

AEP PLANS COAL TRANSFER FACILITY ON OHIO RIVER

The American Electric Power System last month applied to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to develop a rail-to-river coal-transfer facility on the Ohio River at Wurtland, near Ashland, Kentucky.

Robert Matthews, executive vice president of Kentucky Power Company, said that the proposed facility would employ approximately 60 people.

"Eastern Kentucky is one of the few areas in the East where low-sulfur coal is available," he explained, and, as the need for this coal increases "a facility such as we envision at Wurtland will provide the necessary capability to move it."

William G. Bell, Jr., vice president — coal procurement and transportation for the AEP Service Corporation's Fuel Supply Department, said that additional rail-to-barge transfer capability will be essential in the near future to move coal from the eastern Kentucky fields to both existing and proposed AEP system generating plants located along the Ohio River.

"Steps are being taken, today, to secure the appropriate permits to allow for further planning and development of such a facility to serve the needs of the System," Bell added. Growth of electric power use in the seven-state area served by the AEP System is increasing at an average rate of five to six percent per year. Bell said that this requires the equivalent of up to 2-million additional tons of coal each year.

No timetable has been established for development of the Wurtland facility, and the annual tonnage capacity will be determined after further study. However, the terminal will include a coal-loading dock, rail-unloading facilities, conveyors and support equipment.

"Coal will be delivered to the site only by rail," Matthews explained, "and the eventual design will incorporate the most modern environmental system for water- and air-quality control." He added that the coal will be rotary-dumped inside an enclosed building with noise-compression features, conveyors will be enclosed and the facility will employ other controls at transfer points.

Matthews noted the AEP System's annual growth, coupled with development of the Wurtland coal-transfer facility, will have a "substantial, significantly beneficial impact upon the coal-based economy of eastern Kentucky."

EMPLOYEES EARN WISE OWL AWARDS



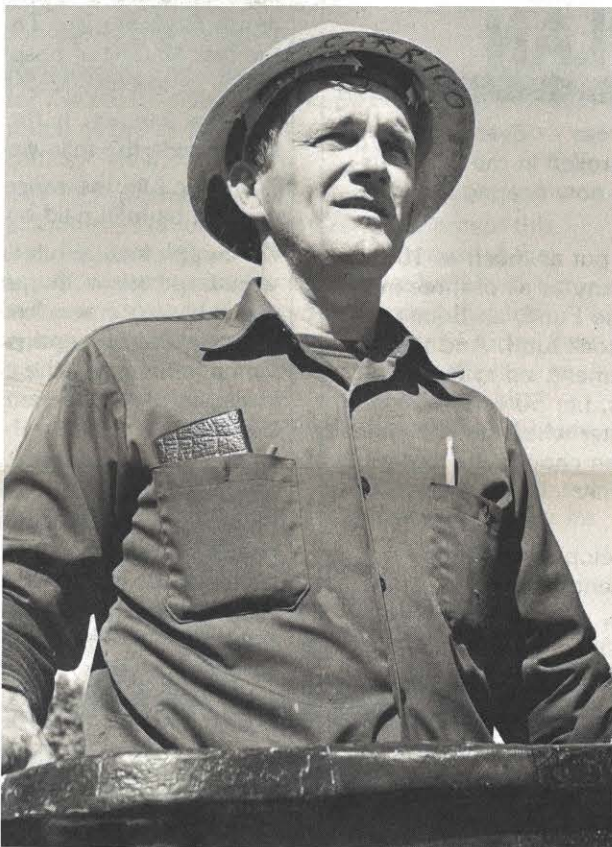
From left, W. W. Morrison, O. D. Witt, C. E. Babcock and E. L. Huntley.

The eyesight of three maintenance mechanics in the Centralized Plant Maintenance group was saved because they were wearing the mandatory eyewear with breeze-catcher side shields.

C. E. Babcock was unhooking a cable when it suddenly swung into his face, breaking his safety glasses. W. W. Morrison was working in a burner when a large, unidentified particle flew into his face, chipping the lens of his glasses. O. D. Witt was aligning a traveling water screen when the pry bar slipped, hitting directly in the center of the right lens of his safety glasses.

The three men were presented Wise Owl awards by CPM Manager E. L. Huntley. The Wise Owl awards are made by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness to employees whose eye protection has saved their vision.

HILL RESCUES CHILDREN FROM CARNIVAL RIDE



When Ron Hill, Hamlin area service restorer in the Huntington Division, visited the Lions Club Field during the recent Tobacco Festival, he wasn't there for a good time. Ron and an Armstrong Telephone Company serviceman were called by Hamlin Mayor Terry Prichard to rescue 18 children from an amusement park's spider ride.

The mishap occurred during the evening when the Festival was near its peak attendance. A merry-go-round-shaped ride that involved about 20 rotating capsules nearly collapsed. "A pin on the undercarriage either slipped out or broke," said Hamlin Fire Chief Eugene McComas. Half the capsules were about 20 feet in the air while the others were near the ground when the slippage occurred. The children in the lower capsules had to remain seated to provide a counter-balance for those in the air.

Some of the children were screaming, and there was fear they would go into shock or panic. Efforts were made by the carnival people to elevate the ride back to its original position with the aid of a hydraulic jack, but the jack sank deep in the muddy ground. That was when the mayor called for the utility servicemen.

Ron and Armstrong's serviceman used their aerial buckets to free the children from the ride. Care had to be taken not to unbalance the ride so one child was freed from each side simultaneously until all were safely deposited clear of the structure.

The day following the mishap, a lady came up to Ron and said, "Thanks for yesterday." Ron asked, "Thanks for what?" She answered, "Don't you remember? You saved my child's life."

KINGSFORT POWER RATE HIKE OKAYED

The Tennessee Public Service Commission, in an order dated October 17, approved a rate increase of \$1,318,987 for Kingsport Power Company. The Commission allowed Kingsport 13.5 percent return on equity and 10.64 percent overall rate of return.

The Company had requested an increase of \$2.4 million, which included \$1 million to change from "flow through" to "normalization" accounting for income tax credits. This accounting change was not approved.

Kingsport Power's rate increase, only the third in its history, will mean a 4.1 percent increase for residential customers, based on current billings.

John E. Faust, executive vice president of Kingsport Power, expressed disappointment that the full rate increase was not approved but he added "we think we had a fair hearing and the decision will not be appealed."

AEP TO EVALUATE ADVANCED POWER PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

The AEP Service Corporation last month was awarded two contracts to help determine the practicality of developing certain advanced power-production concepts and techniques for commercial application.

The Department of Energy contracted with AEP to review progress on development of a pioneering magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) engineering and test facility, a 250,000-kilowatt pilot plant tentatively scheduled for construction near Butte, Montana, for initial operation in the mid-1980's.

AEP's role will be to comment on the effectiveness of nine conceptual designs for commercial power production which have been completed by three developers as part of the national MHD program.

The company's qualification to evaluate feasibility of the designs is based on its long experience in the development of MHD, technology for which is based on the direct conversion of hot, coal-derived gas to electric power, thus eliminating the conventional steam cycle and its cost.

AEP's efforts are being directed by Dr. C. H. (Dan) Shih, Electrical Research Section, who is serving as chairman of the company's MHD Task Force. Evaluation of the preliminary conceptual designs is expected to be completed early next year. A final design, probably a composite of the nine conceptual designs submitted, is expected by mid-1982.

The AEP Service Corporation also has been awarded a contract by the Electric Power Research Institute to evaluate new generation alternatives for the 1985-2005 period.

Among the alternatives to be considered for commercial application are fuel cells, fusion, solar power and a number of coal-utilization techniques, including combustion alternatives, gasification and liquefaction.

Directed by Blair Ross, vice president-energy resources planning in the System Planning Department, the study will have as a principal objective projections of the costs required for the commercial development of each system considered. Completion is expected next spring.

In addition to AEP, four other utilities are involved: Niagara Mohawk, Middle South Services, Philadelphia Electric and Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric.

THE ILLUMINATOR

Published monthly for employees of Appalachian Power Company and Kingsport Power Company and their families. Articles herein may be reproduced. Published at Appalachian Power Company, 40 Franklin Road, Roanoke, Virginia. We are an Equal Opportunity employer.

Editorial Staff

William A. McClung,
Public Affairs Director
Betty Lou Carter,
Editor of Publications

Associate Editors

Bill Roeser, Abingdon
Thearn Ellis, John Amos
Ray Vest, Beckley
Dick Bowman, Bluefield
Dixie Foster, Central Machine Shop
Karen Hutton, Centralized Plant Maintenance
Jennings Fulkner, Charleston
Luther Houchins, Clinch River
Mike Howard, General Office
Coonie Spangler, Glen Lynn
Dick Roush, Huntington
Jeanne Sheets, Kanawha River
Charles Lingar, Kingsport
Charlie Frye, Logan-Williamson
Jerry Vest, Lynchburg
Janice Adkins, Mountaineer Construction
J. B. Brillheart, Pulaski
Martin Ratcliff, Roanoke
Jerry Thompson, Philip Sporn

AEP EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

Date	Value Per Unit AEP Stock Fund	Units Credited Per Dollar
6/30/1978	0.9898	1.0103
7/31/1978	1.0537	0.9490
8/31/1978	1.0385	0.9629
9/30/1978	1.0291	0.9717
Fixed Income Fund		
6/30/1978	1.0351	0.9661
7/31/1978	1.0424	0.9593
8/31/1978	1.0491	0.9532
9/30/1978	1.0559	0.9471
Equity Fund		
6/30/1978	1.1072	0.9032
7/31/1978	1.1683	0.8559
8/31/1978	1.2067	0.8287
9/30/1978	1.2027	0.8315

10,600 EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN SAVINGS PLAN

Approximately 10,600 employees — over 83 percent of those eligible — are enrolled in the AEP System's Employee Savings Plan, now nearing the end of its first year.

The plan allows employees to put as much as 10 percent of their base pay into any or all of three investment funds: a Fixed-Income Fund, an Equity Fund and the AEP common stock fund. And the Company matches such investment, up to 6 percent of base pay, on a 1-for-2 basis, i.e. 50 cents for each employee dollar. No matter which one or more of the three funds the employee chooses to enter, the Company's portion goes only into the AEP stock fund.

Here are some interesting developments in the plan's operation, based on recent figures:

- Employees are investing an average of 4.9 percent of their pay in the plan. (They are investing an average of 4.6 percent in "Basic Contributions," i.e., that part which the Company matches 1-for-2.)
- Employee Basic Contributions are running at an annualized rate of \$9 million.
- Company contributions are averaging 2.3 percent of payroll (i.e., 50 percent of the above is 4.6 percent).
- Company contributions are running at an annualized rate of \$4.5 million.
- More than two out of three participants (actually 68 percent) have elected to put all of their contributions into the Fixed-Income Fund, which guaranteed a 7.85 percent interest rate on contributions deposited between January 1-June 30 this year and which guarantees an 8.35 percent interest rate thereafter. Approximately 12 percent of the participants are in the AEP stock fund, with the remaining 20 percent involved in a mixture of the options.

KEEPING TRACK

A running tabulation is maintained, by computer, on the monthly balance of each participant.

In February each participant will receive a report showing the status of his or her account as of December 31, the end of the plan's first year. This report will include, fund by fund, the amounts credited to the account from both employee and company contributions and the market value of the account as of December 31.

Meanwhile, an employee who may wish to know, in the meantime, how his or her investment is doing, can figure it this way:

Let's assume that John Smith earns \$1,250 a month, that he has been contributing 6 percent of his pay, \$75 a month, since the plan started last January 1, and that it is divided equally, \$25 a

month, among the three options. The Company's matching contribution, all invested in the AEP stock fund, is \$37.50 (half of \$75) a month.

Total contributions during the first nine months of 1978 are \$1,012.50, of which \$675 is from the employee (\$75 × 9) and \$337.50 from the Company (\$37.50 × 9). Based on the September 30 valuations shown in the accompanying table, the approximate total value of Smith's account is \$1,055.20, or 56.3 percent more than he put into it. (The Company's contributions, of course, are subject to the vesting provisions of the plan.)

ENROLLMENT SET FOR NEW LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

Enrollment for the AEP System's new improved Group Life Insurance Plan, which takes effect January 1, 1979, will begin this month. This liberalized life insurance program is part of the System-wide three-year comprehensive benefit improvements plan initiated in 1977.

Another, and final improvement, under this plan of improvements, also effective January 1, is in the group medical plan. The present 100% payment of the first \$2,000 of hospital covered expenses will be 100% of the first \$2,500.

