

APCO SEEKS DAMAGES FOR NULLIFICATION OF BLUE RIDGE PROJECT LICENSE

Appalachian Power Company last month instituted a lawsuit against the U. S. Government arising out of the nullification, in 1976, of the company's federal license to construct its proposed Blue Ridge Project.

The suit, filed in the U. S. Court of Claims in the District of Columbia, seeks damages in an unspecified amount, but equal to the damages incurred and to be incurred up to the time when the license would by its terms terminate, together with interest and costs.

The six other operating companies in the American Electric Power System joined in the lawsuit as co-plaintiffs — on the theory that evidence to be developed in the course of the proceeding may demonstrate that they, too, were damaged as a result of the taking of the Blue Ridge construction license.

The Blue Ridge Project was to have been a 1.8-million-kilowatt, combination pumped-storage and hydroelectric development on the New River in Virginia, with water impoundments from its two reservoirs extending into North Carolina.

After a 12-year proceeding before the Federal Power Commission (now the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), the FPC on June 14, 1974, by a unanimous 5-0 vote, issued Appalachian a license to construct the project. The validity of the license was subsequently affirmed by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, also in a unanimous decision, on March 24, 1976. However, the Congress enacted and President Ford signed into law on September 11 that year an act declaring portions of the New River in North Carolina, which are located within the proposed reservoir areas, to be a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such a designation normally would not have affected a previously issued FPC license, but the act included a special provision, applicable only to the New River, forbidding construction of the project, even though already licensed.

At the time, John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian, pointed out it was well recognized that the purpose of the legislation was to kill the Blue Ridge development, and that it accomplished that purpose.

In its petition to the Court of Claims, Appalachian claimed the act took from it a vested and valuable property right — the right to develop the water power potential of one of the best remaining sites in the eastern United States — without just compensation, in violation of the Fifth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. It also alleged the FPC license constituted a contract between the United States and Appalachian Power, which was broken by enactment of the Scenic Rivers legislation.

Vaughan emphasized that damages recovered in the litigation by Appalachian and its sister companies would ultimately accrue to the benefit of their customers.

SUPREME COURT DISMISSES APCO REFUND APPEAL

"For want of a substantial federal question," the U.S. Supreme Court on February 27 dismissed Appalachian Power Company's appeal of a refund ordered by the West Virginia Public Service Commission on August 30, 1977.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger had twice stayed the refund while the West Virginia Public Service Commission responded in the matter and Appalachian filed its jurisdictional statement with the Court.

The company is taking steps to implement the refund procedure. The estimated amount of the refund for the period August 28, 1975, through April 30, 1977, is approximately \$45.5 million. This includes interest up until the date of the refund.

CANTON IS SITE FOR NEW AEP COMPUTER CENTER

The American Electric Power Service Corporation will build a major corporate computer center in Canton, Ohio, representing an investment of \$20 million.

The building will house \$15 million of advanced computer equipment and will combine customer-oriented computer applications, already based in Canton, with engineering and management information applications, which are now located in AEP's New York offices.

Canton was selected as the site because it met the requirements for a secure environment for the facility, direct microwave telecommunications with all parts of the AEP system, and a reliable power supply.

The new center will serve, via a network of satellite computer terminals, all of the System's operating centers, major offices, customer-service facilities and coal mines. Included in this network are operations of all seven operating companies.

The building, a one-story structure, will be built in the block southwest of Ohio Power Company's headquarters in Canton. It will face Fourth Street S.W. and also be bounded by McKinley and DeWalt Avenues and Fifth Street S.W.

The center will house about 10 professional staff and about 30 support personnel, to be drawn from the existing operation in both Canton and New York. It will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Work will begin in April, with completion scheduled for January 1980.

Tod Dixon, now assistant head of the Service Corporation's Computer Applications Division in New York, will head the new operation.

CUSTOMERS HELP AEP COMPANIES SQUEEZE THROUGH COAL STRIKE

President Carter announced February 24 that negotiators had reached agreement to settle the record coal strike. The tentative agreement, already approved by the union's bargaining council, goes straight to the coalfields where the union's rank and file will vote on it. Should the agreement be ratified, several more days will be required to get the mines open and coal moving to power plants.

As **The Illuminator** went to press, Appalachian Power Company was continuing to operate under energy emergency plans approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission and the West Virginia Public Service Commission. The company was continuing to ask its customers to conserve electricity and help stretch out coal supplies.

On February 10, when coal stockpiles across the AEP System dwindled to a 50-day level, Appalachian and Kingsport Power Companies took these steps:

- Curtailed their own use of electric energy in offices and other buildings;
- Halted "economy" sales of electric energy to neighboring utilities not affiliated with the AEP System;
- Discontinued "economic dispatch" of generation; and
- Suggested ways in which customers could help conserve the coal supply.

When the coal supply dropped to 45 days on February 16, the companies renewed their appeal to customers to voluntarily reduce their use of electricity.

By February 22, coal supplies had dwindled to 40 days, and the companies asked customers to voluntarily curtail their use of electricity by 25 percent.

The companies had already asked major users of electricity to begin planning for mandatory curtailments when coal stockpile levels reach 30 days.

More stringent measures would have to be taken should the coal supply dwindle to even more critical levels.

AMOS STRIKERS PLAN RETURN TO WORK

The United Steelworkers of America, on behalf of the striking employees at the John E. Amos Plant, have offered to return to work. No agreement has been reached between Appalachian Power and the USWA on a contract.

The plant has been operated since the strike began on January 18 by Amos employees and employees from other company locations.

Appalachian has acknowledged the desire of the striking employees to return to work and is arranging for an orderly transition from strike operating conditions to normal plant operation. As **The Illuminator** went to press, the first shift of returning employees was expected to report at 12:01 AM, March 3.

THE ILLUMINATOR

Published monthly for employees of Appalachian Power Company and Kingsport Power Company and their families.

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PEYTON ELECTED TO AEP BOARD



Angus E. Peyton, an attorney from West Virginia, was elected a director of American Electric Power at the parent company's February board meeting. His election brings the membership of the board of directors to 15.

A lifelong West Virginian, he is a partner in the Charleston law firm of Brown & Peyton. He served as West Virginia's commissioner of commerce in 1965-69 and has long been active in civic, business and government affairs in that state.

He is a former assistant attorney general of West Virginia, former prosecuting attorney of Kanawha County and former chairman of the West Virginia Industrial Development Authority. He is a director of several other companies, as well as chairman of the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies Foundation and a member of that school's Advisory Board.

Peyton, an economics graduate of Princeton University and a law graduate of the University of Virginia, is a member of the American, West Virginia and Kanawha County Bar Associations.

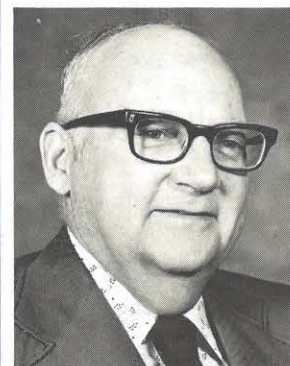
PAPER WINS AWARD

The Illuminator has received a second place award in the newspaper category of The Printing Industries of the Virginias Graphic Communications Awards Program.

UNIT VALUES TO APPEAR

Beginning with the April issue, The Illuminator will carry a monthly report of the unit values attributed to each of the three investment funds in the AEP System Employee Savings Plan. The unit values will appear on this page every month.

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED



Abolin



Kirkland



Belchee

The American Electric Power Service Corporation's Board of Directors last month elected seven new members. Six of them replaced six who left the board under the practice of two AEP System operating companies, Appalachian Power and Ohio Power Companies, of rotating such memberships among their management personnel.

The new Service Corporation directors are:

From Appalachian Power: T. W. Abolin, manager of the Clinch River Plant; Claud K. Kirkland, manager of the Pulaski Division, and William B.

