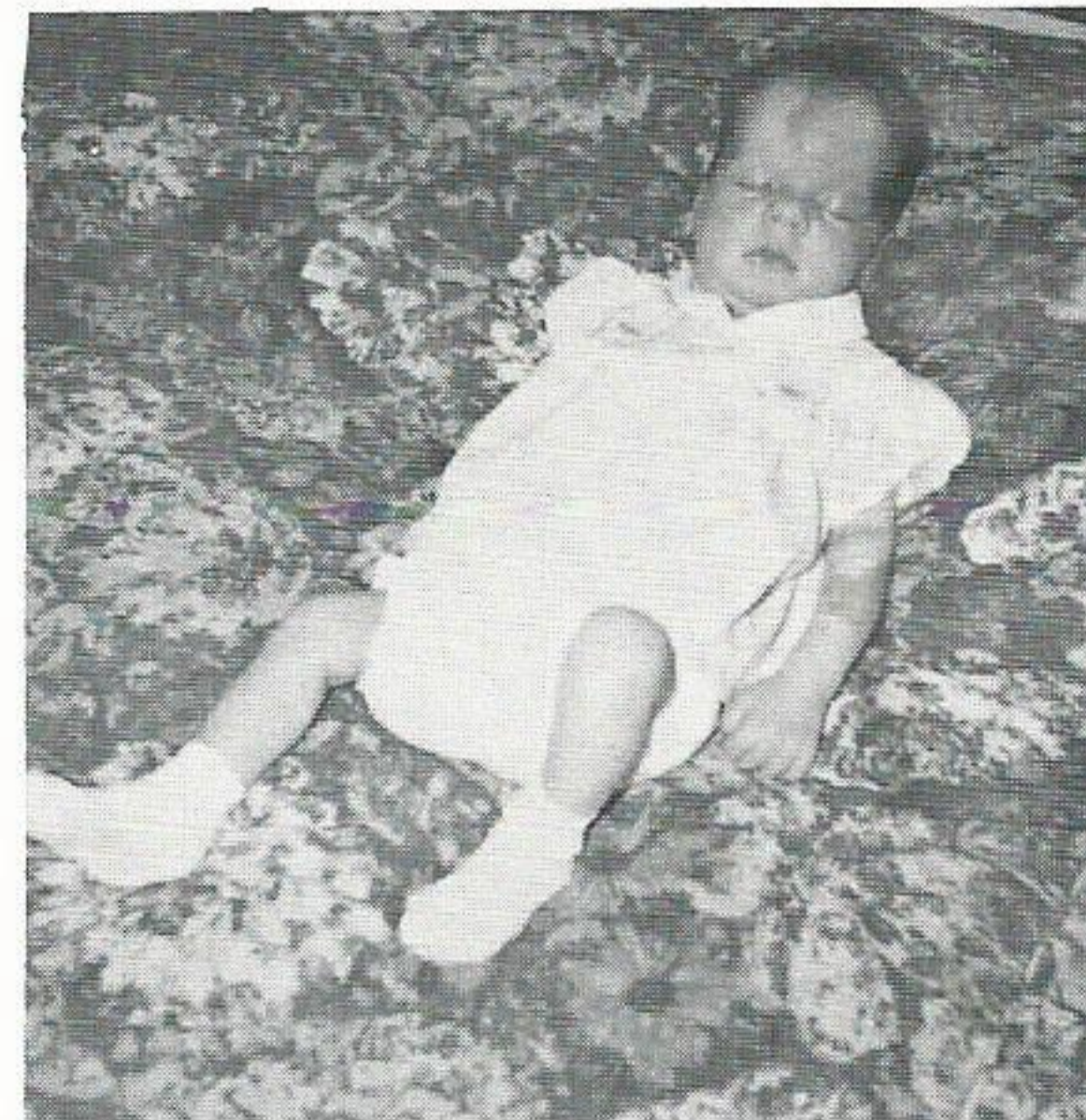
Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Wheless have an addition to their family, a daughter. Rebecca Lynn was born on March 2 at the Women's Hospital in Baton Rouge. Ronnie is an apprentice in the line department. (from **J. W. Bello**)



Smiling happily is Toni Lynn Threeton, great granddaughter of Ed Picou of the Credit and Collections Department in Baton Rouge. Toni Lynn arrived on the scene in October, and this was her first professional portrait. (from **Ed Picou**)



Harold Durden, four year old son of Linda Durden (clerk in Customer Accounting in Baton Rouge), is becoming quite a fisherman. Here he displays a nice string of perch and bass he snared. (from **Linda Durden**)