Effective January 1, the new life insurance program will provide the following coverage:

- (1) Basic Life Insurance equal to one year's base pay will be fully paid by the Company, and,
- (2) Supplemental Life Insurance will be offered on a voluntary basis in the amount of an additional one year's base pay at a fixed monthly cost to the employee of 60 cents per \$1,000 of coverage. The Company will pay the cost of the Supplemental Plan in excess of the 60-cent employee monthly contribution.

The new program of free life insurance, equal to an employee's annual base pay and, additionally, contributory life insurance also equal to his annual base pay (for total coverage of two times pay), will be provided for eligible employees to replace existing life insurance. Employees covered under certain prior plans will be permitted to keep their present insurance entitlement (including present contribution rates, where applicable) if they so desire in place of the new plan.

The new plan will cost the employee substantially less than his or her present coverage. Typically, an employee now insured for \$30,000 (earning \$15,000 annually) will pay, for comparable new plan coverage, only about half of what he or she currently is contributing for existing coverage.

During this open-enrollment period, all eligible employees, whether covered by existing plans or not, will have an opportunity to be covered by the new program on January 1, without furnishing evidence of insurability — i.e., without regard to any medical conditions which may exist at the time of enrollment. Full details will be furnished to employees shortly, including an enrollment card. Employees are urged to complete the card and return it to the Personnel Department as soon as possible to assure coverage under the new program on January 1.



Hubert K. Shabdue, General Office area development consultant, Charleston, displays the award he received from the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce for his work as co-chairman of the All West Virginia City Program. He was recognized as a symbol of leadership in that organization and in the community. The award was presented at the Chamber's annual meeting.

AEP SYSTEM NEWS BRIEFS

Two Elected Fuel Supply Vice Presidents

William E. O'Connell was elected vice president and special assistant to the senior vice president — fuel supply, and Gerald Hartley was elected vice president — mining operations, both in the Fuel Supply Department in Lancaster, Ohio, at a special meeting of the AEP Service Corporation's Board of Directors last month.

O'Connell had been vice president — mining operations; Hartley, manager of underground mining.

Gerald Blackmore, senior vice president and department head, said that the changes were being made to strengthen Fuel Supply's ability to meet the AEP System's needs "in light of the new problems and changing circumstances which are now apparent in the System's relationships with Federal and state agencies."

In his new assignment O'Connell will concentrate on maximizing the use of Ohio coal in Ohio Power Company's three power plants in that state by substituting it for western coal (some 4-million tons of which are currently being burned at the General James M. Gavin Plant alone). He will also be responsible for operation of the Muskingum Mine of Central Ohio Coal Company (subsidiary of Ohio Power), a surface mining operation, where recent investments of some \$45 million have been made for new mining equipment and coal-preparation facilities.

Hartley will be responsible for operations of all of the AEP System's mining companies except Central Ohio Coal.

HOW NATIONAL ENERGY ACT WILL AFFECT AEP

In the closing hours of the 95th session, the Congress finally approved the long-awaited, embattled energy bill proposed by President Carter on April 20, 1977 — over a year and a half ago.

Provisions of the five-part program which will have the most effect on operations of the AEP System are those which apply to rate reform and, to a lesser extent, conservation. The parts covering coal conversion, energy taxes and natural gas price deregulation will have little or no effect on System Operations.

In capsule version, this is what can be expected:

RATE REFORM — The Department of Energy will be permitted to intervene in state rate cases to argue for energy-saving measures. It will be allowed to direct state public service commissions to review utility pricing policies, particularly those applicable to peak load and incremental pricing. However, state commissions will be free to find that particular methods of saving energy are not appropriate for the companies they regulate. If DOE enters individual cases, it can participate in legal appeals of decisions.

Additionally, it will be empowered to order certain utility power-sharing arrangements, specifically interconnections and the wheeling of power. This could be used to aid power-short public utilities. However, there will be severe restrictions on exercising this authority because DOE must be able to prove that power-sharing would not impair the reliability of a utility and would significantly increase conservation. The energy bill also will create serious problems regarding the proper price to pay for such services.

CONSERVATION — AEP and other utilities will be required to provide residential customers with information about and some financing for such energy-saving devices as storm windows and insulation.

To encourage homeowners and renters to install insulation, storm windows and other energy-saving equipment, the law grants a tax credit of 15% of the first \$2,000 spent, or a maximum credit of \$300, which could be spread over several years. It would apply to expenditures for materials installed between April 20, 1977 and December 31, 1985.

Other features of this part of the energy package include Federal grants of close to \$1 billion to schools and hospitals over a three-year period to conduct energy audits and to install energy-saving equipment. Another \$65 million is earmarked for public buildings for the same purposes. Additionally, funding is to be provided to demonstrate solar energy capabilities in Federal buildings.

COAL CONVERSION — This provision, requiring certain oil and gas-fired plants to convert to coal, has virtually no effect on the AEP System because all of its generation, except two small oil-fired peaking units at Indiana & Michigan Electric Company's 240,000-kilowatt Twin Branch Plant is provided by coal, nuclear or pumped-storage/hydro units.

GAS PRICES — The final provision which may have marginal effect on AEP System is natural gas-price deregulation. This is because, when gas prices rise, electricity will become a more attractive alternative for home heating.

TAXES — The energy tax provisions should have no effect on AEP. What this part of the package contains are larger tax breaks for installing solar, wind or geothermal-energy devices as well as tax credits for switching from gas or oil. Also included are tax benefits for producers of geothermal energy and geopressurized methane gas, and for independent gas and oil producers.

WHITE: ENERGY ACT DOESN'T COME TO GRIPS WITH HARD QUESTIONS

AEP Chairman W. S. White, Jr., for one, remains unconvinced that the National Energy Act, as enacted by the Congress last month, will do the job.

Commenting on passage of the law, White said that he did not feel that it really came to grips with the hard energy questions. Full text of his statement follows:

"In our view, the National Energy Act cannot be realistically evaluated without considering its relationship to other legislation already on the books — specifically, legislation involving the environment and that affecting coal mining. All of this affects energy and, taken together, we do not believe that our nation has yet come to grips with the hard questions dealing with energy, with the tradeoffs that will be necessary if we are to have reasonably adequate supplies of energy at reasonable prices and with reasonable environmental regulations."

Meanwhile, The Edison Electric Institute, speaking for the nation's investor-owned electric utilities, said much of the same thing as White and took the stance: "we'll live with it."

The EEI statement in full: "Congress has now passed the National Energy Act. We accept this decision and will work within the context of the legislation as best as we can for the benefit of our customers. We have stated in the past that the energy package passed by the Congress today does not approach the comprehensive and effective national energy policy which we think the public deserves and needs. Nevertheless, it now becomes the law of the land. We will strive to assist the government in making the administration of the program as workable as possible in carrying out the intent of the Congress."

AEP NO. 2 AMONG UTILITIES MINING COAL

The American Electric Power System ranked second in 1977 among U. S. utilities mining their own coal, according to a McGraw-Hill survey of the nation's largest coal producers.

The 10.2-million tons AEP produced last year followed only the 12.1-million tons mined by Pacific Power & Light's operation among organizations engaged primarily in electric power generation.

Overall PP&L finished eighth and AEP 11th among the top 15 producers.

Number one was the Peabody Group which produced 65.4-million tons. It was followed by Consolidation Coal, with 47.9-million tons, and AMAX, 28.1-million tons. Rounding out the top five were the Island Creek Group, 16.7-million tons, and Pittston, 14.3-million tons.

An overall decline in production in 1977 was reflected in a decrease of 6.1% among the 15 largest producers. AEP was down 2.6% from the 10.5-million tons it had mined in 1976.

The decline is expected to continue, according to National Coal Association projections for 1978. The association estimates that domestic and export coal use will be down one percent, from 673-million tons last year to 667-million tons in 1978. Production is projected to drop from 688.6-million tons during the same period — a 5.6 percent decrease.

Although coal production in the east is expected to fall 10 percent this year from the 470-million tons mined in 1977, the NCA anticipates that western coal production will reach a record high of 180-million tons in 1978 — an 8.4 percent increase over last year.

JADIE BOSTIC PLANS MORE CHURCH WORK



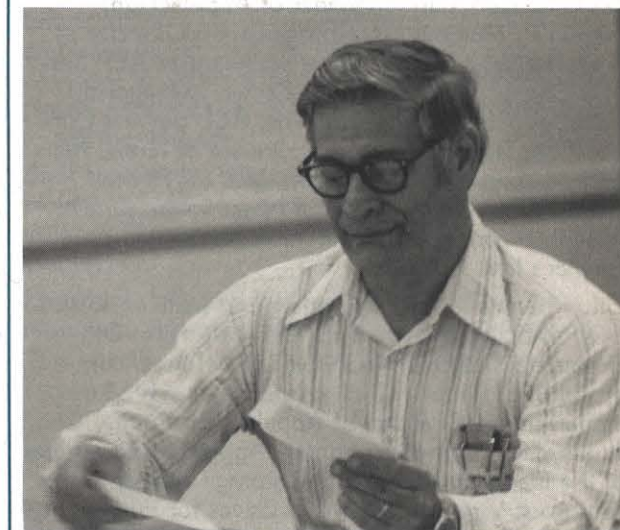
"I've seen many people wait until 65 to retire and then end up in bad health. I want to enjoy life a little," says Jadie Bostic, who was a station mechanic A in Charleston Division before electing early retirement October 1.

Jadie plans to occasionally help his brother, who is a carpenter, and a son-in-law, who is a brick layer, as well as babysit for one of his daughters who lives beside him. He is on the board of trustees and chief usher at the Mountain Mission Church in Charleston and wants to work more in the church than he has in the past. "I enjoy this type of work very much," says Jadie. "I also enjoy gardening in season and raise enough vegetables to last us through the winter."

A native of Sissonville, West Virginia, Jadie began his career in 1937 as a groundman. He was a meter reader, laborer, maintenance man helper B and A and maintenance man C and B before moving in 1960 to the position he held at retirement.

He recalls, "Back in the early days, we didn't have any heat in our vehicles and sometimes there would be as many as six men riding in the back of the truck. In the winter, we just about froze to death. When the trucks slowed down going up a hill, sometimes we would jump off the back and run behind the truck just to get our feet warm. We would take our coats or jackets off and plug up the holes in the truck to keep the wind from blowing in."

MAGGIO NAMED ALUMNUS OF YEAR



Mike Maggio, Kanawha River Plant stores attendant senior, was selected alumnus of the year at the 17th annual East Bank High School alumni reunion. The reunion includes students of the school from 1912 through 1959.

Mike, a 1945 graduate and captain of the football team, has been active in both the East Bank Athletic Boosters Club and Band Boosters, who make it possible for students to have new uniforms and go on trips. Recently, the boosters have built a new club house.

Mike says he was quite elated at being chosen this year's alumnus. In years past, those selected for this honor have been doctors, lawyers and professors.

HIGHLIGHTS OF APCO'S VIRGINIA RATE HEARING

Nineteen witnesses debated the pros and cons of Appalachian's proposed \$51.2-million retail rate increase in testimony and cross-examination before the Virginia State Corporation Commission in October.

Nine days of hearings, including two days of public hearings in Pulaski and Roanoke, were marked by motions to dismiss the request and to delete portions of testimony, as well as acceptance or denial of interrogatories (written questions required to be answered under direction of the commission).

Public witnesses made statements pro and con about the rate increase, the SCC commissioners themselves asked questions of witnesses, attempts to introduce Appalachian's and AEP's nuclear and pumped storage feasibility studies into the proceedings proved futile, and political figures — both at the formal hearings in Richmond and in the public hearings in Roanoke and Pulaski — interjected themselves into the proceedings.

Throughout the maze, eight Appalachian-sponsored witnesses testified as to the company's need for the entire \$51.2-million rate increase the company had requested, including making permanent \$16-million in interim relief which went into effect July 1.

John W. Vaughan, Appalachian executive vice president, succinctly testified as to the need when he said that unless the full amount is granted at the earliest possible date, Appalachian's ability to provide reliable service will be jeopardized. Already facing inadequate generating reserves, the company must obtain funds so that it can attract capital to continue its construction program. Inadequate generating capacity reserves "can only mean that there will be periodic blackouts in the company's service territory."

Vaughan also pointed out that "Appalachian doesn't create the demand for more generating capacity — our customers do. We have to be prepared to meet that demand." (Vaughan's opening statement at the hearing, reprinted on this page, presents a concise summary of Appalachian's case, and its need.)

