

Advice is what a person asks for when he wants you to agree with him

The Illuminator

A man is happily married if his wife is boss but doesn't know it

Vol. I—No. 4

KENTUCKY AND WEST VIRGINIA POWER COMPANY

APPALACHIAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

KINGSPORT UTILITIES, INC.

January, 1950

Appalachian Completes Interconnection With Duke Power; New Link With Virginia Electric Power Under Construction

Mr. Tidd Resigns As Chairman Of A. G. & E. Board

Roanoke Lineman Receives Recognition In Operating Notes

The November issue of the *Light and Power Magazine* published an article entitled, "Rural Line Construction Safely Speeded with Dynamite." This article was based on A. G. and E. *Monthly Operating Notes* which were originally submitted by R. G. Amos, Roanoke district line department, in January of 1947. In addition to this recognition, the National Safety Council has requested permission to reprint Mr. Amos's time-saving suggestions.



R. G. Amos

Since Mr. Amos's article was submitted for publication in 1947, explosives have been used in practically every major rural project in the Roanoke area. Thousands of man-hours have been saved. For example, the actual digging of an average pole hole, where no rocks were encountered, required about three man-hours of work. Using dynamite following Mr. Amos's plan, the hole has been made to the proper depth and the pole placed in position in twenty-one minutes, approximately nine times as fast as the older methods. The additional cost of the operation is established at 17½ cents.

On the basis of experience with the Amos method of digging pole holes, it is considered to be satisfactory from a safety standpoint.

Recognition was accorded Mr. Amos's suggestion in the form of a certificate of "Merit of Award" and a thirty-dollar prize for his original contribution to *Monthly Operating Notes*.

R. G. Taylor Is Named To Va. Chamber Position

Raymond G. Taylor, administrative assistant in the system accounting department, has been appointed vice chairman of the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce's committee on social security. The announcement of the appointment was made on December 14, by N. W. Kelley, president of the state chamber.

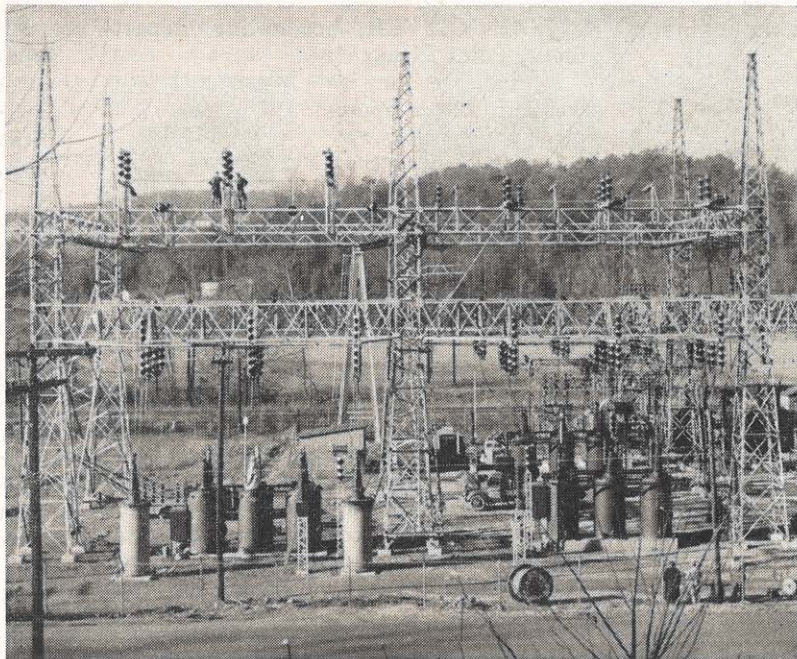


Raymond G. Taylor

The committee will represent the interests of Virginia business in state and federal social security matters.

Mr. Taylor has been employed by Appalachian for more than 20 years.

New Addition to Fieldale Station



The photograph above shows the recent additions to the Fieldale 132,000-volt substation. On the left is the new switching structure for the newly energized connection with the Duke Power Company. It is Appalachian's first interconnection with Duke and gives the company another tie with southern utilities. The photograph was made during construction and two members of a transmission line crew can be seen standing on the new structure.

Fieldale Station Is Origin Of New Tie With Duke

The Appalachian Electric Power Company has completed its first interconnection with the Duke Power Company, which gives Appalachian another link with Southern utilities.

Known as the Fieldale-Dan River Line, the new interconnection was energized last month and ties the two transmission systems together near Spray, N. C., at a new 60,000-kilowatt steam generating plant of Duke Power Company.

The new link originates at Appalachian's Fieldale, Va., substation where some major construction has been going on for several months. A new switching station for the interconnection has been built at Fieldale, bringing the number of structures at the station to five. The 132,000-volt station has grown steadily since it was constructed in 1926.

Appalachian's part of the new line extends almost 15 miles from Fieldale across country towards Spray. The new line is a wood pole structure.

Meanwhile, in the Lynchburg district of Appalachian, construction work is under way on the second phase of an interconnection with the Virginia Electric and Power Company.

Under construction is 54 miles of a new 132,000-volt transmission line from Appalachian's Reusens station at Lynchburg to Brems Bluff, Va., near where the interconnection will be made with Virginia Electric and Power Company. This line is a part of a large project being carried out in the Lynchburg district. The entire project includes a new switching station and the addition of more transformer capacity at Reusens and a new 12-mile, 132,000-volt line from Reusens to Alta Vista, which has already been completed. The plans also include the construction of a new substation at Scottsville.

Kentucky-West Virginia Power Company Gets High Safety Award



Shown above is a reproduction of the award which Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company received for having the third best safety record among utilities of its size in the country.

The Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company has been awarded third place in 1949 safety competition with electrical utilities of its size by the National Safety Council.

The award was made at the National Safety Congress in Chicago.

Twenty-six utilities from throughout the nation compete for this award. The Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company had an accident frequency rate of 3.68 from July 1, 1948, to June 30, 1949, compared to the average of the group of 10.71.

R. E. Doyle, general manager of the company, upon being notified of the award said, "Naturally, we are pleased to win recognition for our continuous efforts to perform our work in a competent, efficient, and safe manner. However, as welcome as such recognition is, the real satisfaction comes in the knowledge that our employees have been

saved many disabling injuries."

D. C. Duncan, system safety director, who delivered the award to Ashland, paid high compliment to the management and employees of the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company for their fine safety record.

Three Hazard Employees Elected To Kiwanis Posts

Russell Muncy, Hazard engineering department, was recently elected president of the Hazard Kiwanis Club. With the election of Muncy, three Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company employees will be at the helm of the Hazard Kiwanis Club during 1950.

Besides Muncy, company employees elected to office are: W. R. Peyton, secretary, and C. A. Zoellers, treasurer.

Social Security Tax Increase Effective January 1, 1950

Since January 1, 1937, both you and the companies have been contributing to the cost of federal social security. For thirteen years, one per cent of the first \$3,000 you have earned in each calendar year has been deducted from your check. This shows up on the "employee's statement of earnings and deductions," attached to your pay check, as the F. O. A. B. Tax—the Federal Old Age Benefits Tax. The amount which you have been paying has been equalled by the companies.

In the original Social Security Law, provisions were made for the amount deducted from your check to increase as the cost of social security became greater. However, each successive session of Congress, (See *Social Security*, Page 5)



George N. Tidd

George N. Tidd has resigned as chairman of the board of directors of the American Gas and Electric Company. His resignation became effective December 31, 1949, according to an announcement made by the board of directors.

Mr. Tidd, who has been associated with the company since its organization in 1906, became president of the company in 1923 and continued in that position until May, 1947, when he became chairman of the board.

Mr. Tidd has agreed to remain as a member of the board and an advisor and consultant to the company.

The position of chairman of the board is left vacant and Philip Sporn, president, will continue in his present capacity as the chief executive officer of the company.

J. E. Wright Heads Kingsport C. Of C.

J. E. Wright, general manager of Kingsport Utilities, was elected president of the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting on December 21.

Mr. Wright, who came to Kingsport from Pikeville, Ky., in 1926, is a charter member of the Kingsport Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He has served the organization as treasurer, was a member of the executive committee in 1947 and last year served as chairman of the industrial committee of the chamber.

The new Kingsport Chamber of Commerce president has been very active in civic affairs in the community. He is a past president of the Rotary Club and has served as chairman of the Kingsport Chapter of the American Red Cross, is a member of the board of directors of the Holston Valley Hospital and has served as chairman of the Community Chest.



J. E. Wright

The Illuminator

Published monthly for employees of Appalachian Electric Power Company, Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company and Kingsport Utilities, Inc., and their families. Articles herein may be reproduced provided credit is given.

EDITORIAL STAFF (ROANOKE MAIN OFFICE)

G. S. DUNN.....Public Relations Director
W. A. McCLUNG.....Editor

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

C. B. YEAROUT.....Bluefield Division
A. T. WILKS.....Huntington Division
R. F. MILLIKAN.....Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company
J. G. HARVEY.....Roanoke Division
R. G. SKINNER.....Charleston Division
W. Z. TRUMBO.....Kingsport Utilities, Inc.

Inventory Time

Every well-organized business finds it necessary and advisable to keep an inventory. Such an inventory usually reflects stocks of merchandise, supplies and equipment or whatever items of value are required to conduct the business. Good business practice recommends certain specified times, usually the beginning of each year, to analyze inventory reports.

It may be argued that such a practice would be beneficial to people as well. Individuals, too, accumulate many things which perhaps should be kept in their record of inventory. People make a success or failure of life, largely as a result of the kind of inventory they carry with them in their daily lives.

Knowledge, experience and training are, of course, among the requirements we think of for a good inventory. They are essential, but other factors must be "carried in stock" for a well-balanced inventory. Interest, enthusiasm, understanding, cooperation, tolerance and loyalty are among some of the human valuables we need for a full and useful life.

The first of the year is the time when many people make resolutions. Resolutions are good, unless they happen to be like Hamlet's and many of our own, "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought." Perhaps this is a better time for us to analyze our own personal inventories. We may find that our supplies need to be adjusted to give us a better and happier year. Who knows—maybe we will find ourselves richer in many ways than we were a year ago.

"Think It Over"

No nation can remain static and survive, therefore, we wish, of course, to maintain a dynamic, progressive people. Dynamic progress, however, is not made with dynamite. And that dynamite today is the geometrical increase of spending by our governments—federal, state and local. Twenty years ago, all varieties of government, omitting federal debt service, cost the average family less than \$200 annually. Today, also omitting debt service, it costs an average family about \$1,300 annually. This is bad enough but our legislatures are currently proposing projects which, if enacted, would add one-third more annually to our spending. In the long run it is the average working citizen who pays by hidden and other taxes. If the seriously proposed projects are enacted, Mr. and Mrs. Average W. Citizen will have to work 81 days for taxes, or about one week out of every month.

The founding fathers dedicated the structure of our government "to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." We of this generation inherited this precious blessing. Yet, as spendthrifts, we are on our way to rob posterity of its inheritance.

HERBERT C. HOOVER in *Surplus Record*—October, 1949



QUESTION OF THE MONTH: What are your suggestions for increasing customer appreciation of our company's service?

RUFUS P. THOMAS, power engineer, Ashland, Ky.:

The majority of our industrial plants do not have trained personnel on their staffs capable of rendering engineering service with respect to their electrical problems. This is particularly true with the smaller companies.

For this reason, I believe that our rendering service to these customers is a very good way to increase their appreciation of our company's service. Voltage checks will give the customer a better idea as to whether his equipment is operating at its rated voltage. Load studies and wiring recommendations will enable him to maintain adequate capacity for his equipment and to provide additional capacity for new equipment. Power factor studies and recommendations for correction will enable him to affect a savings in his power bills as well as giving him additional capacity in his wiring.

This service will result in better operation of the customer's plant and cause him to feel he is getting more for his money.