Belchee, manager of the Bluefield Division. They replaced: Calvin O. Carlini, manager of the Charleston Division; J. A. Moore, manager of the John E. Amos Plant, and Floyd H. Taylor, Jr., manager of the Logan-Williamson Division.

From Ohio Power: John W. Steffoff, vice president; W. J. Hardman, executive assistant to the executive vice president, and Andrew T. Mulato, manager of the Muskingum River Plant. They succeeded: Robert I. Bull, manager of the Newark Division; B. D. (Bud) Eley, manager of the Tiffin Division, and James L. Powell, manager of the Canton Division.

From Indiana & Michigan Electric Company: Herbert A. Bissinger, manager of the Tanners Creek Plant, who filled a vacancy created by the transfer of Robert W. Jurgensen, who had been manager of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, to the Service Corporation as head of its Nuclear Engineering Division.

AEP SYSTEM NEWS BRIEFS

Service Corp. Elects Officers

The AEP Service Corporation last month elected four new officers.

Robert D. Rine, who had been general manager-administration in the Fuel Supply Department, was elected vice president-fuel supply administration.

Wesley von Schack was elected assistant vice president-finance. His new position involves special responsibility for investor relations.

In System Planning, H. M. "Sam" Hall and Ray M. Maliszewsky were elected assistant

vice president-generation planning and assistant vice president-bulk transmission planning, respectively.

RATE RESEARCH, DESIGN DIVISION CREATED

Two changes have been made in the AEP Service Corporation's Rate Department, effective March 1.

Conrad F. DeSieno has been appointed head of the newly created Rate Research & Design Division and designated assistant vice president — rate research and design. He had been assistant vice president — regional power supply planning in the System Planning Department.

In announcing creation of the new division, John G. Howard, senior vice president — rates, said that the action made it possible for Paul J. Zuercher, assistant vice president — rates, to assist him by handling special studies and projects for the department.

The new division will research various approaches to rate design, conduct cost-of-service studies and develop rates that would apply the results of the load research studies made by the AEP System the past two years. Until now, Zuercher had been informally supervising this type of work. Establishment of the new division, aside from formalizing the research and design functions in rate-making, frees Zuercher to handle broader departmental assignments.

EDITORS RECEIVE AWARDS

Three persons have been recognized for their contributions to The Illuminator during 1977.

Martin Ratcliff, Roanoke administrative assistant, was named outstanding associate editor. His selection was based on preparation of and adherence to advance outline, variety and originality of material submitted,

completeness of information, promptness and quality of photography.

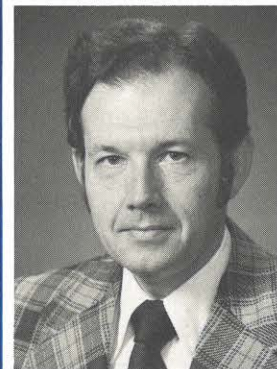
Jim Hughes, Abingdon administrative assistant, was the recipient of the best story award for his article on Retiree Grady Coley, which appeared in the November issue.

Bill Joseph, Huntington photographer and reproducer, won the best photo award. His winning photo of fire damage to Amos Unit 2 appeared in the April issue.

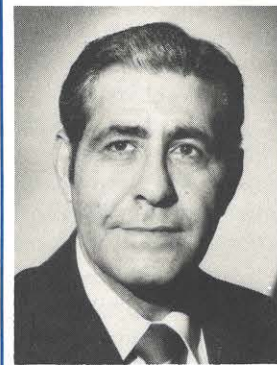
Awards were also given to those locations who achieved 100 percent of quota in The Illuminator during 1977. Jeanne Sheets, administrative assistant at Kanawha River Plant, ranked first with a whopping 216 percent of quota. Other winners are Abingdon, Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Huntington, Logan-Williamson, Lynchburg, Pulaski and Roanoke Divisions.



Ratcliff



Hughes



Joseph

AEP RELIABILITY STORY GAINS NATIONWIDE ATTENTION



CBS-TV crew filming in SPPC.

National attention was focused on Canton last month as the prolonged coal strike pecked away at Ohio electric utility coal stockpiles.

Depleting stockpiles forced both Ohio Governor Rhodes and President Carter to declare the state in an energy emergency. As a result, the President dispatched a team from the Department of Energy to Canton to monitor power and coal supplies.

Arrival of the DOE people brought reports that the President was setting up an energy task force at Canton, and that governors, utility commissioners and industrial executives would be gathering at Canton to work out a solution to the energy problems.

That erroneous report served to bring the nation's spotlight to the headquarters city of Ohio Power Company, the site of AEP's System Power Production Center (SPPC), and the headquarters of the previously little-known East Central Area Reliability group.

Newsmen from all over Ohio, as well as representatives of the New York Times and CBS-TV flocked to Canton to interview AEP, ECAR and DOE representatives.

When it was all over, the AEP reliability story had been written and spoken about, and flashed over the screens of television sets.

Donald P. Nofsinger, vice president of system operations for AEP, was the central figure in the spotlight.

He patiently explained the SPPC operations, pointing out that AEP was doing nothing more than it had been doing for years, ever since the group was established in Columbus, Ohio, in the late 1950s and moved to Canton in 1958.

He explained that, while nominally responsible only for the AEP System, the AEP operations center is important because the System cuts through the heart of this coal-dependent region. If one utility in this region wants to buy power from another, AEP can handle the transaction . . . and does, he added.

"We match generation with demand," Nofsinger said simply. "We've been trained to do this for many years, and this situation is no different from many others. The current coal shortages are the worst I've ever seen, but we've been through days when there wasn't enough capacity to meet demand."

Of the current situation, Nofsinger said, "One way or another, the basic needs of our customers will be met."

Concerning the DOE team which is monitoring operations, Nofsinger said, "It was very logical for them to come here. We've got communications set up with every utility in the region and have been doing it for years."

ECAR spokesmen told newsmen the region it serves could import almost a fifth of its power needs through interconnections with utilities outside the region. However, they pointed out, interconnections were never intended to deal with power shortages over an entire region. "They are intended to prevent a utility from having blackouts should one or more of its power plants break down," ECAR representatives said.

They added, "The natural response of the system is limited with more than 20 utilities running low on coal. It's not as flexible under these conditions. If one utility goes down, who's going to pick it up?"

DOE team members explained their role to media, also.

"We're here to see to it that power is shared equitably," they said. Although the Federal monitors lack formal powers, the DOE team said "we can jawbone and encourage" companies to cooperate.

"For the most part, we are pleased with what's been happening here. We want to make sure it continues to happen," the team said.

Owen Lentz, manager of ECAR, contends that his organization is an informational group . . . a consulting or engineering organization.

ECAR was formed in 1967, with headquarters in Canton. It is comprised of 26 major bulk power suppliers in eight east-central states serving some 33 million people. ECAR is one of nine regional power groups in the United States.

JEAN WARD HELPS FORM ASWA CHAPTER



From left, Jean Ward, Joan Smith and Evelyn Crabtree

Jean Ward, rate analyst in General Office Tariffs, Rates and Contracts, Roanoke, was instrumental in the formation of the new Southwest Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Women Accountants.

The American Society of Women Accountants provides membership to women who are actively engaged in accounting, who are instructors or students of accounting, or who have a substantial interest in the profession. The society's purpose is to encourage more women to enter the accounting profession and to increase the opportunity to develop professionally.

Joan Smith, national president from Dayton, Ohio, conferred the charter to the Southwest Chapter last month. Jean Ward was elected vice president and Evelyn Crabtree, wife of Dave Crabtree, employee benefits administrator in General Office Personnel, was elected a director. Jean has a BS degree in accounting from West Virginia University and was employed in public and private industry accounting before joining Appalachian. Evelyn, employed by Dominion Bankshares Corporation, has associate degrees in accounting and business management from New River Community College and is working toward a BS degree in accounting and business management from Radford College.



New officers of the Appaleisure Club in Beckley are, from left, Tom Wiseman, power engineer, president; Mike Hunt, drafter C, secretary-treasurer; and Paula Goddard, T&D clerk B, vice president.

FUEL SUPPLY EXPANDED UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PAUL MARTINKA



Paul D. Martinka, the man responsible for the AEP System's fuel supply program during the years of its expansion, retired February 28 after 43 years in the utility business.

It was under Martinka's direction that AEP undertook and carried out a massive expansion in its coal-mining and coal-reserve acquisition programs and developed its coal-transportation system. He was also responsible for the development of new mines and exploration of newly acquired coal reserves. So effective was the expansion of the fuel supply program that in 1977 AEP mines provided 24 percent of the 38-million tons of coal delivered to System plants.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, he received his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Case School of Applied Science (now Case-Western Reserve University). That same year he joined the former Central Ohio Light & Power Company in Findlay. While holding both his job at Central Ohio and an assistantship at Case, he earned his master's degree, also in mechanical engineering. In 1937 he moved to Bluffton to work on the construction of Central Ohio's Woodcock Plant.

After World War II, he moved to Findlay as superintendent of production for Central Ohio. By 1948 he was an assistant vice president and by 1949 vice president-production.

In 1952 Central Ohio was acquired by the then American Gas & Electric Company and subsequently merged into Ohio Power Company.

After four years in Canton as executive assistant in charge of power plants, Martinka moved to New York as founding head of a new division responsible for special industrial power contracts. "The special contracts step led me to my association with fuel supply. I reported to Bert Kammer, who was also responsible for coal mines and purchasing. So when he became ill, moving into fuel supply was a natural step."

In 1965 Martinka was promoted to the position of director of the then new Coal and Special Contracts Division. He was elected an assistant vice president in 1967, vice president in 1970 and senior vice president in 1974. His Fuel Supply Department, meanwhile, was expanding rapidly to keep ahead of the System's demand for coal. He acquired vast tracts of coal land in the West, expanded the transportation system involving unit trains, river barges and overland conveyors, and acquired and explored coal reserves in the East. In 1976, he was elected special assistant to the chairman with responsibility for fuel supply.

POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

Beckley

James E. Jones, division manager, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Beckley Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Ray Vest, administrative assistant, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Beckley-Raleigh County YMCA.

D. L. Kendrick, Jr., customer services manager, was appointed to the citizen advisory board of the Raleigh County Vocational-Technical Center.



Mazelle Riner, wife of Records Supervisor Archie Riner, has graduated cum laude from Morris Harvey College with a bachelor of arts degree in social studies.

Bluefield

E. L. Whitley, retired senior engineer, has joined Overseas Advisory Associates, Inc., and will be working in Saudi Arabia for six months in an advisory position to the Riyadh Estates electric utility.

Albert Vinciguerra, husband of Pauline Vinciguerra, customer accounts representative A, is on the board of directors of the Bluefield Shrine Club.

Jean Belchee, wife of Division Manager W. B. Belchee, was elected to the board of directors of the Bluefield Community Concert Association.

Charleston

Jody Jividen, son of Residential Representative Lindy Jividen, was named sports editor of the Marshall University school paper, The Parthanon.

Robert Thomas, St. Albans meter reader, did volunteer work with the Governor's Emergency Services Department during the recent snowstorm crisis. He drove doctors and nurses to and from hospitals and shopped for groceries and delivered medicine to people who were unable to get out.

General Office

Scott Carroll has been appointed unit manager for the Lynchburg Training School and Hospital's Social Skills Center. The son of Ted Carroll, relays supervisor in GO T&D, Roanoke, Scott holds a BS degree in psychology from Mars Hill College and a master's degree in psychology from Radford College. He is enrolled in a continuing education program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, leading to a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Huntington

Division Manager **F. O. Helm** was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Huntington Industrial Corporation.

New officers of the Appalachian Employees Federal Credit Union in Huntington are **D. G. Simms**, meter service mechanic B, president; **T. W. Hatfield**, station crew supervisor, vice president, and **June Deal**, AEP Lab technician, secretary. Elected to three-year terms on the board were **C. T. Thompson**, meter electrician C; **D. A. Nance**, electrical engineer, and **T. R. Gibson**, commercial representative.

P. E. Dornon, auto mechanic A, was elected president of the Fairland High School Band Boosters.



W. T. Pugh, administrative assistant, received the distinguished service award from the Huntington Jaycees. Currently Jaycee president, he has been accorded many other honors: chairman of the month, Spoke award, president's cup, internal key man, committee of the year, Speak Up of the year, Spark Plug, Jaycee of the quarter, outstanding director, outstanding committee and Jaycee of the year. Wayne has served on the public relations and leadership development committees of the Huntington Chamber of Commerce and on the board of directors of the Central Ohio Valley Industrial Council, Salvation Army and the United Way.

Pamela Hunt, daughter of B. W. Hunt, Jr., customer accounts assistant, was named "student of the week" by the West Virginia Career College. In announcing her selection, the college said, "Pam has made the extra effort required so far this term to be in school in snow, rain and cold weather. In addition, Pam is always ready to lend a helping hand in all situations and excels not only as a person but as a student. Her smiling face is a welcome sight to faculty and students alike."

Logan-Williamson

Naomi Cantees, customer accounts representative B, was elected to the vestry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Williamson.

Virginia Renn, Williamson customer accounting supervisor, and **Naomi Cantees** were awarded honorable mention for their entries in Kentucky Power's photo contest. Winning photos were published in PowerPeople, the company's employee publication.

George T. Boothe, Jr., power engineer, was elected chairman of the administrative board of the Memorial United Methodist Church, West Williamson.

Pulaski

C. A. Schmidt, Christiansburg customer accounting supervisor, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Christiansburg Chamber of Commerce.

R. H. Love, engineering supervisor, was chosen vice chairman of the Pepper's Ferry Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority.

New officers of the Galax Employees Benevolent Association are **R. E. Lyons, Jr.**, customer accounting supervisor, president; **C. V. Burnette**, meter reader, secretary-treasurer; and **R. C. Sharp**, area service restorer; **F. M. Bennington**, residential representative, and **J. R. Kidd**, area supervisor A, all directors.

F. W. Myers, customer accounts representative A, was appointed chairman of the industrial/commercial development committee for the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce.

C. V. Burnette, Galax meter reader, was elected a deacon of the First Baptist Church, Galax.

HUNTERS SCORE

Bluefield
R. R. "Casey" Jones, construction supervisor, 13-point buck and turkey.

BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL

General Office
Roger L. Gowl, work order accounting supervisor, GO Accounting, Roanoke, three gallons.

RESCUE WORK IS IMPORTANT TO J. B. SNODGRASS



As a 20-year volunteer with the Marmet Fire Department, J. B. Snodgrass has covered numerous fires and rendered assistance to heart attack and accident victims as well as those who are ill.

Conveyor operator at Kanawha River Plant, J. B. is qualified as an emergency medical technician. Part of his duty involves teaching other firemen. Today he is assistant fire chief, treasurer of the department and secretary-treasurer of the ambulance service.

The Marmet Fire Department has 42 members, 38 of whom have received medical training. The department has four pieces of fire fighting equipment and eight ambulances. The department has the ambulance service contract with District 17 of the United Mine Workers and takes care of accidents from the Charleston exit to the Mossy exit on the West Virginia Turnpike. The department also has a contract to transfer emergency patients from hospital to hospital in Charleston when necessary. They also take care of areas as far as Boone County, W. Va.

Extremely interested in fire and rescue work, J. B. helped with instruction of cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation classes last year at Kanawha and has also instructed employees on the use of Scott air packs.

HENSLEY DIRECTS PUPPET MINISTRY

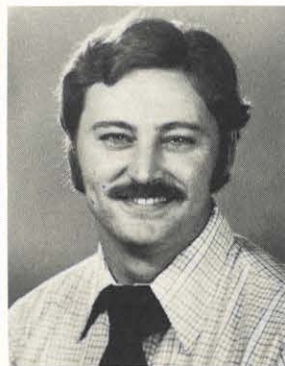


As director of puppets for the St. Albans Assembly of God Church, Eddie Hensley has presented over 40 shows in the past two-and-a-half years. Station Operator A in General Office Operations, Charleston, Eddie and eight other church members who are in the puppet ministry have attended several seminars conducted by Puppet Productions, Inc., of California.

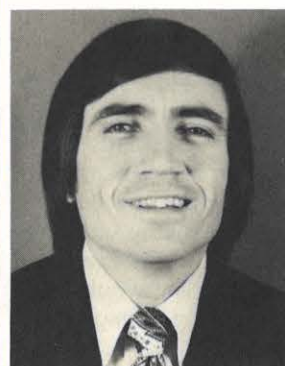
Eddie's group presented a puppet show on the birth of Jesus for the Charleston Division's children's Christmas party. Their shows usually have a moral theme but sometimes they are purely entertaining. One show which he presented to the children in his church was "mistreating God's house". Some of the children had misbehaved and this was a way of teaching them to show respect for the church.

They present a puppet show each Sunday morning for the children from kindergarten through sixth grade and occasionally have a show for the adults. Eddie's group writes their own scripts but does not make their own puppets. "I enjoy this work of God very much," he declares.

MOVING UP



Terry O. Wexler, former data processing operator A, was promoted to the exempt position of programmer in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, on November 1, 1977. He attended the National Institute of Computer Programming and East Tennessee State College.



O. Patrick Taylor, former credit and contract supervisor, was promoted to Charleston Division customer accounting supervisor on February 1. He succeeds J. H. Basham, who was promoted to Pulaski Division office supervisor. Taylor holds a BS degree in business administration from West Virginia State College.



Wesley L. Walker, former engineering technician senior, was promoted to right-of-way agent in Beckley Division on February 1, succeeding E. F. Wright, who elected early retirement. Walker holds an associate of arts degree from Beckley College.



James A. Hall, former equipment operator, was promoted to unit supervisor at Kanawha River Plant on February 1.



Sandidge L. Drumheller, former line crew supervisor NE, was promoted to general line supervisor in Lynchburg on February 16. He succeeds Glover L. Staples, who elected early retirement.



John J. Beane, Jr., former welder first class, was promoted to production supervisor at Central Machine Shop on March 1.

NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

Bluefield

Stacey B. Havens, **Daryl B. Swecker** and **Robert H. Hamilton**, line mechanics D. **George J. Mosko, III**, line mechanic D, Welch.

General Office

JoAnne Keaton, flexo-writer operator C, GO Purchasing, Roanoke. **Dennis W. McGhee**, business trainee, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Kathleen L. Mosca**, junior key entry operator, GO Account-

ing, Roanoke. **Charles D. Niday**, engineering technician, GO T&D Communications, Charleston. **Toni Thompson**, engineering technician, GO Operations, Roanoke. **Toni C. Verna**, tracer, GO T&D Station, Roanoke.

Glen Lyn

Larry Richard Bowers, **Arnold Howard Dickerson, Jr.**, and **Douglas Eugene Tracy**, utility workers B.

Huntington

Neil Compton, junior clerk. **Gary Rayburn**, custodian, Point Pleasant.

Logan-Williamson

Robert S. Ryan, engineering technician, Logan. **Darlene Thaxton**, **Debra F. Marcum** and **Patricia L. Cox**, junior clerks, Williamson. **Lester R. Finley**, area service restorer, Williamson.

Mountaineer

S. L. Flesher, junior clerk. **J. E. Anderson**, construction technician D. **D. G. Roush**, construction technician C. **J. P. Nickless** and **J. E. Campion**, construction timekeepers II. **R. L. Woodward**, civil construction assistant II. **W. E. Hilton**, electrical construction assistant II. **J. G. King**, safety and security coordinator, Amos FAP. **C. B. Zachwieja**, junior clerk, Amos FAP. **R. W. Warden**, construction timekeeper II, Amos FAP.

Roanoke

James E. Hyler, meter reader, Fieldale. **Seira M. Guthrie**, junior clerk, Rocky Mount. **James R. Thomasson**, line mechanic D. **James E. Thompson**, line mechanic D, Fieldale.

Philip Sporn

Virginia R. McMullen, chemist assistant. **M. R. Stewart**, **M. R. Sanders** and **J. Lambert**, utility workers B.

THREE SELECTED OIP COORDINATORS OF YEAR



From left, J. K. Reid; Valorie Harvey; Fred Hornbeck, who coordinates the company's operations improvement program; Dayton Neil and Jack Kepner.

Three persons were selected as "coordinators of the year" in Appalachian Power's operations improvement program for 1977. The awards were presented last month by Jack W. Kepner, executive assistant to the executive vice president.

The winners are: Valorie Harvey, centralized cash supervisor in General Office Accounting, Roanoke; J. K. Reid, electrical engineer in Lynchburg Division; and Dayton Neil, plant performance engineer at Kanawha River Plant.

The corporate goal for 1977 was a savings of \$1.5 million. Suggestions accepted in the Operations Improvement Program were estimated to save \$2,234,246 for the year.



E. L. Munday, Appalachian Power vice president (left), and C. A. Simmons, T&D manager, are all smiles because the GO T&D Department has met the requirements for safety certification by Appalachian and Employers Insurance of Wausau. The first requirement for certification is that an overall rating average of 3.5 for the several categories must be established. GO T&D received an average grade of 4.277. The second requirement is that the department's disabling injury index rate for a designated period prior to the inspection be lower than the AEP rate for the same period. GO T&D's rate for the period January 1, 1976, through December 31, 1976, is .0 versus the AEP rate of .9292.



New officers of the Bluefield Office Coffee Club are, from left, Shirley Honaker, custodian, vice president; Bob Edwards, engineering technician assistant, secretary-treasurer; and Mary Lou Rice, customer accounts representative C, president.

SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Patricia Dean Thompson, daughter of Ervin E. Thompson, unit supervisor at Glen Lyn Plant, to David Edwin Ballengee, September 30, 1977.



Pearl Blankenship to Walter Lewis Morgan, Bluefield custodian, December 17, 1977.



Ella E. Moore to E. M. Almond, retired Lynchburg hydro operator B, December 24, 1977.

Pennie Lynn Haynes, daughter of Betty Jo Haynes, Huntington custodian, to Russell Brooks, December 10, 1977.



COUPLE WED THREE TIMES

When Alida Paiz and Charles Schnell, Charleston Division meter reader, celebrate their first wedding anniversary in December, they'll have three days from which to choose. The Schnells were married in three separate ceremonies last year.

The first was a civil ceremony, required by Nicaraguan law, which was performed December 1, 1977, at poolside at the Las Mercedes Motel, Managua, Nicaragua. Because they wanted a church ceremony, they were married again the next day at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Managua. The third wedding took place at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston, W. Va., on December 10. Had they not been married in the United States, Alida would have had to remain in Nicaragua for two months while getting her name changed and other legalities resolved.

The couple met in 1972 when Charles, an American Baptist evangelist, was in Nicaragua on his first missionary trip. At the time, Alida was secretary to Rev. Hugh Smith, who was an American Baptist missionary to Nicaragua for 16 years before his death.

In 1972-73, Alida came to West Virginia as an exchange student at Brook and Weir High Schools in Weirton. She did not see Charles while there and returned to Managua to work in the Baptist Seminary. Nor did they see each other when Charles returned to Nicaragua in 1976 on his second preaching and evangelistic missionary tour.

In March 1977, however, when Charles went to Nicaragua to build a church in the Town of Somotillo, the two renewed their acquaintance. They began corresponding and, last September when Alida returned to West Virginia to visit some school friends, they became engaged.



J. R. Drenan, Huntington line crew supervisor NE, made good use of a pair of snowshoes while patrolling lines after a record snowfall in January. Not so lucky was D. O. Meadows, line mechanic A, who had to wade in snow up to his knees.

LOIS'S ANGELS PICK HER AS QUEEN OF HEARTS



Lois Smith, customer accounting supervisor NE, seated. From left, Sybil Taylor, customer accounts representative B; Patsy Fout, customer accounts representative C; Sandra Martin, customer accounts representative B; Mary Webb, customer accounts representative B; Faye DeLong, customer accounts representative C; Alma Obenchain, customer accounts representative B; Belinda Minter, customer accounts representative B; and Evelyn Scott, junior clerk.

Lois is never too busy to help you, never too busy to smile. We've never seen a more beautiful person in a long, long while!

This poem is one of four submitted by Roanoke customer services employees in a radio contest to select a King and Queen of Hearts for Valentine's Day.

Sandra Martin, customer accounts representative B, relates how Lois Smith, customer accounting supervisor NE, was chosen as WSLC's Valentine Queen of Hearts. "It all started one morning while I was getting ready for work. The disc jockey mentioned the rules of the contest: 'State in 25 words or less why you feel your boss is deserving of the King/Queen of Hearts title.' I knew Lois listened to this station because she likes country music, and I told the other girls it would be nice for Lois to hear her name as the winner. It would be our way of letting her know she's appreciated and we think she is a great supervisor."

Each girl in the department made a contribution to the poems and made sure the entry was in before the deadline date. Sandra says, "I put in a little note along with the poems, stating that 'we think our boss is a winner, and we want her to know it.' We signed it 'Lois's Angels' after the TV show Charlie's Angels. We're always teasing Lois about being her angels."

"The radio station announced the contest winners Valentine's Day afternoon. As turned out, Evelyn Scott, junior clerk, was the only one to hear it. The next morning Evelyn told us all to gather around because she had something to say. She mentioned the winner's name, and Lois was on cloud nine. She was tickled to death that we thought enough of her to enter the contest."

Lois and her angels each won a box of candy.

Lois says, "Just when I think I'm going down for the third time, they always come through with something like this. They are a wonderful group to supervise. I guess I'm lucky to have so many congenial people who all work so well together."

PRINCETON LINE MECHANIC WOUND UP IN STRING ART



Two years ago, J. W. "Boone" Booth received a string art kit as a Christmas present. Now the Princeton line mechanic (Bluefield Division) is completely wound up in his new hobby.

A wooden board covered with velvet or felt is used as a base. Then a picture pattern is outlined on the board by spacing of small decorative nails. After that, Boone spends 25 to 35 hours tediously weaving very fine colored string or yarn in and out around the nailed outline.

He has made several pictures, ranging in size from 24" x 24" to 24" x 36". The pictures would sell for \$35 to \$65, but Boone never sells them, preferring to give them to relatives as gifts.

BRILLHEART IS PIANIST FOR "OLD PROS" BAND



Following World War II, seven Pulaski area musicians started playing together for their own enjoyment. J. B. Brillheart, Pulaski administrative assistant, was a member of the group, which was led by T. M. Dobyms. J. B. had studied piano for three or four years prior to graduating from high school and liked to play. After a few weeks, the group started booking dances on weekends.

There was a demand for small jazz groups then, and J. B.'s group stayed together for about two years. He recalls, "The guys started getting married or they were transferred by the companies they worked for, and we had to give up playing. We had some good times playing for the Galax Fireman's Ball, Fries YMCA, Marion College, Monticello Club in Pulaski, Radford College, Mountain Lake and a lot of other places in southwest Virginia. We made pretty good money on the weekends, too." He continued, "Some of the guys that were still around continued to play off and on with various groups. Our leader T. M. Dobyms later became director of the Highty-Tighty's at VPI&SU.

Nearly 30 years after the formation of the first group J. B. played with, Dobyms was judging bands in the Pulaski Christmas parade along with Dr. Larry W. Long, a former student of his and head of the music department at New River Community College. Dobyms mentioned he knew several old-timers in the area who would love to play big band music again. Long picked up on the idea and wrote letters to those persons, inviting them to a meeting at the community college.

That first meeting in January 1973 brought together six interested people, including four who had played together earlier. Each of them knew of others and agreed to contact them during the next week. That following Sunday, J. B. and nine others showed up at the college. He recalls, "We played for three hours with borrowed music, and the 'Old Pros' were formally under way as a stage band, performing the music of the big band era.

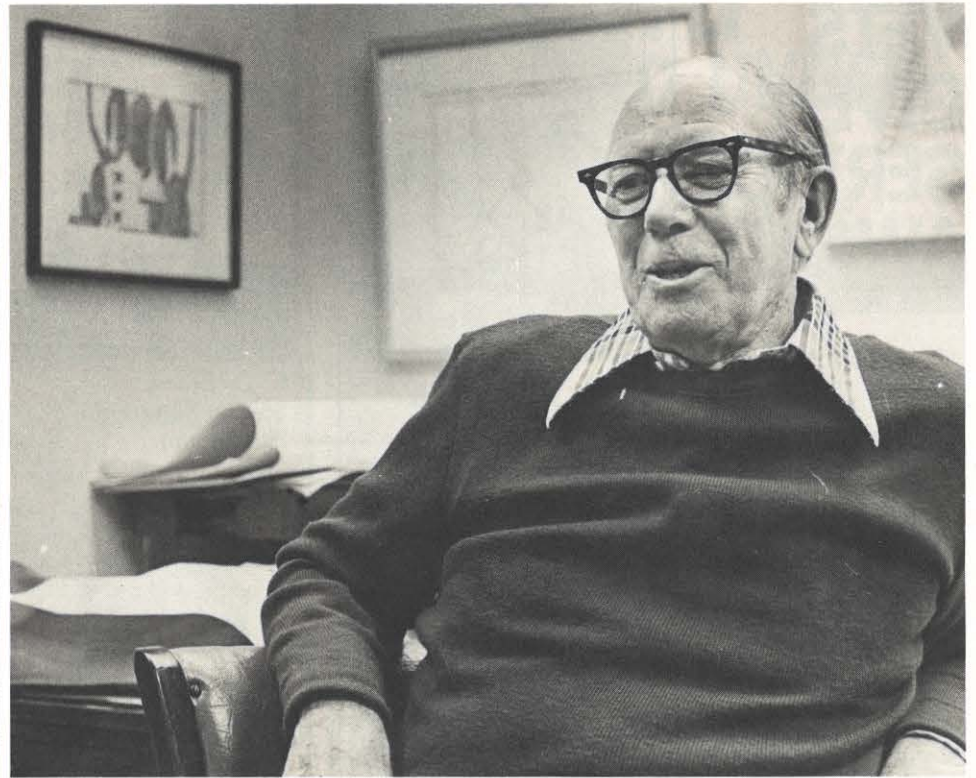
The band, under the direction of Dr. Long, is part of the continuing education program at New River. Members consider the band a hobby and agreed to rehearse only once a week and to perform not more than once a month so it wouldn't get to be work. Their membership is between 18 to 24 musicians, and the only money they accept is for meals, lodging when necessary, and gasoline. Any money earned over and above expenses goes into a fund at the college for purchase of music and instruments.

Band members are in various professions, including pharmacy, education, sales, law, office work, industry or are retired. Although more than half have college degrees, only two have degrees in music. Most of the band learned to play over 30 years ago and most have played professionally before the "Old Pros" were formed. The music they perform comes primarily from the big band eras of the 30's and 40's but includes some arrangements from all eras, including the present.

The "Old Pros" have performed in Southern Pines, N. C.; The Homestead in Hot Springs, Va.; Boy's State in Lynchburg, Va.; and Pipestem State Park in Pipestem, W. Va. One of their biggest honors came when they played for one of the inaugural balls for Governor John Dalton in Richmond, Va., recently.



Serving as officers of the Central Machine Shop activities committee for 1978 are, from left, Jim Alford, machinist 2nd class; Joe Stewart, machinist 1st class; Jackie Cobb, NDE inspector 1st class; Dixie Foster, secretary, secretary-treasurer; Gene Peyton, winder 1st class, vice chairman; and Fred Stotts, welder first class, chairman.



RETIREE IS FREELANCE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER

Laramal Thorne didn't take up art as a hobby when he retired in 1966 as T&D clerk senior in Beckley. He began, in fact, when he was quite young.

His father was a contractor who supervised the building of some of the more notable structures in Beckley. "I did everything but plaster," Laramal recalls. As a child he carried bricks to the brick mason. As he got older, his interests leaned toward architecture.

"I've been interested in art all my life," Laramal, who helped organize the Beckley Art Group in 1945, says. He now is a freelance architectural designer who enjoys sculpture, drawing and painting in what spare time he has.

Although Laramal prefers pencil and ink drawing as his favorite, he probably is most noted for his sculpture, which he has sold in and out of the area. In 1967, "Mr. Junque", a sculpture in the form of a man made from pieces of scrap metal welded together, toured the state with other West Virginia art. He had entered the sculpture in Exhibition 180 in Huntington, which attracted artists from a 180-mile radius, after the piece had been passed over in a Beckley Art Group show.

In 1971, he showed a wood sculpture, "Awful 1", in the Appalachian Corridor exhibit in Charleston, which included pieces from artists in 13 Appalachian states. From there, "Awful 1" was exhibited at Sunrise Galleries in Charleston and then purchased as one of 50 pieces in the West Virginia Permanent Collection. He recently was notified that the sculpture would be on exhibit in the West Virginia Science and Culture Center through March 27.

"Awful 1" is a piece of carved walnut standing about 28 inches high, as he recalls. (He hasn't seen the piece in four years.) "It was a stump to start with," he says. The modernistically styled piece is finished and hand-rubbed with a secret formula that has been in his family many years.

Laramal has always been surprised when his works have been purchased. "I had no idea it would sell," he says, warning, "It's nothing much. You'll be disappointed if you expect to see a nice piece. My works have crazy names. 'Awful 1' looks like the back of a person from one angle. If it's human, it's an 'awful one'," he explained.

Another one of his sculptures which was exhibited at the Science and Culture Center, "Midnight Caller", is designed with several eyes in it. During the exhibit it was lit from behind, giving it an eerie appearance.

"If my friends smiled, laughed and giggled under their breath, kind of wanting to hold it in when I showed them my pieces, I knew I had one that would win," Laramal smiles. He has little of his art work in his home — most either has been given away or sold.

But Laramal has had little time for artwork in the past few years. He started designing homes while still employed by Appalachian, and the week he retired he had requests from two persons for home plans. "I had something to fall back on from the start. I just didn't know when to stop," he says. His architectural designs, which he does in a room in the basement of his home, are something between a business and a hobby. "It's something I do in my spare time."

When he was younger, he thought when he retired he would like to spend his time fishing and swimming. When the time came, however, his interests changed.

He helped organize the Beckley chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, which he served as president, and the retiree group at Appalachian.

Photo and story courtesy Beckley Post-Herald.

VETS GIVEN SERVICE AWARDS



F. B. Mitchell, Jr.
Trans. Line Supervisor
GO-Bluefield
40 Years



A. J. Conley
Unit Supervisor
Clinch River
35 Years



S. C. Morris
Meter Elec. A (LTD)
Charleston
30 Years



J. W. Whitenack
Sys. & Proc. Analyst
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



G. L. Murphy
Head Custodian
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



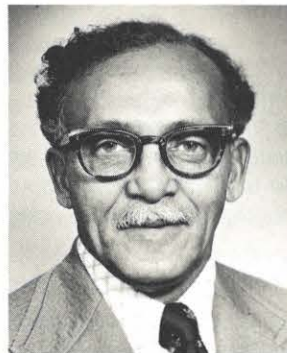
J. C. Barker
Personnel Supervisor
Beckley
30 Years



Pauline Gilkerson
Cust. Accts. Rep. B
Huntington
30 Years



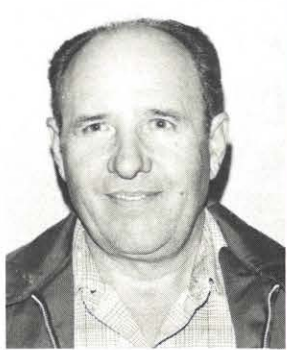
A. W. McBride
Auto. Mech. A
Roanoke
30 Years



F. W. Chapman
Head Custodian
Huntington
30 Years



F. G. Bruce
Station Supervisor
Huntington
30 Years



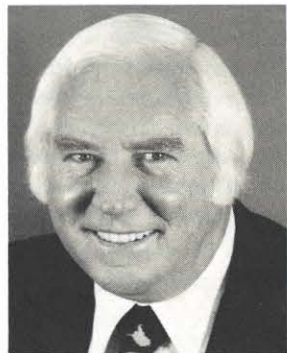
Jonas B. Rhudy
Meter Electrician A
Bluefield
30 Years



C. H. Wall
Station Crew Supv.
Charleston
30 Years



N. C. Turner
Tax Accountant
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



L. R. Jividen
Residential Rep.
Charleston
30 Years



H. L. Honeycutt
Maint. Mech. A
Pulaski
30 Years



James W. Booth
Line Mechanic A
Bluefield
30 Years



E. E. Crist
Maint. Mech. A
Clinch River
25 Years



J. L. Johnson
Maint. Mech. A
Kanawha River
25 Years



Jimmie Butcher
Area Service Restorer
Logan-Williamson
25 Years



Rhea Nell Wells
Cust. Accts. Rep. B
Kingsport
25 Years



H. A. Wilton
Engineer B
Charleston
25 Years



H. L. Foglesong
Records Supervisor
Logan-Williamson
25 Years



D. R. Huffman
Eng. Technol. Supv.
Charleston
25 Years



J. J. Stanley
Line Mechanic A (LTD)
Logan-Williamson
25 Years



R. G. McComas
Chief Chemist
Clinch River
25 Years



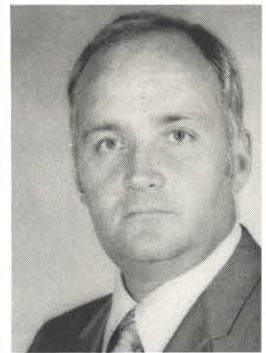
W. R. Flesham
Stores Attendant Sr.
Glen Lyn
25 Years



S. K. Pennington
Maintenance Supt.
Glen Lyn
20 Years



W. H. Lineberry
Meter Electrician A
Pulaski
20 Years



C. F. Burchett
Line Crew Supv. NE
Logan-Williamson
20 Years



J. M. Wright
Customer Serv. Supv.
Roanoke
20 Years



T. G. Allen
Rates & Contracts Eng.
GO-Roanoke
20 Years

Abingdon

10 Years: **A. M. Taylor**, line mechanic A.

Bluefield

10 Years: **J. D. Honaker**, station mechanic A. **Mary W. Mash**, customer accounts representative B.

Charleston

5 Years: **M. D. King**, line mechanic B. **W. M. Castleberry**, automotive mechanic B.

General Office

10 Years: **O. G. Barbour, Jr.**, regional dispatcher, GO-Abingdon. **R. E. Ferrell**, regional dispatcher, GO-Abingdon. **E. L. Westmoreland**, regional dispatcher, GO-Roanoke. **J. F. Whitehead**, regional dispatcher, GO-Roanoke. 5 Years: **C. H. Craig, Jr.**, station operator B, GO-Charleston. **J. C. Johnson, Jr.**, purchasing assistant, GO-Roanoke. **Linda Ragland**, tape librarian B, GO-Roanoke.

Glen Lyn

5 Years: **A. W. Ferguson**, utility operator.

Huntington

15 Years: **T. W. Kincaid**, station mechanic B.

Kanawha River

10 Years: **J. A. Hall**, unit supervisor.

Kingsport

10 Years: **A. D. Ford**, line mechanic A. **Kay W. Powell**, customer accounts representative C.

Logan-Williamson

10 Years: **A. M. Abshire**, line mechanic A. 5 Years: **D. J. Bailey**, customer accounts representative B.

Lynchburg

10 Years: **W. T. Martin, II**, line mechanic A.

Pulaski

15 Years: **J. W. Moore**, line mechanic B. **R. D. Tickle**, line crew supervisor NE. 5 Years: **J. N. Coleman**, line mechanic C.

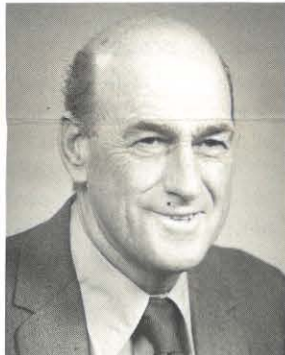
Roanoke

15 Years: **R. H. Hamblin**, meter service mechanic C. 5 Years: **Carolyn Gordon**, stenographer.

Philip Sporn

10 Years: **M. W. Burris**, maintenance mechanic A.

GILBERT ENDS 35-YEAR CAREER



Byrd G. Gilbert, Lynchburg streetlight attendant, retired March 1 after 35 years' service. He had been on long term disability leave since July 1976. Byrd says, "My health has not been too good in the last few years, but I do enjoy planting a garden that is big enough to give us something to eat for most of the winter. I have a wood stove and have spent most of the winter getting wood for that. So far I haven't had to pay for any, and I can go out where some men are logging and they help me put it on the back of my truck.

He continues, "Things have really changed since I first came with the company in 1943. We used to dig all the holes by hand and pike poles in place. Some employees fuss now when they have to work in the bucket. They should have had to pull wire over their shoulder and carry the transformers through the woods by hand.

Modern equipment has made things a lot easier and saved a lot of time in setting up for a job. We used to have a contractor where we rented horses to drag the poles and had about 15 men to a crew. Everything was manpower and little horsepower. I never heard anybody grumble and everybody worked hard together to get the job done in all kinds of weather." Byrd and his wife plan to stay in the Lynchburg area. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

JACK HARKER RETIRES



"As a young engineer, I was involved in a lot of things with the company, mainly the rural extension program," recalls Jack Harker, who retired February 1 as an electrical engineer in Lynchburg.

He continues, "I remember when I came with the company in 1945 they put me with some of the construction crews so I would learn how lines are actually built. We piked poles, but the line crew always looked after me so I wouldn't get hurt because they knew I was green out on the job.

"I worked on the Coleman Falls line, which was pretty rough territory, spotting poles, and I worked on putting one pole on top of Locke's Mountain, which was set in solid rock. The pole was dragged up the mountain by mules. They blasted the holes with dynamite. One time we were working on Tobacco Row Mountain, and a reel of wire got away and rolled all the way to the bottom, destroying everything in its path and spreading wire over all of the countryside but not exactly where we meant to spread it!"

Jack and his wife have seven children and eight grandchildren. Their son David was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict. Recently the Department of the Army sent a crew to Lynchburg to film an interview of Jack and David on the part faith played in David's survival. The film will be used as a training device for the Army.

Jack and his family are active in the Beulah Baptist Church and he has been in the Gideons for seven years, attending the international convention annually.

STAPLES PLANS MORE FISHING



"I started with the company July 19, 1937, as a laborer at 30 cents an hour and was happy to get it," recalls Glover S. Staples, who was Lynchburg Division general line supervisor before electing early retirement March 1.

He continues, "Leaving the company I have mixed emotions. I am looking forward to retirement but am really going to miss all the people I have worked with every day. It looks like the closer you actually get to retirement, the harder it is to leave. Appalachian has been my life. I am actually with the people at the service building more during my awake hours than I am at home with my family.

"Things have changed considerably since I first came with the company. In 1937 we had little trouble with the trucks because all we did was ride in them to the job. We were just barely out of the horse and wagon days. I remember the foreman and the driver always rode in the cab and everybody else rode in the back of the truck.

We made some cold rides to Scottsville that way. When we went to the outlying areas like Scottsville, we would stay all week in a boarding house. There were no numbers on any secondary roads and you had to know the customers' names and how to find them, and directions were given according to landmarks.

"I will never forget the 1969 Hurricane Camille which devastated parts of Nelson and Amherst counties. I coordinated the helicopter operation hauling men and materials around. With all the trouble, we were able to get everybody who could take electric service back within about five days.

"I have enjoyed working on all the jobs I ever had with the company. I am proud I have never had a lost-time accident and in 40 years I have never had an accident in any company equipment. The company has treated me wonderfully. There have been lots of benefit changes, and I always felt like the company had my interest at heart and that all the benefits, whenever they were changed, were meant to help me. That also applies to the safety policies."

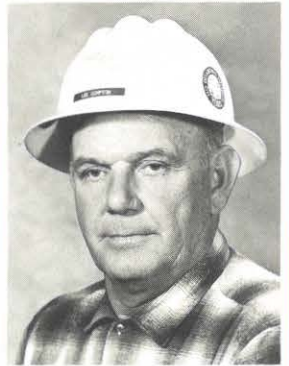
Glover and his wife plan to stay in Lynchburg, where he has two children and two grandchildren. "I hope to put in more time fishing. Lately I hated to stray from home too far because I never knew when I might be called out on trouble work." He is active in the Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Edgar B. "Red" Brewer, 77, retired Bluefield lineman A, died February 4. A native of Wythe Coun-

ty, Virginia, he began his career in 1926 as a lineman at Tazewell and retired February 1, 1966. Brewer is survived by his widow Gettis, Tazewell, Virginia, one son and one daughter.

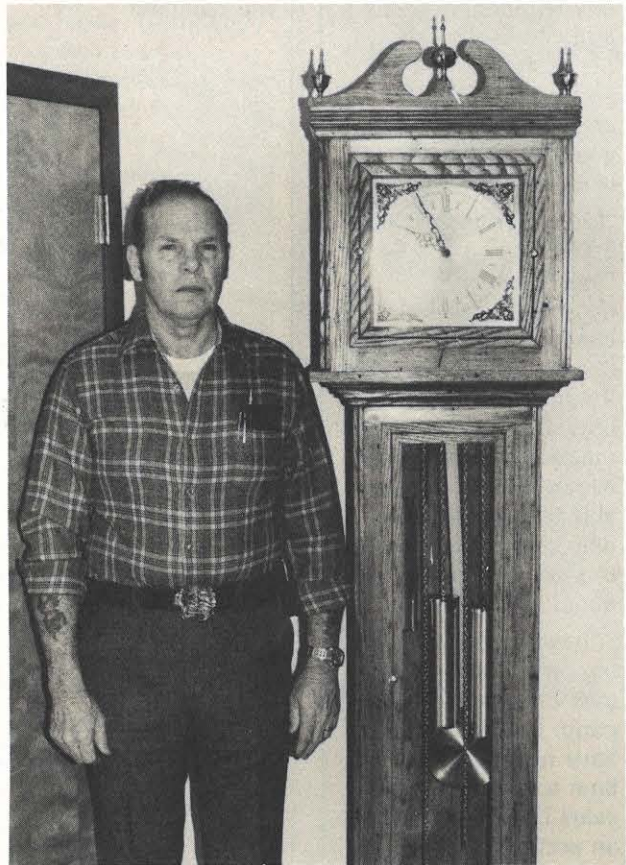


Lee Compton, 66, retired groundman in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division, died February 4. A native of Pikeville, Kentucky, he began his career in 1949 as a laborer in Kentucky Power's Pikeville District and retired September 1, 1973. Compton is survived by his widow Iva, Route 5, Box 310, Pikeville, Ky., and three sons.



Eldon Lee Goforth, 64, retired plant engineer at Glen Lyn Plant, died February 3. A native of Spear, North Carolina, he began his career in 1949 as plant foreman at Radford Army Ammunition Steam Plant. He was plant superintendent of the Radford Plant from 1957 through 1972, when Appalachian's contract to operate the plant terminated and he was transferred to Glen Lyn. He retired June 1, 1974. Goforth is survived by his widow Louise, P. O. Box 951, Dublin, Virginia; two sons; two daughters; his mother; six brothers; five sisters and ten grandchildren.

GRANDFATHER WILLIAMSON BUILDS CLOCK



"I had always wanted to own a grandfather clock, so in early November I decided to build one in my basement workshop," relates Kingsport General Line Supervisor Jess Williamson. "By using every minute of my spare time, I was able to finish the clock by Christmas."

Jess built the cabinet without the use of drawings or plans. "I knew in my own mind how I wanted the cabinet to look," he says. It is constructed of three-quarter inch wormy chestnut salvaged from an old barn and finished with one coat of cherry stain and a coat of wax.

"Everything went well until I started to install the glass in the clock door, and my wife, who was helping me, dropped the glass and it shattered. I thought how easy it would be for one of my grandchildren to lean against the glass and suffer severe cuts if it should break, so I replaced all the glass with plexiglas," Jess says.

The clock has an eight-day Westminster chime movement, driven by three 15-pound weights, and required about two weeks to regulate.

Jess concludes, "I have over 250 hours of labor involved plus the \$260 movement and cost of the other materials, but I could not put a dollar value on the clock. I have seen similar ones priced between \$1500 and \$2000, but the pride I have in building this clock cannot be measured in dollars."

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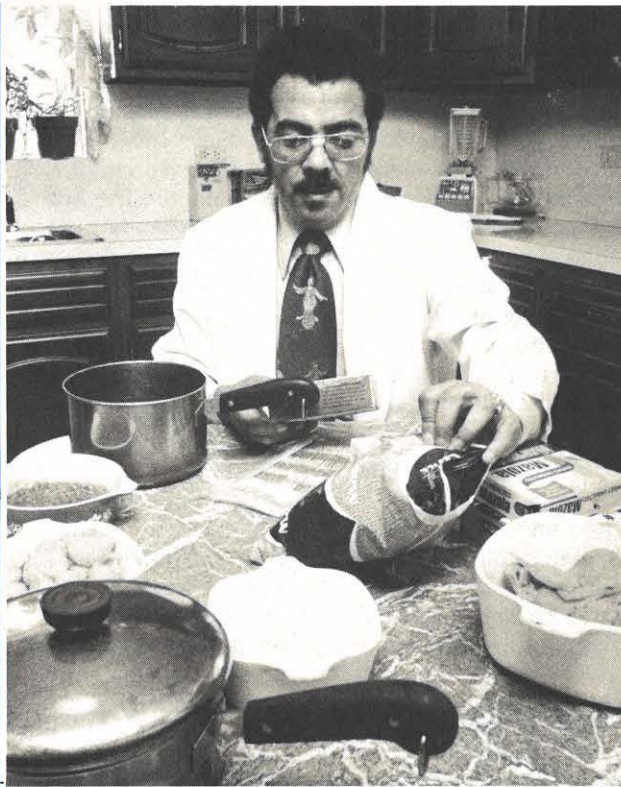


Photo courtesy Huntington Advertiser

T&D CLERK WELL KNOWN FOR CATERING

When he was 17, Charles Botts, T&D clerk A in Huntington, worked his first party. It was for the power company attorney there. Little did Charlie know that this was the first step toward a catering hobby which has lasted 25 years.

Charlie says, "I remember that first party very well. I worked for Charles Hayes, husband of Catherine Hayes, Huntington mail clerk. He had to go to the hospital because one of his daughters was on her way. I was new and made a couple of mistakes. A man ordered a scotch and water, and I fixed a scotch and gingerale. He was quite surprised at the first taste.

"The other thing happened at the end of the party. The host came by the bar and placed some money on the end of the counter. Then the whole group left to go to dinner. I cleaned up the bar and left also. The next morning the host called Mr. Hayes and wanted to know why I had left my money. No one said it was mine so I didn't take it. I soon learned that was the way he paid."

For years, Charlie just tended bar although he has never had a drink of whiskey in his life. One evening, at a private party, the cook became ill and Charlie had to jump in and prepare the meal. He had no problem because he was one of eight children. "My mother made sure we all knew how to take care of ourselves." From that party on, he began fixing the meals and snacks.

Charlie now has ten people working with him. He has taken on large projects such as the Ebony Golf Classic, where he catered a dinner for 650 people. His heavy time is between Thanksgiving and New Year. "I did not have a free night from November 19 to January 2," he recalls.

Charlie has one hard rule. Since he does not advertise, his work is passed by word of mouth and those calling on him do not do so during company working hours. "I pride myself on the fact that this hobby has never interfered with my work at Appalachian. My customers know how I feel and they do not call during the day."

Charlie has another rule. Always call the day of the event to make sure nothing has changed. He learned this the hard way. "One day I was preparing for a wedding reception and had a cocktail party scheduled for the next day. I had them reversed. So when I showed up with the wedding cake as the family was leaving for the rehearsal, I knew something was wrong. I was a little late for the cocktail party that night, but I learned a lesson and it has never happened again.

"Knowing people and how human nature works has given me a lot of satisfaction. I know so many people in Huntington that one day while Larry Dickerson, Huntington drafter B, and I were on our

way to lunch, he asked me, 'Don't you get tired of speaking to people?' I love it!"

Charlie's abilities are well known. He was pleased recently when Marshall University's Community College contacted him to ask if he would teach a class in catering. "It makes you feel good to know people recognize you for being good at something you enjoy."

COACHING IS REWARDING FOR DAVE BUSH



"Coaching basketball is my way of contributing something to young people," declares Dave Bush, Roanoke Division meter superintendent. He has been an assistant to Wayne Barnhart, head basketball coach at Andrew Lewis Junior High, for the past season. Barnhart, a friend of Dave's since high school, asked that he join him to help build a winning program.

Although Dave played basketball in high school, he says, "It's the first opportunity for me to be involved in a real organized school athletic program. For me, it's important that adults become involved with today's youth and sports is a common ground for people to come to know each other.

"In a program like we've got going, these first years are the most formative years of their lives. To know that you're having an influence on them and helping them prepare for a better program later on in high school and maybe college is a rewarding feeling. Some of these kids were so shy coming into the program at the beginning that they would hardly talk. Now they're much more outgoing. Sports of this type seem to help them develop a more positive attitude."

Dave's coaching job has been on a volunteer basis, and he estimates he's spent some 200 hours with the kids since practice first began last fall. "While coaching is a way of satisfying my own needs of being involved, it does require a great deal of my personal time. I leave work and head directly to the school Monday through Friday for practice sessions and games, and we also practice every Saturday."

Dave notes there were highlights and humorous moments during the season. "We once lost to a rival team on a last-second shot. The ball dropped in for a basket as the buzzer went off, which would have sent the game into overtime, but the referee disallowed the shot. That was a big loss for us. And there was a peak moment when we beat the number one team by 12 points on our home court. The fans loved it.

"One of the funniest things I've seen happen in sports took place during a game with Pulaski. They only brought six players to town for the game, and near the end all but two of their players had fouled out. There were three seconds left on the clock. We were leading by two points and had the ball at Pulaski's goal. Our kids were brought to the sideline for a meeting. We instructed them to cover each corner and just get the ball in play because there was no way two of their players could cover five of our guys. We made the mistake of giving the ball to a kid who also played quarterback on the football team, and he made a beautiful pass — all the way to the other end of the court. No one touched the ball, so no time elapsed, and Pulaski had the ball. They got the ball in play and made a shot that bounced off the rim as the game ended."