

THE FIRST 90 DAYS

The first three months of 1978 lasted 90 days. Exactly.

What kind of days were they?

They were days — from January 1 through March 31 — when crisis was a way of life. Crisis became routine. The routine was a rare occurrence.

They were days which took employees to their outer limits.

There was the coal strike, so all-encompassing because it affected the natural resource which is the lifeblood of our reason for existence — producing electricity for an energy-hungry public.

There was the fateful day in January, when a deficiency in generating capacity forced us, for the first time in history, to ask customers to cut back drastically on their use of electricity. And they did.

There were the decisions — inadequate at best — in a West Virginia rate case, surfacing in early 1978, three years after we sought an increase in that state.

There were the storms — snow, ice, rain, sleet — which presented real challenges in keeping electricity flowing to our customers.

There was the ever-present, ever-deadly energy crisis, overshadowing all else, several years old but still unresolved. It is an ever-growing shadow in which we have been operating, a spectre which we continue to face. It is not our crisis alone. It is national. But there is still no long-term answer.

These events, these facts — and others — paint a bleak picture of the first 90 days of 1978.

Yes, if you view them head on, and as simple statements.

But if you looked behind all of these negative, discouraging things — what do you see?

What you see is bright, indeed. For what you see is people — the people of Appalachian — taking on, one by one, these events. You see long hours of hard, relentless work, rising from an attitude that could only be inspired by dedication to a concept whose time has not only come, but has been proven to be right. That concept: electricity is valuable to life, electricity is indispensable.

The proof? Think back. Remember the line crews working in the midst of a blizzard. Recall people in temperatures below zero, chipping at frozen coal. Think about the office lights burning late at night and on weekends, illuminating the paperwork made necessary by regulatory orders and emergency plans. Picture people, innovative and untiring, keeping the system operating. Think back on the countless hours spent answering the barrage of questions from news media representatives, as they perhaps revealed their own underlying panic — would the lights go out? — when they asked the same questions over and over.

This is the way the first 90 days of 1978 should be remembered. They should be remembered as a time when our employees showed their dedication to jobs so important to life itself.

We have every right to be proud. Our mettle was tested, and was found to be unyielding, unconquerable.

Look again at the first 90 days of 1978. They were good days indeed.



PEARISBURG MEN COURT COLD DEATH TO RESTORE POWER

Two employees in the Pearisburg area of Pulaski Division risked their lives early last month in an effort to restore power for a microwave station on Bald Mountain.

Ernest Kirk, line mechanic D, was admitted to the local hospital with possible frostbite. W. B. Buchanan, Jr., area service restorer, was exhausted but required no medical attention.

The incident began one Friday afternoon when the line feeding the Bald Knob microwave station shorted out. Power was restored by changing a fuse at a junction. Buchanan and Kirk were sent to the microwave station following another power outage at 8:15 PM. They attempted to drive the mile and a half to Bald Knob in a company wagon with chains on all four wheels.

After about a half-mile, the clutch was torn out and the pair decided to go on by foot. They carried two portable lights, a portable radio and two hot sticks, about six feet long when contracted but capable of being expanded to 30 feet. They planned to use these to knock ice from the power lines on Bald Mountain.

Wading through four-foot snowdrifts, it took an estimated hour to reach the station. When they arrived, the 40-mile-an-hour wind combined with temperatures at least 5 degrees below zero for a chill factor of -60 degrees. The men were unable to reach the power lines which had shorted because heavy icing forced them together.

They attempted to warm their hands on the exhaust from a propane-driven engine that comes on when conventional power fails to keep temperatures in the microwave station at the 70 degrees required for its electronic equipment to function.

It took Buchanan and Kirk an hour to fight their way back down to the disabled wagon, where they met Nathan Via, line mechanic B, one of the two other employees who were waiting in another truck on Route 700. Before leaving the microwave station, they had radioed the truck below they were returning. Via went to the power wagon, hoping to reach it and start the motor so Buchanan and Kirk could warm up before continuing down the mountain.

The incident ended as Buchanan and Via, each supporting a shoulder, helped Kirk, who was by that time completely exhausted, make it to the truck on Route 700. Both Buchanan and Kirk reported they were "almost frozen to death" by the time they reached lower levels.

Dave Davis, area supervisor, said another crew reached the microwave station Saturday afternoon. Weather was still frigid, but the men managed to knock off ice which had collected around lines "as big as stove pipe" and restored power to the microwave station, which handles long-distance calling for C&P Telephone Company and microwave communications for Appalachian Power.

AEP COMPANIES RESCIND CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION

Settlement of the 110-day coal strike was good news for customers of Appalachian and Kingsport Power Companies and the rest of the seven-state American Electric Power System.

With the resumption of coal production, the AEP companies on March 28 lifted their requests that customers voluntarily curtail their use of electricity. The companies, however, continue to encourage customers to use electricity prudently.

Pointing out that a number of the power plants on the AEP System are located adjacent to coal mines, John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian, said, "The coal stocks at those plants should start building up within the next few days."

He continued, "In recent weeks, we were able to keep our coal supply fairly constant, at about 39 to 40 days, thanks to a number of factors. One of the most important of these was voluntary conservation by our customers. We are grateful to our customers, large and small, for their conservation efforts as well as their patience and understanding during the period of this unfortunate strike, and we are grateful as well that the economy can get moving again."

When the strike began, the AEP System had a 105-day coal supply. When the voluntary conservation call was rescinded, it was at the 39-day level.

APCO INCREASES WEST VIRGINIA RATES UNDER BOND

On March 15, Appalachian Power Company placed in effect under bond an \$84.7 million rate increase for all of its retail customers in West Virginia.

The new rates are subject to approval by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. If it is finally concluded that the revenues received from the increase should be reduced, Appalachian will refund the amount disallowed with interest at 9½%.

John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian, said, "The increase, which the company requested in a filing September 12, 1977, amounts to approximately 27% over what customers are presently paying.

"The increase will not be applied uniformly to all customers. It has been applied to the company's various rate schedules giving consideration to the cost of providing electric service to each class of customer — residential, commercial and industrial." He explained that rates will vary from community to community "because, for the first time, the company plans to surcharge the local business and occupation tax to its customers in the communities where the tax is levied."

Vaughan added that the increase would affect typical residential bills in this manner: a customer using 800 kilowatthours will have an increase of \$6.81 a month; for 1,000 kilowatthours a month, the increase is \$8.19; for 2,000 kilowatthours a month, \$14.61; and for 3,000 kilowatthours a month, \$20.54.

"The increase placed into effect March 15 is needed by the company because of the continued rising cost of operation as well as the need to improve the company's earnings and enhance Appalachian's ability to attract the funds needed for financing its construction program," Vaughan explained.

THE ILLUMINATOR

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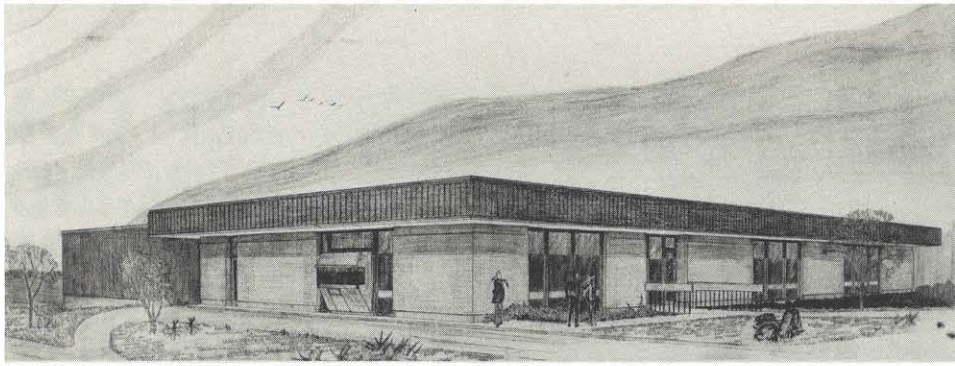
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NEW SERVICE FACILITY PLANNED FOR GRUNDY



Construction will begin soon on a new office and service facility in Grundy, Virginia. The \$700,000 facility, to be built between U. S. Route 460 and the Levisa River, will consolidate company operations now in two Grundy locations. "By combining existing operations and providing our employees with modern working conditions, we will be able to provide better service for our customers in the area," said W. B. Belchee, Bluefield division manager.

The building will represent the first time Appalachian has used a "design-build concept" approach in a facility of this type. In this concept, Appalachian developed guideline specifications for a pre-engineered building for competitive bidding. Prospective contractors bid on the entire procedure, from design to actual construction.

Richard E. Phillippi, Inc., of Wytheville was the successful bidder as general contractor. The 15,000 square foot metal building will have a brick facade on the exterior of the office portion.

Energy efficiency was an integral part of the design. The building will be heated and cooled with heat pumps, the most efficient climate control device known. The building will be insulated to the highest recommended standards, including exterior doors, and will have thermopane windows.

Belchee said the structure will have two features for the public which do not exist at present facilities. "Our new building will have a meeting room which will be available to community groups. We will also have a drive-up window where customers can complete many transactions without getting out of their cars."

Belchee pointed out there is a definite need for the new facility. "We are serving over 3,000 more customers in the area than we were 10 years ago, and we believe the area will continue to grow. In addition, last April's flood, which washed away the garage portion of our storeroom and caused some other damage, added impetus to our decision to proceed with a new combined facility."

The 3.62 acre site for the new building is being raised above the 1977 flood of record by an earth-compacted fill. Office facilities will occupy one side of the building while facilities for line, service, engineering and other crews will occupy the other. A loading dock and a parking area for company and visitors' vehicles will also be provided.

It is hoped that the 28 employees now working out of Grundy will be able to occupy their new quarters by Christmas.



The Clinch River Plant has met the requirements for safety certification by Appalachian Power 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. Clinch River received an average grade of 4.140. The second requirement is that the plant's disabling injury index rate for a designated period prior to the inspection be lower than the AEP rate for the same period. Clinch River's rate for the period January 1, 1977, through December 31, 1977, is .0 versus the AEP rate of 6.127. Plant Manager T. W. Abolin, left, receives a certificate of excellence from E. L. Munday, Jr., Appalachian vice president.

UNIT VALUES LISTED FOR SAVINGS PLAN

Date	Value Per Unit	Units Credited Per Dollar
AEP Stock Fund		
1/31/1978	\$1.0000	1.0000
2/28/1978	0.9816	1.0187
Equity Fund		
1/31/1978	\$1.0000	1.0000
2/28/1978	0.9969	1.0031
Fixed Income Fund		
1/31/1978	\$1.0000	1.0000
2/28/1978	1.0076	0.9925

The chart above shows unit values for the three funds in the AEP System Employees Savings Plan. By keeping track of these unit values, participants can follow the progress of the investment funds and figure the approximate value of their investments. The unit values will appear in **The Illuminator** each month.

First, a brief review. At the time of enrollment in the Savings Plan, participants chose to have their contributions invested in one, two or three of three separate funds: the Equity Fund, the Fixed Income Fund, and the AEP Stock Fund. They also chose the percentage of their base salary to be deducted from their paychecks. Up to six percent could be deducted as Basic Contributions, with an additional four percent as Supplementary Contributions. AEP matches Basic Contributions 50¢-on-the-dollar by contributing on the employee's behalf in the AEP Stock Fund.

The Savings Plan began January 1, 1978; contributions were made on each paycheck during January, and the first investments were made.

On January 31, the accounts were credited with one unit for each dollar contributed to Bankers Trust Company (trustees of the Plan). Therefore, for the month of January, participants were credited with one unit for each dollar they contributed.

On February 28, Bankers Trust determined the current value of the January contributions to each fund. In other words, the Trustee determined how much the January 31 value of the funds changed during the month of February. They then divided the new value of each fund by the total number of units in the fund at the end of January. The resulting number is the February unit value. Then, the February contributions are used to purchase additional units at the February unit price.

In January, for example, \$58,407 was contributed to the Equity Fund. Since each unit was valued at \$1.00, January ended with 58,407 units in the Equity Fund. On February 28 the trustee added up the total value of the Fund's January contributions, totaling \$58,228. That figure is divided by the number of units bought in January (58,407) and the unit value as of February 28 is \$0.9969. The unit value means that the value of the original units has decreased three-tenths of 1 percent and that each unit purchased in February cost \$0.9969.

Let's assume that an employee has contributed \$20 in January to the Equity Fund. Since the January values were fixed at \$1.00, he purchased 20 units that month. Each dollar of his contribution bought him one unit, in turn valued at \$1.00.

February, however, is a little different. Under "Units Credited per Dollar," he sees that a \$1 contribution bought 1.003 units in the Equity Fund during February. He paid \$20 into that fund in February. By multiplying his \$20 contribution by 1.003, he finds that his \$20 contribution has bought him 20.060 units. His January units totaled 20; he therefore has 40.060 units in his account. He multiplies 40.060 by the unit value, \$0.9969, and gets \$39.935; the approximate value of his \$40 investment in the Equity Fund over January and February as of February 28.

These calculations, of course, are a simple illustration and assume that the employee has made no recent changes in his account. The unit values can serve, however, as a rough guide to the performance of the three funds. In addition, each participant will receive a personal statement of his account annually, or more often if he should make any changes in his account.



The 409 employees of Appalachian Power's General Office Transmission and Distribution Department completed two million consecutive safe manhours on February 23. Their record began August 14, 1975. GO T&D is the fourth unit to reach the two million manhour mark in Appalachian's history. Appalachian Vice President E. L. Munday, Jr., left, presents a certificate for this achievement to T. W. Old, manager of GO T&D's construction and maintenance division.



Appalachian Power Company was awarded a plaque by the U. S. Treasury Department for participation by 52 percent of its employees in the 1977 U. S. Savings Bond campaign. Appalachian Vice President E. L. Munday, Jr., right, presents the award to R. A. Youngman, General Office general services supervisor, who accepted on behalf of employees.



Employees of the John E. Amos Plant completed 500,000 consecutive safe manhours on February 14. Their record began June 30, 1977. Plant Manager J. A. Moore, left, receives a certificate for this achievement from E. L. Munday, Jr., Appalachian vice president.



Don McNeil, left, and Jerry Adcock

GENERAL SERVICERS SAVE HOUSE FROM DESTRUCTION

The residence of Dr. Harold Haley might have been completely destroyed by fire had it not been for the quick action of Roanoke General Servicers Jerry Adcock and Don McNeil.

Jerry received a call early one morning that power was off on Peakwood Drive. He arrived shortly after 2 AM and spotted a blown transformer fuse. An ice-covered steep embankment in the rear of the doctor's residence prevented his restoring service alone, so Don was dispatched to lend a hand.

Jerry recalls, "When Mac arrived, we got our tools and hot stick with extensions and started down the backyard. That's when we first smelled something burning."

Don says, "I told Jerry the transformer had probably gone bad and the smell was from the hot oil. He had to go up the pole to fuse the cutout because it was the enclosed type. When he came down, I closed the lid and it blew again. We pulled the customer's meter at the pole, fused it again and it held. We knew then there was something wrong at the house and where the smell of smoke was coming from. We took off up the icy bank, and I don't know why I didn't think to throw down what I had in my arms. I was trying to make it up to the house with a hot stick and the extensions, plus two hand lanterns," Don related.

Jerry added, "As I went to the side door to arouse the occupants, Mac tried the back door. I beat on the side door and then tried the front but couldn't get anybody to answer. By this time, Mac had spotted heavy smoke and yelled that the house was on fire and for me to kick the door down."

Jerry was able to break the front door latch, sending the door wide open. "When the door went open, no one would ever believe how thick the smoke was. We knew it was impossible to get inside."

Don awakened the neighbor next door to point out windows of bedrooms where occupants might be sleeping, while Jerry called the fire department.

Don continues, "The neighbor pointed to the upper front bedroom. I picked up a shovel out of the front yard, and Jerry set our ladder against the house, permitting me to break out the window. There was an unmade bed but no one in it. If anyone had gotten up in all that smoke, it would have knocked 'em down like a gun."

It was then that the city fire department arrived and went into action. Jerry adds, "They took over, and we told them what we saw in the bedroom and that we didn't know whether anyone was inside or not."

"One of the firemen really impressed me. He went through the window and crawled around on his hands and knees under the smoke, looking for anyone that might be in the room. Other firemen with oxygen masks went in through the door to search the rest of the house.

"As it turned out, nobody was at home, and it was a little embarrassing. We had knocked the window out, kicked the door in, and woke the neighbor up," Jerry admitted. But McNeil and Adcock were praised by the firemen for their good judgment and action. According to the firemen, the pair prevented what would have resulted in a possible total loss of the residence.

Dr. Haley had this to say about the incident: "My wife and I were out of the country when it happened and, of course, got the details secondhand. The fact the fire was reported early helped to contain it to the utility and storage rooms. There was extensive smoke damage, though. The actions by everyone seemed to have been done intelligently and quickly. We are fortunate that we're only inconvenienced (remodeling taking place) rather than suffering total disaster. It could have been much worse."

Jerry concluded, "You never know what you'll do until you're faced with a situation like we had. I think I would do the same thing over again. Even though no one was home, we had no way of knowing. I guess we were only thinking that people's lives were in danger".

POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

Abingdon

Chip Thayer, son of Engineering Technologist Hunter Thayer, and **Mark Landreth**, son of D. C. Landreth, engineer B, were members of the championship 1978 Abingdon High School J. V. basketball team. The team sports a 20-0 record for the year.

Jennifer, daughter of Marlene Mitchell, Customer Services Department, was elected vice president of the Bristol Area Growth Rally for Christian churches for 1978. She was also elected president of the Suburban Christian Church Youth Rally.

D. D. Taylor, customer accounts manager; **J. C. Hughes**, personnel supervisor; and **Clark Peck**, retired records supervisor, assisted with the 29th annual Rotary Frolics held at Barter Theatre.

Beckley

Gary Begley, son of J. W. Begley, Oak Hill line crew supervisor, was selected to the Region V, Section II, Class AAA basketball All Tournament Team.

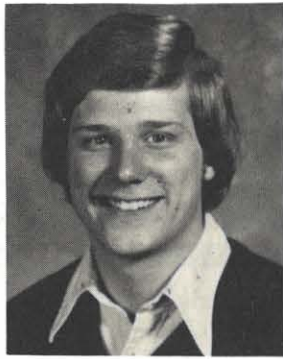
Ray Vest, administrative assistant, was selected by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission to officiate the 1978 West Virginia State High School Basketball Tournament. **R. E. Dyke**, line mechanic A; **J. A. Kirby**, T&D clerk A; and **J. W. Begley**, Oak Hill line crew supervisor, were selected to officiate the regional basketball tournaments.

James E. Jones, division manager, was elected to the board of governors of the Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Bluefield



Helen Vermillion, wife of Meter Superintendent John Vermillion, was installed as president of the Bluefield Woman's Club.

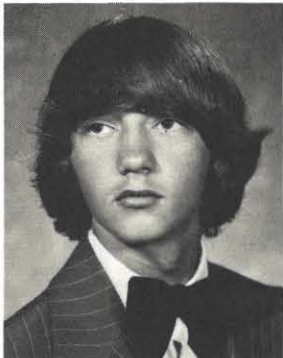


Randy Robinette, son of Leonard Robinette, power engineer senior, was named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges". A senior at Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, Randy has been the recipient of the Ty Cobb Scholarship Award for three consecutive years.



Vicki Bowman, daughter of Administrative Assistant Dick Bowman, was selected to represent Graham High School in The Society of Distinguished American High School Students.

Jane Meadows, wife of Howard Meadows, electrical engineer senior, was installed as first vice president of the Bluefield Civic League.



Mason Sexton was awarded first place in product service technology in distributive education

competition at Bristol, Va., in February. This made him eligible to represent Graham High School in the Virginia state leadership conference in Roanoke last month, where he won second place in the mathematics section of general merchandise and fourth place in overall competition. Mason will represent the Virginia DECA in national competition at Washington, D. C., in early May, where he will compete against winners from 49 other states in the general merchandise category of the Distributive Education Clubs of America. The son of W. C. Sexton, engineering technologist, Mason is a senior at Graham High and president of the Graham Chapter of DECA.

Donna Ferguson, daughter of Lvonne Ferguson, Welch customer accounts representative B, was the senior high second place winner in the Americanism Essay Contest held at Gary High School. The topic of the essay contest was "You — You're What Makes This Country Great".

Charleston



Beth Ann Dahmer, a senior at Stonewall Jackson High School, is the recipient of the Good Citizenship Award from the Daughters of American Revolution. The daughter of Eugene Dahmer, meter mechanic A, Beth Ann was one of three people so honored in the Kanawha Valley.

Jacqueline Bostic, a junior at Sissonville High School, will tour Switzerland and Paris for ten days with the school's French Club. She is the daughter of Bill Bostic, engineering technician senior.

General Office



Barbara Hagerman, daughter of Jack W. Hagerman, transmission supervising engineer, GO T&D Transmission Line, Bluefield, was selected for membership in the Society of Distinguished American High School Students. She is a senior at Graham High School, Bluefield, Va.

Helen Sabo, stenographer, GO T&D Transmission Line, Bluefield, was elected first vice president of the Pocahontas Woman's Club for 1978-81.



Jennifer Shank won the Robert Lee Lynn Award, which carried with it \$50 and a silver bowl, for the outstanding youth entry in the 28th annual AAUW-Heironimus Art Show. She is the daughter of Dianne Shank, tax accounting clerk, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Huntington



Teresa Dornon is captain of the Fairland Junior High School cheerleading squad which won the "outstanding cheerleader squad" trophy in competition among squads at the Lawrence County basketball tournament. She is the

daughter of Paul E. Dornon, auto mechanic A.

Barbara Jane Fotos, wife of M. A. Fotos, T&D superintendent, was named to the Cabell County Board of Health.

Dr. Alice Y. Romans is co-author of a book entitled "Receptors in Pharmacology" published in January. The daughter of Haney Romans, customer accounts representative C, Dr. Romans completed the work while on the research staff at the University of Alabama.

Lynchburg

J. Robert Davenport, division manager, was named to the student loan committee of the Rotary Club of Lynchburg. He was also elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of Central Lynchburg, Inc.

Cathy Davenport, daughter of J. Robert Davenport, was appointed a group leader in the Students Organized for Developing Attitudes Program (SODA). SODA, sponsored through the Central Virginia Mental Health Services, utilizes high school students as group leaders to meet and work with fifth and sixth graders so that the peer group influence will develop positive attitudes for the young students towards themselves and their lives.

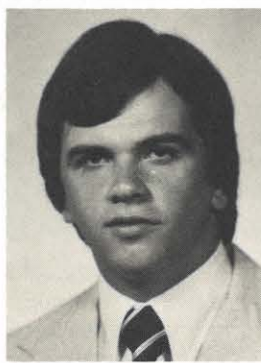
Pulaski



Vicki Lawson, daughter of R. P. Lawson, customer accounting supervisor, was chosen "sweetheart" of Sigma Chi fraternity at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. A senior at Virginia Tech, Vicki will represent the fraternity in school activities and on the homecoming court.

Martha Ann Sisson, daughter of Right of Way Agent S. L. Sisson, won first place in school and district forensic meets competing in original oratory. A senior at Carroll County High School in Hillsville, she will attend the University of Richmond.

Roanoke



Charles W. Kahle was selected to represent Virginia Commonwealth University's academic and Medical College of Virginia campuses in the 1977-78 edition of "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges". The son of W. H. Kahle, station crew supervisor, he is a senior in the MCV School of Pharmacy. Charles served as class president for two years and is a member of the Dean's committee, Alpha Sigma Chi honorary leadership fraternity and the Student American Pharmaceutical Association. He organized School of Pharmacy participation in the Great James River Raft Race for the multiple sclerosis cause. He is also the recipient of an A. D. Williams scholarship.



Ludy Rakes, daughter of Jo Ann Rakes, Fieldale T&D clerk C, was selected as princess of the Valentine sweetheart dance by the student body of Fieldale-Collinsville High School.

Ronnie L. Wray, Fieldale stores attendant, bowled a triplicate 174 in the Henry County Industrial League. A member of "The Big Six" team, he has a 151 average.



Larry Redden, line mechanic A, was elected Worshipful Master, Lakeland Lodge #190, A.F. & A.M. He is also a member of the Kazim Shrine Temple's "Klown" unit.

Claude L. Reynolds, customer services manager, was re-elected vice president of the Roanoke Valley United Way Campaign for 1978.

Joe D. Higgins, Fieldale manager, was elected to the board of directors of Henry County-Martinsville United Fund Drive for 1978.



Melvin Brown, Fieldale customer accounting supervisor, was elected president of the Fieldale Rescue Squad for 1978. His sons, **Jerry** and **Geoffrey**, are also active in the squad.

Miles Smythers, commercial engineer, was appointed to a three-year term on Roanoke City's Board of Zoning Appeals.

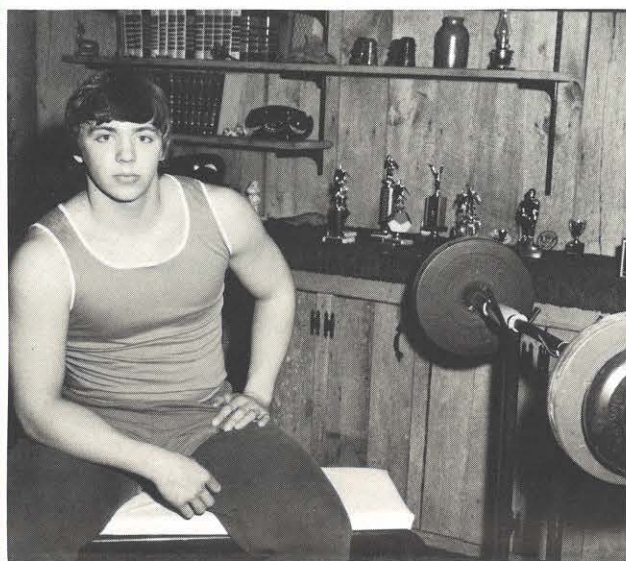
Mark Pugh, son of Betty Pugh, meter electrician C, was awarded a first place certificate in sales judging competition in Distributive Education Clubs of America.



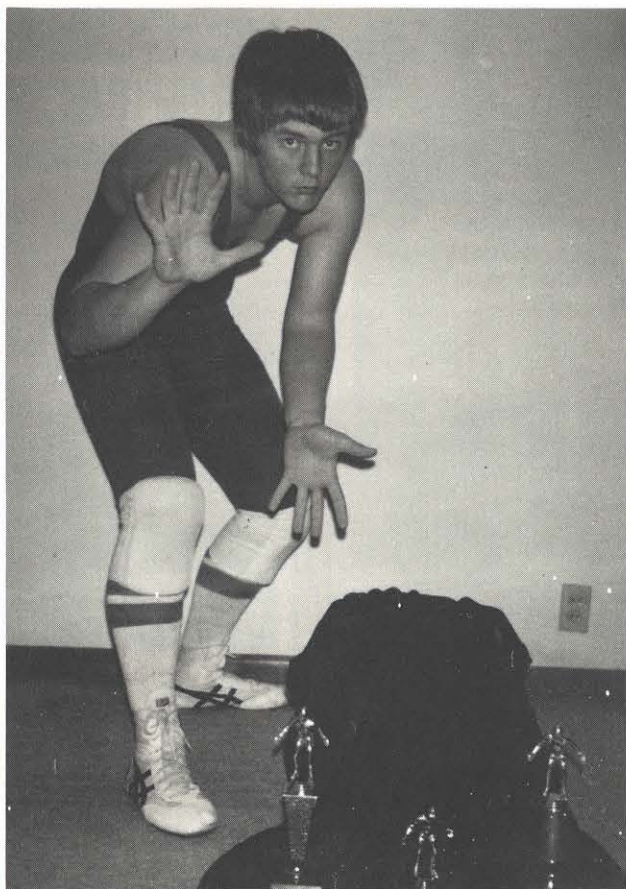
Kelly Lynn Downey, daughter of Richard P. Downey, engineering technician, was selected to participate in a program sponsored by the State of Virginia for gifted and talented students. She is an eighth grader at Staunton River High.



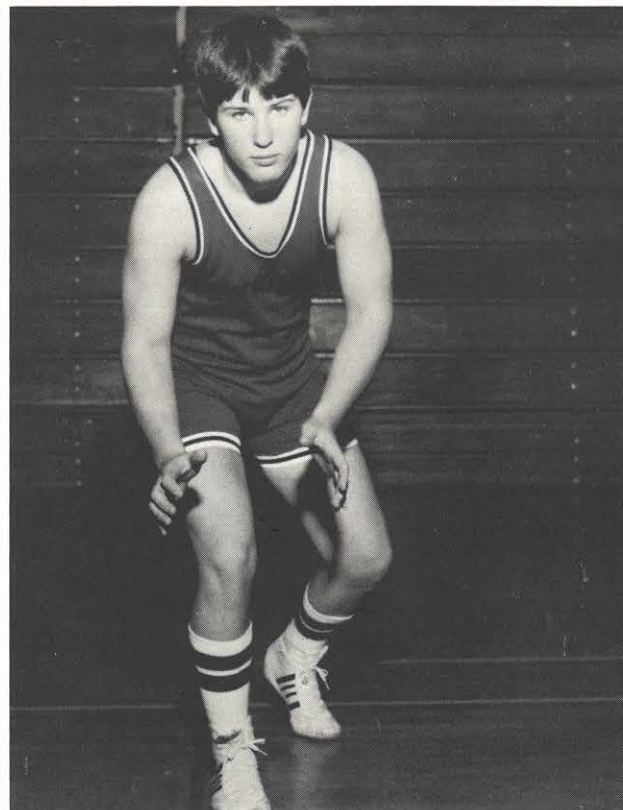
Monte Hager, a senior at Logan High School, won the championship of arm wrestling which was conducted during the halftime at a LHS ballgame. The son of Logan Line Foreman Coonie Hager, Monte won his division and then defeated the other five division winners to gain the trophy. Photo courtesy **Logan Banner**.



Dale Rice received trophies in three weightlifting events recently. In the heavyweight class, Dale lifted 290 in flat bench press, 240 in the power clean, 240 in the clean and jerk, and 330 in the bench press with bridge. The flat bench press and bench press with bridge competition broke West Virginia high school state records. This qualifies Dale, a junior at Princeton High School, to compete in the state meet in June. He is the son of Mary Lou Rice, Bluefield customer accounts representative C.



Stephen Michael Grose, son of L. K. Grose, Huntington station crew supervisor NE, won the unlimited class wrestling championship in Cabell County, W. Va. He had nine wins and no defeats. Fourteen-year-old Michael stands 6'2" and weighs 220 lbs.



James Gregory Smith completed an outstanding season of wrestling for William Byrd Junior High School, Vinton, Va. He finished the regular season undefeated in the heavyweight class, won the Roanoke Valley District Junior High Championship and the Roanoke City-County Championship at the Breckenridge Invitational in January. He also received a trophy from his team as most outstanding wrestler. The son of James H. Smith, transmission supervisor in General Office T&D Station, Roanoke, his totals for the season were 11 wins, no losses and 1 tie. Greg's grandfather is the late Charlie M. Smith, former maintenance supervisor at Glen Lyn Plant.



C. K. Rowland, Marion customer accounting supervisor (left), had a 1050 handicap score to take the first place trophy and prize fund in the Abingdon Division bowling tournament. He is being congratulated by David Spencer, Marion line mechanic D, who organized the tournament. Harold Counts, Abingdon T&D clerk A, placed second with a score of 1028 and won a bowling ball with a high scratch score of 928 for five games. John Moore, Abingdon meter electrician A, placed third with a 1001 score.



Philip Biggs, right, is congratulated by Murphy Scott, assistant principal at Hidden Valley Intermediate School, after winning the 91-lb. weight class in the Roanoke Valley Junior High School wrestling championship. Philip is the son of E. R. Biggs, general stores supervisor, General Office Purchasing, Roanoke.

UFO SPOTTED IN HAZARD

On the evening of January 31, **C. W. Knapp, Jr.**, Tri-State dispatcher, received a call from a woman who reported a UFO had landed on Kentucky Power's office building in Hazard.

The woman said the UFO was a triangular object, with blue lights on it, and appeared to have a little man inside. She had already called the owner of the furniture store next to the Hazard office, who went up on the store roof and confirmed that indeed there was a UFO.

When Kentucky Power's **W. C. Haddix** was dispatched to the scene, he reported the object was the recently installed microwave cone. Where the blue lights and little man went, no one knows!

WORK IDEAS SHARED

Several Appalachian Power and Kingsport Power employees shared suggestions for improving performance and saving money in the March/April issue of **AEP Operating Ideas**.

Billy G. Duty, instrument mechanic A at Clinch River Plant, wrote "Checks Precipitator Flyash Level Indicators". J. R. Whitehurst, Abingdon division manager, and J. C. Hughes, Abingdon personnel supervisor, co-authored "Improves Telephone Answering Procedures". "Modified Map Aids Emergency Load Sharing" was written by W. A. Scott, Abingdon electrical engineer. E. W. Riffle, performance technician at John E. Amos Plant, shared "Cation Column Fittings".

J. L. Hagood and C. H. Bryant, Kingsport station mechanics A, collaborated on "Safe Way To Move Water Pump".

SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Patricia Ann Vehorn to **Ronald E. Allen**, operations engineer, General Office Operations, Roanoke, February 11.



Renae Newman Joyce, daughter of Jimmie R. Newman, line crew supervisor NE in the Fieldale area of Roanoke Division, to Robert Dee Marion, February 14.



Lena Waynette Munsey, daughter of J. W. Munsey, regional chief dispatcher, General Office Operations, Huntington, to Gary Lee Adkins, January 21.



Deborah Sue Anderson, daughter of A. J. Anderson, Pulaski equipment service advisor, to Randall Dean Mabry, March 2.



Frances Jeannette Wimmer to **Newton Joseph Burnside, Jr.**, operations coordinator, General Office Operations, Roanoke, February 25.

Cathy Jo Dye to **Kenneth D. Wines**, Charleston meter electrician C, March 4.

BABY PARADE

Bluefield

Heather Renee, daughter of **Terry L. White**, Grundy line mechanic D, February 13.

Central Machine

Christopher James, son of **Alexander Anderson**, machinist 2nd class, February 24.

Charleston

Anitra Lynette, daughter of **W. S. Chester, Jr.**, line mechanic B, March 1.

General Office

Steven Wesley, son of **K. O. Croghan**, utility helper, Abingdon regional dispatch office, January 22.

Karen Beth, daughter of **J. B. Sudderth**, electrical test specialist, GO T&D Station, Charleston, January 23.

William Hunter, son of **R. Daniel Carson**, administrative assistant to the executive vice president of Apalachian Power, February 1.

Brandon Edward, son of **Ron Poff**, civil engineer, GO T&D Station, Roanoke, March 4.

Huntington

Jill Anne, daughter of **J. E. Johnson**, station mechanic B, November 29.

Kanawha River

Phillip Sean, son of **John P. Harrison**, maintenance mechanic C, January 27.

Amanda Beth, daughter of **Charles L. Carroll**, maintenance mechanic C, January 29.

Stephen A., son of **Robert A. Sparkman**, maintenance mechanic B, January 9.

Mountaineer

Shauna Renee, daughter of **Randy S. Crawford**, construction technician D, January 24.

Kevinn Zacharie, son of **Russell E. Lanier**, stores supervisor, February 6.

Amy Patricia, daughter of **Edward A. Young**, civil construction assistant II, February 13.

Roanoke

Mitchell Evan, son of **Gary A. Sheppard**, Stuart line mechanic A, February 27.

Philip Sporn

Rachael Mae, daughter of **R. E. Nettles**, utility worker B, January 16.

Christopher J., son of **J. R. Michael**, maintenance mechanic D, January 26.

Israel Scott, son of **J. R. Grimm**, maintenance mechanic C, January 26.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

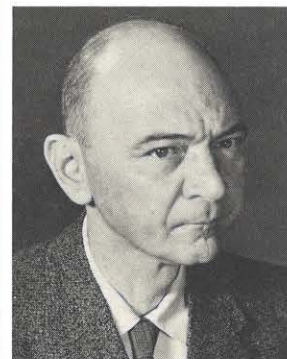


Edward L. Knight, 97, retired watch engineer at Glen Lyn Plant, died March 17. A native of Tarboro, North Carolina, he began his career in 1923 and retired March 1, 1946. Knight is survived by two sons and one daughter. One son, Oliver Shell Knight, is shift operating engineer at Glen Lyn.



Charles Huling Hawes, 83, retired Charleston line inspector, died February 28. A native of Dana, West Virginia, he began his career in 1924 as a lineman and retired

December 1, 1959. Hawes is survived by two sons and two daughters.



Roy Birnbaum, 73, retired Huntington engineering aide, died March 12 in Zachary, Louisiana. A native of New York, N. Y., he began his career in 1928 as a service inspector and retired June 1, 1967.

Ben H. Scalf, 89, retired groundman in the Logan-Williamson Division, died March 9. A native of Hisey, Kentucky, he began his career in 1937 in the then Williamson District and retired October 1, 1953. Scalf is survived by two nephews.

TWO EARN DEGREES

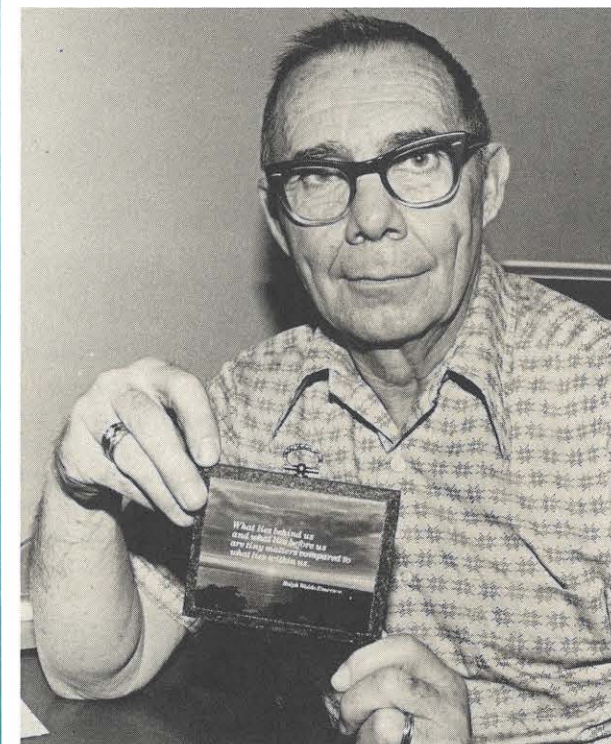


Howard G. Hudson, engineering technologist senior in Kingsport, was graduated from Steed College with an associate degree in business management.



Larry J. Boyer, drafter B in Kingsport, was graduated from Steed College with an associate degree in business management.

HOSCHAR FINDS STOLEN PAYCHECK



There's at least one Huntington resident who's glad C. E. Hoschar walks to work.

While on his way to the office one day last month, Charlie, head T&D clerk, noticed a piece of paper in the snow. Thinking it was litter, he started to pass by and then realized it looked like a check.

Sure enough, it turned out to be a paycheck belonging to Mrs. Janice Murrell. She was working for O.I.C. in Huntington and was on assignment at the First Baptist Church when someone stole her purse containing the check.

Charlie called O.I.C., who got in touch with Mrs. Murrell, and her husband came by to pick up the check. It turned out this was her first paycheck.

A few days later, Mrs. Murrell stopped by the Huntington office and gave Charlie a small plaque and card in appreciation for his efforts. On the card she had written "may God bless you and your family". The plaque depicted her feelings: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Charlie says, "It feels good to know you've saved someone a lot of worry and trouble."

MCCOMB OWNS FIVE MOTORCYCLES



Karen "Ki-Ki" McComb, utility worker A at Kanawha River Plant, is a real motorcycle enthusiast. She jokes that she wanted a mini-bike by the time she could walk and began riding motorcycles before she was 12.

Ki-Ki is now the proud owner of five cycles, including a new Honda and new Triumph. The other were given to her by her brothers and brother-in-law.

She does wheelies with the greatest of ease, rides trails and jumps over hills to see how high she can go. At one time Ki-Ki was close to entering a motor cross but backed out "because it tears up bikes too much and leaves too many bruises".

RAISING MUMS REQUIRES WORK, PATIENCE



Raising Chrysanthemums is a favorite pastime for Dunbar Hill, Roanoke station mechanic C; his wife Kathleen, and daughter Katherine Manson. The trio are charter members of the Carver Garden Club, which they joined in 1966.

"My favorite mum category is the Cascade," Dunbar relates. "Every mum must have a name and be registered with the National Chrysanthemum Society before it can be entered for competition. The Cascade mum fills out to a large and beautiful flower."

Dunbar's Cascade, measuring 4½ feet in diameter, won the top Award of Merit in its category at the annual Skyline Chapter mum competition last November. The show, at Crossroads Mall, drew entries from throughout Southwest Virginia.

"With all the time and work required to compete in shows, I wonder sometimes why I ever got into it. Once the show is over, the mum only lasts about three weeks," Dunbar explains.

Preparation for the show begins in early May but the judging takes place in late November. "We begin by preparing the beds of soil, feeding, watering and giving the particular care needed to raise mums. You have to devote about an hour a day. In all, that means about 125 hours spent to come up with the final entry."

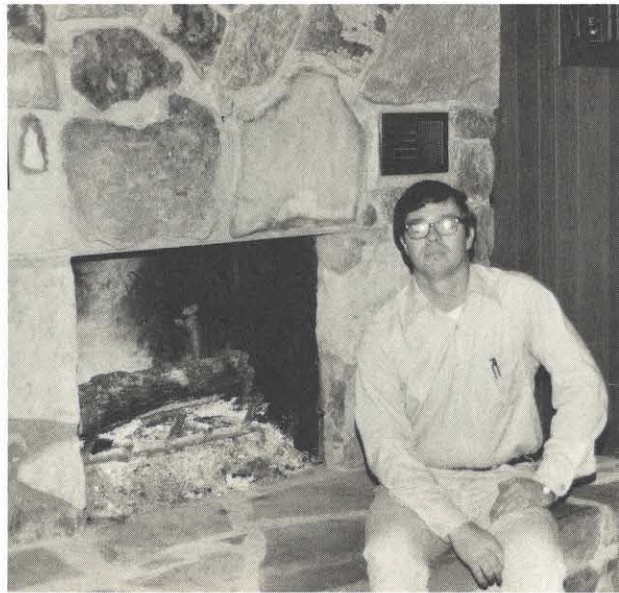
The mums have to be watered twice a day and turned slightly each day for the sun to give them even growth. "I use a wire mesh frame to train the mum, and each day the runners must be pinched and some tied and retied to develop a full, rounded look. The idea is to bring it into full bloom for the show — but not too early. The judges will rule it ineligible unless every bud has blossomed out. That poses a problem sometimes. Since we enter our mums in amateur competition, no greenhouses are allowed for growth. To protect the mums from frost before show date, a plastic shelter has to be set up and the mums set out each day for sunlight."

Kathleen says, "It's worth the hard work and time because we've gotten to meet so many wonderful people at the shows. Also, the joy of winning a few ribbons and trophies makes the time spent more wonderful."

The Hills have won 15 blue ribbons (first award) and several handsome trophies during the past 12 years. Dunbar is the recipient of the Award of Merit (selected as best entry from the other ribbon winners) and is currently a candidate judge. A candidate judge must judge at least three shows with the approval and guidance of a master judge and win blue ribbons in five classes prior to being registered as a certified judge.

Kathleen recently completed requirements for certification as a show judge. She is also vice president and former treasurer of the Skyline Chapter, National Chrysanthemum Society. Dunbar is presently serving as trophy chairman, and Katherine, who is also a candidate judge, is awards chairman. All three are also charter members of the Star City Council of Garden Clubs.

HAGOOD'S FIREPLACE HEATS WHOLE HOUSE



Jerry Hagood, Kingsport station mechanic A, has found a unique way to beat rising fuel costs.

Last Spring, after considerable planning, Jerry began to build a fireplace with an eight-foot-long hearth in his living room. The fireplace is unusual in that it has two 148 cfm blowers installed in the return air ducts to force the air through the circulator fireplace unit and through supply ducts to the rest of the house.

Jerry's wife, Sandra, helped gather the stone from area mountains and hillsides. Jerry did all the work himself, including the stone and duct work. Although cold weather set in before all the duct work was completed, the fireplace, with only two duct openings in the living room, heated most of the house comfortably this winter.

When finished, the fireplace will have two outside air ducts for combustion air, glass doors over the fireplace opening, insulated ducts and six inches of insulation between the heatilator and the masonry work. The Hagoods plan to complete the remaining duct work this summer so their home can be heated entirely by their fireplace next winter.



The coal strike caused Logan employees to come up with a new operations improvement idea. The supply of coal to heat the Logan service building would have run out several weeks ago had it not been decided to stretch the supply by mixing it with wood chips. Since the furnace is stoker-fired, vines and twigs presented a clogging problem. This was resolved by hand firing the furnace during the day and returning the unit to automatic stoker operation at night, using only coal. The high cost of coal versus the abundant supply of wood chips may justify the continued use of this method. William E. Burgess, Logan service building custodian, is shown shoveling the chips.



L. Wayne Fletcher, Kingsport engineering technologist, was awarded the Virginia National Guard Commendation Medal for outstanding service while coordinating the Virginia State Emergency Operation Center during the Southwest Virginia flood in April 1977. A letter from the commander of Headquarters Company, 1030th Engineer Battalion (Service) at Gate City, Va., was inscribed with this personal note: "Although this comment will not appear in the official letter, just wanted you to know I believe the job you did during this crisis is the most outstanding I have seen in two years in the Army and four years in the Guard." Sergeant First Class Fletcher is the intelligence sergeant and assistant operations sergeant for the 1030th Battalion and is one of the few men in the Virginia National Guard to have graduated from the Non-Commissioned Officer Career Engineer Course at Fort Belvoir, Va. He was also awarded the First Gold Dogwood Blossom for 15 years' honorable service.

VACATION VALUES AVAILABLE FOR APCO EMPLOYEES

Planning a trip to Walt Disney World in Florida? Membership in the Magic Kingdom Club can save you money. Here are some of the benefits offered only to MKC card holders:

- Five vacation plans, ranging from three to five days, featuring special prices on accommodations, admission and ticket books at Disney World;
- Ten per cent discount with a minimum \$5.00 total purchase on all merchandise in the Walt Disney World Village at lake Buena Vista;
- Special golf and tennis court rates at certain courses and clubs;
- Special admission price at Cypress Gardens in Florida; and
- Ten per cent discount on double-occupied rooms at over 400 Howard Johnson's lodges nationwide.

To obtain your Magic Kingdom Club card, contact Karen Burtis on extension 391, Roanoke.

Savings are also available on admission to Kings Dominion park on I-95, 20 miles north of Richmond, Virginia. Through May 31, Fun Club card holders can save \$2.00 on the \$8.50 general admission price. Starting June 1, the savings is reduced to \$1.00. The park is open weekends only through May 21 and daily starting May 27.

To obtain your Fun Club card, contact Tommy Throckmorton on extension 551, Roanoke.

VETS GIVEN SERVICE AWARDS



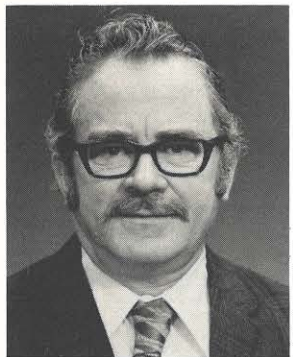
W. B. Belchee
Division Manager
Bluefield
35 Years



Hilda Zontini
Cust. Accts. Rep. A
Charleston
35 Years



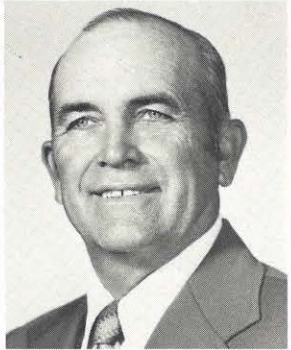
Arvle Frye
Shift Op. Eng.
Kanawha River
35 Years



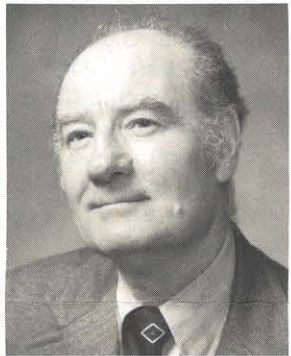
C. R. Stone
Maint. Mech. B
Philip Sporn
35 Years



Mildred Bishop
Secretary-Steno.
GO-Bluefield
35 Years



D. E. Murray
Line Crew Supv. E
Beckley
30 Years



W. H. Shrader
Reg. Dispatcher
GO-Abingdon
30 Years



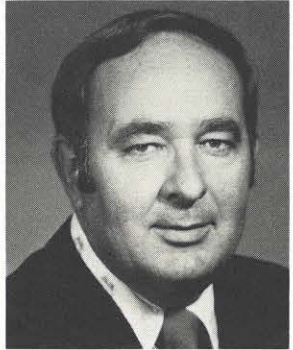
C. C. Willis
Area Supv.
Rupert (Beck. Div.)
30 Years



C. D. Kinzer
Area Supv. A
Bluefield
30 Years



W. D. Crews
Personnel Supv.
Lynchburg
30 Years



J. S. Payne
Meter Elec. A
Roanoke
30 Years



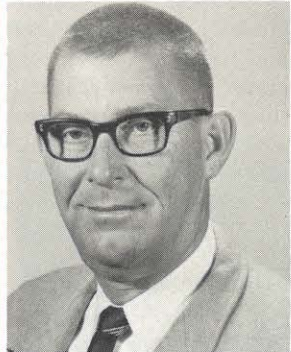
S. L. Sisson
R/w Agent
Pulaski
30 Years



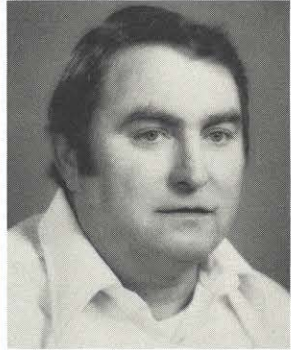
M. J. Johnson
Line Crew Supv. NE
Huntington
30 Years



R. R. Meador
Trans. Off. Supv.
GO-Bluefield
30 Years



Holmes Cassady
Meter Reader
Logan-Williamson
30 Years



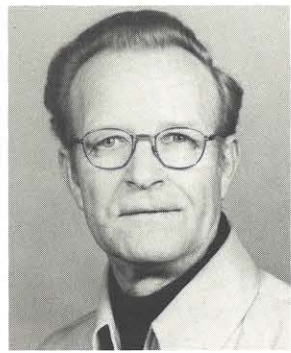
James Collins
Eng. Technician Sr.
Lynchburg
25 Years



C. E. Fowler
Area Serv. Rest.
Pt. Pleas. (Htg. Div.)
25 Years



J. B. Armstrong
Maint. Mech. A
Kanawha River
25 Years



K. D. Ferguson
Sta. Mech. A
GO-Roanoke
25 Years



C. C. Murrill
Maint. Mech. B
Kanawha River
25 Years



W. W. Chambers
Meter Serv. Mech. A
Logan-Williamson
25 Years



J. B. Wood
Meter Reader
Roanoke
25 Years



G. R. Hartman
Shift Op. Eng.
Kanawha River
25 Years



H. P. Johnson
Unit Supv.
Kanawha River
25 Years



H. D. Jones, Jr.
Engineering Tech. Sr.
Bluefield
25 Years



F. L. Gilliland
Maint. Mech. B
Kanawha River
25 Years



June Deal
Chemical Lab Tech.
AEP-Huntington
20 Years



R. W. Bradshaw
Power Engineer
Charleston
20 Years



J. W. Pullen
Production Eng.
Central Machine
20 Years



M. J. McFarland
Maint. Mech. B
Philip Sporn
20 Years



C. B. King
Payroll Rec. Supv.
GO-Roanoke
20 Years



C. W. Broughton
Line Inspector
Logan-Williamson
20 Years

Beckley

10 Years: **W. P. Bailey**, line mechanic A.

Bluefield

10 Years: **Richard L. Davis**, general servicer. 5 Years: **James N. Barrett**, stores attendant.

Centralized Plant Maintenance

5 Years: **J. E. Sullivan, Jr.**, personnel and office supervisor. **Linda Smith**, secretary-stenographer.

Charleston

15 Years: **O. P. Taylor**, customer accounting supervisor. 10 Years: **J. A. Motus**, engineer B. **W. S. Chester, Jr.**, line mechanic B. **R. L. Drake**, line mechanic B.

General Office

20 Years: **Marjorie Altice**, stores accounting clerk A, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **W. D. Stoots**, transmission mechanic A, GO T&D Transmission, Bluefield. 10 Years: **D. W. Carter**,

transmission mechanic A, GO T&D Transmission, Abingdon. **J. A. Eden**, drafter B, GO T&D Civil Engineering, Roanoke. **F. R. Frango, Jr.**, stores attendant, GO T&D Administrative, Roanoke. **G. R. Parker**, station mechanic A, GO T&D Station, Roanoke. **A. C. Thomas**, payroll clerk A, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Huntington

5 Years: **W. M. Lewis**, custodian.

Kanawha River

25 Years: **Robert T. Hardy**, engineer B.

Logan-Williamson

5 Years: **Barbara Aliff**, customer accounts representative B.

Pulaski

25 Years: **B. J. McCoy**, meter reader.

Roanoke

5 Years: **D. G. Short**, automotive mechanic C.

Philip Sporn

25 Years: **A. H. Hart**, filter plant operator and sampler. 10 Years: **W. T. English**, maintenance mechanic B. **W. R. Friend**, tripper operator. **R. D. Grimm**, maintenance mechanic A.

MOVING UP



Earl Wells, former station mechanic A, was promoted to station crew supervisor for Kingsport Power on February 11.



J. C. Thomas, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in Beckley on March 11.



J. W. Begley, former line crew supervisor NE in Beckley, was promoted to line crew supervisor exempt in the Oak Hill area of Beckley Division on March 15.



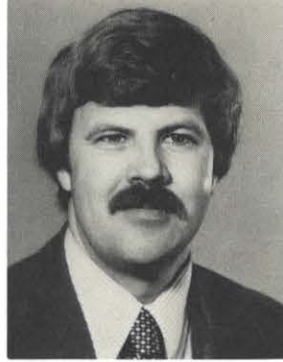
James C. Hughes, former administrative assistant, was promoted to Abingdon Division personnel supervisor on April 1, succeeding J. B. Frier, who retired. Hughes holds a BS degree in business administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



William P. Roeser, former commercial representative in Huntington, was promoted to administrative assistant in Abingdon on April 1, succeeding J. C. Hughes. Roeser holds a bachelor of arts degree from Marshall University's College of Education.



C. E. Garrett, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Lebanon area of Abingdon Division on February 18. He succeeds G. B. Gent, who elected early retirement.



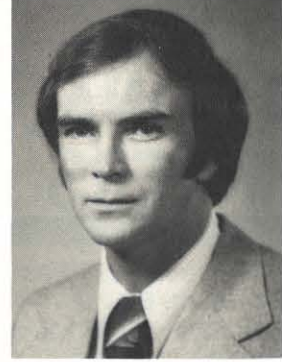
Ronald L. Jamison, former station engineer senior, was promoted to electrical test supervisor in GO T&D Station, Roanoke, on February 1. He succeeds J. H. Campbell, who retired. Jamison holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



George R. Lowe, former classification and accounts payable control clerk, was promoted to the exempt position of classification accountant in GO Accounting, Roanoke, on April 1. He holds associate in applied science degrees in accounting and management from Virginia Western Community College.



L. G. Cook, former area supervisor A in Abingdon Division, was promoted to Huntington Division line superintendent on March 1. He succeeds C. A. Burdette, Jr., who will transfer to Charleston. Cook holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from The Citadel.



Harry A. Hughes, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor in Lynchburg, on February 25. He succeeds S. L. Drumheller, who was promoted earlier.



James K. Reid, former electrical engineer in Lynchburg, was promoted to electrical engineer senior in the Distribution Section of General Office Transmission & Distribution, Roanoke, on April 1. He has studied through International Correspondence Schools.

FRIER ENDS 41-YEAR CAREER



"It has been a good 41 years, a satisfying time and a knowledge that I have worked with some of the best people on earth," declares Jack Frier, who retired April 1 as Abingdon Division personnel supervisor.

Shortly after graduating from Roanoke College in 1937, Jack was hired by John A. Farr, purchasing agent, to work in the Roanoke storeroom. His co-workers in the stores department at that time were Frank C. Williams and Alfred Beatty. Later, Tom Kirby, Tom

Lunsford and Dewey Henry joined the staff. Jack's career was interrupted by service with the U. S. Army during World War II. After his return, construction was started on the new Roanoke office building and Jack was given the job of handling the construction materials under the supervision of Frank Aldred.

Jack recalls, "After working at this job for almost a year, Mr. Aldred came into the office one day, threw down a piece of paper with a name on it and said, 'here, you go see this fellow'. The man I went to see turned out to be South Dunn, public relations director for the company. Mr. Dunn told me a new district had been formed in Abingdon and suggested that I go to Abingdon and talk with Joe P. Gills, then district manager. I was offered the job of district safety director and came to Abingdon on October 1, 1948."

As the Abingdon District grew, so did Jack. He was an active participant on company bowling and softball teams, promoted employee activities and assisted with various community functions. He received the first *Illuminator* award as outstanding associate editor in 1951. When the Abingdon Division was formed in 1964, Jack was named division personnel supervisor. He attended the AEP Management Training School at the University of Michigan in 1967.

Jack is well known and respected in the area for his work with the Boy Scouts and the Abingdon Baptist Church. He likes people and is happiest when performing a service for someone else. "That is what has been so rewarding in personnel work, and I would like to be remembered as being fair and honest in my dealings with the employees," Jack declares.

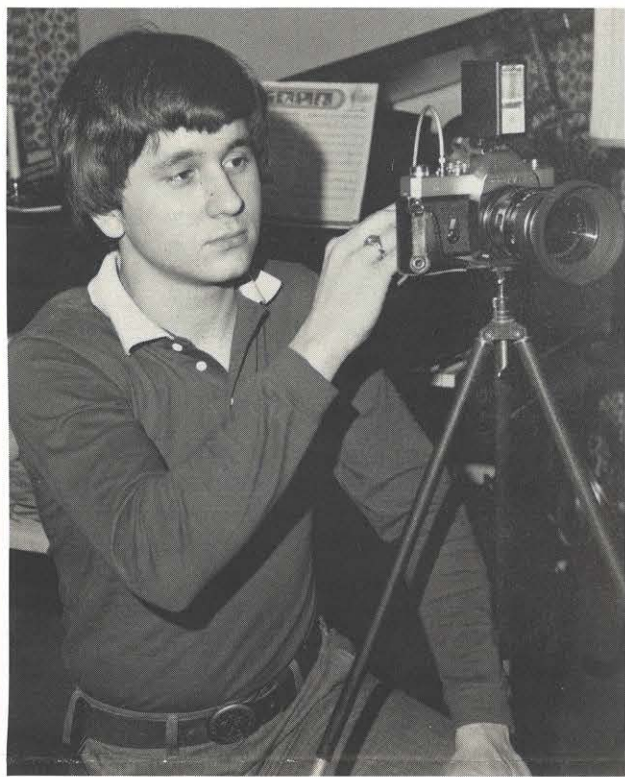
At the March safety and operating conference, a retiree expressed the sentiments of Abingdon Division employees with this statement: "Jack's witness and Christian influence will continue to be felt in the lives of the people in the area for many years to come."

MEET OUR 1978 AEP EDUCATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Thirty-four sons and daughters of System employees have been selected to receive American Electric Power Educational Awards. Each winner will receive \$2000 for his first year in college and \$1000 for his second year.

Since the Educational Awards program was begun in 1955, with a single cash prize of \$500, 499 awards totaling \$755,400 have been made.

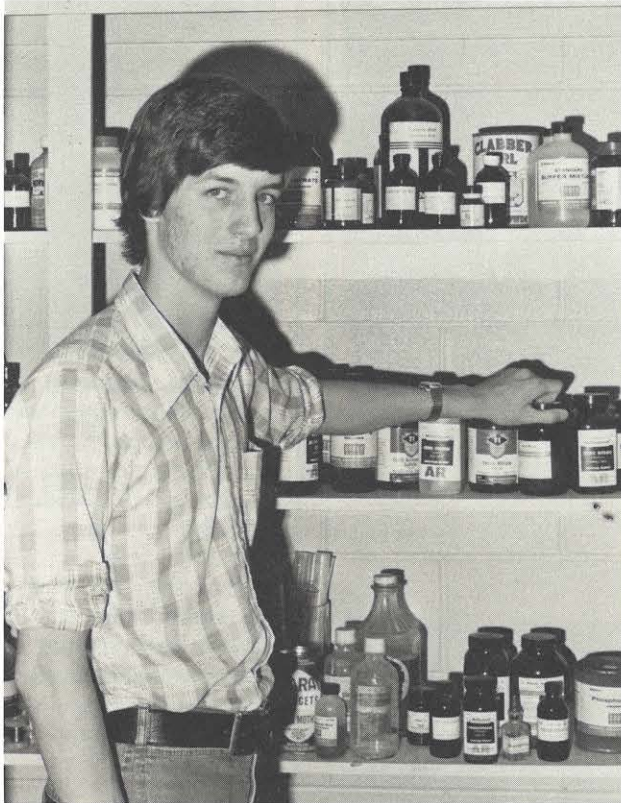
The winners from Kingsport Power and Appalachian Power Companies are:



Mike Angelo, son of Bill M. Angelo, assistant regional chief dispatcher at Turner Station. At Charleston High School, Mike is a member, National Honor Society, marching and stage bands, Chess and Latin Clubs. He is also a member of the Charleston Jazz Club and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Mike was nominated for "student of the week" and "Who's Who in American High Schools". A pianist and trumpeter, Mike played the fanfare at the recent West Virginia Golden Gloves tournament. He holds a part-time job in the paint department of Sears, Roebuck & Company. Mike will work toward degrees in chemical engineering and industrial management at Purdue University.

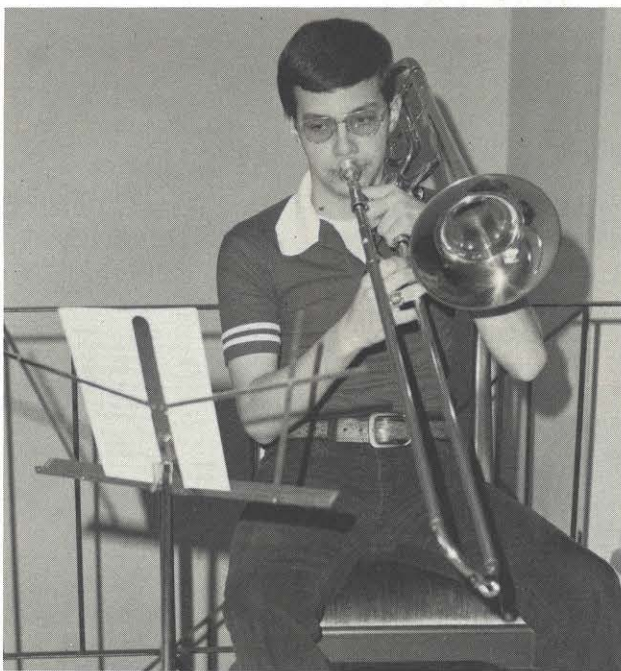


Eugene Eric "Rick" Gloss, son of E. H. Gloss, Philip Sporn plant manager. At Gallia Academy High School in Gallipolis, Ohio, Rick is a member of the National Honor Society, Science, Photo and Spanish Clubs and plays trumpet in the marching, pep and symphonic bands. A Life Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow, he will serve as a camp counselor this summer. His hobbies include model building, model trains and collecting match-box covers. Rick will major in mechanical engineering but has not decided which college he will attend.



James Griffith, son of Robert R. Griffith, Charleston line supervisor. At George Washington High School in Charleston, James is vice president, senior class and Chess Club; editor, Key Club newsletter; and member, Key and Math Clubs and the Medical Explorers at Charleston Area Medical Center-Memorial Division. He is president of the youth group at St. Mark's Methodist Church and participates in the Church League basketball program. In 1977 he was the recipient of the Young Columbus Award as outstanding newspaper carrier for the Charleston Daily Mail. Griffith has been selected as a National Merit Scholarship program finalist. He will major in chemistry at West Virginia University in preparation for medical school and a career as a physician.

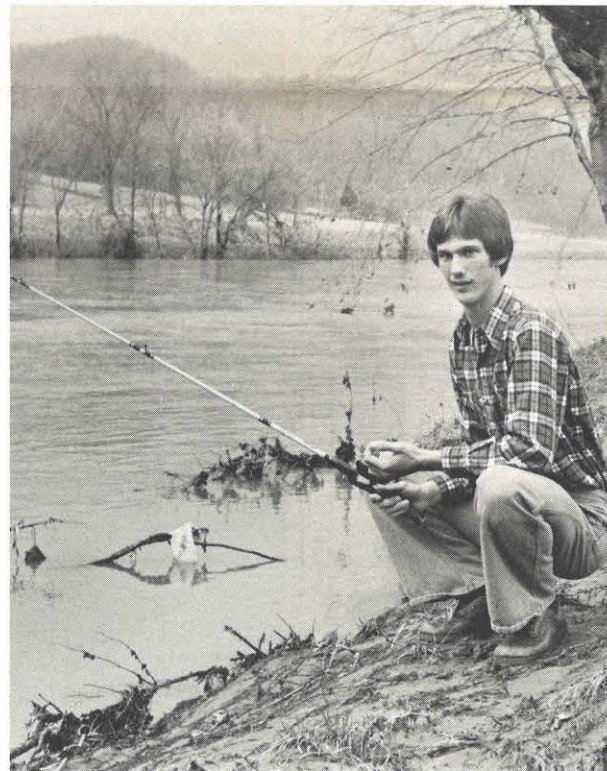
His brother, Donald W. Griffith, was an AEP Educational Award winner in 1973. He is working toward a master's degree in math at West Virginia University. He formerly held an assistantship and is now involved in a government research program on water pollution.



Stephen Turner, son of Albert L. Turner, civil engineer, GO T&D, Roanoke. At Salem High School in Salem, Stephen is a member of the National Honor Society, the marching and symphonic bands and jazz ensemble. He will work toward a bachelor of business administration degree, majoring in management at James Madison University. He hopes to attend graduate school before entering a career in the computer field.



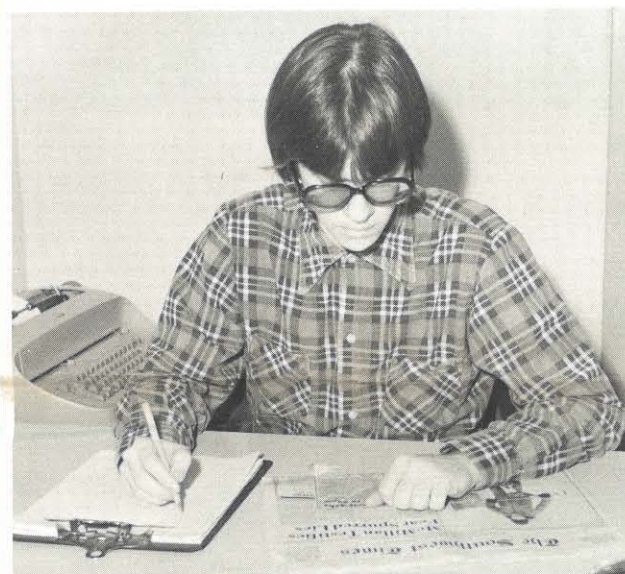
Kim French, daughter of K. E. "Gene" French, Roanoke engineer B. At William Fleming High School in Roanoke, Kim is treasurer, Beta Club; head majorette; a cheerleader; and member, newspaper staff, SEA Student Council and gymnastic team. She has been accepted at Roanoke College, where she is considering a major in criminology, and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where she would study for a career in electronics. Kim will work part-time this summer as a PBX operator at Moore's Stores executive offices.



Brent Bacon, son of Carl S. Bacon, Kingsport customer services manager. At Lynn View High School in Kingsport, Brent is president of the National Honor Society; vice president, Beta Club; and member, Spanish, Key and Jets Clubs and Student Council. He was vice president of his sophomore class, president of his junior class and was voted "most likely to succeed" by the senior class. A member of the school's varsity baseball team, he has been a member of the "B" basketball team. Brent represented his school at the American Legion-sponsored Boys State in 1977 and was a winner of the Optimist Clubs' Youth Appreciation Award. He will major in mechanical engineering at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in preparation for a career in industrial mechanical design.



Sally Murray, daughter of D. E. Murray, Beckley line crew supervisor. At Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley, Sally is secretary, Historians; treasurer, Science Club; managing editor, newspaper; editor, yearbook; and member, Spanish and Conservation Clubs and National Honor Society. She belongs to the Medical Explorers at Appalachian Regional Hospital. She plans to study pre-medicine but has not yet decided on a college.



Scott Kilgore, son of R. B. Kilgore, Pulaski division superintendent. At Pulaski County High, Scott is valedictorian of the senior class and has been selected as a National Merit Scholarship program finalist. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Science Club; copy editor and chief writer on annual staff; staff member, Literary Magazine; and is a school reporter for The Southwest Times. He attended the Governor's School for the Gifted during the 11th grade. He will attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, possibly majoring in both political science and business. His choices for a career include law, politics or journalism.

\$45.5 MILLION REFUNDED IN WEST VIRGINIA

Refund checks totaling approximately \$45.5 million were mailed to Appalachian Power Company's West Virginia customers on March 31.

John W. Vaughan, APCo's executive vice president, said the average refund to a residential customer would amount to between \$55 and \$65. "However, the amount received by an individual will vary depending on the customer's use of electricity during the refund period," he said. Checks were mailed for all refunds amounting to \$5 or more. Amounts less than \$5 will be credited to customers' bills.

The \$45.5 million refund, which includes interest through March 31, 1978, is the result of a May 6, 1977, decision by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia on a \$30.6 million annual rate in-

crease. The PSC decision was appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, but that court dismissed the company's appeal for "want of a substantial federal question."

The refunds cover the period August 28, 1975, when the rate increase was placed in effect under bond, through April 30, 1977, the effective date of the portion of the rate increase allowed by the PSC. The period from May 1, 1977, through March 14, 1978, was the subject of further hearings before the PSC and rates covering that period have not been finally approved by the regulatory commission.

COLD WEATHER RESULTS IN RECORD USE OF ELECTRICITY

Despite pleas for conservation, the record cold weather resulted in Appalachian Power's residential and commercial customers using more electricity in February than in any previous month in company history.

Residential customers used 882,338,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity in February, 6.3% more than in January and 2% more than in February 1977.

Commercial customers used a record 317,430,000 kilowatt-hours, in February, an 8.64% increase over the same month last year.

John W. Vaughan, Appalachian's executive vice president, said, "Our contacts with customers indicate that during the latter part of February many were making real efforts to reduce their use of electricity to help spread out our dwindling coal stockpiles during the miners' strike. If it had not been for these efforts, use of electricity could have been at an even higher level."

SEC ALLEGES AEP VIOLATED 1935 HOLDING COMPANY ACT

The Securities and Exchange Commission last month filed a complaint with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia charging that American Electric Power Company and a number of its subsidiaries had violated certain provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935. The charges ended a three-year SEC investigation of certain of the AEP System's operations.

At the same time, AEP and its subsidiaries "consented to the entry of a consent order," which simply means that the company, while neither admitting nor denying the charges made by the SEC, agreed to a settlement of the case. "Many of the SEC's charges related to practices and projects we have not been actively involved in for almost ten years," said W. S. White, Jr., AEP chairman, "but we agreed to the consent order to avoid a lengthy, time-consuming, and expensive suit with the SEC."

The investigation, and the subsequent SEC charges, were concerned with builders' aid and industrial development projects in which System companies participated in the 1960's, as part of our much larger sales promotion efforts during that decade of growth, and with certain fuel procurement and related activities designed to provide adequate and assured supplies of fuel for AEP System plants.

Builders' Aid

Builders' aid programs, largely discontinued before 1970, were undertaken by the System to increase the use of electric energy, specifically total electric housing, in its service area. In the course of these programs AEP and its subsidiaries purchased tracts of land, reselling it in smaller lots to builders and

developers with the understanding that all-electric housing or apartment projects would be constructed. Cooperating builders constructed and operated the all-electric apartment projects.

Industrial Development

AEP and its operating companies were also involved in the purchase of industrial sites throughout the service area. The sites, sometimes including a shell building constructed by the local operating company, were made available for sale to industries settling in the area. The availability of such land proved a key drawing card in the industrial development of AEP's service area. Such area development programs were widespread during the growth years of the 1960's, with state and local governments welcoming the help of utilities, railroads and other businesses. The SEC in its charges stated that such involvement put AEP and its subsidiaries in a business "other than the generation of power."

AEP felt, said White, that both builders' aid and industrial development programs were, directly and indirectly, in the public interest. The public benefited directly from increased housing availability and employment opportunities. In addition, the economies of scale made possible by increased electric power usage on the AEP System enabled the operating companies to put rate reductions into effect several times in the 1960's. "One problem is," said White, "that our actions in a time of unparalleled and enthusiastic economic growth in our society are now being judged in the light of today's tight energy situation."

Land Disposal

While AEP companies have not been actively involved in builders' aid programs and industrial development since the construction and sale of a shell building in 1972, the System retains ownership of 13 parcels of land originally meant for residential development. As part of the SEC consent order, AEP has agreed to dispose of those parcels of land which the company does not need for its own use. "We're certainly not going to hold a fire sale," said White. "We're going to sell this land in an orderly manner and get the best possible prices." The company will also develop a program for the disposal of its remaining industrial sites, except for those parcels intended for the company's own use.

Fuel Supply

In the matter of fuel supply and transportation, the SEC's complaints were not so much with AEP's activities as with the fact that SEC approval had not been sought for those activities. The company did not request SEC approval of certain fuel supply purchases and projects because it felt approval was not required under the Holding Company statute. SEC, on the other hand, maintained that AEP was, in a sense, venturing into another business and should have asked SEC approval.

Illustrative of the SEC's complaints with AEP fuel supply procedures was the acquisition of \$11 million of towboats and barges in the early 1970's without SEC approval. Yet, the SEC has since approved, upon application, within the past two years, AEP acquisitions of approximately \$100 million of towboats and barges.

AEP's acquisition of low-sulfur coal reserves in the West, also questioned by the SEC, were, said White, "necessary to permit compliance with developing pollution control regulations and to provide our customers with clean energy at the lowest possible cost."

Details Of Settlement

As part of the settlement with the SEC, AEP agreed to the appointment of a special auditor to conduct an investigation of the allocation of costs and charges among AEP System companies in connection with the operation of the questioned activities. The special auditor will have 180 days after appointment to report his findings to the SEC, after which AEP will have 60 days to make such corrections as the SEC finds necessary.

"The primary issue in this case," concluded White, "is one of interpretation of the conditions under which SEC approval was to have been obtained. We do not believe that the complaint or the consent order will materially or adversely affect the operations of the company."

ICE STORM STRIKES TWO DIVISIONS



Several thousand customers in the Roanoke and Pulaski Divisions were without electricity when an ice storm Easter Sunday morning toppled a 138 kv transmission tower, snapped poles and brought down power lines.

When the tower, located on Bent Mountain in Roanoke Division, fell, it interrupted power to the Clearbrook and Bent Mountain Stations. By switching circuits, power was restored to some 5,500 Roanoke area customers in 38 minutes.

In the Bent Mountain section, where 950 customers were affected, service was restored to 800 by 6:30 PM Sunday. Other outages were in isolated areas, and service was completely restored at 8:30 PM Wednesday. Division crews had worked around the clock since 3:00 AM Sunday.

The situation on Bent and Poor Mountains was described as "massive destruction". Crews had to saw trees across roads to reach downed lines, then had to saw their way out again because of other trees falling along the highways.

Some 800 customers in the Stuart area of Roanoke Division were also interrupted. Damage to company facilities was extensive: 41 broken poles, 16 transformers damaged and 344 spans of wire down. Division crews, with the help of three contract crews, worked from 11:15 PM Saturday around the clock until service to the last customer was restored at 11:00 PM Wednesday.

About 10,000 customers in the Montgomery, Floyd, Wythe and Carroll County areas of Pulaski Division were without power for varying lengths of time. Most of the damage was caused by trees falling and tearing down lines as well as snapping about a dozen poles.

Division crews were supplemented with three contract crews and seven Abingdon Division employees. Most customers had service restored by 8 PM Monday, with the exception of one section in Floyd County around the Blue Ridge Parkway. APCo employees worked around the clock from early Sunday morning until all service was restored by 4 PM Wednesday.

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NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

Beckley

Richard L. Sutton, electrical engineer.
Donald L. Hawks, automotive mechanic
B. John M. Wroten, meter reader, Oak Hill.

Bluefield

Harish P. Bhasin, electrical engineer.

Central Machine

Gerald F. Johns, utility worker
B. David H. Painter, **Dewight E. Plumley**, **James K. Eminger** and **Gary L. Francisco**, welders 2nd class.

Centralized Plant Maintenance

David A. Walter, **James H. Bennett, Jr.**, **Charles R. Weaver**, **Ray O. Harrison**, **Robert O. Winkler**, **Lark D. Pearson**, **Ronald L. Epperly**, **Howard K. DeWeese**, **Daniel R. Abbott** and **Howard W. Brewer**, maintenance mechanics B.

Charleston

Carl E. Anderson, automotive mechanic
C. Marilyn D. Crowder, junior clerk, Montgomery.

General Office

Jerry E. Belcher, transmission mechanic D, GO T&D Transmission, Bluefield. **Frank Bonds, Jr.**, statistical accountant, GO Accounting, Roanoke.
Richard P. Musselman, utility helper, GO Operations, Roanoke. **Donna L. Williams**, junior stenographer, GO Purchasing, Roanoke.

Huntington

Larry V. Lucas, meter reader.

Lynchburg

Nanci A. Smith, cashier.

Mountaineer

Maurizio Tuse, construction technician A.

Pulaski

T. L. Pickett, line mechanic D. **R. E. Powers, Jr.**, station mechanic D.

Philip Sporn

M. P. Niles and **J. L. Johnson**, utility workers B.

BLASTS REDUCE LYNCHBURG LANDMARK TO RUBBLE

A series of controlled blasts sheared the supports of the red brick Lynchburg Garage Building last month, causing the 50-year-old landmark to collapse in a heap of dusty rubble.

Owned by Appalachian Power, the building was torn down because maintenance became too costly. The site will be paved as a parking lot once the building is cleared away. The job is scheduled to be done before May 1.

Controlled Demolition, Inc., was hired by Amos Wrecking Company of Salem, Va., which was contracted by Appalachian Power to tear down the building. The end came when a CDI employee touched off the blasts from a detonator located uphill from the building.

There was no damage to any of the surrounding buildings. Windows in nearby buildings were shielded by plastic sheeting to prevent concussions from the blasts breaking the glass.

Photos courtesy Lynchburg Advance.



Explosives in place . . . waiting



Building sags as supports are blasted apart



Ready for the bulldozers



New officers of Roanoke Division's Reddi-Lite Club are, from left, Bob Jones, stores attendant, vice president; Betty Pugh, meter electrician C, treasurer; Carol Gordon, stenographer, president; Vicki Rutledge, stenographer, assistant treasurer and Nancy Dickerson, junior stenographer, secretary.