

# PLAIN TALKS

November/December 1992

Volume 71 Number 9

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The Reddy Rhythms  
go to the movies**

**Employee hobby  
full of hot air**

**Need information?  
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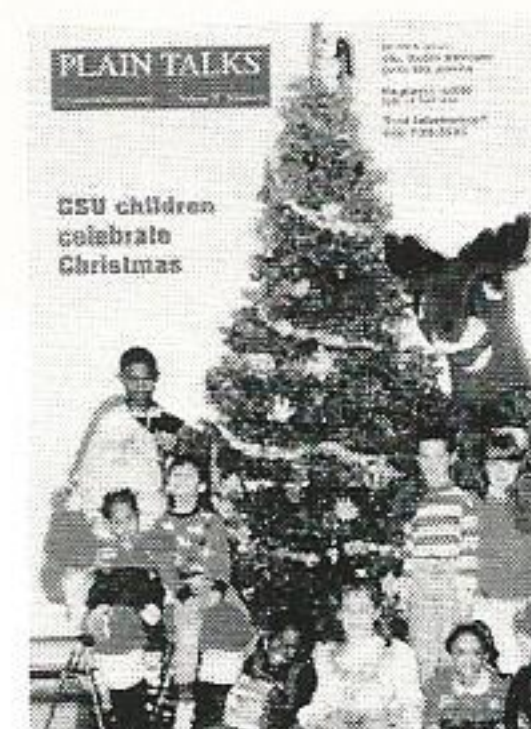
## **GSU children celebrate Christmas**





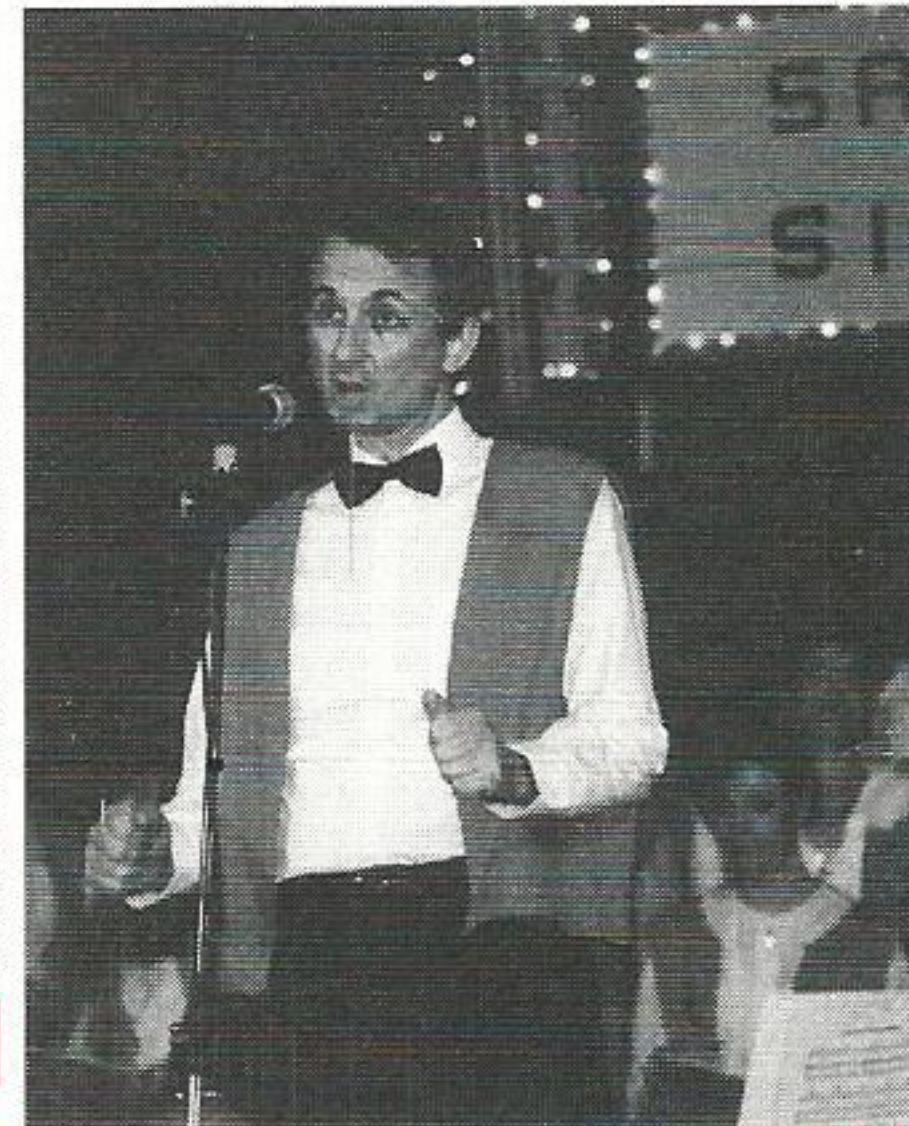
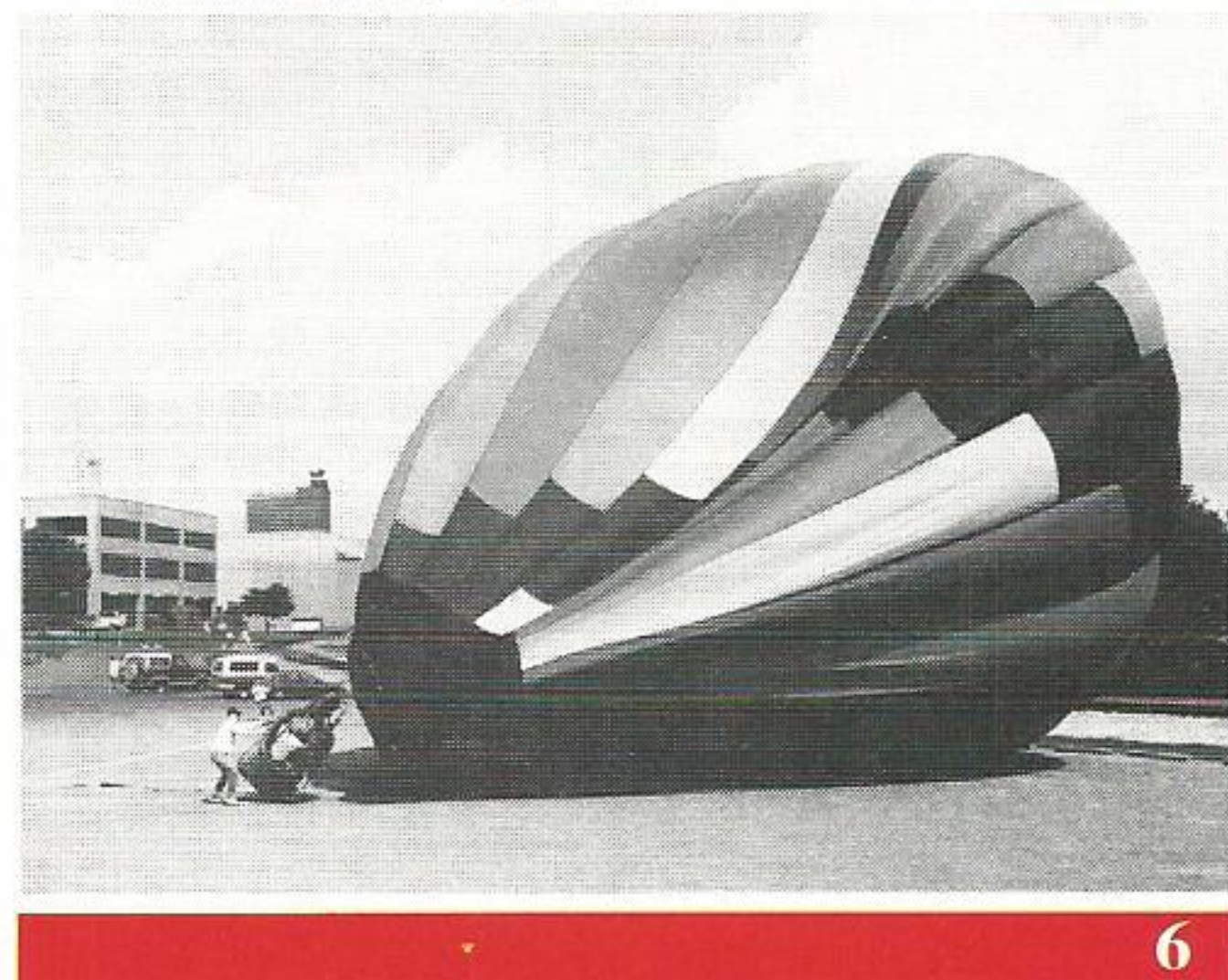
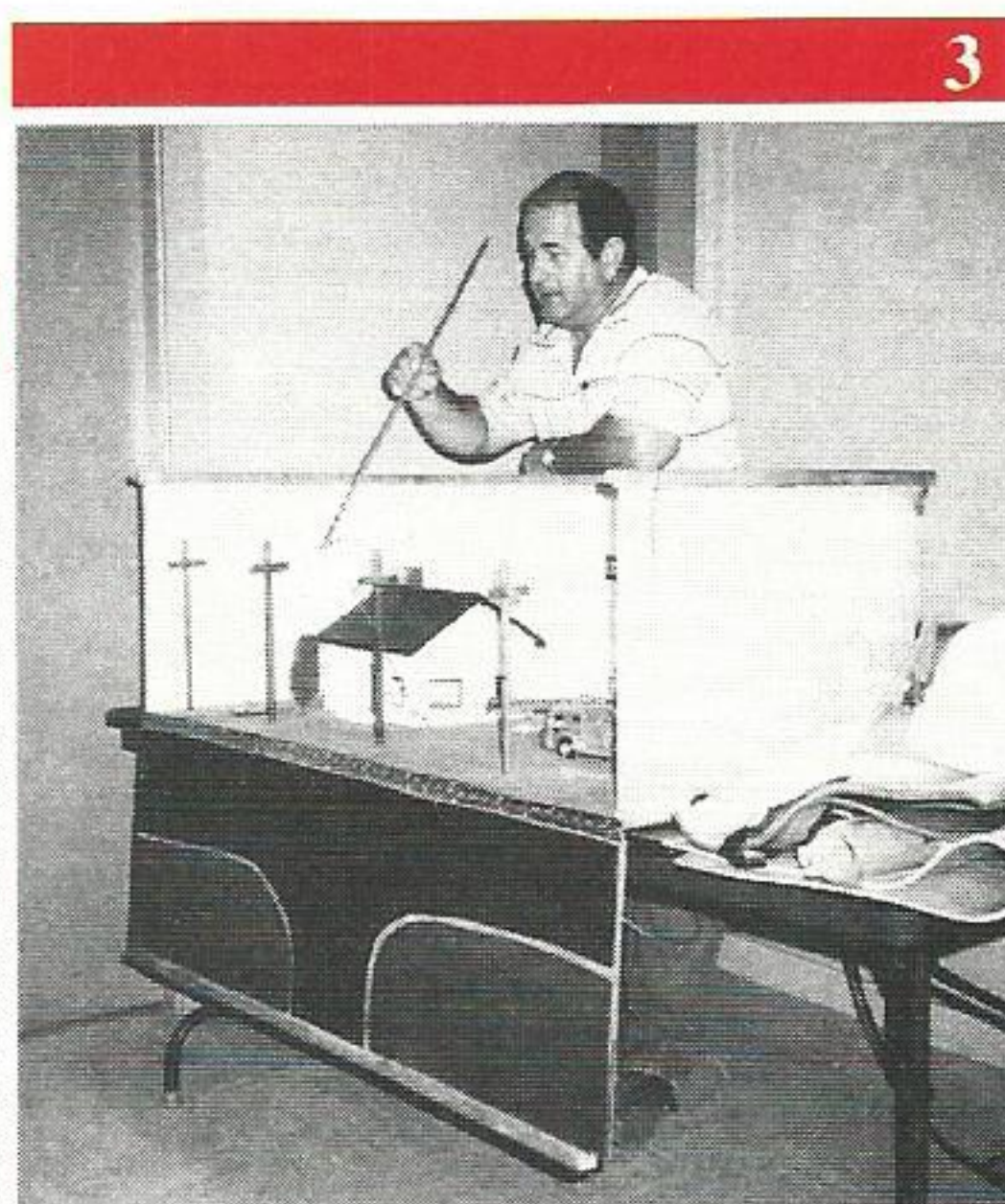
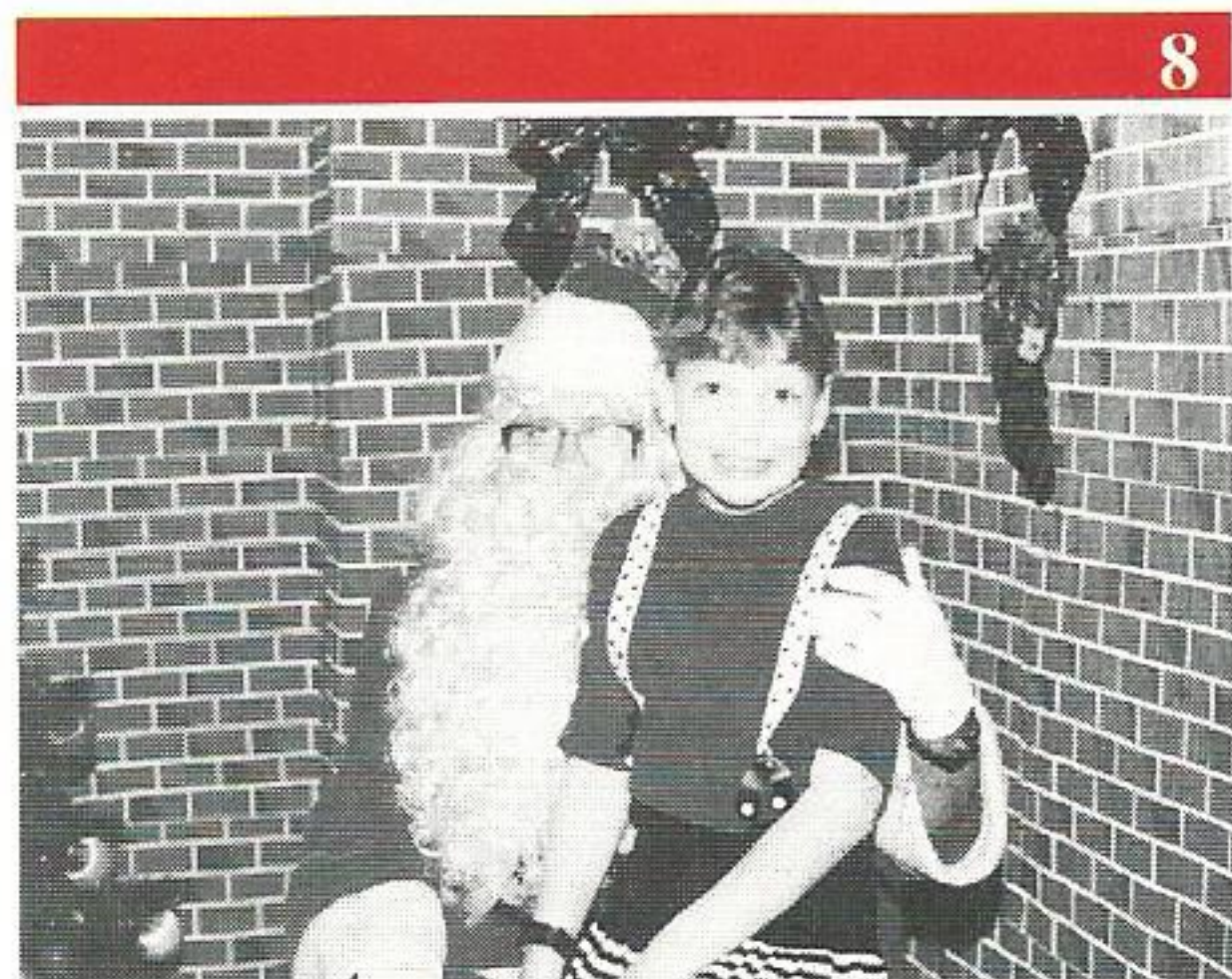
# PLAIN TALKS

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## About the cover

The children of GSU employees will be visiting with familiar faces at GSU Children's Christmas parties, which make their return after a seven-year absence. Photo by Scott Harper (See pages 8 - 9).



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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.



# Employees spread the safety word

story and photos by Pris Gallagher

"I want you to pay close attention because I'm going to give you some information today that could keep you and your family from getting electrocuted or shocked," John Richard told the 52 children sitting neatly on the floor in front of him.

The kids, ranging in age from 6 to 13, were attending the Baton Rouge Recreation and Park Commission (BREC) day camp at the Flannery Road park.

The BREC park was just one stop that week for members of the Baton Rouge Division Safety Promotions Committee. The committee has given over 150 safety presentations since its inception four years ago.

Committee members alternate responsibility for the programs, but usually a serviceman, or someone with "field" experience, is accompanied by an "office" worker. In this case, Kay Monte, customer contact clerk in division accounting, assisted Richard, a serviceman-1st class in Port Allen.

First on the agenda was "Zap Rap," a 9-minute video about electricity and safety delivered in "rap" style. Then Richard had their full attention as he demonstrated what happens when a conductible object comes into contact with live electrical wires.

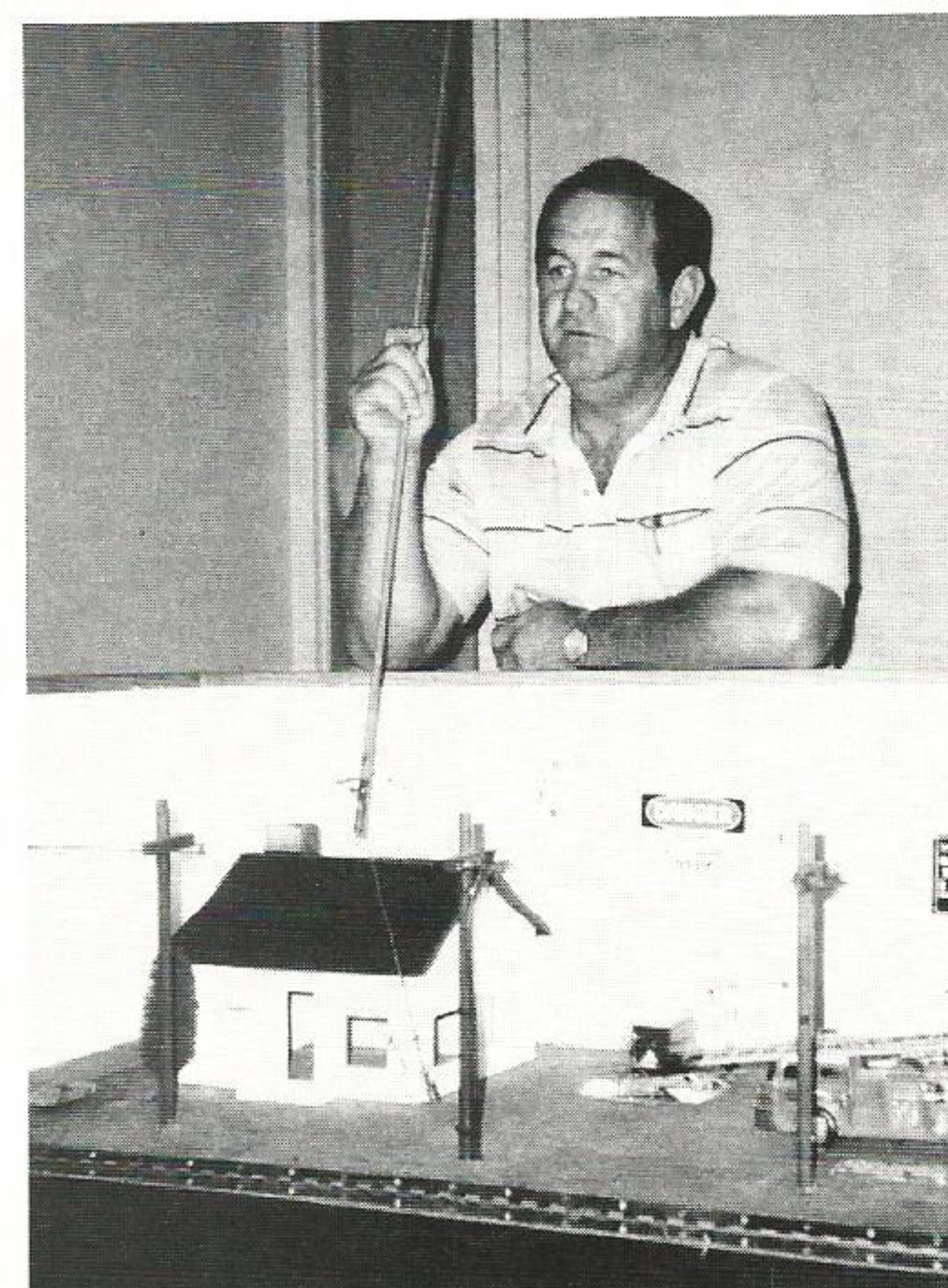
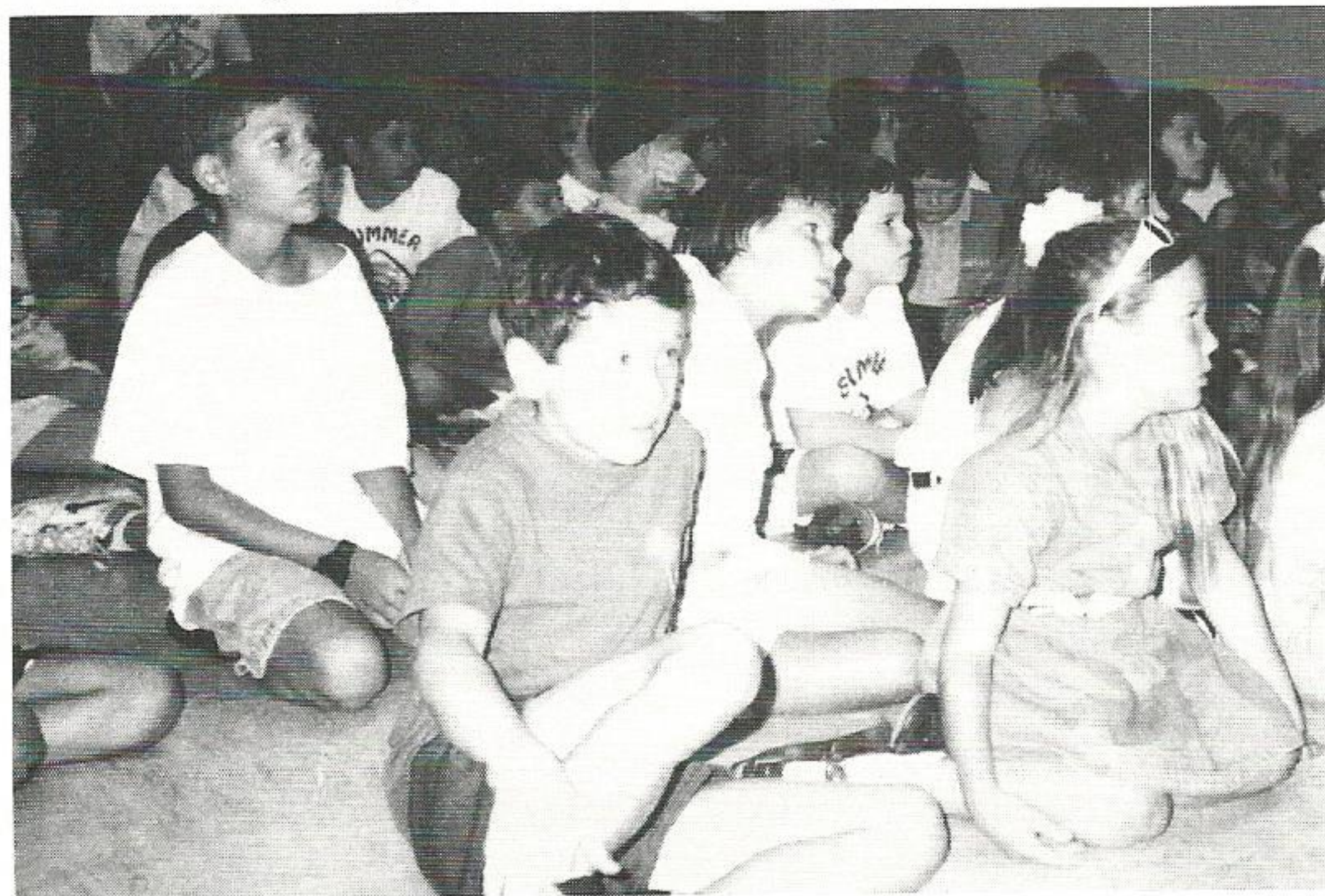
Michelle Montoto, a BREC counselor, became part of the program when she was unanimously volunteered by her young charges to don safety equipment to emphasize the precautions taken to protect employees who work on lines. Complete with hard hat, gloves and rubber sleeves, she tried to pick up various pieces of pipe and wire, simu-

lating what a lineman or serviceman does daily.

Richard brought the information closer to home when he cautioned his audience to stay away from padmount transformers; to find other places to play. He urged them to call GSU immediately if they see an unlocked or damaged padmount transformer, or if their parents want to dig near underground cables.

Armed with safety comic books, pencils, notepads and stickers, the boys and girls left for a picnic lunch, still trying to convince Richard they learned how to save lives that day.

"If I can keep one child from getting hurt, then that's all I want," Richard said, as the children filed out.



Left, all eyes are riveted on Richard as he presents safety information. Above, Richard uses a portable display to graphically emphasize safety around power lines.



# The Reddy Rhythms go Hollywood!

by Mark Viguet

The glitter and glamour of Hollywood recently came home to the stage of the historic Jefferson Theater in Beaumont when GSU's Reddy Rhythms presented "Salute to the Silver Screen," a musical journey through the history of film.

The Reddy Rhythms, GSU employees who volunteer their time and talent to entertain throughout the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, sang, danced and acted their way through famous showtunes from the 1920s through the 1980s. The show helped celebrate the 65th birthday of the landmark theater in downtown Beaumont, and also served as a fundraiser for the Jefferson Theater Preservation Society.

"The Jefferson Theater show was the culmination of a schedule that included three months of rehearsals, followed by about two dozen performances," says Scott

Harper, employee communications representative and Reddy Rhythms director. "Before, we would perform one of our other shows a total of eight times and we really thought we were busy. We performed 'Salute' eight times in May alone. This was easily our biggest and best show."

"Salute to the Silver Screen" showcased tunes from a wide range of movies, including "The Jazz Singer," "The Wizard of Oz," "The Sound of Music," "Singing in the Rain," a medley of songs from Disney, a Western medley, "South Pacific," "Cabaret," "Saturday Night Fever," "Annie" and "Ghostbusters." The revue featured a blend of props, dance numbers and acting, all performed against a backdrop of famous showtunes.

"We tried to hit on many of the well-known movie genres," Harper said.

On its latest "tour," the all-volunteer troupe played venues as varied as malls, civic organizations, church groups, professional groups, state associations, retirement and nursing homes, and retiree groups.

"The props were neat and the staging was great, but the main thing that made this show special was the people in Reddy Rhythms," Harper says. "I have yet to figure out why they will stand up in front of total strangers and do almost anything."

Pat Wakefield, departmental clerk, Beaumont Service Center, calls the show "the greatest we've done."

"The people in this group are very, very talented. I really enjoy singing with them," Wakefield says. "The most rewarding thing for me is singing to the young folks



The GSU Reddy Rhythms, on stage at the Jefferson Theater in Beaumont, performed "Salute To The Silver Screen" 23 times in the community.



Above, JAWS attacks the choir at a performance for the Mobil employee picnic last May. Right, Carliss Jones portrays Shirley Temple singing "On the Good Ship Lollipop."





and the older folks--you can see the joy on their faces."

Harper says he'll ask himself, "Why do we do this?"

"In the nursing homes, especially, the people are so excited we've taken out a few hours to spend some time with them. That answers the question," he says.

Joy Lively, fuel transportation coordinator, Beaumont, sang "Tomorrow" from the movie "Annie" in many of the shows.

"Getting ready for the show is a lot of hard work. But we really enjoy what we're doing, so it doesn't seem like work. We have a good time performing, so it's easy for the audience to have a good time along with us," Lively says.

Terry Haas, senior draftsman, Beaumont, says she "loved this show." Haas performed in the "Cabaret" and Varsity Drag dance numbers.

"I'm a pretty quiet person most of the time, so when I joined Reddy Rhythms, I didn't think I'd get so involved in other things besides singing," Haas says. "I like performing because, if we can brighten up someone's day with our show, it's worth it."

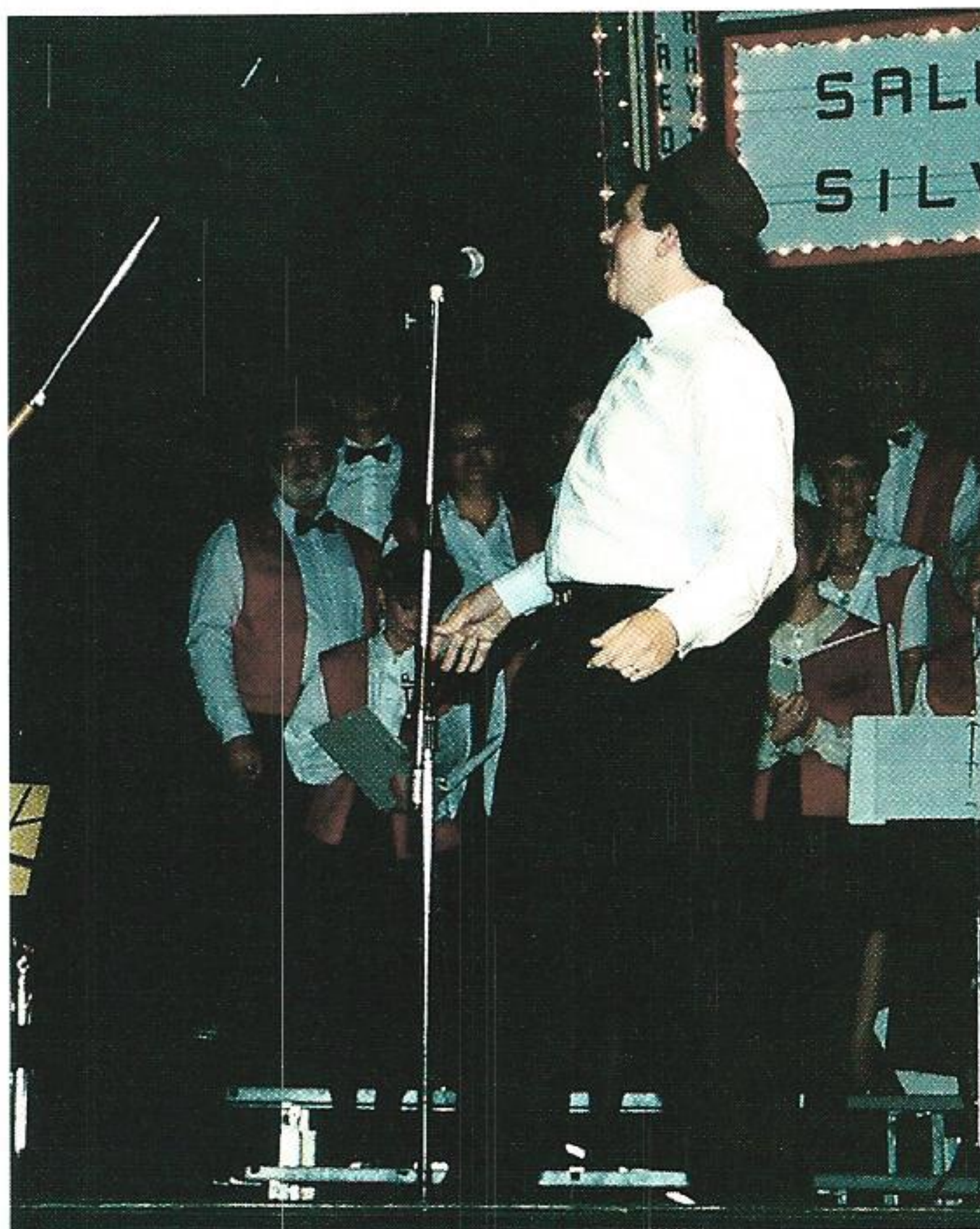
Frank Shannon, engineering systems analyst, Beaumont, says he did his "best impersonation of Gene Kelly" for the "Singing in the Rain" number.

"Being a part of this group gives me a real good feeling about being a GSU employee. There's a sense of community with the other employees in the group," Shannon says. "We get a kick out of being around each other. And I enjoy the audience reaction, especially at places like Dunbar elementary school and the nursing homes."

Sandy Allen, senior stenographer, Beaumont, sang "Under the Sea" from Disney's "The Little Mermaid."

"In this show, everybody really got into it and the personalities came out," Allen says. "I've always been involved in performing, and this group gives me a good opportunity to do something I really like."

The Reddy Rhythms will perform their Christmas show during December, including shows for several of the GSU Children's Christmas parties.



*Left, Frank Shannon flips his umbrella while "Singin' in the Rain." Below, Marshall Johnson (L, Robert Adams) and Lizard Lips Lucas (R, Carl Jones) hold Harper at gunpoint during the Western Medley.*



*"After our Christmas schedule is finished on Dec. 22, we will have performed in the community about 40 times this year," Harper says. "Over 12 months that may not sound like that much, but as a volunteer group, it takes many hours and a lot of work."*



*Left, (L to R) Terry Haas, Sandy Allen and Wanda Mancil perform during the South Pacific Medley. Above, (L to R) Jerry Steger (Tin Man), Dan Gray (Scarecrow), Lori Williford (Dorothy) and Andy Bunn (Lion) take the audience "off to see the Wizard of Oz."*



# Crowe flies up, up and away



*Crowe has a smooth take-off in Beaumont's Riverfront Park.*

story and photos by Mike Rodgers

In Jules Verne's novel "Around the World in 80 Days," the wealthy Phineas Fogg and his servant Passepartout climbed aboard a huge balloon and circled the globe in a series of exciting adventures. GSU's Tom Crowe is not rich, has no servant and no plans to circle the globe, but he does enjoy the excitement of riding in a balloon.

Crowe, assistant to the general manager-engineering, Beaumont, is very enthusiastic about hot-air ballooning as a hobby, a fact that is much in evidence in his Edison Plaza office.



*Crowe connects the propane burner to the balloon basket.*

The walls are decorated with balloon photos. A wire sculpture of a balloon sits on a file cabinet. To complete the picture, he wears a balloon tie tack. There is also a photo of his Chevy Suburban after it had been stripped and stolen, but more on that later.

"Balloons are quiet and peaceful,"

he says when pressed to explain the attraction. "They make me feel closer to nature. It's similar to the attraction that many people feel for sailboats instead of power boats." He finds airplanes too noisy. Although Crowe didn't take his first ride until 1987, he credits his enjoyment of sport ballooning to an interest in flying

extending back to grade school. This past summer, Crowe and his wife, Ginny, were found flying their second balloon at many of the weekend festivals in Texas and Louisiana which attract fellow balloonists.

The Crowes' balloon is about 60 feet tall and powered by air heated by propane gas. By controlling the flame which heats the air at the base of the balloon, they can make it ascend or descend. "Although we're at the mercy of the wind, we use different currents to fly us where we want to go. The challenge is getting from here to there," he says. They usually remain airborne for one to two hours. Before the propane runs out, the balloon floats gently to the ground. Crowe notes that gas balloons such as those used in Verne's famous novel used helium or hydrogen to fly long distances over 12 to 24 hours. Helium is very expensive and hydrogen is volatile and dangerous, so almost all sport balloons today are hot-air balloons.

It is not by accident that most balloonists prefer to launch shortly after sunrise or shortly before sunset. At those hours, the air is generally cooler and gentler. "You can't really land a balloon smoothly in wind greater than about 8 miles per hour," says Crowe.

Ballooning is not an inexpensive sport. A new one costs upwards of \$10,000, although used balloons can be purchased for less. Crowe emphasizes that you do not merely buy a balloon and decide one day to go up for a flight. "It is regulated by the



Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an aircraft. You must have a pilot's license, obtained by attending ground school and logging 10 hours of flight time with an instructor." As a final exam, you must take a checkride with an FAA examiner. Like other aircraft, balloons are subject to annual inspections at FAA-approved repair stations.

A field full of hot-air balloons is an awe-inspiring sight. The kaleidoscope of color never fails to thrill an audience. "There is a law that you cannot make a dull balloon. They must be bright and gaudy," says Crowe with a smile. Incidentally, people nervous about the idea of standing in a wicker basket and riding hot air several hundred feet in the air will be relieved to know that they are made of a rip-stop fabric, either nylon or polyester, consisting of light and heavy fibers. A tear will stop when it reaches a heavier fiber woven into the fabric.

Crowe acknowledges the valuable work of a faithful ground crew -- the people who help unpack and inflate the balloon before launch, follow it to the landing site and pack it away when the flight is over. "One or two people alone would have a lot of difficulty getting everything ready."

Now about that photo of the stolen Chevy Suburban. The Crowe's were spending the night at a motel in Tyler, Texas, resting up for a balloon festival the next morning. When he went out to the parking lot, Crowe found that the vehicle was missing, along with the small trailer hitched to the back which was carrying his first balloon. Only a pile of broken glass gave a hint as to what had happened. A month later, police found the vehicle stripped for parts. The balloon, however, disappeared. "It's probably sitting in a barn or an old garage somewhere, abandoned by someone who didn't know what was in the trailer," Crowe says a bit sadly. Pondering for a moment, he smiles and adds, "Or, maybe somewhere there are about 1,000 people wearing jackets made of a bright orange and green fabric."



*The balloon must be controlled with ropes during inflation.*

## Dial up the news on *InfoLine*

story and photo by Robert Adams

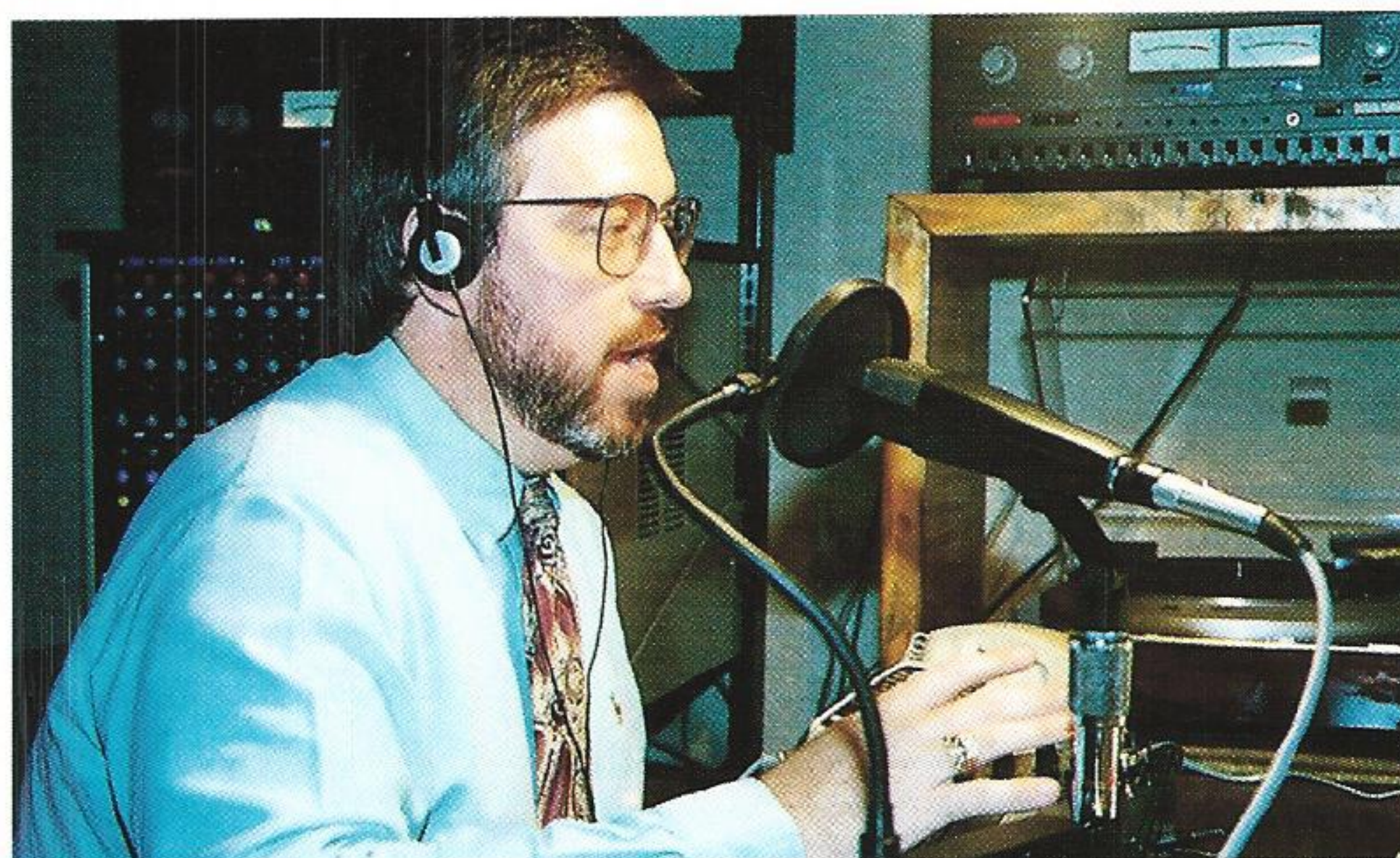
*InfoLine*, GSU's telephone information service, has expanded to include more division news and personal stories about employees.

Scott Harper, employee communications representative, produces *InfoLine* and says the expanded service began Oct. 22. "It's not a traditional *InfoLine*," says Harper. "Our goal is to give good information and make it interesting and entertaining."

Harper says he is currently experimenting with music and sound effects. He plans to add telephone interview excerpts in the near future.

Already, innovations include a telephone poll, conducted just before the presidential election. President Bush won the poll with 48 percent of the vote. Obviously, the poll results did not accurately predict the election.

"Callers can get GSU news of the day, facts about that day in history, local division news, personal information about employees, like



*Harper records the latest in GSU and division news each morning for InfoLine on a multi-track recorder.*

weddings or volunteer events, and holiday safety tips. It changes every day and anything might be happening," says Harper.

To listen to *InfoLine*, call 733-3525. To contribute information call Harper at 733-5845.



## GSU family celebrates Christmas

by Scott Harper

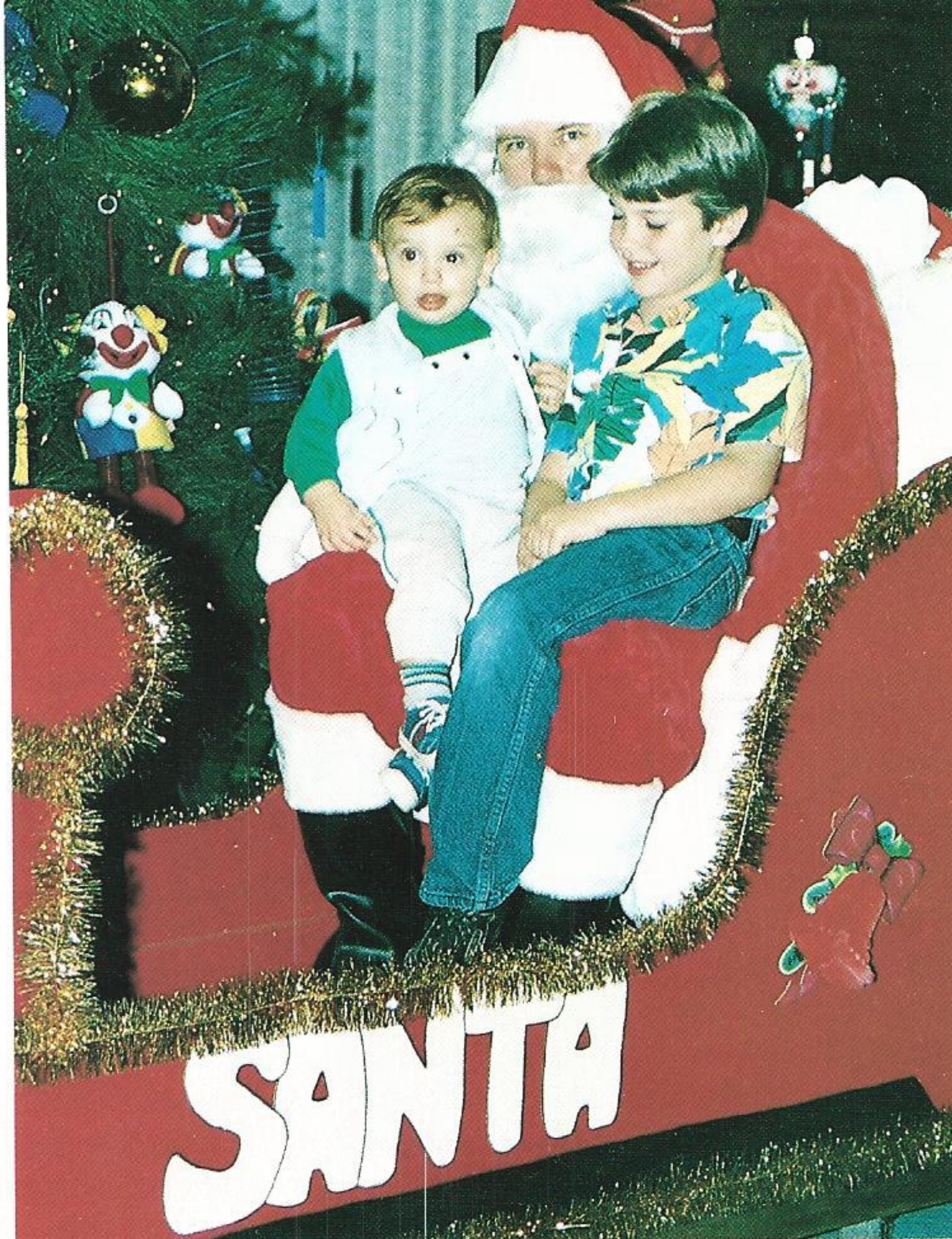
Christmas time brings with it many traditions. Decorated trees, gifts, lights, candles, musicals and caroling are part of this festive season.

This year, Gulf States brings back its tradition of children's Christmas parties. In the mid-1980s, during GSU's financial difficulties, Project Save Cash was implemented to help the company cut costs. One activity that was eliminated was the children's Christmas parties.

For the first time since 1985, the parties will be reinstated and employees across the system are pleased to see them back.



Broussard (center) with husband, Rodney, daughter, Andrea, who is 18 and participated in previous parties, and son, Rodney Jr., 7, who will attend his first party this year.



L to R, Ben and Chris Foreman, sons of Diane Foreman, tell Santa what they want for Christmas at previous Christmas party.



Foreman and daughter Christina.

"I think it's the most generous and important thing the company does," says Tom Smoak, senior engineering assistant, Lafayette. "It's a very important family builder."

Smoak, a 26-year veteran, has seven children who have enjoyed Christmas parties at GSU. "The kids have always looked forward to them. They all remember

the parties."

Coworker Helen Kennedy, secretary, Lafayette, adds, "All the work is worth it because the kids love it so much."

Kennedy works on the planning commit-

tee in Lafayette.

In Port Arthur, Brenda Broussard, customer information coordinator, says, "I think it's great the parties are coming back. I enjoyed them when we had them before."

Broussard's 7-year-old son is excited about the party. "He remembers the last party before we stopped having them." Broussard feels the parties are a good way for employees' children to get to know one another. She is a member of the planning committee.

Lydia Aboagye, customer information coordinator, Baton Rouge, says, "I'm glad the company has reinstated the parties. I think they build morale and shows the company is concerned about employees and their families."

Aboagye says others in her area



are happy the parties are back. "We enjoy getting together with employees and their children at this time of year." As a planning committee member, Aboagye has enjoyed preparing for the party.

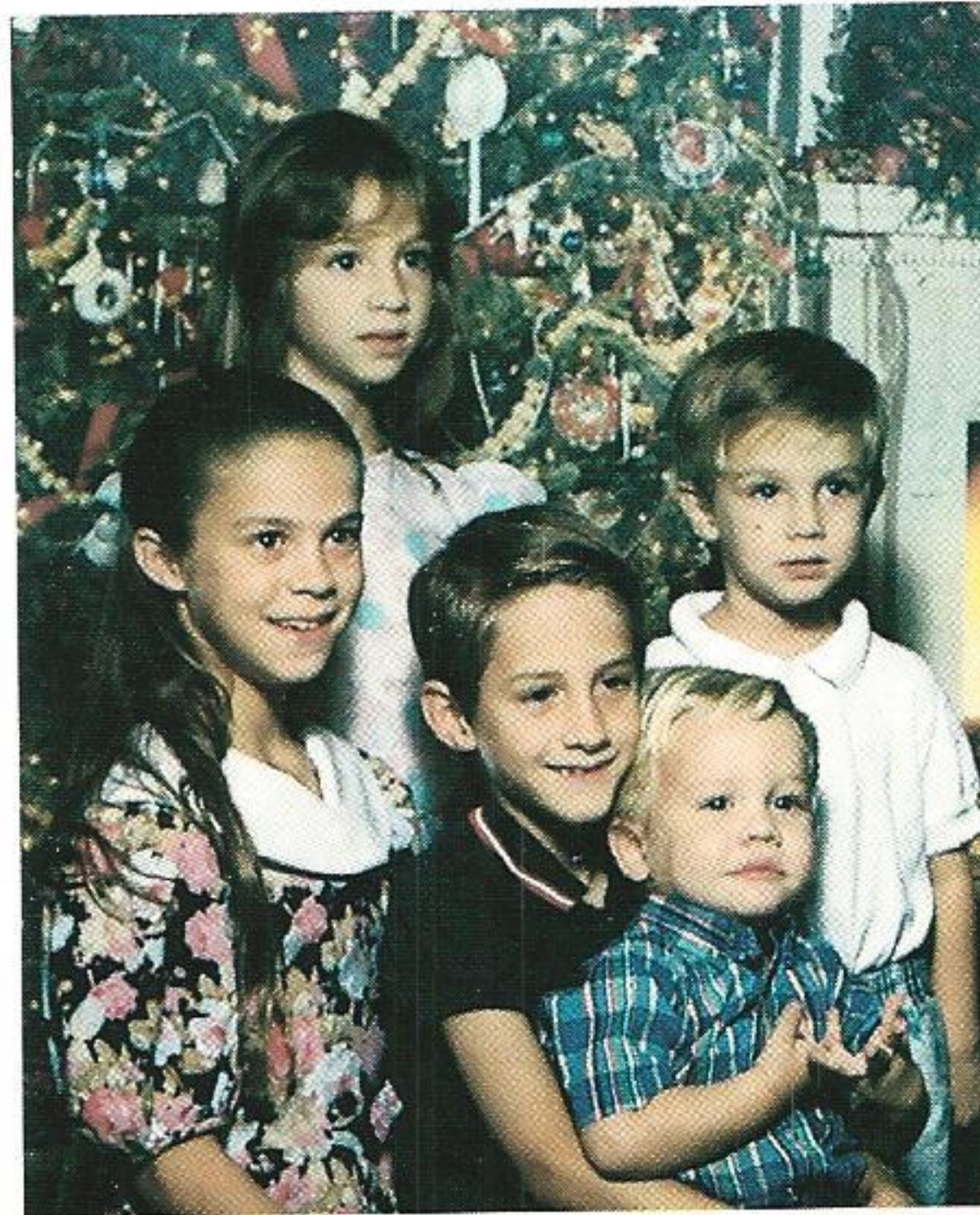
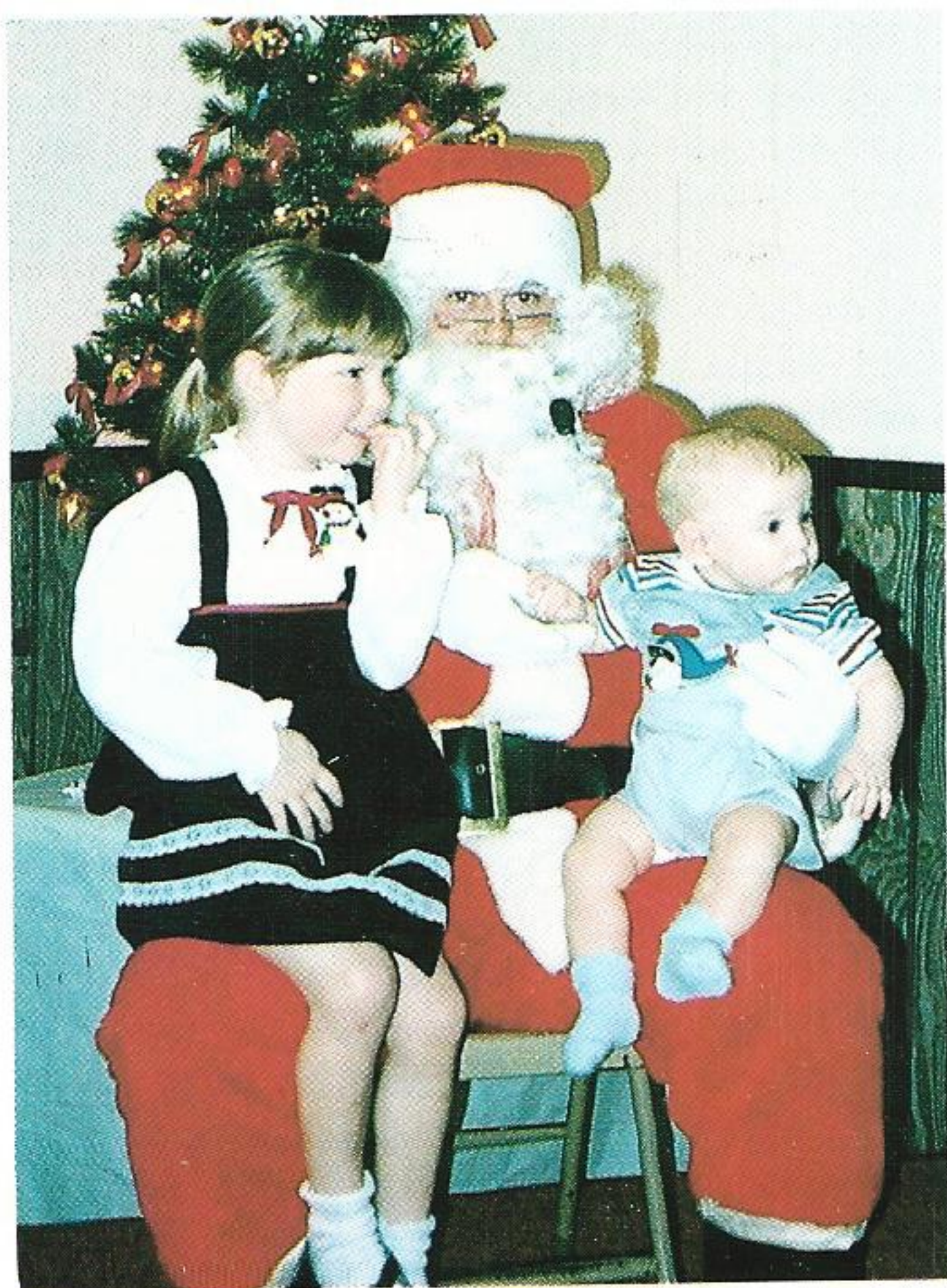
"I'm real excited," she says. "I'm glad I have a little one to participate."

Cheryl Beard, secretary-executive, Beaumont, is a veteran Christmas party planner. "I've missed it," she says. "It's really nice to be able to put this back on for the kids."

Beard's three young daughters can hardly wait to go to the party. "The building seems so huge, bigger than big to them," she says. "This is a special night for them."

Beard says the planning committee "has a good mix" of new and old employees. "Everyone is enjoying working on it. People are wanting to participate, whether they have kids or not."

According to Diane Foreman, customer contact clerk, Beaumont, the children's Christmas parties are "a good



Left, the Pat Walsh clan plans to attend the party. "It gives my kids the opportunity to intermingle with other employees and their children," Walsh says. Below, Cheryl Beard and her three daughters, (L to R) Kristin, Heather and Megan, make party plans with Rudolph.



family-oriented thing to do."

"This is a night out on the town for my kids," Foreman says. "They enjoy getting to see Santa Claus."

Foreman says their committee is working to make their party something everyone in the office can enjoy. "We're making it a family night. We want everyone to be involved."

Foreman says employees in her area are glad the children's Christmas parties are back.

Pat Walsh, relayman-1st class, Conroe, thinks it's great the parties are returning. "It gives my kids the opportunity to intermingle with other employees and their children," he says. He enjoys being able to point out his coworkers to his five children.

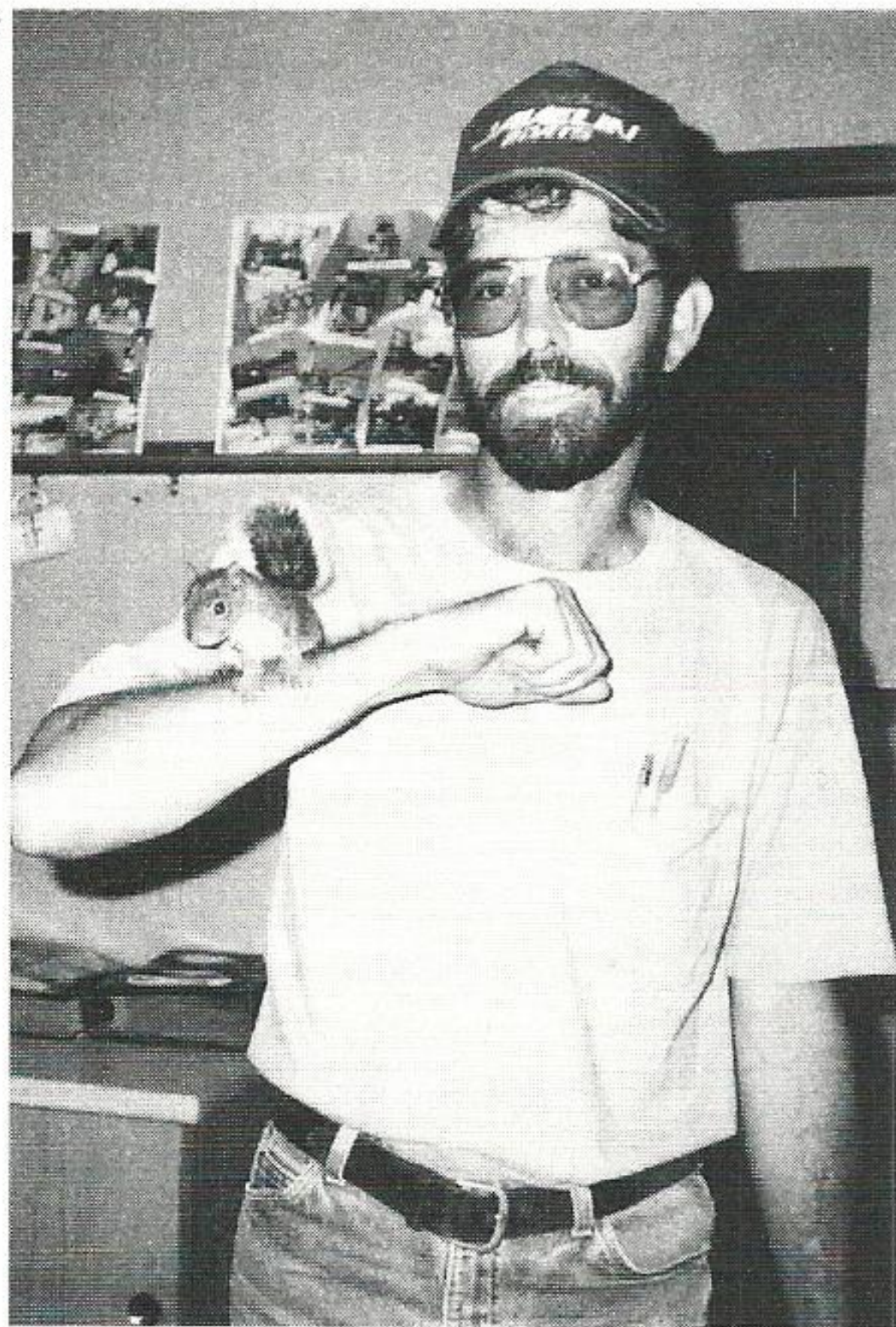
"I enjoy getting together with family and friends," he says. "It's good for families and companies to have traditions like this. It's part of the Christmas season."



Far left, Katie and Patrick Smoak, daughter and son of Tom Smoak, tell their wishes to Santa at a previous party in Lafayette. Left, a few years later, brothers, Peter and Paul Smoak, get the same opportunity.



Ella Kirby



*The recent restoration effort after Hurricane Andrew brought out the best in GSU employees. We thought you might like to see one of the victims aided by Douglas Hebert, collector, Port Allen. Hebert rescued the baby squirrel and brought him in to show his co-workers. The squirrel had to be bottle fed.*

## Payroll department provides tax update

The Social Security Tax (FICA) is comprised of two parts, OASDI and Medicare. In 1993, the combined rate for these parts will remain at 7.65 percent, but the wage bases are different. The wage base for OASDI will be \$57,600 up from \$55,500, and the tax rate will be 6.2 percent. The wage base for Medicare will be \$135,000 up from \$130,200, and the tax rate will be 1.45 percent. The following table shows the maximum tax assessment:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>WAGE BASE</u>	<u>RATE %</u>	<u>MAX. TAX</u>
OASDI	\$ 57,600	6.2	\$3,571.20
Medicare	\$135,000	1.45	<u>1,957.50</u>
TOTAL			\$5,528.70

## Gulf States celebrates A World of Difference

by Susan Gilley

Technology isn't the only difference between the Gulf States of 1925, when the company was incorporated, and the GSU of today.

In the 1920s, a largely male work force marched off each morning with their lunch buckets and hard hats. A handful of women held clerical positions.

Today at GSU, women and men fill clerical, technical, professional and managerial jobs. People from many different race/ethnic groups--White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, Alaskan Native among others--now work in the offices, service centers and power plants of GSU.

GSU management recognizes that employees from a diversity of backgrounds bring different thinking and working styles, noted Lori Cummings, senior placement specialist. "Our company views these differences as beneficial and our leaders feel it is important to make the most of them. They feel that the uniqueness of our work force will better equip us to deal with all the challenges that electric utilities face in the 1990s," Cummings added.

That was one reason GSU became a sponsor of the "A World of Difference" program a few years ago. The program offered training to various school officials, teachers and others in Southeast Texas aimed at reducing prejudice and promoting good relations among all people. Several GSU employees were also trained in the program. While the program is no longer staffed locally by a fulltime employee, GSU, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., St. Elizabeth Hospital, Rogers Brothers, The Beaumont Enterprise and KBMT-TV/Channel 12 continue their sponsorship.

"Through 'A World of Difference,' schoolchildren and community leaders learn to celebrate their differences," Cummings explained. "That's exactly what we want to do at GSU, because that enhances our ability to work together as a team. Many times, teamwork is most effective because various team members bring different specialties and areas of expertise to the group. And because of that, our diversity on the job is a formula for success," Cummings concluded.



# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

September/October

# 1992

## 40 YEARS

**Terrance E. Hernandez**  
Plant Production  
Baton Rouge  
**Thomas K. McCrosky Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Lake Charles

## 30 YEARS

**Carl R. Bradley**  
Plant Production  
Nelson Coal  
**William R. Bryant Jr.**  
Engineering Services  
Beaumont  
**Ernest G. Hatcher**  
Plant Production  
Toledo Bend  
**Dorothy W. Nowell**  
Operations  
Beaumont  
**Olan Richard**  
Electric T&D  
Jennings

## 20 YEARS

**Vicky F. Brown**  
Computer Applications  
Beaumont  
**Lloyd J. Engler**  
Electric T&D  
Gonzales  
**Joseph W. Garrett**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge  
**James D. Hebert**  
Division Accounting  
Port Allen  
**Larry F. Jolissaint**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge  
**Benjamin W. Ketcherside**  
Plant Production  
Sabine Station  
**Oliver Lacy Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont

**Benny Lambert**  
Plant Production  
Louisiana Station  
**Nelson M. Leger**  
Electric T&D  
Mid County  
**Robert G. Louviere**  
Plant Production  
Neches Station  
**Philip M. Martin**  
Electric T&D  
Woodville  
**Jerry D. McHam**  
General Services  
Conroe  
**Paul E. Mosley**  
Marketing  
Conroe  
**Clyde W. Newman**  
Plant Production  
Willow Glen  
**Dennis L. Pitman**  
Materials Mgt.  
Beaumont  
**Michael E. Rachal**  
Electric T&D  
Conroe  
**Sandra D. Ray**  
Division Accounting  
Sulphur  
**Atwood M. Royer**  
Plant Production  
Nelson Station  
**Earnest W. Rucker**  
Plant Production  
Lewis Creek  
**Janet F. Todd**  
Fuel Services  
Beaumont  
**Carolyn L. Watson**  
Division Accounting  
Orange  
**Rebecca R. Watson**  
Customer Service  
Lake Charles  
**John F. Winger**  
Plant Production  
Neches Station

## 10 YEARS

**David B. Barnett**  
Electric T&D  
Zachary  
**Reid J. Broussard**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette

**Roger D. Carlyle**  
Bus Systems & Oversight  
River Bend  
**John M. Cole**  
Plant Production  
Neches Station  
**Ronald W. Edgens**  
Plant Production  
River Bend  
**Leah K. Finn**  
RBNG Engrg. & Admin.  
River Bend  
**Luann T. Hansen**  
Corporate Planning  
Beaumont  
**Earl W. Heckman Jr.**  
Fleet Administration  
Baton Rouge  
**Jimmie L. Hensley**  
Electric T&D  
Conroe  
**Tracy L. Hodge**  
Engineering Services  
Beaumont  
**Thomas P. Husband**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette  
**Gerard Johnlouis**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette  
**Richard B. King**  
Fleet Administration  
Baton Rouge  
**Glenn D. Lagrange**  
Electric T&D  
Lafayette  
**Kimberly P. Montgomery**  
Division Accounting  
Baton Rouge  
**Beverly D. Neff**  
RBNG Engrg. & Admin.  
River Bend  
**John M. Reeves**  
Plant Production  
River Bend  
**Mitzi K. Swain**  
Fleet Administration  
Baton Rouge



## Promotions from September 1 - October 31, 1992

**Achord, Darrell W.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-line and service departments, Electric T&D (1).

**Ackoury, William M. Jr.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician 1st class, RBNG-Plant Production (10).

**Andre, Barry L.**, Port Allen, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (7).

**Ball, Jerry F.**, Baton Rouge, to foreman-gas department, Gas Department (29).

**Bayless, Melinda M.**, Silsbee, to customer contact representative, Division Accounting (3).

**Bean, Timmy L.**, Port Arthur, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (8).

**Bello, Michael A.**, Port Allen, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (8).

**Benton, James Jr.**, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic 2nd class, Electric T&D (14).

**Berteau, Mark S.**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman 2nd class, Electric T&D (11).

**Beshears, Eric P.**, River Bend, to nuclear training representative-license, RBNG-Administration (15).

**Blackwelder, Earl S.**, Lake Charles, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D (2).

**Bonin, John L.**, Lafayette, to meter reader, Division Accounting (2).

**Boykin, Sandra S.**, River Bend, to section head-administrative services, RBNG-Administration (4).

**Brown, Girvan W.**, Conroe, to apprentice-line and service departments, Electric T&D (2).

**Chaney, David B.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-line and service departments, Electric T&D (7).

**Clifton, Michael L.**, Conroe, to substation mechanic 2nd class, Electric T&D (2).

**Davis, George M. III**, Willow Glen, to repairman 2nd class, Plant Production (4).

**Davis, Rayford W.**, Baton Rouge, to construction coordinator-gas, Gas Department (24).

**Donellan, Vincent M.**, Louisiana Station, to head fireman, Plant Production (18).

**Doucet, Dirk A.**, Beaumont, to senior production engineer, System Production (2).

**Ellis, Cheryl R.**, Beaumont, to

senior benefits associate, Human Resources (13).

**Fellows, Jerry D.**, Baton Rouge, to communications foreman, T&D-Relay and Communications (7).

**Flowers, Glenn W. Jr.**, Silsbee, to apprentice-line and service departments, Electric T&D (3).

**Frazier, Michael K.**, River Bend, to master repairman-nuclear, RBNG-Plant Production (3).

**Garza, Jorge D.**, Huntsville, to lineman 1st class, Electric T&D (2).

**Gerbrecht, Jed J.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman 1st class, Electric T&D (11).

**Greer, William Q.**, River Bend, to repairman 1st class-nuclear, Plant Production (3).

**Hair, Donald K.**, Beaumont, to electrical engineer, Design Engineering (3).

**Harris, Margaret M.**, Lake Charles, to marketing agent, Marketing (8).

**Hart, Curtis L.**, Baton Rouge, to foreman-gas department, Gas Department (18).

**Hefner, James D.**, Beaumont, to production engineer, System Production (3).

**Heil, Chris E.**, River Bend, to instrument and control technician 1st class, RBNG-Plant Production (2).

**Herbert, John B.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic 2nd class, Electric T&D (12).

**Hinton, Janice M.**, Lake Charles, to plant chemist, Plant Production (7).

**Hiter, Gilbert W.**, Baton Rouge, to operating superintendent, Gas Department (33).

**Holcomb, Floyd M.**, Beaumont, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D (3).

**Holland, Warren K.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician 1st class, Plant Production (5).

**Holland, Terrell S. Jr.**, Beaumont, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (2).

**Hopkins, Bradley S.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-line and service departments, Electric T&D (1).

**Humble, Prentiss I.**, Baton Rouge, to service foreman, Gas Department (22).

**Jones, Freeman M.**, Lake Charles, to marketing agent, Marketing (6).

**Jones, Sherman J.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-gas department, Gas Department (10).

**Kennedy, Kim F.**, River Bend, to supervisor-records management, RBNG-Administration (6).

**Knighten, Clarence E.**, River Bend, to repairman 1st class-nuclear, Plant Production (3).

**Leonard, Robert**, Lafayette, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D (2).

**Little, Donna G.**, Lake Charles, to marketing coordinator, Marketing (2).

**Lucas, David T.**, Willow Glen, to repairman 2nd class, Plant Production (7).

**Lytle, Dennis A.**, Baton Rouge, to general supervisor-corrosion and construction, Gas Department (12).

**Maher, John C.**, River Bend, to licensing engineer, RBNG-Oversight (3).

**Marchesseault, Jesse L. Jr.**, Denham Springs, to serviceman 1st class, Electric T&D (18).\*

**Martin, Tommy L. Jr.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (10).

**Matone, Albert A. M.**, Willow Glen, to electrician 2nd class, Plant Production (6 months).

**Mermigas, Christine B.**, River Bend, to section head-engineering administration, RBNG-Administration (6).

**Neal, Troy A.**, Conroe, to automotive technician 2nd class, Fleet Administration (2).\*

**Orsot, Francis K.**, Nelson Station, to electrician 2nd class, Plant Production (6 months).

**Paynes, A. D.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician 1st class, RBNG-Plant Production (11).

**Pendergraft, Mark R.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician 1st class, Plant Production (5).

**Pickens, George Jr.**, Sabine Station, to repairman 2nd class, Plant Production (25).

**Prejean, Gregory D.**, Zachary, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (10).

**Reed, Robert G.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician 1st class, RBNG-Plant Production (5).

**Richard, Craig A.**, Port Arthur, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D (3).

**Roberts, Jeffrey T.**, Baton Rouge, to apprentice-line and service



# Organizational changes announced

departments, Electric T&D (1).

**Rogers, Rondel D.**, The Woodlands, to lineman 4th class, Electric T&D (2).

**Rousseau, Russell P.**, Denham Springs, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (11).

**Rowe, Terry A.**, Lewis Creek, to test technician 1st class, Plant Production (3).

**Sattler, Florabelle B.**, Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications (5).

**Small, Agnes R.**, Baton Rouge, to customer contact representative, Division Accounting (4).

**Smith, Leslie S.**, River Bend, to radiation protection technician 1st class, RBNG-Plant Production (11).

**Toniette, James B. Jr.**, Lake Charles, to substation mechanic 1st class, Electric T&D (11).

**Tran, Khoi N.**, Beaumont, to communications engineer, Electrical Engineering (3).

**Tullier, Loyce T.**, Baton Rouge, to foreman-gas department, Gas Department (13).

**Turner, Helen M.**, River Bend, to section head-administrative services, RBNG-Administration (4).

**Watson, Randall M.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D (9).

**Wheat, Patrick M.**, Denham Springs, to lineman 1st class, Electric T&D (14).\*

**Whitesides, Robert D.**, Huntsville, to lineman 3rd class, Electric T&D (10 months).\*

**Wilkinson, Timothy W.**, Baton Rouge, to serviceman 2nd class, Electric T&D (10).

**Williams, Shawn M.**, Baton Rouge, to customer contact representative, Division Accounting (3).

**Williams, Sherrel A.**, Lake Charles, to automotive technician 1st class, Fleet Administration (8).

**Wymore, Terry L.**, River Bend, to control operating foreman, RBNG-Plant Operations (9).

\*Promoted in August

()denotes years of service

Several key organizational changes have been announced recently by GSU Chairman Joe Donnelly.

Calvin Hebert has been named senior vice president-division operations. Jim Deddens, who has been senior vice president-River Bend Nuclear Group, has been named senior vice president-special projects. Phil Graham has been elected vice president-River Bend Nuclear Group. Joe Schippert has been promoted to River Bend plant manager. Ron McKenzie has been elected vice president-information services, responsible for internal and external communications and government relations. Also, Wayne Hiter has been promoted to operating superintendent of the Gas Department in Baton Rouge.

**Hebert** has held various operations and marketing positions in Texas and Louisiana during his 30 years at Gulf States. For the past seven years, he has been senior vice president for external affairs. He will continue to be based in Beaumont. Hebert has a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette. He also served in the United States Marines. He and his wife, Shirley, have three daughters.

**Deddens**, who has worked for Gulf States nearly 10 years, was named senior vice president for the River Bend group in 1987. He had previously worked for Babcock and Wilcox Company's Nuclear Power Generation Division. He will continue to be based at the plant site. Deddens has a B. S. and M. S. degree in mechanical engineering and a master of engineering degree, all from the University of Louisville. He is a registered professional engineer, the holder of several technical patents and the author of numerous technical papers. He also served in the United States Army.

**Graham** joined GSU in 1980. He worked in the quality assurance area for several years before serving as an assistant plant manager, executive assistant and plant manager, a position he assumed in 1990. Graham has a B.S. degree in electric engineering from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Va., and holds a Nuclear Regulatory Commission Senior Reactor Operator's License. He served in the United States Navy. Graham and his wife, Ellen, live in Baton Rouge.

**Schippert** has been at River Bend since 1974, initially spending 11 years working for the plant architect/engineer, Stone & Webster. He joined GSU in 1985 as a senior civil engineer and assumed increasing responsibilities before becoming an assistant plant manager in 1989. He has a B. S. and masters degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and studied civil engineering at Polytechnic Institute of New York. He also holds a NRC Senior Reactor Operator's License. Schippert and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of a daughter and two sons.

**McKenzie**, who will be based in Beaumont, first joined GSU in 1966. He has been Port Arthur Division vice president since 1981. During his tenure with the company, McKenzie has held various engineering, personnel, production and operations positions, most of them in the Beaumont and Port Arthur areas. He has a B.S. in electrical engineering from Oklahoma State University and served in the United States Navy. He and his wife, Dana, live in Port Arthur.

**Hiter**, a 33-year veteran, joined GSU as an engineer in Beaumont in 1959 and progressed to industrial engineer, Port Arthur Division. He has held such other positions in Baton Rouge as division engineer, operating supervisor and, most recently, governmental accounts manager. Hiter received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, in 1956. He also served in the United States Air Force. He and his wife, Joanne, have three daughters.



# MAILBOX



Pris Gallagher

Polo Mouton

## Compassion and concern

"I would like to take this time to express my appreciation for the care and concern shown by one of your employees, **Polo Mouton**, to my mother," writes Sylvia Rochester, customer, Baton Rouge.

"During the rain storm yesterday, my mother's car stalled out...She is 81 years old and has heart problems. Though she tried to get the attention of passerbys, no one stopped to offer assistance except Mr. Mouton. By then, she was breathing irregularly and experiencing an anxiety attack. Mr. Mouton not only saw that she got home safely, but called my brother to notify family members. He also returned on two other occasions to inquire about her condition.

"...His compassion and concern reflects the qualities of this young man and speaks well for your personnel."

Mouton is serviceman-1st class in Baton Rouge.

## Past and future efforts

"I've been meaning to write for several weeks to thank you for your help in bringing in Fun-Tees as an industrial prospect," writes Charles E. Langlinais, mayor, Broussard, La. "We have been involved with the Team City program for six years and are very pleased with being associated with GSU. I wish that other companies took the initiative that you have taken.

"I would particularly like to 'showcase' the effort that **Greg Gothreaux** and **Burt Duhon** have put forth in industrial development and this prospect. They are indeed worthy of all credit with this prospect and with this program and I thank Gulf States Utilities and them for their help and for a 'job well done.' Thank you for your past and future efforts."

Gothreaux is economic development agent and Duhon is supervisor-customer services, both in Lafayette.

## Like a good neighbor

Willis customer C. A. Strozier sent the following letter to **Joe Donnelly**, CEO, president and chairman, Beaumont:

"My wife and I built our home southwest of Willis, Texas in 1977. We have been customers of GSU since that time. This letter is being written to congratulate your company on the quality of people you have representing Gulf States.

"In 1977, your Engineering group brought service to my home without damaging or destroying the trees along the road in front of our home... when service has been interrupted, your servicemen have been quick to respond. Too, when I needed the lines to my home dropped to take out some large trees, your service people were courteous and prompt.

"One week ago, my wife left our home to take our grandchildren to their home. Fifteen minutes after she left, one of your servicemen, **Darrell Edmond**, knocked on my front door. Darrell had found my wife's purse in the middle of FM 830 about two miles from our home. His willingness to go out of his way to be a good neighbor is certainly appreciated by my wife and me."

Edmond is a serviceman in Conroe.

## Most accommodating

"Please accept our special thanks for your help when our car broke down and you sent us to the GSU garage," writes Eugenia Percy White, customer, Clinton, La., to **Mike Case**, senior production safety specialist, Willow Glen.

"The young men at your company were most accommodating and courteous. Thanks again."

## Community bridge

**John Bordelon**, economic development, Beaumont, received this letter from Don Peters, mayor, Bridge City:

"I just wanted to thank you personally for the good food and fellowship at the Business Appreciation Dinner. Your help in bringing our community closer together is greatly appreciated.

"The team effort that you and your associates portray is an inspiration not only to me, but to all those who have the pleasure of working with you.

"I was very impressed with the new brochure and I know it will definitely be an asset to the economic growth of Bridge City.

"Bridge City is growing and with your help we as community leaders can guide our city in the direction needed for a more prosperous future."

## Weatherized education

Russel E. Smith, president, Texas Energy Education Development Project, Austin, Texas, writes this letter to **Les Jones**, customer information coordinator, Beaumont:

"Thank you so much for taking part in our summer conference. Your presentation on energy conservation in the home and weatherization helps our students learn some valuable information which they, we hope, will use in the future in their own lives and communities.

"We are also extremely grateful to GSU for providing the materials for our weatherization efforts in Beaumont. The students were able to weatherize five homes that Tuesday afternoon, thanks to your company's generosity. I know that some of the students are planning to put their new-learned skills to use this school year with weatherization projects for low income/fixed income folks in their communities."



## Good fortune

"We would like to thank you again for coming to our aid when we had the blow-out near High Island," writes Ginger Alexander and Donna Snook to **Frank Nance**, district supervisor, Winnie. "We can never impress on you how much we appreciate your help and kindness.

"In today's world, you just never know who you'll meet or what to expect. We feel very fortunate that two Christian men came across our paths...

"We've enclosed a lottery ticket for you in hopes that it will bring you good fortune as you brought us...Thanks so much for the help!"

## Quick to respond

"The Denham Springs Garden Club would like to take this opportunity to thank your company and all of your employees for all that you did following Hurricane Andrew, writes Judy Averette, president, Denham Springs Garden Club, Denham Springs, La., to **Joe Donnelly**, GSU chairman, president and CEO.

"We want to commend your employees for their dedication in doing everything that could be done to get things back to normal as soon as possible following the storm. They were out working long hours restoring order to our lives when, undoubtedly, they had things that needed to be attended to at their own homes.

"We are very fortunate that our community and the surrounding area did not suffer major losses. We are also fortunate that the companies, like yours, who serve our area are quick to respond to emergency situations."

## Talented ladies

**Jim Moss**, vice president-marketing, Beaumont, received this letter from Everett G. Powers, executive director, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge:

"I just wanted to write you a note to tell you what great employees you have in **Karen Yates** and **Donna Bush Braud**. No doubt that you've heard this many times before, but, I wanted to give you some specifics and also to thank you and Gulf States for providing the time for these two talented ladies to help in the 1992 Community Fund for the Arts Campaign.

"Karen was chairman of our Awards and Recognition Committee and Donna served as a member of the committee...

"Karen and Donna exemplify the best in volunteers: they are enthusiastic, well organized, good planners and good leaders who recruit others with similar qualities to work with them. They are a joy to work with.

"I know I can speak for our 1992 Campaign Chairman Charles Landry and everyone who had the opportunity to work with Karen and Donna, how much we appreciate their work.

Yates is a marketing agent and Braud is senior energy auditor, both located in Baton Rouge.

## Senior citizen care

**Susan Corgey**, customer contact representative, Beaumont, received this thank-you note from Ed Garret, customer, Beaumont, after she helped him with a problem on his account:

"Thank you again so very much for taking care of a senior citizen in need."

## Good job

"I wish to commend your technicians at the Lafayette location," writes Eve Choate, customer, Carencos, La.

"One day, the transformer in my front yard blew during a thunder storm. I called the office to make a report and within 15 minutes, a technician was there to fix the problem.

"He drove around the block to tend to other problems and within 10 minutes, the power was back on at my home. At that time, the technician called me to verify if everything was OK.

"I wish I knew his name, but I don't. All I can say is 'GOOD JOB.'"

The employee on this job was **Stanley Batiste**, service-man-1st class, located in Lafayette.

## Doing our part

**Joel Jeffcote**, general superintendent, Lafayette, received this letter from Ronnie Daigle, principal, Beau Chene High School, Arnaudville, La.:

"The faculty and staff of Beau Chene High School would like to extend a belated 'thank you' for the excellent meal your company provided at our school opening. Your support is much appreciated...

"On behalf of our students, we would like to thank you for the encouragement you provide in the form of letters to honor roll students and plaques to outstanding students of the six weeks.

"In today's uncertain world, our young people need to be commended for succeeding and encouraged to pursue excellence. Thank you for doing your part."

## Meaningful experience

**Arden Loughmiller**, division vice president-Southeast Texas, Beaumont, received the following letter from Paula O'Neal, executive director, Some Other Place, Beaumont:

"Just a note to thank you so very much for the opportunity Gulf States afforded me to attend the Sixth Annual Low Income Energy Conference. It was truly a wonderful experience and one that I would not have been able to attend without the generosity of GSU...

"You are to be commended for your staff of devoted employees and truly caring individuals. Not only are they loyal to their company, but they also have a genuine concern for your customers.

"It is truly wonderful to know that businesses who depend on profit-making to exist can still be concerned for their customers. It was also interesting to observe how much ahead GSU is in the area of customer service than many sister companies throughout the country.

"Thanks again for such a meaningful experience."

## Extra step

"Thank you so much for the information you sent me," writes Beaumont customer Kay Krusen to **Sandy Gaspard**, senior energy auditor.

"I enjoyed meeting you. Gulf States is fortunate in having you as an employee. You do go that 'extra step' that means so much to we senior citizens."



# PLAIN TALKS

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*Mike Rodgers, senior employee communications representative, leaned inside the hole at the top of Tom Crowe's (assistant to the general manager-engineering) hot air balloon for this interesting perspective. For more information about Crowe's high-flying hobby, see pgs. 6-7.*



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