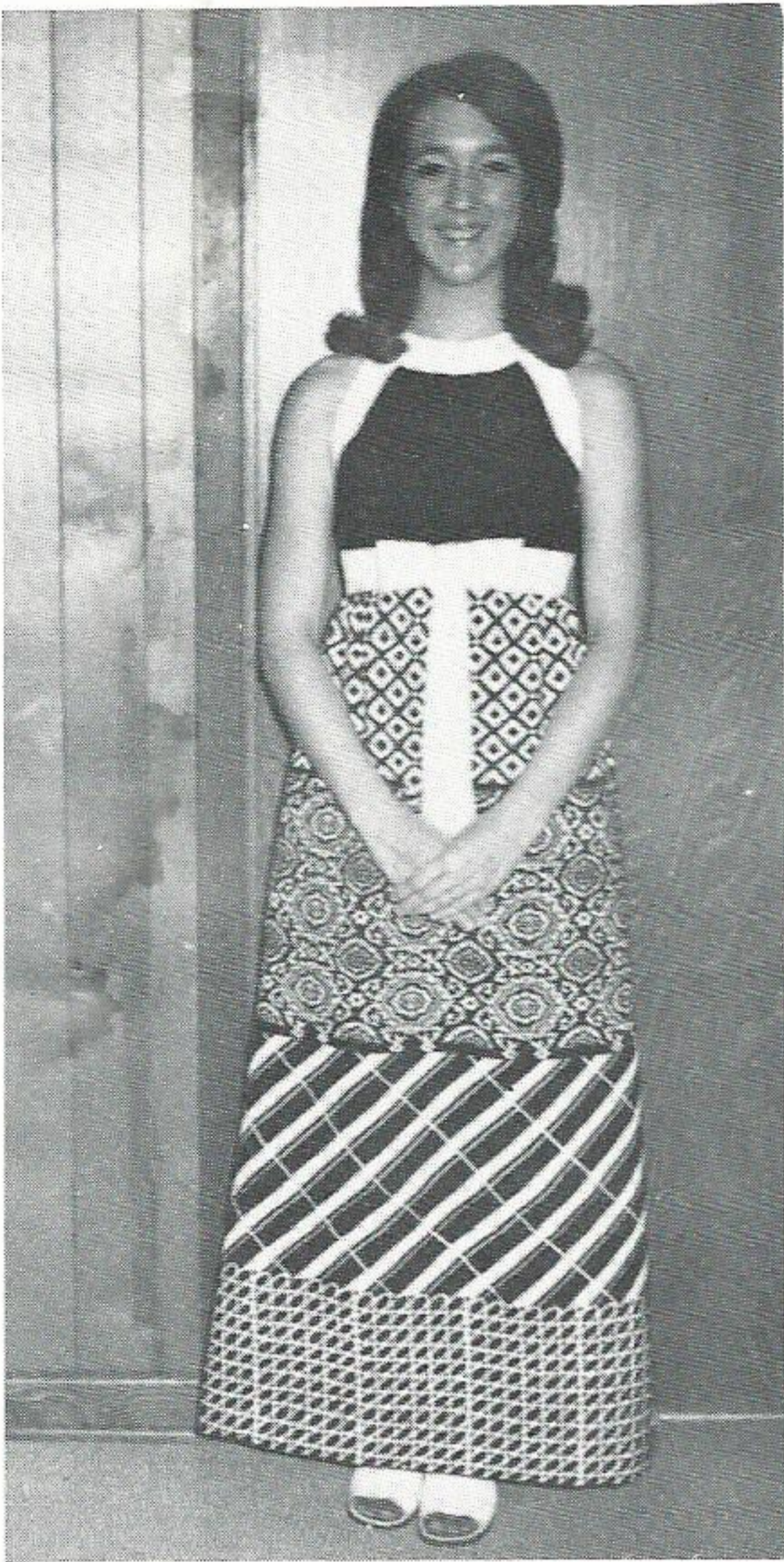
This sleepy young lady is Shirley Mechelle Bailey, brand new daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Bailey. Tony, a truckdriver in the Substation Department at Baton Rouge, says that Shirley was born March 2. It is their first child. (from **Melanie D. Hima**)



Mr. Easter Rabbit left three happy youngsters behind after visiting the Robert L. Pace, Jr., home. Left to right, Jay (3), Pete (1) and Bobby (4) thoroughly enjoy themselves in the sun, following the egg hunt. Bob is a second class mechanic in the Baton Rouge Substation Department. (from **Melanie Hima**)

Robert C. Dawson, serviceman first class in the Baton Rouge Gas Department, held a safety meeting for 75 employees of the Will Chemical Company. The topic of the meeting was safe boating for everyone. (from **Beverly Hull**)