While Appalachian sought the full rate request, others in the hearing were proposing lesser amounts, ranging from no increase at all to \$23-million recommended by the SCC staff to \$28-million recommended by the Attorney General.

Testifying on Appalachian's behalf, in addition to Vaughan, were: Gregory S. Vassell, senior vice president — planning and director, AEP Service Corporation; M. E. McCrary, assistant secretary and assistant accounting manager of Appalachian; Gerald P. Maloney, vice president and director of Appalachian and senior vice president of AEP Service Corporation; Henry W. Fayne, manager of financial planning and forecasts, AEP Service Corporation; Ronald H. Hively, director of tariffs, rates and contracts of Appalachian; Jack M. Burnett, rates and tariffs supervisor of Appalachian; and Joseph F. Brennan, president of Associated Utility Services Inc.

Other parties to the proceedings, in addition to the SCC staff and the Attorney General, were: Old Dominion Committee for Fair Utility Rates, comprised of a number of major industries served by Appalachian; Coalition of Appalachian Energy Consumers, first formed to oppose Appalachian's studies of the feasibility of a pumped storage project in southwest Virginia; Safe Alternatives for Future Energy, which opposes AEP's and Appalachian's nuclear feasibility studies in Central Virginia; Patrick County Board of Supervisors; Celanese Fibers Company; and Virgil Goode Jr., state senator.

The \$51,222,000 which Appalachian is seeking is an increase of 20.5% and is intended to provide the company an opportunity to earn a rate of return of 10.01% on rate base or 14.5% on equity.

The hearing began Monday morning, October 2, and the bailiff had hardly called the hearing to order before the attorney for SAFE, the anti-nuclear group, moved to dismiss or to continue the case. She argued that Appalachian had been unresponsive to many of the interrogatories from SAFE. Ap-

palachian's attorney argued that Appalachian's and AEP's announcement of the intention to study the feasibility of a nuclear plant meant just that — studies — and that answers would not be available until studies are completed. He added that there was no money in this rate case for studies for either a nuclear or a pumped storage facility.

The SCC commissioners agreed with Appalachian's position, and in denying the motion said that no testimony on the nuclear or pumped storage studies would be received. Since construction of any such facilities must receive SCC approval, they would be dealt with when and if construction of either was proposed.

Later that day the SAFE attorney again moved to dismiss the case, contending that the burden of proof that proposed rates are just and reasonable was on Appalachian, which the company failed to carry out, that conservation is not considered in Appalachian's testimony, and that Appalachian was deceitful in refusing to answer SAFE interrogatories. The SCC commissioners took this motion under advisement until all cross-examination was completed.

Another "bombshell", as one commissioner described it, was dropped into the proceedings by the attorney for the SCC, who said that the SCC staff was going to ask for a consolidated AEP financial study as part of the rate case. The commissioner admonished the attorney for "this last minute surprise" and offered Appalachian a continuance. Appalachian's attorney, while conceding it was the first he had heard of the staff proposal, declined the offer of a delay because he said Appalachian needs the rate relief as soon as possible.

Other issues brought out in the hearings included:

- Virginia ratepayers are subsidizing West Virginia ratepayers of Appalachian, and that Appalachian should look elsewhere for rate relief. The company countered by stating that its rate increase request was based solely on the company's rate base in Virginia and the need for new facilities to serve Virginians. Appalachian has a rate case pending in West Virginia.

- Appalachian was over-forecasting future demands, based on the past few years' experience, where growth rate has been about 4.4%, according to an intervenor. The company is projecting a growth rate in excess of 6% over the next 10 years. Vassell responded by saying that long-term projections are not affected by short, or one-time occurrences, such as a very cold winter or the oil embargo. He gave as an example the winter of 1969-70, where peak demand was 11.7% higher than the winter of 1968-69. "The fact that it was 11.7% did not make us change our long-term projection to 11.7%." In his testimony, Vassell described in detail the sophisticated methods used by AEP and Appalachian for forecasting loads.

- Appalachian proposed to eliminate the customer charge from residential tariffs. (The amount of the charge was removed from the overall residential rate approved in the last Virginia rate case and established as a charge to be displayed on bills.) Appalachian's rationale, according to Hively, was that the customer charge had resulted in controversy, misunderstandings, and complaints, and the company was proposing it be eliminated and the corresponding revenues folded into the overall rate.

These and other issues were addressed in the hearings. But the focal point, as stated by Vaughan, comes down to this: "If the Virginia economy is going to grow and if Virginians will be seeking the advantages associated with electric energy utilization, revenues and earnings must be granted to attract funds in the investment market. Without this ability, the company will have no choice but to cut back in construction, and thereby, increase the probability of electric power shortages in the eighties."

Final briefs are to be filed by all lawyers by November 16, and it is hoped a decision will be rendered before the end of the year.

VAUGHAN SUMMARIZES APCO'S NEEDS

Editor's note: Following is the opening statement by John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian Power, in the hearings on rate case no. 19984 before the Virginia State Corporation Commission last month. It summarizes Appalachian's needs (needs placed on the Company by its Virginia customers) and the results if the proposed increase is not granted.

On May 1, 1978, Appalachian Power Company filed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission a petition seeking an annual increase in rates of \$51,222,000. This is an increase of 20.5% which is intended to provide the Company an opportunity to earn a return of 10.01% on rate base or 14.5% on equity.

Because the Company continued to show an attrition in earnings despite \$11 million of rate relief effective November 1, 1977, and because it had no ability to sell senior securities to finance its massive construction program, it asked that \$27,648,000 of this amount be effective July 1, 1978. The Commission subsequently allowed an increase of \$16 million to be placed into effect, subject to refund, on July 1, 1978.

This proceeding then is to consider the Company's request of \$51,222,000 as well as to determine whether or not the \$16,000,000, effective July 1, 1978, should be made final.

Unfortunately, since 1974, it has been necessary for the Company to seek additional revenues annually. Most often on these requests, we have been granted only a portion of our request, thus hastening the day when we had to file for further relief. We don't relish having to make such requests because we don't like to see electric bills go up.

We make the requests, however, because as managers of a public utility, we are keenly aware of our responsibility to assure a continuous and reliable supply of electric power to more than 340,000 customers in Southwest Virginia. We are keenly aware that without electric power when the switch is thrown, the economy of our area will stagnate, unemployment will increase, new job opportunities will not be created, and the high standard of living enjoyed by many thousands of individuals will deteriorate.

We ask for these increases because we are keenly aware that thousands of individuals have entrusted to us their savings to be invested in electric plant. These investors come from every walk of life. They are the direct owners of securities issued by Appalachian Power Company and the American Electric Power System. But, perhaps more importantly, they are the pensioners, owners of insurance policies, investors in mutual funds, beneficiaries of insurance policies. They have invested their funds with us in the expectation that their capital would be protected and that they would receive a return on their investment commensurate with the risk they were assuming. We have a responsibility to this group not only because of their past trust, but because we must depend upon them in the future to provide the capital needed to build facilities to accommodate continued growth in usage of electricity.

In my opinion, the management and the more than 4,000 employees of Appalachian Power Company have done an admirable job in discharging these responsibilities, particularly in the light of very difficult circumstances in recent years. And not the least of these difficulties is the securing of an adequate price of our service.

If I were to pinpoint one reason why we are here today seeking rate relief, it would obviously be inflation. It is a villain permeating every segment of our economy and impacting in some way the lives of every individual in this country. It is the foremost item of concern to the American public according to published reports of recent public opinion polls. Costs are going up in every area, and it is beyond my comprehension as to why anyone should feel that the regulated utilities can be insulated from them. As a matter of fact, it should be emphasized that virtually all of our purchases of goods and services are made from non-regulated suppliers.

We want to continue to do a good job, but to do so, the price for our services must be increased. Our situation today looks like this:

- Customer demands continue to grow at a rate of 6-7% per year. Yet Appalachian's generating capacity of 4,475,000 kw is less than our anticipated peak customer demand for this winter. Work continues on our 1,300,000 kw Mountaineer Plant, which will cost about \$625 million and which must be in service before the winter of 1980-81; otherwise, we will have a negative reserve margin of 16% that winter.

- Customers continue to be added to our facilities on a net basis of 14,000-18,000 per year, and they each expect us to spend the necessary money to build lines, install transformers, meters, etc. to assure their service.

- To complete the Mountaineer Plant, associated transmission lines, legally mandated pollution-control facilities, and additions to distribution facilities require the expenditure of more than \$1 billion in the next three years. This is about 2/3 of our present net investment in electric plant.

- The bulk of the funds to finance this construction program must be raised through the sale of securities. We have not been able to sell first mortgage bonds or preferred stock for two years due to insufficient coverage. We do not have this ability today, and our interest coverage for first mortgage bonds at the end of August was only 1.77 times — far below the minimum of two times.

- By year-end, short-term debt of the Company will approach \$200 million. This is totally unsatisfactory when the ability to convert to long-term securities is non-existent. Short-term interest rates, as a matter of national policy, are soaring, and we could be on the verge of a credit crunch reminiscent of 1974.

- Common Equity from AEP represents the principal means of getting any long-term funds. This was forthcoming in the amounts of \$80 million in 1977 and \$95 million in 1978. Yet our earnings on equity in 1978 were only 7.5%, and we have failed to earn our dividend to AEP in 1976, 1977, and 1978. This is a totally intolerable situation and one that cannot be continued. Again, I would note that AEP is often criticized, but it would appear that it has taken its responsibility to provide adequate and reliable electric service more seriously than anyone else.

This is not a pretty picture. It comes because of factors beyond the control of the Company. It does not result from an inefficient operation. Indeed, Appalachian, from an operational point of view, compares well by almost any measure. At the request of the Attorney General's office, we updated for 1977 the eight measures of our operation that the Commission Staff had requested us to file in our last rate case. In these comparisons, Appalachian is compared with four other companies in this region on eight measures. We are number one in four instances and number two in three.

It is also worth noting that the Company during 1977 had the lowest heat rate (i.e. btu's required to generate a kwh) of any utility operating more than one steam generating plant in this country.

Commission Staff, by yet other measures in their prefiled testimony, attest to this quality of operation.

It indeed brings into focus the necessity of this Commission granting the total amount of the rate relief requested by the Company. It likewise emphasizes that the Company can no longer generate sufficient earnings with rates predicated on an original cost rate base and build the required plant in our inflationary economy. A review of the testimony prefiled by the intervenors would indicate that, for the most part, they are recommending an increase in the range of \$23-\$28 million. This is simply inadequate.

For several years now, this Commission has struggled with the question of whether or not to allow construction work in progress (CWIP) in the rate base. The Staff in its pre-filed testimony does not include the revenue adjustment required for this inclusion. The Accounting staff witness, however, in commenting on his not making this adjustment, makes reference to the complexity and the differences of opinion that exist. He follows this, however, with the comment . . . "I would say that the Company adjustment is not without merit . . ." He continues by recommending to the Commission that either the Company's adjustment be accepted or an extensive study conducted to analyze the impact of eliminating allowance for funds used during

construction (AFUDC) on the customers.

So far as we are concerned, a study on the treatment to be accorded CWIP in general for all utilities in the state may be fine, but, for the moment, it does nothing to recognize the financial problems facing Appalachian Power or the necessity to make certain that the Mountaineer Plant is completed on schedule. We are not asking you in this case to make an irrevocable decision on the treatment of CWIP. We are rather asking that you recognize that for four years, we have been spending dollars that have been raised, for the most part, from outside investors. Day in and day out, we must pay dividends and interest on the money; and while the booking of AFUDC eases the burden somewhat, it is no substitute for a current cost return. We are, therefore, requesting with the greatest sincerity that you recognize our severe financial problems in this inflationary and high interest economy and that the Company's adjustment as it relates to CWIP and AFUDC on the Mountaineer Plant be granted with no further delay.

