

# PLAIN TALKS

September-October 1982



# MAIL BOX

## THE COVER

**B**o, a 40-inch-long green iguana, is a household pet for Jeff and Linda Pruitt.

The couple feeds the vegetarian reptile watermelon, green peas, lettuce and almost any other fruit or vegetable.

According to Pruitt, supervisor of site controls at River Bend, his wife has been the owner of one iguana or another for the past 10 years. Andy Dreher of Public Affairs shot the cover photograph.

Read about the Pruitts and other GSU record holders in the feature story beginning on page 10.

Ann Newman  
Gulf States Utilities  
Lake Charles, La.

Dear Ann:

My wife and I would like to express our thanks for the courtesies extended by you and Gulf States Utilities for our new residence at 25 Timberly Drive, Lake Charles.

Please find enclosed the letter from the Houston Lighting & Power Company which you requested in lieu of a deposit.

Thank you again for the excellent service.

Best Regards,  
Jack L. Black  
President

Sunbelt Geophysical Inc.

**Editor's Note:** Ann Newman is a Customer Accounting employee.

John R. Bordelon  
Gulf States Utilities  
Beaumont, Texas  
Dear John:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter as well as the list of people who attended the meeting with the Texas Industrial Commission.

It was a pleasure for me to attend. I am glad the Southeast Texas Economic Development Coalition has been founded and

look forward to working with its members.

I appreciate your nice letter and want you to feel free to call on me anytime I can be of service.

With best personal regards, I remain,  
Sincerely,  
Roy Blake

Texas State Senator

**Editor's Note:** GSU helped community leaders form the coalition, which is made up of Chambers of Commerce in 13 communities located throughout the company's Texas service area. The coalition is dedicated to the creation of jobs in those communities, explained Bordelon, who is GSU's coordinator-economic development.

Gulf States Utilities  
Lake Charles, La.  
Gentlemen:

I appreciate the invitation to attend the dedication of the Roy S. Nelson Unit 6 on June 8, but I was out of town and not able to attend.

From several of the people I spoke to who did attend, and from the write-up in the newspaper, it was certainly a very nice affair, and I regret I was not part of your well-deserved celebration.

There is no question in my mind that Gulf States has done an outstanding job of providing quality electric service to this area, and compared to other regions of the country, at a relatively reasonable rate.

As a significant user of your electricity, I would like to commend you for your past assistance and favors, as well as your foresight on continuing that kind of service in the future.

One of the days in the not too distant future, I hope to get up to your station and perhaps see it at that time.

Very truly yours,  
David Reinauer  
Reinauer Real Estate Corp.  
Lake Charles, La.

## PLAIN TALKS

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

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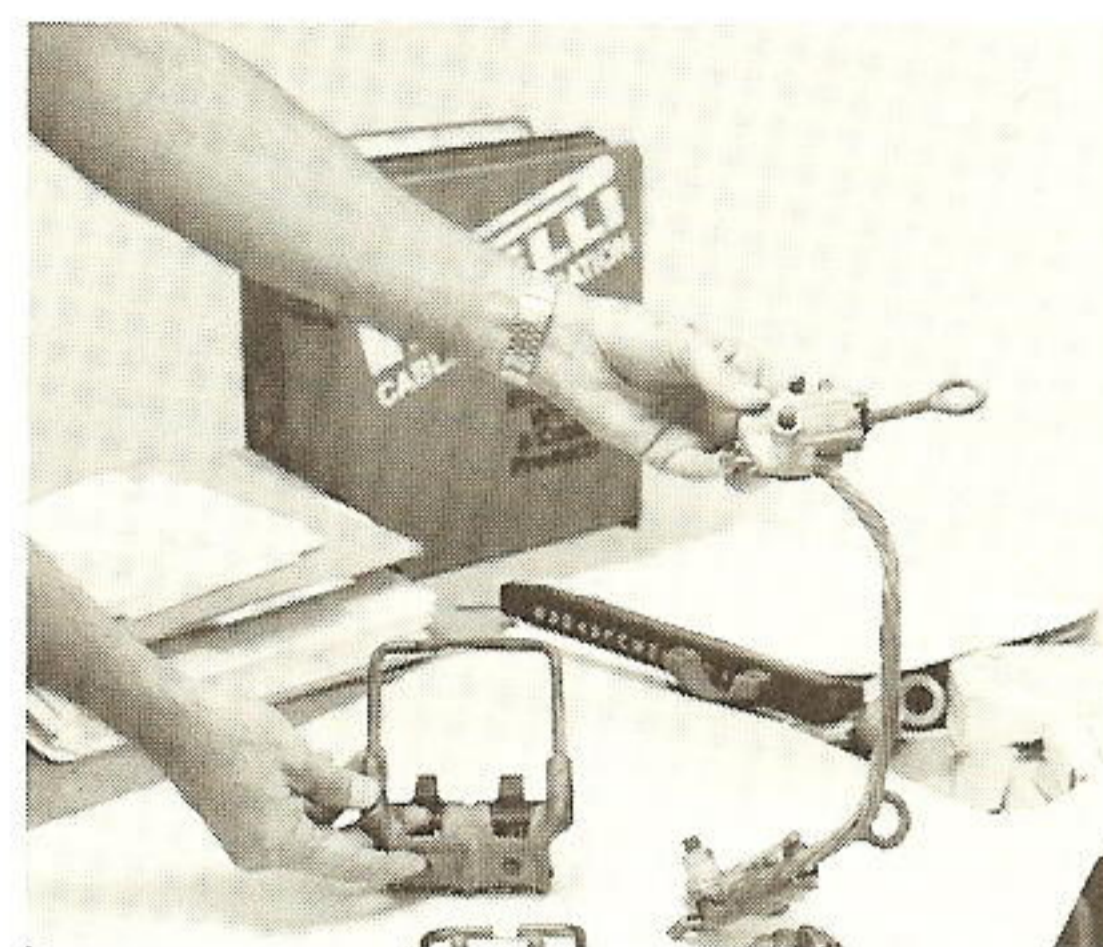
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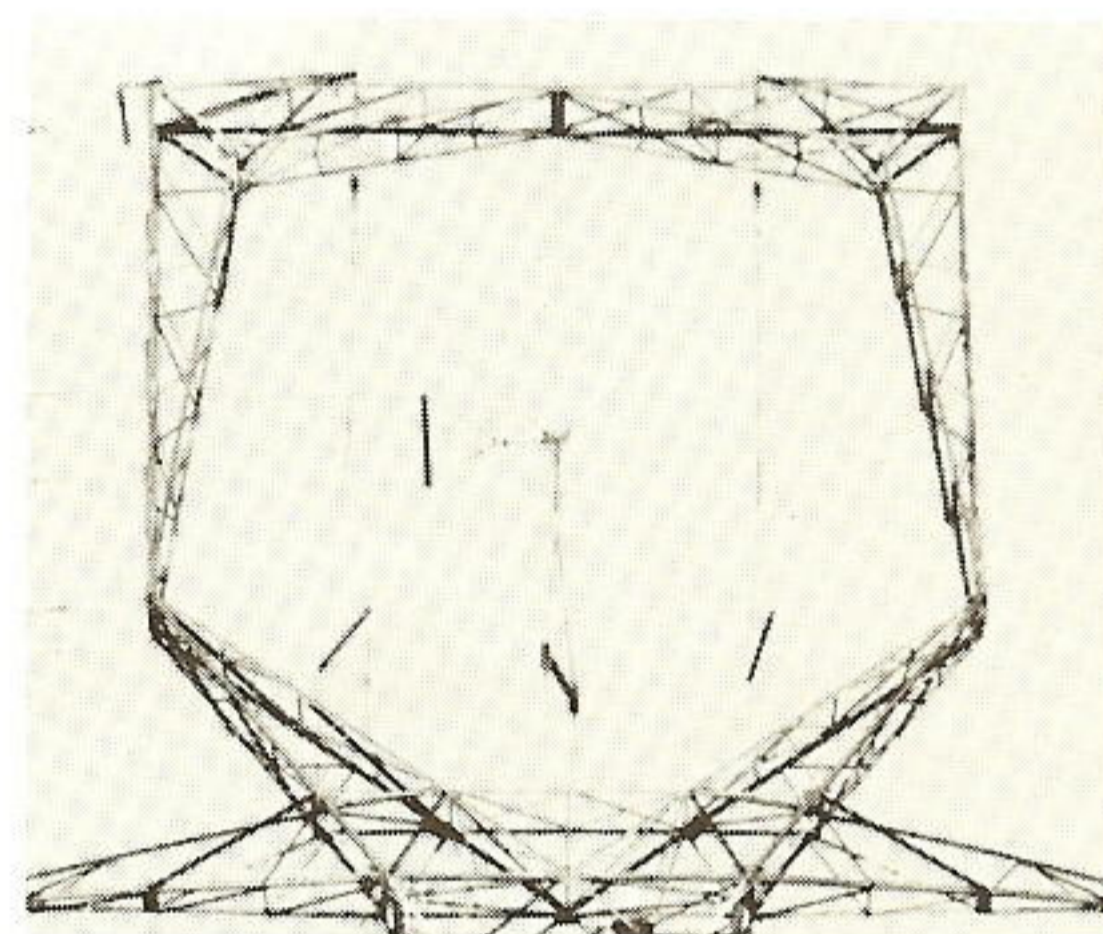
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## Accountants meet in Beaumont

About 175 accounting personnel from electric utilities throughout Texas were in Beaumont July 25-28 to discuss mutual problems and hear presentations on such topics as governmental affairs developments and electric generating capacity in the state. Host chairman for the event was Gulf States' controller, Bobby Willis.

Among speakers for the meeting was Moak Rollins, chairman of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), who told the gathering that "load forecasting by utilities will have to be improved." Rollins predicted that failure to correctly forecast load increases "could result in capacity restraints and substantially modify the comfort and lifestyle of Texas customers."



Moak Rollins, GSU Board Chairman  
Paul Murrill and Tom Hagan.

And Rollins told the group, "All the things you read in magazines about there being less demand for energy are true — but not for electrical energy."

(Gulf States is a participant in a study sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute to develop a computer model designed to feature data on load shapes of the different classes of customers. Brent Dorsey, GSU's supervisor — load and energy forecasting, insists that the model, which will be available soon, offers "a more logical way to introduce certain assumptions to a forecast.")

Other speakers at the accounting meeting were Tom Hagan, assistant to the vice president of governmental affairs for Central and South West Services Inc.; Jack Taulbee, executive vice president and chief financial officer for Central and South West Corp.; Richard Walker, a partner in Arthur Andersen & Co.; Dr. Gene Stanaland of the University of Auburn; and David Farling of Coopers & Lybrand.

General chairman for the annual conference was Erle Nye of Texas Utilities, while Larry Conners of West Texas Utilities Co. was program chairman.

## GSU employee fights fire

When a kitchen fire broke out in Johnny Braud's Baton Rouge home on July 22, a Gulf States employee helped confine the fire to the kitchen until St. George Fire Department volunteers could put it out.