# Lewis Creek — Station —



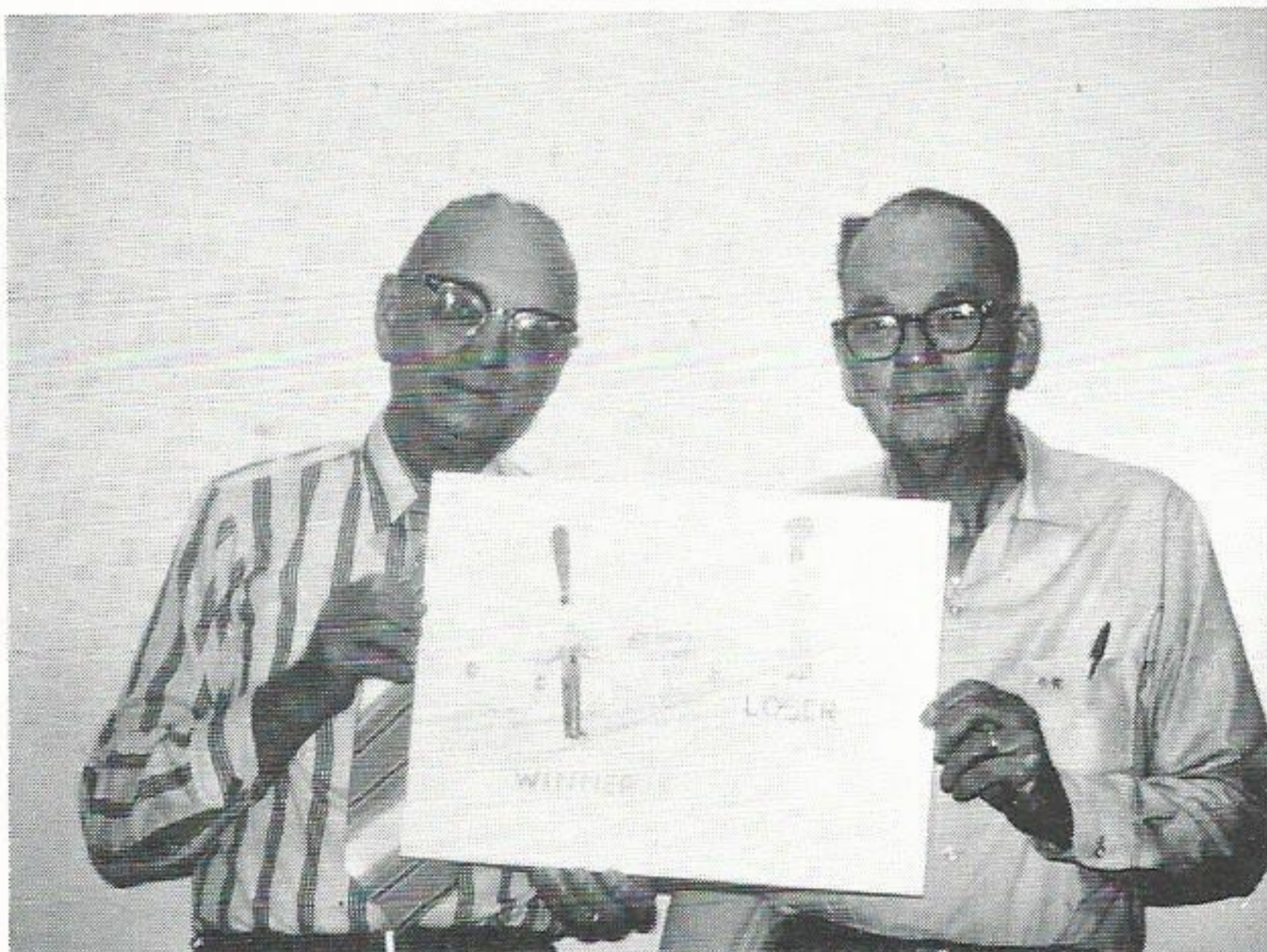
Pretty Cathy Sullivan, daughter of Donald Sullivan (Baton Rouge Sales), poses for mom and dad. Cathy is dressed for the Junior-Senior Prom, an annual event held at Denham Springs High School (from Donald Sullivan)



Carolyn McKenzie, clerk in Credit & Collections in Baton Rouge, is shown with a "Bunny Cake" she baked for her co-workers for Easter. It was so pretty it was almost a shame to cut into it, but they did. (from Henry Joyner)



Scott Bunch, equipment operator at Willis, Texas, holds up a six pound bass which he caught while fishing in the Lewis Creek Lake. This is not the first big bass Scott has pulled from the reservoir, merely his latest. (from James Veatch)



Two old friends at the Choctaw Service Center in Baton Rouge still throw friendly jibes at each other over a contest conducted years ago. Recently, as Carl Harris and Tom Carr were celebrating their 64th birthdays, the story came out again. Carl (left) and Tom were opposing captains on a safety campaign. Tom's team was winning when Carl asked Tom to drive him to the North Blvd. office. When they arrived Carl opened his door and a car hit the opened door. Tom's team was charged with the accident since Tom was driving. As a result of this accident, Carl's team won. But they are still fast friends and many people turned out to help the veterans celebrate. (from Fay Hebert)

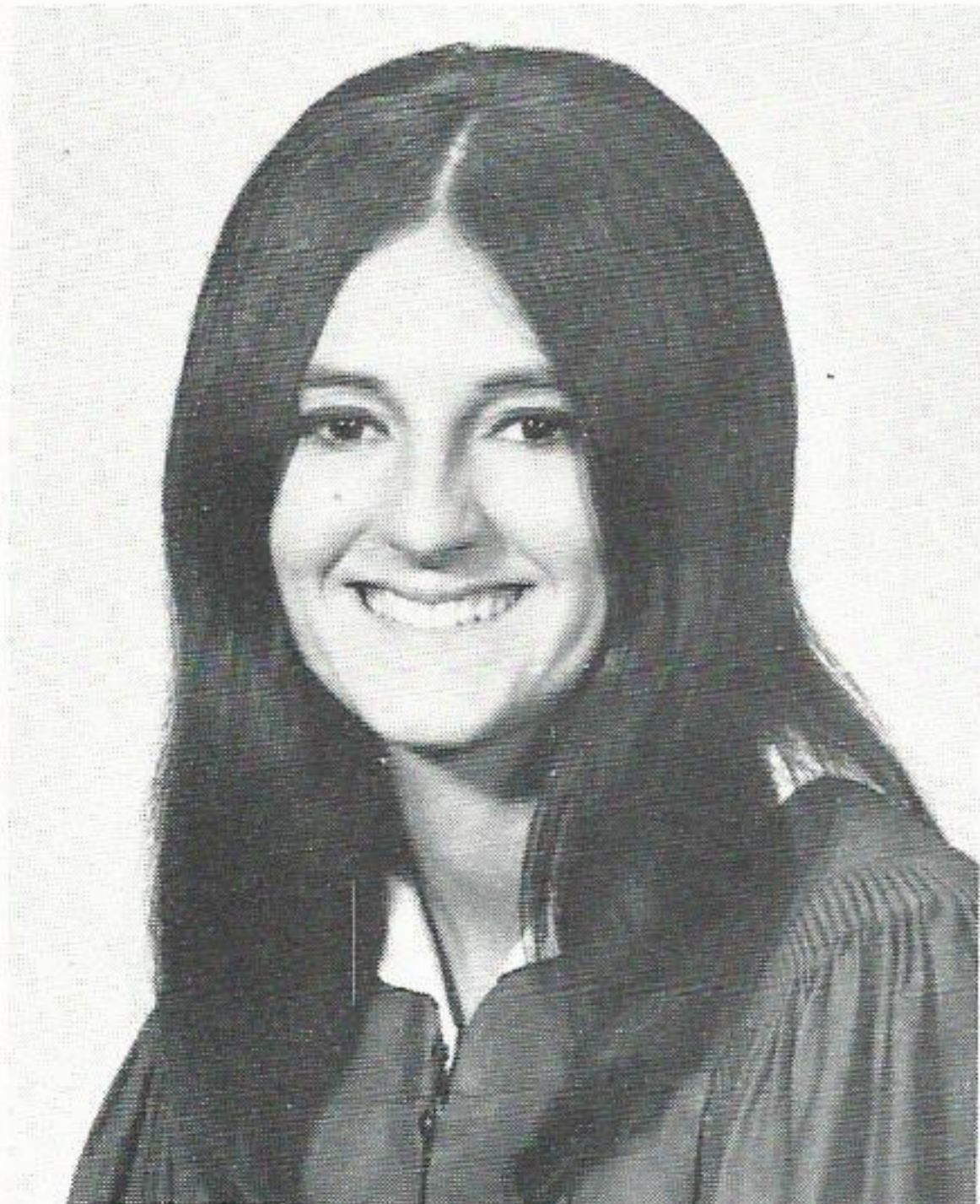


## Orange



Sears Roebuck & Company of Orange recently held an Old Lawn Mower Contest where the person bringing in the oldest mower would receive a new one, compliments of Sears. Ollie Schultz, foreman in the Orange Line Department, was the winner with a Craftsman mower 23-years old. Sears presented Ollie (right) with a brand new 1972 version Craftsman. (from Davie Carpenter)

## Sabine Station



Among the graduating class at Bridge City High School this year will be Debbie Bridgers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. R. Bridgers. K. R. works at Sabine Station. Debbie has been active in school affairs and has received many honors. (from Kathleen Fuller)

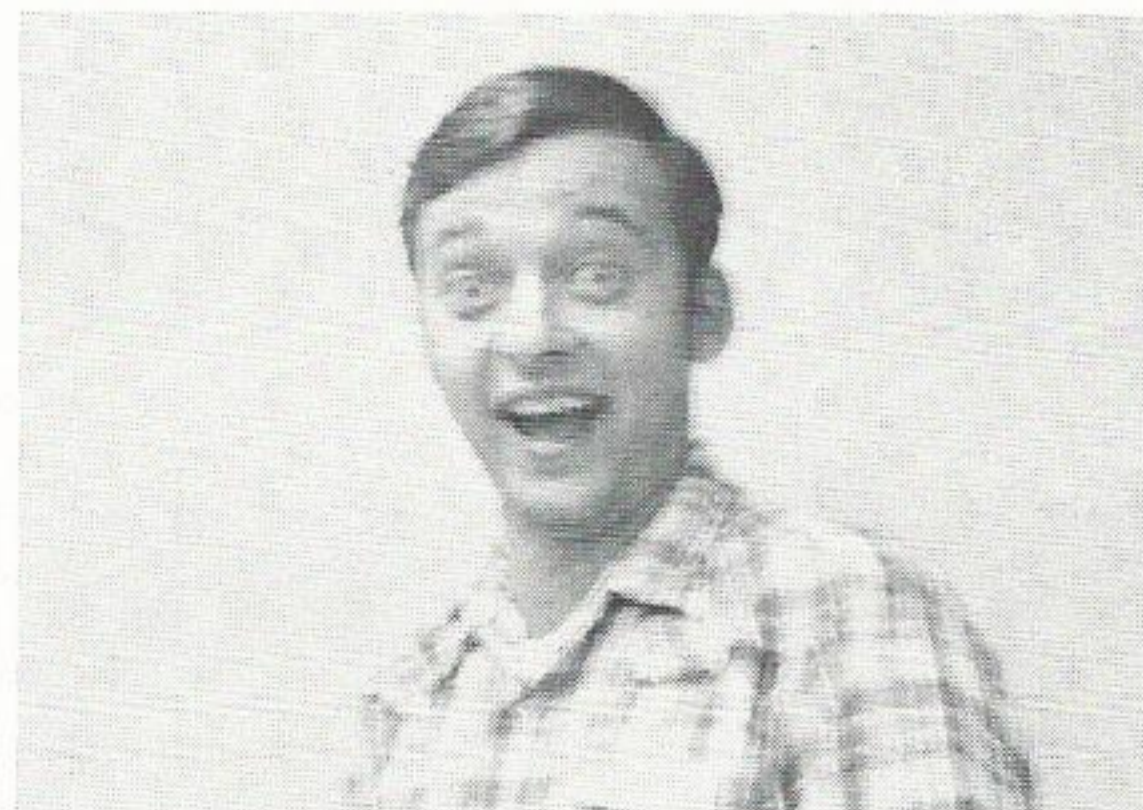
## Conroe



Marcus D. Smith, substation operator, and his wife were the guests of honor recently at a retirement party held in Conroe. L. J. Bodemann, operating superintendent, acted as the host for the event. Many friends and co-workers gathered to honor the popular couple. (from Bobbie Burke)

Frank G. Dupree, Engineering Department in Conroe, suffered multiple fractures to his left leg when he slipped and fell during a fishing trip recently. He was hospitalized for several days and has been spending the rest of his time at home recovering. We understand he has become quite an expert on TV soap operas. Get well soon Frank. (from Frances Elliott)

## Port Arthur



This picture was taken of Tommy Droddy when he was first told of his new son's birth. Thomas Shane Droddy made his appearance April 25. The Droddy's also have a daughter. Tommy is first class meterman in the Port Arthur Division. (from Lorraine Dunham)

## Denham Springs



Ten month old Krista Ann Kelly is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Kelly, Jr., and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Kelly, Sr. (utility foreman in Denham Springs). (from Lenelle M. Juban)



Mary Juban, daughter of Alton Ray and Lenelle Juban, models her Bluebird suit. Mary recently appeared on a local TV show with her troop. Lenelle is a local office clerk in Denham Springs and a reporter for PLAIN TALKS. (from Lenelle M. Juban)

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Tate, of Denham Springs, on the birth of their second child (another boy) Jeffery, born March 18. (from Lenelle M. Juban)



Sheri Lynn Spence is a bundle of energy says Grandpa Gordon L. Hatchell, serviceman first class in Denham Springs. Sheri is the two year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald R. Spence of Denham Springs. (from Lenelle M. Juban)

Our sympathies to Janette B. Roberts, local office clerk in Denham Springs and Gerald Bond, serviceman in Baton Rouge, in the loss of their mother. (from Lenelle M. Juban)

## - Beaumont -

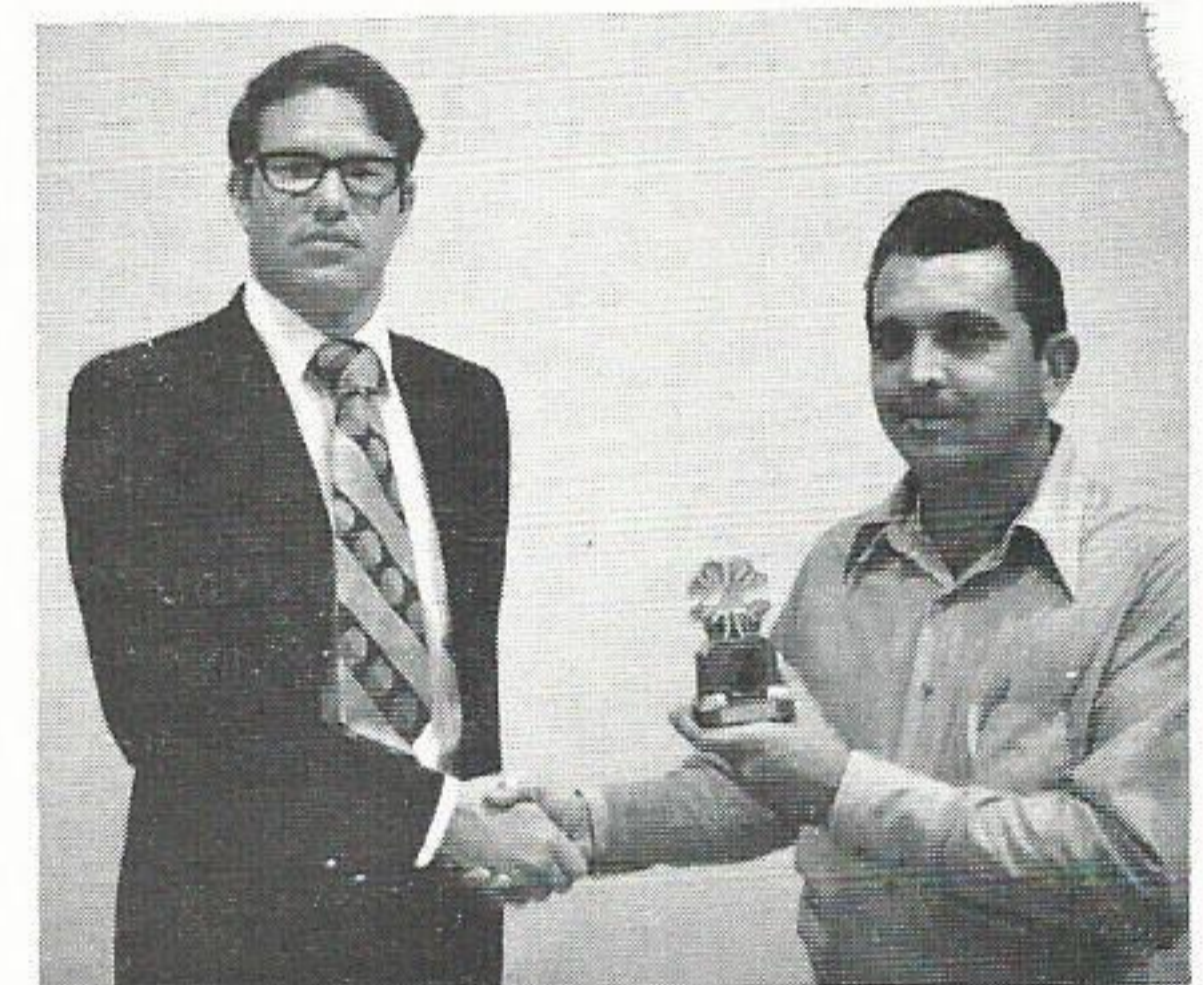


Erin Michele O'Neill (think she might be Irish?), three year old daughter of Ann and Mike O'Neill, puts a strangle hold on "Tiger Poo" while posing for her Easter picture. Ann (secretary in Beaumont Sales) says "Tiger Poo" is used to this loving treatment. (from Dorothy Nowell)

This cute bundle is 14-month old Khristi Cook, daughter of Bernadine and Ralph Cook. Ralph, engineering assistant in Beaumont, gives all the credit to Bernadine. (from Dorothy Nowell)



Katherine Cascio (seated on table) was the guest of honor recently at a going away party and shower thrown for her by her friends and co-workers in duplicating on the sixth floor of the main office in Beaumont. Kathy left the company to get married and now sports a new name, Kathy Lewis. (from The Editor)



George Hickman, right, Beaumont Service Center, presents a 4-H trophy to Hugh Milton for his work with the Deweyville 4-H Club. George, whose two daughters have both won many honors for their 4-H work, is a sponsor of the Deweyville 4-H Club. (from Bill Toups)

## — Lake Charles —

Ed Welch and his wife, Ginne, are proud to announce the arrival of a son, Brian Keith. Brian was born on that "greatest of days" March 17, St. Patrick's Day. The world's newest Irishman weighed in at seven pounds, four ounces. (from Johnnie Harris)

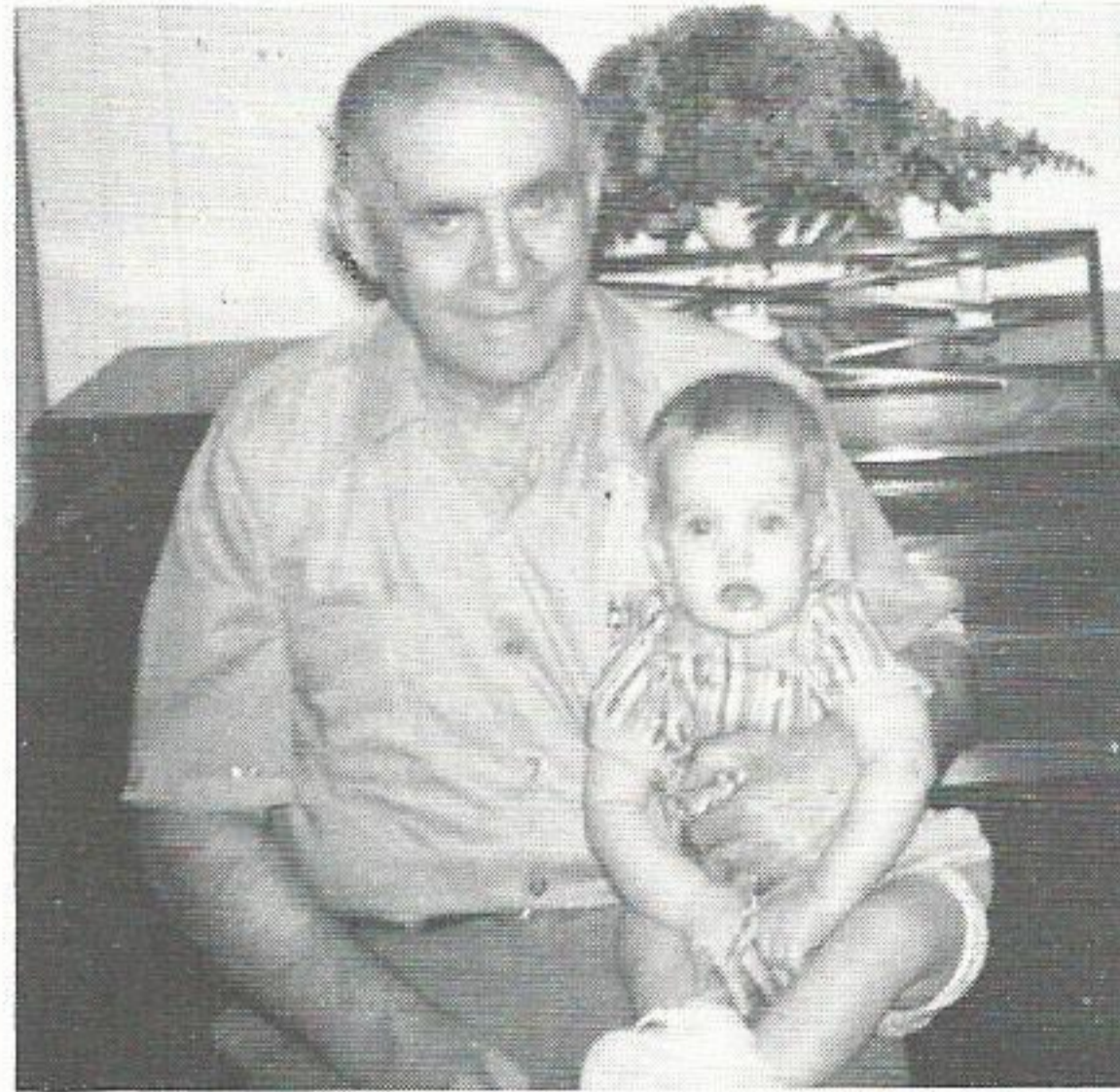
Pam Ford, Home Service Advisor in the Lake Charles Division, was recently married to Charles W. Burns, also of Lake Charles. The couple were married in the University Methodist Church in Lake Charles. (from Pam Case)



