PLAIN TALKS

NOVEMBER
1980

MAIL BOX

THE COVER

More and more Gulf States' employees, such as Trudy Gaines, the Beaumont Customer Accounting Clerk shown on the cover, are finding themselves in front of computer terminals. The trend should continue as computers become cheaper and more versatile.

This month's issue of Plain Talks focuses on the company's newest department, the Computer Applications Department, as well as peeking into two other areas of the company — the corporate library and System Metering — that rely on computers to get much of their work done.

Those stories can be found on pages 6, 8 and 9.

Dr. Linn Draper
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Linn,

The recent heat wave in the plains states and Texas points up the importance of electrical energy, not only to our comfort but to the health and even survival of some whose health makes them more vulnerable. Over 650 have died from the heat (as of July 18) and I wonder how many would have survived this heat wave if they had had cooling which can be provided by "cheap" electrical energy. Even with present prices, electrical energy is cheap for most of us, but we must not overlook the fact that for many, funds to pay for space cooling (or heating next winter) are becoming increasingly less available. Each increase in cost results in more people not able to pay for electricity to provide space comfort and for more health damage and deaths in times of stress.

These costs in human suffering and death are documented and I believe can fairly be considered as a cost of delays in providing nuclear power — whether by unnecessary, lengthy hearings, moratoria or difficulty in obtaining financing.

I don't know if we can develop any meaningful arguments from these considerations, but I want to pass the thought on to you. I am not optimistic of any sudden, major change in the attitudes of politicians regarding nuclear, but I do hope that one of us may come up with meaningful arguments. After all, 650 real deaths should carry more weight than a few hypothetical ones.

Energy conservation and energy deprivation are like dieting and starvation. It builds character to voluntarily cut down on eating, but it isn't nice to be without the means to eat.

Roy G. Post
Professor
Department of Nuclear Engineering
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

Arden Loughmiller
Gulf States Utilities Co.
Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Loughmiller:

I would like to take this time to again thank you and Gulf States Utilities for sending my students, Chris Mann and William Austin, to the Texas Nuclear Science Symposium.

When I return to school, I know that they will inform me of the knowledge they acquired at the symposium. I know from experience that they will talk about the fellowship and the hospitality of the electric companies.

Thank you again for doing this great service to the youth of Texas, and if there is any way that I might be of service to Gulf States Utilities, please call me.

Sincerely,
Evangeline George
Chemistry teacher
Beaumont Charlton-Pollard
High School

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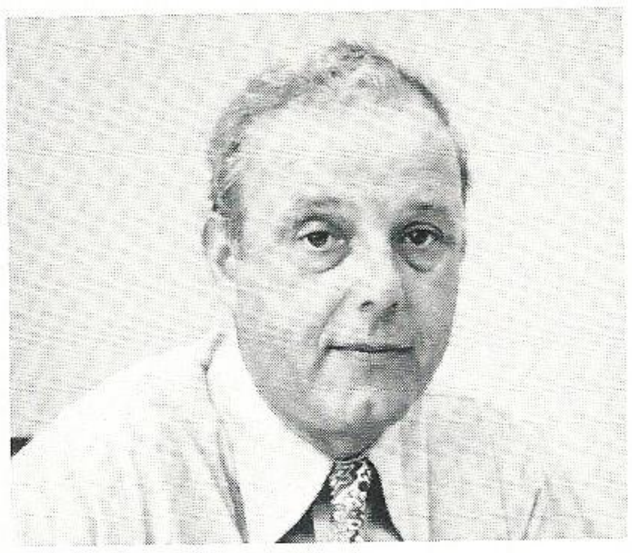

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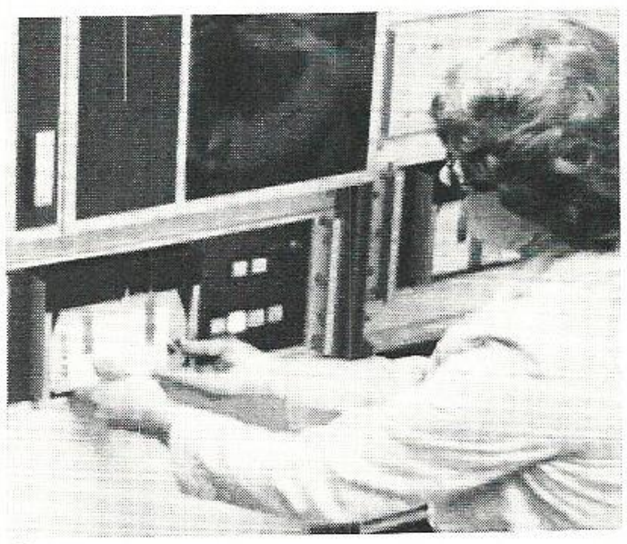


8

10

Departments

NEWS BRIEFS

Hurricane effect on utility poles to be studied

Gulf States recently played host to representatives of 17 utility companies from Virginia to Corpus Christi and a research team from the University of Oklahoma to demonstrate how a BEASTIE is installed on a utility pole. Funded through the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), BEASTIE actually stands for bifunctional EPRI atmospheric and structural test instrumentation equipment. The equipment, built by the Oklahoma team, will be used to measure wind speeds of hurricanes at surface level.

According to GSU engineer Bill Luther, there is no accurate information available about the highest wind speeds that occur when a hurricane comes ashore. Instruments that measure the force of hurricane winds on land usually are destroyed by winds over 170 miles per hour. But BEASTIE is designed to withstand winds up to 250 m.p.h.

Accurate data about hurricane wind velocity is important to utilities, EPRI representatives say, because transmission towers and lines along the coast are specifically designed to resist the extreme winds of hurricanes. Usually, Luther adds, about the only things left standing after a hurricane are utility towers. The EPRI study is aimed at determining if utility companies might be overbuilding the nearly indestructible towers. The study may save utilities money in the future, as well as prove exactly how well equipment stands up during hurricanes.

"When a tropical depression or disturbance is in an area, the University of Oklahoma team will be alerted," explains Luther. "They will go to the area, pick up the BEASTIEs and take them to wherever the hurricane is expected to come in — about 36 to 72 hours before it makes landfall. The company whose service area will be affected will have line crews available to work with the Oklahoma team to put up the BEASTIEs."

As the recent Beaumont demonstration showed, BEASTIEs fit on either wood or steel utility poles. The data-gathering box weighs only 100 pounds, and the anemometer is mounted on a slender but very strong titanium rod. The research tem also will put strain-measuring equipment on steel towers to detect how much the towers bend in hurricane winds.

by Ilene Harral

Committee forms to organize energy week events

Gulf States has established an American Energy Week Committee made up of employees who will work with energy producers and users in the company's service area to achieve maximum participation in the March 15-21 week.

The period embraces the date selected by the White House for National Energy Education Day — March 20, 1980.

Those serving on the committee are Malcolm Williams, Ward McCurtain, Henry Joyner and Judy Moses, all of Beaumont; Bill Benedetto, Thomas Young and George Irvin, all of Baton Rouge; James Richardson of Lake Charles, Rufus Mier of Port Arthur; and Victor Norvell of Conroe.

The group has been charged with communicating with neighboring energy-related entities, the news media, the financial community, civic, political and educational groups by way of a speakers' bureau, to dramatize the urgent need for developing the country's domestic energy sources.

Broussard wins DOE study grant

Peter A. Broussard, a mechanical engineer in the special programs group of Gulf States, has been awarded a $35,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to demonstrate the energy benefits of a noxious aquatic weed, the water hyacinth.

Broussard, who joined the company in May, 1979, hopes to show that the water hyacinth is valuable as a source of high quality fuel gas and as fertilizer.

The grant was awarded under the Appropriate Technology Small Grants Program of the DOE, which provides funding for the average citizen who has a good energy-saving or producing idea.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has already conducted experiments and demonstrated the capability of the hyacinths, abundant in Gulf Coast waterways, to absorb polluting agents in water.

Another benefit which can be derived from the plant is the production of high quality fuel gas which has 60 percent of the fuel value of natural gas.

After gas production, the hyacinth residue is a dark mulch which is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus and can be used as a fertilizer.

Broussard's study is aimed at showing that the amount of energy used in harvesting the hyacinths is less than the amount that can be derived from the plant, making the project sound enough to support a full-scale operation.

Although the special programs group specializes in seeking out alternative sources of energy, Broussard will carry out the study on his own time and not as a company project.

The project results are due in December, 1981, to the DOE.

NEWS BRIEFS

Lake Charles Division holds safety fair

Lake Charles Division employees participated in their second annual Safety Fair and Family Fun Day on Sept. 27 at Habibi Shrine Temple in Lake Charles.

Participants enjoyed free rides, games, competitive events and food. A highlight for many of the youngsters was bucket truck rides up to tree tops to grab candy from a bucket dangling from the top branches.

In addition to the fun events, employees and their families were able to obtain valuable information from safety information booths that provided demonstrations and films.

The big door prize — a portable color television — was awarded to Eula Bourque, a departmental clerk in Lake Charles Engineering. Other door prizes were taken home by Teresa Ryan, daughter of John Ryan of Lafayette Garage; Dino Girola, accountant at Nelson Coal; Kym Hoffpauir, daughter of Weldon Hoffpauir of Lake Charles Relay; Jane Dickerson, daughter of Danny Dickerson of Lake Charles Substation; and Craig Guillory, son of Randall Guillory of Lake Charles Communications.

by Anna Raymond
Plain Talks Correspondent

GSU highlights energy efficiency at Habitat '80

More than 13,500 persons visited Habitat '80, the Baton Rouge home and garden show held Sept. 5-7, which included a Gulf States exhibit featuring two important ideas about energy efficiency.

The most unique feature was a video cassette recorder that presented "The Buddy Burns Story," which showed the workings behind development of an energy efficient home within an energy efficient community. Burns, a San Antonio builder, has developed a cost effective program for energy efficiency in new home construction.

Also shown were panels from the Energy Van, a Gulf States vehicle that displays the concepts of the National Energy Watch program.

Lydia Brown (left) of Baton Rouge Consumer Services

Exhibits and demonstrations were shown by 107 other trades and service persons and organizations participating in the third annual shelter industry extravaganza. Habitat is sponsored by the Homebuilders and Apartment Association of Greater Baton Rouge. The annual event enables the general public to talk with more manufacturers and distributors in one location than he or she would otherwise be able to contact.

by Shivaun Tessier
Plain Talks Correspondent

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during September, 1980, covering employee deductions and company contributions through August, 1980, included the purchase of 14,510 shares of common stock at a total cost of $161,423.75. The average cost per share was $11.125.

The trustee also deposited $152,012.70 in savings with First Security Bank of Beaumont and $27,782.13 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Some readers miss recipe columns of earlier issues

Some readers have reported that they used to enjoy collecting recipes from earlier editions of Plain Talks. Recipes were frequently offered during those years when the company's former Home Services Department representatives spent more time measuring flour and sugar than energy efficiency variables.

Even though the current Consumer Services Department has switched its emphasis to energy conservation education, GSU employees and their families can still share favorite recipes.

Beginning with the December issue of *Plain Talks*, readers may contribute prized recipes to a new half-page monthly column, The Recipe Exchange. For the December issue, Edna Gautreaux, the wife of Louisiana Station employee Russel Gautreaux, has submitted favorite holiday recipes. Persons with contributions for future issues of *Plain Talks* should send their recipes to Susan Gilley, *Plain Talks* editor, at the Goodhue Building in Beaumont.

Those selected for publication will be accompanied by a brief story describing the contributor. For instance, contributors should give their name, where they live, whether they work for the company or are related to an employee and how they may have utilized the recipe in the past — for example, whether it is a family favorite or served only at large social gatherings.

Tony Gabrielle

Q&A

Editor's Note: Computers are becoming more and more a fact of life in business — and even in some homes — as they become cheaper and more versatile. The growing opportunity for their economic application within Gulf States, together with the need to meet the dynamically changing conditions in our business environment, recently prompted the company to restructure its existing Information and Data Services into a new Computer Applications Department. Vice president for the new department is Anthony "Tony" Gabrielle, a GSU newcomer who formerly was with American Electric Power Company in New York. In the following interview, Gabrielle offers some insights into computer applications — both from his recent experience as vice president for AEP and from his view of where GSU is going in that area.

PT: What stage of development has Gulf States reached in the computer application field?

Gabrielle: From the standpoint of technology, we are at the leading edge, both in terms of the computer hardware facilities and the data base and application software. In terms of our commitment of resources, company officials have approved an expanded effort, since it is recognized that computers are a critical success factor for this company.

PT: Why are they so important?

Gabrielle: Technology has become the life support system for civilization as we know it today. Energy is a clear example — consider this summer's heat wave and envision industry and commerce without air conditioning. Of course, computers are a very important part of technology. We've already reached the stage where the computer is no longer merely a tool. Thirty percent of the work force today depends on data processing to accomplish its daily work. The computer has become a part of a coordinated, large-scale mechanism for getting things done.

PT: Are you assessing the current capabilities of the company, as well as its needs in the area of computer applications?

Gabrielle: We know where we are, it's where we want to go and how we're going to get there that interests us now. We're mainly interested in building and utilizing corporate data bases — and data *is* a resource of the company, just like human resources and materials — that can be utilized by different areas of the company. We are also pursuing real-time control and monitoring of the generation-transmission power system

Gabrielle discusses formation of Computer Applications Department

complex.

There are two approaches to development of a computer applications program and GSU has done a little of both. One is to let every department do its own thing with computers and the other is to build a computer system that links together the corporate processes.

PT: What are some specific objectives of the new Computer Applications Department?

Gabrielle: We have four main objectives — to provide a system of programs that links together the corporate processes, and thus integrate the computer with the affairs of GSU; to provide a suitable computer systems environment for the end users; to construct quality computer systems; and to acquire, develop and retain able people. That last objective is very important because the success of our department depends upon professionals familiar with at least two disciplines — computer science technology and the corporate processes. We're working with the Human Resources Department now to meet with the universities in order to establish good relationships and to determine the types of graduates they might have in analytical and technical fields.

Additionally, our department must accomplish work in a very structured way with ample documentation so as to protect our investment in computer programs and to be able to maintain them through time.

PT: How will other departments come to recognize your department?

Gabrielle: In two ways. One is through our planned Information Center, the goal of which will be to provide an environment and tools for the user to help himself.

"Electric utilities were among the innovators and earliest users of computers . . ."

The second is through the carrying out of feasibility studies with user groups to determine the economic, technical and operational feasibility of implementing major computer systems.

PT: Where does the utility industry stand in relation to other industries in the field of computer applications?

Gabrielle: Electric utilities were among the innovators and earliest users of computers, partly because they were faced with the massive task of customer billing. At the same time, utilities are technological and capital-intensive industries, which translates into engineering. Computers were used very early on the engineering side of utilities.

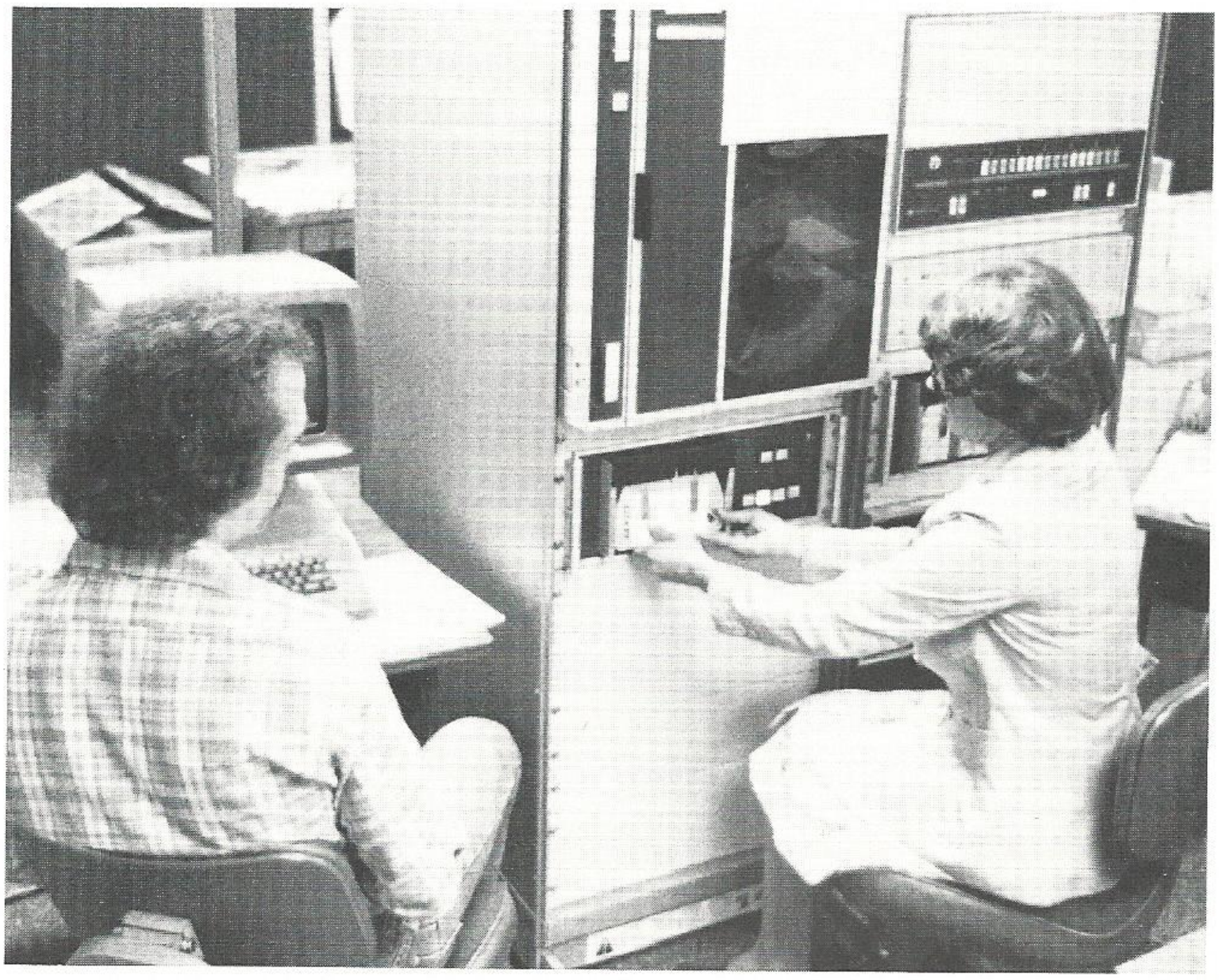
PT: How will computers help the office worker do his job?

Gabrielle: Much of the automation process has truly ignored what you'd call the office. The surface hasn't even been scratched there. For example, the productivity of the office worker has not improved through the use of technology when compared to the industrial worker. In some offices, one may see the magnetic-card typewriter, but workers are still burdened with paper flow and inaccessibility of information. Although there are some text management capabilities now, in the future I can see the arrival of electronic files and electronic mail.

PT: How will the move to the new corporate office building next autumn affect your department?

Gabrielle: It will provide an excellent professional atmosphere, together with physical security, for the new and expanded Corporate Computer Complex (CCC). Just as GSU has provided a communications system network to support its multi-state power system network, the CCC will be the hub of a computer system network serving the corporate needs with both centralized and distributed facilities.

Marvin Spafford and Judy Gill



New group handles magnetic tape metering

The creation earlier this year of the system metering group, with Charles Saunders as supervisor, was a symbol of Gulf States' heightened commitment to load research.

Although the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA), enacted in November, 1978, requires load research on a continuing basis, GSU was a step ahead of many other utilities in implementing a research program.

The company had already begun doing some load research at the request of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, with the compiled data used for rate allocation and rate design.

In addition to helping the company design a fair rate schedule for all classes of customers, load research through the use of magnetic tape metering has another advantage.

"We can now look at management techniques — waste heat reclaimers, solar water heaters, time-of-day rates — the kinds of things we're checking to see if they're good or bad for customers," comments Mike Bibby, director-load research.

Data gathered by "mag" tape metering can provide the essential "before" information that can provide the contrast for later study results, says Bibby.

Meanwhile, Saunders reports that his group currently utilizes about 1,150 magnetic tape cartridges to monitor a cross-section of industrial, residential and commercial customers. (The only exception is the large industrial class where virtually all customers are monitored. Although there are only about 100 such customers in the GSU service area, they account for about 50 percent of the load.)

While most customers asked to participate raise no objections, Saunders reveals that residential customers nevertheless "are treated with kid gloves. We ask if we may put it (the monitoring device) on and explain that it is only a research device."

According to Saunders, some residential customers might not approve because they "don't want an ugly box" attached to their home or might later blame the monitoring device for a high bill. Homes are monitored for about 18 months.

Data gathered by the tapes is distributed to several departments for different purposes.

Saunders says it goes to billing, where it helps expedite "turning over what money the company has coming in." Information also goes to the proper meter shops to determine whether any problems might need correcting, to consumer services for various research purposes, to Bibby's load research group and to anyone else in the company who might need particular information for work purposes.

The tapes reveal daily high, daily average, daily low and daily total usage of electricity.

Information from the samples is stored on a mini-computer for about a month, then placed in the main frame computer, where it is stored indefinitely.

GSU's system is manufactured by Hewlett-Packard and Westinghouse. Before the computer equipment required for the new system metering group arrived in Beaumont, Saunders and his supervisor, Joe Flanigan, system meter coordinator, toured Westinghouse's Raleigh, N.C. plant and checked out a similar system at Southern California Edison Company.

Saunders and Dorcyle McClure, clerk for the system metering group, also participated in three days of hands-on exercises with the system at the Raleigh plant.

Others in the new group are Judy Gill and Marvin Spafford, engineering assistants.

Corporate library joins OCLC

When Karen McConnell, GSU's corporate librarian, reported to work in 1979, she found that the company's main library was "primarily a place where everybody had cleared out their files for the past 20 years."

Determined that the library should become "the library for all employees," Mrs. McConnell, who holds a master's of business administration and master's of library science degrees, says she began to "establish what was here and get rid of what wasn't useful."

She explains, "That didn't necessarily mean discarding things that weren't industry-related. I also kept some general interest items that I thought might entertain employees."

The youthful-looking Mrs. McConnell hardly began managing the corporate library as a rookie. As a Lamar University librarian from 1971 until 1979, she was in charge of development of the university's business collection, as well as maintaining its government documents collection, rare books collection and archives.

A hankering to "do something different" propelled her into industry.

In mid-August, the corporate library went on line with Ohio College Library Center (OCLC), a national data base in Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. McConnell says she feels that action was an important step toward reaching her goal of creating an all-around library. Through the shared system, GSU and about 2,200 other libraries equipped with computer terminals are able to exchange books, materials and information from each other's collections.

Since each OCLC member catalogues their own materials, other members who have a request for a particular item can check the system to see which libraries would have it. For instance, if a certain book were in the GSU library, its listing would include the designation "TGS" — the company's OCLC identification code.

Within one month of joining the system, Mrs. McConnell and her co-workers had catalogues about 600 books. And within two months, the company library was able to fill its first request from another member library. The Gulf States library was able to lend the book, *Arabia, the Gulf and the West*, to the University of Texas library, one of the largest in the United States.

Under the system, Mrs. McConnell can retrieve an item requested by an employee by title or by author, but not by subject. One of her goals now is to eventually acquire an additional terminal that would provide access to subject data bases in all major disciplines, available through commercial vendors. Although she is able to do so by occasionally using a terminal in another department, she notes that the equipment "is not available at the drop of a hat."

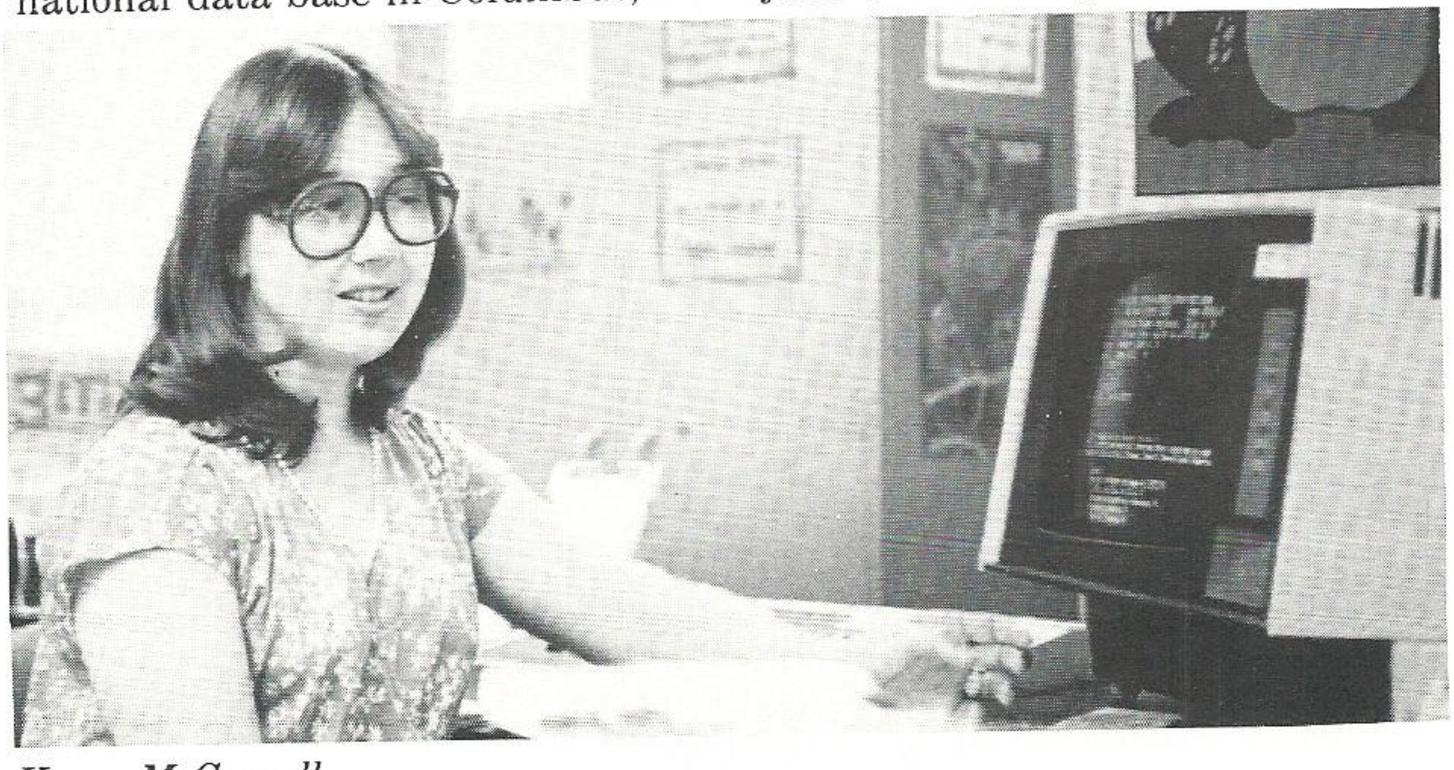
In addition to its newest services, the corporate library continues to be a convenient clearinghouse for newspapers, periodicals, magazines and books needed by GSU employees. Because library personnel order and monitor the delivery of reading materials, accurate records are maintained. Then, if an employee needs a particular article or book, it can be found through the library — a simple step that can avoid costly duplication if another employee has already ordered the same material.

All books, magazines, periodicals and organizational memberships are routed through the library.

In addition to the corporate library, the company maintains seven departmental libraries — those for the Tax/Accounting, Finance, Power Plant Engineering and Design, Engineering and Nuclear Licensing departments, all in Beaumont, and the River Bend Site library near St. Francisville, La. Another professional librarian, Katherine Pfeiffer, presides over the Nuclear Licensing library in Beaumont's Petroleum Building.

A Library Advisory Committee, made up of management employees representing nine areas of the company, is now devising a master plan "for where we want the libraries to go," Mrs. McConnell reports.

According to the corporate librarian, the committee has been charged with "establishing the services we need, the resources that we feel should be in the library and a timetable for accomplishing it."



Karen McConnell

Mid-County employee makes

A boring press that can drill 12 calls a minute is one of the early steps in the manufacturing process.

As a third-grader, James "Cowboy" Fernandez recalls that he would skip school every time a north wind blew into Port Arthur.

But the truant officer — a man Fernandez knew only as "Hooky Slim" — knew exactly where to find the youth. He would simply station himself at a reservoir north of town and wait for the young — but avid — duck hunter to show up.

The sport has always fascinated Fernandez, who is now a senior district service representative in the Mid-County office and a 27-year veteran of the company.

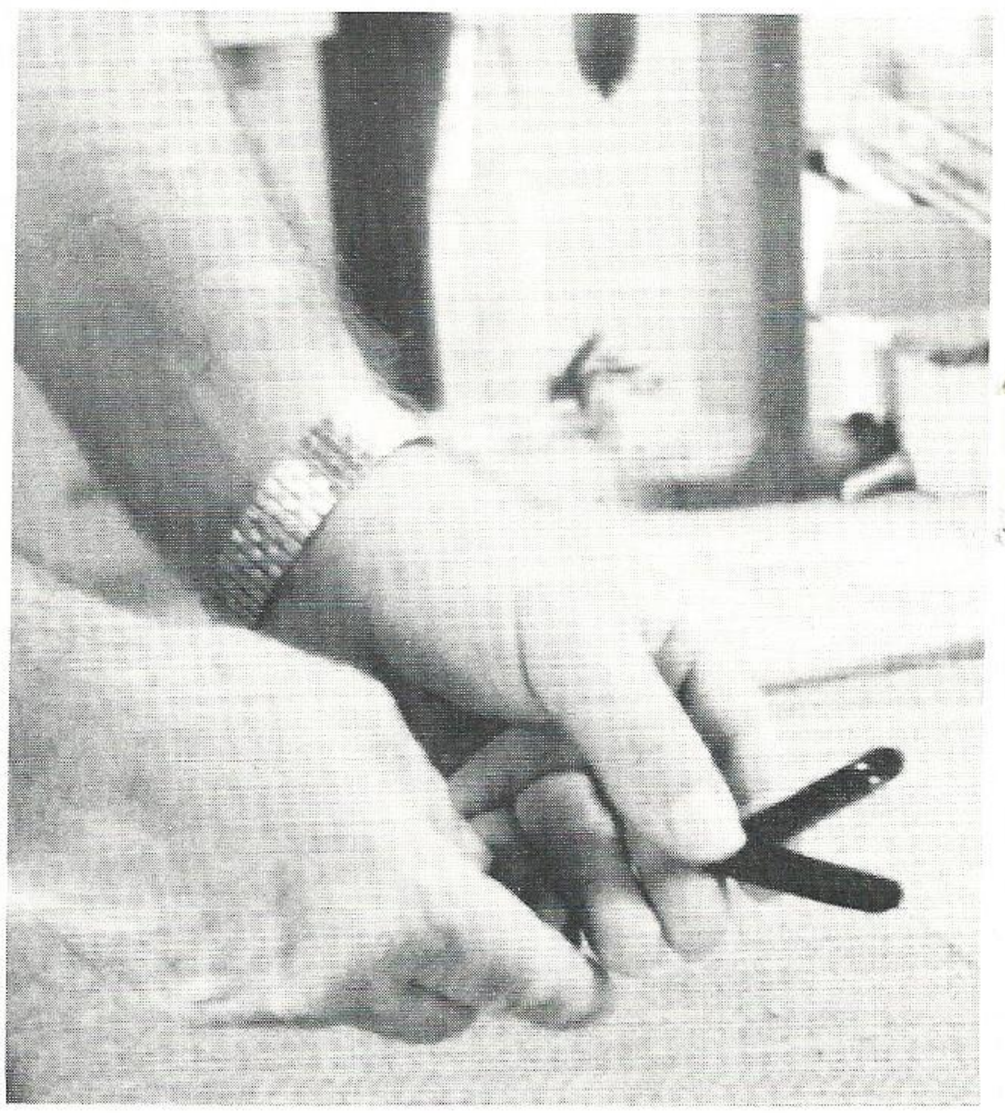
But a sport within the sport has attracted Fernandez more than anything — the art of making duck calls and then competing in calling contests. Now Fernandez has 14 employees manufacturing the instruments for a worldwide market and several trophies, including the 1959 world championship trophy, to prove just how good he is at both.

The nature of the operation, which is seasonal, enables Fernandez to check on his young workers, mostly Lamar students, after work hours at Gulf States. A smoothly-run process, the employees do most of their work between 2 and 10 p.m. in the weeks just prior to hunting season.

When Fernandez returned to the Golden Triangle as a young man after a stint in the military, he joined an older friend — a man named Yentzen — in experimenting with double-reed duck calls. Although Fernandez was enrolled in Lamar University as an electrical engineering major, he would sometimes skip classes then to hand-tune the instruments.

At that time, Fernandez remembers, the double-reed call just was not commercially marketable because it was too difficult to blow. For two or three years, Fernandez tuned about 30 of Yentzen's creations each year.

Reeds for the duck calls are made according to Fernandez's specifications.



world-famous duck calls

by Susan Gilley

Following the older man's death, his widow gave Fernandez permission to continue working with the double-reed concept. That first year, although Fernandez had to make most of the hand tools he used in the craft, he managed to turn out 55 of the duck calls. The next year, he decided to make 555 duck calls — a project that took him from February 3rd until November 11th of that year. That same year, in the late 1950s, he perfected the double-reed call to where it would sell commercially and started participating in calling contests.

In 1959, besides winning the World Duck Calling Contest in Stuttgart, Ark., he also won the Gulf Coast Regional, the Texas Open and the International event in Memphis, Tenn. Although he's never repeated his world championship win, Fernandez has since placed second in that contest three times and has won the Texas Open nine times, the International competition three times and the Gulf Coast Regional "five or six times."

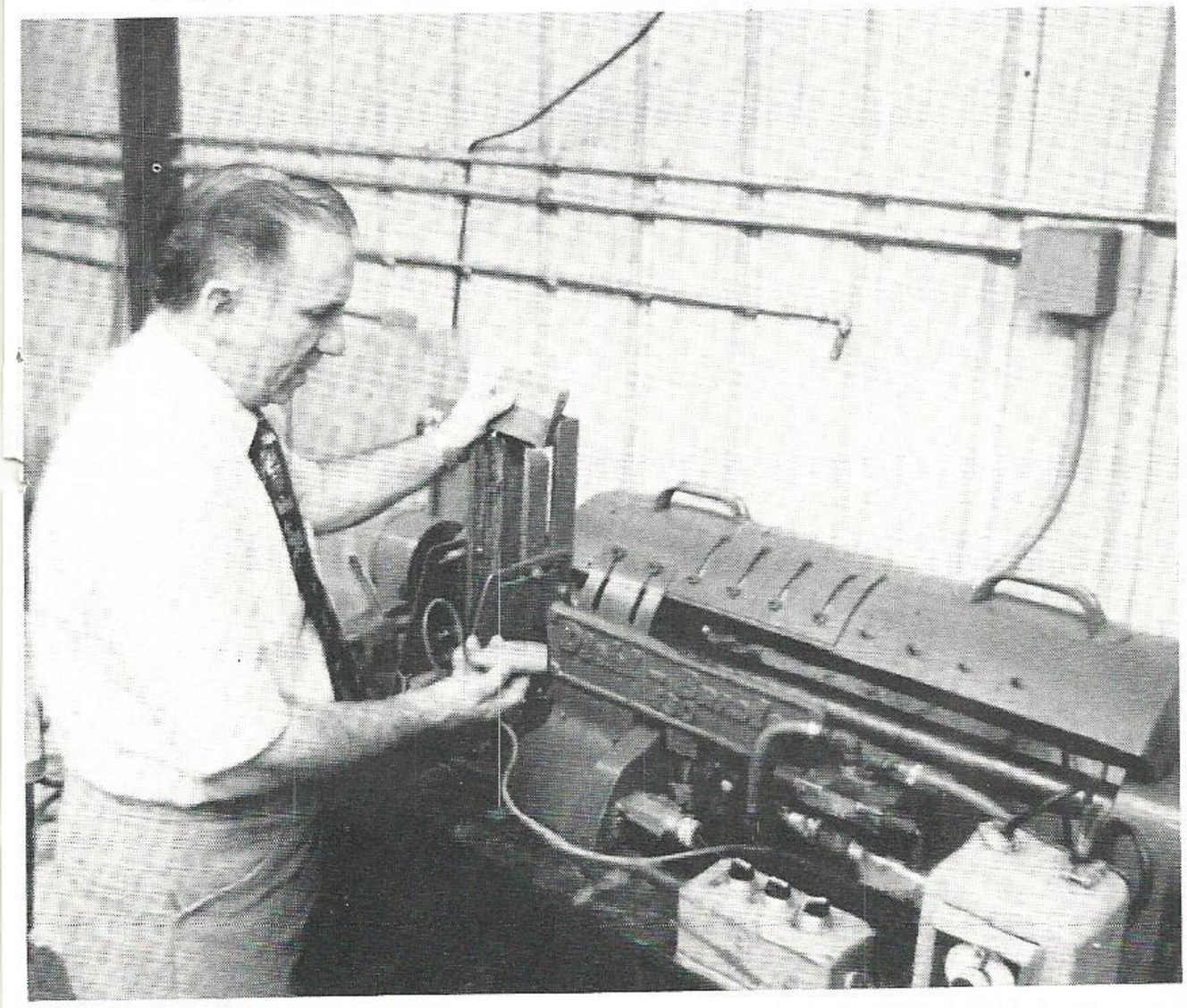
His duck calls, along with the calls he makes for turkeys, squirrels, geese, crows, predators, chukars and other game, can be found in sporting goods stores throughout the nation and in other parts of the world under the name "Sure Shot." He patented the duck call as a "Yentzen" instrument in honor of the man who had "been like a father to me," he says.

Although Fernandez began his operation in his garage, he has since built a roomy plant that includes empty office space for his wife, Iva, who has preferred to keep the books at their home. Each of the couple's five children, now grown, have at some time taken part in the family project.

Rows of completed duck calls are shown on a drying rack.

Fernandez works out with "Bubba," a nine-year-old Labrador retriever whose formal name is Champ.

Fernandez buys "blanks" of black walnut from Remington and Winchester to make the calls. The wood is Double A quality shotgun stock.



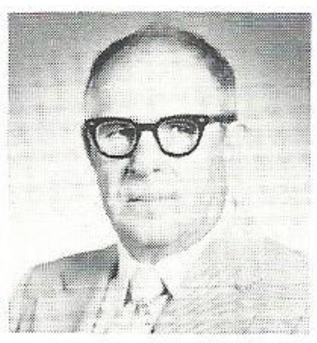
SERVICE AWARDS

40 years

S. F. Krebs
Electric T&D
Beaumont

30 years

Billy Gene Creel
Consumer Services
Beaumont



Russell R. Gautreaux
Plant Production
Baton Rouge

Howard Edmond Mack
Electric T&D
Lake Charles

Joseph A. Moran
Plant Production
Baton Rouge

Martha E. Scanlon
Internal Audits
Beaumont

Robert T. Singletary
Electric T&D
Cleveland

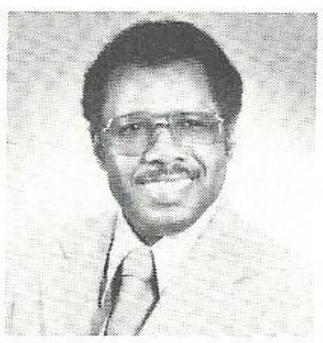
Joseph E. Zammitt
Plant Production
Willow Glen

20 years

Thomas E. Amerine
Nuclear Document
Beaumont

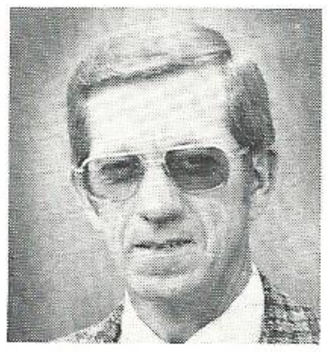
Daniel R. Blanchard
Plant Production
Lake Charles

Paul Narcisse Jr.
Electric T&D
Port Arthur



Thomas L. Perkins
Plant Production
Baton Rouge

Betty J. Raines
Office Services
Beaumont

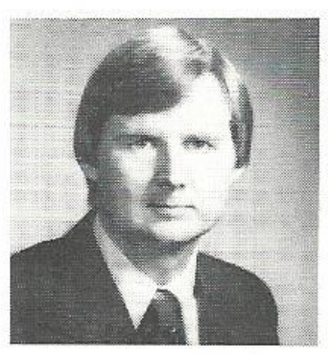


Louis C. Sandidge
Division Operations
Navasota

Clara S. Wellmann
Division Accounting
Conroe

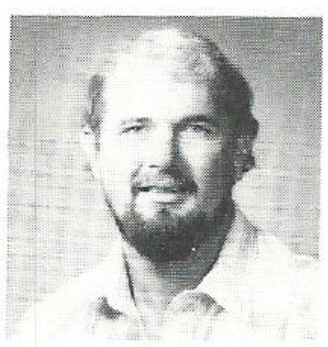
10 years

Lawrence Ardoin
Plant Production
Lake Charles

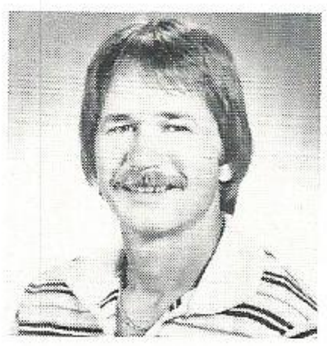


John R. Butts Jr.
System Production
Beaumont

Ernest L. Cannon
Plant Production
Conroe



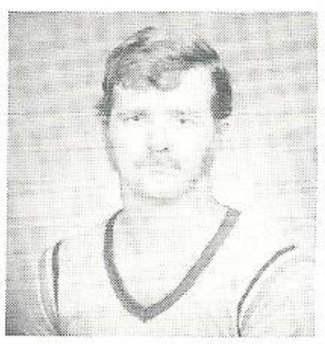
Philip W. Carter
Electric T&D
Beaumont



James A. Chabina
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge

Jeannie DuBose
Accounting Services
Beaumont

Anthony Malveaux
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



James R. Williams
Substation Dept.
Orange

Former employee leaves for Los Angeles to live out dream

by Susan Gilley
Plain Talks Editor

Peter Lau may not have completely shucked his accountant's demeanor for Steve Martin-type antics, but he's trying.

The 23-year-old Lau, who joined the company as an accountant in June, 1979, left for Los Angeles at the end of September to try his luck as a stand-up comedian.

Co-workers had already been introduced to his sense of humor through two skits he wrote and put on for them.

But nobody laughed when he announced plans to live out his dream in California.

"I really thought people would laugh," Lau told *Plain Talks*, "but a lot of people came up and told me they wished they had done something like this for themselves. It's an idea, it's a dream, but people do dream about being a singer or a dancer or a comedian."

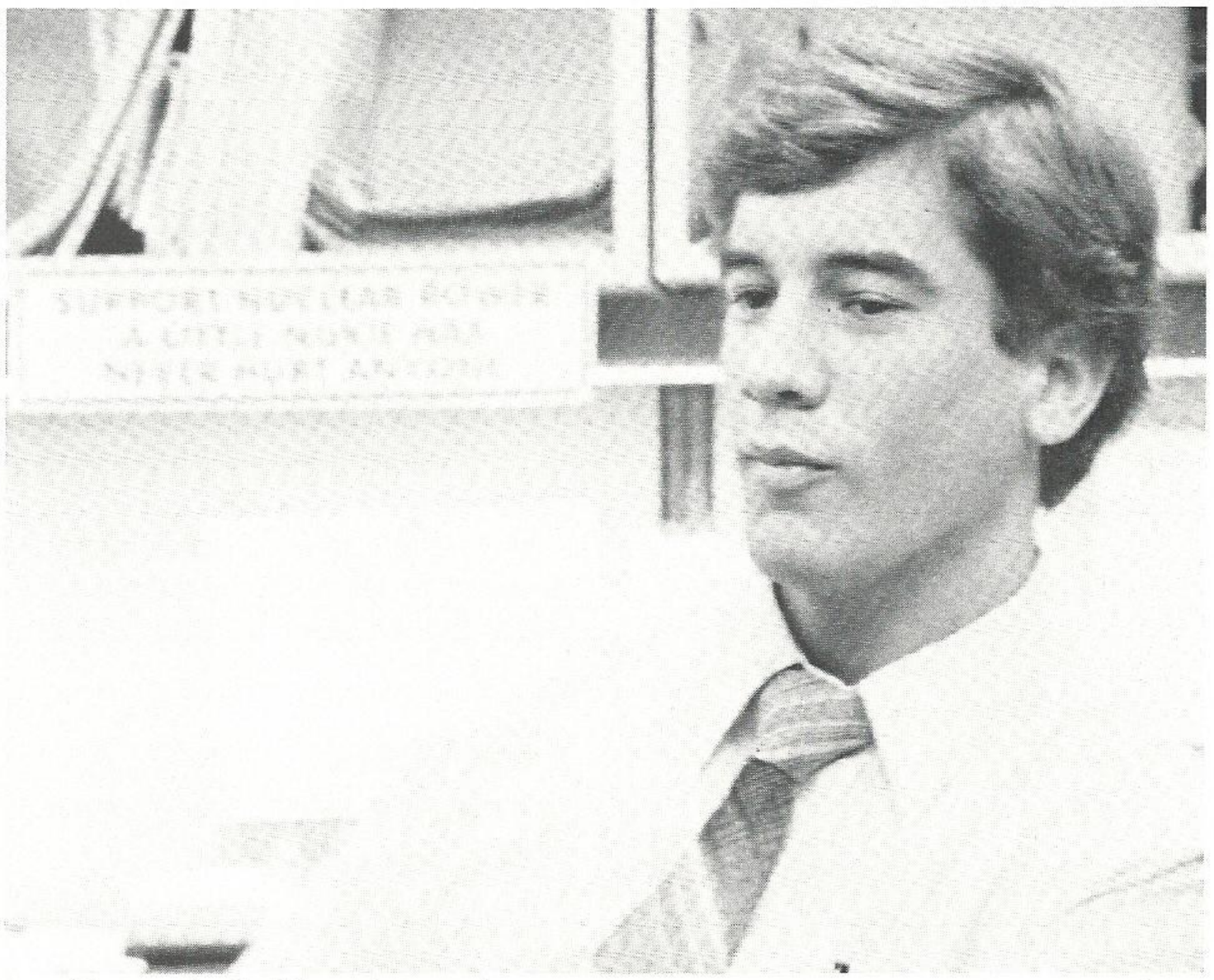
He admits, however, that some may have been skeptical about his seriousness. "When I sold my car and gave notice, they believed me," he recalled.

Before his departure, Lau said he expected to settle in Los, Angeles, where he would vie with other would-be comedians for a slot at The Comedy Store "at about 3 or 4 in the morning" when amateurs are given a chance to perform.

Co-workers have since heard from Lau, who wrote that on his first visit to The Comedy Store he found two queues — one for the audience and the other for about 50 comedians who showed up for amateur night performances.

Jokingly, he wrote that he might leave for Montana to become a cowboy. In the same note, however, he insisted that he still wants to become a professional comedian.

Peter Lau



Lau, who holds a degree in finance from the University of Texas, said that, in retrospect, "I don't think I should have been an accountant."

Even so, the position gave him some ideas for material. At one time, he issued a special "publication" called "Budget Breaker" — an unabashed take-off on Newsbreaker, the company's weekly newsletter. Other Budget Department employees could identify with such humor.

A year ago, Lau began "writing stuff every day" — ideas that he filed away for future development into comedic routines.

Lau says his family "is supporting me on my decision," but admits that his choice was made easier because he is single. "If I were married or had a little more responsibility on my job, I probably couldn't leave," he explained.

Lau, who is now sharing a place with a friend while he looks for a home of his own, reported that he never sees the sun until 3-4 p.m. because of the smog and said he gets around on city buses.

"Hollywood," he wrote back, "is a funny place. There are a lot of used-up people around here."

Lau's outlook should be somewhat brighter.

As he told *Plain Talks*, "I'm going to do this for a year or two. If it doesn't work out, I can still fall back on my degree.

"At least I'll have something to tell my kids," he concluded.

Retired executive dies in Beaumont

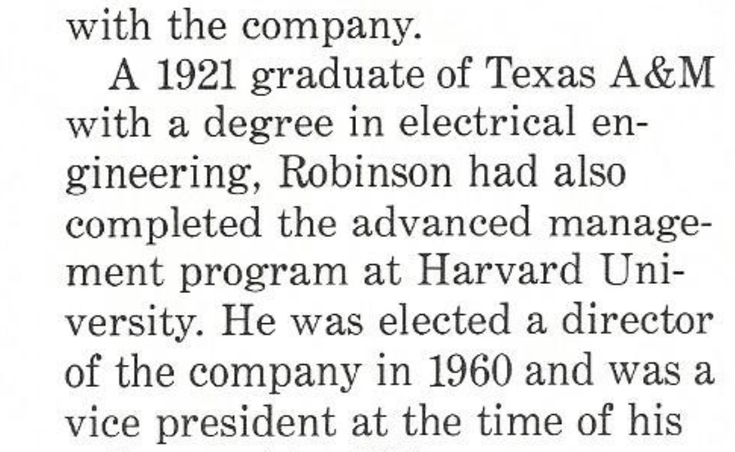
E. L. "Robbie" Robinson, 81, a retired vice president, general sales manager and director for Gulf States, died October 16 in his home in Beaumont.

A native of Bryan, Texas, he had lived in Beaumont for 58 years and had spent his entire career with the company.

A 1921 graduate of Texas A&M with a degree in electrical engineering, Robinson had also completed the advanced management program at Harvard University. He was elected a director of the company in 1960 and was a vice president at the time of his retirement in 1964.

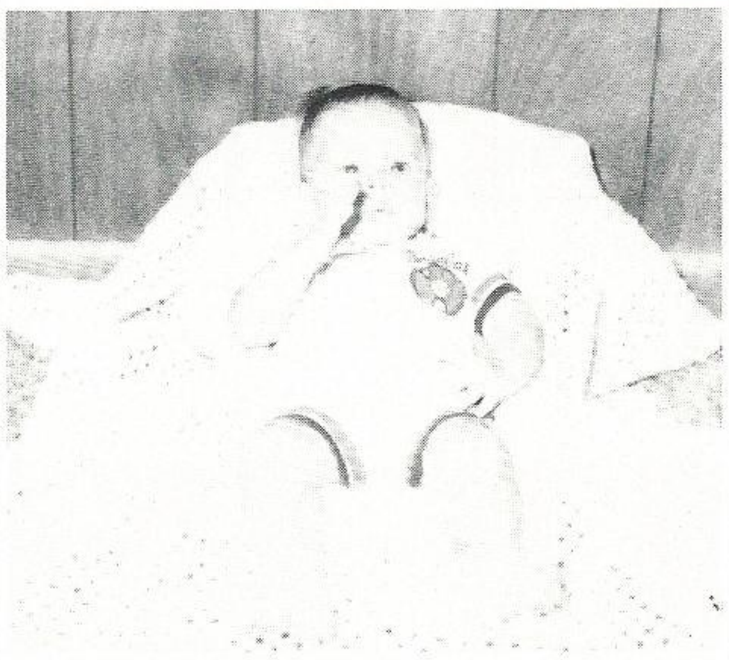
Survivors include his wife, Vannie Robinson of Beaumont; a daughter, Diane Bonem of Baytown; a son, Robin J. Robinson of Laguna Beach, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

Shower honors Gloria Zumo



Gloria Zumo, a departmental clerk in the Port Arthur Division engineering department, was recently honored with a surprise baby shower.

She is pictured with the baby stroller co-workers gave her on her last day at work.



Chelette baby born in June

Another Lake Charles employee has a new baby, too.

Grant Adam Chelette was born on June 18 to Kathleen and Earnie Chelette.

Mrs. Chelette is a senior stenographer in Division Accounting. Grant has an older brother, Chris.

Television personality, former GSUer dies

William L. Hammond, a former GSU employee who was later the television character "Uncle Willie" for Beaumont's Channel 6 television station, died at his home October 14.

Hammond, 72, began his popular children's show on radio in 1947, initially as a disc jockey for kids, sending out as many as 200 birthday greeting and condolences to sick children each day, as well as playing records they liked.

In 1955, the "Uncle Willie" program moved to television, where it ran five days a week in the late afternoon. Hammond became head of program and sales promotion at Channel 6 in 1961 but continued to emcee his daily program. He retired from the station in 1973.

A native of Fort Worth, Hammond came to Beaumont in 1935 after attending Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., where he majored in journalism. He spent nine years in the advertising department of Gulf States before moving on to jobs in newspaper, radio and television.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys, of Beaumont, and a daughter, Judy Ann Hammond of Texas City.

Lafayette party honors retirees

Although it has been almost a year since the retirement of George Parton and Nathaniel Broussard from Gulf States in Lafayette, the pictures were a little late getting to *Plain Talks.*

The two men were honored at a double retirement party last December 7. Parton, who was assistant general substation foreman, started to work for the company in November, 1945. He retired Feb. 1, 1980.

Broussard, who was district substation operator, started to work for the company in November, 1947. He retired Jan. 1, 1980.

Parton is pictured in the dark suit, along with his wife, while Broussard (in the light suit) is also shown with his wife.

Former GSU officer dies in Beaumont

George B. Morgan, a former vice president of Gulf States, died October 20 in a Beaumont hospital.

At the time of his death, Morgan was chairman of the board and a founder of Texas Metal Works Inc.

In addition to serving as a GSU officer, Morgan's long career also included service as a former president of the Beaumont Natural Gas Co., owner of the Standard Appliance Co. and a rice farmer.

He was perhaps best known as chairman of the board and former president of Texas Metal Works. He was one of the four men who started the operation in 1942.

In 1976, Morgan and Texas Metal Works received the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Industry Recognition Award.

A native of Greenville, Texas, he held a bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M, a bachelor of science degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and had done research work at Harvard University.

Survivors include a son, George Morgan Jr. of Beaumont; a daughter, Mary M. Moore of Beaumont; two sisters, and five grandchildren.

John Adams moves to New Caney

John Adams, consumer service representative, was transferred from Lake Charles to New Caney on September 6.

Members of the Kitty Club, a group of Lake Charles employees who make regular contributions to a fund that pays for celebrations and condolences, honored Adams with cake and coffee just before his departure.

Adams' father, A. A. "Johnnie" Adams, is a retired GSU employee.

Conroe employee doubles as clown

Conroe storekeeper Leo Adams doubles as a clown.

Adams is shown at a recent company fish fry entertaining the grandchildren of fellow Conroe employee Virgil Foster.

Currently serving as president of the Conroe Shriners Club, Adams serves as a Shriners' clown known as "Be Bo."

Murrill leaves LSU position

LSU Chancellor Paul W. Murrill, a member of GSU's board of directors, has announced that he will leave his university post in December to accept a job as senior vice president of Ethyl Corp.

In a letter to LSU System President Martin D. Woodin, Dr. Murrill, 46, stated, "My goal is to return to private industry and to have a less public career. There is a season for all things; I simply think it is time for a change for LSU and for me."

Dr. Murrill has been chancellor — chief executive officer — of LSU's Baton Rouge campus for seven years. He has been at LSU 20 years, 13 years as an administrator. Dr. Murrill, whose doctorate is in chemical engineering, has been a member of the Gulf States' board since 1978.

Although he was born in St. Louis, Mo., Dr. Murrill spent most of his childhood and early student years in Mississippi. He worked at Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. in Lake Charles a short time before coming to LSU in 1960 as a graduate student.

Woman shows baby to co-workers in Lake Charles

Little Celeste Adele Hay visited the Lake Charles Division office with her mother, Doris Hay, recently.

Mrs. Hay is consumer affairs coordinator for the division.

Celeste, who was born August 26, is the first child for Doris and husband Pat.

ON THE MOVE

Ancelot, Harvey J., Lake Charles, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D/Line.

Arbour, Dale L., Willow Glen, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Banks, Richard, Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Barker, Michael E., Port Arthur, to garage mechanic-1st class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Barnett, Thompson W., Willow Glen, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Bates, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Bellair, Edward J., Lake Charles, to supervisor-energy audits, Consumer Services.

Berry, Gregory L., Beaumont, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Bob, Sidney J., Beaumont, to engineering helper, Engineering Design.

Boerger, Philip T., Beaumont, vice president-fossil projects, will report to executive vice president-Administrative Services.

Bourgeois, Stephen P., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D Line.

Bourque, Gregory W., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Boyd, Glenda H., Denham Springs, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Broussard, Julian R., Lake Charles, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Buller, Matthew P., Lake Charles, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Buttercase, Michael L., Conroe, to garage mechanic-1st class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Carr, John H., Jr., Baton Rouge, to senior meter reader, Division Accounting.

Carr, Randy C., Willow Glen, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Cartwright, Thomas C., Orange, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Line Dept.

Clark, Christopher J., Lake Charles, to Helper-T&D Dept.

Clay, Albert, Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Line Dept.

Collier, Josiah B., Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Collier, Michael D., Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D Dept., Substation.

Collins, Leroy F., Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Elec. T&D Line Dept.

Colquitt, Donnell, Jr., Lake Charles, to serviceman-3rd class, Elec. T&D Service Dept.

Connolly, Bruce J., Beaumont, to accountant, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

Cooper, Louis R., Lake Charles, to test foreman, Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

Coxe, Jeffrey A., Louisiana Station, to auxiliary operator, Plant Production/Operations.

Cross, Autholine H., Beaumont, to stenographer, Financial Services.

Damond, John H., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

Davis, Carter G., Beaumont, to manager-computer systems, Computer Applications.

Davis, Donald R., Louisiana Station, to auxiliary operator, Plant Production/Operations.

Day, Charlotte D., Beaumont, to fuels coordinator, Beaumont Fuel Services.

Derr, James H., Beaumont, vice president-power plant engineering and design, will report to executive vice president-Administrative Services.

Donnelly, Thomas F., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Line Dept.

Duncan, James R., Port Arthur, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Durdin, Norma P., Beaumont, to supervisor-salary administration, Beaumont Human Resources.

Dykes, Ralph L., Beaumont, to accountant, Beaumont Power Plant Engineering & Design.

Eaphrom, John, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D Substation.

Edmiston, Gary L., Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Administrative Services.

Ellison, Barbara S., Beaumont, to secretary-executive, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Esclovon, Dennis D., Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Fauntleroy, Donald E., Louisiana Station, to auxiliary operator, Plant Production/Operations.

Fountain, Michael O., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Franklin, Harrison, Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Gallow, Rickie J., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Galmore, Reginald E., Beaumont, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Gatlin, Roger D., Baton Rouge, to engineering assistant, Elec. T&D Dept.

Gauthier, Daniel M., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Greathouse, Charles A., Lake Charles, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Gross, Sherbert A., Denham Springs, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Guillory, Robert E., Orange, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Hamilton, Esquardo H., Baton Rouge, to repairman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Hand, Dannie J., Port Arthur, to equipment operator, Plant Production/Operations.

Hanks, Keith A., Vidor, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Harden, Robert E., Lake Charles, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Harrington, William E., Beaumont, to director-fuel services, Beaumont Fuel Services.

Harris, Anthony, Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Hartner, Dennis M., Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Hayes, Glen J., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Hebert, Earnest, Baton Rouge, to senior meter reader, Division Accounting.

Henderson, Charles, Beaumont, to building and grounds maintenance man, Building Services.

Hilbun, Theresa A., Baton Rouge, to meter reader, Division Accounting.

Honea, Ramona K., formerly of Beaumont, to accountant, Baton Rouge T&D Operations.

Hooker, Lee D., Nelson Station, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Hooper, Tommy D., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Houston, William, Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Irvine, Jerry G., Beaumont, to serviceman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Jackson, Emery J., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production/Operations.

Jacobs, Christopher L., Port Arthur, to equipment operator, Plant Production/Operations.

Jarreau, Carolyn R., Vidor, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

Jasper, Thomas E., Jr., Silsbee, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Jimnez, David, Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D Dept., Elec. T&D Dept.

Johnson, Donald R., Conroe, to meterman-1st class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Johnson, Jesse K., Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Elec. T&D Dept.

Johnson, William, Jr., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Kattelman, Ronald H., Beaumont, to supervisor-materials planning, Beaumont Materials Management.

Kautzman, Robert R., Beaumont, to director-planning & economic evaluation, Beaumont Fuel Services.

Kelley, George E., St. Francisville, to senior purchasing agent, River Bend Nuclear Group, River Bend Site.

Kennison, Raynard J., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Kovach, David E., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

LeJeune, Joseph C., Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Martin, Charlie, Jr., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Elec. T&D Substation.

Matte, Michael W., Nelson Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Mayfield, Bendel K., Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

McCarthy, George, Lake Charles, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

McCollough, George T., Beaumont, to general manager-fuels, materials and contracts, Administrative Services.

McKay, Kevin T., Port Arthur, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

McKinney, Deena B., Beaumont, to accountant, Rates & Regulatory Affairs.

McMillon, Lemuel R., Jr., Orange, to apprentice, T&D Dept.

Melancon, August P., Louisiana Station, to auxiliary operator, Plant Production.

Miller, Derrell L., Orange, to lineman-1st class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Mitchell, Larry D., Conroe, to engineering assistant, Elec. T&D Dept.

Mitchell, Steven F., Lake Charles, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Montgomery, Gary C., Dayton, to lineman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Moore, Carol Y., Beaumont, to stenographer, Division Accounting.

Moss, Charles R., Jr., Port Arthur, to helper-T&D Dept., T&D/Helper Crews.

Mullins, Rondal L., Beaumont, to supervisor-contract administration, Beaumont River Bend Nuclear Group.

Nash, Carl T., Jr., Nelson Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Nelson, Gerald E., Port Arthur, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Netterville, Craig B., Beaumont, to operator's helper, Plant Production/Operations.

Nolen, Bruce R., Baton Rouge, to supervisor-energy audits, Baton Rouge Division Consumer Services.

Nolen, Thomas E., Lake Charles, to garage mechanic helper, Elec. T&D Dept.

Owens, Keith A., Beaumont, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

Phillips, Dwight S., Denham Springs, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Potter, Harry H., III, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Rabalais, Bateman J., Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, Elec. T&D Line Dept.

Rabalais, James S., Baton Rouge, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Ramsey, Russell G., formerly of Beaumont, to supervisor-site nuclear records, River Bend Site.

Reed, Leonard R., Conroe, to apprentice-T&D Dept., Elec. T&D Dept.

Reynolds, William B., formerly of Sabine 5 Site, to fossil projects, Nelson Coal Site.

Richardson, John M., Beaumont, to communications serviceman-1st class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Rogers, Sandra C., Beaumont, to stenographer, Engineering Design.

Russell, Sally I., Beaumont, to senior EDP auditor, Beaumont Internal Audits.

Russo, Mark S., Beaumont, to senior accountant, Beaumont Accounting Services.

Sam, Larry W., Port Arthur, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

Sartin, Jessie L., Beaumont, to operator's helper, Plant Production/Operations.

Sealy, Glenn M., formerly of Conroe, to supervisor-employee benefits, Beaumont Human Resources.

Senkel, Paul R., Conroe, to supervisor-energy audits, Western Division Consumer Services.

Simien, Dianna C., Lake Charles, to utility worker II, Elec. T&D Dept.

Simms, Ike, Jr., Beaumont, to special utility worker, Building Services.

Singleton, Albert B., Conroe, to party chief, T&D Engineering.

Smith, Hiram W., Baton Rouge, to coordinator-consumer accounts, Baton Rouge Division Accounting.

Smith, Lana G., Beaumont, to stenographer, Division Accounting.

Smith, Mary P., Baton Rouge, to legal stenographer, Baton Rouge Division Operations.

Smith, Morris, Jr., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Elec. T&D Substation.

Smith, Robert H., Orange, to line foreman, T&D Line Dept.

Smith, Thomas D., Beaumont, to serviceman-4th class, Elec. T&D Dept.

Spell, Edward M., Beaumont, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

Stephenson, Chris E., Beaumont, to apprentice-T&D Dept., Elec. T&D Dept.

Stephenson, Sammie E., Baton Rouge, to storeroom supervisor, T&D Storeroom.

Pages 17-20, Retiree's directory has been removed

Meet your correspondent: Connie Herford of Nelson Station

Connie Herford, *Plain Talks* correspondent, is in a position to observe the changing times.

As an employee of Nelson Station for the past two and one-half years, she has watched construction of the company's first coal unit — one symbol of how Gulf States has had to cope with the rising costs and lessened availability of two other fossil fuels, oil and gas.

Recently moved from a position as a departmental clerk to that of a storeroom assistant, Mrs. Herford reveals she has never enjoyed her work more.

She continues to learn more about how electricity is made and says she has also discovered that "It's real expensive to keep the plant up."

The public is quite curious about the power plant, especially regarding the coal unit construction, she adds.

"I sometimes find that I have to kind of stand up for Gulf States," she notes, explaining that those outside the company do not realize how much it costs to produce the electricity that serves their homes.

A native of Sulphur, Mrs. Herford attended McNeese State University in nearby Lake Charles, where she majored in medical technology for two years. However, she soon discovered that working in a hospital laboratory and going to school fulltime did

not leave much time for her husband, Guy Herford, who works for Halliburton. She says her pace has been much less hectic since she began her career at Gulf States in May, 1978.

Although Mrs. Herford says, "I learn something new every day about the plant," she adds that it is more difficult to learn more about the people who keep the plant running.

"I wish anybody who has a good story idea for *Plain Talks* would give me a call," she suggests. "I'm interested in employees who have hobbies and interests outside the plant, too."

Data bank to provide safety information on nuclear plants

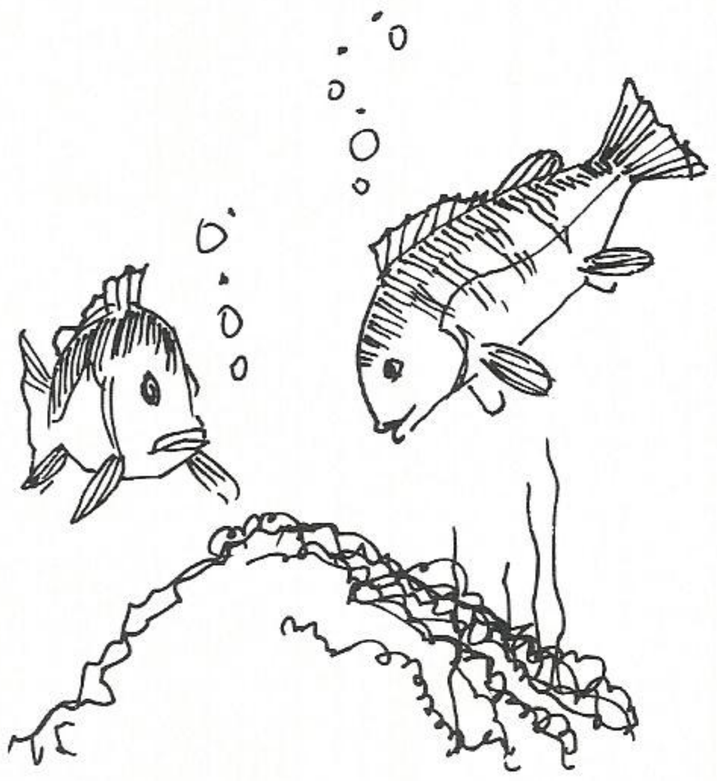
An Equipment Qualification Data Bank is being established to provide a clearinghouse of information documenting the ability of nuclear power plant equipment to function under stress.

The data bank will focus on safety-related electrical equipment. It will provide information on the equipment's ability to function under normal wear and under potential accident conditions, such as a high energy line break or a loss of coolant accident.

A feasibility study funded by the Electric Power Research Institute has shown that such a computerized system could assist the industry by reducing the difficulty and the cost of keeping up with the expanding scope of testing, analysis and associated documentation required in this area.

Compilation of this data system has been started by the Florida Division of NUS Corporation under contract to EPRI.

The new data bank will store all available summary qualification data for electrical equipment in operating plants, plants under construction and plants being designed. Generic data provided by equipment manufacturers will also be stored. The summary data, retrievable by users by way of remote terminals, will include equipment identifiers, environmental parameters, qualification test parameters and sources of documentation.



Researchers build artificial reefs of coal waste

Five hundred tons of fly ash and sludge from coal-fired plants have been cast into blocks and built into an artificial reef in the Atlantic Ocean off Fire Island.

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)-funded researchers hope the artificial reefs will help improve coastal fisheries while providing safe and effective disposal of coal wastes.

A large coal-fired plant can produce as much as 1,000 tons of solid coal wastes daily.

The reef will be monitored for the next few years for stability and to track biological colonization.

Forecaster says conservation impact to be great

Chase Econometrics believes conservation's impact on the next decade's energy demands will be substantial.

A Chase paper predicts:

- Commercial and residential energy consumption will grow 1.2 percent annually.
- Gasoline consumption will decline 0.2 percent because of fuel efficiency standards (this will be offset by a small increase in use for jet fuel, bunker oil and diesel fuel).
- Fossil fuel consumed per unit of industrial output will fall 30 percent.

Chase also expects nuclear power to be "the fastest growing single energy source in the United States," although its potential is reduced by the impact of the 1979 Three Mile Island incident, financing woes and public protest. Coal will remain "demand-constrained" and dependent on government conversion policy. Natural gas from Alaska, Canada and Mexico will offset a decline in domestic production. (The American Gas Association predicts prices will rise 12-13 percent annually throughout the 1980s.)

And oil demand, according to Chase, will decline 0.1 percent through 1990. The U.S. dependency on OPEC oil — which could cost $90 a barrel — is expected to continue.

OPEC oil — which could cost $90 a barrel — is expected to continue.

Conservation's impact can be measured by the energy/Gross National Product ratio, which fell to 0.71 during the 1970s, and is now projected by Chase to go to less than 0.6 in the next decade.

GSU, other utilities strive to raise load factors to more efficient levels

The following question-and-answer series sheds light on "load factor" — a catchword for Gulf States and most other utilities right now.

What is load factor?

A utility's load factor is the ratio of the average load that customer demand puts on the system during a given period (hour, day or season) to the maximum, or "peak," demand that might occur over that same period.

To figure out your own individual load factor, start by determining your maximum demand for electricity. It probably peaks when you're using several appliances at once. If, for instance, you hit a high of 10 kilowatts between 6 and 7 p.m., your daily peak is 10 kilowatts. But your rate of use may drop to 4 or 5 KW during the day and it dwindles further overnight. Say your average demand is 5 KW for the period. That makes your load factor 5/10, or 50 percent.

How do utilities determine their load factor?

They make load profiles for all their customers. These profiles are projected over an entire year to help the company estimate the total demand it must meet. Since electricity can't be stored, the utility has to know not only how much power it has to generate, but at what times demand will be heaviest.

What do the profiles look like?

They resemble rolling hills for Gulf States, reflecting the living and working habits of the company's ratepayers. Industrial and commercial peaks occur during the business day, while residential peaks are usually reached in the early evening during the summer and in the morning and early evening during the winter. Weekends, holidays and seasons also affect load factors.

Why is load factor important?

Utilities must have generating equipment ready at all times to meet peak demand. But it actually costs more to generate electricity at peak periods because the utility must use all its generators — including those that are less efficient and use more costly fuel. And peaks that reach new heights can force a utility to make large capital investments in costly new equipment, though existing generators may end up sitting idle much of the time. If demand for electricity can be spread out a bit, the load factor goes up and everyone benefits.

How can load factors be improved?

The simplest way to accomplish that is by filling in some of the valleys that now exist between the daily and seasonal peaks.

Does that mean using more electricity?

No, it's more a matter of rearranging when we use it. Suppose it's 6 p.m. and your television set, oven, clothes dryer and air conditioner are all turned on. Your personal use of electricity, like that of many residential customers, would probably peak at that time. If you could shift some of that usage of electricity to a later period, you'd shave a few kilowatts off your peak. And if enough people did the same thing, the load factor would increase substantially.

Are utilities doing anything to influence load factors?

Gulf States is now conducting an analysis of data gathered in a recently-concluded load management project in Baton Rouge. About 190 Baton Rouge homes were equipped with remote control switches that turned off their air conditioning at peak periods — between 2 and 6 p.m. on weekdays. The study period was from June through September. The data will be used to determine whether the company should continue the program, perhaps launching into a full-scale load management program.

GSU is also involved in projects to determine how much impact a solar domestic water heater would have on both load and energy requirements and how much the impact would be from waste heat recovery systems on air conditioners and water heaters in which the water is heated by the heat pump cycle.

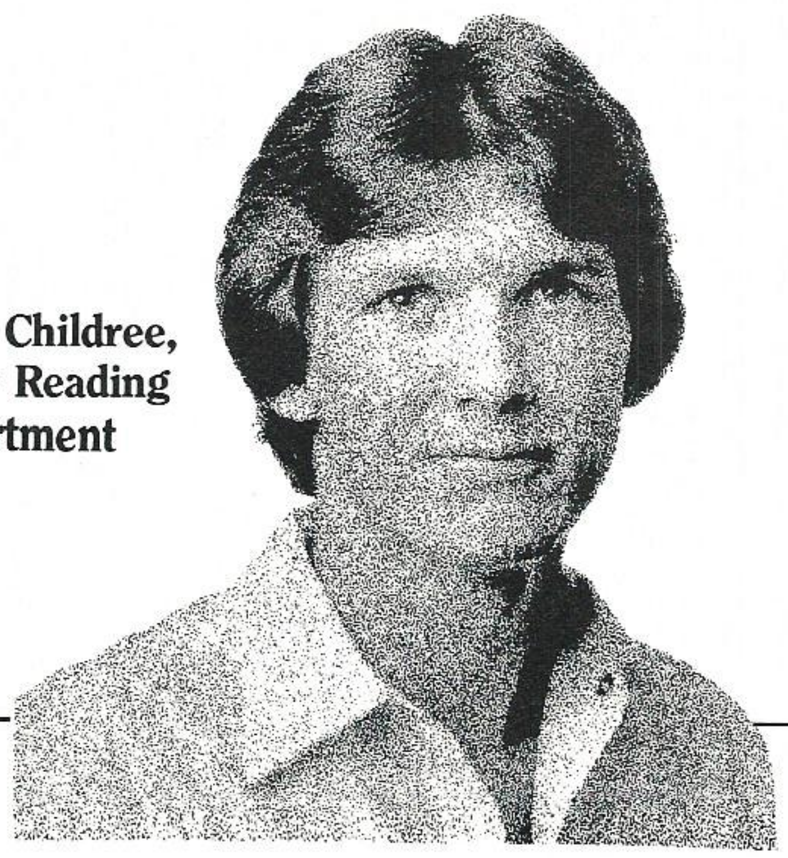
GSU and other utilities are encouraging the use of room heaters and hot water heaters which only use electricity during the utility's off-peak hours. This type of equipment permits energy to be supplied at the least cost, resulting in a savings to the customer.

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

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

Fuel cost. There's no profit in it for GSU.

"The price of fuel used to make electricity is shown on your monthly bill as 'electric fuel adjustment'. There's no profit in it for GSU. It's just the price we paid for it."



Steve Childree, Meter Reading Department

To explain the "electric fuel adjustment," we need to start underground — with oil and natural gas. These are fuels our company uses to make electricity. Oil and natural gas are pumped from the ground to one of our generating units. There they are turned into the electricity you use each month. You pay for just the fuel necessary to make the electricity you use. But you never pay more than the price we pay for it; and we are constantly shopping for the best fuel buys available.

THE ENERGY PEOPLE
GULF STATES UTILITIES