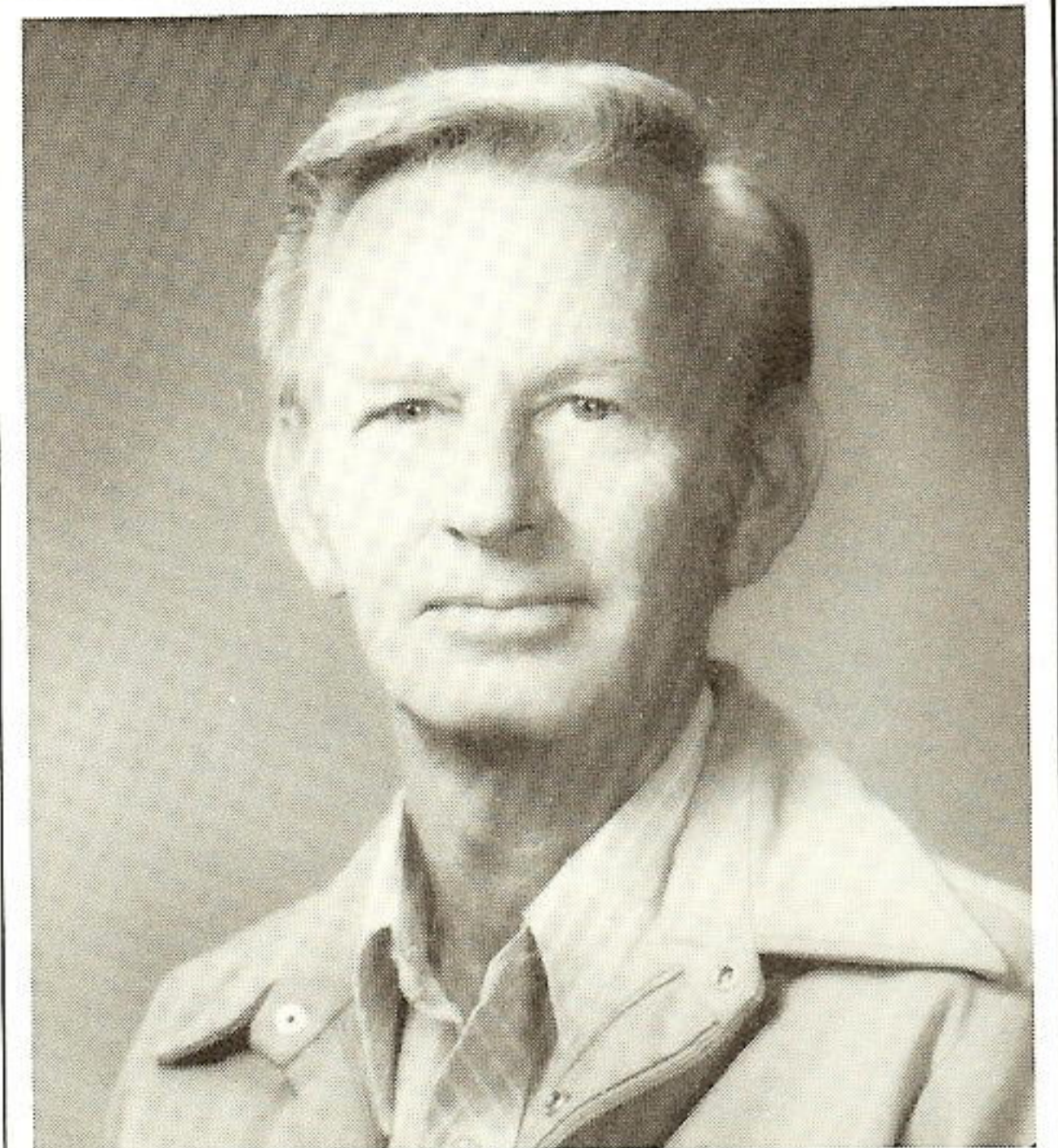
James Paul of the Meter Department was commended by Thomas G. Gascon of the fire department in a letter to GSU's R. A. Hughes of the company's Government Street office.

And Braud himself gave a big "thank you" to Paul by way of Smiley Anders' "Baton Rouge" column in the July 28 edition of the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate*. At the time, however, Braud did not know Paul's name.

## Chamber elects board member

Jim Moss, Baton Rouge Division vice president, has been elected to a three-year term on the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce board.

Moss and five other new board members will assume their posts in October and will be recognized at the chamber's annual banquet Oct. 5.



## Cammack earns RPST license

L. P. "Buddy" Cammack, survey coordinator-Texas, recently passed the final examination entitling him to his license as a registered public surveyor of Texas (RPST).

Cammack has been with the company since Sept. 22, 1947. He is based with the Real Estate Department in Edison Plaza.

## Five employees complete course

Five Baton Rouge employees have successfully completed a basic electricity course designed for utility workers, reports Adelaide Bankston, *Plain Talks* correspondent.

Instructor for the course, which was offered by the Baton Rouge Vocational Technical Institute, was GSU's Willie Picard, foreman in the Relay Department.

New graduates of the course are John L. Sullivan, Lance P. Nowlin, Joseph W. Garrett and Robert Drane, all of the Substation Department, and Robert Mearidy III of the Gas Department.

# Recovering GSU's Investment

Wood chips, coal fly ash, surplus paperclips and used motor oil are all potential moneymakers for Gulf States, and Jim Johnson's job is to determine how to realize that potential.

As of October 1, the salvage center had netted \$1.05 million for the first three quarters. Johnson, manager of materials management, emphasizes that a good investment recovery program "is only possible because of the concern and dedication of all GSU employees." He asks, "How often does someone in the company have a chance to put something on the bottom line? As often as we save a piece of scrap metal for sale rather than throwing it in the weeds, or as often as we return a hot clamp to the storeroom for reuse."

Johnson asserts that he and others in his department "must remember that GSU is in the business of generating and distributing power, and our mission is to facilitate that." Sometimes the company is best served by reclaiming goods; at other times, by repairing goods for reuse. And sometimes the company profits most by selling or even discarding no-longer-usable goods. That's because the carrying charges of some goods can outweigh their value to the company, he points out.

A junkman's paradise, the salvage center, which has been centralized at the LaCledde Building in Beaumont since 1978, is a collection point for re-usable material such as scrap wire, transformer oil and discarded pole line hardware. Some recycled goods are never routed through the center, however. For instance, fly ash, a residue of the low-sulfur coal burned at Nelson 6, is sold through Ash Management Systems Inc. A middleman operation, Ash Management

locates buyers who want the fly ash for commercial applications, primarily as an additive to concrete or concrete products. Fly ash sales have already netted the company about \$40,000 since Nelson 6 began operating this spring, although sales have slowed recently as a result of the construction slowdown.

Similarly, Johnson and his co-workers hope to locate a middleman to handle transportation and disposal of the wood chips from GSU's tree-trimming operations. Officials at a couple of paper mills have expressed interest in purchasing such chips for boiler fuel.

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***"GSU is in the business of generating and distributing power, and our mission is to facilitate that."***

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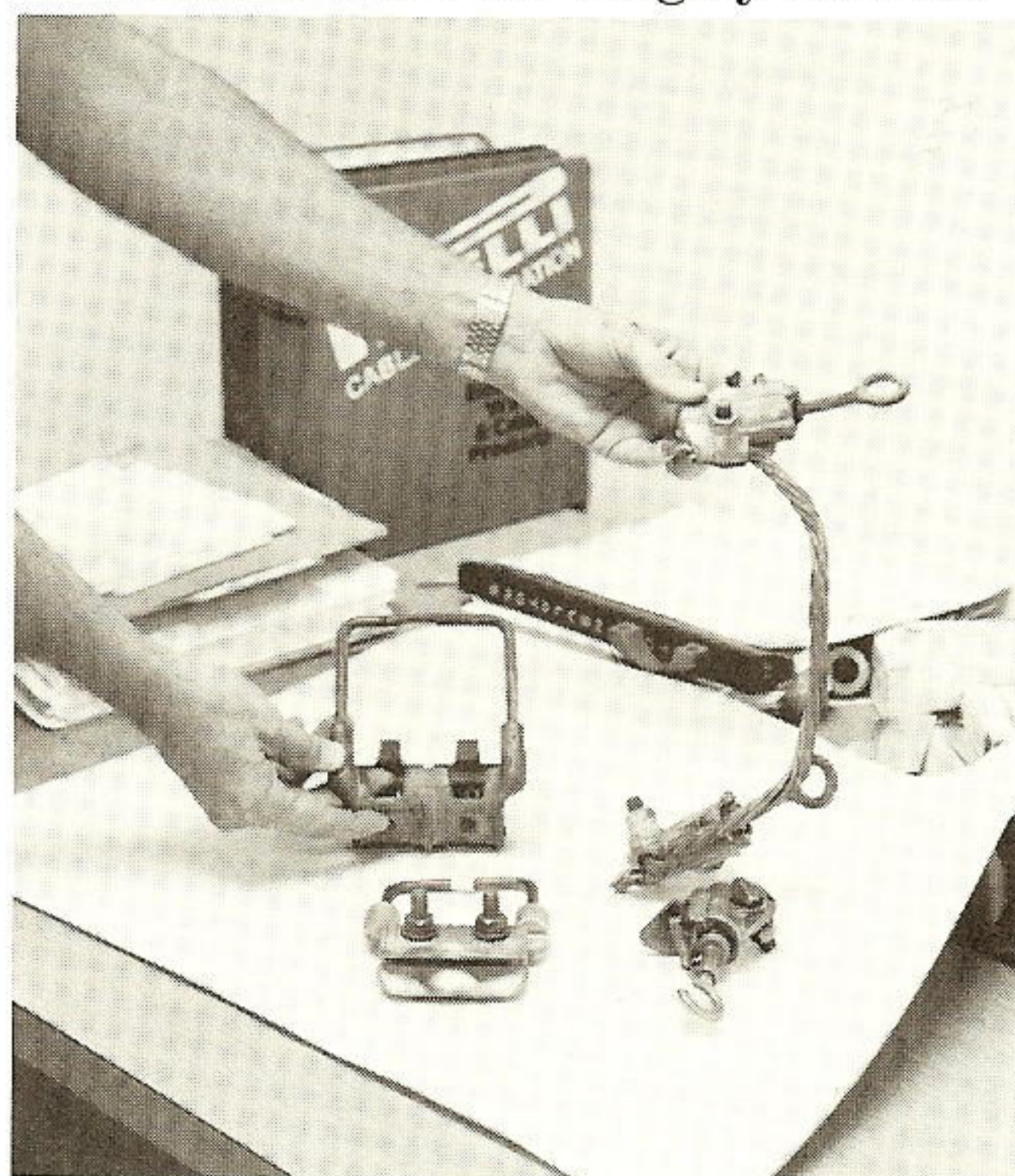
One new reclamation effort involves repairing old pole line hardware. Material that was previously thrown away is now sold to a Houston contractor for 10 cents per pound. The buyer, an electrical engineer, hires high school students to recondition undamaged items, then sells them back to GSU for roughly half the

price of new hardware. Since such work is very labor-intensive, salvage center employees "looked high and low before finding the right people" for the job, Johnson notes.

Solutions to some other problems have been more elusive. "The disposal of guy wire is a recurring problem," he laments. Another concerns the handling of waste paper. There is no market for galvanized guy wire and collection and transportation costs for waste paper exceed the selling price. Ever the optimist, however, Johnson predicts that someday an employee may propose a solution to one or the other dilemma. "We (those in his department) don't have the corner on good ideas," he insists.

Meanwhile, the department continues to devise profitable reclamation or disposal programs.

Stockholders ultimately benefit from such thriftiness. According to Johnson's calculations, "If we net \$1.3 million by the end of the year — and that's a reasonable figure — then our investment recovery profits can be viewed as adding 1 cent to earnings per share."



*Butch Clark, materials coordinator, compares reconditioned pole line hardware. The repaired stirrup costs \$5; a new one, \$10.77. A brand-new hot clamp costs \$4.57; the reconditioned one, \$2.30.*

## GSU acquires half the right-of-way

# Progress Continues

by Sharon Englade

More than half the right-of-way for Gulf States' high voltage transmission line through eastern Louisiana to the Mississippi state line has been acquired and negotiations are continuing with the remaining landowners.

"We're pretty much on schedule and, if there are no major setbacks, we should have the 500-kilovolt line in service by the second quarter of 1984," reports Bill Barksdale, GSU vice president of technical services. The right-of-way acquisition and land clearing and construction of 380 transmission towers along a 74-mile stretch from the McKnight substation northeast of Baton Rouge east to the state line would normally take about four years to accomplish, he said, but Gulf States does not have the luxury of time on this particular project.

"The atmosphere in our group is optimistic. We plan to have the line in on time. It's our No. 1 priority," the company official said.

GSU has contracted with the Southern Co., headquartered in Atlanta, to buy more economical coal-generated power from its Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama subsidiaries, beginning in 1984. For its part, GSU is building the Louisiana portion of the line to link up with a similar line under construction by Mississippi Power Co.

A year after Gulf States geared up the project, 54 percent of the necessary right-of-way has been acquired — 40.4 miles of

GSU's 74-mile portion. The line will travel through 154 tracts of land, and the right-of-way has been obtained on 94 parcels.

"We have had objections from some of the landowners who were concerned about the line crossing their property, but we have most of the problems ironed out," commented Jim Cornelius, GSU's real estate director. "Our efforts are now being concentrated on negotiations with the other landowners," he said.

### Several hearings held

One unusual aspect about this project has been the inordinate number of public hearings — at least six — in two of the four parishes where GSU does not have franchises. However, all necessary permits to cross parish property have been acquired.

"Because of the organized opposition and the importance of the line, we have compromised on a number of changes" in the route the line will follow, noted Cornelius. In addition, Gulf States has poured an unusually large work force into the project, again because of the importance of "getting the job done on time," he said.

"We deliberately skirted a national refuge, only to find the Department of the Interior intended to expand the refuge into the area through which the line will go," the real estate director said. Nevertheless, the company did acquire the right-of-way and has agreed with the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Department to disturb the area as little as possible, he added. That means only those trees that would interfere with the line will be removed and the area will be planted with forage crops for the area's native four-footed inhabitants.

If people-related problems weren't enough, Gulf States has been forced to add a barge to its fleet of vehicles in order to gain access to the part of the Pearl River swamp through which the line will be built. The barge, on a long-term lease, will be used for ferrying men and materials to the site for clearing, construction and maintenance.

Because of the particular terrain in eastern Louisiana, GSU hired consultants to conduct an environmental evaluation which showed there are no bald eagles residing in the swampland and no red-headed cockaded woodpeckers in the pine forests. Both are on the endangered species list. Also, no archeological sites would be disturbed by the line, the studies showed.

### Towers being built

As the right-of-way is being acquired, the 380 towers, which will use 3,150 tons of steel, are being fabricated, according to Lewis Guthrie, engineering manager. The towers, which have undergone structural testing at a Minnesota facility, are of the guyed variety, rather than the self-supporting kind used in other

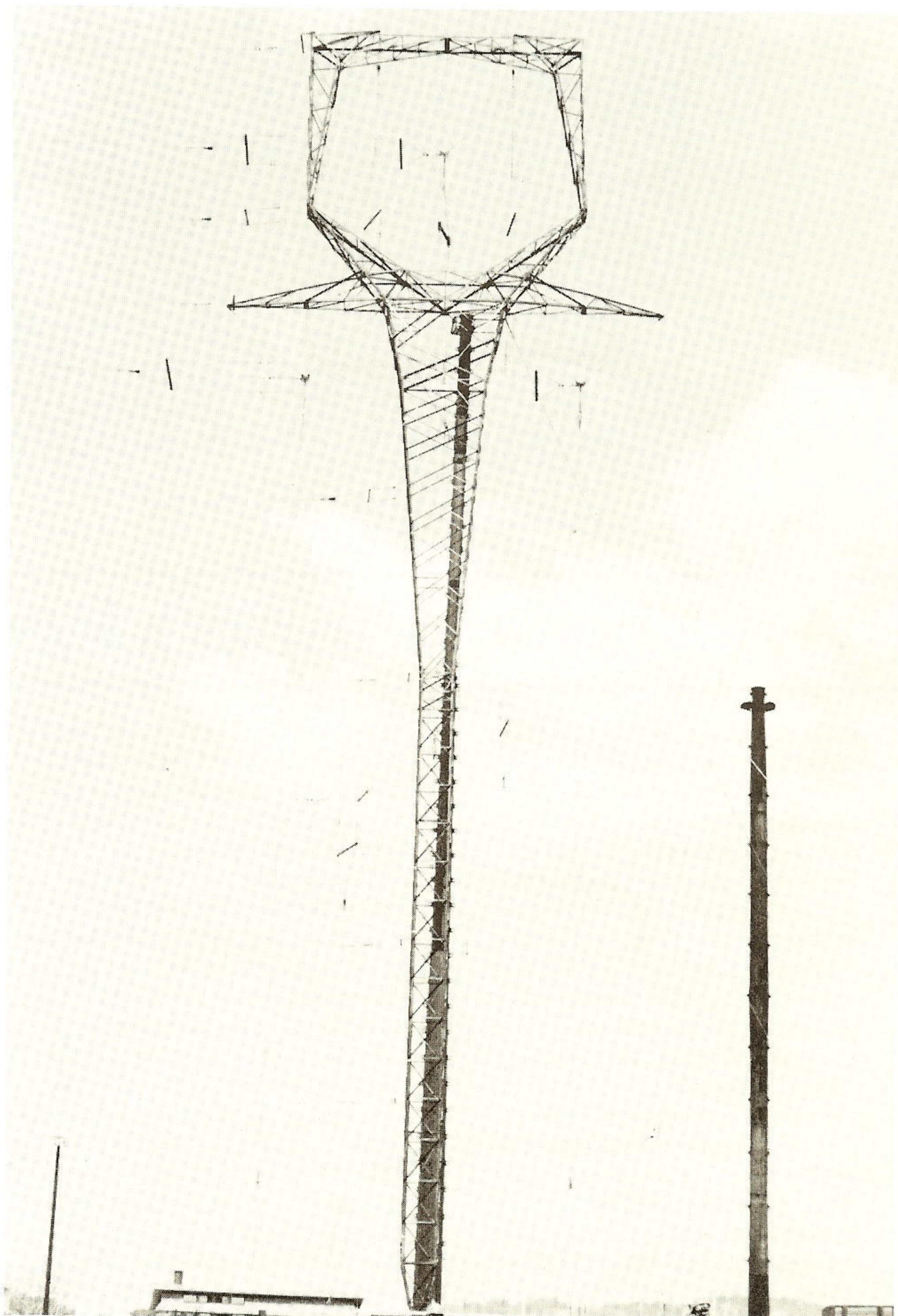
# On 500 KV Line Tie

Gulf States projects. The guyed towers are more economical, but because they are new to Gulf States, the engineering design group, working with consultants, had to come up with the new design, Guthrie noted.

On order right now are about 3.5 million pounds of wire as well as the hardware and accessories for the 380 towers, he said.

In order to save time on construction, GSU has leased five "marshaling" sites along the line's route where the contractors can deliver and store materials to be used in construction, Guthrie said. Also as a time-saver, surveyors telecopy their notes from an office set up in Hammond, La., back to Beaumont where draftsmen can begin plotting the line immediately, he said.

Negotiations with the landowners continue and Gulf States must still obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Louisiana to cross scenic rivers. Then, at some point in 1984, power from the southeastern United States will be lighting up the homes and businesses in south Louisiana and southeast Texas.





*This Western-theme cartoon-in-wood sculpture by Henry Joyner was selected as the most popular piece by those who viewed the entries.*



*Colleen Church, art show organizer, discusses the event with contestant Doug Blevins.*

## Art Show Winners Recognized

Luther Gilbert of the Security Department in Baton Rouge and Henry Joyner, Public Affairs manager, shared top honors at the second annual GSU Art Show, held Sept. 7-9 in Edison Plaza. Gilbert's watercolor of a southern home with gazebo won "Best of Show" and Joyner's wood carving of a cowboy and bartender, entered in the sculpture division, was voted "Most Popular."

For the second year, Colleen Church organized the company-wide contest, in which entries were displayed on Edison Plaza's fourth floor. Those entries awarded ribbons were displayed the week of Sept. 13-17 in the Edison Plaza lobby. According to

Mrs. Church, the art show was open to employees and relatives. The youngest contestant to receive a ribbon was 11-year-old Erica Nordberg.

Three Beaumont area artists — a painter, a photographer and a craftswoman — judged the entries in 10 categories.

First place winners were Barbara Lewis, wife of David Lewis, Lake Charles substation, original oil or acrylic and copy; Gilbert, watercolor; Randy Braud, Louisiana Station, pen and ink; Pat Loggins, wife of Ed Loggins, Executive Department, Beaumont, sculpture; Stephanie Dumesnil, wife of Randy Dumesnil, drafting, Beaumont, handcrafts; Lena Adams, wife of Robert Adams,

training, Beaumont, photography; Marc McConnell, husband of Karen McConnell, corporate library, stained glass; Juanita Bunch, wife of Scott Bunch, production, Willow Glen, ceramics; Anita Duffee, wife of Richard Duffee, accounting, mixed media.

Second place winners were Tim Wisener, drafting, Beaumont, original oil or acrylic; Clata McCarver, customer accounting, New Caney, copy oil or acrylic; Gilbert, watercolor; Doug Blevins, utility worker, Orange, pen and ink; Joyner, sculpture; Edna Gibbs, mother of Kay Schroeder, Real Estate, Beaumont, handcrafts; Ken Haynie, Public Affairs, Beaumont, photography; Karen McConnell,





*Jerry Steger admires the "Best of Show" painting by Luther Gilbert.*



*Erica Nordberg, 11, shows her parents, John and Linda Nordberg, her painting, which received an honorable mention ribbon.*

stained glass; Juanita Bunch, ceramics; and Darlene Patterson, customer accounting, Beaumont, mixed media.

Third place winners were Sid Khatri, engineering, Beaumont, original oil or acrylic; Anita Duffee, copy oil or acrylic; Lewis, watercolor; Phil Brannan, Computer Applications, Beaumont, pen and ink; Haynie, sculpture; Avon Dumas, accounts payable, Beaumont, handcrafts; Robert Robertson, engineering, Beaumont, photography; Marc McConnell, stained glass; Juanita Bunch, ceramics; Randy Dumesnil, drafting, Beaumont, mixed media.

Honorable mention ribbons were awarded to Barbara Lewis,

original oil or acrylic; McCarver, copy oil or acrylic; Gilbert, watercolor; Braud, pen and ink; Phil Brannan, Computer Applications, Beaumont, pen and ink; Joe Reine, substation, Baton Rouge, sculpture; Robby Zerlingue, transmission and distribution, Willow Glen, handcrafts; Tessa Koch, duplicating, Beaumont, handcrafts; Haynie, photography; Robertson, photography; Carl Rabalais, substation engineering, Beaumont, photography; Karen McConnell, stained glass; Jennifer Stanfield, contract services, Beaumont, ceramics; and Les Jones, transmission and distribution, Beaumont, mixed media.

# And the Winners Are...

by Susan Gilley

Some of the also-rans were as fascinating as the winning entries in *Plain Talks'* company-wide records contest, so details on several are included in the listing. Realizing that some potential record-holders may have procrastinated, the editor will accept outstanding Johnny-come-lately entries for possible publication later.

## **Unusual jobs**

It was a "fowl" job, but somebody had to do it! And Patricia Fowler, a high school student in Jacksonville, Fla., decided the job of chicken de-beaker paid well enough to offset the disadvantages. Mrs. Fowler, now the mother of five teenagers, hired on with Gulf States over a year ago as a departmental clerk at Neches Station.

She recalls that her earliest job, which required her to snip off baby chicks' beaks with a hot blade, was also smelly business. Although the task was a bit like clipping fingernails, the little chickens' nervous dispositions meant that the teenaged employee had to don a protective apron each workday. Mrs. Fowler was employed by a Florida hatchery which de-beaked the chicks before shipping them to buyers. The youthful worker also de-winged baby roosters — a task she admits was a bit bloody.

It has been many years since that first job, but Mrs. Fowler insists that she remembers the fragrance of slightly-singed chicken beaks — they smelled the same as scorched scrambled eggs! By the way, Mrs. Fowler was unmarried back then, but her maiden name of Morgan was not nearly as apropos of her position.

Nicholas Worontsoff Jr.'s former job may not have been quite as exciting, but it certainly kept him busy as a bee! The Beaumont-based environmental analyst reveals that he worked as a honey bottler parttime from 1972 until 1976, when he was a student at Kean College of New Jersey.

Worontsoff, a second-generation American who speaks Russian, earned a little extra pocket money by helping a Hawthorne, N.J. beekeeper. The pair would melt honeycombs, skim off the beeswax, pour the honey into a vat and then hold bottles up to the spigot to fill them.

Worontsoff later earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Kean and a master's degree in atmospheric science from the University of Michigan. He is now GSU's only fully trained meteorologist.

## **Shortest commute**



Opal Temple can get to work in one minute, but the Baton Rouge senior clerk never speeds!

Miss Temple lives just eight inches from her job site in the North Boulevard office. A 36-year employee, her home is on property adjoining the Gulf States' parking lot. Located in the city's historic Beaugard

Town section, her cypress home, which was built in 1890, has been designated a "classical Victorian cottage" by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana.

Since her home is near the old Governor's Mansion and the East Baton Rouge Courthouse, Miss Temple recalls the late former Gov. Earl K. Long as the most controversial area resident. During his tenure, news reporters and photographers swarmed the neighborhood, waiting for the colorful politico to step outside the mansion. Crowds also gathered for a more somber sight when electrocutions were held in the courthouse's electric chair, she adds.

## **Longest commute**

Lonnie Stalsby drives more than 630,000 times further than Miss Temple to reach his job as a senior draftsman in Edison Plaza.

That's because Stalsby lives more than 5 million inches — about 80 miles — from work! Stalsby moved to his present home about 10 miles north of Jasper in May 1981. A 17-year employee, he describes himself as "a big fisherman" who enjoys his proximity to the lakes. Because Stalsby values his independence, he drives an economy car rather than carpooling with others who live along his U.S. Highway 96 route to Beaumont.



## Reptile roommate

Bo is such a good friend of the J. J. Pruitt family that they have given the 40-inch-long, green-tinged creature a room of his own!

Pruitt, supervisor of site controls at River Bend, says Bo is an iguana — the pet of choice for his wife Linda. The couple has owned their latest iguana for about two years, but Mrs. Pruitt has owned different iguanas for about the last 10 years.

Bo was purchased from a pet shop. The native of Mexico is a vegetarian who prefers to feast on watermelon, green peas and lettuce.

## Perfect attendance



When C. J. Bonura retired Aug. 1 as a survey coordinator in System Engineering, he was probably ending the longest perfect-attendance record at Gulf States. Although records do not exist to substantiate that claim, co-workers insist that Bonura indeed came to work every day except for vacation days and three funeral leave days. He began his career in 1936 as a rod and chain man in System Engineering, holding that position until 1942 when he spent a three-year hitch in the service. He returned in 1945 as an instrument man. In 1948 he was promoted to survey party chief, in 1956, to party chief, and in 1966 Bonura became a supervisor-survey for T&D engineering.

Bonura was with T&D until

1979, when he returned to System Engineering. A memorandum to former Board Chairman Floyd Smith dated April 1977 stated that Bonura would observe his 40th anniversary date on April 25, 1977, and that it would mark just as many years of perfect attendance, excluding vacation days and three days' leave for funerals.

## Job hoppers

Edythe "Edy" Mathews and Ed Loggins have both done a lot of job-hopping — but it was all with Gulf States.

Mrs. Mathews, who is married to Gulf Stater Eldridge Mathews, has worked in four different departments and twice in System Engineering. She began her GSU career in 1957 and since that time has held 14 different job positions. She is presently

secretary in System Engineering.

Loggins, executive vice president-administrative and technical services, has worked at 10 different locations stretching from Navasota to Baton Rouge since joining the company in 1958.

## Memorable birthdate

Bessie A. Esthay's two sons share a very special birthday.

The personnel clerk at the Lake Charles service center recalls that she learned on her 31st birthday (Nov. 21, 1977) that her soon-to-be adopted son had been born almost two weeks earlier on Nov. 9. When little Aaron Esthay came to live with his new parents, they had been married for 12½ years.

Three years later, on Nov. 9, 1980, Mrs. Esthay gave birth to another son, Jared!



Bessie Esthay and sons Aaron (left) and Jared.

# And the Winners Are ...

## *Mileage monitors*

Who's counting? Adolph Tingan, Nicholas Worontsoff and Gesele Norman counted every mile when the avid GSU joggers participated in marathons.

Miss Norman, a stenographer in Transmission Planning in Beaumont, logged 1,240 miles on foot in 1981. That was the same year she participated in two marathons — the Pleasure Island and Houston Tenneco marathons. The Port Arthur resident, who has been sidelined by a back injury for the past few months, says she was hooked on running after earning a couple of ribbons.



*Gesele Norman, jogger.*

She hopes to resume jogging in about three months, if her doctor ok's it. If not, then Miss Norman says she will find another sport suited to her. Miss Norman ran on winter evenings on lighted tracks, but on weekends and on summer evenings, she ran on her neighborhood streets.

Both Miss Norman and Worontsoff claim to have run 26.2 miles in one day. Worontsoff is the former honey

bottler.

Tingan, an accountant in Beaumont, reports that he has run 26 miles in a single day.

## *Sailboat service*



John R. Stewart is hardly one to just sail into a deal, but once he's sure there is an agreement, this young salt observes a contract-signing ceremony with style.

The area development representative in Baton Rouge claims to be the only GSUer who has sailed to a customer's home for the signing of a service contract for some townhomes being developed on False River in Pointe Coupee Parish. The imaginative young Gulf Stater launched his sailboat about two or three miles away, then sailed to the developer's private wharf to witness the signature of contract.

A passenger recorded the memorable event on film.

## *Globetrotters*

Doris Bodden has picked tulips in the Netherlands and ridden a camel in Ethiopia. David Addy has dated a senorita, a fraülein and a mademoiselle. Alan Sikora has sweltered in the tropics of Ecuador.

All three are globetrotting Gulf Staters who have finally settled down.

Mrs. Bodden, senior stenographer, Customer Accounting, Baton Rouge, traveled with

her military husband to 23 countries outside the United States. They included Cuba, Egypt, Italy, Austria and Greece. The Boddens, who are natives of Mobile, Ala., moved to Baton Rouge in 1978. Bodden had retired as a major in San Antonio, Texas, in 1971.

Addy, an economic analyst, Corporate Planning, Beaumont, claims to have dated 31 women from 31 countries.

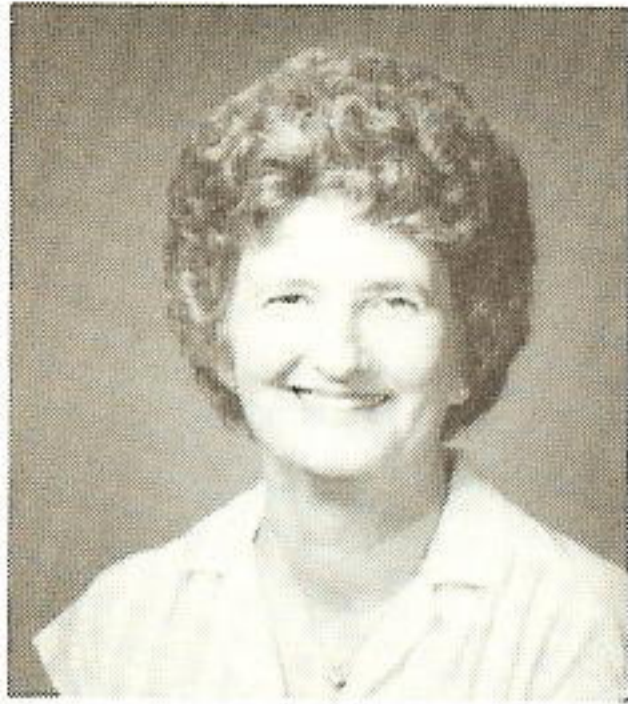
Sikora, an engineering assistant in New Caney, says he has moved frequently for two reasons: his father was with the Foreign Service and he likes to move.

By counting only the places where he had spent at least six months and had paid rent, Sikora counted 18 residences, including Guayaquil, Ecuador; Bangkok, Thailand; and Saipan, Marianis Islands. He actually lived in Falls Church, Va., two different times and in Williamsburg, Va., three different times. Since moving to Texas, Sikora has lived in Houston, Conroe, Spring, Willis and New Caney. He has worked for Gulf States for three years.



# SERVICE AWARDS

**30**  
years



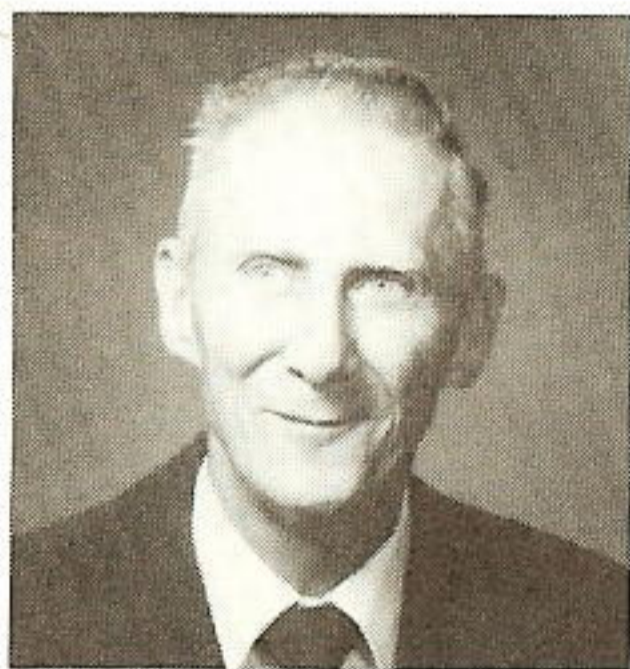
**Edaleen Bean**  
Treasury  
Beaumont



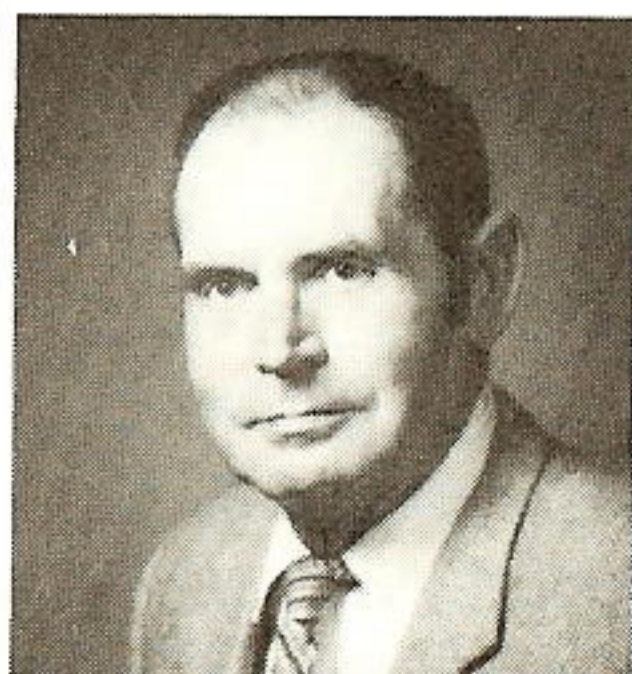
**Bobby G. Hilborn**  
Nuclear Group  
River Bend Site



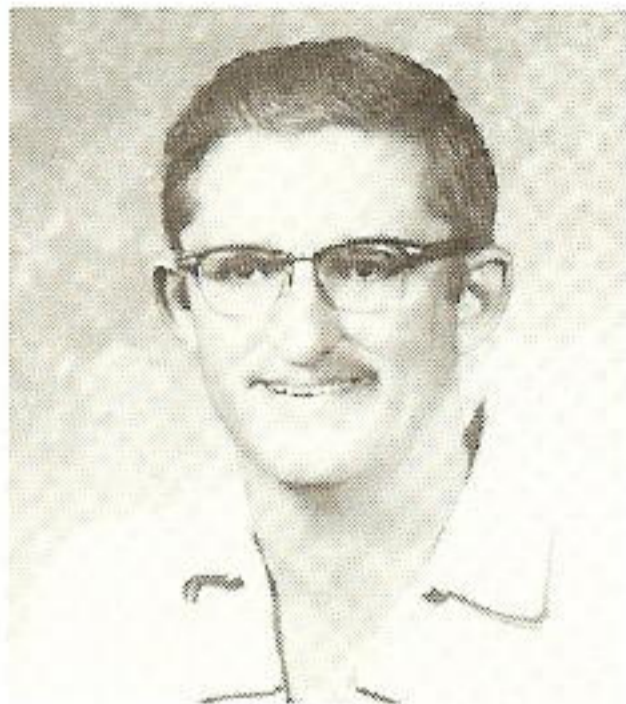
**John A. Prejean**  
Electric T&D  
Gonzales



**Howard W. Gale**  
Engineering Design  
Beaumont



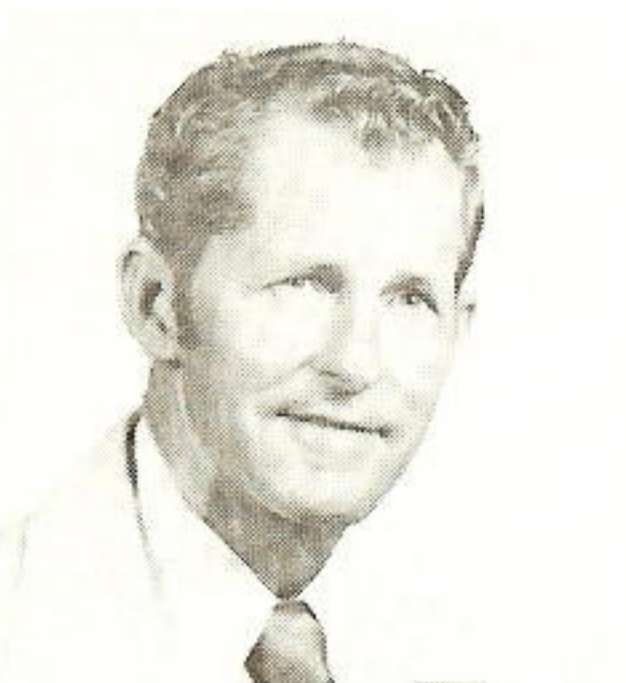
**Roy M. Jordan**  
Computer Applications  
Beaumont



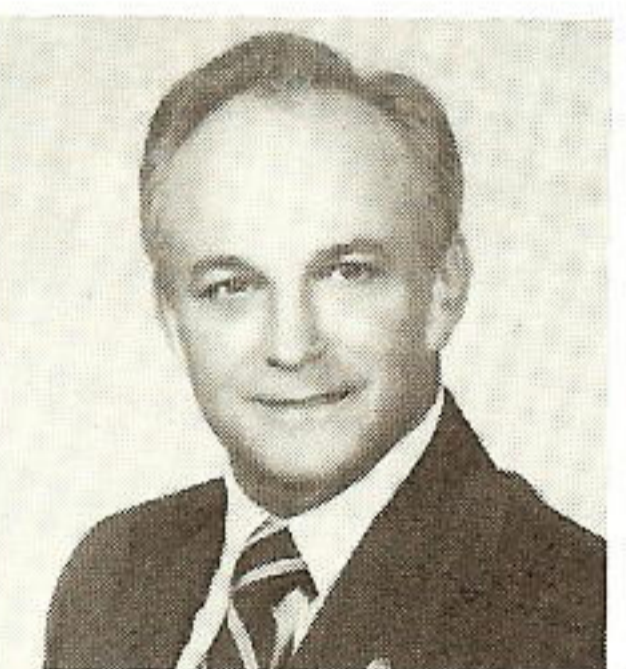
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**Philip E. Kriner**  
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Nelson Coal



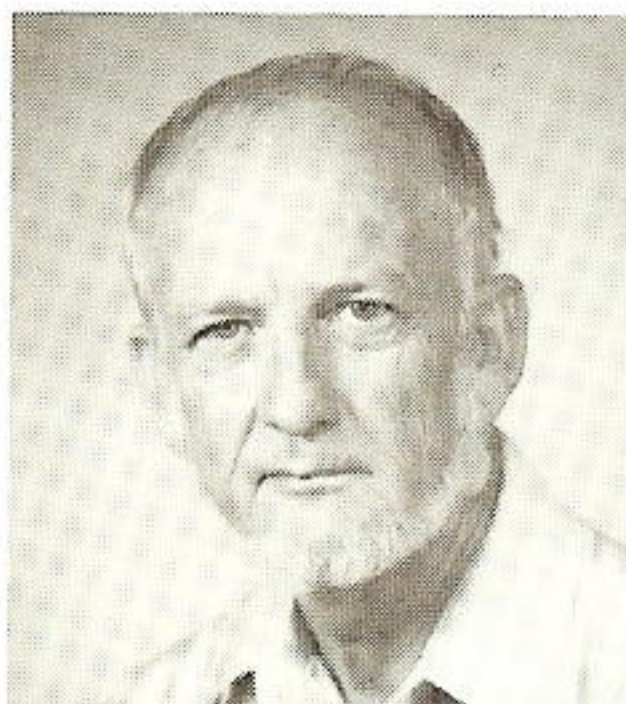
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**James F. Hebert**  
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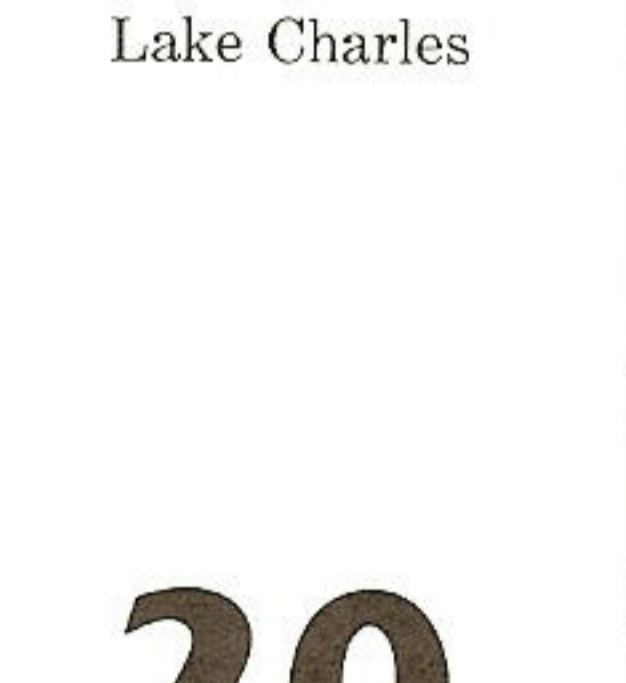
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**Percy J. Vincent**  
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Lake Charles

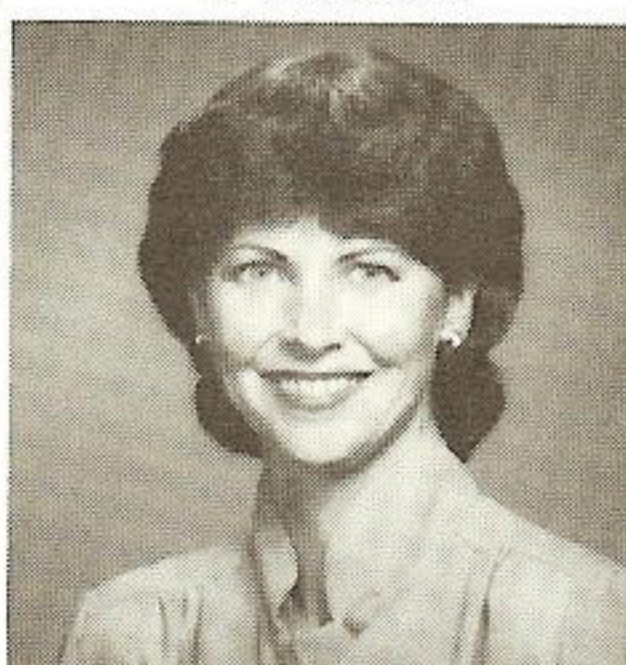


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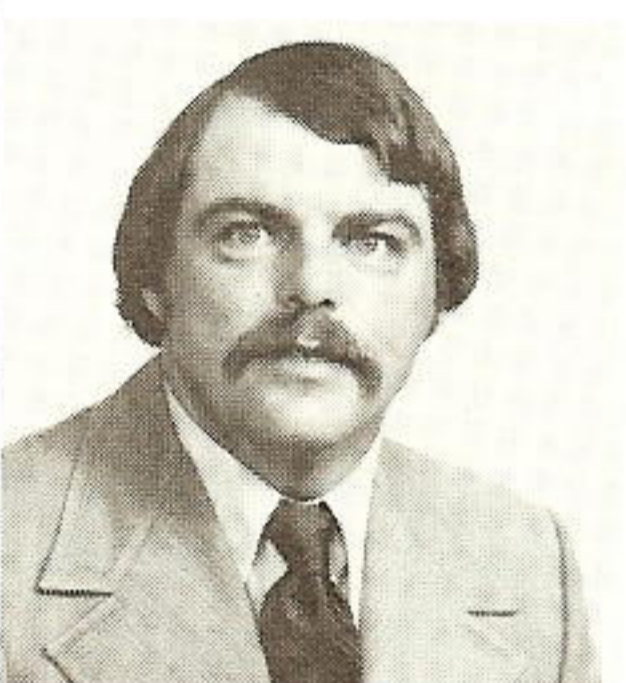
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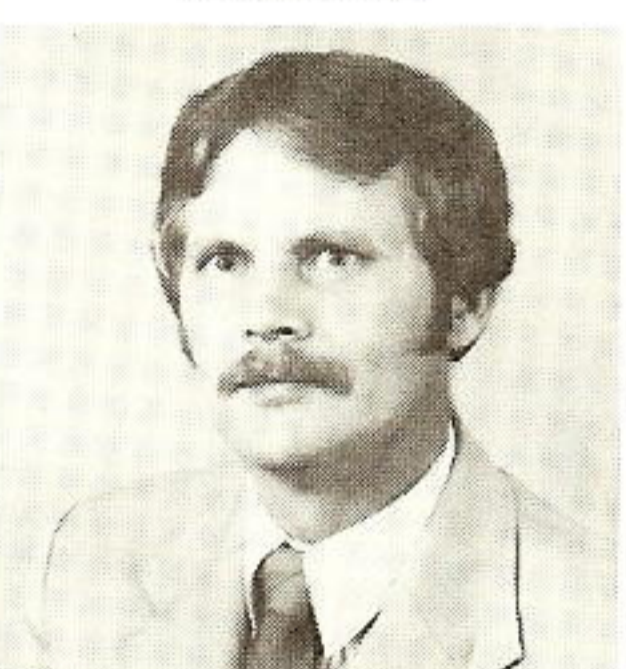
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Woodville



**Janet F. Thomas**  
Division Operations  
Beaumont



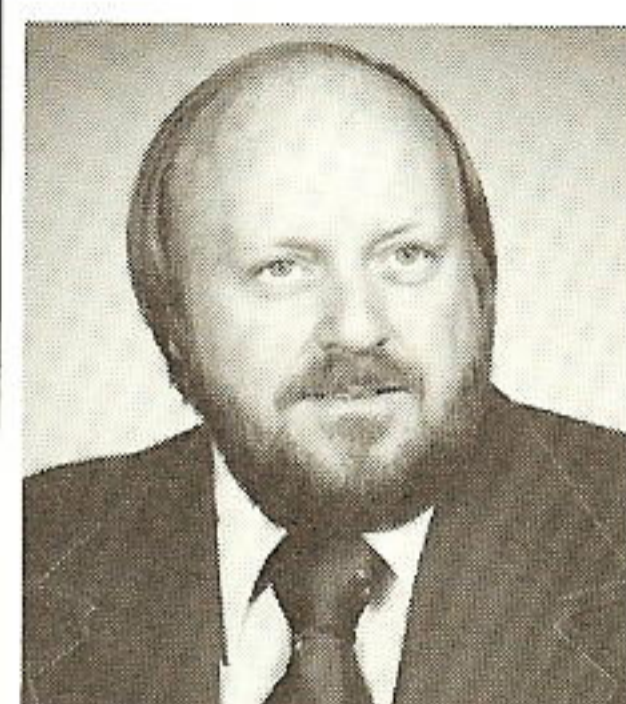
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Electric T&D  
Gonzales



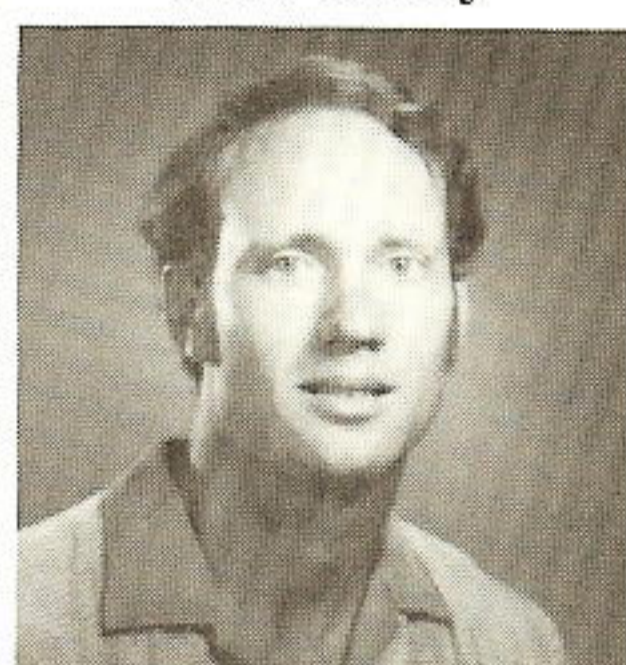
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Electric T&D  
Oak Ridge



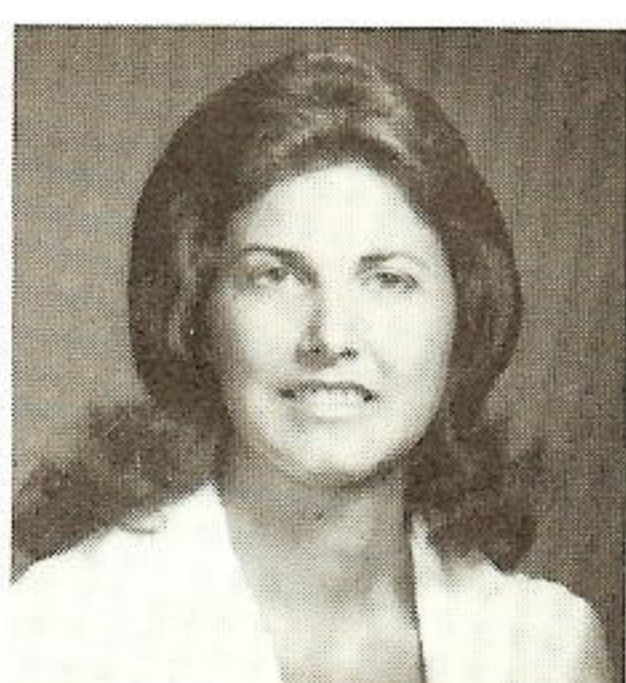
**Rebecca R. Watson**  
Consumer Services  
Lake Charles



**Paul E. Mosley**  
Consumer Services  
New Caney



**John F. Winger**  
Plant Production  
Neches Station



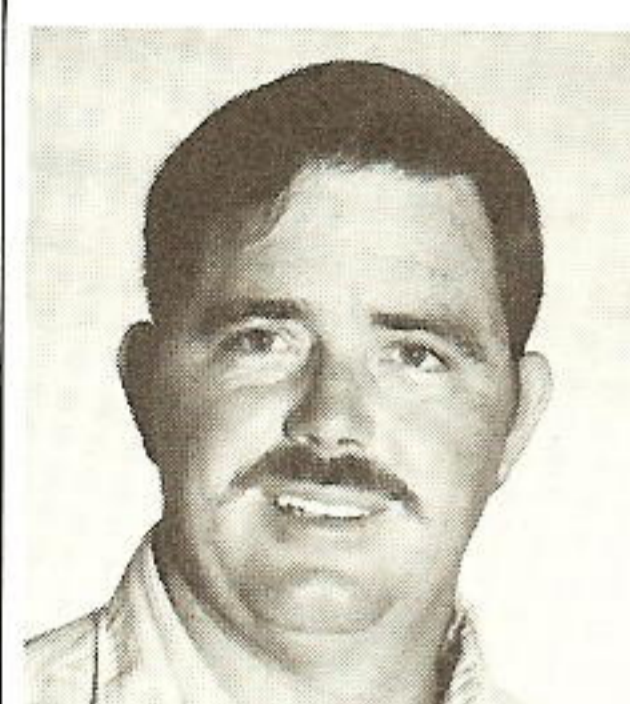
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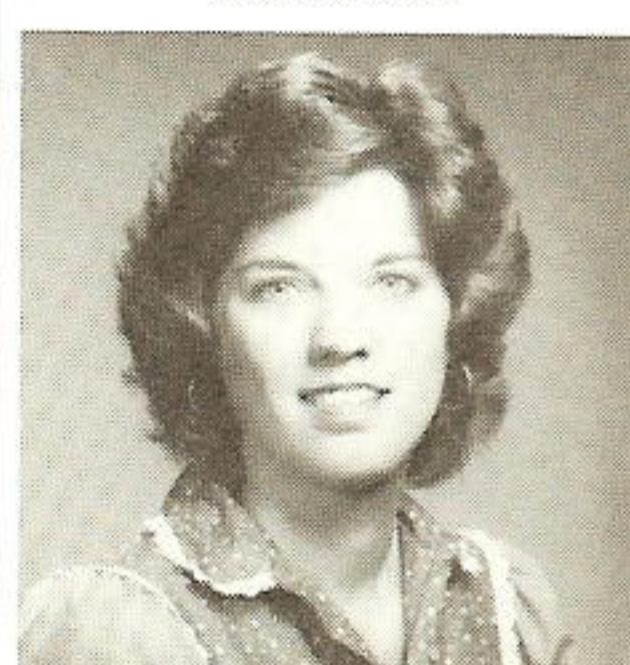
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Sulphur



**Carolyn L. Watson**  
Division Accounting  
Beaumont



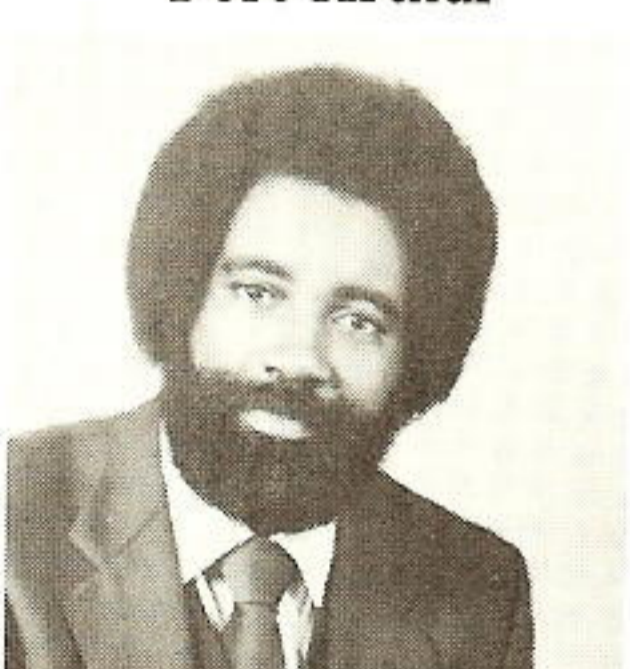
**Michael E. Rachal**  
Electric T&D  
Navasota



**Vicky F. Brown**  
Human Resources  
Beaumont



**Nelson M. Leger**  
Electric T&D  
Port Arthur



**Earnest W. Rucker**  
Plant Production  
Lewis Creek

**20**  
years



## Former employee has daughter

Sommer Leigh Smith, daughter of Cheryl and Eddie Smith, made her appearance March 21, weighing in at 9 pounds, 13 ounces. The proud grandmother is Clara Perino, executive secretary.

Cheryl worked in the River Bend Nuclear Group accounting division until last September.



## Burbanks have baby son

Janis Burbank, a mathematician in the Baton Rouge Division office, gave birth to a son April 20. Jonathan Warner Burbank weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21½ inches long at birth.

Janis and her husband, Tommy, have another son, Trey, age 5.

## Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during August 1982 covering employee deductions and company contributions through July 1982 included the purchase of 18,443 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$219,010.68. The average cost per share was \$11.875.

The trustee also deposited \$227,784.35 in savings with First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$26,515.10 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.



## Webbs announce baby boy

Little Bryan Allen Webb made his appearance in the Charles and Brenda Webb family at 5:19 a.m. Monday, April 26.

The little boy's mother is a graphics technician in Duplicating, Edison Plaza. His uncle, Tracy Webb, is in Computer Applications, Edison Plaza.

Bryan, who weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 19½ inches at birth, is pictured at 3 months, 1 week of age.

Mrs. Webb worked all day Friday, April 23, then checked into the hospital that Sunday.



## Condon cuddles with Miss Piggy

Gerald Condon celebrated his 28th birthday in early September by cuddling with that blonde bombshell, Miss Piggy.

Actually, co-workers in Edison Plaza surprised Condon, a General Services employee, with a visit from the Muppets character.

Condon's wife, Janis, is a Legal Services employee who also works in Edison Plaza.



## Beaumont Line wins tourney

A Beaumont Line Department team (shown in picture) won first place in the annual GSU softball tournament held in Lake Charles June 17. Second place went to a Baton Rouge team, third place to Neches Station and fourth place to a Lake Charles team.

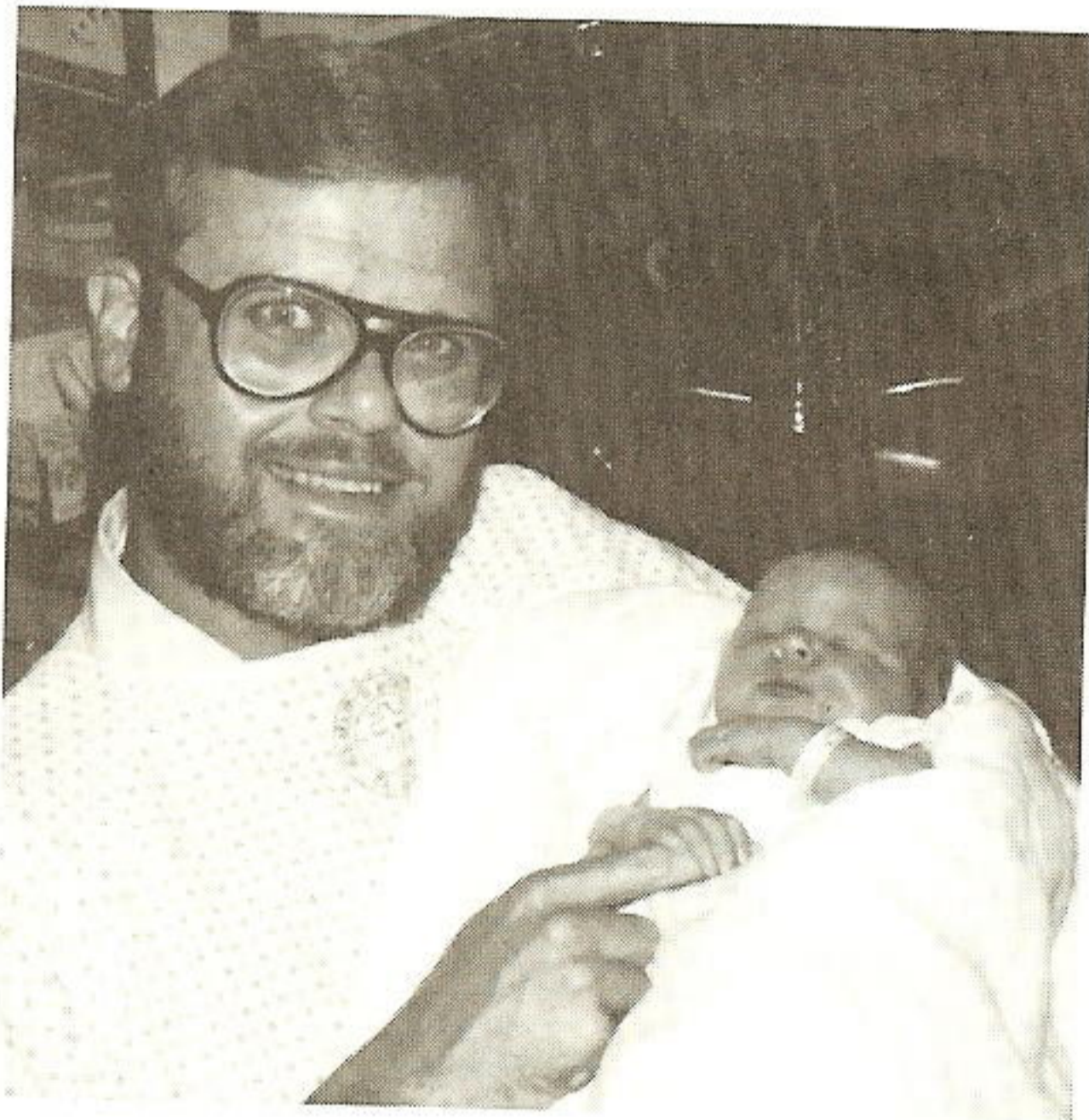
In addition, a Nelson Coal team made up of test technicians was awarded the beer-drinking trophy.

## Births given for Lake Charles

Annette Rideaux, meter department clerk in Lake Charles, gave birth to a 5-pound, 3-ounce baby girl named Sha Crista on Aug. 19. The baby shares an aunt's birthday and arrived one day before a brother's birthday.

Mrs. Rideaux and Becky Grove, communication serviceman-3rd class, were both honored at a baby shower earlier in August in the home of Bessie Esthay, personnel department clerk.

In addition, Melton Byrd, assistant line supervisor in Lake Charles, is the proud grandfather of a 8-pound, 8-ounce boy born on Aug. 23. The youngster is the child of Byrd's son, Larry.



## Family adds new baby

The Paul Anawaty family grew to six members on Aug. 7 when little Troy Anawaty was born.

Troy weighed 7 pounds, 14½ ounces.

Anawaty, shown holding his four-day-old son, is coordinator of consumer programs for the System Consumer Services Department. He and his wife, Vi, have three other children, Todd, 5; Tina, 3; and Trey, 1½.



## Sticker gets balloon bouquet

Maurice Sticker, environmental analyst in Beaumont, has no trouble remembering that Aug. 31 is his anniversary — he celebrates his birthday the same day.

Sticker's wife, Terri, observed the special day by sending a balloon bouquet to Sticker's Edison Plaza office, by way of two clowns. It was Sticker's 32nd birthday and the couple's third wedding anniversary.



## Moore receives birthday gift

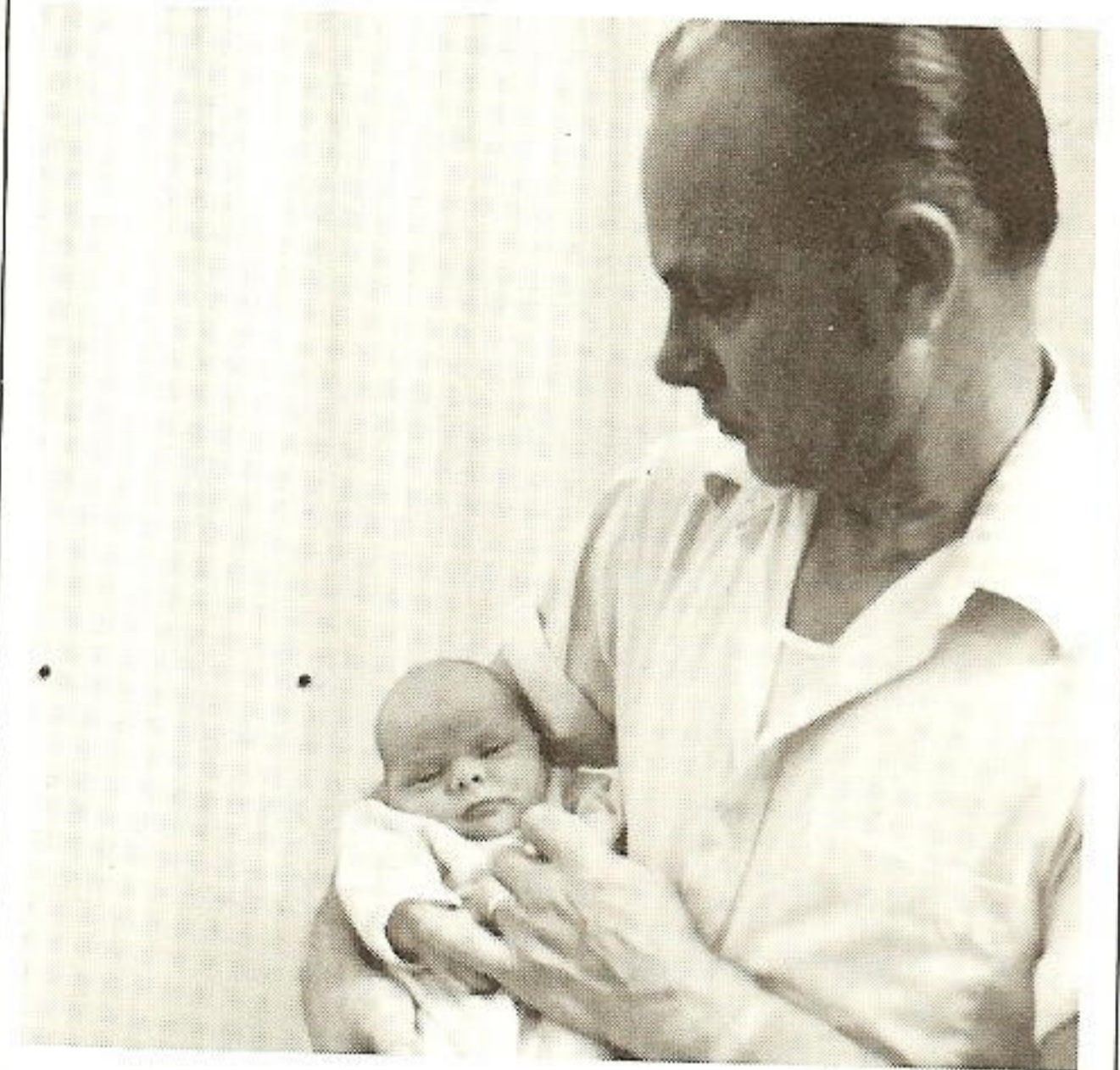
Tommy Moore, a storeroom assistant in Conroe, was surprised on his birthday Sept. 5 when a clown delivered a bouquet of 14 brightly-colored balloons.

Moore's girlfriend had arranged for the delivery.

## GSU couple weds in Beaumont

Susan Gail Riddle and Fred Jones were married July 26 in Beaumont Independent Baptist Church. Both are Gulf States employees, with Jones working at Neches Station and Mrs. Jones working in General Services, Beaumont.

Another Gulf Stater, Les Jones, served as best man during the ceremony.



## Helton reports new grandchildren

Floyd Helton, substation operator in Conroe, was twice-blessed in August when two daughters each gave birth to a new grandchild.

On Aug. 1, Gale gave birth to a 7-pound, 1-ounce baby girl named Kristina. The family lives in Japan.

Another daughter, Rose, gave birth on Aug. 22 to a baby boy named Justin. The 7-pound, 2½-ounce boy lives a little closer to grandpa, who is pictured holding the youngster.

# RETIREE UPDATE

## Davis retires on Aug. 1



Gardening, camping and traveling occupy Stanley Davis' time since he began retirement Aug. 1, reports Dave Thornhill, *Plain Talks* correspondent.

Co-workers honored Davis at a retirement party in the Louisiana Station assembly hall July 29.

Although Davis went to work for the company in April 1942, his GSU career was interrupted by a three-year wartime stint with the service.

Davis is pictured with an entertainer at his retirement party.

## Wells recalls early career



When James Milton Wells Jr. signed on as an operator helper at Neches Station on Feb. 28, 1946, wages for the position were 78 cents per hour, he recalls.

During his 36-year career, Wells progressed through all operator classifications, before retiring Aug. 1 as control operations foreman.

Wells and his wife, the former Catherine Elizabeth "Kay" Rooney, have four children, Jim-

my, Kathy Jo and twins Tommy and Terry. The couple resides in Beaumont, but say they will spend much of their time at their beach home in Crystal Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Wells (fourth and sixth from left) are pictured surrounded by family members.

## Party features hunting theme



J. S. Gray's Aug. 5 retirement party featured a hunting theme, reports Dora Landaiche of Willow Glen Station.

The ending of his 33-year Gulf States' career was observed at a barbecue, where about 200 well-wishers presented him with a barbecue pit, a Browning automatic rifle and a plaque depicting a hunter and engraved with the title "Great White Hunter" and Gray's retirement date. Gray also received a safari pith helmet.

He began his GSU career at Louisiana Station on March 1, 1949, then transferred to Willow Glen Station. Gray is pictured with his wife, Alyne.

## Branch given surprise party



Earnest Branch was honored at a surprise retirement party recently.

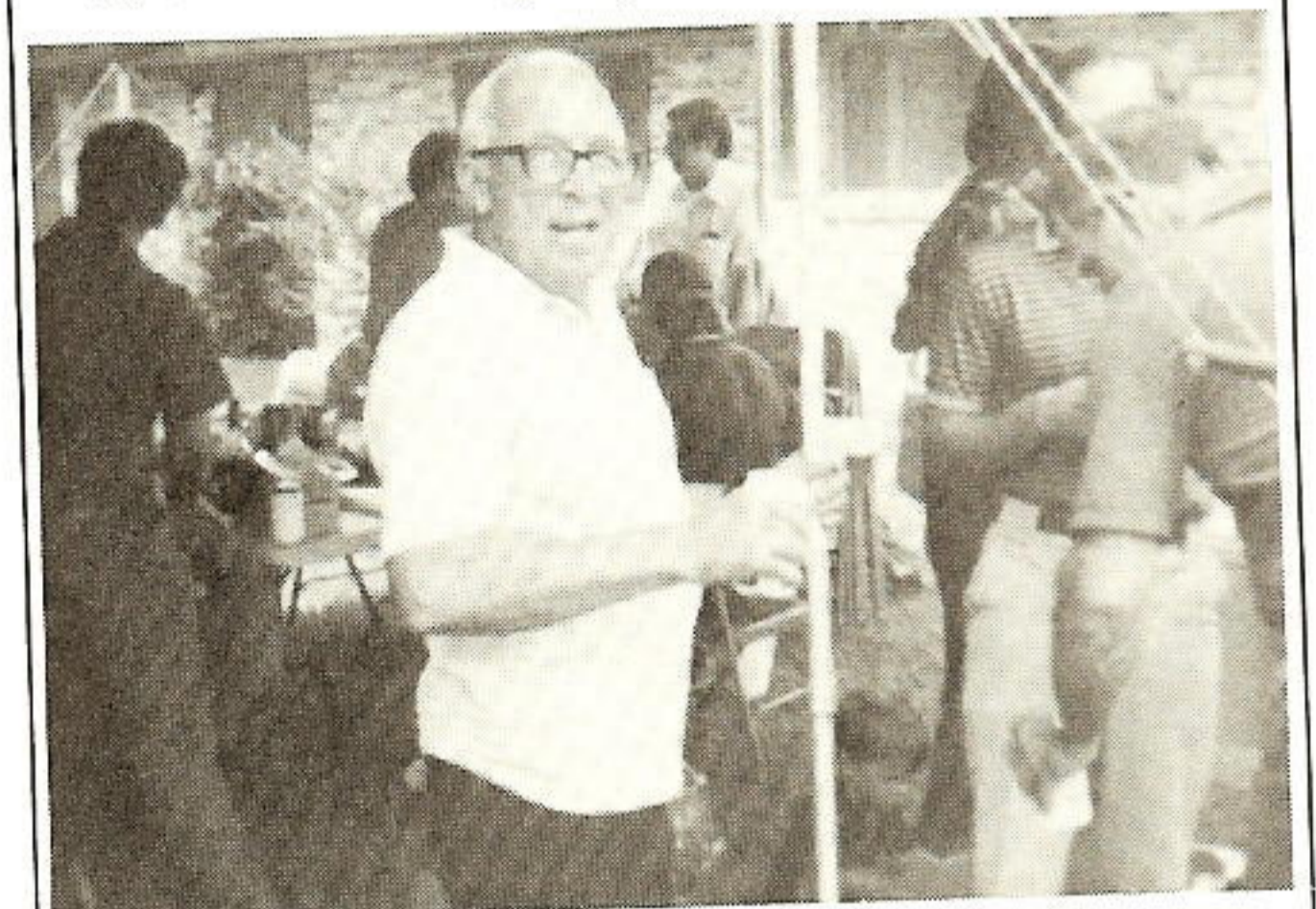
A 32-year GSU veteran, Branch was a utility worker II based in Conroe. Co-workers gave him a 12-gauge shotgun and shells. He's shown examining the gift.

## Brown given camping gear

Joe and Wilma Brown received camping gear and other gifts in commemoration of Joe's Aug. 1 retirement.

About 50 friends and co-workers gathered at his Westlake home for the recent celebration. The honoree received a table lamp and 24-foot by 20-foot camping canopy, both built by Sabine Station's Scuddy Thibodeaux, an Ambassador reel, graphite rod and some money. Mrs. Brown was given a \$100 bill.

Hired as a mechanic helper at the old Riverside Station on April 2, 1951, Brown transferred to Sabine Station in 1965. Most recently, he was assigned to the Nelson Coal project.



Brown is pictured underneath the camping canopy.



# ON THE MOVE

**Anderson, Gilbert A.**, Lafayette, to storekeeper, Electric T&D.

**Aytes, James D.**, Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Balko, James D.**, Conroe, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.

**Barlow, Barbara B.**, Beaumont, to clerk, Accounting Services.

**Bienvenu, Morris J.**, Lafayette, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Biven, Donald B.**, Nelson Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

**Bourgeois, Sharon C.**, Baton Rouge, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Briggs, Milton B. Jr.**, Port Arthur, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Broussard, Wayne J.**, formerly of Nelson Station, to foreman-salvage & transfer, Beaumont Materials Management.

**Brown, Truman L.**, formerly of New Caney, to utility foreman, Trinity T&D Line.

**Browning, Robert D.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Coody, Mark D.**, Beaumont, to storeroom assistant, Office Services.

**Cormier, Carlton R.**, test PMS coordinator, transferred from System Production to Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

**Cormier, Hubert E. Jr.**, Beaumont, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Cortez, Richard**, Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Davis, Edward L.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Dowden, Roy J.**, planning supervisor, transferred from System Production to Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

**Dumond, Clayton J.**, Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Durflinger, Henry R.**, Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Eaglin, Eva B.**, Port Arthur, to engineering helper, Electric T&D.

**Elliott, Tommy L.**, formerly of Vidor, to training representative, Beaumont Human Resources.

**English, Allen L.**, Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**English, Mitchell P.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Fontenot, Michael W.**, Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Forte, Roger L.**, Gonzales, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Fox, Randy D.**, Beaumont, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Fugitt, James A.**, electrical PMS coordinator, transferred from System Production to Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

**Gilbreath, Stephen R.**, Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Goff, David A.**, Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

**Griffiths, Thomas E.**, engineer, transferred from Plant Production, Neches Station, to Beaumont System Production.

**Grimes, Melvin A.**, Beaumont, to meter reader, Division Accounting.

**Gutierrez, Gustavo**, Navasota, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Hall, Timothy J.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Hara, Kevin G.**, performance engineer, transferred from Beaumont System Production to Plant Production, Neches Station.

**Haviland, William P.**, electrical maintenance supervisor, transferred from Beaumont System Production to System Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

**Haynes, Brenda H.**, Beaumont, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Helmick, Randall W.**, River Bend site, to PGCC supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Hills, Barry**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

**Horton, William C.**, Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Howell, Robert L. Jr.**, Nelson Coal, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Hughes, Richard A.**, Baton Rouge, to transportation supervisor, T&D Garage.

**Jennings, Lois F.**, Beaumont, to senior financial analyst, Treasury.

**Johnson, Ralph**, Willow Glen, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Juneau, Louis E.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Kelley, George E.**, River Bend site, to supervisor-nuclear procurement, River Bend Nuclear Group.

**Kolbus, Michael W.**, Nelson Coal Plant, to general maintenance supervisor, Plant Production.

**Koons, Cheryl A.**, Nelson Coal, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Kressman, Fred E.**, Sabine Station, to training representative, System Production.

**Lacy, Oliver Jr.**, Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Lee, Danny**, Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Lee, Walter E.**, Oak Ridge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Living, Van G.**, Lafayette, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Louvier, Louis K.**, Port Arthur, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Lovely, Carolyn M.**, Beaumont, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

**Loyd, Mark E.**, Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

**Manley, Charles R.**, Nelson Coal, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Marino, Anthony G.**, Beaumont, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**McMillan, Todd F.**, Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Meehan, Kathleen A.**, Nelson Station, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

**Mencer, Eroll W.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Miller, Anita K.**, Sabine Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

**Miller, Gloria R.**, Lafayette, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

**Moe, Victoria E.**, Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications.

**Moore, Larry**, Willow Glen, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Morgan, Thomas G. Jr.**, Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Mullins, Richard D.**, Orange, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Murray, David T.**, Beaumont, to outage engineer, System Production.

**Netterville, Craig B.**, Beaumont, to building & grounds maintenance man, Building Services.

**Pair, Stephen J.**, Nelson Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Patten, Mark W.**, Sabine Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production.

**Philmon, Mark E.**, Beaumont, to building & grounds maintenance man, Building Services.

**Powell, Oddie L.**, Beaumont, mechanical PMS coordinator, transferred from System Production to Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant.

**Reed, Tama E.**, Beaumont, to associate planning analyst, Corporate Planning.

**Reiser, Benjamin W.**, Beaumont, to director-risk management services, General Services.

**Richardson, Gale**, Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

**Roberts, Alvin E. Jr.**, Beaumont, lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

**Rose, Robert D.**, Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

**Sanders, Kevin A.**, Conroe, to test technician-3rd class, Plant Production.

**Satterly, Clinton G.**, Beaumont, to mechanical engineer, Power Plant Engineering & Design.

**Smith, Elizabeth J.**, formerly of Beaumont, purchasing agent, transferred to Materials Management, Sabine Station.

**Sonnier, Matthew L.**, Lake Charles, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Statler, Charles R.**, Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**Taylor, Douglas J.**, Lafayette, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Tompley, Joseph E.**, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

**Tucker, Steven L.**, Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

**Tullier, Gary P.**, Port Arthur, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

**Walker, Dent B. Jr.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

**West, Delores B.**, Silsbee, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

**Wheeler, Ellen B.**, Beaumont, to systems analyst, Computer Applications.

**Williams, Sidney A.**, Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

## Utilities step up solar research

Solar energy research and development by U.S. electric utility companies continued to increase in 1981, according to the latest industry survey.

This survey, conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), found that the total number of solar energy activities rose 12 percent over the number reported in the previous year's survey.

A total of 943 solar energy projects was reported by the 236 utilities responding to the current survey, up from 839 projects by the same number of utilities in 1980. Solar energy research by the utilities has increased seven-fold since 1975, reflecting a continually expanding commitment to solar research and development.

Many of the projects are being carried out by utilities in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Because of recent budget cuts, however, the DOE role may be reduced for the next several years.

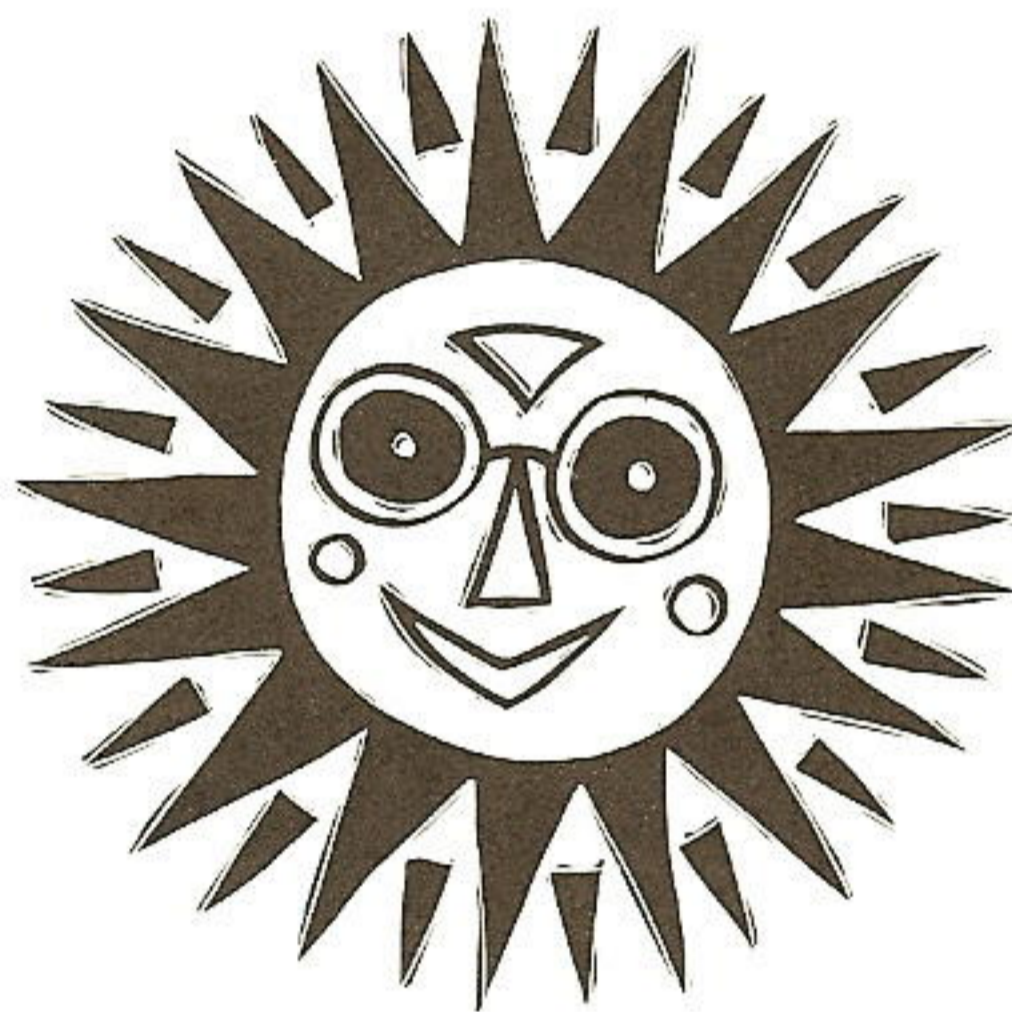
EPRI's Edgar DeMeo, Solar Power Systems Program manager, notes that much has been learned during the past decade as a result of the "extensive research and development investment of government, industry and utilities in a wide range of solar and wind activities."

As a result of this effort, he said, "Individual utilities can now begin to focus on those technologies that appear to be most promising in their particular service territories."

Although more than half of the projects reported in this recent survey focus on solar heating and cooling of buildings, the greatest expansions observed are in other areas, particularly wind power projects and photovoltaics. The number of wind power projects

increased 26 percent, from 152 in 1980 to 191 in 1981. Photovoltaic projects expanded from 48 to 68.

The 943 projects represent an investment of \$26 million by electric utilities in 1981. The projects are valued at an estimated \$140 million, including past spending and future budgeted spending. The industry also funds solar energy research through contributions to EPRI. In 1981, EPRI's Solar Power Systems Program budget was \$3.4 million, and over the next five years EPRI will invest about \$30 million.



## Nuclear supply increases 9%

The nation's nuclear electricity supply was increased by more than 9 percent this summer with completion of five generating plants in four diverse regions, reports the Atomic Industrial Forum Inc. (AIF).

New units in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Mississippi are adding a total of 5,378 megawatts to the U.S. energy inventory, representing enough power to serve the needs of approximately 2.6 million people. Economic benefit from the five new plants will be registered next year when they are in full commercial operation.

An additional 22 reactors are scheduled for completion by the end of 1983. Uranium currently produces about 13 percent of the nation's electricity, and is soon to

become the second most important source of power in the U.S. after coal.

The latest facilities to join the roster of 83 licensed U.S. nuclear plants are:

— Southern California Edison Co.'s San Onofre-2 near San Clemente. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has authorized a full power license, and San Onofre-2, built by Combustion Engineering, will be in production before the end of the year.

— Commonwealth Edison Co.'s LaSalle-1 near Marseilles, Illinois. A license to test the plant a low power has been granted.

— Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.'s Susquehanna-1 near Berwick. Fuel loading is now underway, and the 1,050-megawatt General Electric plant is expected to produce its first power in the fall with commercial operation beginning next year.

— Mississippi Power and Light Co.'s Grand Gulf-1 at Port Gibson on the Mississippi River. Fuel has been loaded under a Nuclear Regulatory Commission low-power operating license, and testing on the 1,250-megawatt General Electric unit is scheduled to begin in the fall.

— South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.'s Summer-1 near Jenkinsville. Fuel loading on the 900-megawatt Westinghouse unit began in August under a low-power operating license granted by the NRC, and testing will take place in the fall.

## High-Voltage Transmission

**Editor's Note:** The following article is excerpted from a Reddy Communications Inc. "Fact Sheet."

Overhead transmission lines have long been a familiar sight. Strung along spiky towers, they cover more than 270,000 miles across the United States.

These heavy-duty lines run between bulk power substations. They also interconnect individual utility and regional systems and thus boost reliability while reducing the need for excess reserve capacity.

The earliest cross-country transmission lines, installed in 1916 when the average household used just 250 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, carried 138 kilovolts (138,000 volts).

The largest lines now operating in North America are 765 kilovolts, which represent 0.5 percent of the transmission lines in the U.S. Today, with the average residential customer consuming more than 8,000 kilowatt-hours per year, researchers are investigating lines that can transmit at voltages in the 1,200 to 1,600 kilovolts range.

### Lower costs

The reasons for the rises in voltages are simple. Higher voltages can transmit more electricity over longer distances, and they can deliver it at dramatically lower costs.

A single 765-kV line, for instance, carries five times the power of a 345-kV line, and 30 times as much power as its 138-kV ancestor. What's more, it uses only 1/13th as much land area per kilowatt of capacity as the 138-kV line and costs a mere 1/10th as much per kilowatt to construct. Transmission becomes progressively more efficient and

less expensive as voltage rises.

What's the difference between a 345-kV and a 765-kV transmission line? All that's apparent to the eye is the height of the supporting towers and the width of the right-of-way. The towers supporting 765-kV lines average between 150 and 190 feet high, about 60 feet taller than those supporting lower voltage lines; the corridors they travel are 200 to 250 feet wide compared to 150 feet for 345-kV lines.

### Hum and crackle

There are other, less visible differences. High-voltage lines sometimes hum and crackle (the sound has been compared to eggs frying in a pan) and can interfere with radio and television reception. These effects of "corona," the ionization of air at the surface of a high-voltage conductor, appear during periods of fog and rain. They can usually be minimized by precise sizing and spacing of the conductors.

### Electric field

The voltage difference between high-voltage lines and the earth creates an electric field. It becomes more pronounced as voltage increases, but is normally harmless. At worst, someone who touches an ungrounded metal object (e.g., a truck or a metal fence with wooden posts) while standing under a transmission line would be subjected to a perceptible shock. Usually described as a "tingling feeling," these electrostatic shocks are similar to those created by shuffling across a carpet and touching a doorknob. They can be reduced or eliminated by grounding any sizable metal objects in the vicinity of high-voltage lines.

The electric current flowing in the conductors of a power line

also produces a magnetic field. The strength of such fields is low, even under the highest-voltage lines. A kitchen range creates a field 15 to 30 times stronger than a power line; the field of a color television set is three to 15 times stronger.

### Effects studied

One of the questions raised about electromagnetic fields is their potential effect on pacemakers, the electronic devices implanted to regulate the heartbeats of some cardiac patients. Almost all pacemakers in current use are of the synchronous type, which stimulate the heart only when no natural signal is received. Interference could send such pacemakers into a "reversion" mode in which they would pulse the heart independently. Exhaustive studies conducted by the IIT Research Institute indicate, however, that reversion caused by high-voltage lines is unlikely to occur and does not pose a significant medical problem.

### Research support

In the last decade, more than \$30 million has been spent on research into the biological effects of electric fields. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) together have committed more than \$25 million to this work. To date, it has produced no conclusive evidence of harmful effects. Utilities are contributing \$2 million this year to ongoing research programs, with an additional \$3 million budgeted for 1983. There are 14 EPRI projects already completed or currently under way involving everything from a variety of plant life to honeybees, chicken embryos and mice.

Q.  
A.

## Is conservation having much effect on electricity consumption?

Conservation seems to be creating more demand for electricity. Total U.S. electricity consumption has gone up by 22 percent since the 1973 oil embargo, according to a recent Westinghouse study,\* while consumption of non-electric fuels is down by nearly 6 percent. Coal and uranium, the two domestic fuels that generate most of our electricity, have replaced petroleum and natural gas as the principal U.S. fuels.

*\*Energy in Transition, The First Seven Years*