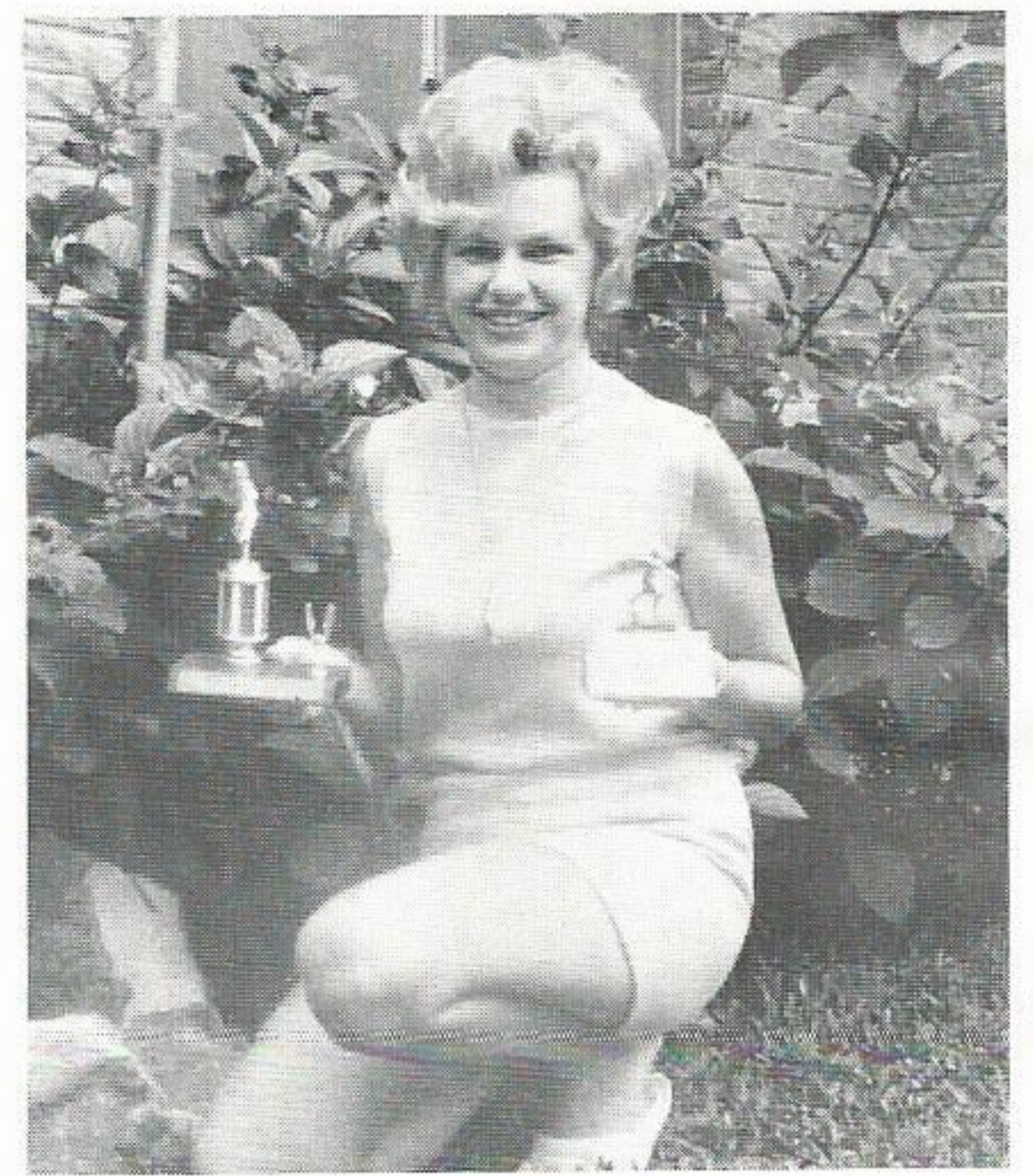
Congratulations to Mrs. Joyce Guillory for being chosen Secretary of the Day by KIKS Radio Station in Sulphur. She is secretary of Calvin Hall, safety director of the Lake Charles Division. (from Pam Case)

Suzanne Hanks recently won First Place with her Economics Project at the Social Studies and Science Fair held at College Oaks where she is a fifth grade student. It is one of four winning projects going to the Social Studies Fair at McNeese. She also won a second place ribbon on the project she entered in the Science Division. Suzanne is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wiltz Hanks. Wiltz is in the Communications Department at Lake Charles. (from Johnnie Harris)

Sonnier Electric Bowling Team, comprised of all Gulf States employees, placed second this year in the Lake Charles Industrial League. Our congratulations to Harry Stelly, Johnny Prejean, Slim Frederick, Columbus Hanks, Carol Foreman, Hubert Landry and Gene Mullin. This same group has not placed lower than 3rd in the last five years, winning First Place last year, 2nd Place two times and Third Place two times. (from Johnnie Harris)



A. J. "Frenchy" Verret of Lake Charles, a retired company man, enjoys a visit with his great-grandson, Eric Charles Hanson. Eric is the son of Frenchy's daughter's daughter, Mrs. Charles Hanson of Alexandria, Va. (from Pam Case)



Sonja Paris, better half of Roger Paris (engineering assistant in Lake Charles), was honored by her bowling league with the Sportsmanship Trophy, the second straight year she has won it. Sonja also picked up a trophy for most improved bowler. (from Johnnie Harris)



Leo Castete, left, truck driver in the T&D Department in Lake Charles, was honored by a party for his retirement in February. His friends, bosses and co-workers met at the Substation Department for a big fish fry and presented Leo with a rod and reel, and a line truck full of money. (from Johnnie Harris)



Sgt. Billy Bertrand, Louisiana State Police Narcotics Division, presented a series of lectures on drugs and drug abuse recently in Lake Charles. Here, a group of company employees gather around the youthful looking officer to ask questions following his impressive talk. (from Johnnie Harris)

The Lynn Benoit's have a new daughter, Kimberly Rene, who also arrived on St. Pat's Day. She weighed in a five pounds, 13 and a half ounces. Lynn is a lineman Fourth Class in the L.C. Line Department. (from Johnnie Harris)

The Jean Mouton's of Lake Charles have a new arrival to their family. He showed up on February (not totally unexpected.) Ricky Sean checked in weighing six pounds, nine ounces. (from Johnnie Harris)

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