PATRICIA N. DUNN, clerk-stenographer, Glen Lyn Plant:

We employees who come in actual contact with the public—have the opportunity of increasing the customers' appreciation through courtesy and by convincing them that "their problem is our problem" and being ever willing to help solve those problems promptly.

It seems to be that familiarizing the public with the process of generating electricity so that they will better understand what is happening behind "that little button they push" would be helpful. This could be done by conducting tours of our generating plants and explaining the process step by step, for instance through civic organizations, school groups and others. This method is now being practiced at the Glen Lyn Plant.

W. G. DAY, safety supervisor, Cabin Creek Plant:

Probably about the only time that a customer actually appreciates our service is when it isn't there. That is, when he is in the act of using an electric labor-saving device and is suddenly confronted with the fact that he must resort to doing the task "the hard way."

Seriously, next to the essentials of living, electricity could be considered one of the most vital necessities of the people. Power service is too often taken for granted, with little consideration of the vast expense and tireless effort on the company's part to provide adequate and uniform electricity. Before the customer can appreciate our service, he must have a knowledge of the company's operations, functions and policies. These could be brought to the attention of the public by an extensive educational program through radio, television and newspapers.



JEAN OLIVER, accounting department, Point Pleasant:

I think we can increase customer appreciation of our service by being polite, courteous, and serving the customer efficiently. When in doubt as to what to tell the customer in answer to a complaint, refer him to the correct department. Do not make statements which the customer can misinterpret to be promises, unless you are sure the promises will be fulfilled. Be interested in the customer as far as our company is concerned. Do not argue with customers, their complaints may be justified. In short, courtesy and consideration go hand in hand with a well-satisfied and appreciative public and a more prosperous organization.

JAMES V. CARTER, lineman, Kingsport:

We, the employees, should at all time consider the customers as our best friends. We should be polite and understanding on every job and try to please the customers by always giving special attention to their needs whether large or small. Suppose a tree has to be cut or trimmed on someone's property. We should go to them in a nice, friendly way and explain the danger and why we have to do it. I find this works every time. We should always be prompt and efficient and do our best to please everyone.

MARTHA KIRCHNER, home economist, Roanoke:

Every employee of the company should be a salesman for electricity. We can strive to impress our customers with the fact that we have a well-managed company by thoroughly understanding the inner workings of every department. Any service performed should be dependable and friendly so as to sell good public relations.

As a home economist, I find to be a good listener is of prime importance. This can be accomplished by having an understanding interest in the customer's problems in the home, as well as over the phone.

HERBERT W. TAYLOR, draftsman, System Real Estate and Right-of-Way Department, Roanoke:

A disgruntled customer is like a rotten apple in a full basket. Outline to him the procedure necessary for new or extended service connections and make one company representative responsible for the fulfillment of same. Many customers desiring range and service connections are complaining of too many inspections and too much "passing the buck." To speed up power service connections much like other utility connections, a crew should be formulated from the rural, engineering, line and meter departments that would have the biscuits browning shortly after the city or county inspector approved the connection.



RICHARD J. WOOD, commercial department, Bluefield:

Our definition of appreciation is a favorable critical estimate by our customers of our efforts for their benefit. Each member of our organization is an ambassador of good will to all our customers he or she meets each day.

We, as ambassadors, should be thoroughly versed on our organization and operations, so that our honest and sincere desire to better the living of mankind can be vividly and vigorously conveyed to many indifferent and tranquil individuals who assume our government owes them a living and make no effort on their part to understand the economics and the mechanical beauty of the giant wheels of industry of which our company is so vitally a part.

RAY PLYMALE, accounting department, Huntington:

This subject should be deeply impressed in the mind of every employee, since the customer is the one who pays the way. Each employee is a salesman of something that cannot be seen, but is a great reliever of drudgery in home, factory and on the farm.

Always be courteous, prompt to ascertain their wants, answer questions simply. If answers are unknown, direct customers to one who can supply the answer. If necessary go out of your way to assist customer, whether his wants are large or small.

Ever remember, from small acorns great oaks grow. Thus good will from small favors grow.

Business for "the Common Good"

One of the most controversial issues of the past decade has been the right of government in the United States to conduct a business. Sometimes this issue has been argued in terms of "public ownership for the public good." The point is frequently made that absolute business efficiency is not the correct standard for judging the benefits of governmental enterprise. But this important subject generally is not well understood because certain aspects of it are not plain to the ordinary citizen. An interesting treatment of it occurs in a new book issued by the Foundation for Economic Education, "Liberty, a Path to Its Recovery," by F. A. Harper. He writes:

Nearly every business operated by government has these features: 1. They are monopolies. 2. Their initial capital is obtained through the force and power of taxation. 3. They need not operate efficiently nor be able to cover their costs in order to stay in business, because they can always fall back on their taxing power to make up the difference between their performance and the people's direct appraisal of its worth.

This seems to represent a fair definition of the method by which governmental "public enterprises" operate. But Dr. Harper raises a pertinent question: "How would you like to compete in private business with somebody who could force you to put up his initial capital, and who could send you a bill for all his losses?" The question is worth much pondering at a time when Congress debates the possibilities of Federal economy.

New York Sun Editorial



Vice President A. J. Darrah Retires At Huntington; Hugh D. Stillman Is Promoted To Division Manager



A. J. Darrah

Arthur J. Darrah, who for more than 40 years has been associated with the electric utility business, has retired as vice president and Huntington division manager of the Appalachian Electric Power Company. Mr. Darrah's retirement was effective January 1, 1950.

He was succeeded as Huntington division manager by Hugh D. Stillman, who has been assistant division manager since 1943.

M. C. Funk, vice president and general manager of Appalachian, in making the announcement of Mr. Darrah's retirement said, "It is with extreme regret that I inform his fellow employees of the decision of Arthur Darrah to retire from active management of the Huntington division. We may not question his decision because for over 40 years his life has been devoted to public service and he has well earned the right to more leisure. Fortunately, he has consented to continue with us in a consultative capacity so that we will have the benefit of his wisdom and experience."

Mr. Darrah's electric utility experience began in 1908 with the Van Wert Public Service Corporation in Van Wert, Ohio. In 1910, he was made manager of the Mount Vernon Railway and Light Company, also in Ohio. After seven years in Mount Vernon he became manager of the Orange County Public Service Corporation in Middletown, N. Y.

It was in 1919 that Mr. Darrah first assumed managerial duties in what is now the Logan district of Appalachian Electric Power Company. Fifteen years later he became manager of the Huntington division. He has seen and participated in the growth of the company ever since its formation in 1926. Then it had 70,000 customers while now it serves 369,000 homes, farms, commercial establishments, mines and industries.

"Not only has Arthur Darrah established an enviable record as a builder and administrator," Mr. Funk said, "but he has always been in the forefront of projects for civic welfare and community development. His engaging personality and willingness to help his fellow men have won the esteem of his associates and endeared him to everyone with whom he came in contact."

Now under construction in Guyandotte is a new 132,000-volt substation, which has been named the Arthur J. Darrah station, in honor of Mr. Darrah. The announcement that the station would bear his name was made in April of 1949. At that time, Mr. Funk said, "The station is being named for Mr. Darrah in recognition of the fine service and leadership in the growth of the company which he has demonstrated during his many years of service."

Mr. Darrah will continue to reside in Huntington, where he is active in many civic affairs.



H. D. Stillman

The new Huntington division manager, Mr. Stillman, has been associated with Appalachian and the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company since 1923. His first job in the electric utility field was as a junior engineer for the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company at Hazard. He was later transferred to Pikeville as district meter superintendent.

Mr. Stillman first came to Huntington in 1926 as meter superintendent. He remained in that capacity until 1931, when he was transferred to Logan as assistant to Mr. Darrah, who was then division manager for the company at Logan.

In November, 1934, when Mr. Darrah was transferred to Huntington, Mr. Stillman was named manager of the Logan district and remained in that capacity until 1943 when he was promoted to assistant manager of the Huntington division.

Mr. Stillman is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds a masters degree in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A Message From Mr. Funk

DEAR FELLOW EMPLOYEES:

A year of progress in our company has just come to a close. We have greatly increased and extended our facilities to meet the needs and growth of the communities served by our company. We have made available to many people in rural areas, as well as in cities and towns, ample, economical and dependable electric service. You and I, as employees of our company, can take justifiable pride in these accomplishments.

Along with the progress we have made, I feel I should call to your attention at least two major problems which concern me greatly, as I am sure they do each of you. One of these is our record of accident prevention, which is the worst we have experienced for many years. Five employees suffered fatal injuries. Our record of all types of accidents has been alarmingly high.

Another major problem confronting us, and one of increasing importance, is the real threat being faced today by free enterprise in general, and the electric utility industry in particular. The trend of creeping socialism, of deficit spending, and of unnecessary and unfair competition to legitimate business offers the greatest threat to our welfare and security we have yet experienced.

Now as we look forward to the future and a new year of hope, let me urge everyone to take a greater personal interest in matters which threaten our company and to make it a safer year for ourselves and our fellow workers. The accomplishment of these objectives would bring to all greater prosperity and happiness. This is my sincere wish for 1950.

Very truly yours,

M. C. FUNK

Vice President and General Manager

H. W. Walk Retires In Bluefield After 31 Years Service



H. W. Walk, a veteran Bluefield division employee, has retired after rounding out more than 31 years of employment with Appalachian Electric Power Company. Mr. Walk, on December 9, was one of the retiring veterans honored with a banquet which was held in the Appalachian Assembly Room in Bluefield. At this occasion, he was presented a watch by his fellow-employees.

Mr. Walk began his service with the company in October of 1918 as a meter reader. At that early date, Mr. Walk found himself the only employee of the Meter Department. Since that time, his assignments with the company has covered the reading of every type of power meter and the testing of all types of experimental rubber equipment used in the Bluefield division.

Mr. Walk, who is a resident of Bluefield, said, "I have no immediate plans for the future except to take life easy and enjoy my leisure hours. I have a great many incomplete projects that I have put aside year after year and I might do some of these."

Mr. Walk is considered quite active in lodge work and he is one of the charter members of the Bluefield Moose lodge.

On December 5, 1949, Mr. Walk observed his 40th wedding anniversary with the former Miss Annie Robertson, Bluefield. He is also a member of the Grace Methodist Church and the Woodmen of America and is extremely interested in gardening and flowers.

Mr. Walk is the father of eight children, all living, and nine grandchildren.

"Operating Notes" Is An Important Company Paper

Monthly *Operating Notes*, published by the American Gas and Electric Service Corporation, was begun in June, 1929, by our president, Philip Sporn, and was personally conducted by him to help all A. G. and E. companies in handling their engineering and operating problems.

The *Notes* carry ideas for improving operating methods, which have been devised and are described by employees of the various A. G. and E. companies.

To stimulate the mutual value of the *Notes* and participation in them, cash awards were established in 1935.

The objectives of *Monthly Operating Notes* are: 1. Circulation of widely applicable helpful information, lessons learned from operating experience, and improved practices of procedures developed to handle engineering, construction, operating or maintenance problems associated with the production and distribution of electrical energy and 2: To officially recognize and credit groups and individuals who are chiefly responsible for the development and application of any widely applicable improved practices, and thereby encourage constructive thinking, resourcefulness and aggressiveness in solving operating problems.

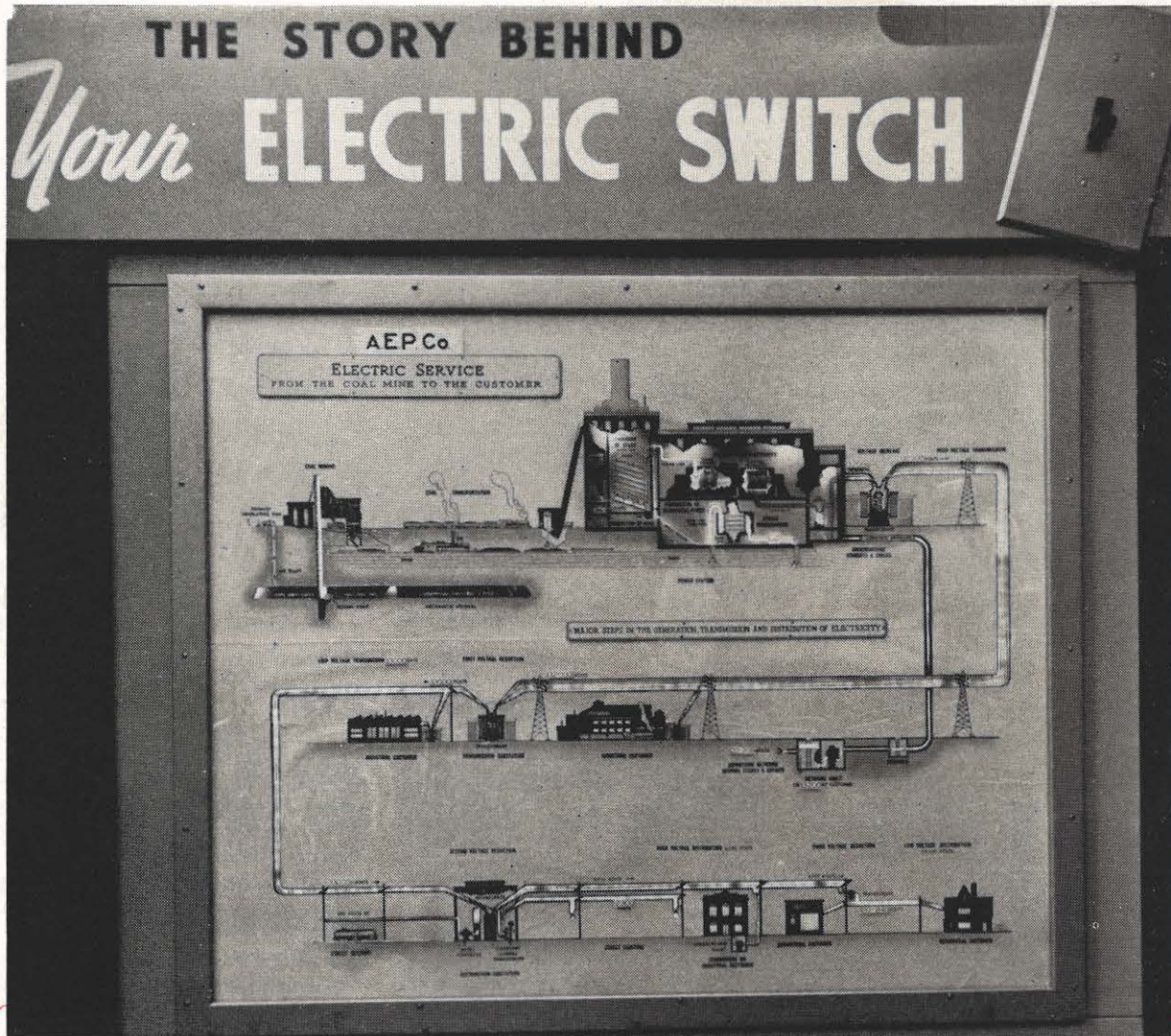
Everyone in the engineering-operating departments has an opportunity to earn credit for himself, his department, his division and his company by contributing widely helpful information for consideration in the *Notes*. To guide you in submitting information that is most likely to be recommended for presentation in *Monthly Operating Notes*, get in touch with your regional field editor.

Regional field editors in the Southern properties are: D. C. Kennedy, Lynchburg; W. W. Krebs, Roanoke; T. M. Watkins, Williamson; Boyd Richardson, Logan; N. B. Kean, Huntington; R. G. Skinner, Charleston; Paul E. Hilliard, Bluefield; H. H. Kincaid, Ashland; R. P. Adams, Hazard, and F. M. Baker, Pikeville.

Lovell is Elected to Chamber of Commerce Directorship

C. W. Lovell, manager of the Beckley district, has been elected to the board of directors of the Beckley Chamber of Commerce to serve for the year 1950.

The Power Behind Your Switch



The illuminated display shown above tells the story behind your electric switch. It shows graphically how electricity is made, beginning with the coal, through the generating plant, the substation and to the homes, farms, cities and industries. The display, which is the property of the Duquesne Light and Power Company of Pittsburgh, was shown first in Lynchburg and more recently in Roanoke. It created much interest among the public.

Kentucky

Ashland District

Sympathy is extended W. D. Parks, district meter superintendent, and his family following the death of his son, William Lee, who was killed in an automobile accident recently.

Don Wade, commercial department, has just returned from his vacation.

Opal B. Haile, main accounting office, is back at work following a recent automobile accident.

The Main Accounting and the Local Accounting office, in connection with their safety meeting added extra support to Christmas for some underprivileged children by bringing gifts which were distributed to these children.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Welch traveled to Birmingham, Ala., to spend the holidays with Mrs. Welch's parents. Mr. Welch is employed in the meter department at Louisa.

C. R. Sanford, local office manager, is confined to his home after a severe heart attack. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Hazard District

C. G. Branson, Jay Caudill and Homer Combs, all members of the stores department, enjoyed a fishing trip to Lake Cherokee, Tenn.

Pikeville District

Messrs. Jarrett Wood and Chandos Tackett, power sales engineers, conducted a lighting demonstration at the Martin High School.

Jane Craig Fields, daughter of Craig Fields, residential sales supervisor, is recovering from an illness.

Robert Lee Bush, meter department, who was recently hospitalized, is now back at work.

Billie Collier, son of Jesse Collier, lineman, is recovering from an illness.

Bill Barnett and Gideon Ison, both employees in the engineering department, have returned from their vacations.

John Raine visited friends and his family in West Virginia, New Jersey and New York during his vacation.

Messrs. B. P. Bogardus and Bob Weddle, engineering department; Perry Cling, meter department; A. H. Jopp and J. M. Wood, commercial department, recently prepared and served waffles, sausage, salad and coffee to about fifty members of the Couples Club, a local Presbyterian Church group.

Huntington Division

Williamson District

Ernest Bailey and Everett Carrico have returned from a very successful vacation which was spent deer hunting at Huntersville, W. Va. Ernie and Everett both returned with a deer.

Pauline Rector, commercial department, spent a recent week end in Washington, D. C., visiting Charles Rector.

L. W. "Red" Robinette, who was recently transferred from Huntington to Williamson as power engineer, has secured an apartment here and has moved his family from Wayne, W. Va.

Florence Murphy recently returned from a vacation to her duties in the accounting department.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Clouser have returned from a visit to Detroit, where they were the guests of Mr. Clouser's mother.



Happenings...

Around the Circuit

... among employees and their families



Huntington District

The 1949 fund-raising campaign for the sale of Christmas Seals by the Huntington Tuberculosis Association opened November 21, 1949. A. T. Wilks, administrative assistant, Huntington district, was appointed chairman of the sale which continued through Christmas.

Mrs. Herb C. Davis, wife of Herb Davis, of the line section, returned to her home in Huntington after a six-month visit with her mother and sister in London, England, and Germany.

Miss Edith Shy has returned to work after an illness of several months.

Mrs. Wanda L. Glass is a new employee in the drafting section.

T. A. Gilkerson, K. D. Moore, Al Merrifield, Guy Clarkson, Charles Elam, Oscar Fowler, Ted Smith and A. R. Guthrie, all Huntington district, together with three non-employee guests composed a deer hunting party recently. Epton Cole, a non-employee, registered the only kill of the trip, an eight-point, 190-pound buck.

Albert Lewis, Milton, W. Va., has been employed in the meter section.

Mary Ann Lyons, centralized billing office, flew to Charlotte, N. C., to attend the Rose Ball given by the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, of Davidson College on December 3.

Bluefield Division

Pulaski District

Miss Virginia Rorrer, Frank Surratt, Mack Williams, G. B. Chumbley, Christine McPeak, Ray Cornett, Andy Graham, Kelly Buckland, Roland Dalton, J. A. Brillheart, O. B. Kidd, J. J. Duncan, George Sands and Mr. and Mrs. Kent Sharp have returned from their vacations.

J. J. Duncan, distribution records department, has been elected president of the Ruritan Club, of Dublin, Va., for the coming year.

Bluefield District

Prince E. Thornton and his wife vacationed in Richmond, Va.

The C. L. Shockey's visited in Mississippi, New Orleans and other points of interest on their vacation. They also witnessed the Mississippi-Mississippi State football game. Mr. Shockey's brother is a coach at Mississippi State College, Starksville, Miss.

C. F. Mundy, Mullens line foreman, and C. M. Fletcher, general foreman, recently enjoyed a deer hunting trip in Tazewell County.

Abingdon District

Miss Edith Stevens, an employee in the commercial department, spent her vacation visiting in Columbia, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Peck spent their vacation visiting in Texas and New Mexico.

Miss Geraldine Hilton has been transferred from the Gate City office to the Abingdon office.

Mr. and Mrs. Fillmore McPherson attended the Kentucky-Tennessee football game at Lexington, Ky.

Welch District

The following employees in the Welch office have resigned their positions: Mrs. Hazel Hatfield and Mrs. Dorothy Lambert, accounting department, and Miss Olga Huminsky, stores department.

New Welch district employees are: Barbara Shelton, clerk, accounting department; Henry B. Hoover, meterman, and Bradford B. Porter, clerk, Grundy office.

Charleston Division

Beckley District

Elmer Wright, Charles Goode and Herbert R. Miller, all of the engineering department, spent three days in Pocahontas County deer hunting. Out of the group, Charlie Goode brought home a seven-point buck.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Fisher vacationed in New York and Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph F. Cooke are now located in their new home on Orchard Avenue, Beckley.

Beckley district welcomes Mrs. Flora B. Bott as a new employee. She is employed in the Oak Hill office.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhonald Troutman have moved to their new home on Johnstown Road, Beckley.

Beckley district employees extend their sympathy to C. F. Ellison, of the Oak Hill office, in the loss of his father and mother.

J. S. McLain, district troubleman, is back at his work following a brief illness.

Charleston District

Bob Brashear, commercial department, motored to Raleigh, N. C., where he and his wife spent Thanksgiving with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. "Stan" Stanfield.

Mrs. Carolyn Echols, Nitro, has been added to Appalachian's staff as a home economist. Mrs. Echols is a former teacher of home economics. She will work in the area around Nitro and St. Albans.

All of the employees of Montgomery office participated in a mass chest X-ray sponsored by the Fayette County Tuberculosis Association while the mobile unit was stationed at Smithers. Company transportation was made available to each employee desiring to participate.

We extend a welcome to Mrs. Virginia Ratliff, of Cannelton, who has been employed as home economist for the Montgomery office.

Guy Basil Stump has been employed as a sales trainee for the commercial department in Clendenin. Mr. Stump is a graduate of West Virginia University.

Miss Phyllis Jean Jarrell has been employed as home economist for the Whitesville area. Miss Jarrell is a graduate of Concord College and holds a B.S. degree in home economics.

C. H. Murray, division stores supervisor, and Ray Cole, Charleston garage supervisor, vacationed in Pocahontas County hunting deer.

Loretta Thacker, the daughter of district troubleman, J. W. Donegan, Nitro, was chosen "Carnival Queen" at the annual Parents and Teachers Association carnival held at the

Nitro High School auditorium. There were twelve finalists in the popularity contest and Loretta received the honor on the vote of her classmates, teachers and friends. She received a ring as the contest winner. Loretta is a member of the eighth grade and is a junior cheerleader.

Sympathy is extended to Brooks Miller, Charleston garage mechanic, on the death of his brother, Okey Miller, of Glenville.

Ben Thomas, rural representative, Nitro office, returned from a week's vacation spent in deer hunting near Morgantown, W. Va.

Sympathy is extended to Dennis Caldwell, Charleston storeroom, on the death of his grandmother.

J. W. Donegan, district troubleman at the Nitro office, has bought a new home in St. Albans, W. Va.

C. L. Mollohan, local superintendent; D. A. Allison, district troubleman, and A. T. Reed, meter reader, returned from vacations spent deer hunting near Davis in Tucker County. Allison returned with a 160-pound, seven-point buck and Reed brought back a ten-point, 180-pounder.

Point Pleasant

Employees who took their vacations during hunting season were: Paul Rairden, Clifford Stalnaker, Charles A. Burdette, Bill Machir, J. A. Ferrell, Carl H. Murray, Jr., and George Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Nickell, Jr., attended the mink show November 19 at Lorain, Ohio.

Mrs. Ferrell, wife of J. A. Ferrell, administrative assistant, has been released from Holzer Hospital, Gallipolis, Ohio, where she underwent an operation.

W. M. Pancake, a member of the survey crew, is in St. Mary's Hospital, Huntington, W. Va., where he underwent an operation.

Kingsport

J. W. Proffitt and John Ingram of the meter department spent several days on a hunting trip at Spruce Pine, N. C.

William Beeler and family spent the Christmas holidays with their parents near Speedwell, Tenn.

Paul Dunn and family spent their vacation visiting his father in Illinois.

Sympathy is extended to H. L. Powers, distribution department, in the loss of his brother.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Spivey and son are recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident.

Roanoke Division

Fieldale District

Don Wimmer spent the holidays in St. Augustine, Fla.

Bruce Cox, district manager, vacationed three weeks in Florida. He returned to Fieldale for the holidays.

R. A. Youngman, distribution engineer, and his wife visited with Mr. Youngman's parents over the holidays.

Lynchburg District

George W. Stone, C. W. Hogan and J. O. Franklin continued the series of donations by AEP employees to the Central Virginia Blood Bank at the Lynchburg General Hospital. Each man gave one pint of blood.

Ben C. Cook, stores department, spent his vacation in Buckingham County on an extensive hunting trip.

Sympathy is extended to S. S. Gilbert, Reusens hydro station, whose father died in Staunton.

R. L. Lewis, general foreman, vacationed with his family in Roanoke and Catawba, Va.

J. R. Martin, Lynchburg district employee, has returned to work after being ill for a week.

W. D. Almond, Blackwater substation, has returned to work after an illness of almost three months.

R. C. Foster, a Lynchburg employee, lost his mother, Mrs. L. T. Foster, on December 5, 1949.

Nicholas K. Langhorne, stores department, vacationed in Washington, D. C., and Chevy Chase, Md., with friends.

E. Lane Whitley, power engineer, spent his vacation hunting in the mountains of Southwest Virginia.

G. R. Neubauer, district manager, spent three days of his vacation duck hunting in North Carolina.

Miss Kay Hudson, stenographer in the distribution department, was appointed vice president of the newly chartered Pilot International Women's Civic Organization in Lynchburg.

Miss Doris Driskill, stenographer in the distribution department, spent a week's vacation at home.

System Offices

Mrs. Mary Jane Austin and Miss Martha Saunders, both, recently left the company. They were employed in the system billing department.

Betty Jo Phillips, who resigned on December 31, was honored with a shower by a group of system accounting employees at the home of Doris Carter. Miss Margaret Winn assisted the hostess.

Winifred Bulla, system accounting office, spent Christmas at her home in High Point, N. C.

A. L. Thurston, system accounting office, spent a week's vacation with his son and family in Hillsboro, Texas.

The women of the classification section of system accounting office held their annual Christmas party at the home of Glada Fleishman on December 21.

Sympathy is extended to Jean Ferguson, system accounting office, whose cousin, Perry Ferguson, was fatally injured.

Glada Fleishman, system accounting office, vacationed with her niece in Miami, Fla.

Elizabeth Shiplett Jones, Shepard, Va., who was a former employee of the system accounting office, visited the office while home for the holidays.

The system operating department welcomes B. N. Smith. Mr. Smith joined the company as an operator at the Roanoke 132 KV substation.

The women of system accounting office held a Christmas luncheon in the company auditorium on December 22. Gifts were exchanged following the luncheon.

Barbara Hicks, system accounting office, spent her holiday vacation with her family at Moneta, Va.

Lauren Himes, system accounting office, is recovering from an appendectomy.

J. G. Willhide, system operating department, traveled to Birmingham, Ala., with L. C. Lively of the Charleston office to see the Auburn-Alabama football game.

Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Arnold, of

(See Roanoke Division, Page 9)

The Logan Banner Says Sporn Plant Is Tribute To Private Initiative

In giving the public, by way of its press and radio informants, a "preview" of the new Philip Sporn plant of the Appalachian Electric Power Company, the American Gas and Electric system of utilities did a great deal more than invite a bunch of distinguished visitors to tour the plant, be sufficiently impressed with its size and technological wizardry, and eat a dinner afterward at the company's expense.

What the company did, in a super-fine analysis of the "preview," was to show off dramatically that despite the almost hysterical rush of our people toward the ephemeral advantages of an eternal fraud labeled by the politicians "welfare state," it is still possible for private initiative to accomplish a job while the demagogues talk.

In the new plant, the American Gas and Electric system will eventually invest some \$66,000,000 of private funds—not public money gouged from the taxpayers' pockets. And the sole aim, said Mr. Sporn, American president in whose honor the new colossus was named, is to provide more power at cheaper rates.

This, in itself, seems almost astounding in view of the great flood of vicious propaganda that has been unleashed by the princes of patronage during the last two decades, propaganda dedicated to the theme that all private business is essentially bad and the utility business is perhaps the worst of the lot.

Mr. Sporn, rather courageously, in view of the unhealthy hothouse atmosphere of the rapidly approaching socialist state, chose the dinner to pointedly remind his hearers that the new plant had been built with

"savings," the modest hoardings of small investors who can be counted in terms of all the 48 states in the union. He was rather proud that savings of private capital had done the job and had been risked by people who look farther than a \$100 pension of doubtful purchasing power when they come to their 65th birthday.

The Sporn plant, in a financial way, will have to literally stand on its own feet. It will have to justify its inclusion in the splendid generation and distribution system of the affiliated American companies by producing, as Mr. Sporn noted, more power at cheaper rates.

To accomplish these wholly admirable ends, it will not, like the ventures of the socialist state, use two employees when one is competent to do the job. It cannot, like the socialist ventures of the "Fair Deal," appeal to its board of directors of subsidy, say, from the Logan plant, if its operating costs rise beyond its earning capacity.

And its customers will not, like so many who today live in the shadow of, and are dependent for industrial and household energy upon massive government invasions of private business, have to pay an electric bill twice—once for the actual number of kilowatt hours used and again and again in taxes to foot the bill which pays for the mistakes of those who have forgotten that the foundation of American greatness is its free enterprise system and want to consider it as an unending sociological experiment.

(Reprinted from the editorial page of the Logan Banner, Logan, W. Va., on December 15, 1949.)

Stores Supervisors Meet In Roanoke



Stores supervisors from all districts of Appalachian and the Kingsport Utilities are shown as they attended a two-day meeting in Roanoke. Employees attending this meeting were, left to right, standing: G. D. Capito, Lynchburg; B. W. Clay, Charleston; H. H. Bivens, Welch; C. A. Burdette, Point Pleasant; D. P. Blankenbeckler, Kingsport; Gene Leeson, Logan; E. B. Hawkins, Jr., Beckley; H. A. Brown, Cabin Creek; H. T. Mitchell, Roanoke; G. D. Griffin, Roanoke; Earl Goodbar, Huntington; C. H. Murray, Charleston; L. G. Smith, Abingdon; R. H. Price, Roanoke; J. A. Farr, Roanoke; F. L. Carrico, Pulaski; H. S. Mason, Fieldale, and A. M. Beatty, Roanoke. Seated in the foreground, left to right: G. G. Nicholson, Roanoke; Tyler Stowers, Roanoke; C. J. Light, Bluefield, and F. C. Williams, Roanoke. E. J. Stalker, Glen Lyn, was absent at the time this picture was made.

Ashland Scouter Leaves Tri-State Council Post

R. A. Macomb, district commercial manager for the Ashland district of the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company, has completed two years of service as District Chairman of the Boyd District, Tri-State Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Macomb has been active in the scouting movement in Ashland for the past 12 years. He has been awarded the Scouters' Training certificate and award, as well as being a recipient of the Silver Beaver Medal.

The Silver Beaver award is the highest award made to a scout leader.

Frank B. Keil Is Retired From A.G. And E. Post

Frank B. Keil, assistant purchasing agent of American Gas and Electric Service Corporation, retired on December 15, 1949, after 48 years of service. His original employment started with the Electric Company of America, in Philadelphia, which was in existence prior to the formation of the American Gas and Electric Company. He was, therefore, one of the original employees of the American Gas and Electric Company and moved to New York City in November, 1908, when A. G. & E. established its present New York office.

On December 12, a steak dinner was given in Mr. Keil's honor at Ye Old Chop House in New York and before Mr. Keil departed for the South his fellow employees presented him with a remembrance gift.

Social Security

(Continued from Page 1)

until the last one, had frozen the F. O. A. B. tax at one per cent.

The last session of Congress, however, increased the F. O. A. B. tax rate to one and one-half per cent. Therefore, effective January 1, 1950, your social security or F. O. A. B. tax, will be one and one-half per cent and the company will match the deduction from your check. Under the present law the rate will remain at one and one-half per cent for 1950 and 1951, and then in 1952 will become two per cent.

Social security benefits you and your dependents will receive when you retire at the age of 65, will be determined by your wages up to \$3,000 a year. Although the rate of tax is being increased, under the present law, benefits remain the same. Should any of you desire to know approximately the amount of benefits you will receive, your supervisor will be glad to get the information for you.

Let's assume your salary in 1949 was \$2,500. The total F. O. A. B. tax amounted to \$25. In 1950, the tax on this same amount will be \$37.50. In 1949, the Appalachian Electric Power Company, Kingsport Utilities, and the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company paid approximately \$129,000 in social security taxes. You, and the other employees of the three companies paid the same amount. This was based on a total taxable payroll for the three companies of approximately \$12,900,000. On the same basis, the companies will pay approximately \$193,700 in 1950; and you, and the other employees will pay a like amount in social security taxes.

Williamson District Employees Are Given A Christmas Party

Approximately 200 persons: employees, members of their families and invited guests, attended the Williamson district annual Christmas party, December 16, in the office auditorium. The Reverend Harold Edmonds delivered the invocation preceding the dinner.

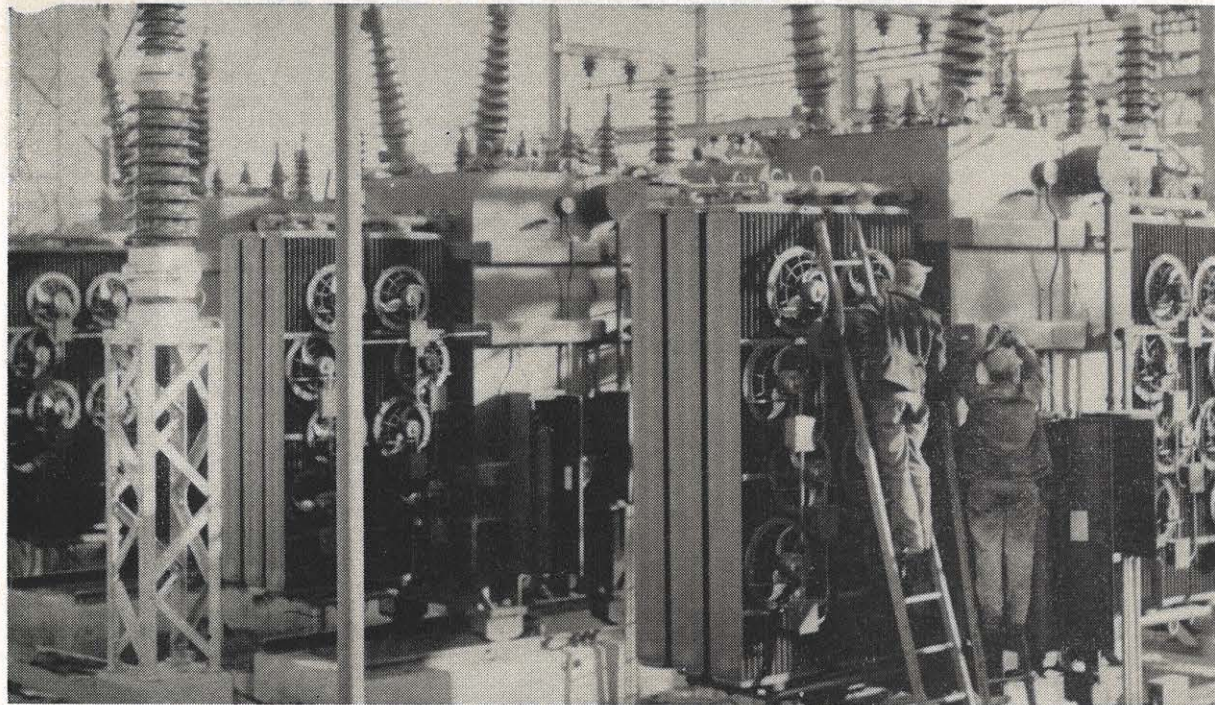
With Ernest Bailey, distribution foreman, serving as master of ceremonies, a wide assortment of talent entertained those attending.

Climaxing the program, T. M. Watkins, Williamson district manager, was presented a gift by E. E. King on behalf of district employees.

The remainder of the evening dancing was enjoyed. Music was furnished by a local orchestra.

Saturday afternoon, more than ninety children were treated at a "Kiddie Party." Movies, games and gifts were shown, played and given the youngsters.

New Transformers Increase Capacity At Danville

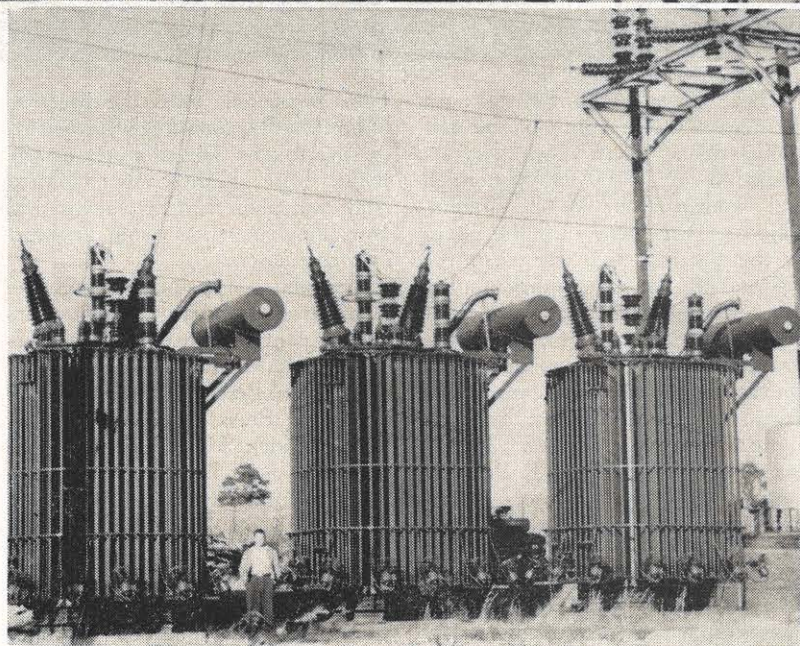


The 37,500 KVA bank of transformers shown above has been installed at the Danville Substation by Appalachian Electric Power Company to serve the Dan River Mills. The installation of the transformers is a part of the improvement program being carried out at the station and increases the capacity of the station to 60,000 KVA. Shown at the right are two transformers which were rented by Appalachian from the Indiana and Michigan Electric Company to serve the customer while the new installation was being made. Standing by the transformers is John Horne, station operator.

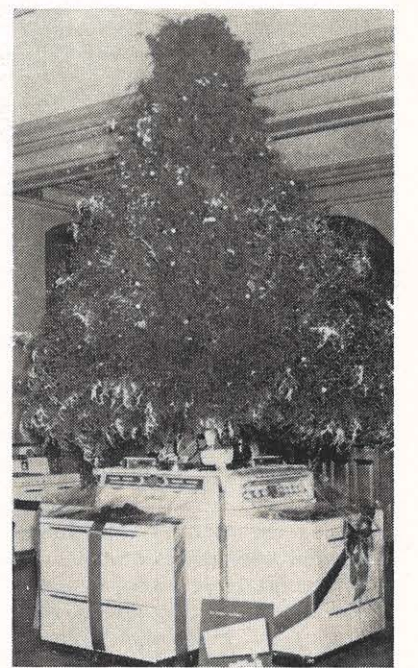
Roanoke Rural Men Take To Air To Locate Homes

Two employees of the Roanoke district rural department took to the air on December 6 to locate houses of prospective customers which would be difficult to locate from the ground.

Jack Peck piloted the plane and Fred Bowman served as the spotter.



This Christmas Tree Is Man-Made



See anything unusual about the Christmas tree in the above photograph? Well, it's man-made. It was made by M. C. Simpson, J. E. Faust, A. W. Stair, J. L. Kesterson and H. C. Green of Kingsport Utilities. In the Kingsport office, almost each Christmas there is a problem about finding a Christmas tree of the right size and shape for the lobby. So this year the men named above decided they would make a Christmas tree. A twelve-foot cone of wood and chicken wire was made and placed over one of the lighting fixtures in the lobby. They then cut boughs of cedar and fastened them to the frame work. The result, according to those who have seen it, is one of the most beautifully shaped trees they've ever seen.

Rich Donegan Of Charleston Proves Capable Despite Loss Of Hands

The actual overcoming of both physical and psychological handicaps resulting from industrial accidents is no easy matter. To accomplish this, one must have great courage, strength and determination. Charleston district's electric shop dispatcher, Rich Donegan, reflects these qualities.

An accident occurred while Mr. Donegan was working with a line crew in the spring of 1940 near Elkview. Rich was changing insulators on a 6,900-volt line when his hands came in contact with an energized line. While attempting to recall the experience, he said, "I just don't know what happened but somehow I came into direct contact with a hot wire and a neutral one at the same time."

Mr. Donegan underwent seven operations in a period of seventeen days in an effort to save his hands. These attempts failed and amputations above both wrists were performed. Mr. Donegan was discharged from the hospital after nine weeks of treatment. Later he was sent to a New Jersey hospital, by the company, where he was fitted with artificial hands. However, he was never able to master the control of these hands.

Rich, who is Irish and determined, returned to work the following March. He bought mechanical hooks and soon mastered their use. He did some work with a line crew and also at the Slack Street plant and was later transferred to the electrical shop.

Today, Rich is a dispatcher and many strangers marvel at the ease



with which he performs tasks with the hooks. He answers phones, jots down messages, opens doors and drives a car, as well as many other tasks that would seem to be too difficult with the hooks. With the hooks, however, Rich said that the control of the spoon or the fork while eating was his most difficult problem. This difficulty was overcome by grooving Rich's cutlery.

One interesting feature about the operation of Mr. Donegan's hooks is that the present control cord which crosses his shoulders is one of the same nylon parachute shrouds which supported his brother-in-law during his last combat jump in World War II.

Mr. Donegan and his wife, Lillian Anna, are the parents of two children, Ruth Ann and William Eugene.

Pt. Pleasant Yule Party Is Held For District Families

The Point Pleasant district held its annual Christmas party at the Episcopal Parish House, December 23. The party was sponsored jointly by the local office and members of the Whathour Club. All employees and their families were invited.

J. V. Mann, district manager, opened the party with the welcoming address and thanked the employees for their splendid cooperation throughout the past year.

Benjamin Franklin IV, well-known magician, launched the entertainment program with several tricks. Special Christmas movies for the children were shown by J. D. Spiggle and group singing of carols was led by W. C. "Billy" Gilmour. Climaxing the entertainment, Santa Claus appeared at the party and distributed gifts of candy and toys to the youngsters.

J. L. Twitty, meter department, was general chairman of the party with J. A. Ferrell serving as master of ceremonies. Lois Archer and Carl Murray, Jr., were in charge of decorations. Guests were registered at the door by Pat Ingraham and C. A. Burdette and Edith and Dan Nickell were in charge of entertainment. Refreshments were prepared and served by Mary Ellen Criss, home economist.

Employee's Block Home Is Moved



When J. A. Ferrell, Point Pleasant administrative assistant, purchased a tile-block home it was located on land acquired by the Industrial Rayon Corporation. The lot was a part of the future site of an industrial plant and the house had to be moved.

In the past, frame houses have not been too difficult to move, however, Ferrell's block home created another problem. Mr. Ferrell contacted Virgle Fike, a house mover, and the task was undertaken with a special 15-ton hydraulic lift.

The 90-ton block home was moved

nearly one and one-half miles through Point Pleasant to the Ferrell's 7½-acre plot and the house was set down at its new location.

To date, no cracks have been found in either the outside walls or the inside plaster. Jim, his wife, Carrie, and their son, Jim, all agree they like their new location. Mr. Ferrell said, "The farm is definitely the place to live."

As you can see in the above picture, Jim found it difficult to leave his home—even while in transit. Mr. Ferrell is leaning out of the window.

Kingsport Christmas Party



Shown above is a scene made at the Christmas party given for employees of Kingsport Utilities. The party was held on December 16. R. A. Parrack, acted as master of ceremonies at the party. Community singing was led by K. C. Shipp. Later C. J. Bryan, J. T. Duncan, Lillian Lawson and Mr. Shipp formed a quartet which sang several Christmas carols.

During the party, W. B. Jones, residential sales representative, was presented his 15-year service pin.

Mr. Parrack sang a novelty tune and then J. E. Wright, general manager, and Monroe Lynch, as well as several others, tried to out-do Mr. Parrack in a singing contest, but the winner was never decided.

Fred Pierce won a prize of a five-pound rooster when he failed to answer the \$100 questions. Other employees received silver dollars for answering questions about the company. Sam Kitchen, of the system safety department, showed slides of the 1947 company party.

Door prizes were awarded to W. B. Jones, Gladys Reece and J. T. Duncan.

In addition to the party for the employees, a Christmas party was

held for the youngsters of the employees on December 23. Santa Claus came to town early and presented each of the youngsters a gift.

Youngsters who appeared on the program included: Gene and Clark Bryan, who sang a duet; Lynn Thompson, who gave a reading; Jane Umberger tap danced; Doris Jane Bolton played Christmas carols and Judy Duncan danced.

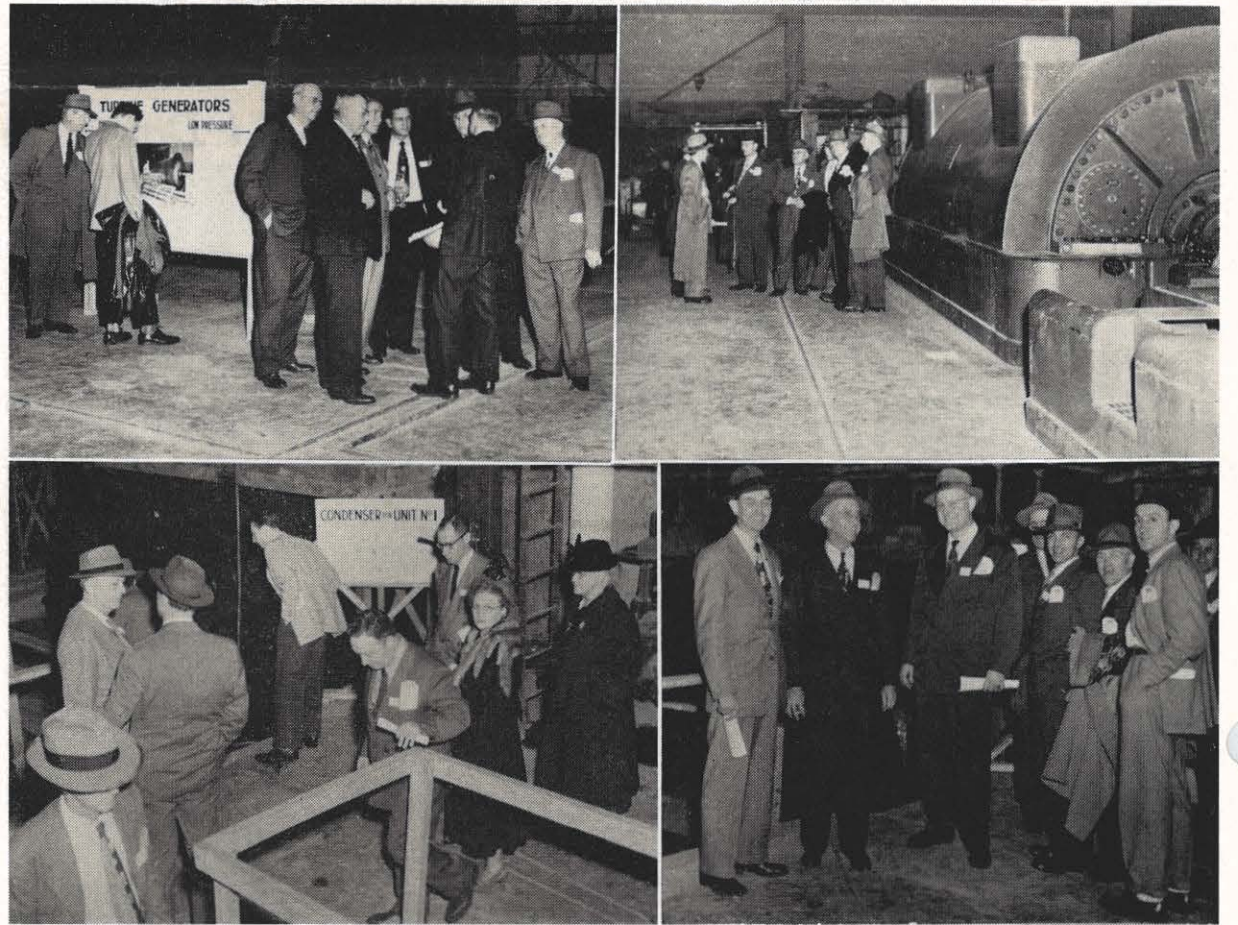
O'Neal Amos President Of New Toastmasters Club

One of Pulaski's newest clubs, the Toastmasters Club, recently received its charter. O'Neal Amos, president, presided.

Mr. Amos, personnel supervisor for the Pulaski district, explained the purpose of the club was to assist its members in the art of public speaking. It will also teach them to appear before an audience effectively, as well as training its members for leadership and chairmanship in all types of meetings.

D. C. Duncan, system safety director, delivered the principal address.

Philip Sporn Plant Seen By Newsmen



These scenes were made during a preview of the first unit of the new Philip Sporn plant which was attended by over 100 newspapermen and women from West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. In the photo at the top left, two groups of the visitors are shown as they toured the generator room. At the right on the top row, a guide explains the workings of the low pressure unit. On the second row left, some of the visitors pause to be told by their guide about the condensers. Charleston district manager, S. T. Preston, may be seen in the photo. In the photo at the right on the bottom row, a group of newspapermen accompanied by L. W. Bates, Bluefield district manager, stop for the photographer on one of the tours.

Plant personnel, under the direction of Paul Scally, conducted the visitors on the tours. Genial hosts at the plant were headed by Howard Andrews, plant superintendent and Don Parsons, supervising engineer of construction.

Officials of Appalachian and the Ohio Power Company, joint owners of the plant, who attended the preview included: President Philip Sporn, Vice President Graham Claytor, Vice President M. C. Funk, Vice President Harold Turner, Vice President A. J. Darrah, J. E. Geue, E. A. Kammer, H. A. Smith, W. G. Mervine, S. N. Fiala and division and district managers of the two companies.

Following the tours at the plant the visitors were guests at a dinner

held at the Lafayette Hotel in Gallipolis, Ohio. Mr. Claytor served as toastmaster for the affair and paid tribute to Messrs. Andrews, Parsons, Kammer and Fiala for the part they have played in the construction and operation of the plant and to G. S. Dunn and Harold Johnson, public relations directors of the two companies, for arranging the preview. Mr. Claytor introduced Mr. Sporn, who in a short talk, likened the plant to "the achievement of an American dream." He pointed out that the plant had been built with the "savings" of many small investors and not public money. He called the Sporn plant, the "keystone" of the American Gas and Electric Company's great postwar expansion program.

Feminine Fancies

1950 Club Officers Are Installed



The four new officers of the Bluefield Girls Service Club are shown following their formal installation. Installation ceremonies were conducted at a Christmas luncheon which was held in the Appalachian Assembly Room. Seated left to right: Helen Sue Spangler, president; Annie Boardwine, vice president; Betty Litz, secretary, and Lois Rounion, treasurer.

One Thousand Employees, Guests Attend Annual Charleston Yule Party

The Charleston district held its annual Christmas party at the Casa Loma in Charleston, Friday, December 23.

About five hundred children and five hundred adults attended. A portion of the party was set aside for the children's entertainment which included professional acts, Santa Claus and movies.

The adult employees enjoyed a good old-fashioned get-together with carol singing, dancing and awarding of prizes.

Group Observes Holidays With Social

Women employees of the Lynchburg distribution and records department entertained with a Christmas social at the home of Mrs. Bernice Anderson, Wednesday, December 14.

Gifts were exchanged. Group caroling and refreshments completed the program.

The hostess, Mrs. Anderson, was presented a beautiful poinsettia to add to her collection of flowers.

New System Club Gives Book Lovers More "Best Sellers" For Their Money

With "Mike" Capasso at the helm, several employees of the system accounting office, Roanoke, have organized a book club. The new organization gives its members an opportunity to read many of the top "best sellers" at very little cost.

The Book Club has a membership of twelve employees, five of which form a committee to select the twelve books to be purchased. Each member purchases one book. When the books are received, a list of the members names is placed in the front of each book, and the circulation of the "best sellers" begins. Two weeks is allowed for the reading of one book, and when all the books have been read by each member of the club, the employee keeps the book in which his name appears last on the membership list.

Sister Of Employee Named To Hospital Post

Miss Helen Haley, sister of Margaret Haley, system accounting office, Roanoke, has been named superintendent of Saint Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Md.

Miss Haley received her nurses' training at the University Hospital, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. During the war, she served as a blood-bank technician on board *The Haven*. Later, she did graduate work at Johns Hopkins, the University of Michigan and William and Mary College. She received her degree in hospital administration at Catholic University, Washington, D. C.

Miss Haley is a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy Nurse Corps Reserves.

Women Employees And The Wives Of Employees Organize New Social Club

The "Point Pleasant Appalachian Woman's Club" is the name that has been selected for the social club recently organized for both women employees and wives of employees in the Point Pleasant district. The club held its first meeting early in November.

A cordial invitation is extended to all women employees and wives of employees in the district to join the club.

Officers elected to head the club are: Mrs. W. L. Allen, Jr., president. Mr. Allen is employed in the meter

department. Mrs. J. L. Twitty was elected vice president. Mr. Twitty is district meter department superintendent. Mrs. R. L. Archer was elected secretary. She is employed in the accounting department. Mrs. M. C. Clark was elected treasurer. Mr. Clark is district superintendent. Mrs. W. M. Pancake will serve as publicity and publication chairman. Mr. Pancake is an instrument man with a survey crew. Mrs. C. W. Frishette will serve as entertainment chairman. Mr. Frishette is the chief of a survey crew.

They're Engaged

HUNTINGTON—Miss Therese Spaulding, centralized billing department to Jim Clary of the survey department.

ROANOKE—Miss Winifred Bulla to Joe F. Retella. Miss Bulla is employed in the system accounting office.

HUNTINGTON—Miss Janie Adkins to James Witham. Miss Adkins is employed in the centralized billing department.

NITRO—Miss Betty Lou Magaw to Claude B. Smith. Miss Magaw is employed in the Nitro office and Mr. Smith works in the distribution department of the Nitro-St. Albans offices.

WILLIAMSON—Miss Anna Lois Varney to Russell Blackburn. Miss Varney is a home economist in the Williamson district.

Cabin Creek Group Holds Buffet Lunch

Clerical employees of Cabin Creek Plant held a buffet lunch in the office building, Wednesday, December 21. Mr. C. G. Coughlin, superintendent, presented the employees with a turkey and the girls prepared the lunch.

The group included: C. G. Coughlin, H. C. Skaggs, W. M. Cornett, W. E. Bairley, Mary Curry, E. C. Crist, Marjorie Crawford, W. G. Day, Jo Ann Eckels, Genevieve Farry, R. W. Fleming, Dixie Foster, J. E. Hoffman, A. R. Hoffman, Pat Hastings, Margaret Matheny, George O'Malley, Norma McCormick, June Patrick, Mae Smith, Wanda Wanner, Amos Workman and W. L. Nuhfer.

December Is Wedding Month For Many

Johnson-Manning

Miss Mary Will Johnson became the bride of Carlton Rease Manning in Roanoke on December 27 in Roanoke.

Mrs. Manning is employed in the rural department of the Roanoke district.

Hager-Garrett

Miss Jewell Elaine Hager became the bride of Harold E. Garrett on December 9, 1949, at the home of the bride in Ramage, W. Va. Mr. Garrett is employed in the meter department of Appalachian Electric Power Company in Logan.

Thompson-Chatman

Miss Frances Thompson and Leon A. Chatman were united in marriage on November 24 at the Oakland Baptist Church in Roanoke. Mr. Chatman is an employee in the system real estate and right-of-way department.

Reed-Whitenack

Miss Virginia Ann Reed became the bride of John William Whitenack in a double-ring ceremony performed in Roanoke on November 25, 1949. Mr. Whitenack is employed in the centralized billing department in Roanoke.

Davidson-Keyser

Miss Jewell Davidson and A. E. Keyser were married in the latter part of November in Catlettsburg, Ky. Mrs. Keyser is employed in the accounting department in Logan.

Thompson-Agee

The Mabscott Baptist Church, Mabscott, W. Va., was the scene of the wedding of Miss Margaret Ruth Thompson to James A. Agee in November. Mr. Agee is employed as a draftsman in the Beckley office.

New Arrivals . . .

CHARLESTON—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farrell a daughter, Terry Lea, was born on December 11. Mr. Farrell is employed in the distribution department.

HAZARD—A daughter, Mildred Eileen, was born December 10 to Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Cornett. Mr. Cornett is an employee of the accounting department. Mrs. Cornett was formerly employed by the company.

PIKEVILLE—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leon Huffman a son, Robert Leon, Jr. Mr. Huffman is a right-of-way agent.

WELCH—A daughter, Cathy Rhea, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Jones on November 22. Mr. Jones is employed in the meter department.

POINT PLEASANT—Born to Mr. and Mrs. Wade O. Sallaz a son, James Richard, on November 23. Mr. Sallaz is a troubleman in the Ripley office.

ROANOKE—A son, Dan Fletcher, was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Kepner on November 24 in Charleston, W. Va. Mr. Kepner is employed in the system operating department.

HAZARD—Mr. and Mrs. Truman Hurt became the parents of a son, Thomas Elbert, who was born November 30.

BECKLEY—Mr. and Mrs. John Milton Gates are the parents of a son, John Milton II, born December 1. Mr. Gates is an employee of the commercial department.

FIELDDALE—A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Cooper on December 12. Mr. Cooper is a Fielddale district employee.

CHARLESTON—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Austin became the parents of a daughter, Karen Roberta, on December 1. Mr. Austin is employed in the distribution department.

LYNCHBURG—A son, Walter R. Worley III, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Worley, Jr. Mr. Worley is employed at the Reusens hydro station.

LOGAN—Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Jordan became the parents of a daughter, Elizabeth Belle, on November 18. Mr. Jordan is an employee in the meter department.

CABIN CREEK—Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Warren announced the birth of a son, R. L. Warren II, in November.

HAZARD—Born to Mr. and Mrs. James Burdsal a daughter, Sharron Sue, on December 4.

HUNTINGTON—A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. McCallister early in December.

CHARLESTON—Mr. and Mrs. John Malovac, commercial department, are the parents of a daughter born November 25. She has been named Patricia.

ROANOKE—Born to Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Brammer on November 30 a daughter, Margaret Ann. Mr. Brammer is employed in the system operating department.

HAZARD—A daughter, Alexia Ann, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace E. Cornett on December 11. Mrs. Cornett was formerly employed in the accounting department.

BLUEFIELD—Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Garrett became the parents of a daughter last month. The baby was named Linda Susan.

BECKLEY—A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McCullough. Mr. McCullough is an employee in the Beckley district.

WILLIAMSON—A daughter, Joyce Ann, was born on November 29 to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Chapman. Mr. Chapman is employed in the distribution department.

CLINTWOOD—Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Osborne became the parents of a daughter, Jacqueline Sue, on November 27. Mr. Osborne is employed by the company in Clintwood.

HUNTINGTON—A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Stonewall Fannin early in December.



Shown above are some of the recent brides among the employees of the three companies: left to right, top row: Mrs. Carlton R. Manning, Mrs. John W. Whitenack and Mrs. Leon A. Chatman. Second row, left to right: Mrs. James A. Agee and Mrs. A. E. Keyser.

Familiar Faces IN NEW PLACES

APPALACHIAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

Beckley District

Employee	From	To
Charles S. Varner	Junior Clerk	Print Machine Operator
Robert W. Martin	Groundman	Junior Draftsman

Philip Sporn Plant

C. L. Smith.....Operator—Roanoke.....Operator
132 KV Substation

Lynchburg District

Mrs. Virginia Guy Deaner...Junior Clerk.....Clerk-Stenographer

Charleston District

George Thompson.....Lineman "C".....Lineman "B"

Point Pleasant District

Martin Cox.....Junior Draftsman.....Senior Draftsman

Welch

William "Tom" Collins.....Pikeville, Ky.....Accounting Department

KINGSPORT UTILITIES

J. O. Addison.....Boiler Operator B....Holston Substation

Abingdon District Yule Party



Approximately 250 employees and their guests attended the Abingdon district Christmas party which was held in the ballroom of the Martha Washington Inn, December 16.

The ballroom was attractively decorated in keeping with the holiday theme. A buffet supper, which was prepared by the home economists, was served.

Entertainment included bingo, dancing, both round and square, and the awarding of prizes. The appearance of Santa Claus, who gave each employee a gift, highlighted the evening's program.

Bingo Party Is Held For Fieldale Office Personnel

Ann Eggleston of the accounting department in Fieldale, entertained all of the women employees of the Fieldale district with a bingo party at her home on December 16.

Prior to the party, the employees had drawn names to exchange Christmas presents. These gifts were exchanged at the party.

330 Years Of Service Represented Here



These 13 employees of the Pulaski district of Appalachian Electric Power Company have worked for the company a total of 330 years. They were honored at a dinner attended by 43 employees, all of whom had 20 years or more service, on December 2. At that time, the employees pictured above were presented their service pins. Shown in the picture, left to right, front row, are: F. R. Poe, G. D. Cox, Virginia N. Roberts, Dorothy P. Hagan, J. F. Spencer and V. W. Hinton. Second row: L. H. Lawrence, F. D. Lowman, W. F. Stoots, F. E. Rouse, C. P. Bailey, E. G. Dalton and F. M. Lawson.

Eight More Veteran Employees Get Pins



Shown above are employees of the companies of the southern properties who received service pins during the month of December for 20 years or more service.

Top row, left to right: W. L. Miller, Charleston district, 30 years; O. L. Williams, Charleston district, 25 years; L. E. Turner, superintendent of Glen Lyn Plant, 30 years; Mrs. Irene Peery, cashier in the Taxewell, Virginia, office, 20 years. Second row: Miss Helen Sue Spangler, Bluefield division personnel department, 20 years; E. E. Heyl, main accounting office, Ashland, Kentucky, 20 years; S. L. Hopper, system accounting office, Roanoke, 20 years, and Hampton Davis, Lynchburg, 20 years.



KENTUCKY AND WEST VIRGINIA POWER COMPANY

Ashland District

20 years: E. E. Heyl, main accounting office, Ashland.

APPALACHIAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

Charleston District

30 years: W. L. Miller, truck driver-groundman.
25 years: O. L. Williams, rural representative.

Beckley District

15 years: L. H. Williams.
5 years: Betsey Kelly, A. B. Bailey and L. W. Thorne.

Bluefield District

30 years: L. E. Turner, Glen Lyn plant superintendent.
20 years: Helen Sue Spangler and Irene Peery.

System Offices

20 years: S. L. Hopper, accounting department.

Huntington District

15 years: J. K. Jarrell.

Carl P. Peterson Retires After 28 Years Of Service



Carl P. "Pop" Peterson, Bluefield substation operator, has retired after having completed more than 28 years of service with Appalachian. Mr. Peterson was among the retiring employees of the company who were honored at a dinner in the assembly room in the Bluefield office on December 9. At that time he was presented a watch by his fellow employees.

"Pop," as Mr. Peterson is called by his fellow employees, came to this country from Denmark in 1903. Before coming to Bluefield, he worked in Utah.

Mr. Peterson was employed by Appalachian in 1921. He was assigned to the line construction crew and remained in that department until 1947. In January of that year, he was transferred to the Bluefield substation as an operator. He continued in that assignment until his retirement.

Mr. Peterson, after reaching the retirement mark said, "I intend to enjoy these years ahead. So far my plans include nothing but reading and plenty of rest. I have plenty of good reading to catch up on that I have postponed for years."

Mr. Peterson is very interested in raising flowers and gardening. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, the Moose and the Modern Woodmen of the World. He resides with his wife at 503 Bramwell Road, Bluefield.

New East Rainelle Office Opened

C. W. Lovell, Beckley district manager, has announced that a business and collection office has been opened in East Rainelle, W. Va.

Mr. Lovell said the office has been opened for the convenience of customers in the Rainelle-Greenbrier area.

Plans for this building include the installation of a "model electric kitchen."

Employees who will work out of this office are; Line crew: J. E. Vines, foreman; A. E. Zutaut, C. W. Smith, J. C. McGuire, I. J. Jones, L. C. Jones, and S. R. Snuffer. Servicemen: A. B. Bailey, R. H. Price, W. P. Jennings, and H. E. Sizemore. Meter readers: H. H. Wills and Howard Crawford. Office personnel: J. C. Steele, residential representative; Mrs. Bonnie Jean Evans, cashier; Miss Frances Patterson, clerk-stenographer; Miss Emily Witherington, home economist, and W. L. Clay, inspector.



Whathour Club Sponsors Shoot At Pt. Pleasant

The "Whathour Club," Point Pleasant district's newly organized social club, recently sponsored a shooting match which was held on the C. Russell Oshel farm. Bill Allen won the main shooting event. Twelve employees participated in the matches firing at standard stationary targets. Most of the matches proved evenly contested and it was indicated by the enthusiasm more matches will be scheduled by the club.

Employees competing in the matches were: J. V. Mann, J. L. Twitty, Carl H. Murray, Jr., Bill Allen, C. W. Frishette, John Jones, Bob Miller, Lester Cobb, Paul Rairden, Glen Holland, "Wimpy" Stricklin and Bill Gilmour.

Cabin Creek Hunters Bag Two Deer; First Kills In Five Years Of Hunting

Wednesday, November 30 and Friday, December 2 were two lucky days for H. L. Ballard, supervisor of coal handling, and Ed Jarrett, coal and ash equipment operator, at the Cabin Creek Plant. Each hunter shot a large deer in Pocahontas County.

Harry Ballard brought home a 245-pound, eight-point buck which he downed with a 35 Remington. Mr. Ballard plans to have the head mounted as a hunting trophy.

Ed Jarrett was satisfied with his 145-pound, six-pointer which he killed with a 30-30 rifle.

Fieldale Bowlers Hold Fifth Place In League

The Fieldale district bowling team entered in the Martinsville Industrial League rounded out the first phase of their season's schedule in the upper bracket of a thirteen-team loop. The Fieldale bowlers are in fifth place of the fast-stepping league.

Wallace Joyce holds both the team and league's highest average with a 106 count. Bruce Hogan, another Appalachian bowler, is second with 104 for both team and league honors.

Roanoke

(Continued from Page 4)

the system operating and substation departments, spent their vacations deer hunting in Tucker County, W. Va. Mr. Arnold bagged a 152-pound deer.

Jane Vaughan, system accounting office, spent the Christmas holidays at her home in Dante, Va.

R. L. Aleshire, system accounting office, has returned to work after being confined to Jefferson Hospital for several days.

A bridge luncheon and linen shower was given in honor of Nancy Burks of system accounting office at the home of Mrs. Lindell Littrell, also of system accounting.

L. E. Nester and family visited his family and Mrs. Nester's family in Charleston, W. Va., during the Christmas holiday. Mr. Nester is employed in the system accounting office.

Rosemary Costella, system accounting office, has returned to the office following an extended illness.

Roanoke District

Jewell Ramsey spent the Christmas holidays at Oak Hill, W. Va.

Two Employees Are On Huntington TV

Two Huntington district employees, Peggy Glazier and Earl Wellman, have made appearances on television since Huntington's station, WSAZ-TV, first began to serve the Ohio River Valley.

Peggy, an employee of the plant records department, is also an instructor for the Arthur Murray School of Dance. She appeared on the premiere showing when the station went on the air November 15. Her group presented a rumba.



Earl Wellman, the second Appalachian employee to appear on television, took part in a sports program.

Mr. Wellman interpreted basketball rules for the sports fans. The object of the program was to have a rules interpretation clinic to acquaint the audience with both new and old rules.



Earl has been with the company since he was graduated from Marshall College in 1937. While at Marshall, he was an outstanding athlete. Since that time he has been officiating both basketball and football. Last softball season he was named a member of the annual "All Tournament" softball team.

These Didn't Get Away

Lynchburg Anglers Share Izaak Walton League's Annual Contest Awards

Three Appalachian employees won first and second place honors when Lynchburg's Izaak Walton League announced 14 winners in their annual fishing contests. The three company entries were credited with two first-place awards and one second.

W. W. Dennis, Jr., power engineer in the Lynchburg district, walked away with first-place honors with his large-mouth bass which weighed nine pounds and 13 ounces. This award led the list of presentations made by the club.

Mr. Dennis was presented with a certificate entitling him to \$75 in merchandise for the outstanding catch of the season. This bass was termed the largest fresh-water bass ever to be recorded in the Lynchburg area. Mr. Dennis's fish was featured on the sports page of THE ILLUMINATOR in October.

John P. McDermott, garage foreman, won a first-prize award for his brook trout catch. Mr. McDermott's trout measured 14 3/4 inches in length and was the largest hooked during the season. He was presented with a \$20 steel fly rod.

C. W. Singleton, meter department, won a second-place award for his small-mouth bass catch. His bass weighed three pounds, one and one-half ounces. Mr. Singleton won a membership certificate for one year in the Izaak Walton League.

Christmas Party Is Held By Lynchburg Employees

More than 225 employees and guests attended the annual Lynchburg district Christmas party which was held at the El Hacienda Club on December 16. The party was a dinner-dance and was enjoyed by those attending.

Following the delightful meal, which included turkey, round and square dancing continued from nine until one.

In addition to the dance music which was supplied by "The Kingsmen," a local orchestra, Mrs. Roy Tibbs sang "White Christmas." A quartet composed of Messrs. R. E. Wells, N. K. Langhorne, H. W. Proffitt and L. K. Wright also entertained.

Lynchburg Survey Chief Commissioned In National Guard

Herbert M. Figg, Jr., survey party chief, Lynchburg, has been commissioned second lieutenant of Battery C, 227th Field Artillery Battalion, U. S. National Guard.

Lieutenant Figg is the second member of that company to be commissioned from the ranks since the reorganization of that unit following the war.

Lieutenant Figg, formerly the unit's first sergeant, served more than six years in the Regular Army. Most of this service was during the war years. He was discharged from active duty in October, 1945.

Since being commissioned, Lieutenant Figg has been assigned duty as an executive assistant and a platoon leader in the battery.

Twenty-Three Employees Attend Cooking School In Huntington District

Twenty-three Huntington division home economists and commercial representatives attended a two-day cooking school in Huntington last month. The classes were conducted by R. D. Kuster, Huntington, and Lyndell Varney, Williamson, both company commercial cooking representatives.

These classes were designed to give the employees factual information and a working knowledge of the latest models of new ranges and other cooking equipment.

Roanoke Employees Give Christmas Baskets

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, the employees of system accounting office participated in the Roanoke Christmas Basket Drive by securing the names of four families in the community who needed help at Christmas.

The Employee Club of the accounting department sponsored the baskets and \$75 was given for their preparation. A committee of four employees was appointed to plan and deliver the baskets. Frank Moore acted as chairman.

Pulaski Girls' Bowling Team



Rolling along in mid-season of their second year of league participation, the Pulaski Girls' bowling team is stiffening its attempt to capture the Pulaski Industrial League crown. This team anchors the third-place berth in a fast-changing race. Above, foreground to the rear, are: Busty Collins, Opal Newland, Ruth Graham, Polly Gatewood, Winifred Beamer and Helen Lugar.

Professionals Entertain At Beckley Christmas Party Held For All Employees

The Beckley district held its annual Christmas party for all employees and their families, Tuesday night, December 20, in the Moose Club ballroom in Beckley. Approximately five hundred employees, their wives, husbands and children attended.

The program opened with a quartet of employees singing a selection of Christmas carols. The highlight of the entertainment was a miniature circus conducted by a troupe of professional entertainers.

Those attending witnessed many surprising and entertaining features. Baby Jewel, America's smallest performing elephant; the Morris Troup; Pat Kelly's dog, pony and monkey circus; Moreen, the clown, all, thrilled a wide-eyed and attentive audience, more especially the youngsters, time after time.

A buffet lunch and dance concluded the holiday feature.

Pulverizers Lead First Third Of Bowling League



Six excellent reasons are shown why the Cabin Creek plant bowlers, the Pulverizers, lead in the first third of the Charleston division bowling race. The members of the league leading team are, left to right, front: L. O. McKinney, J. A. Reffett and V. K. Casto. Standing: H. H. Harrah, Lester Marshall and R. J. Rader.

"Safety Claus" Makes A Hit



An original safety skit, entitled "Santa Plus Safety," written and produced by employees of the system and Roanoke district was presented in the general office building on December 23. Throughout the playlet there was a fine safety theme. Shown above are the members of the cast. From left to right are: "Safety Claus," played by Sam Kitchen, Noble Marshall, C. L. Fulp, Virginia Welch, Shorty Watkins, Betty Joe Phillips, Frances Watson and Howard Hamilton. The little boy is John Bertram Marshall, son of Noble Marshall.

Coats On The Hoof

Employee's Mink Ranch Hobby Grows Into Full-Scale Registered Fur Farm

The diamond and the fur coat are very important items in the hearts and minds of most women today. These desires are rarely relieved by other substitutions and the knowledge of this fact prompted Dan A. Nickell, Jr., Point Pleasant rural representative, to start his present hobby, a full-scale mink ranch. Today, following a modest backyard beginning, the N and Q Mink Ranch is one of the largest and most modern enterprises of its kind in the

vary from three to eight pounds, despite the fact that when "kits" are born, they are no larger than a cigarette."

Mink are unpredictable animals. "One embarrassing moment," Mr. Nickell recalled, "occurred when we rounded up a posse to chase one mink who had taken shelter under a neighbor's hen house. Normally it would not have been so bad—but these chickens were prize show chickens. One mink could have wrecked that flock's future."

A modern workshop has been constructed at the ranch. This combination shop and feed room provides ample space for routine construction and butchering.

Mink consume about four to eight ounces of food each day. Seventy-five per cent of this ration is horse-meat while the balance is prepared cereal, liver, skim milk, tomato pulp, alfalfa meal, yeast, cod liver oil and wheat germ oil. Last year, twenty horses were killed to be used at the N and Q farm. Mink with "kits" are fed two times each day.

"This business is never dull," laughed Mr. Nickell as he recalled a butchering problem. "It all happened while we were leading a horse into the shop. The horse sensed a bad set-up and balked, reared and kicked. Everyone checked out and when it was all over that horse had chased me to the rafters and the others out of the building. To make matters worse—he ripped a six-inch hole in the insulated walls of our ten-ton walk-in freezer."

The ranchers favor a large, progressive expansion program. They are members of "The Great Lakes Mink Association" and expect to eventually build up a herd of 300 breeding females. Nine different strains are raised by the owners, but this is to be reduced to about four or five.

In December, the partners expected to set aside 52 female and 20 male mink as breeding stock. During the same period, while the fur is prime, they also expect to pelt 32 mink and to use this income to enlarge the herd.

"Mrs. Nickell has that 'fur coat gleam' in her eyes but that doesn't matter, since we're building up our ranch. It's a hobby now, but we naturally hope it will grow into a profitable one," Dan concluded.

Mrs. Nickell is also an employee of the company at Point Pleasant.



Dan Nickell, part-time mink ranch hobbyist, displays a mink pelt being cured on a stretcher. Pelts are kept in walk-in freezer. (Inset) "Whitie, Junior," one of Mr. Nickell's finest, ventilates a handling mitten by sinking his fangs through the thumb.

Ohio Valley section. It is located about one mile east of Point Pleasant on the Ohio River Road.

Dan began his hobby in the backyard of his Charleston home in 1946. In two years, he had increased his herd from six starters to 23 mink.

In February, 1948, Mr. Nickell formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Frank W. Quillen, of Point Pleasant, and the N and Q Ranch officially came into existence.

Equipment and the 40 mink selected for the basic herd were valued at \$7,000. Today, following two March breeding seasons, the total value of the property is estimated in excess of \$10,000.

Dan says, "The large mink will

New AEP Office Opened To Serve Pearisburg Area

L. W. Bates, Bluefield district manager, announced the opening of a new office at Pearisburg, Va. The new Appalachian facility is located in the Professional Building on Wenonah Avenue.

Mr. Bates said that the office was opened on December 1 to provide better service for the customers of that area. He pointed out that the company's rural program in the Pearisburg section had caused an enormous increase in customers and this office was added to serve their immediate needs.

Employees assigned to the Pearisburg office are: F. B. Flournoy, rural service engineer; Grace Covey Robertson, home economist; Joe F. Lewey, serviceman; Clifford Dunnigan, meter reader; Henry Crabtree, serviceman; Leonard Hale, meter reader, and Mable Hale, cashier.

Christmas Party Pictures

Due to the fact that many Christmas parties were held too late to get pictures in this issue of "The Illuminator" it is planned to run as many pictures as possible in the February issue.

You will see pictures of several Christmas parties in this issue. All of these parties were held prior to the deadline for this issue.

Fieldale Employees Hold Annual Party At Club Martinique

One hundred and twenty employees and their guests of the Fieldale district enjoyed a dinner-dance which was held at the Club Martinique, Martinsville, December 21.

Turkey dinners were enjoyed in the tinsel-bedecked atmosphere of the club. Several entertaining features: Wallace Joyce's singing of "White Christmas"; Derwood Merriman's black-face act; nine-year-old Virginia Hancock's recitation; the Stuart singers and participation by Mrs. Willard Gourley and Marjorie Prillaman, all, were enjoyed during the dinner. Bruce Cox, district manager, introduced several distinguished guests who also took brief parts in the evening's program.

Santa Claus drew considerable attention and he presented several of the acts and prizes. Many useful electric gifts were awarded. Mr. Cox, district manager, was also presented gifts by the employees at the conclusion of the program.

Dancing, with music furnished by Jack Armstrong's orchestra, the former "All-American Boy" radio star, rounded out the holiday feature.

11 Huntington Employees Members Of The Same National Guard Unit



Eleven Huntington district employees of Appalachian are all members actively participating in the Huntington Unit of the 468 Field Artillery Battalion, West Virginia National Guard.

Three of these employees, Captains Paul R. Baker, Evermonte Huffman, Jr., and Lawson E. Bailey have been assigned to command the firing batteries. Since the unit was first formed in September, 1947, all have received commendations for their units' excellent work and have been commended by both state and federal authorities.

The guard members and the departments with the company in which they are employed are, front row, left to right: Capt. Baker, commercial; Capt. Bailey, commercial; Capt. Huffman, commercial, and Lt. Hollwer Bowman, transmission and distribution.

Back row, left to right: M/Sgt. John R. Craig, transmission and distribution; Sgt. Herb Davis, transmission and distribution; Sgt. James Wyson, commercial; Sgt. Byron Hunt, accounting; Sgt. Woody Salyers, accounting; Corp. Brady Noble, transmission and distribution, and Corp. William Lockhart, meter.

Four Winners Are Named In "Work Your Mine" Race Held In Ashland District

The Ashland district drawing for the "Work Your Mine" contest was held Monday afternoon, December 19, in the Ashland office.

C. B. Preston, Jr., and James B. Simpson, of the meter department, and Warnie Felty, transmission and distribution department, were the employees whose names were drawn for large sets of aluminum ware.

T. A. Layne's name was drawn for the "Elec-Tele-Larm" clock. Tom is employed in the engineering department.

79 Attend Two Cooking Classes In Roanoke Area

Seventy-nine commercial representatives and home economists from both Bluefield and Roanoke divisions attended a special Hotpoint Commercial Cooking Training School which was held in the Roanoke auditorium in two two-day sessions.

These classes were conducted by Don Crear and Bob Jackson, both Hotpoint cooking specialists of Chicago. Demonstrations were held the first day while group cooking was accomplished by the class on the second.

Colored Employees Hold Christmas Dinner Party In Lynchburg District

The colored employees of the Lynchburg district held their annual Christmas party, a dinner party, at Lorenzo's Place, Saturday, December 17. Reverend B. D. Wood delivered the principal address and Levi Thornhill served as toastmaster.

Highlighting the evening, Hampton Davis, a colored employee with 20 years' service, was presented his service pin by District Manager G. R. Neubauer. Mr. Neubauer also thanked the employees for the cooperation during 1949.

Turkey, ham and other holiday foods were enjoyed and the entertainment was wide and varied. Prizes were awarded to several lucky employees. The winners were James Pullen, Hampton Davis and Bernard Wood.

Colored Employees Enjoy Christmas Party



Shown above are scenes of two of the Christmas parties held for the colored employees of the company. At the left is a scene taken at the party held for the Roanoke employees at the Morocco Club. A dinner was held prior to the dance and prizes were awarded. At the right is a photograph of the dinner held for the Lynchburg district employees. In this picture more than 157 years of service with Appalachian Electric Power Company is represented.