

Who waits upon the
when and how
Remains forever in the
rear.
—W. D. NESBIT

The Illuminator

Many have been harmed
by speech,
Through thinking, few
or none.
—SIR THOMAS VAUX

Vol. V, No. 4

KENTUCKY AND WEST VIRGINIA POWER COMPANY

APPALACHIAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

KINGSPORT UTILITIES, INC.

January, 1954

Hospital Benefit Plan For Retired Employees Offered By Companies

The three Southern Properties' companies took another step forward in their protection of employees when they made hospital benefit insurance available to those who have retired.

About 200 annuitants, who retired at age 60 or older under a retirement plan sponsored by AGE, are eligible to take part in the program which became effective January 1.

The result of long studies by AGE personnel and representatives of an insurance company, the plan is one of the first in the country to be underwritten by a private insurance company for retired industrial employees.

Under the plan an annuitant can collect up to \$8 per day for room and board in any legally constituted hospital for a period up to 31 days in a calendar year. The maximum amount payable with respect to any and all hospital confinements during any one calendar year or during any one continuous period of disability is \$248.

The plan also allows up to \$80 for miscellaneous hospital charges, such as the use of an operating room, medicines, dressings, etc.

Surgical benefits up to \$250 in a calendar year are paid according to a schedule which sets up the amount allowable for various operations. Surgical benefits are available whether or not the operation is performed in a hospital.

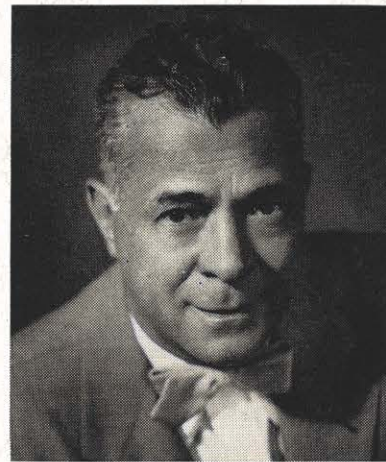
The cost of the insurance per person covered is about double the cost of hospital insurance for active employees; however, the premiums to be paid by presently retired employees are the same as those paid when they were active employees.

Application cards and letters from the vice presidents of the three companies explaining the program are being sent the eligible retired employees. Each employee who retires in the future will be provided an application card by his personnel supervisor just prior to his retirement.

Three Executive Vice Presidents Are Named For AGE Service Corporation



Mr. Claytor



Mr. Kammer



Mr. Cook

Graham Claytor, H. A. Kammer and Donald C. Cook have been elected executive vice presidents of the American Gas and Electric Service Corporation. The announcement of their election by the board of directors to the newly created positions was made by President Philip Sporn on December 30.

Mr. Claytor will be executive vice president in charge of operating and commercial activities. Mr. Kammer will head the engineering, construction and purchasing and Mr. Cook is the executive vice president for legal, finance and accounting.

Mr. Sporn said the move was made by the board of directors in view of the continued growth of the AGE system.

A veteran of over 46 years in the electric utility industry, Mr. Claytor is a native of Bedford, Virginia, and graduated from V. P. I. in 1906.

He became associated with the old Roanoke Railway and Electric Company in 1907 and rose to become general manager of the American Electric Power Company, which owned the Roanoke Company, in 1925. In 1927, when the Roanoke com-

pany became a part of the American Gas and Electric System, Mr. Claytor was named operating vice president of the service corporation. He is a vice president and member of the board of directors of the American Gas and Electric Company and of all of the subsidiary companies.

Mr. Kammer was employed by the American Gas and Electric Company in 1924 as an assistant design engineer. He has held the positions of structural and construction engineer, design and construction engineer and chief of the Service Corporation's design and construction division.

He is a director and vice president of the Service Corporation, Appalachian, Ohio Power Company and Indiana and Michigan Electric Company.

A former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr. Cook became associated with AGE Service Corporation in August, 1953, as vice president and assistant to the president. He was elected to the Service Corporation board of directors on December 29.

A native of Michigan, he holds a

bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees in business administration from the University of Michigan and a juris doctor and master of laws degrees from George Washington University. He served on the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission from 1935 to 1945 and was named chairman of the commission in 1952.

G. R. Neubauer, Lynchburg Manager, Dies Suddenly December 16 At Home

G. Roberts Neubauer, 56-year old manager of the Lynchburg district, died suddenly at his home on December 16.

A native of Lynchburg, Mr. Neubauer had worked for the company and its predecessors more than 41 years.

He was first employed by the old Lynchburg Traction and Light Company on September 15, 1912, in the sales department. He rose from that job to become manager of the Lynchburg district in 1946.

When the Traction Company became a part of Appalachian in 1926, Mr. Neubauer was transferred to the engineering department as district foreman. In January, 1929, he was promoted to the position of assistant to the manager and in 1943 he was appointed acting district manager.

A veteran of World War I, he served as a lieutenant in aviation. Prior to World War I he was in Lynchburg's famous Musketeer Unit.

One of his primary outside interests was sports. He was known for his skill both as a hunter and as a fisherman.

He was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks.

He is survived by his wife, Agnes Jones Neubauer, two daughters, one grandchild and three sisters.



Mr. Neubauer

Kingsport Winner Of AGE Plaque In 1953 Kwh Contest

Kingsport Utilities, Kentucky and West Virginia Power Co., and the Bluefield division of Appalachian Electric Power Co. were among the leaders in the final tabulations of the AGE kilowatt-hour contest for 1953.

Kingsport finished first in the company race, edging out Kentucky. Kingsport's increase of 443 kilowatt-hours from 4229 in 1952 to 4672 in 1953 netted them a 10.48 per cent increase. Kentucky's percentage was 8.41, based on an increase of 138 from 1551 in 1952 to 1689 in 1953.

Valley of the Ohio Power Co. lead all divisions with a percentage of 11.33, but Bluefield was on their heels with 8.82 per cent. In the Bluefield division in 1952 each residential customer used 2121 kilowatt-hours; in 1953 each one used 2308, an increase of 187.

Appalachian finished with 8.21 per cent in the company race, based on a customer increase of 159 kilowatt-hours, from 1936 in 1952 to 2095 in 1953.

The contest extended 11 months, from December 31, 1952, to November 30, 1953. All winners will be presented with the 1953 Graham Claytor plaques and receive an invitation to the AGE sales conference.

A Message From Mr. Furr

We have just completed one of the most eventful years in Appalachian Electric Power Company history. We have successfully met the always increasing demand for electric power, and can look with confidence to the future.

Construction during 1953 highlights our preparation for the expected customer demand in the next few years. The completion of the Kanawha River Plant, new transmission facilities including the second link of the 330 KV line from Sporn to Muskingum River Plant, new 132 KV lines and the continuing completion of modern office and service buildings all mean progress in our efforts to serve our customers.

We began a Customer Opinion Survey during the year to find out what our customers think about the company and service. We are pleased with the returns of the survey. The great majority of returns definitely indicated that the company is well regarded by the public. There were many fine suggestions from our customers as well as complaints. These results are being studied carefully by management for changes in policy where necessary.

There were many changes in our organization during 1953. From within the company promotions were made to fill vacancies. Programs like Educational Assistance, Employee Information and others have helped strengthen our company.

Of this, you, as an employee, can be justifiably proud. The part you play in the continual building of Appalachian is most important.

With the knowledge that your best efforts and judgment will be at the service of the company, we can enter 1954 with confidence and courage.

I wish each of you and your families a safe and happy New Year.

G. L. FURR,
Vice President and General Manager



Kennedy Is New District Manager At Lynchburg



Mr. Kennedy

Duncan C. Kennedy, who has been assistant manager of the Lynchburg district since 1945, has been appointed acting district manager. He succeeds the late G. Roberts Neubauer, who died December 16.

A native of Charleston, West Virginia, Mr. Kennedy was graduated from West Virginia University in 1932 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

He was employed by Appalachian at Charleston on October 4, 1932 as a junior engineer in the system operating department and in 1933 was transferred to Roanoke in the commercial department.

After a year's leave of absence for further training at the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, he was transferred to Lynchburg as distribution engineer. He was promoted to assistant district manager in August, 1945.

Active in civic affairs, Mr. Kennedy is a past president and member of the Exchange Club, vice chairman of the Lynchburg Planning Commission, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and of the Oakwood Country Club. He is an elder and general Sunday School superintendent of the First Presbyterian Church.

New 132 KV Welch Line Cut In Service

The new 132 kv line from Kanawha to Baileysville in the Welch district was cut in service at 11 a. m., December 23.

The 47-mile line permits electricity generated at Philip Sporn, Cabin Creek and Kanawha River Plants to be sent directly to the load area south of Charleston.

A secondary advantage is the improvement in service continuity to the 88 and 44 kv systems out of Baileysville. By transferring the electricity into Baileysville, voltage conditions at these points were improved.

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.

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Sincere New Year's Wish

"Happy New Year" is the traditional wish we give and receive as we start another year. And yet, what is this thing called "happiness"? Here is one definition we heard recently that we thought you would appreciate:

Happiness is like manna, it is to be gathered in grains, and enjoyed every day. It will not keep; it cannot be accumulated. We do not have to wander afield to find it. It can be found within us if we will only search.

Happiness is the fruit of love and service. It is the supreme object of existence. Happiness is as a butterfly, which when chased is just beyond our grasp, but which, if we will sit down quietly, may come and alight upon us. Happiness is a brilliant rainbow, not the pot of gold at the end of it.

Happiness comes to those who learn to appreciate and to labor and to wait. Few things are needed to make the wise man or woman happy, but nothing satisfies the fool, and this is the reason why so many of us are so often most miserable.

A healthy mind is a happy mind, and a happy mind is a healthy mind. This fine pair begets happiness.

With these thoughts in mind, here's wishing each of you a "Happy New Year."

Truth Comes Out Even In Fancy Pipe Dreams

A story has been making the rounds in England. Here's the way it goes:

An agitator was addressing a crowd of workers. "When the era of the common man arrives," he told them, "you will enjoy the pleasures of the rich. You will walk down Park Lane wearing a top hat."

A listener interrupted to say, "Hi'd rather 'ave a cloth cap."

The agitator said the man could keep the cap if he wished and continued: "You'll wear a cutaway coat and pinstripe trousers."

Again the listener broke in, saying, "Hi'm more comfortable in corduroys."

The agitator, annoyed, said that would be permissible, and went on: "And you'll ride to work in a Rolls Royce."

Once more he was interrupted: "Hi'd rather use me bike."

This time the agitator leaped from the platform and grabbed the man by the sleeve. "Listen you," he said, "comes the era of the common man and you'll do what you are blooming well ordered to do."

That's an amusing story. It is also much more. It is a perfect example of what happens under socialism, communism or any other form of dictatorship—you do what you are told to do.

Your Opinion

What three factors do you think develop a good company spirit? Why?

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JAMES E. FLEENOR, Meter Department, Abingdon



In my opinion a good company spirit is brought about by the people whom you associate with the most—your supervisor, your fellow employees, and the customers of our company's product.

Your supervisor can make your work pleasant or unpleasant. He is responsible largely for the attitudes we have toward the company because our spirit depends on our attitude. Certainly the old saying, "Like father, like son" can be applied to the supervisor and his employee, therefore, the supervisor should set an example for the type of employee he wants to develop for the company.

The attitude of our fellow employees reflects on our development of a good company spirit. Conscientious, yet jovial, older company employees can influence the spirit you develop by the spirit they have developed over a period of years in the same environment.

A friendly, non-complaining customer "spurs" the spirit of any employee and makes him proud of the company he works for. On the other hand if you contact the opposite kind of customer then it is your duty to develop a good spirit toward the company within him. If you are successful in doing this then you have contributed greatly toward keeping your own spirits high.

J. W. ELLIS, JR., Distribution Record Supervisor, Ashland



Close observance of the activity and play at a football game will disclose many factors of team spirit which are of equal importance in developing good company spirit.

First, everyone knows thoroughly and exactly the ultimate goal and objective for which they strive.

Second, all of the team members, the substitutes, the line, and the backfield not just the quarterback and the coaches know all of the plays and their individual part in them.

Third, reward for good performance is enthusiastic, spontaneous, instantaneous and sincere. Poor performance is met with sympathy, help and encouragement rather than scorn, derision and criticism.

H. P. CRICKENBERGER, System Operating Department



Three factors that develop good company spirit are cooperation, consideration and appreciation. When we work together, consider the other fellow's problems and show some appreciation of his or her efforts, it brings about a better understanding.

Most of us like to believe that we put forth our best efforts in carrying out our duties, and how much easier it is when we feel that these efforts are appreciated. No matter what our position is in the organization these same factors apply to us individually. It is my opinion, formed from many years of service and backed up by several surveys of large corporations, that these three factors when carried out by all in our daily work will do much to make a good company spirit better.

HANNAH W. COLEMAN, Clerk-Stenographer, Cabin Creek Plant



One of the most important factors that develops good company spirit is encouragement to new employees by their fellow workers and supervisors. This first indoctrination into the company makes a lasting impression on a new employee.

Pride in one's company is another factor which develops good company spirit. If one works for a reputable company, he will always be proud to state what his company's policy is in regard to a given situation, thereby enlightening others about his company.

Employee benefits contribute greatly to the company spirit of employees. Major benefits include life insurance, hospitalization insurance, retirement, and the sick and accident plan. These benefits and others provide security for an employee and his family not only when he is in active service but also after retirement.

MARY E. MILLS, Local Accounting Dept., Roanoke



In answering this question, many things come to my mind.

A good company spirit cannot be developed apart from the personal life of each employee, therefore, the success of personal and business life depends upon the good will which exists between fellow employees.

Our personal conduct should be one that is becoming ladies and gentlemen such as moral soundness, honesty, uprightness and civic pride. These things should not end with working hours.

A determination to get along with people is having the right attitude, a genuine motive of love and helpfulness, not one of faultfinding. This sincere attitude will help, not hinder, lift up, not knock down.

Here's a good recipe for a good company spirit:

Take one heaping measure of goodwill and mix it with personal conduct and thoughtfulness or concern for others and the result is a delight to be longed remembered.

JOHN S. GIVENS, Accounting Department, Charleston



I believe the company and the employee that perform the functions of the company are one and the same. In this connection the three most prominent factors that I can mention are as follows:

1. Security — I am sure that all employees realize that there will always be a demand for our product—electricity—and that his job is permanent.

2. Appreciation—By all means the efforts of an individual should be appreciated and recognized by his superiors.

3. Contentment—Employees should like the type of work that he has to do in order to put forth his best efforts. A careful study of individuals should be made on this point and when advisable they should be transferred to jobs for which they are best fitted.

NORMA JEAN LAMBERT, Clerk, Glen Lyn Steam Plant



I believe the first factor in developing a good company spirit is the management's consideration of employees. By this I mean good working conditions, reasonable wages, and pleasant relations between employees and management.

Secondly, I would list well-informed employees. This pertains to employees' ability to give the public a satisfactory answer regarding the product that we produce and sell. By this, we would also create a better relation between company and consumer.

And third, I regard company's benefits to employees a very important factor. For example, let us consider the retirement plan, which, to my knowledge, is surpassable by none. Also, may I list the insurance carried on each employee by the company and their complete hospitalization plan.

These factors would constitute a good spirit for any company.

SUE NOTTINGHAM, Home Economist, Commercial Department, Kingsport



Good company-employee relationship would be the first factor in developing good company spirit. Loyalty to a company cannot exist when there is friction within the company. The employee needs to have a sense of belonging and feel that he is not only getting something from

the company but that he is contributing to the betterment of the company.

The next factor would be employee education of company policies. It is difficult if not impossible for an employee to discuss his company intelligently if he does not keep himself informed of company policies. The information he receives should be up-to-date and of such nature that he feels that his company is always progressing.

Opportunities within the organization would be another important factor. Nothing can be more discouraging than to feel that you are at the top of the ladder and that you have nothing more to work toward.

HOMER P. HAGAMAN, T. & D. Department-Engineering Section, Huntington



Of many factors the following three are considered major factors:

Leadership is important in any undertaking whose success is dependent upon human cooperation. A good leader will get his employees' obedience, confidence, respect, and whole-hearted cooperation.

Policy at all levels should be clearly defined so that each individual is fully aware of his area of authority and responsibility in his particular duties. Clear understanding begets good will.

Each individual must be given the opportunity for advancement and the exercise of his full talents. Only then will he be really happy.

The company spirit or "esprit de corps" is only the reflection of the spirit of the many individuals that make up a company.

AEP System Kept Healthy By Preventive Medicine Rules

Doctors, Nurses, Clinic Essential In Valuable Work

By Peggy Kessinger

(Editor's Note: Peggy Kessinger is a reporter for the *Beckley Register*. The following story appeared in that paper and is reprinted as she wrote it.)

Preventive "medicine" is the prescribed rule to keep healthy the system of the Appalachian Electric Power Co.

The "clinic" is located in the fields, where the substations and banks of transformers are installed to serve the industrial and residential areas.

The staff includes a "diagnostician," "surgeon," "pharmacists," "nurses" and "hospital aides."

The aim of the program—in use since the Beckley district was established in 1934—is to find the "sick and diseased" parts of the system before illness strikes. When this occurs, the emergency causes power service interruptions to the system's customers as well as calling crews—on many occasions—away from their leisure.

The Beckley district now is in the process of undergoing clinical checks. The only manner in which the general public has to know of this is to receive a notice from the power firm that there will be an interruption of power during stated hours on a prescribed day.

When "zero hour" arrives in that section, the switch is thrown and lights are off. Then portable equipment—so sensitive it cannot be used for as long as a year—is brought into use. Reading various gauges and checking charts, the diagnostician—John Campbell, test engineer from Charleston—checks the pulse and reflexes of the various transmitters. When kilowatt readings fail to correspond with previous readings or other hyper-tension indications are found, the diagnostician turns the patient over to the surgeon.

This role is filled by C. E. Pitsenberger, Beckley district station supervisor. Working with Campbell as he makes his tests, Pitsenberger and his crews ferret out the diseased part of the transformer. A prescription—actually an order to the stock room in the Beckley office—is written out and repairs made in a record time, with the patient soon humming again with the right amount of vitality.

At times when greater trouble exists, the transformer is stripped and the vital parts sent to Cabin Creek for repairs. Making these tests on each transformer in the district at least once every three years, the test engineer has a traveling office in his station wagon. In addition to carrying the Doble Engineering Co. testing equipment, he also carries the health charts of all the transformers in the district. When one fails to meet the standards set up for a healthy transformer, past records are checked to attempt to find the trouble. The Doble equipment makes it possible for various parts within the transformer to be checked alone, thus eliminating much of the "by guess and by golly" manner of locating trouble.

Campbell's task is a year-round testing designated districts in the Appalachian system. There are two such diagnosticians for Appalachian, each traveling his own districts each time, thus allowing each to become more familiar with the terrain and probable causes of trouble when it is found.

The test is to determine the insulation strength of electrical equipment, using the power-factor method. The Doble equipment is capable of



Checking the reports of a sick transformer is "Dr." John Campbell, test engineer. He serves as the diagnostician for the Beckley district, checking the "health" of each transformer at least once every three years.

determining 0.01 per cent of a watt and is considered the most sensitive of watt meters.

The station wagon is equipped to



A close-up of the patient and nurse. L. C. Mollohan grins as he hears the test engineer call that the transformer's illness has been diagnosed. Surgery is the recommendation—with the doctor's promise that in "a few days you'll be humming like new."

go out at the times when the testing work would result in less imposition to the Appalachian customers. In addition to the meters, records and other gadgets necessary in the work the vehicle carries a 110-volt generator to run tests after the power has been cut off the substation or transformer undergoing its periodic check-up.

Standards are set for the transformers to measure up. The sealed type—mostly used in the Beckley district—has a permanent standard. The free-breathing type is allowed to change one-half of one per cent over a three year period.

The preventive medicine idea began about 18 years ago, with the first test run at Jodie. In this period of time there has never been a man hurt by working with the test engineer and equipment.

Campbell estimates it takes three months to check the Beckley district and locate the trouble spots. "It's mostly a Saturday and Sunday proposition, you understand, since that is the time we usually can cut off power

and not cause too great an interruption to industrial areas."

Humorous incidents have developed on these dates, one of the latest being a football fan "taking to his car to hear his radio while we did some checking one Saturday afternoon."

On the whole, customers are reasonable about the service interruption. Usually to check a substation the crews like to have a two hour margin in which to work, but seldom find it necessary to use this full amount of time. One service interruption at Eccles last Sunday was scheduled to last two hours but power was back on the lines in an hour and 18 minutes.

During this 78-minute interval the four transformers at the Eccles substation were checked and an ailment detected. Three transformers are constantly in use there with the fourth installed to serve in just such an emergency. The "spare" was cut in to continue service to the area and crewmen returned to their patient Tuesday to diagnose the illness and prescribe needed surgery and medicine.

Campbell said the transformer was "all out of whack" and could not estimate how much longer it could have continued its performance without "blacking out."

This procedure allowed the men to work on the ailing member of the substation while the Eccles vicinity continued to enjoy the use of electricity.

The importance of keeping transformers healthy and performing their proper function is pointed out by the fact one transformer "on the blink" at the Kanawha plant could interrupt current for four cities as large as Charleston.

Barring acts of God—such as lightning—this method of keeping health records keeps power failures to a minimum.

A double-check is made on Campbell's records after the clinic is held. Four copies of his report are made—one going to the Beckley office, one



The patient—a transformer rated as "sick"—is treated by experienced workers. The head nurse is L. C. Mollohan, station foreman, and his assistants are Lewis C. Jones and T. E. Farley.

to the Roanoke office, one to the Doble Engineering Co., and one to remain in Campbell's files. The Doble office in Boston checks Campbell's readings to make sure his findings were correct.

Filling in roles as nurses and hospital aides are the crewmen, the majority of whom have just completed a 12-hour course dealing with transformers, concerning their parts, operation and how to locate trouble.

These courses were presented by the company with engineers serving as instructors. Their attendance is a volunteer matter with the employees, with 75 to 80 attending the course. During this time their study was expedited with the use of miniature models of transformers supplied by the Westinghouse Company.

Those completing the course will receive their diplomas at a dinner. John Hammer, personnel director for the Beckley district, estimated the course in 12 hours was equal to a year or more practical experience in the field. In addition to better qualifying the men for their present jobs, it also provides a better opportunity in future jobs.

Award Given For Sponsoring Community Contests

For the second year in a row a merit certificate was presented to a joint group which had sponsored the Twin County Rural Community Improvement clubs in the Pulaski district.

Fred M. Bennington, area sales representative of the Galax office, served as chairman of the group, made up of the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants Association and civic clubs. He received the certificate of merit for them. The *Bristol Herald Courier* sponsored the award.

Six clubs in Grayson County and five in Carroll County took part in the improvement contests with Cox's Chapel and Coal Creek finishing one-two.

Mr. Bennington, commenting on the award, said, "We have had programs on hay drying and electric water systems in the greater number of our clubs. This program has enabled the power company programs to reach further into the rural communities."

Joe P. Gills Elected To E. & H. College Post

Joe P. Gills, Logan district manager, was recently elected vice president of the board of visitors of Emory and Henry College at Emory, Va.

He has been a member of this board since 1951. The school has about 600 students, and members of the board act in an advisory capacity to the school administration.



Fred M. Bennington, left, receives the award from Tutt Bradford, publisher of the "Bristol Herald Courier." Second from the left is Mrs. Munsey F. Cox, representing Cox's Chapel, and beside her is Mrs. L. D. Largen, Sr., representing the Gladesboro community

Bluefield Supervisors Tour Gypsum Plant

Bluefield district foremen and supervisors recently toured the National Gypsum Company at Goldbond, Virginia. The group was addressed by Monroe Rule, plant manager, and M. C. Pollard, personnel and safety director of National Gypsum Company.

Making the tour in hard hat and goggles were: C. M. Fletcher, W. E. Brooks, G. L. Poythress, Joe Wingfield, Dave Rowe, Clarence Light, W. C. Kidd, J. W. Woods and D. M. Davis.

E. J. Clouser Author Of Magazine Article

E. J. Clouser, Williamson district stores supervisor, is the author of an article appearing in a recent issue of the *Electrical World*.

The material appearing in this trade magazine was based upon Mr. Clouser's original manuscript, "Knock Down Scrap Bins Save Space and Time," which was published in the July issue of *A. G. & E. Monthly Operating Notes*.

During the past year, a number of Southern Properties' personnel have had their articles reprinted in national magazines.

Palmer Is Promoted To Assistant Editor

Jack A. Palmer has been promoted to assistant editor of THE ILLUMINATOR.

An employee in the system public relations department since July, 1950, Jack is a graduate of Washington and Lee University.

Following his graduation in February, 1950, he was employed as news-editor of the *Franklin News-Post* in Rocky Mount, Virginia.

He was employed as a feature writer in the public relations department prior to his promotion.

In addition to his work on THE ILLUMINATOR, Jack also writes the company's radio commercials, has helped design office opening booklets and written the employee information program booklets.

He served during World War II in the European Theater as a member of the 567th Anti-Aircraft Battalion and was discharged with the rank of sergeant.

Active in the Roanoke Junior Chamber of Commerce, he is now serving as program chairman.

He is married and has one child.



Mr. Palmer

Roanoke Division

Fieldale District

Mrs. Gladys Walker, recent bride, was complimented with a miscellaneous shower given by Mrs. Eunice Gravely at her home in Martinsville. The honoree was presented with several gifts. The hostess served a dessert course of nuts and punch to Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Virginia Hancock, Miss Irene Minter, Mrs. Joy Webster, Mrs. Jewell Wigginton and Mrs. Anita Few, all fellow employees. Mrs. Walker is in the T&D engineering department.

Volney Penn Reynolds is a new employee in the T&D department lines section.

Geraldine G. Lawless is a new employee in local accounting.

Roanoke District

R. O. Dennis, supply room, and Mrs. Mary Nelson, cashier, each won a turkey at the "Let's Talk Turkey" party given for employees in the auditorium on November 23. To be eligible for the drawing an employee had to turn in and sell one or more prospects for a range, water heater or dryer.

E. L. Wirt, Walnut Avenue garage employee, has returned to work after being in Gill Memorial Hospital for two weeks.

Sympathy is extended J. B. Kingry, meter reader, on the death of his father.

Mrs. Victoria Dooley, local accounting, has returned to work after spending several days in Watts Hospital, Durham, N. C.

Loemis Wirt, son of E. L. Wirt, Walnut Avenue garage employee, and nephew of Mary Lou Wirt, local accounting, who has been stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia, is now serving in Korea.

Mrs. Neller Phillips, local accounting, entertained her daughter and son, Helen Phillips, stationed at Philadelphia Navy Yard and Woodson Phillips, student at Medical College of Virginia, during Thanksgiving.

Sympathy is extended T. C. Smith, payroll department, on the death of his grandfather.

Sympathy is extended James G. Goggin, accounting department, on the death of his grandmother.

Mrs. J. L. McManaway, wife of the Roanoke lineman, has returned home from a local hospital after an operation.

Recent blood donors include: D. B.

Happenings... Around the Circuit

... among employees and their families

Roberts, division managerial department and R. N. Lowman, line department.

Sympathy is extended W. G. Haller, range service department, on the death of his father-in-law.

Sympathy is extended W. R. Zimmerman, range service department, on the death of his grandmother.

Lynchburg District

Mrs. Edith B. Wofford, accounting department, has returned to work after an 11-day illness.

Morris Ray Langford, son of M. A. Langford, line department, has returned to his home after a tonsillectomy.

Sympathy is extended R. Conner Foster, T&D department, on the death of his father.

H. W. Francis, line department, has returned to work after being hospitalized for several days.

S. L. Drumheller, line department, has returned to work after an illness.

R. C. Reynolds, line department, has returned to work after an illness.

Mrs. Clara J. Burnett, accounting department, has returned to work after an illness.

Wilburn R. Durham, accounting department, has returned to work after being on military leave of absence.

System

Betty Jean Garner is a new employee in the accounting department.

N. G. Marshall, accounting office, was elected president of the John Knox Bible Class of the Second Presbyterian Church for 1954.

P. C. Ray, accounting office, was recently elected Sunday School treasurer of Christ Lutheran Church.

The girls from the fourth floor of the main office in Roanoke held their Christmas dinner at "Archie's" on December 22. Christmas gifts were exchanged at the conclusion of the dinner.

Leon A. Chatman of the real estate and right-of-way department has returned to work after two years' military leave in the Army, including 13

(See System, Page 11)

The Real Meaning



When the Marines in the Charleston area held their annual collection of "Toys For Tots," two of the workers were Charleston district meter section employees, Warren McGinnis and John Nutter. Both of the men are members of the Marine Corps Reserve. The toys were turned over to the Salvation Army for distribution after they had been repaired.

Kingsport

Charles S. Lingor, engineering department, has returned to work from military leave of absence.

Cullen Boalt is a new employee in the line department.

Joan Clayman, accounting department, has returned to work following hospital treatment.

Luke Kesterson, commercial department and Keene White, accounting department, were recognized as 15-year scouters at the annual meeting of Sequoyah Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Huntington Division

Huntington District

Donald C. Cook, vice president of AGE Service Corp., recently arrived in Huntington for an inspection and get-acquainted tour of Appalachian facilities. During his tour he attended several luncheons.

Sally Jean Harris resigned from the system billing office.

A. R. Guthrie, system billing office, recently returned from a hunting trip in Pocahontas County with a spike buck.

Diane VanOsdol is a new employee in the system billing office.

Martha A. Plunkett is a new employee in the accounting department.

Joseph L. Holley is a new employee in the stores department, replacing Eugene Adkins, who resigned.

Sympathy is extended S. W. Mustaine, Jr., on the death of his father.

Sympathy is extended D. F. Johnson on the death of his sister.

Williamson District

W. H. Giles, son of W. F. Giles, district commercial manager, has returned to Fort Knox, Kentucky, after visiting his parents.

Sympathy is extended Rufus Meade, Jr., meter department, on

(See Williamson, Page 5)

Bluefield Division

Pulaski District

C. P. Bailey has returned to work after an operation.

Sympathy is extended Andy Graham on the death of his baby daughter.

Kent Sharp has returned to work following an appendectomy.

E. R. Franch is a new employee in the meter department.

T. S. Weatherman and G. C. Beasley, Byllesby Hydro, have returned to work following recent illnesses.

Sympathy is extended Robert T. Ellett, substation department, on the death of his mother.

Glen Lyn Plant

Carl Keatley was recently surprised with a housewarming party by the maintenance department at his new home.

Sympathy is extended C. E. Jones on the death of his sister.

Children of L. E. McKenzie, E. W. Jennings, F. W. Thompson, H. P. Johnson, B. J. Vest, Clyde Davis and C. E. Pennington participated in the annual Christmas party for children at the plant.

Bluefield District

Thomas W. Wolfe is a new employee in the accounting department.

Sympathy is extended George Wingate, Princeton line crew, on the death of his brother.

Earl A. Proffitt is a new employee in the Bluefield district garage.

Abingdon District

Three employees have been elected to office in the Abingdon Masonic Lodge. They are Clark Peck, Jr., record supervisor, elected Senior Deacon; James R. Warden, engineering assistant, elected Junior Deacon and Fred Rosenbalm, station man, elected Senior Steward.

The 1954 addition of *Basketball*, a magazine devoted to that one sport, has named 500 top high school basketball players in the country during the past year, including Ben Valley, son of Leon F. Valley, area supervisor.

Welch District

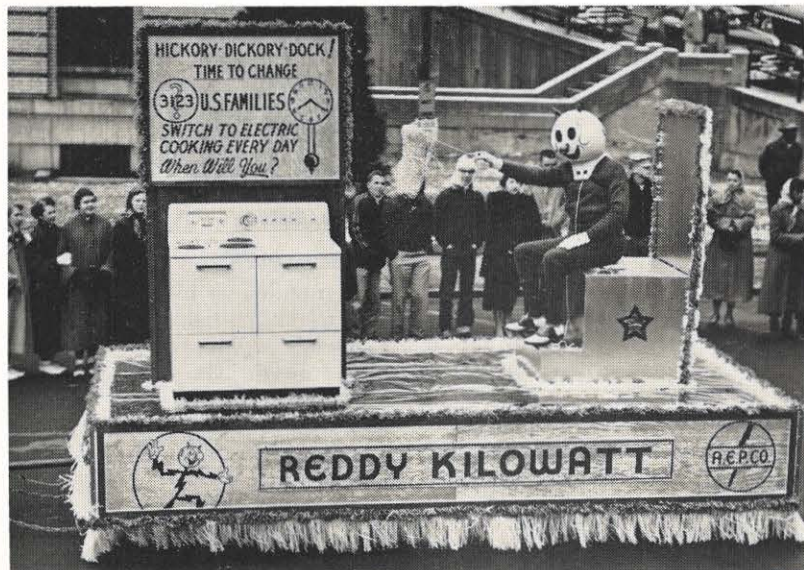
Sympathy is extended Charles D. Kinzer, Pocahontas line crew, on the death of his grandmother.

Sympathy is extended Marvin Tiller, Plainville meter reader, on the death of his brother-in-law.

Sympathy is extended Joan Bare,

(See Welch, Page 10)

Reddy In Festive Mood At Bluefield



Reddy Kilowatt was the outstanding feature of the float which appeared in the Bluefield Christmas parade. Complete with nose that glowed, Reddy was Alfred White of the commercial department. The float was built by Ira Henderson, Frank Board and Fred Richmond. The float was also used in the Pocahontas Christmas parade. Warren Atkinson, Pocahontas line crew, played the part of Reddy.

Sing In Logan Messiah Presentation



Logan employees and members of their families were among the 100 local persons presenting Handel's Messiah at the Logan Theatre on December 9. A capacity audience enjoyed this free presentation sponsored by the Logan Ministerial Association. Pictured are, front row from the left: Joe P. Gills, Mrs. Gills, Evelyn Childers, June Ann Abdoney, Faith Harris and Q. M. Harris. Second row: P. M. Vannoy, W. E. Bivens and W. H. Honaker. Also taking part were Doris Atkins and June Davis of the district and David Roomy, son of Nick Roomy.

Appalachian Employees Helpful To Youths Who Win 4-H And FFA Awards

Two Appalachian employees were instrumental in the training which led to 1953 national honors for two youths.

Carl L. Phillips, Huntington district area sales representative, was declared winner of the AEP Co. Activity Award when Cliff Allen Creameans, Midkiff, Lincoln County, was declared a state winner to the National 4-H Congress. And A. J. Lambert, Appalachian representative, was instrumental in the 1953 FFA Farm Electrification Award presented Eugene Bowman of Franklin County, Va.



Carl L. Phillips and Cliff Creameans, Lincoln County, proudly show the National 4-H electrical award which Cliff won recently at Chicago.

Cliff, who won a national 4-H electric program scholarship, was awarded \$300 for his work. He, Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Gertrude Tibbets, Lincoln County home demonstration agent, attended the convention together. Mrs. Tibbets is the wife of Walter Tibbets, Charleston district engineering department employee.



A. J. Lambert looks on while Eugene Bowman of Franklin County works on one of his FFA electrical projects.

Mr. Phillips said that the help he has given Cliff is "hard to put your finger on—I have encouraged Cliff through the years I've been with him. I've talked over plans for him with his father and Mrs. Tibbets . . . when Cliff had any problem concerning his work he always came to me and we worked out the answers whether it was technical, financial or otherwise.

"I've given him some opportunities which he has taken advantage of—given him some literature, discussed his problems and so on."

Mr. Lambert followed his honor of assisting Eugene Bowman to a national award by being named chairman of a county wide advisory council for the Franklin County Vocational Agricultural Department. He was at the same time named to the FFA awards committee set up by the council.

When Eugene received his award he listed Mr. Lambert as one of the chief reasons for improvement in his work. The 17-year-old high school senior received a \$200 check at the national convention in Kansas City and an additional \$100 for being the state winner in Virginia. He is also an expert farmer and finds time to participate in sports and other activities at his high school.

Both boys entered many phases of rural electrification during their training. Both have erected many

exhibits of electrical materials, and both have done much actual wiring and construction of appliances for electrical use.

Paul D. Brooks Is New Vice President Of Service Corporation



Mr. Brooks

The new commercial vice president of the American Gas and Electric Service Corporation is Paul D. Brooks of Tenafly, New Jersey.

A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Mr. Brooks has spent 25 years in the electric utility industry. Since 1950 he has been manager of the sales and marketing department of Ebasco Services, Inc., New York.

While a student at the University of Tennessee, in 1928-29, he served as a commercial sales engineer for the Tennessee Public Service Company, Knoxville. Upon graduation with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1929, he was named supervisor of the company's rural development. He became manager of one of the company's operating divisions in 1932 and was elected a member of the board of directors in 1934. Two years later he was elevated to general sales manager.

In 1938 Mr. Brooks joined Ebasco in New York as a sales sponsor. He became assistant manager of sales and marketing in 1944 and manager of the department in 1950.

He is a member of the Sales Executives Conference, Sales Executives Club of New York, Federation of National Sales Executives and the Commercial Division, General Committee, Edison Electric Institute.

In his new position, Mr. Brooks succeeds Philip Torchio, Jr., who died August 9.

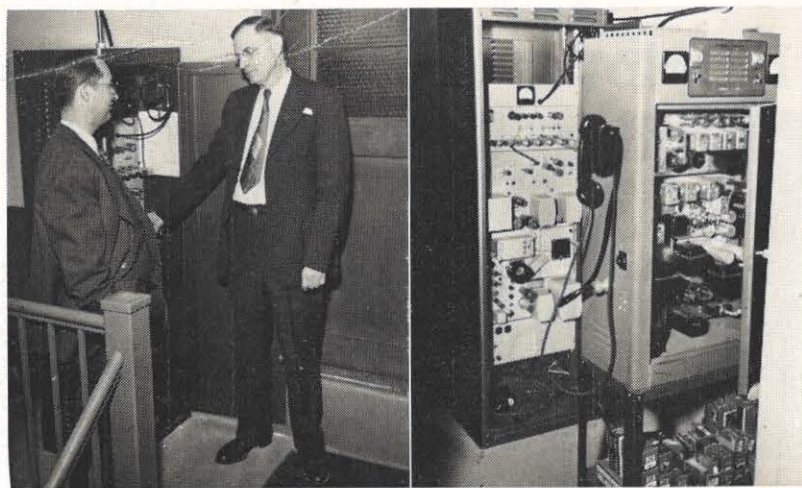
Lynchburg's Radio Station First In A. G. & E. System To Use Microwave Circuit For Base And Station Control

Lynchburg district's radio station, KIA627, recently became the first communication center on A. G. & E. properties to use microwaves for station control and base transmission. The use of microwaves not only broadened the station's transmission range but increased communication efficiency.

In the mountain section served by the Lynchburg district, there were a number of sections where radio communications would not function satisfactorily. Much of the trouble was encountered because the transmitter at Reusens Hydro Plant has but 900 feet elevation while the mountain range about towered to three thousand.

After a relocation study was made, it was decided to install the transmitter on High Peak, a three thousand-foot site which is located on Tobacco Row Mountain. High Peak was ideal but the estimated cost of constructing an 11-mile line was extremely expensive and involved. The line-of-sight microwaves loomed as a reasonable and practical solution to the problem.

Following a detailed investigation, it was established that High Peak and the Lynchburg office were suitably located for a direct line-of-sight



George M. Guill, left, system electronics engineer, discusses the Lynchburg office microwave control panel with C. D. Mattox. Mr. Mattox is employed in customer service of the local accounting department. RIGHT: A part of the new microwave installation is shown in this photograph.

microwave circuit and this could replace the customary telephone line for remote control. The relocation of equipment was made and first operational tests were completed early in November.

In addition to the regular installation, the new microwave communication system also is equipped with automatic starting gasoline-powered generators for auxiliary power which

may be used during an emergency. Auxiliaries are located at both the base station and the transmitter.

To date, the microwave installation has proved extremely satisfactory and opens communications for service areas that have been limited or impossible to reach in the past. This improved communications will mean more efficient service for many of the Lynchburg district's customers.

C. K. Kirkland Named To Position With State School Board

Claud K. Kirkland, Abingdon district manager, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Virginia State School Board Association.

The election took place at a recent meeting of the association in Richmond which Mr. Kirkland was attending as a delegate for the Central School Board of Abingdon. He has been a member of this board for the past five years and is also a member of the Washington County School Board.

His efforts have been constantly focused on a county-wide consolidated school program. This was his second year as a delegate to the Richmond meeting.

Neighbors, Fellow Employees Of A. B. Gregory Join To Make Convalescent Period Easier

Cooped up in the house . . . floor-pacing until the rugs were worn . . . reading until all the words looked the same . . . listening to the radio until his ears rang.

That's how A. B. Gregory, Bluefield auto mechanic, felt until recently. Mr. Gregory has been ill since this past summer and has been forced to remain off the job. And the constant inactivity made matters worse.

And then the picture changed. Approximately 20 neighbors and 200 fellow employees decided to do something about it. They bought him a 21-inch television set in a blond oak cabinet.

Mr. Gregory says that he is improving rapidly and hopes to be back to work in the next few months. He has been with the company since February, 1927.

Six Employees Recognized In 'Notes'



Mr. Blizzard

Mr. Smith

Mr. Speas

Mr. Valley

Six Southern Properties' employees are authors of five articles which gave them system-wide recognition during the past month. Their articles appeared in the November issue of A. G. & E. Monthly Operating Notes.

Two writers, A. L. Smith and P. B. Blizzard, are among the top contributors to the publication. Both have had five contributions accepted and printed during the first eleven months of 1953. Mr. Smith, maintenance supervisor at the Philip Sporn Plant, wrote an interesting article describing the handling of turbine valves, "Jig Expedites Handling Lower Control Valves on H. P. Tur-



Mr. Lee

Mr. Warden

bines." Mr. Blizzard, who is employed as a mechanical engineer with the Kanawha Valley Power Company, made his fifth contribution with his article, "Piping Problem Solved By Suspension Rig."

R. W. Speas, hydro plant supervisor for the Kanawha Valley Power Company, wrote "Cutlass Rubber Bearings Solve Problem With Submerged Pumps" while L. C. Valley, an Abingdon district area foreman, was author of "Recloser Operator's Position For Safety."

Also from Abingdon, L. B. Lee, district superintendent, and J. R. Warden, an engineering assistant, were co-authors of "A Line-Inspection Procedure And Results." The reviewer's comments on this article indicated their procedure would pay large dividends by the reduction of line outages.

Williamson . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

the death of his brother. Sympathy is extended J. B. Harris, Jr., T&D department, on the death of his cousin.

R. D. Jackson has resigned from the T&D department.

James Preston, Jr., is a new employee in the accounting department.

New Peaks Set On Both Appalachian And AGE Systems

More electricity was used on the American Gas and Electric System during the hour ending at 6 p. m. of December 21 than in the history of the system.

At that hour a new peak of 2,996,000 kilowatts was set on the system.

Division loads in the new peak were: Appalachian—1,178,000; Ohio Power—1,126,000; Indiana and Michigan—692,000.

On November 24 a new peak was set in the Appalachian division. For the hour ending at noon 1,207,890 kilowatts were used.

During November and December the use of electricity continued its upswing. A total of seven new peaks for the delivery of electricity were reached. Two of these were on Appalachian and five on the AGE system.

AGE's succeeding peaks were on November 9, 24 and 30, and on December 14 and 21. Appalachian's were on November 10 and 24.



This trick photograph shows A. B. Gregory's reaction to the television set which neighbors and fellow employees gave him.

1953—Another Employee Activities In Year Ranged Wide

There are many good things you can say about employees of the three companies, and certainly one of them is that their interests and activities range far and wide over many fields.

Their hobbies include everything from amateur radio to gardening to antique automobiles. They collect old newspapers, grow giant sunflowers, erect their own homes, build swimming and fishing ponds and construct furniture. The list goes on and on.

Civic Service

But hobbies are only a beginning to what employees do during their off-work hours. Many employees gave time to community service. They donated blood, worked with Boy and Girl Scouts, fought along side other townsmen in polio epidemics, volunteered for community fire fighting and life saving crews, acted as first aid instructors, erected a scoreboard for the local high school football field, entertained at charity functions and contributed to local and national charities.

In turn they were decorated for their community service and recognized by the clubs, organizations and groups they served.

Employees were elected to every position possible in civic clubs. Women and men helped in youth organizations, churches, social clubs, civic clubs, fraternal and service organizations and Chambers and Junior Chambers of Commerce. Here again the list goes on and on.

Life Saving

Life saving during and after working hours was an essential part of several employees' lives during 1953. This greatest of service to mankind was enacted many times during the year in

many ways. A man was pulled from an automobile which went off a bridge into icy waters below, another man was saved when first aid was applied on



Many employees were honored for their civic work. Here, Keene White at right receives from John Faust an award naming him Kingsport "Man of the Year."

the golf course, several lives were saved when an employee knew what to do at an automobile accident scene, lives and property were saved when a fire-fighting crew of employees responded to an emergency call. An employee also delivered a baby; others rescued a wife and husband when their car slid off the road on the way to a maternity hospital.

Employees continued their activity in sports during the year. They took part in both inter-company competition and community play. At the same time they enjoyed picnics and parties.

As many employees returned to work from the armed services, some from Korea, others left to take their places. Several were decorated for bravery and service.

And the list of employee activities during 1953, spreading to 1954, promises continued service and activity during the new year.



Civic-minded employees continued their fine community work during 1953. These Montgomery office employees have given 19 pints of blood since 1951 and were recognized during the year for their record.

Employee Benefits And Training Highlights

As Father Time tolled the last hour of the old year, figures show that the number of employees serving the three companies have increased in 1953 to 4,712—4,146 of them Appalachian, 117 Kingsport and 449 Kentucky. This is an increase of 74 over last year's 4,638 employees.

Perhaps one of the most significant employees added during the year was the cheerful personality, Reddy Kilowatt. He will help us keep our current sold and help us explain our business and how it's operated to the public.

A big item which affected employees became effective April 1. They received a wage increase amounting to five per cent. It was applied in accordance with the past practices of the company as they affected the existing rate range. The wage increase cost the three companies annually over \$930,000.

Washington's Birthday was declared a legal holiday for employees, bringing the total to seven. Others include New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day.



Domino safety programs for supervisors were featured during the year. This one was held in Bluefield.

The Employee Information Program moved into its third successful year with four programs. Subjects treated included "Let's Look at 1952," "Our Public Relations," "Reddy Kilowatt" and "The Educational Assistance Program."

The Educational Assistance Program was adopted by the Southern Properties in October to assist employees to further their education as an aid to them in their work. The company pays 62½ per cent of the tuition of the courses taken by employees to help them in their present job or jobs they may hold

in the future.

Safety played a big part in the employee's working life. Kentucky and West Virginia Power Co. established the "Safetygram," a monthly publication for employees. One Kentucky employee became eligible for the Wise Owl Club, when the goggles he wore saved his eyes.

An Appalachian employee also joined the Wise Owl Club, a highlight of its safety program. The Roanoke district entered the Safetyrama—the first public exhibition of safety of its kind in the country. Sponsored by the Virginia Safety Congress, the show took place in Roanoke.

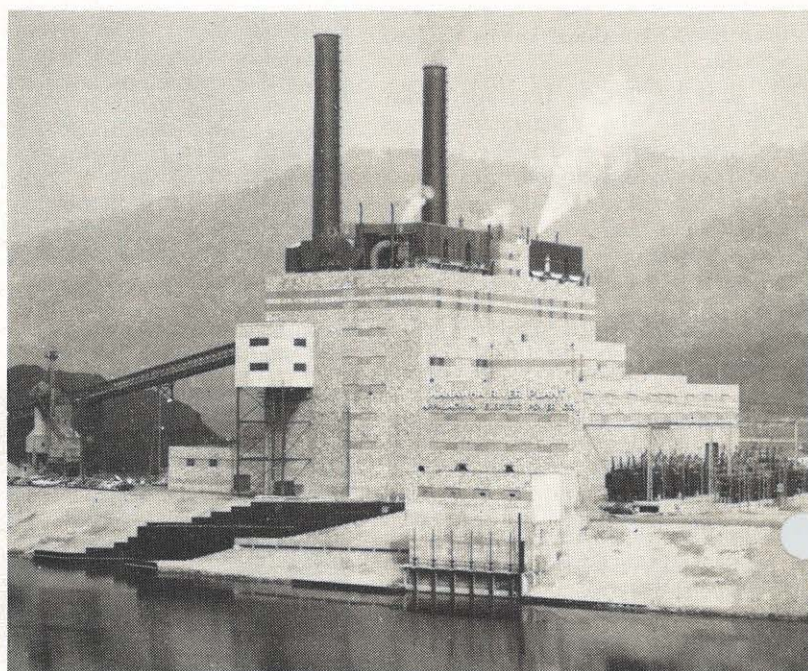
While fire fighting and hot line schools were held in all companies and will be held in the future, the Domino safety program for supervisors was also completed. And first aid training, especially in Kingsport, was given employees throughout the year.

Accompanying the growth in employee ranks have been these and other company projects for the safety, health, knowledge and happiness of employees.

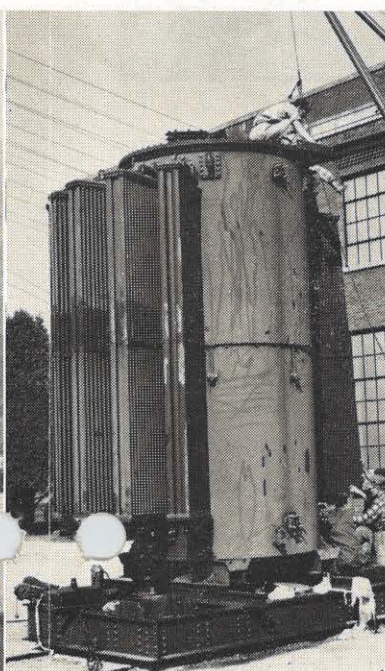


Fire fighting schools similar to this one at Logan Plant were held at plants throughout the year.

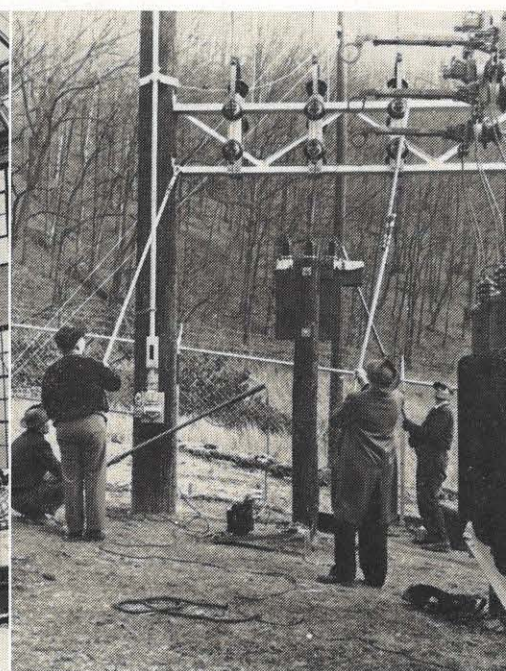
Eventful Year For Our Th



The largest construction project during the year for Appalachian was continued work on the Kanawha River plant near Charleston.



Among Kingsport work was the re-pairing of Holston substation.



Index Station in the Pikeville district was one of those going into service in Kentucky in 1953.

Construction Big Item For Three Companies During Year

Constructionwise, 1953 has been a very busy year for the companies of the Southern Properties. Much has been accomplished, but there remains much to do. A number of large projects have been completed while others are in various stages of construction. In all, an estimated \$40,000,000 has been expended for construction by our three companies during the past twelve months.

Plant Construction

The largest single construction item in our territory during the past year was the continued construction on the 400,000-KW Kanawha River Plant. Unit One was placed into commercial service last July and final tests are nearing completion on Unit Two. This unit is expected to be ready for commercial operation some time this month.

Two additional major undertakings

include the beginning of construction of the 1,000,000-KW Kyger Creek Plant at Cheshire, Ohio, and the 1,200,000-KW Clifty Creek Plant which is located at Madison, Indiana. These plants, which are being built by the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation, are destined to serve the mammoth Atomic Energy Plant near Portsmouth, Ohio. Appalachian is one of the 15 electric companies forming OVEC.

New Lines

A large portion of the Southern Properties' 1953 construction budget went into the expansion of the companies' network of transmission and distribution lines. Some of these major projects included building lines which will provide additional links between our main generation and distribution centers. Among those completed or in varying stages of construction was the

second link of the system's "super highway," the 48-mile span of 330,000 volt line between the Philip Sporn and Muskingum plants. Others were: In Appalachian, the Kanawha-Baileysville 132-KV line; the 132-KV Glen Lyn-Wytheville line; in Kentucky, the 33-mile Morehead-Index-Helechawa 66-KV circuit. Distribution facilities in many areas have been modernized and expanded.

New Substations

The construction of new stations and the increasing of the capacities of existing ones also absorbed a good deal of the construction budget. Major projects of the year included the 330-KV stations at the Philip Sporn and Kanawha River Plants. Other major installations or modernizations were accomplished at the Chemical Station, Turner Station, Fieldale, Holston, Abingdon, Helechawa, Mount Hope,

Index, Ashland, Scarbro and Barren-she. Major maintenance and overhauls were scheduled at the Bylesby Hydro Plant, Claytor Hydro Plant, the Niagara Hydro Plant modernization and the Glen Lyn Plant.

Office Buildings

Office buildings and other structures received their share of the companies' construction dollar. These new or remodelled buildings, some completed and others under construction, include the Fieldale office building; the Huntington service building; the Milton office; the Pocahontas office's demonstration kitchen; the Pulaski office; the Abingdon service building; Walnut Avenue Storeroom in Roanoke and others.

In all, the companies of the Southern Properties have had another busy construction year.

Gains Made In Number Of Customers And Their Use Of Electricity During Year

Our big bosses—the customers—came in for a major share of our attention during the year.

They grew to an all-time high of 568,903 on the Southern Properties. This was a gain of over 9,500 for the 12 months ending November 30.

Kentucky and West Virginia added over 900 customers to bring the total customers to almost 90,000. Kingsport had about 850 new customers to bring their total to over 19,000. Appalachian had an increase of over 8,000 new customers, making over 460,000 customers.

Customers Use More

While we were serving our customers, they were making increased use of our service. The average kilowatt-hour usage per residential customer climbed.

Kingsport's customers climbed from 4,229 kwh in 1952 to 4,672 kwh in 1953, an increase of 443 kwh—highest in AGE System for a company. Kentucky's customers showed a gain of 138 kwh, from 1,551 in 1952 to 1,689 in 1953. Appalachian's customers went from 1,923 kwh to 2,095 kwh, a gain of 158 for the year.

Part of that increased use of electricity by our customers can be credited to the sales activities of both our companies and the dealers in the areas we serve. Sales activities of appliances made last year a memorable one from

the number of major appliances sold.

At the end of November, about 50,000 ranges, water heaters and clothes dryers had been sold in the 3-company territory. Of these three big appliances, 41,525 went into Appalachian territory, 5,996 into Kentucky territory and 2,423 into the Kingsport area. Sales for 1953 are about 20 per cent ahead of the same period last year.

New Records

Peaks, representing customers' demands for electricity, reached more new highs last year. Before the record AGE System peak of 2,969,200 kilowatts on December 14 could stand very long, a new all-time AGE System peak of 2,996,000 kilowatts was set at 6 p. m. on December 21. By year's end the estimated load for the year on the Appalachian system was 7½ billion kwh.

Customers also came in for another type of attention widely different from the three companies' promotional activities. This activity by the three companies was the first Customer Opinion Survey on the Southern Properties. Starting last spring, a sample of customers in all the areas served by the companies was surveyed to get their opinions on many phases of our business. The survey conducted by employees will be continued this year—recognizing that customers during the coming year will continue to be most important to our business.

Area Development Continues

"Working together" might well be the theme of our three-company activities last year in behalf of area development. We worked with industries, communities, towns and groups in ever-widening programs to improve area income and living standards.

Location of several big new industries in the territory gave industrial development added impetus. Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company, recognizing the value of continued support to the area development program, elevated R. P. Thomas of Ashland to the new position of development representative for the entire company. Commercial department personnel were continuing their work with Chambers of Commerce, railroad industrial agents and other informed people in a joint effort to solve problems of community and industrial development in Eastern Kentucky.

Active Area Programs

Area development work last year also concerned itself with existing assets in the territory we serve. In both the Roanoke and Bristol area development programs in Virginia, some employees worked within the competing communities while others furnished services to help improve rural conditions. This was also true in the Beckley area where another extensive program is underway to encourage local industry and improve area income.

Our youth programs were especially



Employees like J. A. Dunham, Fieldale district area representative at right, were active in community club work. Here he looks at the check held by Ralph Metz, president of the club that won second place in the Roanoke area contest.

active. Electrical schools taught by company personnel offered many thousands of rural youth the opportunity to participate in regional, state and national contests. State 4-H electric project winners in both West Virginia and Virginia came from Appalachian territory. The 4-H'er from the Huntington district went on to win national honors in Chicago while a FFA youngster in the Roanoke district won national honors in Kansas City for his electric project.

These few activities can never indicate the entire scope of efforts in behalf of our companies to develop our areas—financially, physically and culturally. They do, however, serve to show that we are working toward better communities—through united effort.

Three Companies

Awards Reflect Credit On Employees

Coordinated effort on the part of all personnel has been largely responsible for both our companies and individuals winning numerous awards during the past 12 months. Here are a few outstanding achievements during 1953.

Both the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company and Appalachian Electric Power Company were winners of George A. Hughes Awards. In registering these victories over nationwide competition, these two companies won first place awards for commercial cooking.

Appalachian won first place in the class of companies serving over 150,000 meters while Kentucky took the award among utilities having less than 150,000 meters. Edison Electric Institute judged the entries and presented the annual awards which were made by the Hotpoint Company, commemorating the company's founder, George A. Hughes.

Appalachian also won the top advertising award for the year while competing with 146 other utilities. In the Public Utility Ad-Views 25th annual rating, the Socrates Award was given the company for maintaining a constant high standard of newspaper advertising.

Many Promotions And Changes Made In The Properties

Every month of 1953 brought with it many promotions and changes in the personnel of the three-company-system. For the most part familiar faces appeared in new places.

Several division and district managerships changed hands. Julian C. Hansbarger moved up to Huntington division assistant manager from the Logan district managership, and was replaced by Joe P. Gills, formerly Abingdon district manager. In turn, Claud K. Kirkland, formerly assistant manager, became Abingdon district manager.

B. T. Stone replaced A. R. Neal, Jr., as Roanoke district engineer when Mr. Neal moved up to Huntington division supervising engineer. Robert A. Sheffey, Jr., formerly Abingdon district electrical engineer, was named Bluefield division distribution engineer, and James R. Burdsal moved up to Hazard district supervising engineer.

In the Bluefield division G. L. Poythress was promoted to division civil engineer, and R. P. Thomas, who was Ashland district industrial power engineer, became the development representative for the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company.

Three important changes were noted in the Bluefield and Welch districts. Shirley M. Brown, who went to the system commercial department, was replaced as Bluefield division rural and residential sales supervisor by Earl Wood of Welch. Replacing Mr. Wood as Welch residential and rural sales supervisor was Forrest L. Bocock.

At Philip Sporn plant, Paul E. Theis moved up to office manager and Dayton L. Phillips to storekeeper. Both had been assistants in their departments.

A. M. Beatty was promoted to Roanoke district stores supervisor from assistant stores supervisor. A notable appointment was the naming of W. I. Whitefield, Roanoke division manager, to the board of directors.

Throughout the year many personnel changes were made at the plants where men were moved to Kanawha River, Kyger Creek and Muskingum River Plants.



Looking at Kentucky's entry which won the George A. Hughes Award in commercial cooking are, from the left: G. A. Weatherton, R. E. Doyle and E. C. Cassidy. Appalachian also won a George A. Hughes Award during the year.

Safety Award

In system competition, the Beckley district was presented the Southern Properties' 1952 Safety Award. Beckley's 177 employees earned this outstanding recognition by completing 352,252 man-hours of work without a single lost-time accident.

Additional awards received during the year included the American Heritage Award. This award was made to Appalachian for outstanding leadership and performance in support of the National Non-Partisan Register and Vote Campaign of 1952.

THE ILLUMINATOR won an outstanding award in a Kentucky contest for employee publications. The award,

presented Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company, was accepted by H. S. Scott, assistant general manager of the company. In Southern Properties' competition, Paul S. Dunn of Abingdon recently won THE ILLUMINATOR award for outstanding contribution to the employee publication.

As for individual awards, there were many splendid achievements during 1953 over the system. Keene White, Kingsport, and Prince Thornton, Bluefield, were named "Man of the Year" and Rebecca Lee, Kingsport, was chosen "Woman of the Year" for their civic contributions. There were many other commendations, all reflecting individual effort and fine work.

Developments Mean Progress



D. C. Duncan, system safety supervisor, right, presents the 1952 Southern Properties Safety Award to Waldo S. LaFon, Beckley district manager, as C. C. Darrah, L. M. Cobbs and C. W. Lovell look on.

Penalty factor computer . . . 330,000 volts . . . 4,500 psi, 1,150 f double reheat . . . electronic relays . . . words, words. What do they mean?

To those of us who are not engineers, simply this: a machine to save money . . . highest voltage network in the nation . . . breaking the critical steam barrier . . . lessened damage from faults. Together they all add up to producing and transmitting electricity better, more economically.

New Horizons

In other words, they mean new horizons in our business because of the successful experiments conducted by our research staff in the AGE Service Corporation, working with manufacturers of equipment. These and other developments also mean continued progress for the entire utility industry as other companies follow our pioneering lead.

As last year the AGE System became the nation's biggest producer of electricity, it was especially fitting that in 1953 we built more links on the 330 kv system, most powerful grid in the nation. So it is that "330 kv" to us means moving bigger blocks of power at lower cost.

As for the new boiler and turbo-

generating unit designed to cross the critical pressure of steam, together they result in the most efficient ever built. They also mean years of continuous work and development on our system to set new world standards of efficiency in generation of steam-electric power.

More Progress

High-speed electronic relays developed by G. E. and tested on the Appalachian system lessen damage done by faults. Put in service last year on 132 kv lines, they will also be used on the 330 kv lines.

The penalty factor computer is a custom-built machine ordered by the AGE Service Corporation. Simply, it is a machine that tells how to save money. It picks the best ways to schedule loads so as to lessen transmission losses. This helps make for more operating economy on the system.

Other developments included using fly ash for concrete and hundreds of other machines, adaptations and processes were made possible by field men through *Operating Notes* suggestions. Development and addition of all this modern equipment is another step in the progress which makes AGE one of the best and most efficient systems in the nation.

Veterans Receiving Service Pins



The above veterans recently received service pins for 20 or more years of service. TOP ROW, all 30 year veterans, from the left: E. E. Sprinkle, Bluefield; Emily Wade, system accounting, Roanoke; E. G. Dalton, Pulaski, and W. H. Garten, Charleston. SECOND ROW: A. T. Reed, Charleston, 30 years; C. P. Bailey, Pulaski, 25 years; Dorothy Hagan, Pulaski, 25 years, and H. F. Boling, Hazard, 25 years. THIRD ROW: B. W. Lanthorne, Logan plant, 25 years; J. E. Taylor, Bluefield, 20 years; S. S. Gilbert, Reusens hydro plant at Lynchburg, 20 years, and H. H. Wills, Charleston, 20 years.

H. J. Swecker Of Bluefield Retires



Mr. Swecker

Harry J. Swecker, Bluefield district meter department, recently retired.

"Knocky" was employed by the company in April of 1931 and worked in the meter department in Bluefield for R. W. Smith. He has worked in various jobs in the department and at the time of his retirement was meterman under the supervision of Warren Brooks.

Born in War Eagle, he attended public schools in Bluefield. He is married and has one daughter.

During World War II he served in the Navy Air Corps in the Pacific Theatre. He is a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 40 & 8 Lodge.

He and his family have moved to Norfolk, Virginia.

Alfred E. Craig, AGE Treasurer, Dies Suddenly



Mr. Craig

Alfred E. Craig, treasurer of the American Gas and Electric Company and all of the associated companies, died suddenly at his home at Westfield, New Jersey, Saturday, December 26.

54-years-old, Mr. Craig had been associated with AGE since 1914, when he was first employed as an office boy.

Born June 30, 1899, he was employed by Frank B. Ball, then treasurer of AGE, as an office boy and he rose through the ranks to become treasurer of the company in 1952.

After completing several night commercial courses in evening high school, Mr. Craig was transferred to the accounting department. He went on the road as a junior auditor in 1919 under K. B. Crumb.

In 1944 he was appointed assistant secretary and assistant treasurer of the service corporation and in 1945 became assistant secretary and assistant treasurer of the associated companies.

He is survived by his wife, one daughter, his mother, one brother and one sister.



Appalachian Electric Power Company

Abingdon District—10 YEARS: Sylvia H. Darnell, Accounting Department. 5 YEARS: Ruth K. Dolinger, Engineering Department, S. J. Grizzle, Jr., T. & D. Department, and Ralph L. Puckett, T. & D. Department.

Beckley District—15 YEARS: G. D. Covey, Commercial Department. 10 YEARS: L. D. Bolin, Transmission Department. 5 YEARS: Nell Cody, T. & D.-Record Section and R. T. Honaker, T. & D.-Meter Section.

Bluefield District—35 YEARS: Marcelle E. Saunders, Local Accounting. 30 YEARS: Earl E. Sprinkle, Head Meter Record Clerk. 20 YEARS: J. E. Taylor, Local Office Manager. 15 YEARS: H. M. Strong, Jr., Local Office Manager, Princeton. 5 YEARS: Pauline Hawley, Accounting Department.

Cabin Creek Plant—10 YEARS: D. T. Briles. 5 YEARS: Linzie Vance.

Charleston District—30 YEARS: W. H. Garten, Accounting Department and A. T. Reed, T. & D., Meter Section. 20 YEARS: H. H. Wills, T. & D., Line Section. 15 YEARS: S. P. Dahmen, Accounting Department. 10 YEARS: Ray Smoot, T. & D., Line Section. 5 YEARS: M. W. Scott, Commercial Department.

Fieldale District—5 YEARS: L. R. Hawks, T. & D., Line Section.

Logan District—15 YEARS: Nicholas Roomy, Jr., Local Accounting and John T. Shriver, Commercial Department. 5 YEARS: Thomas J. Fleshman, T. & D., Line and Station Section.

Logan Plant—25 YEARS: B. W. Lanthorne, Shift Supervisor.

Lynchburg District—20 YEARS: Saylor S. Gilbert, Hydro Operator "B," Reusens Hydro.

Point Pleasant District—5 YEARS: F. E. Wolfe, T. & D., Meter Section; Loraine Crump, T. & D., Line and Station Section; J. W. Morrison, T. & D., Line and Station Section, and H. L. Chambers, Stores Department.

Pulaski District—5 YEARS: W. C. Grosclose.

Roanoke District—5 YEARS: E. J. Haga, Stores Department.

System—35 YEARS: J. Wade Smith, System Commercial Department. 30 YEARS: Emily L. Wade, System Accounting Department. 15 YEARS: W. L. Gordon, System Accounting Department. 5 YEARS: Barbara H. Harper, System Accounting Department; Jane B. Todd, System Transmission and Distribution Department, and C. J. McGhee, System Civil Engineering Department.

Welch District—5 YEARS: Jessie J. Lane, Truck Driver-Groundman.

Williamson District—5 YEARS: Florence R. Murphy, Local Accounting; Jack Maynard, Local Accounting, and Mabel Quattro, Local Accounting.

Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company

Hazard District—25 YEARS: H. F. Boling. 10 YEARS: Samp Branson. 5 YEARS: Robert L. Adams and LaRedith Pratt.

C. A. Zoellers Will Head March Of Dimes For Perry County

C. A. Zoellers, Hazard district commercial manager, has been named chairman of the 1954 March of Dimes campaign in Perry County.

Mr. Zoellers came with the company as a lighting engineer in January, 1947. In addition to varied work in civic affairs, Mr. Zoellers is also an active church worker. He assists in Perry County 4-H work and is a past president of the Kiwanis Club in that area.



Mr. Zoellers

E. E. Pitchford, Charleston Vet, Dies In Florida



Mr. Pitchford

Errett E. Pitchford, 52, until recently an employee in the Charleston T&D engineering department, died November 30 of a heart attack at his home in Fort Walton, Florida.

Born at Carbondale, August 12, 1901, Mr. Pitchford became associated with the company in 1926 when he was employed as a draftsman by the Virginian Power Company, later consolidated into the A. G. E. system. He remained in that capacity until January 15, 1952, when he was forced to leave the company because of ill health.

Surviving are his wife, Grace; a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Bailey of St. Albans, and a son, Robert, with the Air Force in Ft. Walton.

Funeral services were held in Charleston, December 5.

Employees Help Put Lights On Grid Field

When a South Charleston Boosters and Civic Club Drive fell short of its goal in an effort to raise funds for the lighting of Oaks Field, three company employees came up with a solution. They pooled their talents and directed the work on the job. As a result, the Charleston area now has another well-lighted athletic field.

The three company South Charleston boosters, Ronald Hively, R. C. Carte and Sanford L. Mullens, together, salvaged old transformers that had been sold for junk and installed and wired the project with the assistance of other spirited citizens. The project was completed in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Appalachian Electric Power Company

BLUEFIELD DISTRICT

Alfred H. White

from Sr. Engineering Record Clerk to Senior Merchandise Order and Billing Clerk.

John B. Kahle

from Sr. Merchandise Order and Billing Clerk to Residential Sales Representative.

CHARLESTON DISTRICT

Robert S. Young, Sr.

from Appliance Serviceman "B" to Sr. Merchandise Order and Billing Clerk.

C. J. Neeley

from Lineman "A" to General Serviceman.

Charles H. Leavens

from Groundman to Engineering Assistant.

Paul H. Parsons

from Head Distribution Record Clerk (Distr.) to Sr. Personnel Assistant (Personnel).

PULASKI DISTRICT

Ruby M. Lowman

from Local Accounting to Commercial Department.

SPORN PLANT

James R. Bailey

from Laborer, Labor Dept., to Helper, Maintenance Dept.

James F. Gibson

from Laborer, Labor Dept., to Helper, Maintenance Dept.

Clarence S. Jordan

from Barge Attendant, Yard, to Helper, Maintenance.

Denver E. Well

from Coal Handler, Yard, to Helper, Maintenance Dept.

WELCH DISTRICT

Estel Crabtree

from Lineman "C" to Lineman "B".

James R. Turpin

from Car Washer to Auto Repairman Helper.

Kingsport Utilities, Inc.

James W. Overbey

from Lineman "C" to Lineman "B".

Rebecca M. Lee

from Jr. Home Economist to Sr. Home Economist.

Edward M. Jones

from Station Man Helper to Station Man "C".

James D. Spivey

from Station Man Helper to Station Man "C".

James R. Murdock

from Plant Maintenance Man Helper to Station Man Helper.

Joe B. Baker

from Meter Serviceman "C" to Meter Serviceman "B".

Seven Couples Wed In Recent Weeks On Properties



Here are some recent brides and bridal couples among employees. TOP ROW, from left: Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Akemon, Welch; Mrs. B. R. Parkey, Jr., Bluefield, and Lt. and Mrs. R. G. Via, Beckley. SECOND ROW: Mrs. James Paul Smolder, Charleston; Mrs. Linton Smith, Pikeville, and Mrs. W. P. Caldwell, Roanoke.

Crosier-Via

Miss Jenna Lee Crosier became the bride of Lt. Robert G. Via on Saturday, December 12, in the Oak Hill Methodist Church, Oak Hill, West Virginia. The new Mrs. Via is the daughter of Cecil Crosier, sub-station operator at Scarbro in the Beckley District.

Perkey-Akemon

Miss Rinda Gay Perkey became the bride of A/3 Jerry D. Akemon on December 5, at the home of the bride's parents in Roderfield, West Virginia. Mrs. Akemon is an employee in the Welch district. Airman Akemon is stationed at Sacramento, California.

Hylton-Smith

Miss Gail Hylton and Linton Smith were united in marriage on Thursday, November 19, in Pikeville, Kentucky. Mrs. Smith is employed in the accounting department, Pikeville.

Bates-Parkey

Miss Patty Bates became the bride of B. R. Parkey, Jr., at Tazewell, Virginia, on November 26. Mrs. Parkey is home economist in Tazewell.

Cox-Caldwell

Miss Jo Anna Cox became the bride of William P. Caldwell on Saturday, November 7, at York, South Carolina. Mrs. Caldwell was formerly employed in the local accounting department, Roanoke.

Lane-Smolder

Miss Alyce Ilene Lane and James Paul Smolder were united in marriage on Saturday, November 15, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Charleston, West Virginia. Mr. Smolder is employed in the engineering section, Charleston.

Brown-Farmer

Mrs. Rebecca Brown and George Farmer exchanged wedding vows December 12 at the Christian Church Parsonage in Ashland, Kentucky. Mrs. Farmer is employed in the Huntington system billing office.



Bluefield Girl Service Club Officers



Bluefield Girls Service Club officers installed December 15 at their annual Christmas luncheon are pictured above. From the front: Zelda Alderson, president; Elsie Heifner, vice president; Ernestine Johnson, secretary, and Letha Thompson, treasurer. The new officers were installed by Mrs. Betty Farley, outgoing president. W. J. Gillespie, Jr., district manager, was guest at the luncheon where Alfred White, commercial department, was Santa and gave packages to all the girls.

Linda Wysong Wins Two Huntington Sewing Contests

Linda Wysong sews a fine seam. This was evidenced recently when she won first place in two Singer Sewing Center junior dressmaking contests. The daughter of Jim Wysong, area sales representative in the Huntington district, won both the local and regional contests in Huntington. She competed against 13 girls from 12 to 15 years of age. The girls entered complete outfits they made at the Singer Sewing School and modeled their own handiwork. Judging was based on shop level, design, fabric, construction, workmanship, fitting and finishing.

Linda's prize winning costume was a cotton sunback dress. In the local contest she won a five-piece scissor set. For placing first in the regional contest she was awarded a walnut sewing cabinet.

Linda has been sewing about a year and is 15 years old. She is a sophomore at Huntington High School. Last year she was an honor student and cheerleader in junior high.



Linda exhibits the ability that won her two first prizes in sewing contests.

Miss Saunders Of Bluefield Gets 35-Year Emblem



Miss Saunders

Marcelle E. Saunders received her 35-year service pin at an employee information meeting in Bluefield on December 4. The pin has seven diamonds, each representing five years of continuous service.

She came with the company on December 16, 1918, in the power department in Bluefield and worked for the late H. E. Shedd until April of 1926 when she transferred to the accounting office under W. E. Terry.

In June of 1927 she transferred to the payroll department and worked under the supervision of J. W. Woods. She now is assistant payroll supervisor. She moved to the payroll department when the main accounting office was consolidated in Roanoke.

A member of Bland Street Methodist Church, she is vice president of the Wesleyan Service Guild of which she is a charter member. She lists housekeeping as her hobby and lives with her father on Augusta Street.

Born in Bedford County, Virginia, she attended elementary school and high school in Bluefield. She is a graduate of Summitt City Business College in Bluefield.

In 35 years of service with the company, Marcelle says she has never been involved in an occupational injury which required first aid or medical attention. She says the biggest changes she has observed in the company is its tremendous growth and the increased amount of work in the payroll department.

New Arrivals

It's a new son for the WALLACE CORNETTS. Wallace Eli, Jr., was born December 5. Mr. Cornett is an employee of the Engineering Dept., Hazard.

OWEN STANLEY is the new son of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Stone. Owen was born November 30. Mr. Stone is employed in the Engineering Dept., Hazard.

MR. AND MRS. MARVIN MEADOWS have a new son, Charles Paul. Charles was born November 20. Mr. Meadows is an employee in the Commercial Dept., Hazard.

It's a daughter, BRENDA GAIL, born to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Bush on December 14. Mr. Bush is an employee of the Distribution Dept., Hazard.

MR. AND MRS. BUELL COOK are the parents of a son, Henry Lee, born November 27. Mr. Cook is an utility operator at the Logan Plant.

A son, JOHN NICHOLS, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John E. Weaver on December 9. Mr. Weaver is employed in the Bluefield garage.

MR. AND MRS. CLYDE RICE are the parents of a son, James William, born December 4. Mr. Rice is employed at the Kanawha River Plant.

It's a daughter for the HERBERT FERRELLS. Vicki Lynn was born December 9. Mr. Ferrell is employed at the Kanawha River Plant.

BILLY MICHAEL arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Barbour on November 28. Mr. Barbour is employed in the commercial department of the Williamson District.

MELVIN WOODROW is the new son born to Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Hunt on November 28. Mr. Hunt is employed in the line department, Roanoke.

GARY EVERETT is the new son born to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Dennis on November 19. Mr. Dennis is employed in the line department, Roanoke.

MARCIA SHIRIN is the new daughter born November 9 to Mr. and Mrs. Mark S. Wilhelm, Jr. Mrs. Wilhelm is a former employee of the system commercial department, Roanoke.

MR. AND MRS. JAMES F. DeHART are the parents of a daughter, Debra Carol, born December 12. Mrs. DeHart is a former employee of the system personnel department, Roanoke.

MR. AND MRS. MAXIE C. DWORNICK are the parents of a daughter, Regina Kay, born December 6. Mr. Dwornick is employed in the engineering department, Beckley.

Born to MR. AND MRS. DAN HALL, twin sons, Keith and Kenneth. Mr. Hall is an employee at the Glen Lyn Plant.

THOMAS JAMES is the new son born to Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Heslep. Mr. Heslep is employed at the Glen Lyn Plant.

It's a daughter, DANA FRANCIS, born to Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Shaw, Jr., on December 5. Mr. Shaw is employed at Byllesby Hydro Plant.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT L. HATCH are the parents of a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born December 19. Mr. Hatch is employed in the Lynchburg district.

Mrs. C. J. Burnett, Lynchburg Vet, Retires January 1



Mrs. Burnett

Mrs. Clara Johnson Burnett, Lynchburg district accounting department, ended nearly 27 years of service with the company when she retired January 1.

Mrs. Burnett joined the company on May 1, 1927, beginning in the accounting department. During the years she has handled many duties in that department, including contract work, complaints, investigation orders, issuing authorizations and so on.

She has been an active worker in the Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church since 1919. For the past eleven years she has been busy rearing two granddaughters, Martha Ann Morgan, a student at Madison College in Harrisonburg, and Angie Elizabeth Morgan, a sophomore at E. C. Glass High School in Lynchburg.

Mrs. Burnett remembers that when she was first employed the company owned the gas and street railway. Shortly after her employment, however, those rights were sold.

During her retirement Mrs. Burnett plans to spend more time with her two granddaughters, other relatives and friends.

Charleston . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

are new employees in the line section.

Sympathy is extended Charles Crawford, garage department, on the death of his mother.

Lynn Cavendish, engineering section, a lieutenant in the naval reserve, returned to work after two years active service.

Lewis Goeller, personnel department, resigned.

Felix Porter, T&D station section, has entered military service.

Anita Bowling is a new employee in the commercial department.

William C. Tyler, Jr., is a new employee in the meter section.

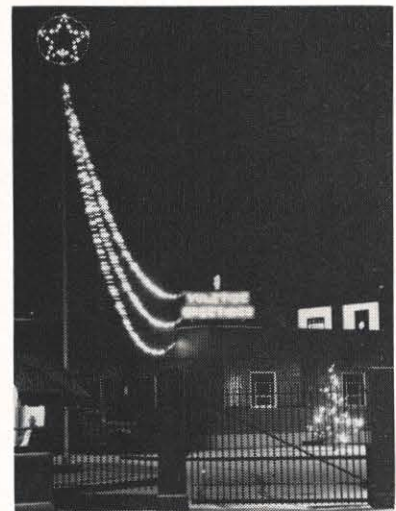
Roger Davis is a new employee in the engineering section.

John B. Showalter is a new employee in the stores department.

Harry Walker is a new employee in the garage department.

Sympathy is extended W. B. Abele, Kanawha River Plant, on the death of his father.

Logan Decorations



Logan service building took on a festive air for the season with this Christmas star, tree and sign erected by employees. Taking part in the work were Joe Kovich, Doris Atkins, Wayne Warren, Margaret Tyler, Oretha Lambert and employees of the line, station and engineering departments.

They're Engaged

MISS RUTH ANNE KIDD to Nelson G. Hamrick. Mr. Hamrick is employed in the Montgomery office, Charleston District.

MISS ELEANOR DILLARD to Roy Knott. Miss Dillard is the home economist in the Welch District.

MISS JUNE C. BURCH to Lewis Victor Woodson. Miss Burch is an employee in the commercial department in the Lynchburg district.

MISS JANE SUTHON to C. Richard Lovegrove. He is an employee in system public relations.

Retired Bluefielder Active In Florida Community Affairs



Herbert Markle, retired Bluefield division manager, stands before his home and garden in Lake Worth, Florida, where he has resumed his interest in community projects.

Neither retirement nor a change of address has affected Herbert Markle's interest in civic affairs. The former Bluefield division manager, now a resident of Lake Worth, Florida, has continued the community activity for which he was known before his retirement.

At Lake Worth he is on the vestry of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, takes an active part in Red Cross drives, and is a member of the Disaster Committee of the American Red Cross. In a recent letter to Bluefield he remarked that the last committee has been fairly inactive during the past three years—there have been no disasters or hurricanes in that area.

While at Bluefield, Mr. Markle served on the board of directors of many organizations, including the Red Cross, Community Chest, Country Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, War Fund Drive and others. He was president of most of the organizations at various times. In addition he was a member of the vestry and treasurer of the Christ Episcopal Church.

He and his wife spend much of their time in Florida taking care of their yard, flower garden, and enjoy golfing and deep sea fishing.

His devotion to Florida is expressed in an excerpt from a recent letter: "It is a pleasure to tell all our old friends that this is the place to live on retirement. While some are fighting snow and ice and we have a wonderful weather daily temperature of 80 to 82, with frequent showers, mostly at night."

Mr. Markle closed with "Best wishes to my old associates for a Happy New Year."

J. B. White Elected To Post With W. Va. Engineering Society

James B. White, Bluefield district power sales engineer, was recently elected assistant secretary-treasurer of the Southeast Chapter of the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers.



Mr. White

He was installed by State President Swanson in the company auditorium at Bluefield. He assumed duties January 1. Membership in the society is limited to registered professional engineers and its purpose is to promote the advancement of engineering on a professional level to safeguard the health, welfare and interest to the public, to encourage registration of qualified engineers and to standardize registration requirements of various states.

Reddy Flashes Are Inaugurated

During the past month Reddy Kilowatt has been put to work in a new way on the bulletin boards throughout the Southern Properties.

"Reddy Flashes" appeared on the bulletin boards throughout the districts and the plants carrying important news happenings in brief.

This new way of communications is being used to get spot news and announcements of importance from management to employees quickly and accurately.

Put in use in mid-December "Reddy Flashes" have already been used to give employees immediate word of important happenings.

"Reddy Flashes" will continue to appear on bulletin boards with important company, system, division and district news and announcements from time to time. The red flash will stay on the boards only a short time and then will be removed.

Look for "Reddy Flashes," they'll carry important news and announcements which will be of interest to you.

Fiala Elected To Board Of Service Corporation

S. N. Fiala, head of the mechanical engineering division and chief mechanical engineer for AGE, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Gas and Electric Service Corporation.

Mr. Fiala's election occurred at the board meeting on December 29.

Waldo S. LaFon Elected Beckley C. Of C. President



Mr. LaFon

Waldo S. LaFon, Beckley district manager, was recently elected president of the Beckley Chamber of Commerce. He was elevated to the position from the chairmanship of the Chamber commercial department.

Activities during the past year, in the commercial department, included working with coal mines and promoting of new industries in the area.

In addition to his work in the Chamber, he has served as co-chairman of the Raleigh County Red Cross drive, is a member of the board of directors of the local Chamber, the Red Cross local chapter, and the Lions Club. He is also district commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America.

J. E. Bedinger Named To Sales Post In Charleston Division Smashes Record

Joe E. Bedinger, senior power engineer in the Charleston district, has been promoted to commercial sales representative in the Charleston division.

A graduate of Hampden-Sydney, Mr. Bedinger has been engaged in commercial lighting and power activities for many years, having been instrumental in improving lighting installations throughout the Kanawha Valley.



Mr. Bedinger

He was employed by the company in the Charleston district on June 8, 1928, as a salesman, and on July 16, 1934, moved up to lighting and power sales. On December 1, 1937, he was promoted to junior power engineer and became a senior power engineer on March 1, 1945.

In his new assignment Mr. Bedinger will have charge of development and promotional work in connection with the heat pump, air conditioning and electric heating for commercial and industrial applications. Maintaining headquarters in Charleston, his field will also include the Beckley and Point Pleasant districts.

Fastest Human Is Brother Of Hamlin Employee



Major Yeager is shown getting out of the cockpit of the plane in which he first won the air speed title. This was the forerunner of the plane in which he flew 2 1/2 times the speed of sound.

"Fastest human on earth" is the title given Major Charles E. Yeager of Hamlin who has flown a rocket plane "between 1,600 and 1,700 miles an hour."

His historic flight at a speed more than 2 1/2 times the speed of sound was made December 12 in California. It came on the eve of the 50th anniversary of history's first powered flight.

The major is the brother of Pansy Yeager Cummings, cashier clerk in the Hamlin office of the Huntington district. He has been headlined in newspapers across the nation and has appeared on several national TV shows, the latest being the Goodyear TV Playhouse on the night of December 20 which commemorated the 50th anniversary of flight. He also was honored by President Eisenhower on December 17 at the Aero Club dinner in Washington.

He had recently returned from a mission in the Pacific, testing a Russian-built Mig-15 jet fighter turned over to the U. S. by a North Korean pilot. In October of 1947 he won the air speed title when he made a pioneer break through the sound barrier in a X-1, forerunner of the stubby-winged X-1A.

His most recent record was reached in a steep dive after being carried to a "high altitude" in the bomb bay of a B-29 and launched. Announced top speed of the X-1A in level flight is less than half the approximately 1,650 mph he attained.

Welch . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

PBX Operator, on the death of her grandmother.

Mrs. Elster C. Brown, accounting department, has resigned.

Cloyd E. Spraker, Pocahontas line crew, has returned to work after a leave of absence with the Army since March 2, 1951. He has been stationed at Camp Pickett, Va.

Carol Christie is a new employee in the commercial department.

Leonard Adams is a new meter reader.

Blood donors to the recent bloodmobile in Welch include: Howard Bivens, Billy Slade and W. T. Lanter, stores department; A. F. Horne and M. C. Porterfield, managerial department; Nell Nunnery, commercial department; Grace Fizer, distribution record department; J. A. Barns, engineering department and W. A. Chaffins, accounting department.

Parties Give Christmas Festive Air



The Christmas season brings with it many parties and the three companies are no exception. All over the Southern Properties gala events were held for employees, their families and their friends. These photographs were taken at just a few of these parties. TOP ROW, from the left: Children of employees at the Glen Lyn plant enjoyed a big party, including the antics of a clown and his dog. Second: The Kingsport children enjoyed movies, skits, refreshments and of course Santa Claus. Here, Myra Ann and Connie Faye Rayfield sing Christmas carols. Third: Radford Steam Plant employees and their families enjoyed their holiday celebration. Fourth: Pikeville employees went all out with several skits, including takeoffs on television programs. Here, Ireland Cline Layne, Perry Cline and Denver Layne are photographed during one of the big moments of "This Is Your Life", a humorous parody with a surprise ending. SECOND ROW, from the left: Abingdon district Kilowettes

highlighted that district's Christmas party. Middle: Participants in the talent show featured at the Charleston party line up for carols. Right: Colored employees at Roanoke enjoyed one of several parties in that district. THIRD ROW, from the left: The women employees of the Pulaski district are shown as they combine a farewell party for Jean Sharp and their annual Christmas celebration. Middle: Santa Claus takes requests from Logan children at their party. Right: A dinner party was held in the Fieldale district for employees. BOTTOM ROW, from the left: A turkey dinner, a dance, contests and prizes were combined when the Beckley district adults held their party. Middle: Approximately 350 employees and their guests gathered for the Bluefield Yule Party enjoyed dancing and dining. Right: Huntington employees and their guests are shown at their big party.

Highlights in SPORTS

Roanoker's Children Make Pop's Face Red On Fishing Pointers



Vickie and Mike Hedgecock show the trout they recently landed while fishing with their father.

Carl Hedgecock, an ardent Roanoke sportsman, is as red-faced as a fisherman can get during any single season. Carl's two youngsters, Vickie Lynn, 6, and Michael, 4, recently outfished their father and landed two king-sized rainbow trout that any angler would be proud to claim.

This fishing trip materialized after Carl had spent two hectic days in the woods on a very unsuccessful deer hunt. He decided to take the children fishing and show them the finer points of trout fishing. Carl was so thorough with his instructions that he landed a 12-inch one-pounder just to prove his points. "That's th' way it's done," he boasted.

When he had unhooked the trout, the happy threesome settled down to some serious fishing. It was about one hour of questions and answers before Carl had seen enough. Vickie, with her flimsy pole and line, had made her father speechless when she landed a twenty-inch rainbow that weighed four pounds and two ounces. Little Mike, with his fly rod all but doubled, made his father's mouth gape slack as he battled it out and brought in his nineteen-inch rainbow. Mike's catch weighed three pounds and eight ounces.

During all the strikes, Carl, fishing for all he was worth, was never able to recognize his second nibble. Mr. Hedgecock is a member of the system accounting department.

Sharp Friends



Campbell Sharpe has decided that the woodpeckers in Smyth County are sharp too—that is, their beaks. The Marion line crew working foreman of the Pulaski district is shown above with a power line pole top for which the neighborly woodpeckers seem to have a special affection. In the 18-foot section of pole, which has been in service only three and a half years, there are 14 holes, courtesy the "sharp" woodpeckers.

Dave Woolwine Voted "Most Outstanding" In VMI-VPI Classic

Dave Woolwine, Virginia Military Institute's 1953 varsity quarterback of Abingdon, was named the most outstanding player of the day following the annual VMI-VPI Thanksgiving football classic which was held at Roanoke. For his achievements, Dave was presented a 21-jewel Benrus wrist watch by a Roanoke jewelry firm.

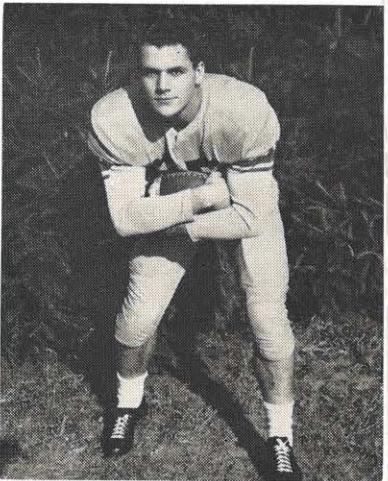


Dave Woolwine

Dave, for the past two years, has served the company as a summertime employee working with the Washington County line crew. He also was a member of the Abingdon district softball team.

In addition to football, Dave is an all-around athlete. He was a member of the VMI baseball squad and pounded out an average that placed him in the school's "300" Club. He also found time during the summer to play baseball with the Abingdon Blues of the Burley League.

Roanoker's Son Named To All City-County 1953 Football Team



Jimmy Roberson

Jimmy Roberson, son of C. O. Roberson of Roanoke, recently was voted two outstanding honors for his achievements on the gridiron during the 1953 football season. The 17-year-old William Fleming High School fullback was named to a berth on the All Roanoke City and Roanoke County high school teams, then co-captain of Fleming's Colonels for 1954.

Jimmy, a hard-driving backfield man, has lettered two seasons with the Colonels. He has been a member of both of their District Six championship squads and devotes some time to other sports. He was a member of the Fleming track and wrestling teams.

Young Roberson also is outstanding in his scholastic work. He is an honor student; a member of the National Beta Club; and has played with the band. He plays both the piano and the saxophone.

Mr. Roberson is an administrative assistant in the executive department.

Sporn Family Raises Unusual Pets; Squirrels Give Laughs And Scratches



William Wentzell, his wife and son, David, watch their pet squirrels romp, play and eat. These unusual pets, raised from a medicine dropper, soon will leave the house for a new home in a cage.

Although many readers may think William Wentzell of the Philip Sporn Plant resembles Peter Lorrie in appearance, he does not adhere to the actor's eerie and mysterious actions. Instead, Bill has a very tender spot in his heart for most anything or anybody. This squirrel story will prove it.

Last hunting season, Bill bagged a squirrel near his home at Letart, West Virginia. Two days later, while stalking the woods near the same spot, he found two baby squirrels on the ground. He felt responsible and took them home where the Wentzells began the raising of their unusual pets.

The little pets began their stay with the Wentzells in a small box in the kitchen. They were so small they were fed with a medicine dropper and the family soon became quite attached to them. As the squirrels grew, they tried their teeth on about everything in the house and deserted the box for the comfort of a coat pocket in one of the closets.

Today, they are a riot. They play all through the house; race over the furniture; climb the curtains; hide

nuts under rugs and in pockets; cut all sorts of capers; fight and sleep in waste paper baskets. They also enjoy riding Mrs. Wentzell's shoulder in the kitchen. When she is at the sink, they scamper down her arm and drink from the faucet. She refers to them as her fur piece.

They eat well, too. Their favorite foods include peanut butter sandwiches, graham crackers, apples, ice cream and nuts. Mrs. Wentzell remarked, "After eating—they wash their faces with their paws then use their tails to dry on. They're fun. We've had a few scratches but an awful lot of laughs with our pets."

System . . .

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months in Germany with the 5th Engineer "C" Battalion.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. McCormack entertained employees of the operating department at their home on Saturday evening, December 12.

Recent blood donors include: W. A. Irvin, Jr., and J. M. Bradley, real estate and right-of-way department.

System Sportsmen Bag Deer, Turkey And A Wildcat



Throughout the Southern Properties, company sportsmen have stalked the woods for a wide assortment of game. Many made the kills they expected; others came home empty-handed; and still others brought in the unexpected. Here are a few system sportsmen and the results of their hunting trips. TOP ROW, LEFT: Charles D. Ross, Lynchburg, and his daughter, Cathy, stand beside Charlie's 170-pound, nine-point buck. CENTER: Bob Crusenberry, Abingdon, poses with the first deer he ever got a shot at in five seasons. Other Abingdon district hunters not shown, Eugene Rasnake and George Fields, also bagged deer.

UPPER RIGHT: Garlin E. Hill, Bluefield, claimed a nine-pound wild turkey and a 100-pound, eight-point buck for his third day in the field. LOWER LEFT: I. F. "Slim" Houston, did not get what he wanted. On a deer hunt near Clinch Mountain, this Tazewell employee came home with a thirty-pound wildcat that measured about 30 inches long. Slim is having the "Cat" mounted for a friend. LOWER RIGHT: C. J. Kelly, Charleston, and C. E. Pitsenberger, Beckley, split their six-point buck following a recent hunt. Lucky hunters but no photographs, include: Jack D. Martin, Welch, 125-pound deer; Paul Hall, Welch, 110-pounder; Homer W. Dyer, Logan Plant, a four-point, 145-pound buck.

Merrifield Is Award Winner In Tri-State '53 Fishing Contest



Al Merrifield, right, accepts a fishing trophy from Bill Moos after being named an award winner in the recent tri-state fishing contest.

A. L. Merrifield, a rabid Huntington district angler, was named one of the award winners in a recent tri-state fishing contest. Al, by landing the largest small-mouth bass in the event, was presented a plaque and complete spinning outfit for his prize catch. The contest sponsored by McDaniel & Moos, a sporting goods concern, attracted fishermen from many sections of West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

Al reeled in his contest winner while fishing from a boat in the New River near Hinton last fall. It took him ten minutes to land his 5-pound bass. Al said he used a casting rod and reel with a twelve-pound line and soft shell crawfish for bait. He did not compete in the large-mouth bass or trout divisions.

Al, a veteran employee of the company, was employed as a lampman in 1927. He is an electrical engineer. During World War II, he entered the naval service as a warrant officer and had attained the rank of lieutenant commander when he was released to inactive duty.

Paul S. Dunn Wins 1953 Illuminator Award For Second Consecutive Year



W. A. McClung, editor at left, presents "The Illuminator" Award to Paul S. Dunn of Abingdon for being the outstanding correspondent on the employee publication for 1953. Watching the presentation made at the Abingdon district Christmas party on December 18 is Claud Kirkland, district manager.

The 1953 award to the outstanding correspondent for THE ILLUMINATOR has been won by Paul S. Dunn of the Abingdon district. It is the second consecutive year that Paul has received the award and the third year it has been won by the Abingdon district.

The award, now four years old, is based on advance outline; promptness, completeness of news; variety and originality of news; and volume.

Four Others Given

For the first time four special awards were given other correspondents who did exceptionally fine jobs during 1953. The men who received these awards were Wilson Z. Trumbo, Kingsport; Gene B. Hale, Pikeville; C. L. Shockey, Bluefield and W. R. Witzel, Charleston.

Judging is done by the Roanoke editorial staff. In the letter announcing the award winner, the staff said, "Never before in the four-year history of THE ILLUMINATOR have we had such a difficult time of selecting the correspondent who did the outstanding job. We think that fact is

significant. It indicates to us that a good job is being done by many of the districts and plants in submitting news and consequently THE ILLUMINATOR is becoming a better, more interesting publication."



Mr. Trumbo

Mr. Witzel



Mr. Hale

Mr. Shockey

Officers Named In Abingdon Club



Officers and the board of directors for 1954 were elected at the December meeting of the Abingdon Employees Club. The officers, shown from the left above, are Geraldine Wilkes, records department, treasurer; Dick Warden, engineering department, president; Edythe Garnand, stores department, secretary; and James M. Orr, station department, vice president. The board of directors consists of Doris Fleenor, managerial department; Carson Carmichael, commercial department; Paul Lethcoe, engineering department; Peggy Johnson, accounting department; O. G. Quillen, distribution department; Edythe Garnand, stores department; Glen Settle, meter department, and V. C. Armtrout, Washington County line crew.

Transformer Course Completed In Beckley



Employees representing all departments and two local areas in the Beckley district recently completed requirements for certificates in the Westinghouse transformer training course. These certificates were presented to 67 employees from Beckley departments, Oak Hill and Rainelle at a dinner at the El Chico restaurant December 16. Instructors for the course included W. C. McMahan in Oak Hill, O. C. Hall in Rainelle and C. C. Darrah, Fred Helm and B. B. Corker in Beckley. Shown above are six employees holding their certificates. They are, from the left: A. H. Lilly, A. R. Allen, R. W. Martin, M. C. Dwornick, J. R. Lowrey and E. J. Wood.

Beautiful Girls, Safety Highlight Roanoke Program

Picture a stage with Santa Claus and an average citizen discussing Christmas. Suddenly six beautiful girls parade onto the scene, each carrying a message of importance.

That was a highlight of the safety program presented in the Appalachian auditorium before system and Roanoke district employees, December 23. The girls represented a safe Christmas—Mrs. Mary Nelson was Miss Candle, Mary Ann Grisso was Miss Christmas Tree, Mrs. Belle Wyatt was Miss Decoration, Maxine Kitts was Miss Christmas Wrapping, June Eller was Miss Christmas Lights and Mrs. Lillian Spradlin was Miss Fire Extinguisher.

Admission to the show was parcels of canned goods, which were later turned over to the Christmas Basket Bureau in Roanoke.

Santa Claus, who also doubled as Safety Claus, was played by Willard Sutor, while the citizen, a subject for Santa's Christmas safety instructions, was portrayed by J. A. Mundy. In a previous scene Mrs. Jewel Woolridge and Tommy Smith played Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the happy couple at home on Christmas Eve. Others in actual characterizations were L. R. Buchanan as a messenger, Nancy Cooper who played the piano, M. L. Burdette, who played the trombone and Bobby Main, who did the commentating.

A. B. Snead and David Stoner were co-chairmen of the program, while W. S. Kitchen and Noble Marshall produced the script, assisted by D. C. Duncan.

Leadership Training Earns Employee's Son National Trip



Lawrence Rayburn Newsom pauses with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Newsom, before boarding a bus in Pikeville on his way to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago.

Lawrence Rayburn Newsom recently realized a dream that most 4-H club members have. He was given an all expense paid trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago November 28-December 4, where he mingled with the top 4-H'ers in the country.

He is the son of L. M. Newsom, Pikeville district distribution records supervisor. The trip was awarded him because of his participation in the junior leadership project in Kentucky. He is president of the Robinson Creek 4-H club.

A senior at Virgie High School, he has been active in the organization for nine years. This year he was state champion in woodworking and received a scholarship to a recreation center as a reward for being named state champion in rural arts and recreation. He also received a 4-H club jacket for participation in a recent metal roofing project.

He is the first person from Kentucky to go to the national convention since 1949.

Appa-Mo Club Gives Orphan Home TV Set



Santa Claus arrived a little early this year at the Hines Memorial Home for Orphan Children when the Appa-Mo club of the system accounting department in Roanoke presented the children with a television set. Philip C. Ray, president of the club and assistant general bookkeeping supervisor in the department, is shown presenting the set to Louise Vaughn, who accepted on behalf of the children. Standing back of the two is F. C. Evans, chairman of the board of the Hines home. At the right are two club representatives, Glada Fleishman, secretarial stenographer, and C. L. Fulp, general accounting clerk.

E. S. Brown Named Commander Of Naval Reserve Unit

E. S. Brown, Charleston division radio engineer, was recently installed as commanding officer of the U. S. Naval Reserve Volunteer Composite Company 5-3, with headquarters at South Charleston.

He is Lt. Commander in the Naval Reserve. A veteran of front line action with the Marines in World



Lt. Cmdr. Brown

War I, he also served for five and a half years as resident inspector of naval materials during World War II, at Birmingham, Alabama, and Knoxville, Tennessee. He has been an active member of the Naval Reserve since 1938 when he was in command of a communication unit.

The company he recently assumed command of is composed of officers who meet once a week for lectures on the latest naval affairs.

Twenty-Year Clubbers In Pulaski District Honor Seven Members At Dinner

Employees of the Pulaski district with 20 or more years' service honored seven of their group recently with a dinner.

Pins for service were given James M. Brown, 30 years; E. L. Shaw, 30 years; Bates McGlothlin, 30 years; Palmer DeHaven, 30 years; Frank Surratt, 30 years; Maxwell Saunders, 25 years and S. L. Johnson, 20 years.

Retired employees of the district were guests. Those included Miss Lena Schrader, J. D. Ryan, C. A. Dudley and W. S. Crawford. D. P. Minichan served as master of ceremonies.

Point Pleasant Transformer Training Course



These Point Pleasant employees are taking the Westinghouse transformer training program. M. C. Clark, line and station supervisor, is conducting the course which lasts seven weeks. Seated, first row from the left: Loraine Crump, Bucky Walters, T. A. Jewell, R. D. Miller, H. J. Patterson, J. L. Stewart and O. W. Hesson. Second row: C. H. Murray, Jr., K. G. Roush, F. E. Wolfe, T. J. Rose, Benny Neal, Guy Simmons, L. I. Roush and C. D. Stalnaker. Third row: W. O. Sallaz, W. F. Machir, Bruce Langford, C. E. Fowler, W. H. Stricklen, J. R. Hoffman, G. C. Fowler, W. M. Pancake and C. W. Jewell.

J. W. Smith Given 35-Year Emblem At Roanoke Meet



Mr. Smith

J. Wade Smith, system commercial department administrative assistant, was among a number of veteran employees who recently were honored at a dinner in the company auditorium at Roanoke. At that time Mr. Smith was presented his thirty-five year pin.

Mr. Smith began his lengthy career in the electric utility business in 1918 at Bluefield. His first assignment was in the mail room, then later, he was transferred to various assignments in the accounting office. He remained in that department for the next eleven years. From 1929 to 1942, Wade served the company as a power billing clerk in the commercial department.

During World War II, Mr. Smith was on military leave. He spent more than three years in the finance section of the Air Force prior to being released to inactive duty. Upon returning to Bluefield, Wade took up his new duties as a power engineer and specialized in lighting installations. He was transferred to his present assignment at Roanoke in 1947.

Mr. Smith and his wife, Emily, have been making their home in Roanoke since the transfer to the general offices was made.