Beyond CWIP, the other major adjustments of greatest urgency to the Company relate to our request to amortize over a three-year period certain costs incurred during the UMWA strike, which took place last winter. Although the Company incurred these costs within a period of about four months, we are seeking to amortize them over three years, which is the term of the UMWA contract. The first of these items is to compensate for excess transportation costs in an amount allocable to the Virginia jurisdiction of \$1,739,598. This requires an annual revenue increment of \$578,533. The Company's rates approved by this Commission effective November 1, 1977, included a fuel adjustment clause which did not include fuel transportation costs. Instead, these costs were incorporated in our base rates on the basis of 7.1¢ per MBTU transported to our power plants. Unfortunately, we tend to forget the very difficult days of last winter during the strike period when the reliability and the continuity of electric power supply was severely threatened to a large segment of this country, including Appalachian's service area. We took steps and worked hard to secure coal wherever possible. In so doing, it was necessary to move away from traditional sources of supply and haul coal long-distance to our power plants. We did this without question and after the fact we were applauded for our efforts. It now seems only reasonable that the Company should be made whole over a three-year period for these excess costs. Also, as a direct result of the strike, the Company incurred \$11,925,407 of cost associated with its coal-mining subsidiaries that we had no means to recover. The Virginia jurisdictional share of this is \$4,941,771, and we are seeking to amortize this amount over a three-year period which means a revenue increase of \$1,647,257 in this case.

While there may be other methods of recovering this expense, the paramount issue is that the Company be authorized to recover it. Failure to obtain such authority will necessitate an immediate write-off of this expense, which in turn will further reduce our already disastrous earnings and will immediately reduce our coverage by an additional eight basis points.

AEP AWARDS GRANT FOR FLY ASH STUDY

The AEP Service Corporation has awarded an \$88,438 grant to West Virginia University for a study of environmental factors related to the composition and disposal of fly ash produced during power plant operation.

To be completed late next year, the project is expected to provide technical data to help assess the validity of environmental guidelines proposed by Federal and state regulatory agencies concerned with stack gas and particulate emissions.

Another objective of the study is to obtain basic information for the design, construction and operation of fill installations using compacted fly ash.

Directed by Professors R. K. Seals and W. A. Sack of the university's Civil Engineering Department, the project will be conducted at selected power plants on the AEP System. Laboratory tests will enable the researchers to determine composition of the fly ash, and corresponding coal, as well as the quality and quantity of the leachate, rainwater that has seeped through ash fill, and runoff, water flowing over — but not through — the surface of the fill.

Additionally, recommendations for follow-up studies will be made, and guidelines to minimize potentially harmful leachate effects will be established during the project.

If there is a potential leachate problem, AEP plans to develop procedures to prevent leaching of contaminants to ground water.

MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE RAISED TO 70

Effective January 1, 1979, under terms of the new Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1978, the mandatory retirement age for AEP System employees will be raised from age 65 to 70.

In accordance with Federal legislation, on or after January 1, an employee cannot be forced to retire before age 70 solely because of his or her age.

Regarding employee benefit plans, the following general principles will apply for employees who continue working after age 65:

Retirement Plan — No further accrual of benefits will be allowed for employees who reach 65 on or after January 1, 1979, and who continue active employment with the Company. The normal retirement benefit under the Plan will be computed on the basis of the employee's service and earnings at his normal retirement date, and pension payments will be deferred until actual retirement. The normal retirement date is defined by the Retirement Plan as the first day of the month nearest the employee's 65th birthday.

Savings Plan — Employees, 65 and over, may continue to participate in this Plan on the same basis as any other active employee.

Medical Insurance Plan — Employees who have 10 years of continuous Company service at age 65 will be covered by the AEP-Medicare Supplement Plan effective on the first day of the month in which their 65th birthday occurs. The Medicare Supplement Plan supplements benefits under the Social Security Medicare program.

Long-Term Disability Insurance Plan — Under the terms of this Plan, coverage is not provided beyond age 65.

Life Insurance — Employees continuing in active employment beyond age 65 will be allowed coverage in accordance with existing insurance plan(s) provisions applicable to employees who elect to retire at age 65.

Sick Leave Pay, Vacation and Holidays — Employees age 65 and over will continue to participate in these Plans on the same basis as any other active employees.

Employees affected by the change in mandatory retirement age may receive more information on their specific situation by contacting the Personnel Department.

POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

Abingdon



Cox, left, and Dalton.

Lindsey Cox, daughter of Ulysses L. Cox, Marion Building Services, was crowned queen of the 26th annual Chilhowie Community Apple Festival by Governor John Dalton. She is a senior at Marion High School.

Ellen Ferguson, daughter of Commercial Engineer William Ferguson, was elected president of the Abingdon High School Band and selected a member of the principal's advisory committee.

Mrs. E. W. Henson, wife of the retired Marion area supervisor, was elected historian for the Smyth County Hospital Auxiliary. She has served as director of volunteers for the Auxiliary.

Beckley

Ray Vest, administrative assistant, was elected president of the Woodrow Wilson High School Football Hall of Fame.

Julie Palen, daughter of Sandy Palen, residential advisor, was elected a cheerleader at Institute Elementary School for 1978-79.

R. L. Loudermilk, commercial engineer, was elected to the board of directors of the Raleigh County Sheltered Workshop.

Trina Griffith's cat "Percy" was awarded a rosette and a red, heart-shaped Nine Lives feeding dish for winning fifth place in the non-registered, neutered male division of the first annual cat show held in Oak Hill. Trina is a junior clerk.

Bluefield

Paul Baker, station mechanic A, completed FCC certification for a general class amateur radio operator's license. Requirements involve 13-words-per-minute in Morse code as well as general theory of radio.

Engineering Technician **Bill Fisher**, bowling for the APCo Electrics team in the Industrial League at Bluefield's Mountaineer Lanes, set a new house record with games of 269, 267 and 247, for a 783 series.

Eulalia Footo, T&D clerk A, was installed as corresponding secretary of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Elsie Loyd, wife of Retired Customer Accounting Supervisor James Loyd, was installed as chairman of Ecumenical Mission and Relations in the Women of the Church of Bluefield's First Presbyterian Church.



James R. Bailey, service restorer, compares an ordinary-sized carrot to the king-sized ones he grew this year. Jim's carrots weighed 1 lb. 11 oz. each, which probably isn't a record, but Bluefield employees conceded that Jim holds the championship until next season.

Charleston

H. K. Shabdue, GO area development consultant, was commissioned an admiral in the Cherry River Navy of West Virginia.

General Office

Jackie Bundy, transmission special clerk, GO T&D Transmission Line, Bluefield, was elected state director of the Virginia Jaycees. He is a member of the Tazewell Chapter.

Cheryl Chittum, daughter of L. E. Chittum, control electrician A, GO T&D Station, Roanoke, has been

employed as program director for the Rappahannock Drug Abuse and Crisis Intervention Center. A graduate of Madison College with a degree in social work, she was previously a child protective services worker in the Fredericksburg Welfare Department.

Kingsport

John E. Faust, executive vice president, is general chairman of the 1978 Greater Kingsport United Fund campaign.

Margaret Bryant, wife of C. H. Bryant, station mechanic A, was elected president of the Fort Henry Mall Bowling League. Their son, **Roger Bryant**, was elected president of the Indian Springs Elementary School 4-H Club.

Lynchburg

Betty Pearson, residential advisor, was a judge for baked goods and cake decorations at the Campbell County Fair.

Cathy Davenport, daughter of J. Robert Davenport, division manager, is feature editor of *The High Times*, E. C. Glass High School newspaper.



James W. "Buck" Dalton, Jr., son of Jim Dalton, station mechanic B, received a certificate of merit for his participation in the Madison Heights Little League. He was awarded a Louisville Slugger bat for batting 500 in his league and was awarded a trophy for being the best defensive player on his team. He is a catcher for Virgil's Market in Madison Heights.

The India Association of Lynchburg held an Independence Day celebration in August, featuring a cricket match, dinner and cultural program. **A. C. Channaiah**, engineering technologist supervisor, was program coordinator of the

events, scheduled in connection with India's observance of the 31st anniversary of its independence from Great Britain on August 15.

Pulaski

Retiree **K. L. Buckland** and his wife **Evelyn** were reelected treasurer and secretary, respectively, of the Pulaski County Farm Bureau. Evelyn was also elected secretary of the Women of the Church at Belspring Presbyterian.

Roanoke



Richard Todd Dickerson, son of Stenographer Nancy Dickerson, was elected president of the seventh grade class at Glenvar Junior High School.

Meter reader **Abner Jacobs** participated in the member-guest golf tournament at Cedars Country Club, competing in the first flight. Abner and his partner took the first-day lead with a one-under round of 71 and never trailed after that, shooting a second-day score of 68 to take a one-shot win in the first flight.

Juanita Faye Givens, daughter of Gilly Givens, engineering technician senior, was second runner-up in the Roanoke Junior Miss Contest. A senior at Northside High School, she also won a first-place trophy in physical fitness.

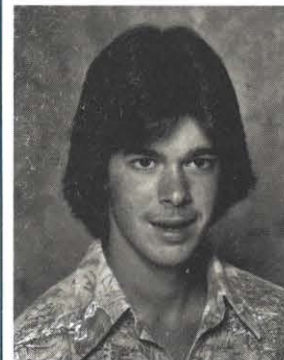
Shirley Craft, daughter of D. K. Craft, head T&D clerk, has successfully completed her state board exam, qualifying her to be a licensed practical nurse at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. She is a graduate of Brigham Young University.

R. D. Webster, division manager, was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Roanoke Transportation Museum, Inc.

M. L. Ratcliff, administrative assistant, was appointed by the County School Trustee Electoral Board as District 1 representative on the Bedford County School Board.

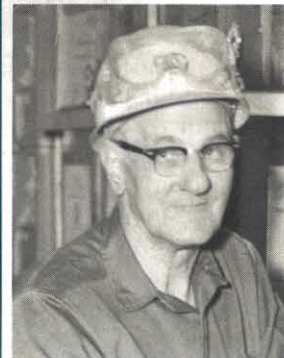
Meter reader **Jerry Joyce** was appointed den leader of Cub Pack 330.

Philip Sporn

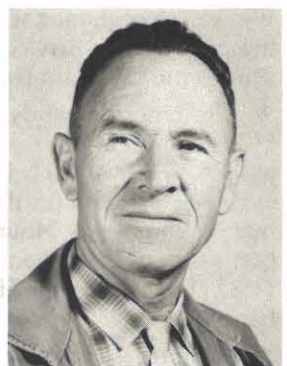


Kevin King, son of William King, instrument maintenance supervisor, was selected to be included in "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and "Who's Who In American High School Music Students". He was chosen a delegate from Meigs High School to Buckeye Boys' State.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Conrad Brown, Jr., 70, retired Cabin Creek Plant maintenance man, died October 14. A native of Diamond, West Virginia, he began his career in 1943 as a laborer and retired May 31, 1971. Brown is survived by his widow Freda, 6718 MacCorkle Avenue, St. Albans, W. Va.; two daughters, one son, one stepson and two brothers, both of whom are Cabin Creek retirees. His brother Dana was a coal conveyor operator and his brother Leonard was a turbine operator A.



James E. Ford, 66, retired Kingsport general serviceman, died September 27. A native of Martell, Tennessee, he began his career in 1940 as a meter reader and retired December 31, 1972. Ford is survived by his widow Irene, 2013 Oakland Street, Kingsport, Tenn.; three children and four grandchildren.

NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

Abingdon

Wayne Thomas, junior clerk.

Central Machine Shop

John Joyce, **Samuel Tawney** and **Gene Canfield**, machinists 1st class.

General Office

Robert Porter, engineering technician, GO T&D Communications, Roanoke. **Harford Hudson, Jr.**, **Ernest Perdue** and **John Bush**, station mechanics D, GO T&D Station, Roanoke. **Thomas Blanding**, electrical engineer, GO T&D Distribution, Roanoke. **Rebecca Anderson**, junior stenographer, GO T&D Meter, Roanoke. **Angie Martin**, custodian B, GO General Services, Roanoke. **Debra Hayes**, junior clerk, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Carl Jones**, custodian, GO General Services, Roanoke. **Roger Jones**, commercial engineer, GO Customer Services, Roanoke. **Mark Boles**, utility worker B, GO Hydro, Roanoke.

Kanawha River

Ronald Woodson, Jr., **Michael Miller**, **Kathy Thomas**, **Timothy Hunt** and **Dennis Mullins**, utility workers B.



Kanawha River Plant employees were treated to a luncheon last month in recognition of having completed one year without a disabling injury. The Machine Shop, where the luncheon was held, was decorated with streamers and safety posters by Ray Lively, operations supervisor, and Robert J. Cruickshank, plant performance superintendent. APCo Safety Director Doug Forbes attended to congratulate employees on their achievement.



Lynchburg station employees install a new 20 mva 138/12 transformer at the Forest Station. The old transformer was damaged by lightning when a severe electrical storm hit the area on August 9 and interrupted service to over 3,300 customers. The distribution at Forest Station was switched to other sources, and a mobile transformer was brought in from Roanoke and placed into service the following day.



New officers of the Pulaski Employees Benevolent Association for 1978-79 are: seated, from left, Barbara Pope, meter reader; Nancy Fleming, meter electrician D; and Elizabeth Kelly, engineering technician assistant, all directors. Standing, Debbie Grubb, junior clerk, treasurer; W. O. Vaughan, personnel supervisor, chairman; T. K. Worde, electrical engineer, director; and J. H. Basham, division office supervisor, secretary.

MORRISON'S CREATION CALLED GOD'S EYE



Barbara Morrison doesn't have any problem finding something to occupy her time. The wife of Garland Morrison, Bluefield head custodian, she spends many hours making afghans and clothes, crocheting and doing macramé.

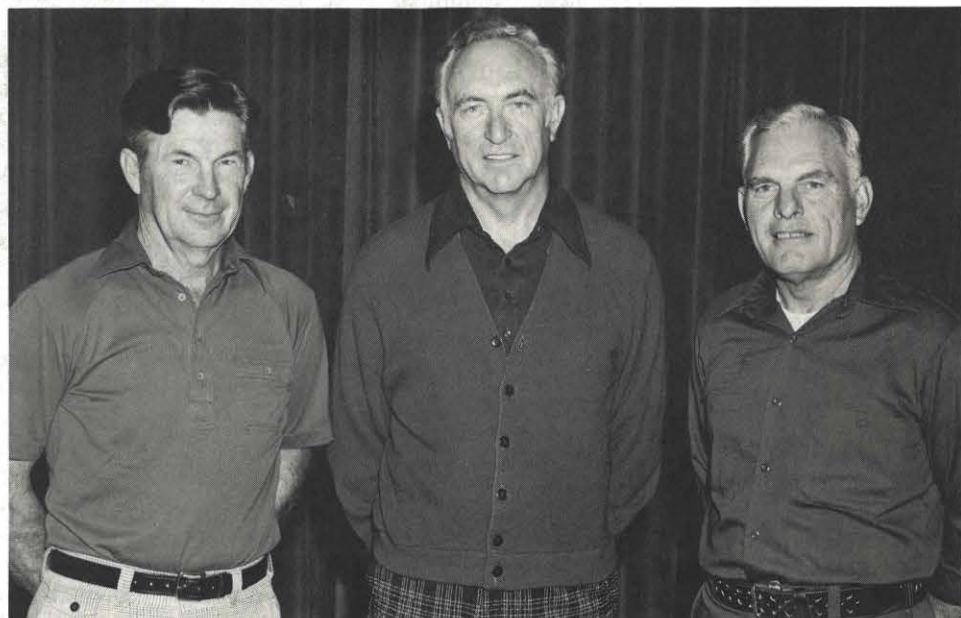
Barbara relates that most of her sewing skills were developed as a result of raising her family. "There were always clothes to make or mend and alterations necessary in keeping up with a growing family. I have taken some sewing classes, but a lot of my ideas come from magazines and literature from the county extension agent."

Barbara is always on the lookout for some new form of artistic sewing to add to her many talents. During a recent visit to her daughter's home in North Carolina, she learned to make a new creation known as a "God's Eye". She begins with a frame made from wooden dowels or round sticks, then weaves various colors of yarn into a pattern on the frame. The pattern is woven on both sides of the frame and usually takes about eight hours to complete.

Barbara has sold some of her pieces, which ranged in price from \$15 to \$40, depending on size. However, she adds, most of her works are done as gifts for family members.



Dave Bair, Beckley line mechanic B, coached the Colts team to the minor league championship of the Beckley Little League's Western Division. An expansion team, in its second season, the Colts finished league play with a 12 win-2 loss record. Dave's son David (second row, third from left), was a member of the team.



The team composed of (from left) Homer Smith, meter service mechanic A; Robert Morrison, engineering technician A; and Chapman Rutledge, meter service mechanic A, won the Huntington Division APCo Kilowatt Golf League. Team member J. K. Bradburn, meter reader, was not present when picture was taken.

SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Teresa Lynn DeLong, daughter of Faye DeLong, Roanoke customer accounts representative C, to Michael Andrew Bentley, October 7.



Hilda Marie Bray to **J. C. Corbett**, Roanoke engineering technician assistant, October 7.



Linda Ragland, tape librarian A, General Office Accounting, Roanoke, to Jackson Smith, September 9.

Pamela Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of Herman L. Johnson, custodian, General Office General Services, Roanoke, to Timothy J. Harrington, August 18.

Barbara Joyce Rowe to **James Edward Craig**, classification and accounts payable clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke, October 7.

Diana Lynn Hedrick to **Richard L. Hensley**, Central Machine Shop welder 1st class, September 30.

Belinda J. Bowling, stenographer, Mountaineer Construction, to Jimmie W. Johnson, June 3.

BABY PARADE

Abingdon

Samantha Leigh, daughter of **Roger W. Holbrook**, Clintwood meter reader, September 10.

Beckley

Jeremy David, son of **Jerry Bawgus**, junior clerk, September 24.

Bluefield

Angela Mae, daughter of **Robert Viney**, Tazewell line mechanic A, August 21.

Bobbi Jean, daughter of **Floyd Wilson, Jr.**, station mechanic D, September 10.

Jason Larry, son of **Larry Taylor**, Tazewell line mechanic B, September 19.

General Office

Charles David, II, son of **C. D. Niday**, engineering technician, GO T&D Communications, Charleston, August 24.

Andrew K., Jr., son of **Andrew Barham**, engineering technician, GO T&D Meter, Charleston, September 16.

Annie Leigh, daughter of **Karen McMillan**, classification and accounts payable clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke, October 16.

Glen Lyn

Paul Andrew, son of **Charlotte Wagner**, chemist assistant, October 3.

Roanoke

Stephen Brantly, son of **John Wilmer**, customer accounting supervisor, Rocky Mount, September 26.

Jay Hampton, son of **Glen Poindexter**, automotive mechanic A, October 3.

David Michael, son of **T. J. Walker**, electrical engineer, September 14.

Philip Sporn

Timothy Ryan, son of **Jack Peavley**, maintenance mechanic B, October 1.

BARKER NAMED TEACHER OF YEAR



When Rita Barker graduated valedictorian of her class at Greenville High School at Monroe County, West Virginia, there was never a doubt in her mind what she wanted to do with her life.

"I always liked to study. My mother said almost before I could talk I was running around saying I wanted to be a teacher," says Rita, who was selected by a school administrative committee as Raleigh County's 1979 "teacher of the year". She is the wife of Clyde Barker, Beckley personnel supervisor.

Rita worked her way through college because she didn't want to put undue financial strain on the family, which included her parents, a brother and sister. She earned her bachelor's degree at Concord College and has done graduate work at the University of Connecticut, George Washington University and West Virginia University.

Rita's biggest reason for teaching is children. "I love to work with children, and I just have that desire to help people. Anything that I have learned I want to share."

Rita has taught elementary, junior high and senior high students and was an adult education instructor in Monroe County. She is currently teaching fifth grade at Beckley's Central Elementary School.

She taught English in grades eight through twelve for all but one of her five years with the Monroe County Board of Education, then left teaching to work four years in Princeton and a year in Beckley as a home economist for Appalachian Power. "My job as a home economist was nothing but 'out-of-the-classroom' teaching," she says, since her job took her into schools and before homemakers for lectures and demonstrations.

Rita says her parents "never tried to influence me to go into any particular field, but they were willing to support me in whatever I decided." She feels that a former teacher was definitely an inspiration. "I went to a one-room school with grades one through six and had an ideal elementary school teacher. Later I taught on the same faculty with her."

The number of openings at the elementary level combined with the amount of child development training as a home economist led Rita to take the national teacher exam and apply for an elementary, rather than secondary, position with the Raleigh County Board of Education.

She found changes when she started teaching in Raleigh County. "Children's attitudes toward the classroom had changed. They were searching for a broader area of learning than in the past. They had already learned so much from the media — radio and television — that they wanted something more. They were more restless and searching for a sense of acceptance, direction and love." But, Rita hastens to add, "I had to change, too . . . to meet the needs of every individual instead of trying to reach a happy medium and meet the needs of the average child." She admits teaching is harder today. "We're giving children a wider scope of education. In so many cases, children today have activities that influence their lives more than just home life, and there's a different view of discipline by society."

Rita says teaching fulfills her because "of a continued feeling of wanting to impart something of what I've learned to someone else, and teaching gives me an opportunity to bring out the hidden talents and abilities in children."

Her philosophy of teaching is "the belief that every child should be given an opportunity to develop to its fullest potential. My goal in working with each child is that he or she is trained not just in what they learn in the classroom but that they are able to apply this knowledge to life. Utmost is creating a feeling of worth in them as an individual."

Rita is now eligible for the West Virginia state "teacher of the year" title.

COUPLE WED 60 YEARS



Tuck Musser, retired Roanoke Division line foreman, and his wife Donnie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 30.

"Just good, clean living's been the secret," Tuck says. "We've never had a fight," declares Donnie. "Now that's not to say that we always agreed on everything." She adds, "We've been fortunate. All five of our boys went off to war — one of them twice — and they all came back."

Tuck recalls, "We were married in Bristol, Tennessee. It was an all-day trip. We drove 56 miles in a T-model Ford. On the way, we got hung up in a creek just the other side of Abingdon. When we opened the car door, the water just poured in." Fortunately, they found someone to pull them out so they could proceed on their way.

Tuck turned 81 on October 21, and family and friends held a reception for the couple on October 29 in the fellowship hall of the Poages Mill Church of the Brethren. The Mussers have seven children, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Dorothy and Alvin Reed celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 24 with a reception at the Woman's Club of South Charleston. The reception was given by their daughter, Mrs. Gordon Jenkins of South Charleston, W. Va., and their son, Robert Reed of Beaverton, Oregon. The Reeds have been living in Tavares, Florida, since Alvin took early retirement on January 1, 1959. He had been a meter reader in Charleston Division.

CLUB WORK, GARDENING FILL RETIREE'S TIME



"I go all the time — I go like a streak of lightning," laughs Victoria 'Tory' Dooley, retired Roanoke contract clerk senior. She continues, "I seldom ever watch TV. Most people tell me they couldn't live without their TV programs, but I don't have time."

Tory is as active in community work today as she was when she retired in July 1966. She is a past president of the Raleigh Court Book Club; past regional president of the Colonel William Preston Chapter of D. A. R.; past president of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, which consists of 52 individual clubs; first vice president and program chairman of the Mountain View Garden Club (she served three terms as president); and good citizen chairman for her local D. A. R. organization.

Tory was named after Queen Victoria. "My father was the only one who ever called me Victoria. Before I was born, he always said that if he had another daughter he would name her after the queen because she was such a good person. When I was little, I couldn't say Victoria, so I just named myself Tory."

She recalls that in 1926 "the company prepared the bills by hand on the third floor in the old Campbell Avenue office. During the depression years, I remember many customers calling and having their service cut off because they couldn't pay their bills. Rates were reduced twice while I worked for Appalachian. I'm still pleased with my electric bill even though it's gone up. What I have to pay for the service I get is very reasonable."

"Many funny things occurred over the years, two I remember particularly. There was a real big woman who used to come in every month, and she would just embarrass me to death. She had a deep voice like a man, and she would yell out, 'I want my bill'. I forgot that she, too, called me Victoria, and she would just holler out my name. Sometimes I felt like hiding."

"Another incident struck me as the funniest thing I ever saw. At that time, just about everybody went to market on Saturdays. We stayed open a half day then, and some of the people would come into the lobby and wait on the street car. One lady walked in carrying four live chickens, two in each hand. She had them by their feet; and, when she sat down, they pulled away and got loose in the lobby. One was a rooster, which got behind the switchboard, and the others were running wild in the lobby. It took everybody in the office to catch them. Whenever we got near, they would cackle so loud it was embarrassing."

The death of Tory's husband came as a real blow. "I've always said that just when you get ready to live, that's when everything falls apart. My husband Oden was too ambitious. He just pushed himself too hard. We built the house in 1952 and finished paying for it in March of 1956. He died the following month."

Tory's brother Roy lived in a basement apartment at her home for seven years until his death this past February. "During the time that Roy lived here, we socialized a great deal. Since he's gone, I don't invite friends in much for parties now. You invite couples over, and the men want to talk with other men. I really miss Roy. We had so many places to go and friends to associate with. Now it's not the same."

In what little spare time Tory can find, she enjoys working in and around the house. Her favorite pastime is making dried flower arrangements from her own garden. "I'm getting the ground ready now to plant rhododendron and preparing my other plants for winter."

WARTIME FRIENDS REUNITED AFTER 33 YEARS APART



From left, Shirley Wilson, Jeanie Van Giffin, Theo Avoirt, Blanche Avoirt, Joel Wilson and Christine Wilson.

It's been 33 years since a close friendship developed between Joel Wilson, residential representative in Roanoke Division's Fieldale area, and the Van Giffin family in Merksem, Belgium, during World War II.

Henry and Louisa Van Giffin, owners of a small shop, came to look upon Joel more like a son than just an acquaintance. Joel says, "I always called them Mom and Pop. They more or less just kinda adopted me."

The Van Giffins had not seen Joel since the war's end, but they had not forgotten each other. Beginning in 1946, they kept in touch by mail. Joel's wife Christine became well acquainted with the Van Giffins via mail as the two families exchanged photos of the children growing up.

Joel says, "I'm almost ashamed to mention how I came to know them. The Army had me standing guard duty on the docks at Merksem. The war had just ended, and we had to watch the material that was being loaded on the docked ships. Merksem was a little town then with narrow streets. My guard duty was at the main gate, and right across the street was a little bar. When no one was watching, I'd run across to the bar and get my canteen filled up. By the time I was relieved from standing guard, I was as high as a Georgia pine. To this day I don't know what made me do it, other than the canteen, but I walked into the Van Giffin shop and asked for shoe polish. I don't even think I needed it. Pop couldn't understand a word I was saying, so he called Mom out to see if she knew what shoe polish meant. When all sign language failed, they called their young son Leo and daughter Blanche to help in the discussion. We never did get one another to understand."

Through sign language, however, Joel was invited to their apartment in back of the store for a meal. It was there that the lasting friendship began to form. "Mom fixed me fresh eggs, something I hadn't eaten since being shipped overseas. She had fresh meat and homemade dark bread."

Joel continues, "During the eight months that I knew them there, we spent much time together. They held a birthday party before I left to return home and presented me with a camera and watch. I remember the cake having American flags on it."

"I never got to see Pop alive again. He died five years ago, and I got to thinking that since Mom's 87 now, I was going back before something happened to her."

This summer Joel and Christine flew to Belgium, where they were met by several members of the Van Giffin family. Joel notes, "Leo was only 12 when I first met him. He was there with his wife Jeanie. He owns a paint shop in Merksem, and he closed it for the first time in 22 years to come greet us."

Many changes have taken place since the war. "They have six-lane highways now, no speed limits, and it's grown so that I only recognized two places that I'd known before."

"One custom they have that nearly drove Christine crazy was the shops there. You don't go into shops unless you're buying something. You only do window shopping if you're just looking."

"The five languages — Flemish, Swiss, German, French and Dutch — that Blanche and her husband spoke was most fascinating. At times I had currency from five countries, and he would almost instantly, wherever we were, compute one currency to another as needed."

Joel continues, "Workers there pay 50 cents out of every dollar in taxes. All businesses shut down during the first three weeks of July each year, and the government pays each worker one and a half times the regular salary in vacation pay. Something else, everyone must carry a passport at all times. They couldn't believe this wasn't a requirement in the U. S."

For those wanting to know a little more about life in Belgium, coffee is \$2.00 per cup; gas, \$2.50 per gallon, and a bowl of soup in nearby Switzerland is \$8.00.

Several members of the Van Giffin family, including 87-year-old Louisa, plan a trip to the U. S. to visit the Wilsons in 1979.

VETS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



W. C. Reynolds
Meter Electrician A
Roanoke
40 Years



R. B. Waggoner
Div. Office Supv.
Lynchburg
40 Years



P. O. Goode
T&D Clerk A
Charleston
40 Years



J. L. Hale
Meter Reader
Pulaski
35 Years



Lorraine Corea
Secretary Stenographer
Logan-Williamson
35 Years



J. C. Frazier
Personnel Supv.
Charleston
35 Years



C. A. Arnold
Sta. Mechanic A
Kingsport
35 Years



J. C. Green
R/w Agent B
GO-Bluefield
30 Years



H. E. Garrett
Service Supervisor
Logan-Williamson
30 Years



F. H. Reese
Maint. Mechanic C
Amos Plant
30 Years



M. V. Waid
Sta. Mechanic B
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



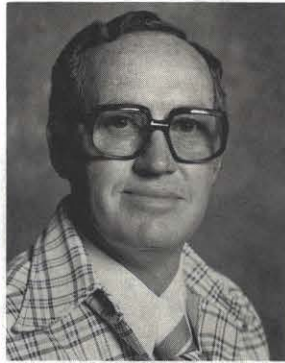
J. O. Bowling, Jr.
Sta. Mechanic A (LTD)
Roanoke
30 Years



D. L. Blake
Meter Serv. Mech. A
Charleston
30 Years



V. S. Likens
Station Special Clerk
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



C. J. Maynard
Cust. Accts. Rep. A
Logan-Williamson
30 Years



C. E. Spraker
Express Driver
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



J. R. Trail
Maintenance Supv.
Clinch River
30 Years



C. H. Hager
Trans. Mechanic A
GO-Bluefield
30 Years



C. R. Whittington
Regional Dispatcher
GO-Charleston
30 Years



C. L. Fulp
Special Reports Supv.
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



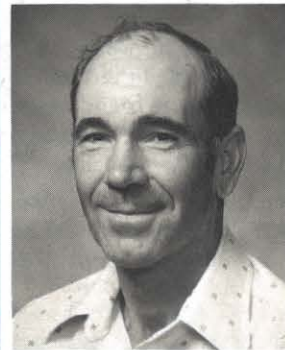
J. K. Daniels
Regional Dispatcher
GO-Charleston
30 Years



H. L. Back
Line Crew Supv. NE
Huntington
30 Years



Leonard Crum
Auto. Mech. A
Logan-Williamson
30 Years



C. E. Fields
Gate City T&D
Abingdon
30 Years



R. D. Blevins
Eng. Tech. Supv.
Pulaski
30 Years



J. R. Drenan
Line Crew Supv. NE
Huntington
30 Years



L. H. Wallace
Area Service Restorer
Bluefield
30 Years



C. E. Howell
General Servicer
Bluefield
30 Years



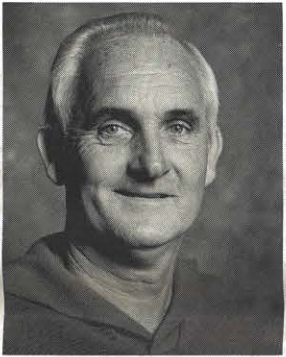
N. K. Langhorne
Stores & Garage Supv.
Lynchburg
30 Years



R. L. Payne
Unit Supervisor
Amos Plant
30 Years



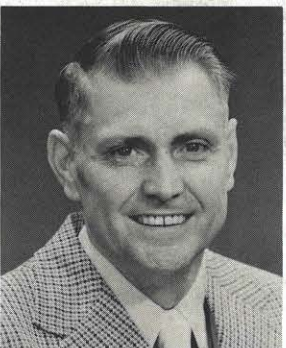
Parthenia Deal
Cust. Accts. Rep. C
Kingsport
25 Years



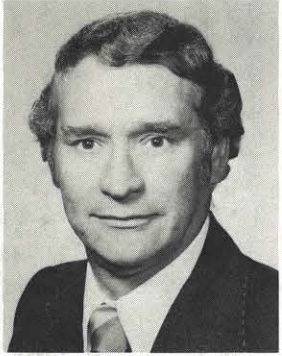
J. W. Robinson
Collector
Logan-Williamson
25 Years



B. L. Chase
Line Crew Supv. NE
Charleston
25 Years



G. W. Nash
Maint. Mech. B
Philip Sporn
25 Years



R. E. Wentz
Operations Supt.
Amos Plant
25 Years



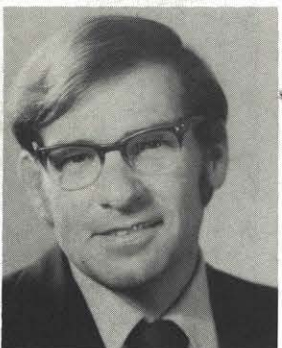
D. O. Wissler
Trans. Station Supv.
GO-Roanoke
25 Years



B. M. Angelo
Asst. Reg. Chief Disp.
GO-Charleston
25 Years



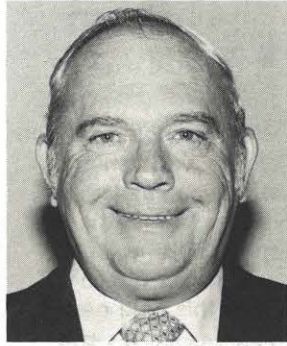
Marion Shank
Payroll Supv. Clerk
GO-Roanoke
20 Years



J. T. Gregory
Power Disp. Supv.
GO-Roanoke
20 Years



G. H. Reynolds
Asst. Division Mgr.
Roanoke
20 Years



J. E. Reynolds
Sta. Crew Supv. NE
Bluefield
20 Years



C. B. Hinchey
Perf. Supv. Eng.
Amos Plant
20 Years



N. J. Jessee, Jr.
Custodian
Glen Lyn
20 Years



S. W. Hylton, Jr.
Engineer B
Bluefield
20 Years

John Amos

30 Years: **Clayton Barker**, barge unloader operator. 10 Years: **R. F. Shoemaker**, plant performance superintendent. **E. C. Bradley**, personnel supervisor. 5 Years: **R. G. Sergeant**, utility operator. **A. J. S. White**, maintenance mechanic. **C. T. N. Frazier**, utility operator. **A. G. G. Adkins**, coal equipment operator. **G. W. Shamblin, Jr.**, coal equipment operator. **D. D. Casto**, coal equipment operator. **C. P. Engle**, performance technician junior. **T. E. Tucker**, utility operator B.

Charleston

15 Years: **J. W. Smith**, line crew supervisor NE. 10 Years: **E. L. Richards**, engineer. **B. C. L. Justice**, stores attendant. **D. R. Priddy**, station mechanic A. **L. F. Burkett**, T&D clerk B. 5 Years: **J. B. Elswick**, cashier B.

General Office

15 Years: **Susan Caywood**, payroll clerk A. **J. E. Board**, head custodian. 10 Years: **Scott McDonald**, hydro maintenance superintendent. **Paulette Custer**, general records clerk A.

Glen Lyn

10 Years: **R. S. Meadows**, braker. **M. C. Mullins**, maintenance mechanic C.

Kanawha River

5 Years: **M. T. Smith**, auxiliary equipment operator. **S. M. Peay**, maintenance mechanic C.

Kingsport

10 Years: **J. D. Mills**, custodian. 5 Years: **D. R. Gamble**, meter reader.

Logan-Williamson

10 Years: **R. D. Ferrell**, meter electrician B. 5 Years: **Burnette Dotson**, meter reader.

Lynchburg

15 Years: **Charlotte St. John**, personnel clerk A.

Mountaineer Construction

5 Years: **E. E. Booth**, civil construction assistant I, Amos FAP.

Pulaski

40 Years: **G. S. Bruce**, line inspector. 10 Years: **Kenith Dawson**, area service restorer. 5 Years: **C. E. Burnett**, maintenance mechanic C.

Roanoke

30 Years: **D. N. Sink**, meter service mechanic A. 15 Years: **G. H. Hudson**, reservoir groundskeeper senior. 10 Years: **J. L. Mills**, meter reader. **J. E. Glover, Jr.**, engineering technician. **J. A. Bussey**, meter electrician C. 5 Years: **K. N. Cobbler**, stenographer.

Philip Sporn

10 Years: **E. E. Henry**, maintenance supervisor. 5 Years: **Debra Tygrett**, plant clerk. **B. R. W. Stearns**, instrument mechanic A. **G. M. Craig**, equipment operator. **D. L. Rutherford**, maintenance mechanic. **B. J. L. Thompson**, maintenance mechanic A. **J. D. Wilson**, maintenance mechanic. **B. J. R. Cotterill**, maintenance mechanic. **B. C. C. Cunningham**, instrument mechanic A. **J. G. Hayes**, maintenance mechanic. **B. J. A. Liberatore**, personnel clerk. **B. G. A. Spradlin**, instrument mechanic A. **S. J. Fraley**, equipment operator. **C. E. Flowers**, barge attendant. **J. D. Haner**, maintenance mechanic. **B. D. F. Asbury**, maintenance mechanic. **B. D. A. Rhodes**, maintenance mechanic A. **J. W. Walker**, maintenance mechanic A. **J. R. Johnson**, maintenance mechanic. **B. J. R. Grimm**, maintenance mechanic. **B. D. E. Reed**, equipment operator. **D. R. Bryant**, maintenance mechanic. **B. M. V. Gardner**, maintenance mechanic. **B. G. D. Rollins**, maintenance mechanic. **B. J. E. McClure**, maintenance mechanic A. **H. E. Clark**, maintenance mechanic. **D. G. L. Ellis**, auxiliary equipment operator. **L. P. Aeiker**, maintenance mechanic B.

TRAVEL AHEAD FOR DEITZ

"We have close relatives scattered from Florida to Pennsylvania and Maryland and westward to Denver, Colorado, Texas and Arkansas. All these years they have insisted that we visit them. Now we are



going to find out if they really meant it," says Dennis Deitz, who retired October 1 as maintenance mechanic A at Amos Plant. He also has a son who works for Pan Canal Company in Panama and will visit him.

A native of Rainelle, West Virginia, Dennis attended Glenville State Teachers College and New River State (now West Virginia Institute of Technology). He was employed at Amos Plant in 1972 as a maintenance man C.

Dennis says he has been treated well and enjoyed working with and for the people at Amos. If any day ever got rough, all he had to do was think back to depression days and that day was "no sweat". He recalls, "Back then people worked almost 72 hours a week and still stayed hungry. Hard work was a part of life then, and everybody expected it and was used to it."

Dennis proudly states he was taught to be independent and that honest work was to be expected. "You know," he says, "times aren't necessarily that much better now. True, we don't have to work as hard, but then sometimes I wonder what it takes to really make people happy now."

Dennis intends to be happy for a long, long time he hopes. His mother will be 99 years old in December and was the subject of a story in the *Charleston Daily Mail* recently.

Dennis and his wife Madeline will continue to make their home in South Charleston and not return to their native Greenbrier County. "Would you believe," he asked co-workers on his last day on the job, "up there you can't even see what you're breathing!" Dennis plans to remain "reasonably busy" during retirement. He says, "We like to play it by ear and do things on the spur of the moment as it strikes our fancy."

MOVING UP



Patricia Stowers, former general records accountant, was promoted to general records supervisor in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, on October 1. She succeeds N. G. Marshall, who retired earlier. Stowers attended Virginia Southern College and attended the American Electric Power Management Training Program at the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration.



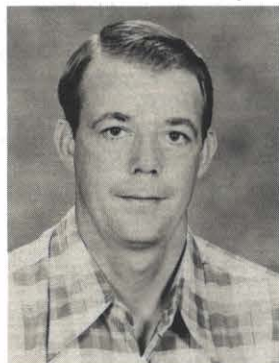
Jesse B. Donevant, III, former Bluefield customer accounting supervisor, was promoted to Logan-Williamson Division personnel supervisor on October 16. He succeeds H. J. Collins, who will retire December 31. Donevant attended Concord and Bluefield State Colleges and has studied through International Correspondence Schools.



Charles R. Hudnall, former unit supervisor, was promoted to assistant shift operating engineer at Kanawha River Plant on October 1.



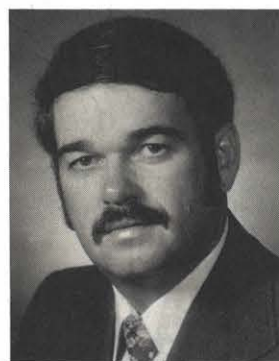
D. F. Machir, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE at Point Pleasant in the Huntington Division on July 22.



Danny W. Statzer, former Kingsport line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor in Abingdon Division's Clintwood area on September 1.



William H. Stricklen, former line crew supervisor, was promoted to general line supervisor in the Point Pleasant area of Huntington Division on May 16.



Ronald Charles Adams, former lineman A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Logan area of Logan-Williamson Division on August 19. He succeeds Billy Joe Brumfield, who is on long-term disability leave.

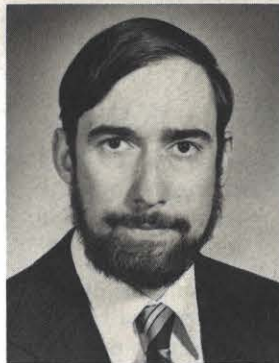


Coonie Hager, Jr., former line crew supervisor NE, was promoted to line crew supervisor E in the Logan area of Logan-Williamson Division on September 1.



Daniel M. Acela, former line crew supervisor NE, was promoted to line crew supervisor E in the Montgomery area of Charleston Division on September 1.

O'CONNOR EARNS PE STATUS



Kevin T. O'Connor, Milton area supervisor in the Huntington Division, has been approved for registration as a professional engineer in the State of West Virginia.

O'Connor, who was employed in 1976 as an electrical engineer, holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a master's degree in business administration from Marshall University. He was named to his present position in December 1977.

STEWART REPORTS FISHING NEWS



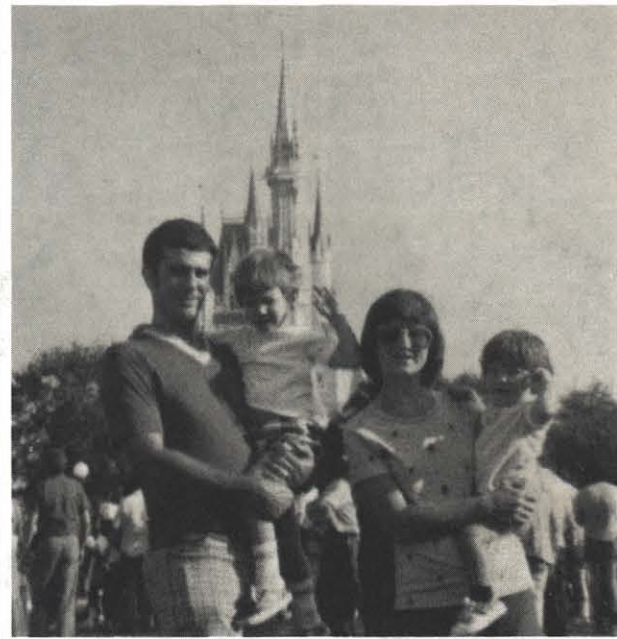
What do you do if you are an avid fisherman, who also enjoys reading about the sport, but the local newspaper doesn't carry this type news?

The answer for Bob Stewart, Kingsport meter electrician A, was to write a fishing report and have it carried by two local newspapers. One column, entitled "Area Fishing Report", is carried by the *Sullivan County News*, a weekly newspaper, and another feature, entitled "The Best Of Fishing" appears in the *Kingsport Times-News*.

Bob says, "When I first started writing the column, my greatest problem was deciding which lakes to report on and how to go about getting the latest information from the various lakes. During the past year I have developed contacts with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Virginia Fish and Game Commission, several boat dock operators and individual fishermen who report information to me regularly."

Bob's column contains information from South Holston, Boone, Cherokee, Douglas and Norris Lakes in Tennessee and the lakes of Gaston, Kerr and Claytor in Virginia. The article gives such information as water temperature and color, which lures and bait the fish are currently hitting, the water depth that is providing the best fishing, and the best locations on each lake to fish.

"I enjoy writing the articles because I feel that I am providing a service to the area fishermen," Bob states. "In the near future, I hope to be able to write some articles and have them accepted for publication by some of the national sports magazines."



Ralph Bird, Lynchburg residential representative, and his family won a trip to Disney World in Florida. Bird registered for the prize at the opening of a Burger King Restaurant in Lynchburg, and his name was drawn as the lucky winner. The promotion was sponsored jointly by Burger King and Radio Station WLLL. Ralph, his wife Barbara, and sons Jeffrey and Randy left Roanoke by plane the morning of September 16 and returned the night of September 18. They stayed at the Royal Plaza, located in the Disney World community on Lake Buena Vista. Ralph says, "This was the first thing I ever won, but now I feel my luck has changed and there will be more winnings in the future."

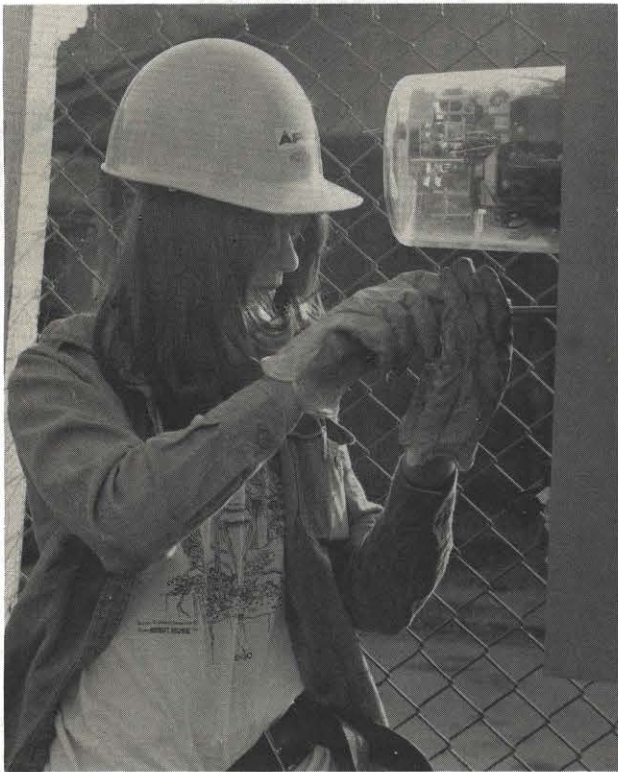


Ronnie Horne, engineering technician in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division, and his wife Sarah show off their prize winning pets. "CoCo", a chocolate Poodle, won awards for the most obedient, longest ears and best dog in the pet show held during King Coal Week in Williamson. "Heidi", a German Schnauzer, was judged best groomed. Also shown is Peppy La Pew, a brown skunk, who was entered in the most unusual dog category, but disqualified by an alert veterinarian.



Gwen Lewis, customer accounts representative B in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division, was the starting first basewoman for the Green Valley Coal Company softball team. Her team won first place in the Turkey Creek Women's Softball League. Gwen batted "almost 500".

NANCY FLEMING'S "DIFFERENT" JOB IS "ELECTRIFYING"



The blue Frodo Baggins tee-shirt wrinkles at the waist when the heavy utility belt chock full of electrician's equipment is buckled on the small frame of Nancy Fleming.

Frodo Baggins was known to undertake a great adventure in "The Trilogy" by J. R. R. Tolkien. Nancy admits "I guess you could say that," when asked if she felt she was taking her great adventure at this time.

As meter electrician D in Pulaski, Nancy is the only woman doing this type job in that area. She works with a team of men, which they confess felt "a certain amount of objection before . . . but it has worked out."

She, along with other members of the crew, install three-phase, commercial and industrial meters, conduct "field testing" and periodic tests on different type meters. The area they cover includes the eight counties of Pulaski, Montgomery, Grayson, Bland, Carroll, Wythe, Giles and Floyd.

Originally Nancy applied for a secretarial position with Appalachian, but at that time no jobs were open. The personnel department then asked her if she was interested in trying something different. "It was all brand new to me," Nancy said; nevertheless, she accepted the job of meter electrician.

For the last nine months she has been working from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. along with her team workers. "I didn't have any idea of what I was getting into." She has had one week of actual schooling and the rest of the training has been on the job.

Speaking of the crew, she said, "They are as good to me as anyone could be . . . they go out of their way to share their experiences and knowledge with me . . . I couldn't ask them to treat me any better than they do."

Her crew includes, G. F. Shrader, Jr., meter supervisor; Wayne Spraker, meter electrician A; Posey Payne, Jr., meter electrician A; and Gary Edwards, meter electrician D.

Watching this girl work, replacing a three-phase meter, you can definitely see the determination and concentration Nancy works with on the job. She has a definite knowledge of her job and does it well. She always works with an A-electrician who has worked with the job longer and can help her with any problem which arises.

Nancy, while replacing wires in the meter box, said, "There is so much to learn all the time, no two jobs are the same."

Nancy, 25 years old and single, lives with her mother.

Aside from working with electric meters, etc. during the day, Nancy has enrolled in a course in basic electricity at New River Community College. This is not required for her to take from Appalachian, but

the company will pay 75 percent as long as she maintains a certain grade point average. The meter electricians work all year long, outdoors and indoors. Preparing for work on the cold snowy days of winter she says, "There is nothing we can do but bundle up, wear cover-alls, long underwear." She added that most of the routine work could be postponed for a day if the weather was too harsh. On those days, the teams work inside jobs or stay in the APCo service building, pre-wiring meter boxes.

Shrader says Nancy is "just another one of the crew. We might be a little easier on her with the very heavy equipment, but she does her part. She doesn't receive any special attention."

Payne adds that Nancy's joining the crew "has worked out real fine as far as I'm concerned." Shrader said they were "pleasantly surprised" with the success of the relationship between Nancy and co-workers.

Working on the meter crew is a far cry from the job Nancy Fleming had had experience in, but she still gets in a little secretarial work in the afternoons before she leaves work. There is much paper work to be done. But she's not the only one that does the paper work; the whole crew pitches in.

Story and picture courtesy *The Blacksburg Sun*.

DILLARD ENDS 36-YEAR CAREER



"It seems like I have been working all my life, and I am just tired of it. I decided now is as good a time as any to retire," says Agnes Louise Dillard. She was a customer accounts representative C in Lynchburg before electing early retirement November 1.

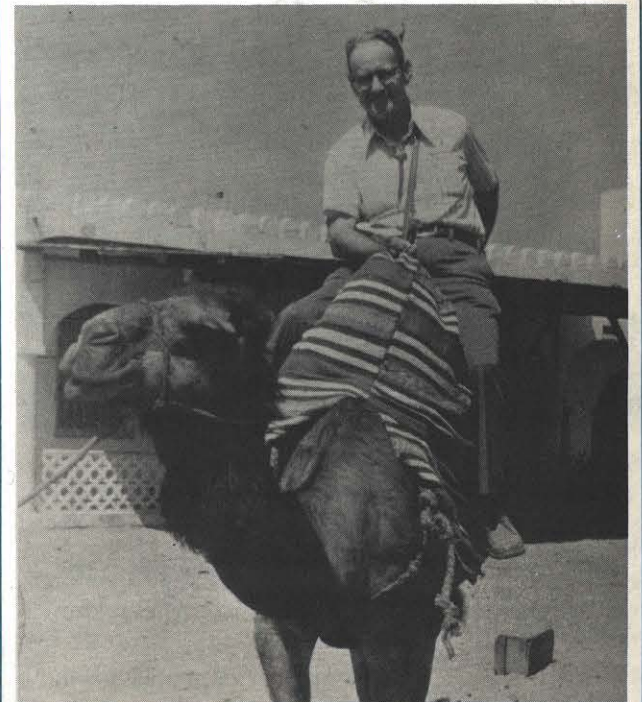
A native of Nelson County, Virginia, Agnes worked for Brooks Transportation Company about a year following graduation from Phillips Business College. She knew a lot of people at Appalachian Power and applied for a job when she learned there was an opening in the Accounting Department. She was hired by E. L. Sutor, Jr., now retired accounting supervisor. Agnes recalls, "Appalachian and Craddock-Terry Shoe Corporation were two of the few places that people could get jobs in those days. When you got a job at Appalachian, you really felt you had something because it was one of the few companies that offered any benefits."

Agnes continues, "Appalachian is a good company and does all it can for the employees. Although there have been ups and downs throughout the years, it has been a pleasure working with and knowing all of the people that I have been associated with."

When asked what she is going to do during retirement, Agnes replied, "Nothing more than I can get out of." Agnes, in fact, is very much involved in several hobbies — oil painting, china painting, ceramics, needlepoint, sewing (she makes all her own clothing) and gardening, which is followed by canning, preserving and pickling. An accomplished bridge player, she started playing when she was 12 years old and has belonged to the same bridge group since World War II. She is a member of the Carol Wingard Circle at Centenary Methodist Church.

Although Agnes has traveled extensively during her working years, she plans to do even more during retirement. Shopping for antiques while traveling is a favorite hobby.

RETIREE WHITLEY CONSULTANT IN SAUDI ARABIA



"Saudi Arabia is jumping from the Middle Ages into the Twentieth Century and one of the by-products is traffic accidents," says Lane Whitley, retired Bluefield electrical engineer senior. He recently returned from Saudi Arabia, where he was based with Overseas Advisory Associates, Inc., a non-profit organization working for the U. S. Treasury Department.

"There is no traffic control," Lane reports. "If there's a boulevard with a parkway in the middle of it and they want to go the other way, they just drive right over the parkway! I've got an international driver's license, but I never drove over there — too dangerous."

Lane was part of the OAAI team sent to Saudi Arabia by the Treasury Department to order, purchase and advise on installing \$57 million worth of electrical equipment funded by the Saudis. He was chosen to help in the project because of his engineering background with Appalachian and experience in developing utilities in the European Theater during World War II. His boss on the assignment was Walker Sisler, former chairman of the board of Detroit Edison, who founded OAAI.

Lane said he found modern buildings and cities side by side with Nomadic tents and shacks, and camel herds next to automobiles. "They've fallen in love with the automobile," Lane said. But because of the way they drive, "there are a lot of accidents and they can't get spare parts. When the car gets wrecked too badly, they just abandon it."

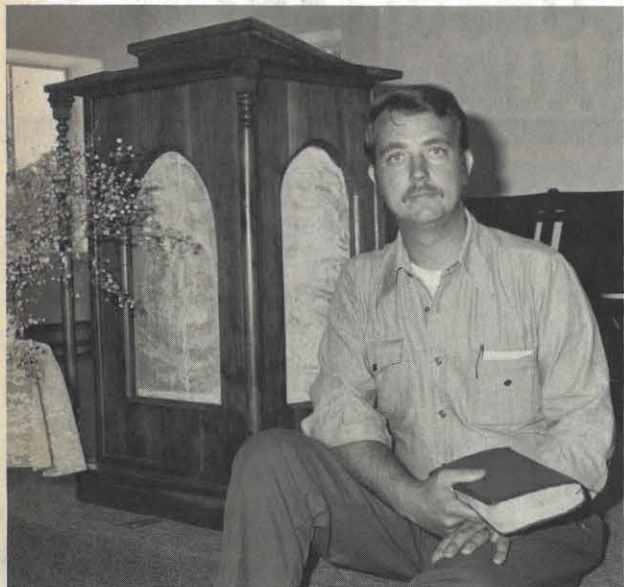
The cost of living is high in American dollars — \$2.70 for a box of cereal — but even the desert Nomads, who pitch their tents where they please, "seem to have plenty of money". Gasoline, incidentally, costs 15 cents per gallon, but a liter bottle of drinking water costs 50 cents.

"Women are kept in the background," Lane notes. "The only working women in public are foreigners, and Saudi women are veiled nearly all the time. Mostly they stay in the home."

Lane had expected to remain in Saudi Arabia for six months but left in half that time, partly because the 120 degree heat was getting to him and partly because the power plant he was sent to manage could not become operational until funds for operators and buying fuel were released from the budget.

Lane feels the military equipment the Saudis are seeking to buy from the U. S. should be sold to them. "They want it because most of the people, at least the educated people, are against Communism, and they see it (Communist-aligned countries) surrounding them. And we need to get back some of the money we're spending to buy oil."

Vault Accident Leads Morgan To Ministry



Four years ago Ralph Morgan, Roanoke line mechanic A, and a co-worker were in a company vault in downtown Roanoke when a 7200-volt splice broke down and exploded. Ralph recalls, "It changed my life in a big way. I knew when I walked out of that vault that I didn't do it on my own and that God had a hand in it."

He continues, "I've had a number of people ask me what would happen if a vault ever blew up, and I would say, 'That would probably be it for me.' When it actually happened, that was the first time in several years I recognized there is an almighty power. We were not delivered out of that situation on our own."

"When the cable exploded, it picked both of us up and literally threw us across the vault and against the wall. There was a tremendous explosion and roaring from the electrical arc. When it first happened, everything went black. Then there was a greenish black fog. We couldn't find the ladder. The 7200-volt cable was flopping back and forth, and we didn't know what was hot and what wasn't. Time was short with the heavy smoke. We knew we had to get out. After feeling our way around the wall and finding the ladder, we cleared the hole. Just as we did, the gasses that were building from the burning splice ignited into flame. I remember the arcing of the primary cable in the hole shaking my whole body. As I walked down the street after the fumes ignited, I said, 'thank you Lord, I know I didn't bring myself out of that hole'."

Ralph adds, "My life really changed that day. I began to study the Bible. I was looking for the Lord, but I didn't know how to be saved."

Then he remembered seeing the large letters on the Ghent Brethren Church in Roanoke, which read, "Jesus Saves". "I attended that church the next Sunday and, under the preaching of the word, I soon received the Lord fully into my life as my saviour."

About his co-workers, Ralph says, "They've been really understanding of my beliefs. I think they were a little leery at first. After realizing I was serious and having maintained my faith, I believe they respect me for that now."

Soon after joining the church, Morgan began teaching a Sunday School class. "It was at this point that God began speaking to me to proclaim his word."

Ralph's first sermon was delivered at the Roanoke Rescue Mission and he began to substitute on Wednesday nights at Ghent Brethren. "I still didn't know fully whether it was God's wish for me to preach or if it was my own desire."

"The Bible Brethren congregation was meeting in Troutville at the time, and they were without a pastor. They invited me down and asked me to serve as an interim pastor until they could get a regular one. They were then meeting in a rented building."

Ralph continued to fill in, and for the past year he and the other members have been constructing their own church in Troutville. "There's still a lot of work to do," Ralph says, "and we want to continue to grow and serve the community."

In May of this year, the 45-member congregation asked Ralph to become full-time pastor. He accepted and expects to be ordained soon. The first meeting in the new church was held on September 10.

Ralph is studying through Liberty Home Bible Institute, a home study arm of the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg.

WATCH THE DOG, FEED THE CATS



As our public contact employees have learned from experience, you never know what kind of a situation you'll run into when dealing with customers. Sometimes the situation can be somewhat amusing, as was the case recently for Jesse Ashworth, Lynchburg residential representative.

Jesse had telephoned a customer and told her he would be by to find out where she wanted a dusk-to-dawn light installed. The customer apparently thought Jesse was going to do the installation himself and had left this note attached to the door:

1. If there is any way that you can, someone will be here at 1 PM or soon after. They will be here the rest of the day.
2. If the neighbors on the right (brick house) say anything, just make sure it isn't on their land and tell them they don't have any other say-so about it.
3. The trucks must be driven around the house in this direction only. (A penciled sketch of the house, driveway and trees was on the note.) Put light at the place where a square of white material (masonite) is laying or where the hole beside the square already is. Please leave us the excess dirt. We have a few holes to fill up in the backyard.

4. WATCH THE DOG! He has not bitten anyone, but no one knows if he would or not.

5. PLEASE BE SURE THE CATS DON'T GET IN THE WAY! I have 6 in all. There are 4 calico and 2 yellow ones. There is some food between the doors on the carport that you can feed them if they bother you or get in the way.

Thank You.

Jesse reports he was able to stake off the job without interference from the neighbors, dog or cats.

BUCHANAN MAKES TRIAL JUMP



A. S. "Bucky" Buchanan, Abingdon residential representative, recently realized a lifelong desire when he made his first parachute jump.

When a fellow employee started telling him of the excitement involved in jumping, Bucky became interested enough to go to a club meeting of the Tennessee Falling Stars. Since they own their own equipment, including the plane, it was relatively inexpensive for him to make the jump.

Bucky had to take at least six hours of ground instruction, including emergency procedures and chute control. Chutists pack their own chutes under directive supervision, and a reserve chute is packed by Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) personnel. According to Bucky, "The first five jumps must be on a static line." (The parachute is opened automatically when the individual leaves the plane.)

Bucky's first jump was at 2,800 feet, the FAA limit for beginning jumpers. He says, "The moment of truth is when you climb out of the plane's cabin and realize you are at the threshold and there is no turning back from this point. Most important is the fact it is you and not someone else."

He continues, "The descent is very quiet and smooth. The orientation problem is also considered at this time to make sure your landing occurs near where you had anticipated." The landing was not hard at all. Bucky compares it to "jumping off the roof of an automobile".

Would he jump again? "Maybe."

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Roanoke, Virginia
Permit No. 241

Appalachian Power Company
Post Office Box 2021
Roanoke, Virginia 24022
ATT. POSTMASTER
DO NOT FORWARD
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED