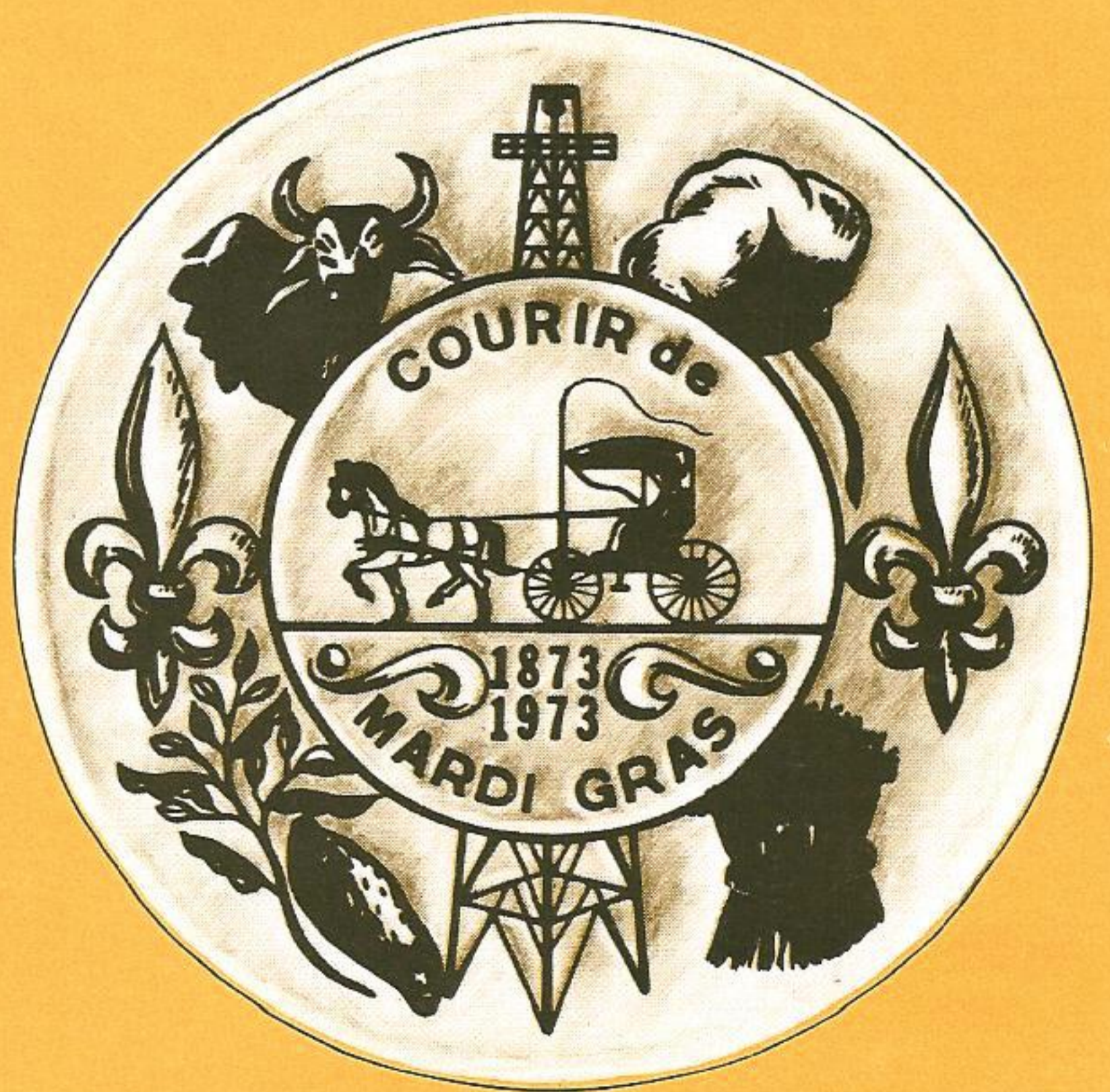
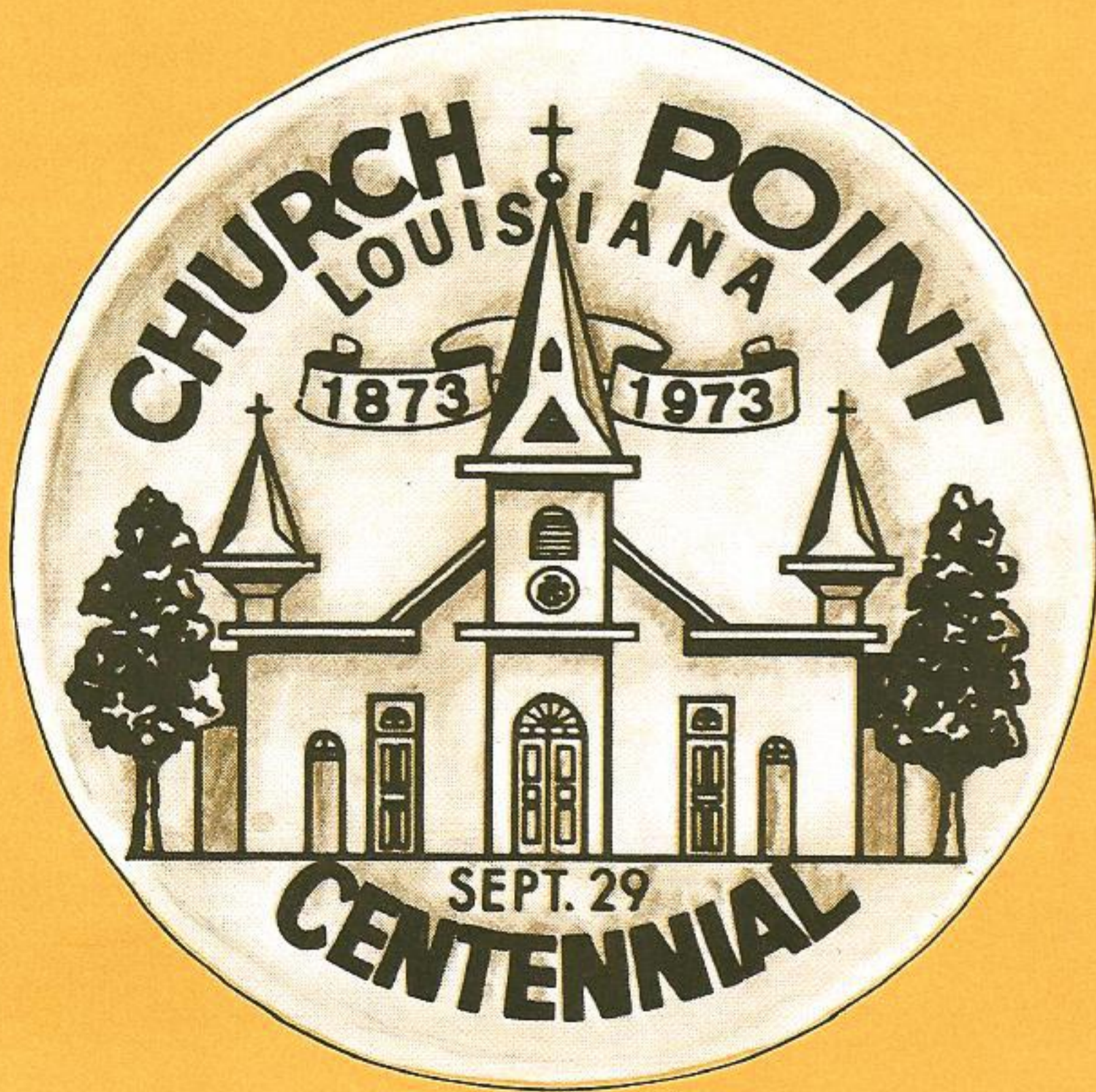


# Plain Talks & News

NOVEMBER, 1973



*"Lessez Le Bon Ton Roule!"*

# The Right To Speak

The freedom to communicate is the very foundation of liberty. Yet across the U. S. the right of the nation's electric companies to speak to the public they serve through advertising is being challenged. As an industry spokesman puts it, "Utilities, probably more than any other type of business or industrial enterprise, are dependent on the goodwill of the public they serve."

The people of the U. S. have the biggest stake in continued freedom of speech for the electric industry. For example, there is a growing danger of power shortages in many areas of the country. Informed public opinion is the only thing that will ensure that wise policies are adopted that realistically protect the environment but also stop endless delay of needed power plant construction. The people must understand that power plants, to supply growing demand, can't be built unless rates for electric service are high enough to pay the cost of building them, including a return on the capital invested to do the job.

The ability of the electric industry to provide the energy that makes our homes, factories, hospitals, businesses and cities live depends, as never before, upon informed public opinion. To deny local electric companies the right to speak to their customers, even on matters critically affecting the ability of those companies to supply electric service now and in the future, is totally incomprehensible. **(This is a reprint from the Conroe Daily Courier)**



Volume 51

Number 8

November, 1973

<i>"Laissez Le Bon Ton Roule!"</i> .....	2
<i>Fair Rate Of Return</i> .....	4
<i>GSU News</i> .....	8
<i>People On The Move</i> .....	12
<i>Service Awards</i> .....	14
<i>Retirements</i> .....	15
<i>Coffee Cup</i> .....	16
<i>Welcome Aboard</i> .....	20



Centennial, p. 2

Published Monthly By  
Consumer Communication Dept.

GULF STATES UTILITIES CO.  
P. O. Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Joe E. DeJean, Coordinator,  
Consumer Communication  
Mike Shurtleff, Editor  
Pat McMeel, Contributing Editor, Beaumont  
Frank Jones, Contributing Editor, Baton Rouge

Member:  
 **Houston**

**The Cover:**

*The famous race between the ox team and locomotive: just one of the many exciting events that took place during the Church Point Centennial.*

# "Lessez Le Bon Ton Roule!"

September 29, 1973 marked the 100th birthday of Church Point, Louisiana. In commemorating the occasion, a centennial celebration was held on that day—and it will be *long* remembered in the minds of all that attended. Intermittent rain showers during the day didn't dampen the spirits of the crowd one iota, to say the least.

A full weekend of activities was slated for the "Buggy Capitol of the World," and a full weekend it was! As the following pictures will indicate, there is no doubt whatsoever that these fine citizens and visitors of Church Point "let the good times roll!"



Church Point Mayor Andrew Vidrine (at microphone) and the Centennial Committee opened the day's celebration — setting the stage for the entertainment that was soon to come. To Mayor Vidrine's left in the picture is the Centennial Queen.



When the good times roll, the people show up "en masse." And the Church Point Centennial was no exception; the majority of the townspeople as well as many visitors covered the streets, seeing the sights as well as participating in the festivities.



Included in the festivities was an all-day carnival, as seen above the crowd. Children, as well as parents, kept the rides occupied throughout the day.



Naturally the wearing apparel matched the occasion. Long dresses, bonnets, coveralls and straw hats were reminiscent of what was the fad 100 years ago.



This is the Church Point dubloon, designed by Dr. R. L. Savoy, Kenneth Dugas, Mrs. D. V. Richard and Paul Olivier. The art work was done by Basil Belis, well-known Lafayette artist. The front of the dubloon (top) depicts the name Church Point, La., the dates and date of the centennial. The back is centered with the old time horse and buggy, designation of Church Point as the "Buggy Capitol of The World." In the inner circle of the design the nationally famous "Courrier de Mardi Gras," traditional Acadian observance of the Mardi Gras season is featured and the circle is superimposed in representations of the major crops — cotton, rice, yams, soybeans and cattle, and the oil industry, all of which are flourishing in this area today. Completing the dubloon, the French Fleur-de-lis signifies the Acadian descent of the large majority of early families, with many representatives still playing major roles in the 100-year-old community today.



The Church Point Volunteer Fire Department staged a water fight, dividing into two teams and scoring points by knocking each other's hats off with the powerful streams of hose-fed water. Points were deducted if a fireman fell down or held his hat on by the chin strap. It took three watery battles before a victor emerged, but the fun was in the battle, which brought shouts of encouragement from the throng of rooters.



Another highlight of the days' events was the much-awaited race between the ox team and "Church Point Cannon Ball." Pre-race information listed the ox team as a 3 to 1 favorite, but as the picture indicates, a slight delay allowed the "Cannon Ball" to overcome the odds and win the race by a cattle catcher (or ox catcher, as the case may be).

Unfortunately, space doesn't allow for all the events of the Church Point Centennial to be shown. Other noteworthy events included a parade, burying of the time capsule (which contained an issue of Plain Talks by Pat McMeel, covering last year's Cajun Mardi Gras), a rodeo and dance.

The Centennial was a historical success, leaving many wishing they could be around for the 200th birthday celebration. If any of this year's attendees are still around in the year 2073, you can bet your boudin that the good times will roll again!

# What Is The Company's

## "Fair Rate Of Return?"

A phrase common to utility companies is "fair rate of return." These four words are, in actuality, the backbone of our Company's economic status. PLAIN TALKS interviewed Jerry Stokes-vice president over finances, and found out why we need a "fair rate of return."

To put this in its proper context, we should review several things that bear on the question as it pertains to our industry. In our business world, the electric utility industry is unique in several respects, both physical and economic. And the physical has an effect on the economic, with which we are concerned here. The utility business is different in that competition does not necessarily make for lower consumer costs, nor is it conducive to business health in general. Let's take, for example, two electric systems in a given community. Each one has to make investments to serve that community, but that fact itself won't stimulate any more business, nor will it create any more customers. In fact, because of the disproportionate high capital investments each one has to make, the rates have to be high and the customers suffer, and ultimately the utility suffers, as we shall see. The industry found this out early in its history, specifically in Chicago, where there were a number of utility companies, all trying to serve the one city. Most of the investors lost money because the companies couldn't compete on this basis and remain profitable.

**Q. Would this compare to bargaining against each other, just as a retailer would?**

**A.** Well, yes and no! Remember, there weren't any more customers, so I guess the companies were, in this respect, bargaining against themselves. In many cases all they got was a switching of customers back and forth from one utility to another. Of course, they didn't all fail, but eventually there was only one company left. It finally became apparent, however, that



**"The utility business is different in that competition does not necessarily make for lower consumer costs, nor is it conducive to business health in general."**

for the utility business, competition didn't result in the emergence of several strong companies bringing an increasingly better product at ever-lowered cost to their customers. So, in this respect it was not like retailers, as we know them, bargaining against each other. The utilities in general didn't gain anything overall, but they still had the high capital investment on which they had to earn a profit, and it was impossible in that environment. So the solution to this intolerable situation was regulation. Regulation was to take the place of competition and, as an offset, utilities ultimately were to serve a given area without having to compete with another similar company. Historically, competition has usually eliminated the gouging or unscrupulous dealer and also made for better products and generally lower prices.

Regulation came in and said that you're going to be allowed to earn only so much on your investment and you have to go through a process of analysis to determine what amount

you're going to be allowed to earn. Basically, what I'm saying is that the regulators are supposed to take the position of the company and the position of the consumer and see that each gets fair treatment. In our country, we have many such regulatory bodies. The Federal government has regulatory agencies and then virtually each state has a similar body, although there are some states that don't have one for our industry. Most of the states have a Public Service Commission which regulates the utilities. The regulators, as I said, must see that the consumer is charged a fair rate and must allow the utility companies the opportunity to earn a fair rate of return on their investment in the process of providing their services.

**Q. What do we mean by fair rate of return?**

**A.** It's really simple. We tend to complicate it when getting into a rate case, because it does become involved for several reasons which I'll mention later. But to give you an example of the definition of rate of return, the best one I can think of is a situation with which we all are familiar. If you go to the bank and borrow \$1,000, and the bank charges an interest rate of 10%, it is that 10% charge which is the bank's rate of return. The interest rate is to take care of the cost of money to the bank plus the cost of administering the loan. Now apply this same example, or definition if you will, to the utility business. It's virtually the same thing, except that at the bank you have a cash transaction; and, in the utility arrangement, you have a service and the customer pays a cost for the service. This is the basis of the rate of return that the utility gets to cover its investment cost as well as the cost of providing the service. The investment of the utility company on which this rate of return is earned or should be earned are the things that we see every day in our business; the power plants, the transmission lines, distribution lines, service wires, meters and the buildings and materials and supplies that we need to render the dependable service to which our customers are entitled.

In the rate making procedure, this investment is also called the rate base, or rather it is the main component of the rate base. There are several concepts used by the regulatory bodies in the analysis required to come to the worth of the investment, or the rate base, on which we are allowed to earn. At Gulf States, however, we are concerned with only two of

them. Operating in two states as we do, we have two of the main concepts as guides in arriving at our "fair rate of return." In Louisiana we have the original cost basis, and in Texas we have what is called a fair value basis.

That means in Louisiana, which has a state commission, we can earn our fair return, sometimes called our required rate of return, on the original cost of the property less depreciation. Depreciation means a depreciation accrual, which sum is deducted annually from the original cost of our plant facilities and provides for the wear and tear on our equipment.

There are certain things which are not allowed, however, and these are some of the technicalities you run into in a rate case. These are items such as deferred taxes, and contributions in aid of construction and customers advances. In Texas, we earn on what is called the fair value of the property. Fair value is a higher worth level because it tends somewhat to keep pace with the current cost of facilities.

Because of the nature of these value concepts, you arrive at a different rate base figure for each state. Also a different rate of return is allowed on an original cost basis than is allowed in a fair value situation. For example, a higher rate is allowed in the original cost situation because the base is lower. However, the net result is roughly the same since the object in either case is to allow the utility company an equitable or fair rate of return.



**"Operating in two states as we do, we have two of the main concepts as guides in arriving at our 'fair rate of return.' In Louisiana we have the original cost basis, and in Texas we have what is called a fair value basis."**

**Q. We know Gulf States is an investor-owned utility, but what exactly does that mean? How**

(Cont.)

**is Gulf States financed?**

A. These are logical questions and tie into your original question on what is a fair rate of return. The reason that we must have a fair rate of return is to create and sustain a sound business in which one is willing to invest money.

Like all businesses, somebody must put up money to provide the facilities, which are the basis of the business. Because of its uniqueness, the utility company's money requirement is greater than ordinary businesses we know, such as a retail store or most manufacturing plants. Because of the large capital investment required for a utility, the relative return through revenues on that investment is very low. In our industry we receive approximately \$1 of annual revenues for each \$5 of investment; and, in the merchandise business, for instance, only a \$1 investment is needed for \$1 of revenue.

Because of this great money need, we are called a capital intensive industry. And since we are an investor-owned profit oriented utility, we can't ask a city, state or federal government to contribute tax monies to finance our needs. Rather, we must go to the open money market and "sell" our company — its reputation and its prospects — at the best price we can generate in competition with other utility companies—and in fact all other businesses which must, likewise, raise money in this fashion. This "selling" of the company is figurative, of course, because we actually sell types of securities which represent either a share of the company or a guarantee that we will pay back any money invested as a loan. It is this process of raising funds from voluntary investors that results in our being "investor-owned."

Gulf States is going to the money markets once or maybe twice a year. We borrow from investors throughout the world through the sale of our common stock, bonds and preferred stocks. On an interim or short term basis, there are other means, such as borrowing from banks and selling commercial paper, which are promissory notes. But these items build up — and we can let them go up to only a certain dollar amount, when we have to fund them. This means obtaining on a long term basis money with which to pay down the short term borrowings.

With the sale of common stock, we actually sell a piece of the business, or a part of the equity. The bonds, which traditionally in our business are 30-year mortgage bonds, are evi-

dence of a secured debt, to be repaid in 30 years. The preferred stocks, which are perpetual in effect, are hybrid securities evidencing another form of debt, which puts the holder ahead of the equity owner but subordinate to the bond holder. These are the basic forms of securities that we sell. We have also sold debentures; in fact, we have a debenture issue outstanding now, which matures in 1981. These are a form of bonds, without collateral.

The tabulation below lists the different forms of capital and their relative percentages for capitalization:

Form of Capital (1)	Current Cost of New Capital (approx.) (2)	% of Capital (3)	Weighted Cost of Capital (2) x (3) (4)
Borrowed Funds	7.75%	50.0%	3.875
Preferred Stock	8.00%	12.0%	0.960
Common Stock	14.00%	33.0%	4.620
Deferred Taxes, Contributions, etc.	0%	5.0%	0.0
Rate of Return required			9.455%

This is a typical utility company (comparable to GSU) cost of capital and rate of return required. This is part of the data submitted to the regulatory bodies as an exhibit justifying money costs.

Q. Going back to what you originally said, regulatory bodies figure a fair rate of return. In today's society and without regulation, if Gulf States decided their own fair rate of return, how would that effect the public?

A. I think we have to first set the stage. You would have to establish some hypotheses, which would mean that you would have to reconstruct the business philosophy entirely. In some situations, things might work out to the advantage of all parties concerned; for instance, small subsidized electric operations could be merged with more efficient systems. On the other hand, a lot of anti-trust litigation could result and, as in the early days, some efforts to compete directly could be very costly to investors and customers as well. However, I think that since regulation is an accomplished fact and something we're going to live with, it would be a useless exercise to say, "if you take the government out of the business, what would the situation be?"

Q. Then, from this standpoint, is it good that utilities are government regulated?

(Cont.)



A. There is no better solution, as I pointed out earlier. Competition didn't work. The utility business started out on that basis, but it just can't work to the point where you can have an efficient public service. Our own Company went through this same situation in several instances. Years ago, we had municipal competition in the cities of Liberty, Jasper, Hempstead and Caldwell, and we found that we just split the aggregate revenues between the two systems. As I mentioned earlier, there was a constant change in the composition of customers. Since we are obligated by law to serve all comers, we found that the customer that didn't want to pay his municipal system bill, or got mad at the city government, would come over to our system, and vice versa. There was an economic loss in this process, to say nothing of the economic inefficiency of maintaining two systems.

There was a further problem in those cities, because there were two sets of distribution lines — one on one side of the street and one on the other, sometimes even crossing each other. It was unsightly, uneconomical and just an intolerable situation. I would have to say regulation is the best substitute for competition in that environment.

**Q. But isn't it true that our business has competition?**

A. There is no lack of competition in our business. We have a misunderstanding in this context because under regulation a territory is more or less exclusively served by a single utility, creating the misnomer known as a monopoly or a near monopoly situation. Obviously we don't have a monopoly; we have competition with other fuels, and most important, we have competition for the consumer's dollar. He doesn't have to have an electrical consuming device; he can spend his money on a Coleman lantern and a motor boat or an ice box and a motorcycle. Nor can we take it for granted that we're automatically going to serve an area if there is another utility nearby that can also serve it.

**Q. So this substantiates the theory that we're not "the only utility in town," and, therefore, we can't act like one; is this right?**

A. Under no circumstances can we act as if we're the only utility in town. And we certainly don't want to ever be accused of such actions or attitudes. A utility has to maintain good service and fair treatment in every respect, or eventually the consumers will throw the rascals out, just as they do elected officials. After all, we hold franchises to serve, predicated

upon providing good service at reasonable rates.

**Q. How do rate increases, and even the lack of rate increases, affect our fair rate of return? How closely, in other words, are rate increases linked with fair rates of return?**

A. The rate increase per se has historically had little shift in our business under normal conditions. We went 18 years after our first and only rate increase, which was in 1952, and we never had another one until last year. That is 18 years between getting an increase and asking for another one. In that time span, we had numerous rate reductions. In fact, rate reductions have in the past been the pattern for the utility industry, and is the reason we have continually increased the sale of electric energy and expanded. As the price has gone down, the use has gone up.


The rate increase comes into play because the cost of living, in effect, went up at an abnormal rate. It outstripped the gains — the economic gains we could make through the use of larger power plants and systems, more efficient equipment and service and improved technology. Inflation is the big contributor to the increased cost of living. When you get beyond the point where you can't earn a fair rate of return on your business under normal conditions, you have to ask for an increase of rates. You reach the ultimate in these other things, like belt tightening and cost-saving devices and procedures that enable you to absorb external increases over a short period of time. But when they're dramatic and continuous, then the only alternative is to go back and ask for an increase in the price for which you sell the service. If a company is denied an adequate rate increase and it gets to the point where it is not earning or will soon not be able to earn a fair rate of return, things begin to go from bad to worse.

The first thing that happens, and it takes a little time, is that there is a deterioration of service, and consumers begin to suffer and complain. Keep in mind, the company is still basically required to serve all comers and can't discriminate against any of them in quality of service or rates. The next thing that happens is that investors look elsewhere for places to put their money because they are looking for a fair return on their investment. To attract them back, or to woo other investors, the company has to sweeten the pot by paying higher interest rates or dividends. This, of course, requires still higher rates and we have a vicious cycle which could, in extreme cases, end in the company being unable to continue operations.

# GSU NEWS



Members of the Gulf States' Speakers Bureau gathered recently in Lake Charles to get the "latest word" on the boiling water nuclear reactor from the people who manufacture the product . . . General Electric. Lynn Wallis, right, flew in from San Jose, Calif., to make the presentation, representing GE. Speakers Bureau personnel have been quite active in presenting the Company's posture concerning the nuclear generation of electricity to various civic groups and business representatives.



**Gene Mullin**

Gene Mullin, Sulphur district superintendent, has been elected 1973-74 president of the West Calcasieu Association of Commerce. His duties as new president will begin November 1.

## Jennings Student Travels To Guatemala

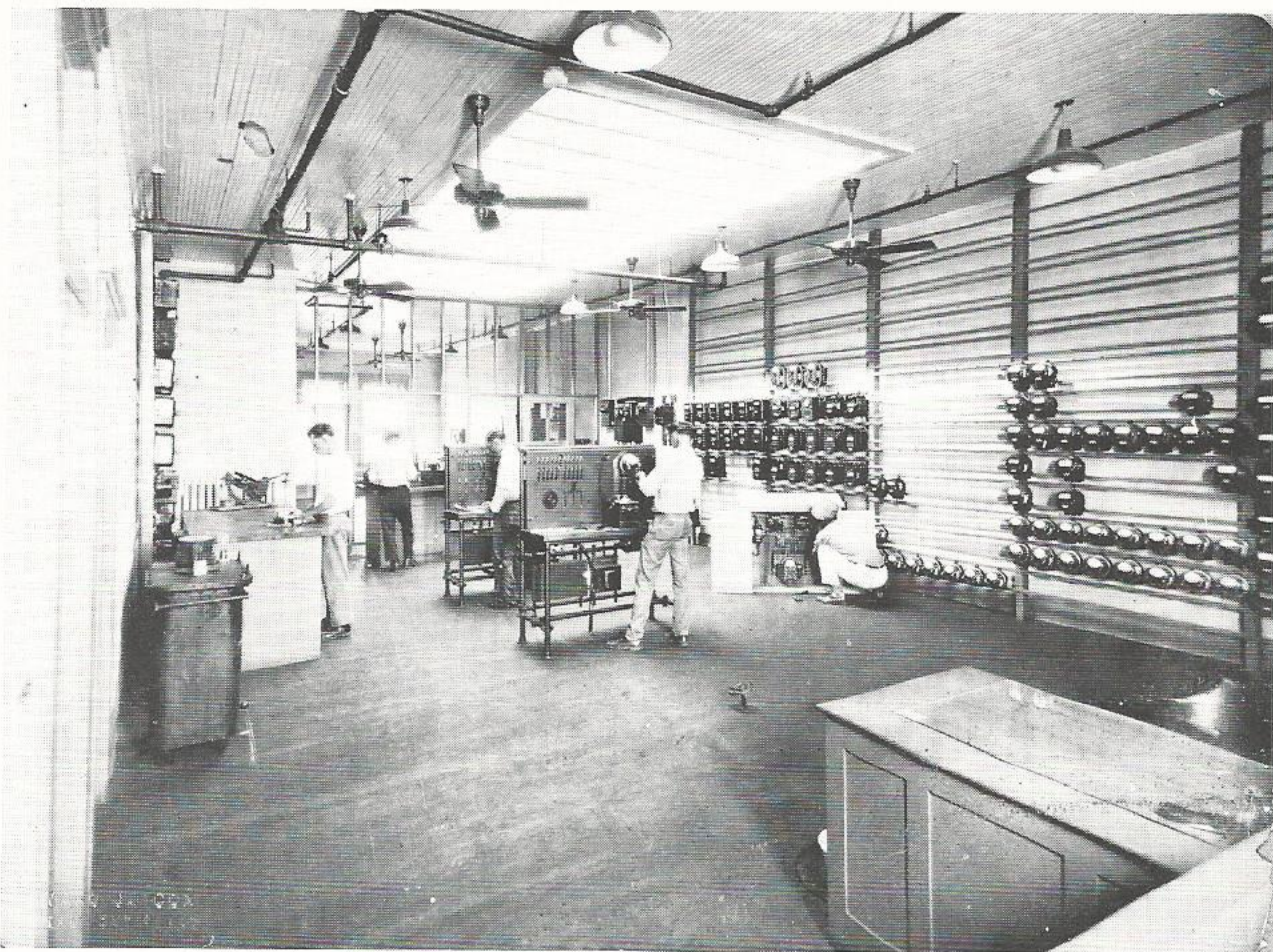
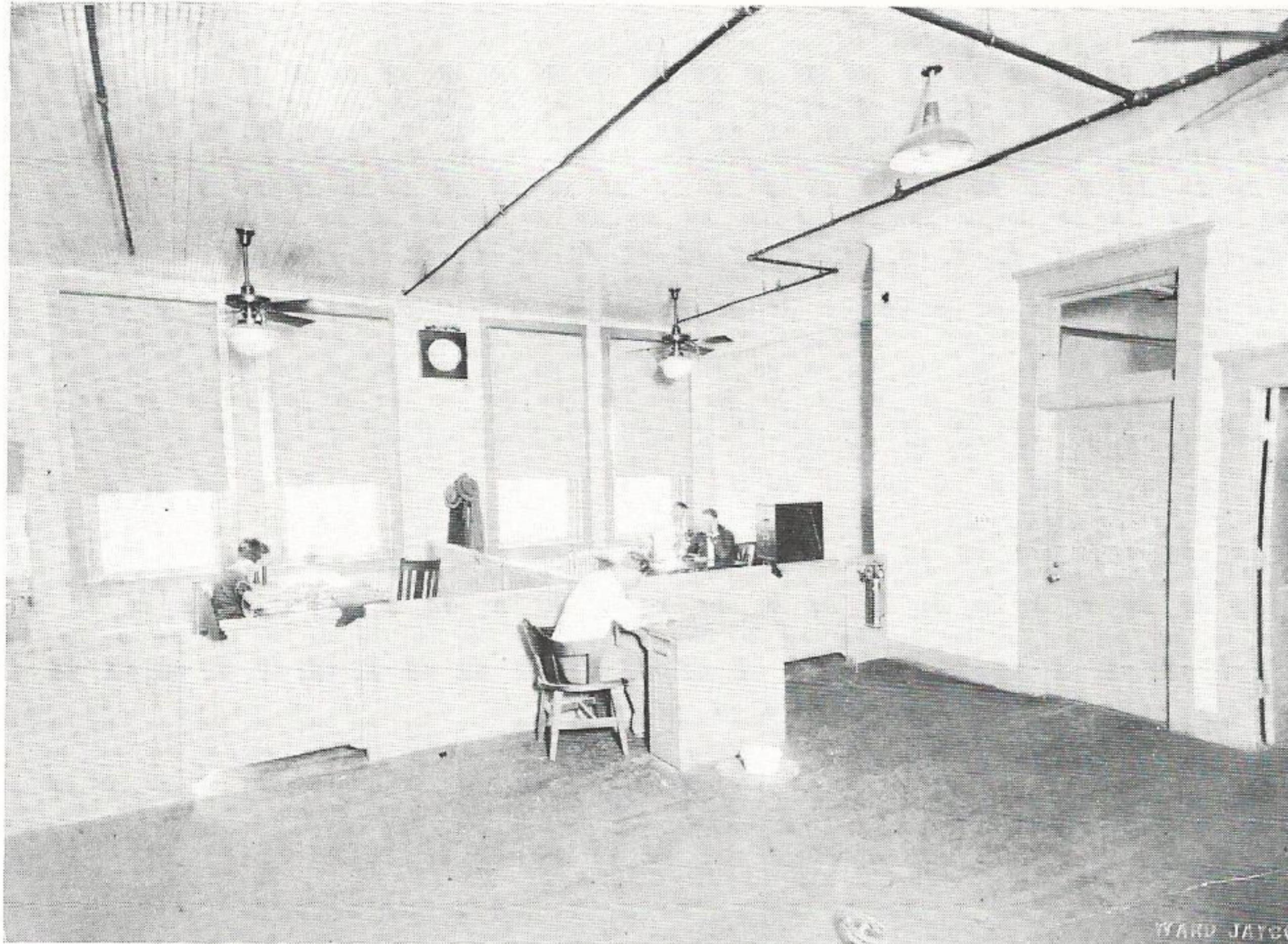
Donna Dronet, daughter of Lillie Dronet (Jennings office clerk), was asked by the Jaycees of Jennings, as an exchange student, to go to Guatemala for three weeks and live in the home of a family in Guatemala City. Altogether there were 48 students from Louisiana that flew via Taca Airline from New Orleans. While there, one of the cities they visited was Antigua, the oldest city in Guatemala. Donna lived with the Raphael Pinol family. Mr. Pinol's great grandfather was once the president of Guatemala.



**Donna Dronet**

Mr. Pinol is a geologist and owns a coffee bean plantation. During the three weeks, Donna was taken to the Pinol's beach home on the Pacific Coast and to the farm in the mountains. In November, during their vacation time, the Dronet's will have a Guatemalan student living with them for three weeks. She will attend school, and be just like a member of the family.

# Way Back When...



These old pictures were found in a desk at the Beaumont Service Center. They're 1925 vintage, and show the Meter Department at the old Company Building on Beaumont's Travis Street. Much of the equipment and fixtures shown would no doubt be collector's items today. (Pictures compliments of Carolyn Motl—Beaumont Service Center)

## Deaths

**Gertrude Peddy**, retired departmental clerk and a familiar face around the Beaumont Substation Department for years, died on Oct. 6, almost seven years to the day after her retirement in 1966.

Mrs. Peddy, employed as the first woman meter reader during World War II, was a 24-year veteran of the Company upon her retirement. After reading meters for two years, she was transferred and made a customer accounting clerk, and later switched to the Purchasing Department as a clerk. In 1955 she was made a departmental clerk at the Beaumont Substation, where she finished out her working career.

A native of Beaumont, Mrs. Peddy attended South Park High School, and was very active in the Business and Professional Women's Club of Beaumont. She is survived by her three children.

**Marvin Cox**, a utility foreman in the Port Arthur T&D Department who retired in May, died on Sept. 2.

Cox had completed 27-years of service when he retired. He was employed in 1946 as a helper, and progressed through various classifications to serviceman-first class in 1951. In 1966 he was promoted to utility foreman.

A native of Joaquin in East Texas, Cox attended public schools in the Joaquin area. He joined the Army in 1943 during the Second World War, and served until 1946.

He is survived by his wife, the former Fannie Marie Dry of Joaquin.

# The Perils of Payday

by Pete 87776 Simer

This story is a product of Southern Michigan Prison's Inmate Writing Program.

Convicts like to talk shop. And it was easy for me to arrange a forum—in Southern Michigan Prison's All Faiths Chapel, of all places. Present were muggers Abe and Jerry, holdup man Walt, pickpocket Stan and purse snatcher Randy—each responsible for some of the perils of payday. During an enthusiastic recounting of their experiences, I interrupted to announce the topic for discussion: "How can society protect itself from your kind?" As if the subject were a switch of doom for bright futures, the lights of enthusiasm went out. Walt saved the forum from a flop.

"People can best protect themselves by not inviting our kind," he said. When asked to explain, he recalled the time he almost held up a bank. "I was fresh out on parole with thirty-four bucks. I was broke before midnight. So I contacted an ex-con buddy and borrowed a pistol. Next day, hung over but desperate, I was in line at a teller's window when a guy who had cashed his paycheck came by counting his take-home. I saw two fifties and some twenties, which was invitation enough for me (strung out as I was, I'd probably goof the bank job anyway). Then the guy stopped and checked his money again, flashing the bills even more recklessly. That made up my mind. I followed him to his car. He was uncooperative. So, rather than shoot him (which I shoulda' done because he fingered me in a police lineup later), I smacked the gun against his skull, copped his bread and split. I worked only on paydays after that; hung around stores and banks, alert for more invitations—till I got invited back to jail."

Randy once got a purse that netted him only 17¢ cash. "Nowadays a dame's gotta show me her purse's

worth snatchin', and she often does by taking all bills from an exposed wallet instead of leaving the wallet in her purse and fishing out only the bills she needs to pay for whatever. I don't mess with men 'cause I'm a card carryin' coward," he admitted. "If broads don't act right, I can smack them around till they do."

Stan got tired of taking pig-in-a-poke billfolds that were fat on credit cards and lean on cash. So he became selective, concentrating on shopping centers, stalking men who "cash and flash" on paydays. He contends that men are more careless with money. However, he picked and profited until he dipped into the pocket of an off-duty cop.

Jerry is a sullen brute with peril in his fists. His beats were the town's better bars. After work, refreshment seekers extend more invitations than anybody, he claims. And he thoroughly enjoyed trading black eyes, cracked ribs and broken jaws for hard-earned cash.

Abe mugged late at night in suburbia. When a red light caught a lone motorist, Abe approached as if seeking help. Once the driver got the window down, Abe grabbed his or her throat, snatched the car keys, then proceeded to rough up the driver until valuables were surrendered. (The drivers had invited robbery by not locking themselves in and hot-rodding out of there—red light notwithstanding. In such cases, any cop would excuse the violation.) Abe got his comeuppance via an insurance man. "I've got \$800 on me and you're welcome to it, sir," the salesman said. "But I feel it only fair to warn you that I'm a narcotics agent on my way to fake a buy. And all of the bills are marked!" The bluff shattered Abe's composure and, a second later, the agent's gun was in Abe's face.

There is no panacea for the perils of payday. But the menace can be minimized if you keep this parallel in mind: Just as with man-eating sharks, to attract human predators is to invite peril. And they really don't care what day it is.

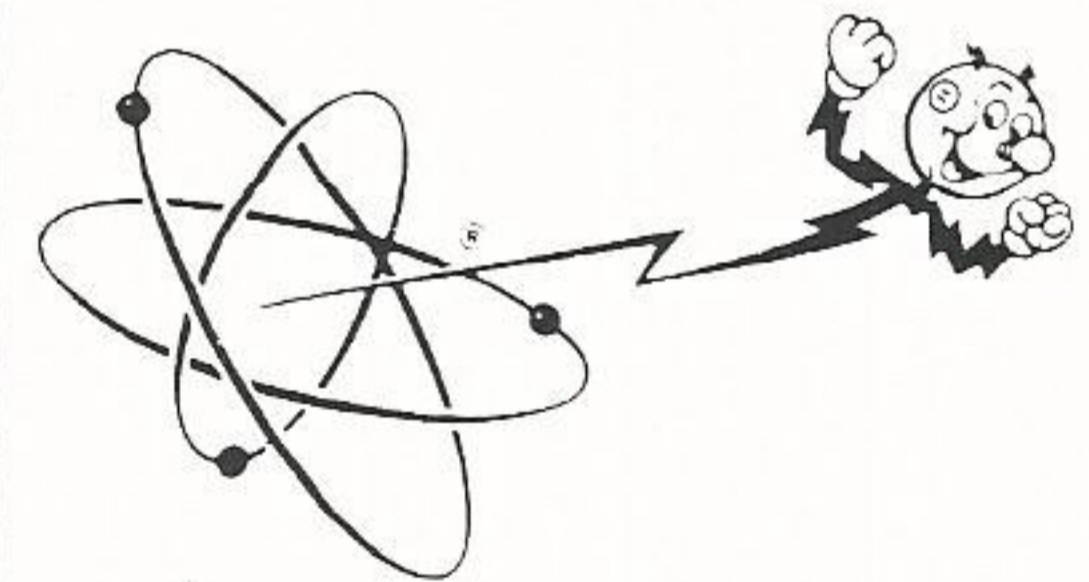
## THRIFT PLAN

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities Company stock made by the Trustee during September, 1973 covering employee deductions and Company contributions through August, 1973 were as follows:

4,685 shares of common stock for a total cost of \$89,569.43, or an average cost per share of \$19.118.

118 shares of \$4.40 Preferred stock for a total cost of \$6,722.87, or an average cost per share of \$56.973.

The Trustee deposited \$37,695.83 with the Savings Department of the First Security National Bank.



### DID YOU KNOW?

. . . . that the Atomic Energy Commission's regulatory organizations includes a Division of Compliance which makes periodic inspections of the licensee's plant during construction and operation to see that all conditions of the license are being met.

# NEPA STUDY SHOWS INFLUENCE

Through its redirection of fundamental national policy, the National Environmental Policy Act has had a pervasive influence on the processes of government and a significant effect on the private sectors of the economy, The Conference Board reports.

This is the principal finding of a study undertaken by William J. J. Smith of the Board's Public Affairs Research Division to assess the nation's first three years under the National Environmental Policy Act. The report examines the impact and scope of NEPA in light of interpretations and applications by the administrative agencies and the Federal courts.

## **NEPA Defined**

The National Environmental Policy Act establishes broadly encompassing goals of national policy and creates special "action-forcing" procedures for their implementation. It compels all Federal agencies to consider and evaluate the potential environmental consequences relevant to proposed legislation and agency actions affecting the quality of the human environment.

The environmental impact statement required for every proposed "major Federal action" which would have "significant environmental effects" has proven the most far-reaching of the action-forcing procedures, according to Dr. Smith. This statement assesses a proposed action in terms of environmental damage, alternatives, commitments of resources and the relationship of short-term and long-term uses of the environment. Appropriate Federal-state agencies and private persons can criticize or comment on the impact statement, and both analyses and comments must accompany each proposed action throughout the entire agency review process.

## **Role of the Courts**

Because NEPA is not sufficiently clear on what constitutes a "major Federal action" which would have "significant environmental effects," the impact statement provision has often been used in court challenges to agency proposals on environmental grounds.

Confusion over the chief operative terms, says Dr. Smith, is compounded by the lack of appropriate statutory standards and criteria for evaluating the relative weights of diverse environmental factors and for balancing such factors against the expected benefits of other specific programs for which given agencies are responsible. These factors have been in large part clarified, however, by recent court decisions which require of the agencies "information sufficient to permit a reasoned choice of alternatives."

In interpreting and applying the National Environmental Policy Act, the courts have tended to confirm its role as a sweeping national charter for the environment. The Conference Board's analysis of selected judicial decisions shows that NEPA terms have in general been strictly constructed by the courts and the requirements rigidly enforced. Judicial proceeding have enlarged the opportunities for private citizen groups to challenge agency actions affecting the environments, as exemplified in several leading controversies where environmental organizations were given standing as plaintiffs.

The study examines various unsettled issues concerning the standing of private persons, including business corporations, to challenge alleged agency violations of NEPA procedures. It also analyzes questions affecting the potential scope of judicial review to determine the merits of agency decisions under the substantive NEPA provisions.

## **'A New and Permanent Course'**

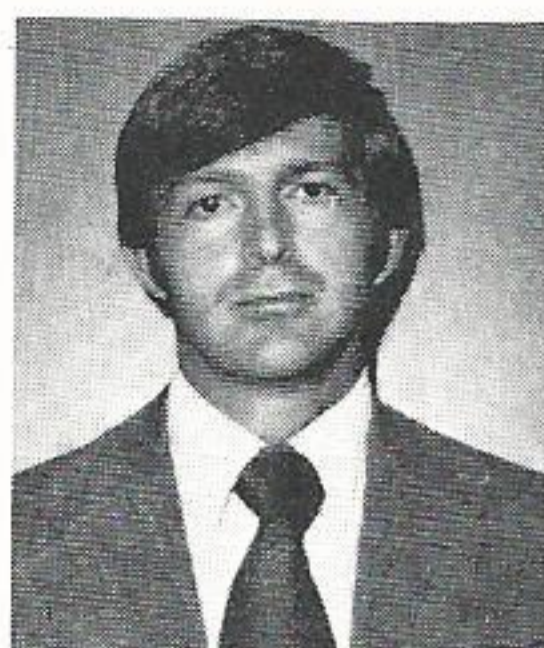
Despite the vague wording of the NEPA legislation and its potential to affect the most basic policies of government administration, the bill became law on January 1, 1970, with broad bipartisan support and almost no legislative debate. Subsequently, its brief and seemingly obvious provisions have become a force for massive change in administrative procedures and have set off major policy controversies, such as that over the Alaskan pipeline and other proposals for the

development of fuel and energy resources. According to Alexander B. Trowobridge, Conference Board president: "The findings set forth in this report make it clear that the processes of government and the conduct of essentially all social and economic activities are not likely to return to past attitudes toward environmental values. Adjustments to these (NEPA) requirements may be needed, but the extent of the detailed impacts already experienced and in prospect establishes a new and permanent course."

NEPA demonstrates the necessity of anticipating and preparing for the consequences of major policy changes, according to the Conference Board analysis. The study shows that many government agencies have been forced to establish special organizational apparatus for the performance of new and enlarged staff functions, provide new methods and procedures governing internal operations and practices and formulate new policies, guidelines and regulations for implementation of NEPA requirements.

Since many agencies have been mandated to promote and regulate given fields of industrial activities, private sectors of the economy are also subject to NEPA provisions. Furthermore, they are affected by judicial interpretations of NEPA duties which have caused substantive constraints on Federal programs in environmental enhancement, management of water and land resources in the public domain, assistance in planning and developing transportation facilities and services and regulation of private economic activities, especially in the energy and fuel industries. The need to adapt formal administrative procedures to NEPA requirements has created very difficult and still largely unresolved problems for Federal regulatory and other agencies. These tend to impair the operating efficiency of the agencies, increase costs, cause extended time delays and introduce new and complex uncertainties for the private parties involved, says Dr. Smith.

# People On The Move



Michael W. Chapman

**Michael W. Chapman**, former internal auditor, has been transferred to the Personnel Department and named personnel representative.

Chapman, a native of Lake Charles, has been with the Company since June, 1972 when he was employed as administrative accountant. He was named internal auditor in January of this year.

He is a 1972 graduate of McNeese State University with a bachelor of science degree in business management. Chapman is married to the former Melinda LaFleur of Lake Charles, and the couple has one child, a son, Michael Shane.



Raymond T. Kearney

**Raymond T. Kearney**, former engineer in the Engineering Design Department of the Company in Beaumont, has been promoted to design engineer-construction.

Kearney, a native of Mobile, Alabama, is a 21 year veteran of the Company. He was employed in 1952 as an engineer in the Lake Charles Division following a 16-month tour in

Korea when the Alabama National Guard was called to active duty.

Kearney holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Auburn University, and is a registered engineer in both Texas and Louisiana. He is married to the former Betty Gunthorpe of Mobile, and the couple has four children, Julia Louise, Mary Mulvaney of Austin, Raymond Thaddeus and Clare Ann.

Kearney is the present secretary of the Gulf Coast Engineering and Scientific Society.



Preston E. Whitehead



Jimmie R. Neal

**Preston E. Whitehead** and **Jimmie R. Neal** have received promotions within the Transmission and Distribution Department of the Company in Baton Rouge.

Whitehead, former utility foreman, has been named substation foreman while Neal was promoted to utility foreman.

Whitehead, a native of Denham Springs, was employed by the Company in 1954 as a substation helper. He moved through various positions within the department and was named utility foreman in 1969.

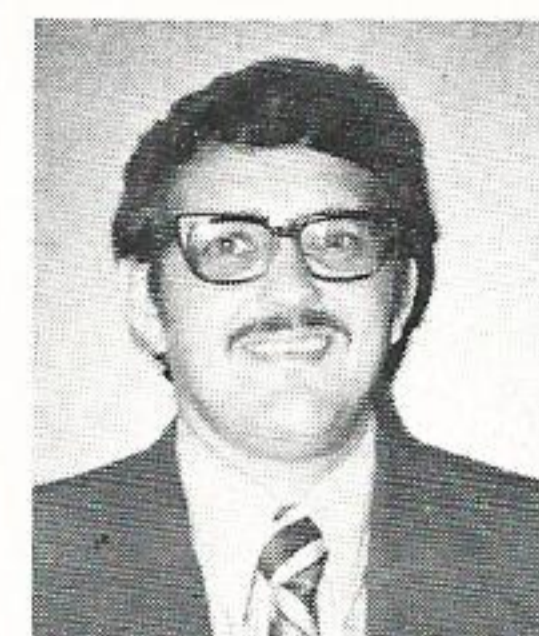
He is a three year veteran of the Marine Corps, and is married to the former Imogena Moffett. The couple has two children, Rhonda and Ronnie.

Neal, a Castor native, has been employed with the Company since 1956. He progressed through various classifications and was promoted to first class substation mechanic in 1961.

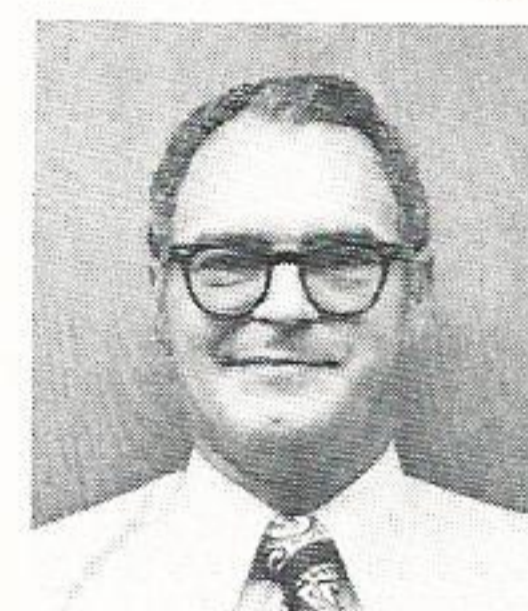
Neal, a former paratrooper in the Army, is married to the former Scharlie Lawson of Baton Rouge. They have two children, John and Julie Ann.



Jimmy C. Lusk



Michael Petry



G. Harry Shepherd

Three promotions have been announced involving Company personnel in Beaumont.

**Jimmy C. Lusk**, former utility foreman, has been named line foreman; **Michael Petry**, building equipment attendant, has been promoted to engineer, and **G. Harry Shepherd**, senior engineering assistant, has been named section head.

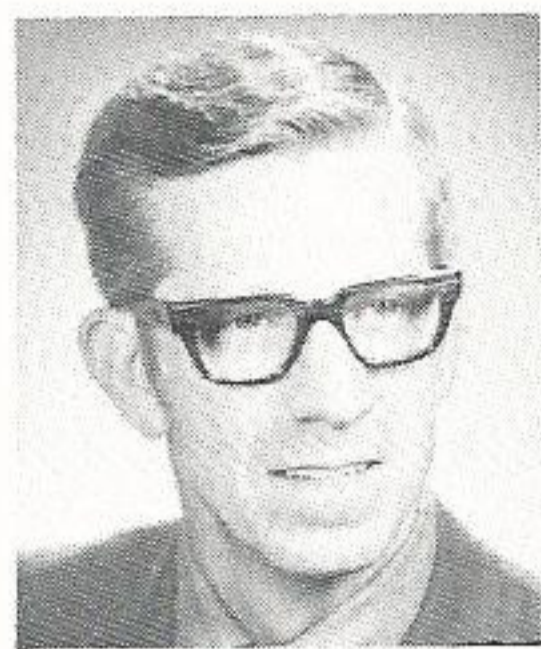
Lusk, a native of Dayton, is a two-year veteran of the Army during the Korean conflict, and attended Lamar University and Sam Houston State University. He is married to the former Beverly Crouch of Port Arthur, and they have three children.

Petry, a native of Crowley, is a graduate of Hardin-Jefferson High. He received his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Lamar University in August of this year.

Petry is a six-year veteran of the Company, employed in 1967 as an engineering helper. He is a four year veteran of the Air Force, serving in France and Vietnam. Petry is married to the former Jean Dugat of Sour Lake, and the couple has one son, Micah.

Shepherd is a nine-year veteran of the Company. He was employed in 1964 as an engineering helper, and was named an assistant in 1966. In 1970 he was promoted to senior engineering assistant.

He is a graduate of Beaumont High and attended Lamar University. Shepherd is a veteran of the Army. He is married to the former Kathleen Mudd of Nederland.



Louis C. Sandidge



Joel A. Moore



Alvin E. Hendrix



Edwin A. Grimshaw

A graduate of Silsbee High School, Hendrix graduated from Texas A & M with a bachelor's degree in business administration, and is a veteran of the Air Force. He is married to the former Sarah Shine of Silsbee, and the couple has three daughters, Tawnya Lynn, Tamara Wynn and Trina Renee.

Bibby is married to the former Bette Davis of Texarkana, Arkansas, and the couple has one son, Chris, two years old.

Three Beaumont Company personnel have recently received promotions.

Louis C. Sandidge, former appliance repairman, has been named appliance repair foreman; Joel A. Moore, former systems design supervisor, was promoted to coordinator-EDP data administration; and Alvin E. Hendrix, a former systems analyst, was named EDP systems design supervisor.

Sandidge is a 13-year veteran of the Company. He is a graduate of South Park High School, attended Lamar University, and is a four-year veteran of the Marine Corps.

He was employed in 1960 as a helper, and progressed through various classifications being named first class repairman in 1965. Sandidge is married to the former Carmelene Accardo of Beaumont, and they have two children, Shirlene Annette, and Elizabeth Ann.

Moore was employed by the Company in 1959 as an engineering helper. He is a South Park High School graduate, and attended Lamar University and the University of Houston.

Moore transferred into Information Data Services in 1967, and was named project leader in 1968. He was named design supervisor in April of 1971.

Hendrix, a native of Sulphur Bluff, Tex., is an eight-year employee of the Company. He was hired in 1965 as an accountant.

Edwin A. Grimshaw and Michael B. Bibby have received promotions in the Company's Lake Charles Division.

Grimshaw, former division engineer was named operating supervisor, while Bibby, an engineer in the Rates Department in the general office in Beaumont, was transferred to Lake Charles and promoted to division engineer.

Grimshaw, a 12-year veteran of the Company, is a native of Bunkie. He is a 1960 graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, and a two year veteran of the Air Force.

Married to the former Martina Stephens of Oakdale, the couple has four children, Steven, Monya, Armand and Sean. Grimshaw is a registered professional engineer in Texas and in Louisiana, and is vice chairman of the Lake Charles Area Utility Coordinating Committee.

Bibby is a three-year veteran of the Company, employed in 1970 as an engineer in the Transmission and Distribution Department in Beaumont. He was transferred to the Rates Department in 1971.

A native of Little Rock, Bibby received his degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1970. He is also a four year veteran of the Air Force.

John N. Liddell, former head fireman at the Company's Louisiana Station, has been transferred and promoted to operations foreman at Willow Glen Station near Baton Rouge.

Liddell, a native of Baton Rouge, is a 23-year veteran of GSU. He was employed in 1950 as an operator's helper at Louisiana Station. He progressed through various classifications and was named head fireman in 1971.

Liddell is married to the former Vera Guerin of Baton Rouge, and the couple has four children, Mrs. Kevin Wagnespak of Convent; Mrs. Jeff Barrett of Baker; Brian and Norman.

James D. Roberson, a native of Corrigan, has been promoted to labor foreman by the Company in Conroe.

Roberson, originally employed in 1960 in Huntsville as a helper, progressed through various classifications in the Transmission and Distribution Department, serving in such areas as Navasota and Groveton.

A man who suddenly won a big promotion and told his wife to go out and buy herself some decent clothes was a little bit startled when she replied: "All my life I've been wearing decent clothes. Now I'm going to dress like other women."

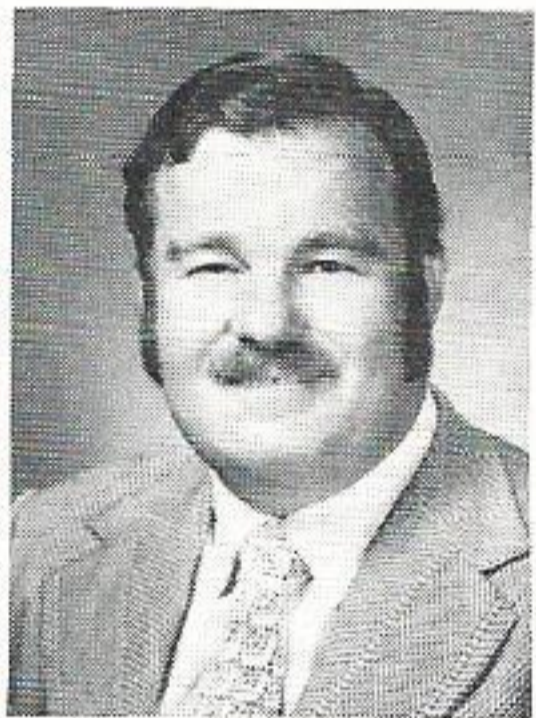
# SERVICE AWARDS

## 40 YEAR AWARD



**Harold A. St. Dizier**  
Div. Sales  
Lake Charles

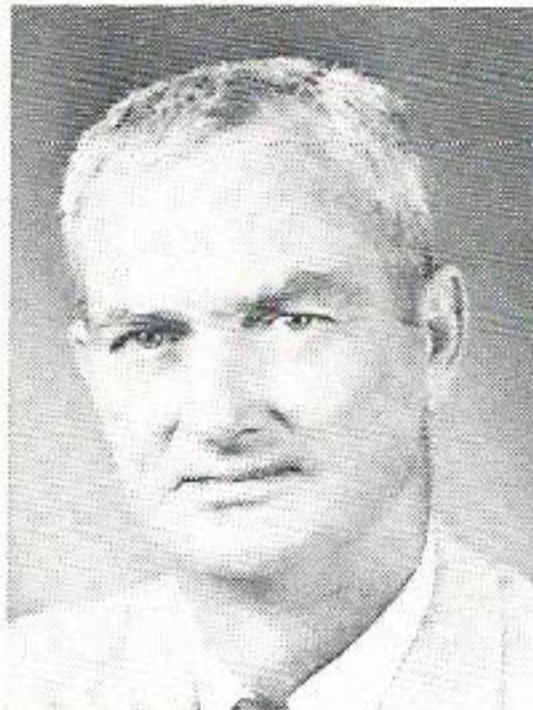
## 20 YEAR AWARD



**Mell T. Alford**  
Distribution  
Beaumont



**Virgil F. Foster**  
Div. Sales  
Conroe



**William H. Foster**  
Distribution  
Port Arthur

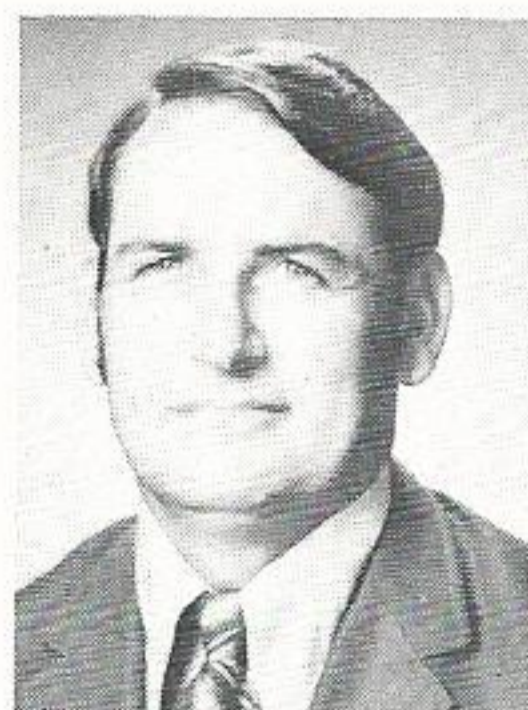


**Oscar Hills, Jr.**  
Gas  
Baton Rouge

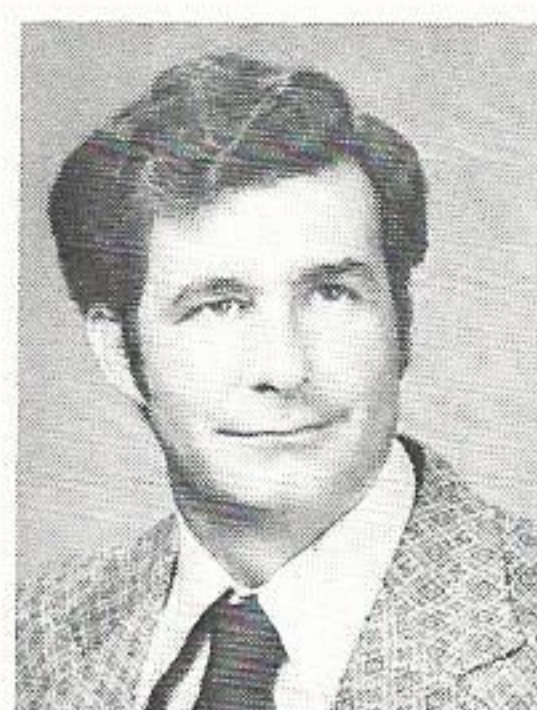


**R. J. Peters**  
System Engineering  
Beaumont

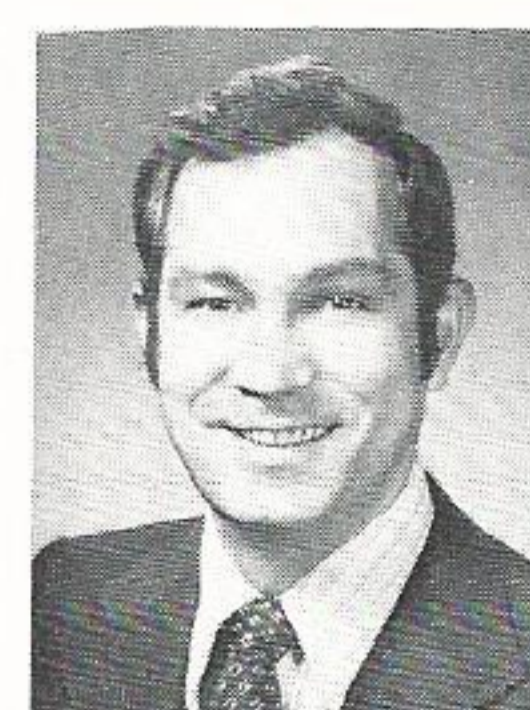
## 10 YEAR AWARD



**Jerry F. Ball**  
Gas  
Baton Rouge



**James D. Henderson**  
System Engineering  
Beaumont, Texas



**Joe A. Hopkins**  
I.D.S. System  
Support Services  
Beaumont



# Retirements

**Aulden E. Hine**, line crew foreman in Jennings, retired from the Company after 45-years of service, and with a crew safety record unmatched by any line foreman.

Hine, who says "safety is a full time job," has not had a single lost time accident recorded against his crew in well over 20 years. On top of that, in his 45-years of service, Hine has not missed one day's work because of illness.

Married to the former Wilda Robert of Jennings, they have five children, four girls and a son.

Hine, a native of Elton, La., is a Navy veteran having served during World War II from 1942 to 1946. He also attended Louisiana College in Pineville.



Aulden E. Hine

**Bonnie L. Thompson** will conclude 32 years of service with the Company on Nov. 1.

Thompson, employed in 1941, is a native of Lufkin. He plans to continue in his specialized field as a salesman after retirement with a firm in Beaumont. "And if I don't work," said Thompson, "then I'll just take it easy."

Thompson attended school in Lufkin, and went to Angelena Junior College. He is married to the former Ethel Robichau, and the couple has four children, Don, an airline pilot with Texas International, Carolyn, Mrs. Robert Greeson of Sunnyvale, Calif., Robert and Kent.



Bonnie L. Thompson

**Albert Buller**, appliance repairman-first class in Lake Charles, has retired after 41 years of service with the Company.

"I guess I'll just catch up on fishing," said Buller, "and work around the house and yard."

Buller is a native of Elton, and attended schools there. He is married to the former Gladys Alexander, the couple has one child, a daughter, Mrs. Joe Grout of Lake Charles.



Albert Buller

**Andrew M. Seigler**, after 46-years of service, is retiring from the Company as a line foreman in Navasota.

Seigler, employed in 1927 as a laborer in Calvert, has worked throughout the Western Division in such places as Huntsville, Calvert, Caldwell and Navasota.

He and his wife, the former Lera Davison of Houston, have seven children, Elizabeth, Joan, Joyce, Betty, John, Tom and Kathleen. Seigler was born and educated in and around Franklin, but has lived since 1939 in Navasota.

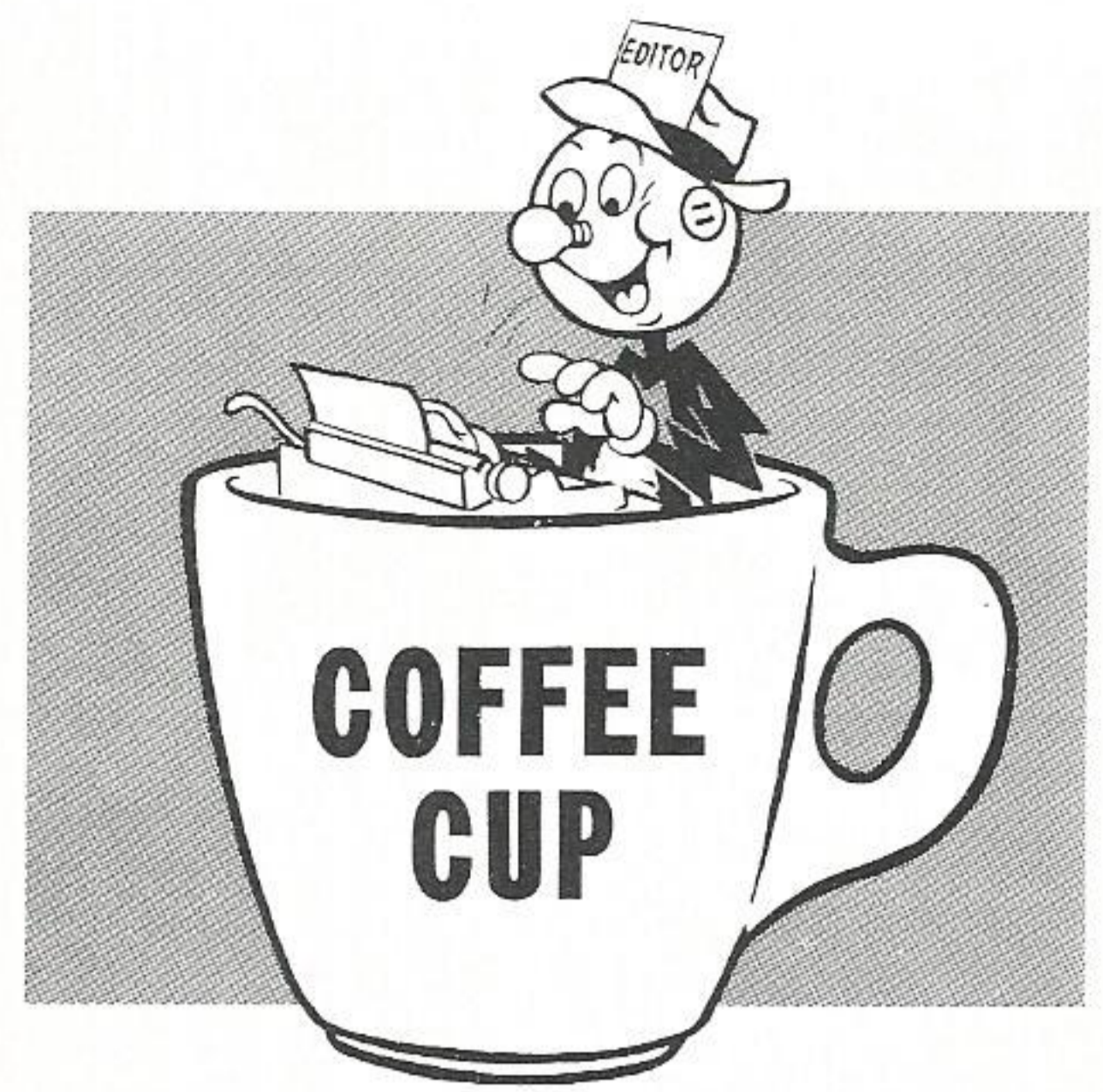


Andrew M. Seigler

Mr. Murphy opened an account at the bank for his wife. A few weeks later the cashier asked Murphy to inform his wife that she had overdrawn.

Murphy told his wife the news, and the following morning she handed her husband a letter to deliver to the cashier.

The cashier opened the letter, grimaced, and handed it back to the wondering husband. It was a large sheet of paper, on which was written in block letters the one word: TATTLETALE.



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.

### 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:** Margie Force (T&D), T. Boone Chaney (T&D), Melanie Hima (T&D), Charles L. Miller (T&D), Jack Gautreaux (T&D), James W. Bello (T&D), Beverly Hull (Gas), Opal Temple (Acct.), Robert Graves (T&D), Susan Wilks, Kelton Whitehead.

**BEAUMONT:** Bill Toups (S.C.), Barbara Lindsey, Carolyn Motl (T&D), Ann Ogden, Edy Mathews, Linda Marks.

**CALVERT:** Janis E. Wilganowski.

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

**CONROE:** Frances Elliot, Bobbie Burke.

**DENHAM SPRINGS:** Lenelle Juban.

**GONZALES:** Billy Fortenberry.

**HUNTSVILLE:** Karen Morley.

**JENNINGS:** Earl Mayfield.

**LAFAYETTE:** Bobbie Denais.

**LAKE CHARLES:** Johnnie Harris (T&D), Janet Followay.

**LA. STATION:** Leslie Jeansonne.

**MADISONVILLE:** Wanda H. Tinsley.

**NAVASOTA:** Betty Dickschat.

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

**NELSON STATION:** Martha Caldwell.

**ORANGE:** Doris Womack.

**PORT ALLEN:** Adele Vavasseur.

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

**SABINE STATION:** Kathleen Fuller.

**SILSBEE:** Maxine Bell.

**SULPHUR:** Pearl Darbonne.

**WILLOW GLEN:** Dora Landaiche, James Veatch.

**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.)*



A baby shower was given by Joan Hudson and Carolyn White (Beaumont Duplicating Department) for Margie McCauley (Beaumont Engineering Department). All of Margie's friends in the building attended, and as the picture indicates, she was literally "showered" with gifts. (from the Editor)



A combination farewell party was given in Conroe for Beth West (Storeroom Department) and Emily Fleming (home service advisor). Beth (left) has become her husband's bookkeeper and Emily is expecting her second child. (from Frances Elliot)

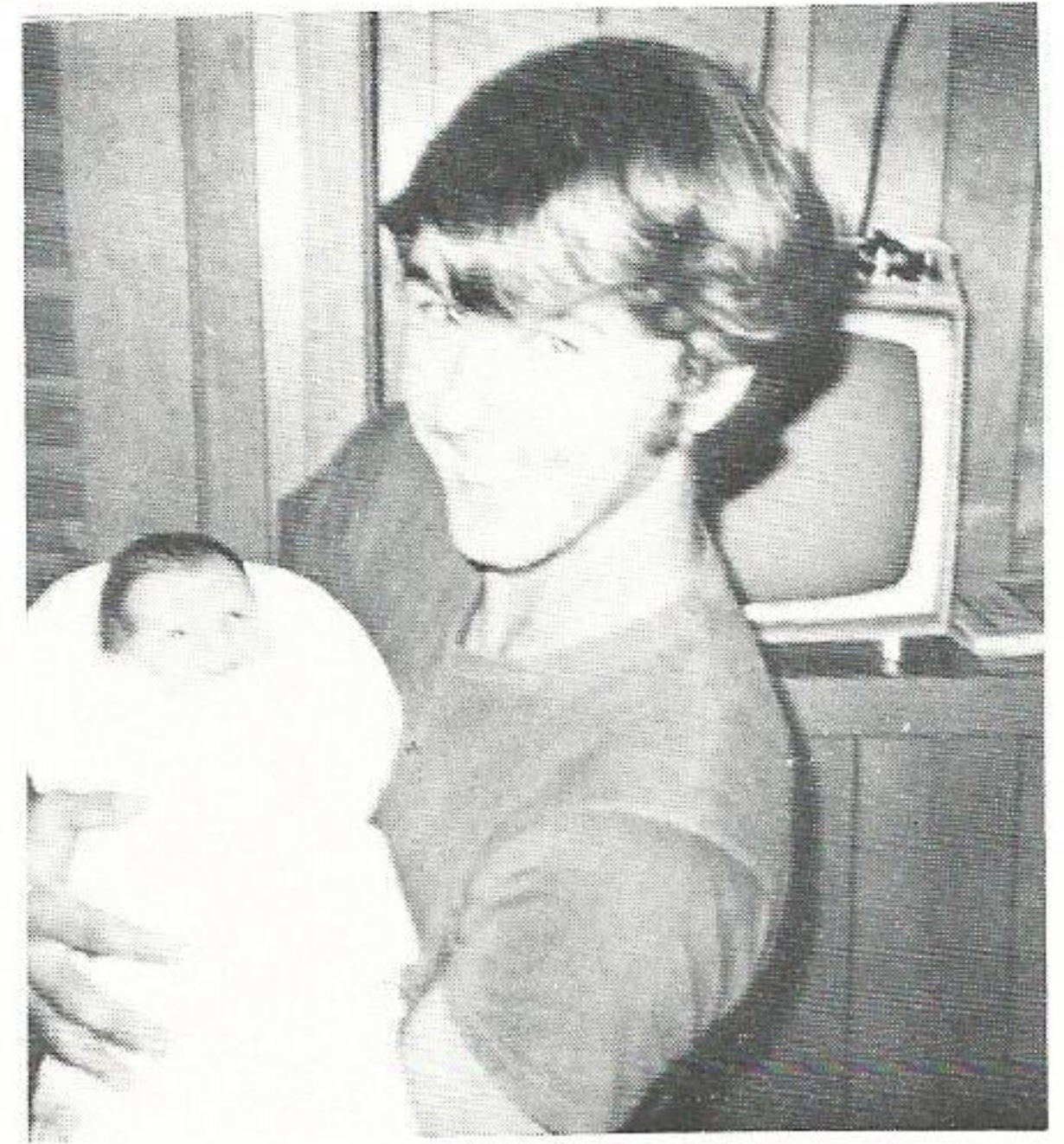


A baby shower was held for Patsy LaFleur (seated-front center) clerk in the Beaumont Customer Accounts Department. The shower was attended by her fellow employees, and Patsy's baby is due December 1st. Best of luck! (from the Editor)



Dan Barclay, Beaumont Service Center co-op engineer and his wife Kathryn were recently treated to a surprise luncheon at the Red Carpet Inn by his fellow workers. Dan has worked for the Company four times as a co-op engineer between semesters of attending school at the University of Texas. After the luncheon, he was presented gifts of a pen engraved with his initials and a "Best Student" trophy, along with best wishes and much good luck in the future. (from **Carolyn Motl**)

Congratulations to Albert Fabacher (Jennings T & D Department) on the arrival of a baby boy. His name is Timothy Ray, and he was born August 24th and weighed 7 lbs. 12 ozs. (from **Earl Mayfield**)



This happy father is Boud Boudreaux-laborer at Roy Nelson Station. He's holding his new daughter, Kristie Lynn, born September 14th and weighing 5 lbs. 15½ ozs. This is the fifth generation on the father's side of the family. (from **Martha Caldwell**)



Ray Broussard (6), engineer in the Beaumont System Production Department, is quite interested in Boy Scout work. He and a group of leaders recently attended a Woodbadge Course at Camp Edgewood, Louisiana, for the purpose of leadership training in the Scouting program. The men were divided into five patrols and camped as a Scout Troop, the same way Boy Scouts would camp. Ray's group, shown above, was known as the Bob White Patrol. (from **Gene Calvert**)

Congratulations to Willie "Bill" Miller (Jennings T & D) on his first child, Ryan Paul. He was born September 21st and tipped the scales at 6 lbs. 15 ozs. (from **Earl Mayfield**)



Surprise! "Happy Birthday to you. . ." sang friends from the Beaumont T & D Engineering Department as they gathered in Jim Calcote's (center) office to help him celebrate his recent birthday. Jim is a division engineer at the Service Center. (from **Carolyn Motl**)



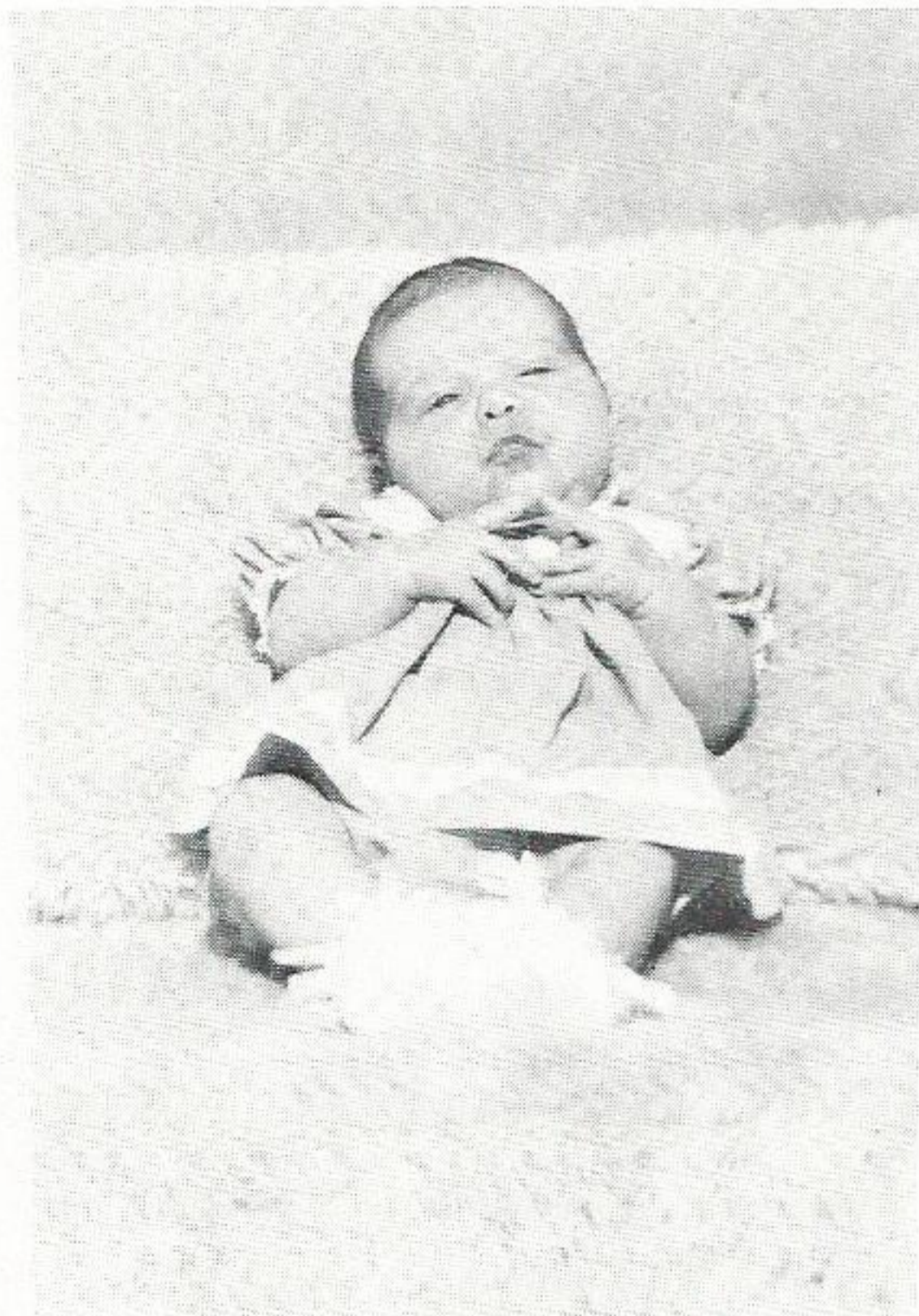
This is Cub Scout Pack 15, who recently toured Beaumont's Neches Station. They are from Pietzsch Elementary School in Beaumont. (from **the Editor**)



A farewell party was given for Davie (holding package) and Joe Snider (next to Davie), who bid farewell to Orange District employees on September 28. They are making their new home in Saudi Arabia, where Joe accepted a position with American Arabian Oil. Davie plans to just take it easy in her new life. Joe was general line foreman and Davie was a stenographer. Everyone will miss them! (from **Doris Womack**)



Pat Norrid (stenographer-Beaumont Records Management) was given a recent farewell party by fellow employees. Pat has been employed by duPont in Nederland, where her husband also works. (from **the Editor**)



Congratulations to Conroe Serviceman-1st Class Ronald Howell and his wife Donnie Jane on the birth of their daughter, Robin Jayme. She was born July 22 and weighed 9 lbs. 10½ ozs. (from **Bobbie Burke**)



A farewell party was recently given for Mary Hudson (Beaumont T & D clerk-Service Center), who is leaving the Company to have her first child. Being with us only 10 months did not stop Mary from making many friends, as well as representing the Service Center in the Ms. GSU 500. At the going-away party, Mary received an electric serving tray for the baby, a set of spoons and forks, and a nice gift of cash. (from **Carolyn Motl**)



Recently, the St. Joseph Church city softball team won the Beaumont Church League championship. Two employees are members of the team, Joe Russian in Drafting and Carl Busceme in Beaumont Accounting. (from the Editor)

Congratulations to Robert Dowies (residential sales representative-Lake Charles) on the arrival of a daughter, Laurie Allison. She was born September 13. (from Janet Followay)

Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Hollingsworth are the proud parents of a new daughter, Elizabeth Marie, born August 13, 1973. DeWitt is an industrial sales representative, Lake Charles Division Sales. (from Janet Followay)

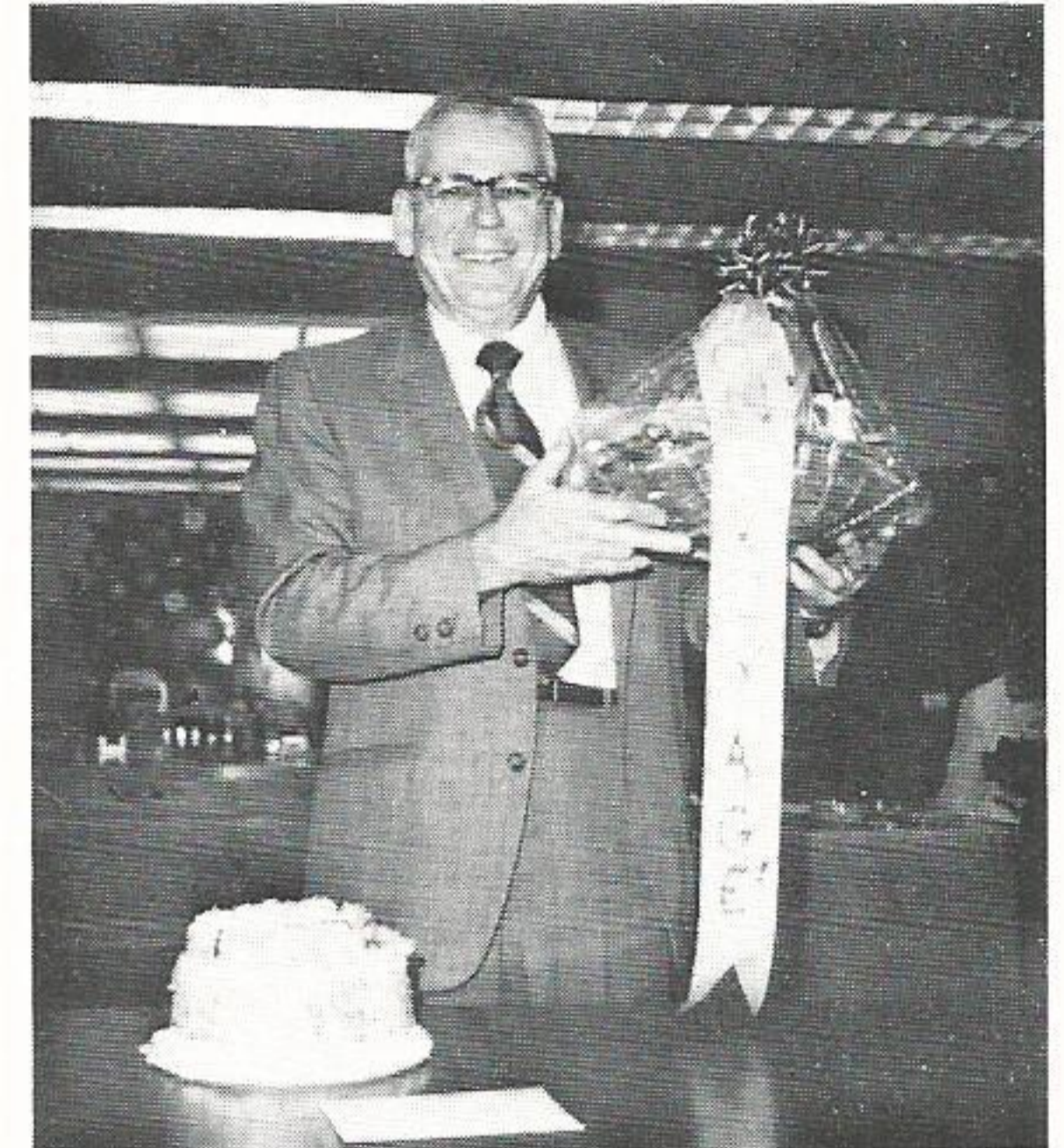


Miss Debbie Spafford became the August 25th bride of Glen R. Clawson at the North End United Methodist Church in Beaumont. Debbie is the daughter of Dolores Spafford-Beaumont general accounts and Glen is the son of Don Clawson-Beaumont engineering. (from Linda Marks)

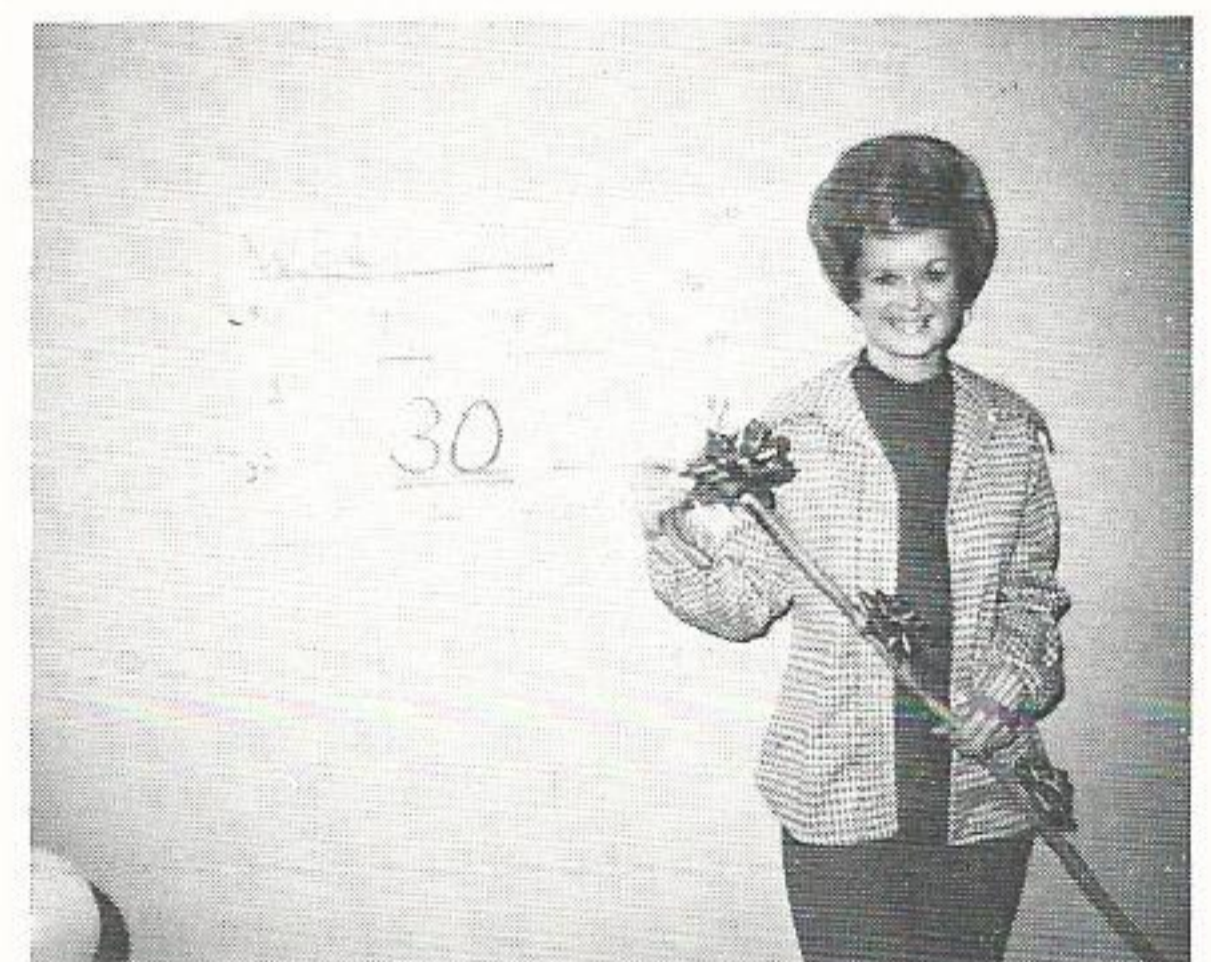


A. W. Baird-Beaumont Service Center operating superintendent-was surprised on his birthday with a cake, compliments of Susan Tucker-department clerk in the T&D Department. When asked how many happy birthdays this made, Mr. Baird didn't hesitate in replying "a happy 61." (from Carolyn Motl)

Aubrey Bonnette, T&D in Sour Lake, has reason to be proud of his son. Out of college only six years, Aubrey's son, David Bonnette, has risen rapidly in his career field of education. David was recently named to the top administrative job, that of principal, in a Houston school. (from the Editor)



Jerry Stokes, vice president-finance, has every reason to smile. He has just been presented with a "Bon Voyage" basket of goodies from the ladies in the Corporate and Finance Department in the Beaumont main office. Jerry left the next day for London, England, and they didn't want him to go unprepared. (from Pat McMeel)



This sign on the Beaumont office 9th floor officially welcomed Sandra Rogers (Beaumont Corporate & Finance) to the 30 year-old club. The sign was placed there by fellow employees, who also placed similar signs on the elevators, office, lobby, and utility poles along Sandra's route to work! And a late bulletin just in — Sandra and husband Bert (Beaumont Records Management) are expecting a child in May. Congratulations! (from the Editor)



**Welcome  
Aboard!**

## **SYSTEM DEPARTMENTS**

### **Information & Data Services**

Leon, Gina J., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - Records-Dupl  
Martin, Carolyn G., Beaumont, Key Punch Operator - Data  
Sys Opers

### **System Engineering**

Perry, Paulette K., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - Eng Des/DEC-  
Drftg

Noble, Arthur M., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - Eng Plann/  
Scheduling

### **Treasury**

Cummings, Barbara H., Beaumont, Clerk - Sys Treas/  
Purch

Harvard, Kathy D., Beaumont, Clerk - Sys Treas/Actg-  
Gen Accts

Lastovica, Juanita M., Beaumont, Clerk - Sys Treas/Actg-  
Accts Payable

## **BEAUMONT DIVISION**

### **Distribution**

Wheelington, Paul L., Beaumont, Laborer I - T&D (Line)

Constance, Ricky D., Beaumont, Laborer I - T&D (Line)

Dillon, Harry W., Beaumont, Engr Helper - T&D (Eng)

Williams, Ervin A., Jr., Dayton, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Fredieu, Gary B., Beaumont, Laborer I - T&D (Garage)

### **Division Sales**

King, Leonard R., Beaumont, Residential Sales Repr

### **Production**

Lovell, Freddie L., Jr., Beaumont, Laborer I - Neches Sta

### **Treasury**

Frazier, Maria F., Beaumont, Clerk - Credit & Coll

## **PORT ARTHUR DIVISION**

### **Production**

Sanders, Glenn R., Bridge City, Laborer I - Sabine Sta

Powell, Oddie L., Jr., Bridge City, Laborer I - Sabine Sta

### **Distribution**

Stanley, Carl D., Jr., Port Arthur, Laborer I - T&D  
(Garage)

### **Division Sales**

Badger, Samuel E., Port Arthur, Residential Sales Repr

### **Treasury**

Picard, Diann B., Port Arthur, Clerk - Cust Services

## **WESTERN DIVISION**

### **Distribution**

Smith, William A., Conroe, Laborer I - T&D (Line)

Hoke, Floyd B., Conroe, Laborer I - T&D (Line)

### **Treasury**

McGee, Lora R., Conroe, Meter Reader

Cochran, Robert E., New Caney, Meter Reader

Hensley, Mary A., Conroe, Clerk - Cust Acctg

Snell, Daniel G., New Caney, Meter Reader

## **BATON ROUGE DIVISION**

### **Production**

May, Anthony W., Baton Rouge, Equipment Oper - W/Glen  
Sta

Smith, George A., Baton Rouge, Equipment Oper - W/Glen  
Sta

Cappe, Roger L., Baton Rouge, Laborer I - La Sta

McManus, George R., Baton Rouge, Laborer I - La Sta

Jacob, Michael J., Baton Rouge, Mechanic Helper (Mech)  
W/Glen Sta

## **Distribution**

Melancon, Terry L., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Day, Wallace M., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Seaton, Ronald W., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Tanner, Marvin L., Baton Rouge, Shop & Field Tester -  
T&D

Brown, Ruth G., Baton Rouge, Dept Clerk - T&D (Eng)

Farris, Joseph A., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Newman, Robert C., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept  
(Line)

Brown, Donald H., Jr., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept  
(Line)

Sparks, Rodney L., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Hutson, Tommy D., Baton Rouge, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Vicks, Sherman, Baton Rouge, Engr Helper - T&D (Eng)

Zeringue, James R., Baton Rouge, Engr Helper - T&D  
(Eng)

### **Treasury**

Hebert, Earnest, Baton Rouge, Meter Reader

Forrest, Gloria J., Baton Rouge, Clerk - Credit & Coll

### **Division Sales**

Dumigan, Mary S., Baton Rouge, Home Service Advisor-  
Jr

## **LAKE CHARLES DIVISION**

### **Distribution**

Veillon, Joseph M., Lake Charles, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Abshire, Adley J., Lake Charles, Engr Helper - T&D (Eng)

Gautreaux, Louis W., Sulphur, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Tenney, John L., Lake Charles, Helper-T&D Dept (Line)

Gore, Thomas I., Lake Charles, Laborer I - T&D (Garage)

Foreman, James C., Lake Charles, Laborer I - T&D

(Garage)

Corbello, Gregory, Lake Charles, Laborer I - T&D (Line)

### **Division Sales**

Eskew, Mary A., Lake Charles, Home Service Advisor-Jr

### **Treasury**

Reon, Gregory A., Lake Charles, Clerk - Credit & Coll

Burris, Mona O., Lafayette, Clerk - Cust Acctg

## **MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES**

Zoch, Erwin J., Beaumont, Engineer - Pwr Plt Const/  
Project

Stein, Herbert E., Beaumont, Admn Accountant - Sys

Treas-Budg/Oper

Laminack, Ernest R., Jr., Beaumont, Systems Analyst -  
IDS/Sys Supp Servs

Champagne, Amery J., Beaumont, Nuclear Staff Assistant-  
Pow Plant Constr

Roblin, Thomas A., Beaumont, Quality Assurance Supr -  
Pow Plant Constr

Ramsower, Steven E., Beaumont, Student Engineer - Sys  
Prod

Wright, Larry D., Beaumont, Student Engineer - T&D/  
Engr

## **PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**

Larive, Barbara L., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - IDS/Recds

Almendariz, Anna, Beaumont, Dept Clerk - IDS/Recds

Jubert, Marilyn A., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - IDS/Recds-  
Dupl

Clayton, Patricia J., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - Personnel

Hoyt, Sandra, Beaumont Dept Clerk - Sys Eng Des/DEC-  
Drftg

Guerin, Roslyn M., Beaumont, Dept Clerk - Sys Eng  
Des/DEC-Drftg

Pate, Joyce L., Port Arthur, Clerk - Cust Serv

Martel, James T., Baton Rouge, Environmental Techn -  
Pwr Plt Constr

Stansberry, Marilyn L., Baton Rouge, Clerk - Credit & Coll

Spivey, Gayle M., Baton Rouge, Clerk - Cust Acctg



Miss Mary Ann Eskew, new Lake Charles home service advisor, shares some of her favorite recipes with us this month. Mary Ann is a native of Alexandria, La. and graduated Cum Laude in May, 1973 from Northwestern State University with a degree in Home Economics Education. She holds present memberships in the American Home Economics Association, Louisiana Home Economics Association and Home Economics In Business. Mary Ann's college honors were many, including Alpha Lambda Delta — Freshman Honor Society for Women (achievement of a 3.5 average), Kappa Delta Pi — Honor Society for Education Majors and Who's Who Among Greek Fraternities and Sororities. The following recipes provide a varied combination of tempting dishes that are sure to please.

### BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

1/4 lb. Oleo or butter  
 2 stalks celery (chopped fine)  
 1 roll garlic cheese  
 1 can undiluted mushroom soup  
 1/2 cup chopped onion (fine)  
 1 cup bread crumbs  
 2 pkgs. chopped frozen broccoli  
 1 small can mushrooms (liquid & all)  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 Melt butter in skillet and saute' onions and celery in butter; add frozen broccoli and simmer 15 minutes. Add soup, mushrooms and half of the bread crumbs. Chop cheese in pieces and add to the mixture. Pour in greased casserole, sprinkle with remaining bread crumbs. Bake for 30 minutes in 350 degree oven.

# MENU FROM MARY ANN

### BRIOCHE

1 cup milk  
 2/3 cup butter  
 2 cakes compressed yeast \*  
 3 eggs  
 4 egg yolks  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 4-2/3 cup sifted flour  
 1/2 tsp. lemon juice (or 2 pounded cardamonn seeds)  
 2 tsps. salt  
 1 cup confectioners sugar  
 1/3 cup butter  
 2 Tbsps. hot water  
 1/2 tsp. vanilla  
 Scald milk and add the 2/3 cup of butter; cool to lukewarm. Add yeast cakes to lukewarm milk to soften. Add eggs and egg yolks, sugar, flour, lemon juice or cardamonn seeds, and salt, and beat for 10 minutes. Let rise until double in bulk. Knead down and chill overnight in the refrigerator. Turn out on a floured board, roll into rectangle about 1/2 inch thick. Spread with remaining 1/3 cup of butter, fold sides to the center to make 3 layers. Cut off pieces 3/4 inch wide, cover and let rise until double. Take each piece separately in the hands and twist from ends in opposite directions. Coil and bring ends together. Twist again. Let rise in pan until light and bake 20 minutes in moderate oven (375 degrees). Make a thin vanilla frosting of the confectioners sugar moistened with hot water and vanilla. Brush over the brioches while still warm. This is a very soft dough. A little flour may have to be used in the board to handle it, but don't add any more than necessary. Makes 3 dozen.  
 \*Note: If active dry yeast is used, soften yeast in 1/2 cup warm water and reduce milk to 1/2 cup.

### MEXICAN CHEF SALAD

1 head lettuce  
 1 large onion  
 1 can red beans (optional)  
 1 lb. or 1 1/2 lb. chuck hamburged, cooked  
 2 medium tomatoes  
 1 large avocado  
 1 bag Dorito chips (39 cent size)  
 1 small pkg. mild Cheddar cheese, grated  
 Mix well and put 1 bottle of thousand island dressing in and mix again. To make ahead, mix except for chips and dressing.

### CHOCOLATE MARSHMALLOW SQUARES

("Heavenly Hash")

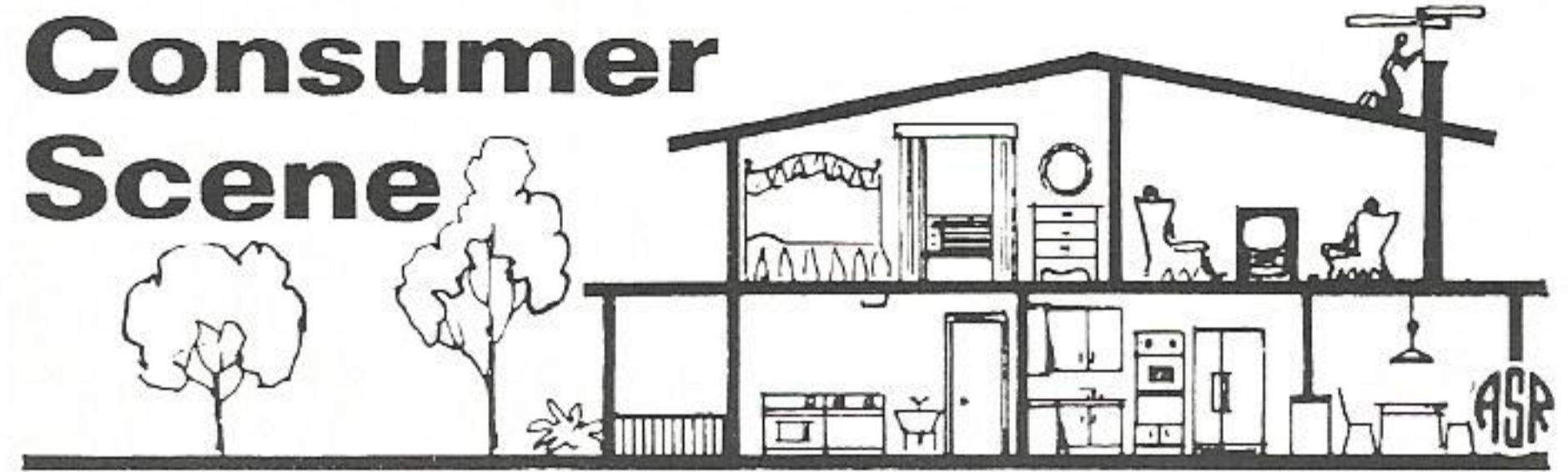
1 stick butter or oleo  
 2 eggs  
 2 Tbsps. cocoa  
 1 cup sugar  
 3/4 cup sifted flour  
 1 cup chopped pecans  
 1 tsp. vanilla  
 Pinch salt  
 Melt butter, add cocoa and salt. Beat eggs and add the sugar. Add flour and mix well. Last, add pecans and vanilla. Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until cake layer is brown and toothpick comes out clean. Do not overcook. While hot right from oven, place 1/2 pkg. (25) large Kraft's marshmallows cut in half. Use shears and dip in powdered sugar to prevent sticking. Hot cake will melt this. Add carefully, after it cools, double recipe of Chocolate Frosting. Cut in squares, cover with foil. May refrigerate.  
 Note: This will make 1 brownie pan. If you want to make a rectangular cake pan, double this recipe.

### SHRIMP-RICE DELUXE CASSEROLE

1/4 cup cooking oil  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 1/2 bell pepper, chopped  
 1 stalk celery, chopped  
 3 cups cooked rice  
 1 can mushroom soup  
 1/2 can water  
 1 pound fresh shrimp  
 1 tsp. salt  
 1 tsp. black pepper  
 1/2 cup grated cheese  
 1 tsp. paprika  
 Saute' the onion, pepper and celery in heated oil until transparent but not brown. Takes about 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Add shrimp and stir until all turn pink. Add mushroom soup, water, cheese, salt, and pepper. Cook until cheese melts completely. In greased casserole, alternate layers of shrimp mixture and rice ending with shrimp on top. Bake in pre-heated oven at 300 degrees for 1 hour. Garnish with parsley and lemon slices and paprika. Serves about 6.

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

## Consumer Scene



### A Brief Checklist For Appliance Safety

We all talk about the importance of being safe at home — yet many people fail to take the common-sense precautions that can help avoid home accidents.

Appliances offer many benefits in daily use around the home, but there are important do's and don'ts which should be observed in using them properly.

Most homemakers, when they are working with hot liquids on the range, turn the pot handle in. That seems almost elementary. But it is only one of the rules about proper use and care of appliances that we all need to learn and follow.

General Electric's Consumers Institute, which has been testing major appliances from the homemakers' standpoint and advising consumers on their use for more than half a century, suggests these safety guidelines for the kitchen:

✓ **Dishwasher:** Always place sharp items in the silverware basket with their points down. If you find a utensil has slipped through to the bottom of the tub, do not attempt to remove it immediately at the end of the cycle, as touching the heating element could produce a bad burn.

✓ **Range:** Eliminate clutter around the range, particularly flammables. Pot holders, paper towels and waxed paper will ignite if they come into contact with heating elements hot enough to cook. Store flammable materials, such as lighter fluid, well away from the range, and keep a small fire extinguisher on hand (but not over the range), charged and ready to use. (Baking soda makes a good extinguisher, too. You might keep a box handy.)

✓ **Waste Disposer:** Always turn the power off before attempting to remove objects from the hopper. Use tongs, rather than your hand, to retrieve objects which have fallen in, and a wooden spoon, broom handle or similar tool to loosen a jam.

✓ **Air Conditioner:** Before cleaning the filter, turn off and unplug the unit.

✓ **Automatic Washer:** Do not attempt to wash any materials saturated with flammable substances — such as gasoline, cleaning fluids or wax — until all traces have first been removed.

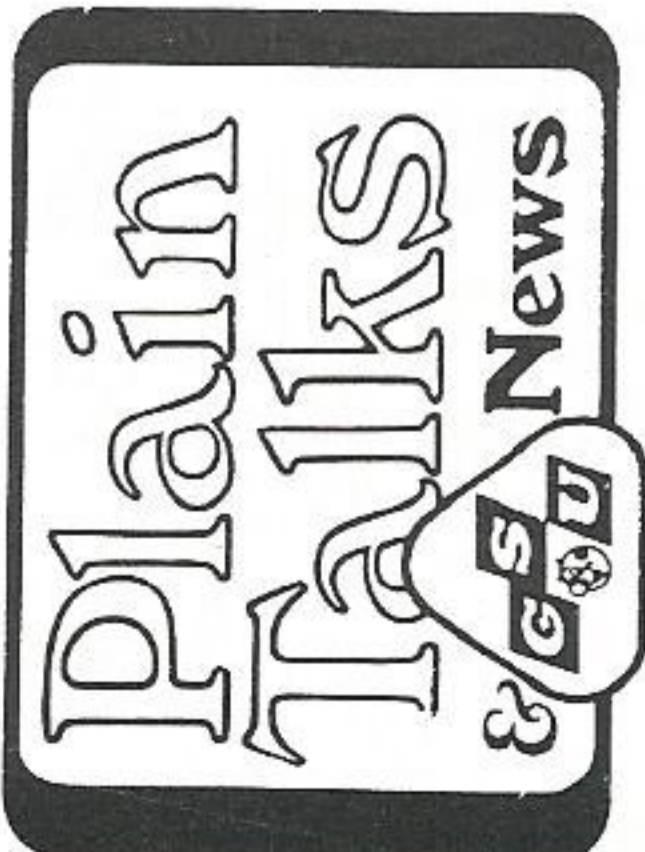
✓ **Dryer:** Keep any items containing foam rubber out of the dryer. This includes pillows and padded bras. Dryer heat can restart curing process in rubber. (The Consumers Institute doesn't recommend washing them automatically, either.)

✓ **Refrigerator:** Avoid touching refrigeration coils, particularly when hands are damp, since skin may adhere to these extremely cold surfaces.

The GE Consumers Institute also recommends that when you acquire a new appliance, you read the instruction booklet thoroughly before you attempt to operate it. Keep such booklets handy, and refer to them whenever you have a question. Often, your problem can be quickly and safely corrected without the cost and time involved in calling a repairman. (Many manufacturer's instruction booklets have special sections on what to do before calling the repairman.)

By observing the safety precautions cited, you will make your home safer and more enjoyable for every member of the family.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO



P. O. BOX 2951  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED