

1978

## FOUR APCO MEN WIN PRIZES IN OPERATING IDEAS COMPETITION



Shoemaker



Pullen



Powell



Herndon

Four Appalachian Power employees were among the 16 AEP System prizewinners in the 1977 Operating Ideas competition. They were awarded shares of AEP Company common stock.

The largest prize of 200 shares went to **Joe W. Pullen**, production engineer at the Central Machine Shop, for his article, "Hybrid Design Solves Pulverizer Problem", in the July/August issue of Operating Ideas.

**Rex F. Shoemaker**, plant performance supervisor, and **Charles A. Powell**, performance engineer senior, both of Amos Plant, divided 160 shares for their article, "New Heat-Rate Computer Based on Air Flow", in the November/December issue.

Shoemaker and Powell also split an additional 90 shares with **Robert E. Herndon**, performance supervising engineer at Amos, for their article, "Monitors Generator Reactive Currents", in the March/April issue.

Other prize winners were:

**W. A. "Wendy" Work** of Plant Engineering, AEP Service Corporation, Canton. He shared 50 shares of stock with **S. M. Terry**, former performance engineer senior at Clinch River Plant, for their article titled "Undercut Impeller Increases BFP Capacity", published in the March/April issue.

**Thomas O. Argenta** and **Marco W. Migliaro** were awarded 50 shares for their article, "Standards Program Saves Dollars", which appeared in the September/October issue. They are the head and standards squad leader, respectively, in the Service Corporation Electrical Design Plant Section.

**Charles Capper**, maintenance man at Indiana & Michigan Electric Company's Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, won 160 shares for "Saves 550 Man-Hours Changing Engine Parts", published in the November/December issue.

**William E. Arnold**, performance supervising engineer at Kentucky Power's Big Sandy Plant, received 90 shares for his article, "Flexible Alarm Guards Generator Excitation" in the March/April issue.

**Stephen R. Jack**, I&M meter engineer at Fort Wayne, was awarded 80 shares for "Seals Leaking Oscillograph Galvanometers", which appeared in the September/October issue.

**Donald R. Lautzenheiser**, Ohio Power senior relay engineer at Canton, received 60 shares for his article, "Simple Circuit Replaces Expensive Relay" in the March/April issue.

**Daniel L. Gibbens** and **Jack E. Lucas, Jr.**, Ohio Power communications engineers in Canton, divided 60 shares for their article, "Microcomputer Detects Phone Circuit Ills", in the March/April issue.

In a separate competition, three employees of Ohio Valley Electric Corporation and Indiana-Kentucky Electric Corporation received a record \$2,600 in cash prizes. The winners were:

The late **Elmer G. Boggs**, former maintenance foreman at OVEC's Kyger Creek Plant, received \$1,200 for his article, "Shield Extends Life of Pulverizer Springs", which appeared in the May/June issue. The award was made to his widow Marie, also employed at Kyger.

**Gayle C. Manaugh**, maintenance man at IKEC's Clifty Creek Plant, received \$800 for his article, "Improved Belt Scraper Is Maintenance Free" in the March/April issue.

And **Homer Dyer**, maintenance foreman at Clifty Creek, was awarded \$600 for his article, "How To Manage Pulverizer Maintenance", in the May/June issue.

## AEP STUDYING TWO KENTUCKY PLANT SITES

Kentucky Power Company announced last month it was carrying out studies of two sites on the Ohio River in Lewis County as the first step toward construction of a major new coal-burning power plant on one of them. It is expected to comprise two 1.3-million kilowatt generating units, similar to those at the General James M. Gavin Plant near Gallipolis, Ohio, and to cost more than \$1.5 billion.

Waldo S. La Fon, executive vice president of Kentucky Power, said the plant would help meet the needs of customers of the entire American Electric Power System as foreseen by the mid-1980s.

He explained that environmental and socio-economic studies were underway at two potential plant sites: a 2,400-acre site six miles downstream from Vanceburg and a 1,400-acre site six miles downstream from South Shore. These preliminary studies will assist in choosing the preferred site and will provide the basis for applications for an estimated 50 federal, state and local permits required for the plant's construction. "These are burdensome but a necessary part of operating an electric utility to meet an urgent public need," La Fon said, and "thus part of the reason for the long lead time involved in planning and building a modern power plant." The studies are expected to be completed by mid-1978.

The plant, both in its construction stage and in full operation, would "have a tremendous beneficial impact on the economy of northeastern Kentucky." He estimated about 3,500 people would be employed at the peak of construction and the project's total construction payroll would approximate \$500 million. The permanent operating staff would require an estimated 335 people.

"Further," he concluded, "this new plant would burn an estimated 7- or 8-million tons of coal a year. We anticipate it will be primarily fueled by Kentucky coal, representing a real boost to one of this state's major industries." The AEP System presently uses about 7-million tons of Kentucky coal a year, including nearly 3-million tons of eastern Kentucky coal at the Big Sandy Plant near Louisa, Kentucky.

Finally, La Fon emphasized the new facility would "be totally compatible with the environment".

## APCO SEEKS SCC APPROVAL OF LOAD MANAGEMENT TEST

Appalachian Power Company last month asked the Virginia State Corporation Commission to approve an experimental program which "may have the potential of helping to stabilize the cost of electricity".

John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian, said, "The experiment will test the value to the company and its customers of controlling the operation of electric heating and air conditioning equipment."

The program will involve 120 homes in either the Lynchburg or Roanoke area. From its operations center in Roanoke, Appalachian will control the customers' electric heating and air conditioning equipment through the use of radio signals that will activate a special control unit in each of the homes being tested.

Vaughan said, "By cycling the equipment off and on for varying lengths of time, we will be able to determine the effect on the company's peak load and ascertain the optimum mode of operations. An important part of the experiment will be an appraisal of customer acceptance of cyclical control of heating and air conditioning equipment. The tests will be carried out at various times of the day and over the four seasons of the year."

"At this time we cannot predict the outcome of the experiment or its benefits. However, we feel this program has considerable potential for reducing electric demands and over the long term could mean a reduction in the need for additional generating capacity or other facilities on Appalachian's system. If successful, this could be another means of helping to stabilize the cost of electricity," Vaughan added. The information collected from the 120 homes will be evaluated to determine if the experiment has sufficient merit to extend it throughout Appalachian's system.

Residential customers in the area selected will be asked to participate on a voluntary basis. The customers must be served from the same distribution line in order to measure the results of the test. Those who participate will receive credit on their electric bills.

The experiment is expected to get under way in about six months after approval by the Commission and will continue for at least one year. The estimated cost of the experimental program is \$140,000, which includes special equipment and labor to conduct the tests.

The test is another in a series of experimental load-management programs being conducted by Appalachian. Electric thermal storage systems are being tested in 30 Virginia homes. These furnaces store heat in special refractory bricks during off-peak hours of the night for use during the following day. The company also has a load research study under way on some 240 homes in Virginia and West Virginia, seeking information on how residential customers use electricity.



## THE ILLUMINATOR

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## T&D MAKES CHANGES



Simmons



Old



Minnich

Charles A. Simmons, executive assistant to the executive vice president of Appalachian Power, has been named manager of the company's General Office Transmission and Distribution Department. He succeeds E. C. Rankin, whose retirement story is on page 4 of this issue. T. W. Old, former assistant T&D manager, became manager of the new Construction and Maintenance Division of the department. And Owen R. Minnich, former engineering superintendent, assumed the new position of T&D engineering manager. All three promotions were effective January 1.

Simmons, an electrical engineering graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology, is a registered professional engineer in West Virginia. He attended the Program for Senior Executives at Massachusetts Institute of Technology last year.

Old holds a degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and has attended American Elec-

tric Power System Management Training Programs at the University of Michigan.

Minnich is an electrical engineering graduate of the University of Cincinnati and has also attended the AEP System Management Training Program at the University of Michigan. He is a registered professional engineer in W.Va.

## TWO PASS EMT EXAM



Philpott



Isner

R. T. Philpott, hydro clerk A in General Office Hydro, Roanoke, and Richard Isner, electric plant clerk A in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, have passed examinations to be certified as Cardiac Emergency Medical Technicians in the State of Virginia.

This certification qualifies them, under the guidance of an emergency room physician via telemetry, to start IV fluids, administer drugs, defibrillate cardiac victims and insert esophageal airways in the field prior to transport to hospital. This advanced life support greatly decreases the percentage of victims of cardiac emergencies who die prior to their arrival at the hospital.

This program required approximately 60 hours of classroom time and 40-plus hours in the emergency room, intensive care and cardiac care units of a local hospital to qualify for the exam.

## KINGSPORT POWER RATES REDUCED

A decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (formerly the Federal Power Commission) has reduced Appalachian Power Company's wholesale rate increase to Kingsport Power by \$356,159 annually.

On September 21, 1976, Appalachian was allowed by the FERC to increase its wholesale rate by almost \$6-million annually, based on the 1976 year, but subject to a refund with interest if the final decision of the commission called for a smaller increase in the wholesale rate.

Kingsport Power, with the approval of the Tennessee Public Service Commission, increased its retail rates in the same amount as the wholesale rates, subject to the same refund provisions.

John Faust, Kingsport Power executive vice president, said that approximately 32,000 customers will share in the rate reduction and will receive refunds amounting to about 1.25 per cent of their total billings since September 21, 1976 with nine per cent interest.

The refund will be made after approval of Kingsport Power's new retail rates by the Tennessee Public Service Commission.

## SPEEDY DECISION SOUGHT ON C&SO ACQUISITION

American Electric Power Company last month filed a request with the Securities and Exchange Commission, urging it to speed up its decision on a proposal that AEP acquire Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company. At the same time, C&SO filed a similar motion with the SEC.

The acquisition proposal, calling for an exchange of common stock, has been before the SEC since February 23, 1968.

AEP, in its filing, pointed out, among other things, that new facilities needed to meet added electric power requirements in the three-year period 1983-85 alone would involve an investment of about \$3 billion, and that much of this program would need to be financed by the issuance of securities. The AEP motion thus stressed that the planning and execution of its program for major generation and transmission facilities through 1985 and beyond were being hampered by uncertainty as to whether or not C&SO would become part of the AEP System.

C&SO, in its motion, also emphasized that the pendency of the proceeding had restricted its financing plans in recent years and that such restrictions could be expected to continue until the matter is resolved by the SEC. As a measure of the size of its problem, the utility pointed out that its expansion program over the 10-year period 1977-86 called for the expenditure of over \$2 billion for construction, and that probably 50 to 60 per cent of this amount would have to be funded through the sale of securities.

The 10-year-old proposal has been heavily supported in Ohio by that state's past and present governors, U. S. senators and representatives, Public Utilities Commission, business and civic leaders, and both its rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric systems.

## AEP SYSTEM NEWS BRIEFS

### STEFFOFF ELECTED OPCO VP

John W. Steffoff last month was elected vice president of Ohio Power Company, effective January 1. He succeeded William A. Black, whose election as a vice president of the AEP Service Corporation is reported elsewhere in this issue.

Steffoff has been with the AEP System for 28 years, the first 25 in Indiana & Michigan Electric Company. For the past three years he has been Ohio Power's manager of transmission and distribution.

Steffoff holds a civil engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame. He also attended Idaho State College and the basic and advanced AEP management programs at the University of Michigan.

### SHAY NAMED ROCKPORT MANAGER

Cecil E. Shay, manager of Ohio Power Company's Kammer and Mitchell plants, was named manager of Indiana & Michigan's new power plant near Rockford, Indiana, effective December 1. He will be located at the plant site October 1, 1978.

He will be succeeded as manager of Kammer-Mitchell by Nile D. Richmond, former assistant manager.

Also, the Kammer-Mitchell complex will have two new assistant managers: George E. Briers, Jr., who had been manager of the recently deactivated Cabin Creek Plant, and P. E. Bischof, who has been promoted from production manager at Mitchell.



## AEP TO BUILD DEMONSTRATION COAL-CLEANING PLANT IN OHIO

The American Electric Power System last month announced plans to construct a demonstration plant in southeastern Ohio to prove a new coal-cleaning process that could lead to the wider use of high-sulfur coal.

In pilot-plant operation, the unique process, developed by Otisca Industries, Ltd., Syracuse, N. Y., has removed significant amounts of sulfur, ash and other impurities from coal by passing it through a bath of heavy liquid. Based on the principle of specific gravity, the process separates coal particles, which float to the top, from the impurities, which sink to the bottom. After drying, the coal is then ready for burning, while the impurities are collected for disposal.

W. S. White, Jr., AEP chairman, said the company's investment in the demonstration unit will be \$6.7 million. Construction will begin as soon as possible, with production scheduled within two years. It is expected the unit will produce 125 tons of clean coal per hour when in full operation.

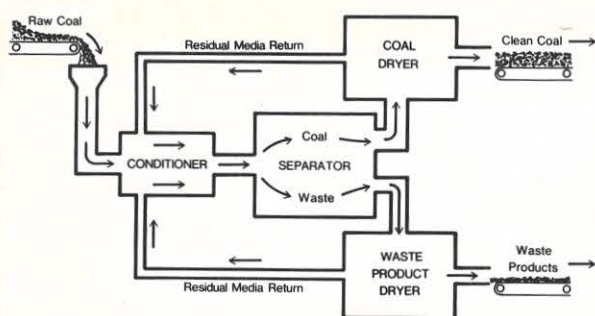
The demonstration plant will be built in the Muskingum Mine area of Ohio Power Company. The cleaned coal will be used at the nearby Muskingum River Plant.

Significance of the announcement lies in the promise of the new process to make higher-sulfur coal, prevalent in the eastern states, more usable for electric power generation, and to do so more efficiently and at less cost than by other means. This is important, White explained, because of the environment-related prohibitions or inhibitions involved in the use of such coal without a substantial reduction in its sulfur content.

In 1976 the AEP System used almost 36-million tons of coal to generate about 90% of its electric power at 13 coal-fired power plants in five coal-bearing states. In general, coal in Ohio and Indiana is high in sulfur; in Kentucky and northern West Virginia, medium in sulfur, and in southern West Virginia and Virginia, low in sulfur.

"We must make maximum use of the coal available within our service area, and we see, in the Otisca process, a means to this end," White said. Aside from making the coal more environmentally acceptable, he added, the process also improves its Btu level, resulting in more kilowatt-hours of electricity per ton burned. "Thus," he concluded, "we get an improved environment, as well as greater efficiency and economy at a lower cost than would otherwise be possible."

### HOW OTISCA WORKS



The conventional way to clean coal today is to crush it and wash its impurities away with a slurry of water and magnetite. This has been a means of getting rid of a good percentage of impurities, such as rock and clay, and a reasonable percentage of the sulfur.

The Otisca process, in its development to date, has already demonstrated that it can remove substantial amounts of impurities, including sulfur. With the continued development of the process, it is expected that the results will be even better.

The Otisca method uses no water. Instead of water and magnetite, it employs a bath of heavy-liquid media. This media has a specific gravity of 1.5, which causes the coal (having a lower specific gravity) to float to the top and the impurities (with higher specific gravities) to sink to the bottom. If water (specific gravity of 1.0) were the media, this would not happen, as the coal, being heavier, would also sink with the impurities.

The accompanying diagram illustrates this simple idea. Raw coal, already crushed, enters a conditioning tank, where it is "conditioned" by the media. It then moves to a separating tank, where the full separation of the coal and its impurities takes place. Both the "clean" coal and the impurities are then moved to respective dryers for the recovery of the last traces of the media. After being dried, the coal is sent on its way to the power plant, the waste products to a disposal area at the mine.

## CONSTRUCTION REORGANIZATION STRESSES "PROJECT MANAGER" CONCEPT



Jones

Bennett

The AEP Service Corporation's Construction Department has been reorganized to stress the "project manager" concept. This change has resulted in the creation of two divisions and three sections to support the projects and project managers. All changes were effective December 1, according to Robert S. Hunter, senior vice president — construction.

The following have been promoted to project manager: **John R. Jones**, who has been named project manager of Appalachian Power Company's 1.3-million kilowatt, coal-fired plant under construction at New Haven, West Virginia. Jones, who holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, had been assistant construction manager and site project manager for construction at Indiana & Michigan Electric Company's Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant.

**Bruce H. Bennett**, who has been named project manager for the installation of generating facilities at Appalachian's existing Smith Mountain combination pumped-storage and hydroelectric development in Virginia and to the U. S. government's Racine Dam on the Ohio River at Racine, Ohio. He is a graduate of Duke University.

**Jack J. Cademartori**, who has been appointed project manager of I&M's 2.6-million kw, coal-fired plant under construction near Rockport, Indiana. He had been assistant head of the former Projects Division since late 1972. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Newark College of Engineering and attended the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology.

Additionally, **Robert C. Lehrer** continues as assistant project manager for the completion of the 1.1-million kw Unit 2 at Cook Plant and has been given additional responsibilities in the nuclear field. He is a mechanical engineering graduate of Newark College of Engineering.

**Walter H. Hoera** has been named a project staff engineer. He had been assistant head of the Power Plants Projects Section.

The new Project Control & Support Division is headed by **Steven J. Marmaroff**, assistant vice president, who was head of the former Projects Division. He is assisted by **Paul Daley**, who has been named assistant division head.

The Project Control & Support Division has been divided into three areas of responsibility:

The Contract Administration group, headed by **John C. Hoebel**. He has both bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell University.

The Transmission & Distribution Cost & Scheduling group continues to be directed by **Arthur Lannon**.

A new Project Cost & Scheduling group has been formed; however, its head has yet to be appointed.

The Plant Construction Division, which continues to be headed by **Frank V. Sweeney**, has been divided into three sections:

Construction Contracting, headed by **Gus A. Rothmaler**. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Cooper Union.

Construction Personnel, headed by **Earle T. Snodgrass**. Snodgrass had been manager of the Plant Construction Division since it was established in Canton in 1974. He worked on many System construction projects, including Clinch River Plant and Smith Mountain Project.

Mapping & Survey, to be headed by **McKinley M. Mullins**. This office will continue to be located at the General James M. Gavin Plant. He has also worked on many System projects, including Clinch River Plant, Amos Plant and the Blue Ridge Project.

The Plant Construction Division also includes:

**Richard E. Burt**, safety and security supervisor. He had been construction and safety engineer since the post was created in 1971.

**Eugene P. Dennehy**, construction labor relations supervisor. A graduate of Cornell University School of Industrial Relations, he had been labor relations director-construction since 1972.

The Transmission & Distribution Division, headed by **A. J. Samuelson**, will continue to report directly to Robert Hunter.

## THE POWER OF SAFETY . . . YOU!

"The power of safety . . . YOU!", a slogan submitted by Malcolm E. Reed, has been selected as Appalachian Power's new safety slogan. Reed, a building engineer in General Office General Services, Roanoke, was awarded a \$50 U. S. Savings Bond.

Authors of the best slogan in each division, plant and general office department were presented 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  lb. Ansol Sentry Fire Extinguishers — ABC type. Reed's slogan was selected the winner by a committee composed of: Joan Cummings, executive director, Roanoke Valley Safety Council; Douglas Forbes, personnel and safety director, Virginia Department of Highways; and Wesley W. Posvar, area sales representative, Mine Safety Appliance Company.

Reed has requested that his savings bond be given to the first employee who performs a lifesaving act during 1978. The employee could be either on or off the job when the act is performed, and the individual saved may or may not be another employee.

To be considered for this one-time award, an employee should prepare a factual written report of the lifesaving act, along with a physician's statement if practical, and submit them to his local personnel supervisor. The reports will be forwarded to the Safety Section of the General Office Personnel Department for evaluation by a two-member committee, one of which will be Reed.



## RETIRING T&D MANAGER PRAISES EMPLOYEES



"One of the real pleasures of my job as T&D manager over the years has been the super group of dedicated employees I have had in this department to accomplish the job. They have always pursued their work to the best of their ability and have always participated in company training and self-training in order to perform the work more safely. I have never seen in any other utility a more capable or more dedicated group. Their willingness has made managing this department a real pleasure," declares Emmett C. "Dutch" Rankin. He retired January 1 after more than 42 years' service.

Dutch began his career in 1935 as a groundman after graduation from Virginia Military Institute with a degree in electrical engineering. "During the Depression, it didn't matter if you had a degree or not," he recalls. "The groundman position was a training position for everyone who was hired during that time." The following year he became a meterman and was promoted to meter tester in 1937.

"I was sent to Huntington when the flood hit that area in 1937. We arrived in Kenova by train at 4 o'clock in the morning, where Mr. Steckel, then general meter superintendent, picked us up. The first thing we saw as we entered Huntington was a big, two-story frame house setting in the middle of the road. The company had rented the Park Tower Hotel for a place where the employees who were from out of town could stay. The Ohio River was over its banks, and the water had engulfed the hotel lobby. We had to enter the building through the second floor window where a ladder had been hung."

Dutch entered the Army in 1940 and returned as a lieutenant colonel in 1946. "When I came back to work after World War II, Jimmy White, then district manager, told me I would be the Roanoke Division substation engineer. He said he couldn't give me any duties because there had been no such job before. He said I would have to decide what the job consisted of and then get it done. He also said I should report to Bill Krebs or Charlie Allen, according to the nature of the work. So here I had a new job with no guidelines as to its duties and, to top it off, I had two bosses with my choice as to which one I should report to. This made an interesting situation.

"Shortly after this, the System T&D Department was organized. Because of some success I had had, particularly with the success of the Danville synchronous condenser, I was recruited by J. P. Cruickshank and Henry Clark for this department. They told me the headquarters would be in Charleston for a while but eventually would be moved to Roanoke. They also added that I would be traveling half the time and would be home on the weekends so I should leave my family in Roanoke.

"We had our next big flood experience in Kentucky and West Virginia shortly after the GO T&D Department was well organized and had moved to Roanoke. We now refer to this as the 1957 flood. It wiped out all of the eastern Kentucky power sources of any major capability. We wanted to get someone into Hazard, so I volunteered. I called my friend Marshall Harris at the Roanoke airport and found out there were two Army helicopters headed for Kentucky on relief work. Being a Reserve officer, I was able to hitch a ride to London, Kentucky, and from there to Hazard. The ride happened to be in the car of Governor Happy Chandler.

"Chandler was standing in the London Airport and everyone seemed to be asking him questions. When I found out who he was, I went up to him and told him I worked for M. C. Funk and needed to get to Hazard to help get the power on as soon as possible. He looked at me and said, 'You work for Matt Funk?' I said, 'yes sir', and he pointed to his car. 'You go get in that big black cadillac. You, myself and my driver will be the first three people in Hazard', and we were. At Hazard all the employees worked in the station for two and a half days around the clock without sleeping or changing the clothes we arrived in.

"There have been many other interesting experiences such as the building of the 765 kv system for Appalachian and the creation of the 34.5 kv distribution concept. Both of these have contributed greatly to the company's operation. The GO T&D group had much to do with this creation. Our department has participated in a large part of the electrical features connected with the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project, which was unique and interesting. We also supervised and inspected the construction of the Apple Grove Test Project above Huntington, and we have contributed trained manpower to assist the engineers and technicians in making tests to create better high voltage transmission systems."

He continues, "This job has never been a real unbearable burden to me because I've always been able to enjoy it. Nancy and I now plan to do a little relaxing and running around for a while. Then we will settle down in Roanoke and live pretty much like we always have with the exception of spending more time at our Smith Mountain Lake home. For a start, we are going to take the Virginia cruise in January, which will take about 11 or 12 days. Then we are going to take a charter plane trip with the VMI Alumni in February to Rio. For the month of March we have signed up for a sailing school in St. Petersburg, which is a week's duration and involves a short cruise. After this we haven't any specific plans except to see more of our two grandchildren in Oregon."

Dutch is a member of the Raleigh Court Methodist Church in Roanoke, the Elks, Shenandoah Club, IEEE, Southeastern Electric Exchange, the U. S. Coast Guard and is a registered professional engineer in Virginia. His hobbies include boating, trap and skeet shooting and building music systems.

## SERVICE CORP. ELECTS OFFICERS

Four new officers of the AEP Service Corporation were elected last month: two vice presidents and an assistant vice president, all newly created positions, and controller.

William A. Black was elected vice president — division operations, and Louis H. Marino was elected vice president — rates. Also, Joseph H. Vipperman was elected controller, and Peter Schulhof, assistant vice president — special contracts. They all became effective January 1.

Black, who had been vice president of Ohio Power Company, will remain in Canton and will report to Frank N. Bien, vice chairman — operations. In turn, three Canton-based managers will report to Black: Donald E. Ruff, transmission and distribution operations; Paul W. Roof, automotive; and Robert H. Walters, land management.

Black's primary responsibilities in the newly created post will be to assist the operating heads of the AEP System's seven operating companies, and their staffs, in assessing, measuring and improving the efficiency of their operations and to coordinate the preparation of budgets for controllable expenses in the operating companies and then to monitor and review the actual expenditures.

Marino, in moving into the new position of vice president — rates, will assist John G. Howard, senior vice president and head of the Rate Department, in directing the AEP System's overall rate-making activities. He had been manager of that division. Schulhof, also a member of the Rate Department, had been administrator of special contracts.

Vipperman, who had been deputy controller, succeeded Richard E. Disbrow as controller and head of the Controllershship Department. Previously, Disbrow had held two offices: those of vice chairman and controller. He will now be vice chairman — administration.

## NEW YEAR BRINGS CHANGES IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Important changes in three of the AEP System's employee benefit programs and in social security became effective January 1. Here's a quick summary:

The AEP System employee savings plan began January 1, and participants will first see deductions for it in their January paychecks. Over 10,000 System employees, or approximately 78 percent of those eligible, had enrolled as of December 12, the cut-off date for opening day participation. Only 7.4 percent of eligible employees waived participation. Sixty-nine percent of the initial participants put all their contributions in the plan's Fixed Income Fund. Fifty-one percent contributed 6 percent of their base earnings — which is the maximum contribution that can be matched on a 50¢-on-the-dollar basis by the company.

January 1 was also the starting date for another increase in medical insurance benefits. On that date full payment of semiprivate hospitalization benefits went up to \$2,000. That's \$500 more than in 1977. In 1978, an employee will pay \$7.00 per month for insurance coverage for spouse and \$11.00 per month for full family coverage. That's up from \$3.00 and \$5.00, respectively, in 1977.

AEP's retirement plan became totally non-contributory for the first time on January 1. In 1977, deductions were 1 percent of the first \$16,500 of base earnings and 2.5 percent of base earnings over \$16,500. This improvement will also be seen in January paychecks. Effective at the same time is a new method of calculating retirement benefits. Benefits will now accrue at the flat rate of 1.5 percent of base earnings per year after 1977. The company pension will be reduced by 1.5 percent of the retiree's social security benefit for each year after 1977, up to a 50 percent maximum reduction of the social security benefit.

Under the previous pension formula, an employee would have been credited at the rate of 1 percent of base earnings up to \$7,800 annually and 1.5 percent for earnings above that figure.

Social security deductions also changed as of January 1. In 1977, deductions of 5.85 percent were made on the first \$16,500 of employee's base earnings. In 1978, deductions will go up to 6.05 percent (from employer and employee each) on the first \$17,700 of base earnings.

The 1978 improvements in the System Benefit Program were announced early in 1977 as a three-year package of improvements. Further improvements follow in 1979.



# WORKING TOGETHER IS KEY TO 22 SAFE YEARS



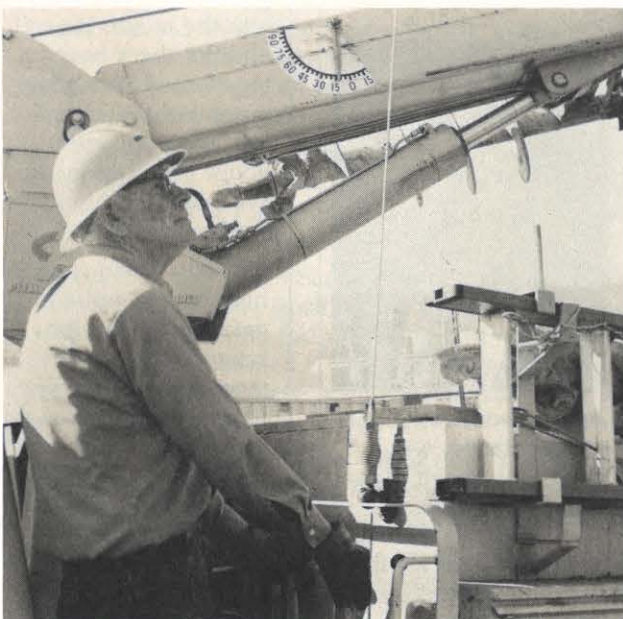
Martin



From left, Thurman, Cooper and Lawson



Sheppard



Hawks

Working together is a key ingredient for the Stuart employees' enviable safety record. On October 25, 1977, the 11 employees in the Stuart area of Roanoke Division reached 22 years and more than 550,000 manhours without a disabling injury.

All agree that their accomplishment is the result of the close fellowship and the friendly, concerned attitude each has for his fellow workers. "There's something else, too," says Meter Reader Benton Wood. "A good attitude toward safety and the job you're doing is just as important."

"The fact that we've had no disabling injuries during the past 22 years is wonderful," chimes in Arch Keene, meter service mechanic B. "I had the misfortune of working just one span away when the last one happened. Harvey Merriman, a line foreman and close friend of mine, was electrocuted. We had adjoining seats in our church choir. You can't describe how awful it is to lose a friend that you've worked so closely with and known for so many years."

Amnon Sears, area supervisor, declares, "We're proud of our accomplishment in the area of safety. I believe pride on the part of all our employees has been the main motivating factor in setting such a record."

Doug Cooper, line crew supervisor NE, says, "I listen to the others. If they suggest a better way to get the job done, that's the way we do it."

Lawrence Hawks, driver-ground helper, adds, "It's mostly keeping your mind on what you're doing — awareness."

"It's dangerous work, and we've had some close calls. Maybe we learned from that," remarks Rayford Thurman, line mechanic A.

Mike Lawson, line mechanic C, says, "Safety is an everyday thing and, like the tools on my belt, it's part of my work makeup."

George Turner, customer accounts representative B, notes, "You can't even momentarily forget safety. That's when an accident strikes."

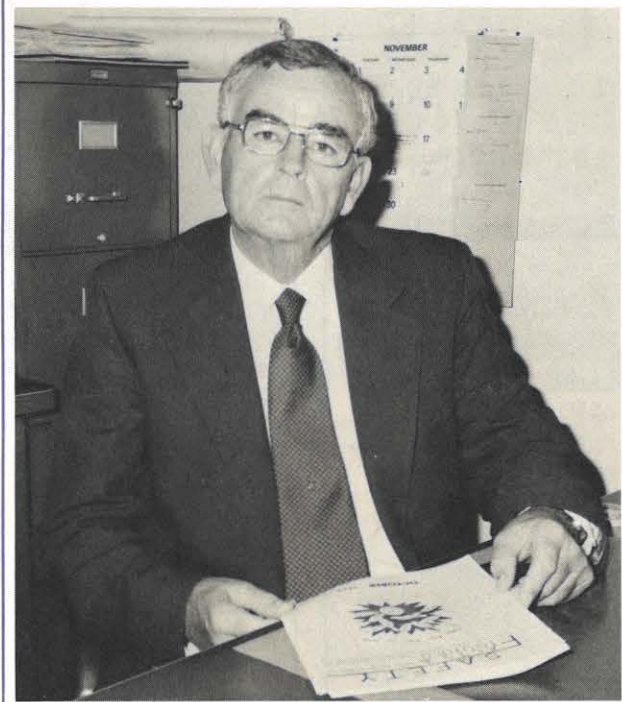
"We work together as a close unit; that's the secret," observes Gary Sheppard, line mechanic A.

Ray Martin, meter service mechanic A, says, "You have to consider the suffering an accident can cause you and your family."

And Meter Reader John Bell concludes, "We have gotten into the habit of thinking safety on the job."



Keene



Sears



Turner



Wood



Bell



# POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

## Abingdon

**Lottie Johnston**, wife of P. G. Johnston, right of way agent, was elected treasurer and board member of Virginia Highlands Home, Inc.

**Wilma Bradley**, junior clerk, and **Linda Gill**, wife of Stores Attendant R. D. Gill, assisted with American Education Week festivities at Abingdon Elementary School.

**Melanie Buchanan**, daughter of Residential Advisor A. S.

Buchanan, is a member of King College Chapel Choir.

Washington County Schools' annual all-county concert, held at Patrick Henry High School, featured these employees' children:

**Sandra Johnson**, trumpet, daughter of Personnel Clerk Peggy Johnson; **Ellen**

**Ferguson**, bass clarinet, daughter of Commercial Representative W. H. Ferguson, Jr.; and **Randy Morefield**, snare drum, son of J. C. Morefield, engineer B.

## Beckley



**Sandra Lynn Dwornick** was awarded a certificate of achievement by King's Daughters Hospital, Ashland, Ky., for completing a 168-hour course in intensive coronary care. The daughter of M. C. Dwornick, engineering technician senior, she was one of two students who received a gold stethoscope for having the highest grades during the course. A graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology, Sandra is a registered nurse in the coronary care unit of Beckley Hospital.

## Bluefield



**Jonathan Farley**, son of Engineering Technologist Jay Farley, was selected a member of the Southwest Virginia regional symphonic band. A sophomore at Graham High, he plays trombone and sousaphone in the school band.

## Central Machine

**Sam Gross**, husband of Lynda Gross, plant clerk C, received a \$10 check and letter of commendation from the U. S. Army Reserves, citing him for outstanding recruiting procedures.

## Charleston

**Stephanie Blake**, daughter of Collector Billy Blake, and her partner advanced to the semifinals of the Kentucky Women's Intercollegiate Conference State Tennis Tournament. Stephanie is a sophomore at Berea College, majoring in physical education.

**Eugene A. Smith**, engineer B, was a judge for speech events at the Wheeling Park Arts Festival.

## General Office



**Mike Price**, son of L. Dean Price, right-of-way agent, GO R/e & R/w, Roanoke, has signed a football grant-in-aid with Appalachian State University. A three-year letterman at Northside High School, his honors include 1st team All Metro and Roanoke Valley District and 2nd team All Regional and All Timesland.

**Tom Philpott**, hydro clerk A, GO Hydro, Roanoke, was reelected captain of the Vinton First Aid Crew for 1978.

**David A. Lovegrove**, a senior at VPI&SU, has recorded two achievements at the school. An art major, he had a lithograph chosen to be placed in the school's permanent art collection. He was also the undergraduate winner of the school's annual intramural cross-country meet. David is the son of C. Richard Lovegrove, public information supervisor, GO Public Affairs, Roanoke.



**Carl L. Phillips** was named chaplain of his former Army group, the 62nd Signal Radio Intelligence Company, at their annual reunion in Pennsylvania. A right of way agent in GO R/e & R/w, Huntington, Carl is a licensed Baptist minister and teaches the Berean Bible Class at the Baptist Temple in Huntington.

## Huntington

**Clayton W. Dunlap**, retired meter supervisor, was elected treasurer of the Huntington Kiwanis Club.

## Kingsport

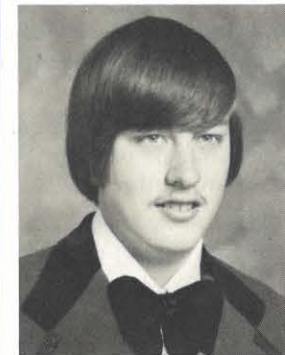
**Mike Fugate**, son of Emory J. Fugate, transmission and distribution superintendent, was awarded a plaque by the Kingsport Optimist Club in recognition of good citizenship.

**Paul Miller**, service clerk, has earned his second-class commercial radio license after passing the Federal Communications Commission exam.

## Logan-Williamson

Division Manager **Floyd H. Taylor, Jr.**, was elected an executive board vice president for manpower of the Chief Cornstalk Council, Boy Scouts of America. Reappointed to the executive board council was **Emery Jeffreys**, son of the late Emery Jeffreys, Jr., former stationman. **A. Paul E. Owens**, Williamson area service supervisor, was named a new member of the executive board. **Ralph H. Baughan**, Logan customer accounts supervisor, was selected a council member-at-large.

## Lynchburg



**W. David Crews, Jr.**, son of the division personnel supervisor, was named to the 1977-78 Who's Who in American High Schools. He is a senior at Brookville High.

**J. W. Dalton**, station mechanic B, has received a diploma from International Correspondence Schools for completing a master electrician's course.

**Herbert M. Figg, Jr.**, commercial engineer, was chairman of the Veterans Day Committee for the City of Lynchburg. A retired Virginia National Guard colonel, Herb participated in the annual veterans recognition program.

## Pulaski

**F. W. Myers**, customer accounts representative A, was named to the board of directors of the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce.

**J. B. Brillheart**, administrative assistant, was reappointed to the Town of Pulaski board of zoning appeals.

New officers of the Wytheville Employees' Benevolent Association are **S. D. Gibson**, line mechanic B, chairman; **J. W. Houseman**, meter reader, vice chairman; and **T. M. Bass**, area service restorer, treasurer.

## Roanoke

**Shelba J. Murphy**, daughter of Garage Attendant Henry Murphy, was appointed supervisor of special education for Prince William County School System, Manassas, Virginia. She holds BA and MA degrees from Hampton Institute and is pursuing a doctorate of education degree in administration and supervision from the University of Virginia.

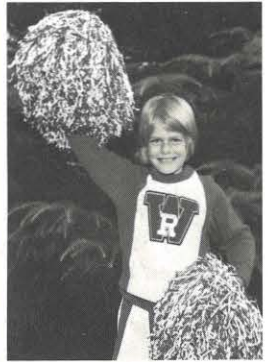


**Rod Hamblin**, son of R. H. Hamblin, meter service mechanic C, was named to the Group AAA All-Northwest Region scholastic football squad. He was selected first team all-district left defensive end and first team all-region left defensive end. The 6'1", 190-lb. senior has played on the varsity squad at Northside High School for three years as tight end on offense.

**John R. Hubbard**, son of K. K. Hubbard, engineering technician senior, was named director of engineering for the Roanoke County Public Service Authority.

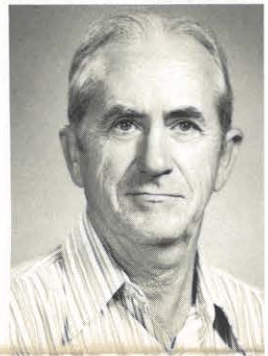


**Joel Wilson**, residential representative, was elected president of the Oak Level Ruritan Club for 1978. He has been a director for the past three years. Joel was also elected treasurer of Oak Level Baptist Church.



**Lisa Rutledge**, daughter of Stenographer Vicki Rutledge, was a member of the Williams Road Kiwanis Pee Wee cheerleading squad which won first place in the Pee Wee category in cheerleading competition at Victory Stadium, Roanoke.

## HALEY RETIRES TO FARM



"Living on a 160-acre farm means I will not have any trouble finding things to do," says Albert W. Haley. He was a meter electrician A in Lynchburg before electing early retirement October 1 after 30 years' service. He continues, "Since I have been at home every day, the time seems to fly by. I always had a lot of work saved up to do on Saturdays, but now that I am home, I had no idea how much I had saved up!"

Albert adds, "I started out in the Roanoke Meter Lab. I really enjoyed that. We used to tear the meters down and put them back together. At that time, instead of the sample test, we went from house to house every five years, testing the residential meters."

He says, "I enjoy quail hunting and hope to get with my English setter to take advantage of being at home. I hope I can get caught up with my work around the place, but have gotten a reputation as handyman in the neighborhood. When it looks like I'm going to catch up, something else breaks down."



## TOWBOAT REPLICAS PRESENTED



Widows of three former executive vice presidents of Appalachian Power Company received scale models of the new AEP towboats named for the men. The towboats are part of the 16 added to the AEP River Transportation Division in recent months. From left, Mrs. Richard E. Hodges; John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian Power; Mrs. Guy L. Furr, Sr.; and Mrs. Joe P. Gills.

## MORRISON GETS EARLY START TOWARD CAREER AS ARTIST



"Since I was old enough to hold a pencil, I have enjoyed drawing," says Mike Morrison, son of Charlie Morrison, Kingsport line crew supervisor. "My earliest influence was probably from comic books, but I feel that my mother, who is an accomplished artist, has been my greatest influence."

Mike, whose drawings reflect the style of Frank Frazetta, nationally known heroic fantasy illustrator, is well known locally for his drawings that appear on the "Teen Scene" page of the *Kingsport Times*. The page is made up of articles written by reporters from area high schools.

Each Tuesday the "Teen Scene" editor outlines for Mike the content of the story he would like to have illustrated. He has 24 hours to formulate his ideas and prepare an ink drawing for publication in Friday's paper. He receives \$2.50 for each illustration published. "Usually the newspaper will publish one of my drawings each week, but there have been some weeks that two and as many as four have been used," Mike relates.

When attending middle school, Mike drew illustrations for the school's annual and newspaper. He also illustrates the cover of "Impressions", a book of poems and short stories written by fellow students and published annually.

A high school junior, Mike is vice president of the Art Club and a member of the writers' club. He is also vice president-personnel of his Junior Achievement company.

He plans to major in art at the University of Tennessee with the hope of becoming a commercial artist, designing book covers and possibly illustrating comic books.



Retired employees from Charleston Division and Cabin Creek Plant enjoyed their annual Christmas luncheon at Humphrey's Driftwood Room, Charleston, last month.



Dave Stoner, Roanoke Division credit supervisor (seated), buys a share of stock in "The Force", the Junior Achievement company sponsored by Appalachian Power in Roanoke. Observing are, from left, Linda Smith, JA secretary; Sidney Carter, JA vice president-manufacturing; Jim Fralin, GO electric plant clerk C; Rodney Bumbry, JA president; Mike Howard, GO personnel assistant senior; Jimmy Wagoner, GO electric plant clerk C; and John M. Wright, Roanoke customer services supervisor. Fralin, Howard, Wagoner and Wright are JA advisors. "The Force" manufactured hanging baskets for the Christmas holiday season and are now deciding on a new product.



New officers of the Lynchburg Retired Employees Association have been elected: Lloyd Miller, president; James B. White, vice president; Robert G. Hooper, secretary; and Saylor S. Gilbert, treasurer. Directors are Ernest B. Pinkard, Robert L. Hatch, Loyd T. Smith, Edward J. Rice and R. Conner Foster. Pictured following a recent meeting of the retirees are (seated, from left), Miller, Foster and Hatch. Standing, J. W. McCarthy, Woodrow H. Key, Gilbert and Pinkard.



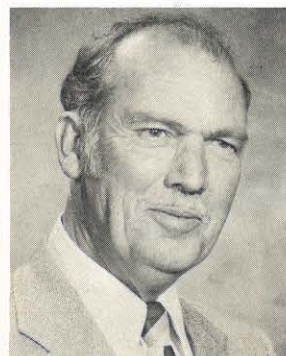
New officers of the Welch Employees' Benevolent Association in the Bluefield Division are, from left, Dottie Lawless, secretary-stenographer, secretary-treasurer; Hobart White, general line supervisor, member; E. L. Freeman, meter reader, member; Rodney McCoy, line mechanic C, member, and Calvin Belcher, T&D clerk A, chairman.



# VETS GIVEN SERVICE AWARDS



**C. A. Shepherd**  
Area Supervisor A  
Pulaski  
40 Years



**E. E. Wyatt**  
Coal Equipment Op.  
Clinch River  
35 Years



**Dorcas Moncer**  
Cust. Serv. Clerk A  
Huntington  
30 Years



**J. E. Chapman**  
Line Crew Supv. NE  
Bluefield  
30 Years



**G. C. White**  
Unit Supervisor  
Philip Sporn  
30 Years



**L. G. Clark**  
Unit Supervisor  
Philip Sporn  
30 Years



**A. O. Yost**  
Area Serv. Restorer  
Beckley  
30 Years



**J. E. Crum**  
Meter Reader  
Huntington  
20 Years



**J. E. Webb**  
Res. Representative  
Charleston  
20 Years



**Mary Jo Quickle**  
Cust. Accts. Rep. B  
Charleston  
20 Years

**Beckley**  
5 Years: **J. C. Gwinn**,  
meter service mechanic  
D.

**Bluefield**  
5 Years: **P. L. Arrington**,  
line mechanic B.

**Charleston**  
5 Years: **Ramona Cooke**,  
customer accounts representative  
B.

**General Office**  
30 Years: **G. C. Fowler**,  
express driver, GO-Huntington. 25  
Years: **T. M. Wise**,  
transmission mechanic  
A, GO-Abingdon. 10  
Years: **J. P. Buchanan**,  
engineering technologist, GO-  
Bluefield. **G. R. Lowe**,  
classification and ac-  
counts payable control  
clerk, GO-Roanoke.

**H. C. Dunlap**, trans-  
mission mechanic A,  
GO-Charleston.

**Brenda T. Campbell**,  
stores accounting clerk  
A, GO-Roanoke. 5  
Years: **Charlotte M. Collins**,  
classification and accounts payable  
clerk B, GO-Roanoke.

**D. E. Conley**, trans-  
mission mechanic B,  
GO-Huntington. **D. W. Howell**,  
electrical engineer, GO-Roanoke.

**S. F. Ramsey**, trans-  
mission mechanic B,  
GO-Charleston.

**Huntington**  
15 Years: **Joycelyn A. George**,  
customer accounts representative  
A.

**Kingsport**  
5 Years: **G. L. Williams**,  
line mechanic C.

**Lynchburg**  
5 Years: **T. A. McConaghy**,  
drafter  
C.

**Pulaski**  
10 Years: **T. D. Alderman**,  
line mechanic A.

**Roanoke**  
10 Years: **F. R. Pilson**,  
line mechanic A. 5 Years: **B. W. Shuff**,  
customer accounts representative  
B. **S. T. Neely**, line  
mechanic C.

**Philip Sporn**  
25 Years: **E. P. Duffy**,  
maintenance mechanic  
B.

# FIELDS ENDS 38-YEAR CAREER



**Margaret Matheny Fields**, plant clerk B at  
Cabin Creek Plant,  
elected early retirement  
January 1.

A native of Deepwater,  
West Virginia, she at-  
tended West Virginia  
Institute of Technology.

**Margaret** began her  
career in 1939 as a  
stenographer and  
worked as a clerk in-  
termediate, clerk  
senior, and time clerk  
senior before moving in  
January, 1977 to the  
position she held at  
retirement.

**Margaret**, who enjoys  
reading as a hobby,  
may work part-time or  
serve as a Red Cross  
volunteer. Traveling is  
also a part of her  
retirement plans. A  
widow, **Margaret** has  
one child.

# MOSS JOINS RETIREES



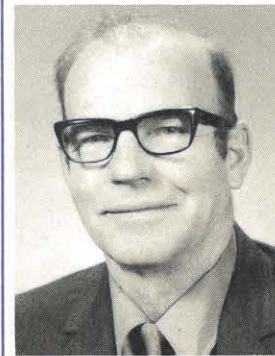
**Wilbur Norman Moss**,  
shift operating engineer  
at Cabin Creek Plant,  
elected early retirement  
January 1.

A native of Crown Hill,  
West Virginia, he  
began his career in  
1941 as pumpman and  
laborer. During his 36  
years' service, he also  
worked as a boiler  
operator D, C and A  
and assistant shift  
operating engineer.

"I've enjoyed my years  
with the company; it's  
been a good company  
to work for," **Wilbur**  
says. Now he's going

to do a lot of camping  
and fishing and spend  
more time on his hob-  
bies of building model  
trains and CB radio  
operation. He is a  
member of the  
Episcopalian church  
and the Odd Fellows.  
**Wilbur** and his wife  
**Madaline Lucille** have  
one child and two  
grandchildren.

# JACKSON RECALLS EARLY DAYS



**C. M. Jackson**, area  
supervisor A in the  
Lebanon area of  
Abingdon Division,  
retired January 1 after  
more than 41 years'  
service.

**Jack** started to work in  
1936 as a truck driver  
with **Jim Davis'** crew in  
the old Bluefield/  
Clinch Valley District.

He notes, "Our crew  
was called the bull  
crew by some and the  
floating gang by others.  
We performed work all  
over the district. The  
rougher the job, the  
better we liked it. I  
worked with this crew  
until 1944 when it was  
disbanded."

**Jack** was a line inspec-  
tor before moving to  
Tazewell as a working  
foreman or "straw  
boss" as they were  
called then. It was dur-  
ing this time that **Jack**  
met his wife **Virginia**. "I  
was 32 years old when  
I got married. When I  
was working with the  
bull crew, we worked  
on Sunday and took  
Monday off when  
everyone else was  
working. There was  
just no time for  
courting."

Recalling what some  
refer to as the "good  
old days", **Jack**  
declares they were  
anything but good. The  
first office he worked  
from was located on  
the site of an old C. C.  
Camp and was right  
beside a pig pen. "In  
the summer the stench  
was awful. We worked  
in all kinds of weather  
and carried the  
material, including  
poles, on our back to a  
lot of the job locations.

I remember setting a  
pole in a cornfield on  
one occasion, and **Jim  
Davis** made us carry a  
45-foot pole to the end  
of a row and then walk  
between two rows of  
corn to set the pole.  
We only broke two  
stalks of corn!"

**Jack** was moved to  
Clintwood as line  
foreman in 1947 and  
was named local  
superintendent in  
1950. The title was  
later changed to area  
supervisor A.

A member of the Clint-  
wood Kiwanis for 21  
years, he served in  
every official capacity.  
He was a town coun-  
cilman for four years  
and is a past master of  
Clintwood Lodge #66  
A.F. & A.M. After  
moving to Lebanon in  
1971, he became ac-  
tive in the Lebanon  
Lions.

**Jack** looks forward to  
retirement with mixed  
feelings. He will miss  
his daily contact with  
the employees and  
customers but plans to  
enjoy every minute of  
the leisure time he has  
worked so hard for  
over the years. "I feel  
that I have had a part  
in the growth of the  
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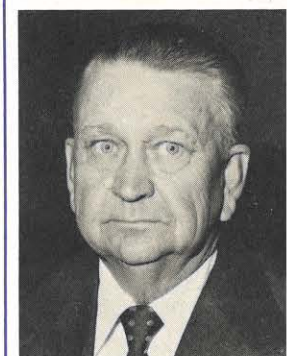
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# MARVIN SPANGLER RETIRES



**Marvin Carlyle Spangler**,  
Pulaski line  
inspector, elected early  
retirement January 1.

A native of Mercer  
County, West Virginia,  
he began his career in  
1936 as a laborer. Dur-  
ing his more than 40  
years' service, he has  
worked as a lineman,  
groundman, inspector,  
area serviceman and  
meter serviceman.

"**Winkie's**" retirement  
plans include helping  
his next-door-neighbor,  
Retiree **S. A. Dewey**,  
with his fishing.

"**Winkie**" and his wife  
**Margaret** have one  
child and two grand-  
children.

"**Winkie's**" retirement  
plans include helping  
his next-door-neighbor,  
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with his fishing.



## CLAIMS EXPERT RETIRES EARLY



When anyone in Appalachian Power Company gets sick or has an accident, it's a safe bet that sooner or later Mary White Jacobs is going to know about it. Mary White, who retired January 1 as personnel assistant in General Office Personnel, Roanoke, handled all medical claims for the entire company. She says, "I just love insurance. It's a part of me. There's never been a dull moment. You'd think that after all these years all the questions would have been answered, but there's something new coming up all the time."

Two of Mary White's sisters are registered nurses and she at one time applied for nurse's training. "While I was waiting for a new class to form, I went ahead and enrolled in National Business College. I was doing so well there that, when I was notified of the new nursing class, I decided to continue at NBC. I've never regretted it.

"One Saturday morning, shortly after graduating from NBC, I received a call from the school secretary, saying Appalachian wanted a secretary on a temporary basis. I told her to give me time to get dressed, and I started that afternoon. The company was selling I. E. S. lamps as a promotional campaign for electricity. When the campaign ended, I transferred to the Payroll Department where I handled all of the insurances and benefits for the Roanoke employees."

In 1944 Mary White moved to San Diego, California, where her husband was stationed in the Army. The following year she returned to work in her former job. "The girl who replaced me had gotten married and transferred to the New York office," she recalls. In 1968 Mary White moved to General Office Personnel. "This is when I started working only medical claims for the whole Appalachian System. I've taught a lot of girls, who had just started working medical claims, over the telephone. When I told one girl I was retiring, she said I couldn't because she wouldn't know what to do. I assured her she wouldn't have any problems," laughs Mary.

She continues, "I'm going to miss all the employees that I talk to over the phone every day. These people become part of you, and I'm going to miss the relationship I enjoyed with them. I also will miss the employees at the Aetna office. I have worked with one woman in that office for 26 years. I guess I've worked with more people in the company than anyone else."

"I have lived a very exciting life, and I still plan to do so. The main reason I am taking early retirement is because of my good health. It will give me a chance to do things I didn't have time to do before, such as reading, giving parties, taking walks and visiting the many relatives we have. My husband Emmett is going to continue to work from month to month. I'm glad of that because I don't want him under my feet at first. This will give me a chance to do some redecorating in my house. When Emmett retires, we plan a trip to Hawaii."

Mary White is a member of the Belmont Christian Church and enjoys collecting antiques.

## RETIREE WILL KEEP IN TOUCH



Dorsey Vernon Armstrong, joint pole use supervisor in General Office T&D, Roanoke, retired January 1.

Vernon and Dutch Rankin, whose retirement is reported elsewhere in this issue, grew up together in Luray, Virginia. Vernon attended National Business College and the University of Virginia Extension and had worked for the U. S. Government before joining Appalachian in 1936. He recalls, "I went to work for E. A. Turner as a draftsman in the old Walnut Avenue office and have worked in joint pole use since 1945. I've always had a good relationship with the telephone companies. The telephone people always seemed to trust me, and that's one of the greatest things. I never tried to put anything over on them, and every one of them seemed like they thought a whole lot of me.

"Once I was making a field check with C&P of West Virginia, and I was carrying my papers in one of those half beer boxes. When we finished, they said they didn't like to see me carrying that old thing and gave me a leather briefcase with a zipper. When I came back to the office, Harold Rozier kidded me I had sold out to them.

"I don't know how it will feel to be retired. I'll miss seeing all the people in the field. My wife's sister lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and, when we visit her, I just might stop by the company offices along the way to keep in touch.

"My wife Ruth will continue her job as secretary to the city zoning board of appeals. I'm looking for her another job at night since I'm going to be retired," Vernon laughs.

"She's got great plans for me — make the beds in the morning and have dinner ready when she gets home but I don't want to start anything like that. I can cook though. I used to cook in big quantities when I put on dances at the Shrine Temple. I even had a picnic for 1400 people once. I also used to be executive secretary of the Shrine benefit football game."

There are two things for sure he plans to continue — walking his poodle Missy and his big yellow cat every morning and every evening. And every Friday night his grandson Jonathan comes to spend the night with his "Daddean". There'll also be visits from his three stepdaughters and two granddaughters.

## PREACHER PATTERSON RETIRES



Curtis O'Neal Patterson, shift operating engineer at Cabin Creek Plant, elected early retirement January 1 after 41 years' service.

A native of Chelyan, West Virginia, "Preacher" began his career in 1938 as a laborer and advanced through the positions of turbine auxiliary equipment operator A, boiler operator, boiler operator A and assistant shift operating engineer. He recalls, "I was in an explosion at the plant in 1940, which hurt four and killed one man. I was in the hospital about two weeks."

"Preacher" enjoys baseball and football and plans to spend some time hunting and fishing on a farm in Braxton County. He and his wife Icie have three children and 11 grandchildren.

## RETIRING IS LIKE LEAVING FAMILY



"Even before I'd finished high school, my goal was set — to go to work for Appalachian. I remember telling my mother 'that's the company I'm going to work for and retire with'," recalls Hassell "Coke" Hale. That goal was realized when Coke retired January 1 as a station crew supervisor NE in Roanoke.

He continues, "Edgar Sanderson, line crew superintendent then, halfway promised me a job. He said when there was an opening, he would remember me." But it wasn't until 1940, some five years later, that Coke hired on. In the meantime, he worked with Southern States Milling, Vinton Milling and finally Virginia Iron and Bridge. "All this time I was trying to get on with Appalachian. A lot of my friends worked for the company and played softball for the team I was umpiring. With the help of Curtis Roberson and Davis Elliott, I finally made it."

"When I came to work, Ralph Amos, Sr., father of Roanoke General Line Supervisor Ralph Amos, Jr., was heading up a nine-man crew. In those days we rode to and from work in an open-back truck during all types of weather. My first day's work took me to Church Avenue in downtown Roanoke. We were stringing overhead cable, and my job was to set up and move a 44-foot ladder as needed. That was a hard way to get broken in!"

Coke, who played semipro baseball in the Skyline League during the 1940s, recalled the company's active involvement in sports.

"Appalachian sponsored three softball teams then. The competition was fierce. We'd play like it was the Yanks playing the Red Sox." Coke's team, the Short Circuits, beat Norfolk & Western Railway's team to take the Roanoke City Industrial Softball Championship in 1948. "The brother of Stores Supervisor Al Beatty was the N&W pitcher, and it was some ding-dong game."

"The fastest softball pitcher I ever saw was 'Seabiscuit' Simmons, Roanoke ground helper, now on LTD leave. He threw so hard you couldn't see the ball a lot of times. The team had me catching for him once, and it was nearly impossible. You couldn't catch for him with a regular mitt, so I got a first baseman's glove and that stung my hand so bad I had to add a thick sponge to keep the ball from beating my hand off."

Coke concluded, "When I left the Bridge Works, I was making 47 cents an hour and took a cut to 42 cents to get on with Appalachian. The company was good to me; and, because of that, I always tried to give them an honest day's work. As far as I can recall, I was late for work only once. Everyone I ever worked with was nice to me and treated me mighty good. When you think about all the time you spend at a company, it's like leaving a family, and I'm going to miss them."



# SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Vicky Lynn Smith to **Rick Allan Tunnell**, Kingsport tracer, November 4.



Joetta Riley to **Jesse J. Ruble**, Bluefield surveyor assistant — rod, November 2.



Kathleen Gervais to **J. Donald Martin, Jr.**, son of Jack D. Martin, Pineville area supervisor A in Bluefield Division, October 22.



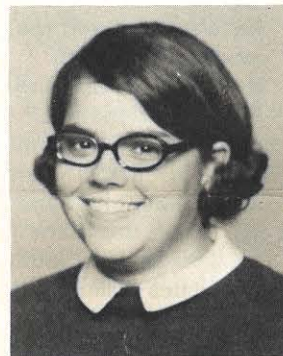
**Marjorie White**, Huntington junior clerk, to Harold "Gary" Arnold, November 19.



Pamela Sue Dunlap to **David King**, son of R. A. King, Huntington personnel supervisor, November 26.



**Gilda Ann Jackson**, daughter of Kenneth A. Jackson, Bluefield Division office supervisor, to Anthony Stephen Farmer, November 25.



**George Anna Johnson**, daughter of Charles F. Johnson, Charleston customer service representative, to Philip L. Mullens, December 2.

Thelma Diane James to **Charles E. Flowers**, Philip Sporn Plant coal handler, November 19.

Janet Kay Shoots to **G. A. Northup**, Philip Sporn Plant utility worker B, December 10.

# BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL

**Bluefield**  
**Jane Meadows**, wife of Howard Meadows, electrical engineer senior, nine gallons.  
**Roanoke**  
**Artist A. Jacobs**, meter service mechanic B, two gallons.

# BABY PARADE

**John E. Amos**  
Christina Marie, daughter of **P. S. Marion, Jr.**, maintenance mechanic B, December 6.

Brent Alan, son of **R. W. Doughty**, maintenance mechanic B, November 12.

**Bluefield**  
John Matthew, III, son of **John Matthew Coleman, II**, line mechanic B, December 3.

**General Office**  
Gary David and Larry David, twin sons of **David E. Conley**, transmission mechanic B, GO T&D Transmission Line, Huntington, November 15.

**Glen Lyn**  
Amy Lynn, daughter of **Dana W. Hazelwood**, plant clerk B, November 20.

**Huntington**  
Charles Robert, son of **C. T. Thompson**, meter electrician C, December 3.

**Kanawha River**  
Dawn Joyce, daughter of **R. J. Schilling**, equipment operator, November 16.

**Kingsport**  
Timothy Warren, son of **Glen Land**, meter reader, November 4.

Crystal Gail, daughter of **David McMurray**, meter reader, November 11.

**Pulaski**  
Tara Leigh, daughter of **R. L. Faulkner**, Christiansburg line mechanic D, November 19.

**Philip Sporn**  
Jayna Casey, daughter of **W. L. Morgan**, instrument mechanic D, September 29.

Rachael Marie, daughter of **J. F. Elias**, instrument mechanic B, October 25.

Timothy S., son of **D. E. Taylor**, maintenance mechanic D, October 29.



John E. Faust, executive vice president of Kingsport Power (seated), buys a share of stock in K-POWCO, the Junior Achievement company sponsored by the utility. Standing, l. to r., John Nance, electrical engineer, and Luke Kesterson, residential representative, both advisors, and Charles Ford, K-POWCO president. K-POWCO, operated by 27 Achievers from seven area high schools, manufactures embossed aluminum trivets.



Otis E. West, Lynchburg stores attendant, won this 19" Admiral color television in a fund-raising drawing sponsored by the Lynchburg Athletic Boosters.



David Amos received a first-place award in gardening at the 4-H fair held in Roanoke. A member of the Roanoke Valley 4-H Club, David competed with 350 other students in the senior division gardening program for the award. Each participant was judged on garden appearance, growth and product output. David also received a blue ribbon as the individual who had done the best overall gardening job and a championship ribbon for the best garden in his age group. A junior at William Fleming High School in Roanoke, David is the son of Ralph Amos, Roanoke general line supervisor.

# NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

**John Amos**  
**David N. Cawley** and **Jerry A. Starkey**, maintenance men C.  
**Kim L. Casto** and **Hrudaya M. Kanth**, performance engineers.

**Beckley**  
**Richard D. Smelker**, electrical engineer.  
**Thomas R. Ruble**, custodian. **John E. Blake**, junior clerk.

**Central Machine**  
**Charles M. Angus**, power equipment mechanic 3rd class.  
**Thomas C. Brogan**, machinist 1st class.

**Centralized Plant Maintenance**  
**Jackie L. Withrow**, **Thomas E. Weaver**, **Kenneth Ratliff**, **Andrew J. Ingram**, **Delbert F. Mitchell**, **Stephen O. Jenkins**, **Paul R. Curtis** and **Larry B. Haynes**, maintenance mechanics.

**Charleston**  
**Terry W. Urban** and **Drexel J. Tomlinson, Jr.**, meter readers.

**General Office**  
**Glen L. Adams**, station mechanic D, GO T&D Station, Charleston. **Karabet Adjemian**, electrical engineer, GO T&D Engineering, Roanoke. **Steven A. Ellison**, transmission mechanic D, GO T&D Transmission, Bluefield.

**Huntington**  
**C. V. Day**, junior clerk.

**Lynchburg**  
**Russell G. Ramsey, Jr.**, meter electrician D.

**Pulaski**  
**Carol D. Beck**, junior clerk, Hillsville.

**Philip Sporn**  
**L. R. Scarberry** and **S. E. Cochran**, utility workers B.



## MOVING UP



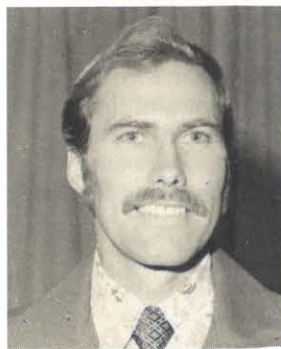
**Russell E. Lanier**, former assistant stores supervisor at Philip Sporn Plant, was promoted to stores supervisor at Project 1301, effective November 16. He attended Center College.



**W. P. Umberger**, former area service restorer, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Wytheville area of Pulaski Division, effective November 18.



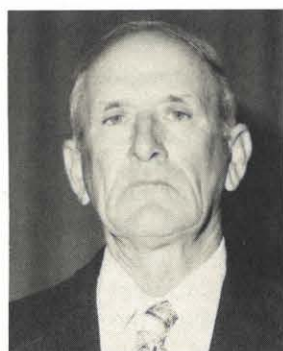
**J. L. Earles**, former area service restorer, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Christiansburg area of Pulaski Division, effective November 10. He succeeds the late C. A. Kidd.



**R. W. Dalton**, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Galax area of Pulaski Division, effective November 16.



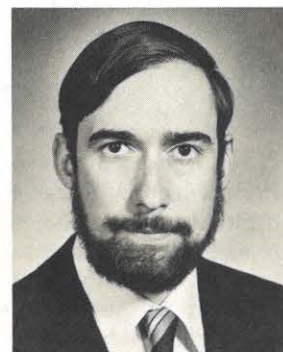
**Steven Z. Parsons**, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John E. Amos Plant, effective January 1. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from West Virginia Institute of Technology.



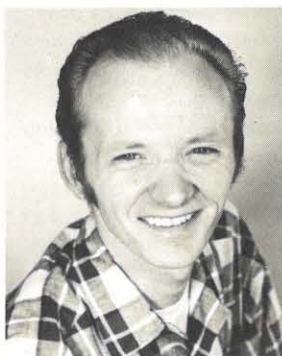
**H. B. Boyd**, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Pearisburg area of Pulaski Division, effective November 9.



**H. B. Shepherd**, former area service restorer, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Galax area of Pulaski Division, effective November 8. He succeeds C. E. Rosenbaum, who retired.



**K. T. O'Connor**, former electrical engineer, was promoted to area supervisor A in the Milton area of Huntington Division, effective December 1. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and an MBA degree from Marshall University.



**Ronald L. Neal**, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John E. Amos Plant, effective January 1. He holds a BS degree from Marshall University.



**Ralph E. Life**, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John E. Amos Plant, effective January 1. He holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

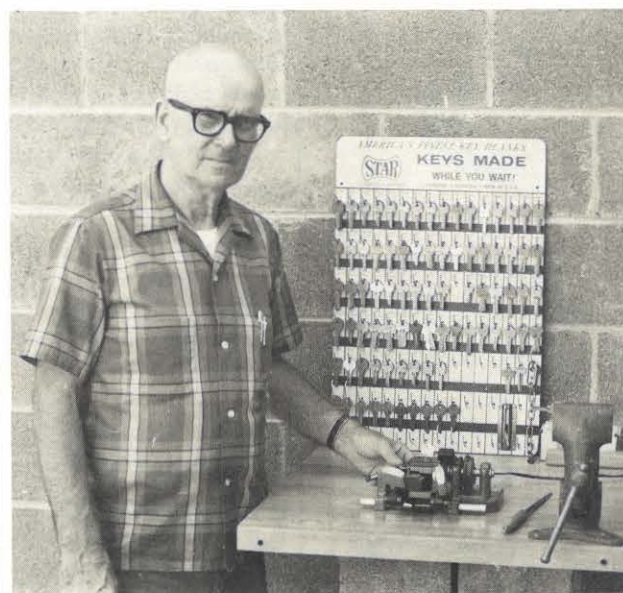


**Warren R. Ashton**, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John E. Amos Plant, effective January 1. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



**D. R. Woolwine**, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Christiansburg area of Pulaski Division, effective November 14.

## KRATZ HAS RETIREMENT TRADE



"I'm just going to start living," says George Bryson Kratz, who was a shift operating engineer at Kanawha River Plant before retiring January 1. "We'll go when we want to and stay when we want to. I plan to work around the house — you know those honey-do jobs the little lady is always wanting you to do."

George has recently built a garage workshop. Several years ago he prepared himself for a retirement trade by taking a correspondence course in locksmithing. He notes, "If there is any trade in which honesty, integrity and a spotless reputation are vitally important, it is locksmithing." Equipped with a large assortment of key blanks, a key machine, tools and the skill to work on any type lock, George often makes keys for plant employees and his friends and neighbors. He also helps neighbors with plumbing and electrical work.

George, a native of the Panama Canal Zone, began his career in 1949 as a diesel plant operator in Point Pleasant. He moved to Sporn that same year as a coal handler and worked there as an auxiliary equipment operator, assistant unit operator, unit operator and control operator before transferring to Kanawha River in 1952 as assistant shift operating engineer.

George and his wife Maggie have seven children and 12 grandchildren.



M. J. Hartley, president of the Roanoke Retired Employees Association, presents a check to Helen Honaker, director of the Appalachian Chorus, in appreciation of the musical programs it presents twice yearly to the retirees. The Chorus is composed of Roanoke and General Office employees. Hartley is retired GO meter superintendent and Honaker is a secretary-stenographer in GO T&D.

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



**James H. Robinette, Jr.**, 39, line mechanic A in the Tazewell area of Bluefield Division, was killed in a farm tractor accident December 3. A native of Pounding Mill, Virginia, he began his career in 1966 as a lineman helper.



**Forrest C. "Frosty" Brown**, 65, retired Grundy area T&D clerk in Bluefield Division, died November 28. A native of Glade Spring, Virginia, he began his career in 1941 as a field clerk in Grundy and retired January 1, 1977. Brown is survived by his widow Mary, Route 5, Box 22, Southview Estate, Abingdon, Virginia, one son and two brothers. One brother, Charles J. Brown, Jr., is a retired area serviceman in Grundy.



**John A. Keffer**, 68, retired master maintenance man at Cabin Creek Plant, died December 13. A native of Chelyan, West Virginia, he began his career in 1943 as a maintenance man and retired November 1, 1972. Keffer is survived by his widow Margaret, Box 255, Cabin Creek, West Virginia; one daughter; his mother; one brother.



## DEBBIE ABSHIRE IS TENNIS CHAMP



"Tennis has opened avenues for me that I wouldn't have experienced otherwise — friends, travel and the satisfaction it has brought," says Debbie Abshire. "Tennis was made available to me primarily for corrective purposes. Because of a coordination problem when I was eight, my parents had me enroll in tennis lessons hoping it would solve it."

The daughter of Tommy Abshire, Roanoke meter service mechanic A, Debbie entered her first tournament at age 11, vying for titles on the Virginia Junior Tennis Circuit. During the 1969 season, she was fourth in the state for girls 18 and under.

"The kids that play on the circuit are really good tennis players. Traveling the circuit not only gives you a chance to meet new friends but, because of the tremendous competition, you're continually improving," Debbie says.

She was seeded number one in singles and doubles at the University of North Carolina before transferring to Madison University, where she was team captain. She served as a fall season tennis coach and was seeded number one in singles and doubles at Madison also. As a result of tennis, Debbie was listed in the 1974-75 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities".

Debbie credits the Roanoke Department of Parks and Recreation with having an excellent grass roots training program. "My parents never belonged to any private clubs, and tennis was never available to me by that route, so I have a great appreciation for the parks and recreation program. I've learned from it and have seen many others benefit from it, too."

She says the challenge for her is to produce the best strokes in tennis. "I'm out there to win — sure, but

it's just as important for me to play well." And play well she has. Last year Debbie won two major events sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Recreation Department. She won the women's doubles in the Star City Tournament, the women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles in the Roanoke Valley Recreation Department's Labor Day Tournament, and was first runner-up in the Roanoke Valley Championship Tournament. "The Labor Day Tournament was the most exciting thing that's ever happened. I'd been playing badly all summer, and then to come up and win all three events was especially satisfying for me."

Debbie has previously taught tennis for the Roanoke City Recreation Department and served as tennis director for the City of Roanoke during the summer of 1976. She is one of two certified tennis officials (umpires) in the area. "Between the two of us, we stay pretty busy officiating state and local tournaments."

## BROWNING COLLECTS BOOKS



When Pauline Browning wants something to read, she can select from over 300 antique books in her collection. The wife of John Browning, Huntington driver-ground helper, Pauline has been collecting old books for more than 35 years.

Her oldest book is Washington Irving's "Life of Washington", dated 1855. Some of her first editions include works by Charles Dickens, James F. Cooper, John Fox, Jr., John Greenleaf Whittier, Zane Gray, Harold Bell Wright, Gene Stratton Porter, James Oliver Curwood, Eden Southworth and Mary Worth.

"Part of the fun of collecting old books is going through them and reading the little notes people have written," she confides. "You find some strange and funny things. One book had written in the front, 'I have lost the earth'. You can't help but wonder what that person was going through when that line was written."

In another book she discovered an electric bill dated January 1, 1912. It was for the Village of Greenwich, Ohio, and showed that the customer had used 23 kilowatt-hours at a rate of 8 cents each. The bill was handwritten and signed by the collector who picked up the payment. She also found a report card that was 52 years old but was unsuccessful in locating the owner.

Pauline has several sources for obtaining old books. Her brother, who is in the antique business, often buys an entire house of furniture. If he finds any old books, he gives them to Pauline. Friends who know of her love for books will bring her copies and, of course, she buys them herself at antique stores. She says, "When John retires, he has promised to recondition all of the books for me."

She continues, "I have always enjoyed reading. As a child, my dad would say, 'Go help your mother with the dishes; every time I see you you have your nose stuck in a book.' I like to read old books particularly because they tell so much about what went on many years ago. You are getting the description of travel and living from the person who was actually doing it and not a researcher. I guess my mother was responsible for my love of reading because she used to read to us when we were children and that stirred my interest."

## COOPER SETS STATE WEIGHT LIFTING RECORD



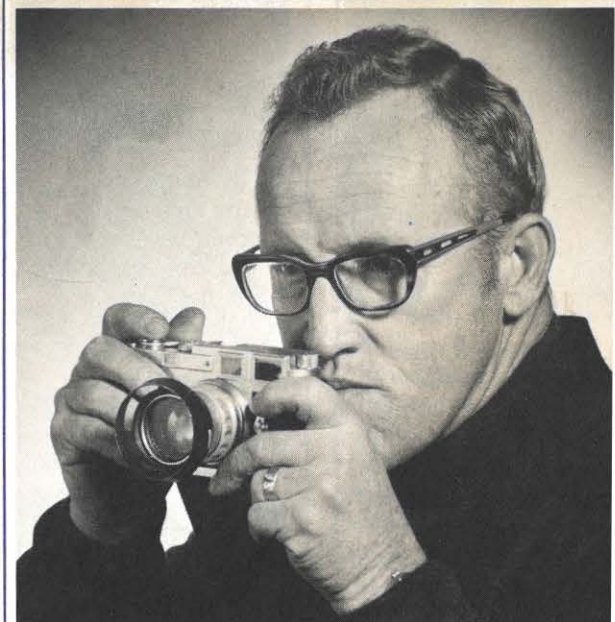
Jack Cooper, Jr., established a new bench press weight lifting record of 415 pounds at the Virginia State Power Lifting Contest held in Roanoke. The son of Jack Cooper, Sr., retired Roanoke right-of-way agent, he set the old mark of 400 for his weight class of 181 pounds in early 1977.

In addition to winning the state record for his weight class, Jack was judged "best lifter overall" in the 181-pound through super weight division. He also won the 181-pound weight class division trophy.

Jack says, "I feel I could have done better than the combined total of 1,405 pounds lifted for the bench press, squat and dead lift had it not been for a back injury at the time". He was credited with 470 pounds on squat lift and 520 pounds for dead lift.

The Roanoke Power Lifting team, of which Jack is a member, won the team trophy for best overall performance at the event.

## KERN'S MILL PHOTO IN GREAT DEMAND



A color photo of the old grist mill at Babcock State Park, which appeared in the *Charleston Gazette* during October, created such a demand from readers that the *Gazette* offered copies of the photo for sale. The photo was taken by Jack L. Kern, instrument maintenance mechanic A at Kanawha River Plant, who has been a photographer for the *Gazette* for 15 years.

In his spare time, Jack covers sports events throughout West Virginia and shoots commercial jobs for various companies. He also strings for the Associated Press and United Press International.

Jack took the mill picture while on an assignment to photograph young ladies from a local department store for a fashion show. The day was cold and rain had turned into snow. While waiting for the girls to change clothes for different photographs, Jack decided to keep warm by staying busy, so he took the photo of the mill.

Jack will get a percentage of each mill photo the *Gazette* sells.

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