



As part of its 100th anniversary celebration, General Electric Company last month presented Appalachian Power Company with a birthday present — an oil painting of young Thomas Edison. The painting was presented to John W. Vaughan, Appalachian executive vice president (center), by John C. Brennan, GE's South Atlantic district manager (left), and K. D. Wallace, GE power system field sales (right).

VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS APCO LINE PLANS

The Virginia Supreme Court last month upheld the State Corporation Commission's approval of Appalachian Power Company's proposed 765-kv line stretching 72 miles from Wythe County to Henry County.

A group called Citizens for the Preservation of Floyd County had appealed the SCC decision to the high court, seeking a reversal to stop Appalachian from building the line through Floyd.

In a 14-page opinion written by Justice Harry L. Carrico, the court said the SCC's findings in the case was supported by credible evidence and applicable law. The court did not agree with several contentions made by the Floyd group in its attempt to assign errors to the SCC decision.

The Floyd group had argued that the SCC didn't establish criteria for evaluating scenic and environmental assets that would be affected by the line. The group said the SCC failed to determine any harm the line would cause to human, animal and plant life. But the court said the SCC followed guidelines set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and state law to minimize the line's environmental impact.

The court said the SCC investigated possible environmental damage in an earlier case involving the same loop of power lines proposed by Appalachian. The evidence from that investigation had not been impugned by the information brought by the Floyd group, the court said.

The court also did not agree with the Floyd citizens' contention that the SCC had failed to consider the use of smaller power lines and alternate routes. The opinion noted the testimony of an SCC official who said that, while it was possible that electricity demands of the area could be supplied with lower voltage lines, the 765-kv lines offered the maximum capacity with a minimum of cost and lines and, therefore, a minimum adverse impact.

The court found that Appalachian had given adequate notice of public hearings when the need for the big power line was brought to the SCC.

According to Charlie Simmons, T&D manager, the company still has not received SCC approval of the 200-foot right of way for the 765-kv line. He said the company filed maps showing its preferred right of way in February, and hearings were held in March. After approval, it will take about three years to survey and buy the land and build the line. Surveying and the start of acquisition will take about six months before clearing and construction can be started, Simmons noted.

APPALACHIAN POWER GRANTED \$36.5 MILLION RATE INCREASE IN W. VA.

The West Virginia Public Service Commission on November 1 issued a final order in Appalachian Power Company's rate case no. 9091, granting the company \$36.5 million on an annual basis.

On May 3 the PSC had issued an interim order granting Appalachian \$42.4 million of a \$75 million increase placed into effect under bond on March 15. As a result of the interim order, the company refunded approximately \$4 million. The refund was completed on June 24.

This interim \$42.4 million increase was subsequently reduced to \$39.8 million by a Commission order issued on May 26, requiring Appalachian to reduce its rates to reflect the reduction in the West Virginia state business and occupation tax rates for electricity sold within the state. (The refund associated with the reduction in rates was credited to customers' bills by August 23.)

Now, as a result of the final order in case 9091, the company must refund an additional \$2.3 million (through November 30), including 9½ percent interest, within 60 days of the November 1 date of the order.

The final order also:

- Maintained the 9.75 percent rate of return (13.63 percent return on equity) as established in the interim order;
- Denied any further consideration of normalization for Federal income tax calculations;
- Granted an additional \$26.25 million on non-pollution-related construction work in progress in the rate base;
- Adopted staff's allocation method for system non-firm sales that contain demand charges, which in effect assigns a separate fully distributed cost of service to such sales; and
- Approved elimination of the water heater rate provision of the residential tariff schedule effective November 1.

On November 13 Appalachian filed a petition with the PSC for rehearing, reargument and modification, covering these items:

- To amend the L.P. (Large Power) rate schedule so that the amount of the increase reasonably corresponds to the increase on other commercial and industrial rates.
- To propose the use of liberalized depreciation, rather than accelerated amortization, on Amos Plant precipitators to avoid the payment of a preference tax;
- To request an extension of the refund period for 30 additional days beyond the time allowed in the final order so that a refund of \$5 or less could be credited to customers' bills; and
- To request that the company not be required to make refunds of less than \$1 to customers no longer being served by the company.



The employees of General Office Transmission and Distribution were treated to a breakfast recently in recognition of having completed 2,500,000 consecutive safe work hours. The record for these 429 employees began August 14, 1975. Completion of an additional 500,000 safe work hours will qualify GO T&D to be the second member of the 3,000,000 safe work hours club.

THE ILLUMINATOR

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AEP SYSTEM NEWS BRIEFS

Public Affairs VPs Named



Loftus



Corbitt

Two vice presidents in the Public Affairs Department have been elected by the AEP Service Corporation's Board of Directors.

William G. Loftus was elected vice president — public affairs planning, and William W. Corbitt was elected vice president — communications, both effective November 1. They are new posts.

Loftus will become head of the Public Affairs Department late next year upon the retirement of Harold R. Johnson, senior vice president — public affairs. In the interim — Loftus will direct his attention to helping to formulate and to recommend public affairs policies and strategies for the future.

A former newspaperman, he has been a public relations executive in the oil industry for the past 11 years.

Simultaneously, Johnson announced the organization of Public Affairs into two principal divisions. A new Communications Division will be headed by Corbitt, a 30-year AEP System veteran and formerly assistant vice president — public af-

fairs, and a new Public Affairs Programs Division by C. Wayne Hasty, Jr., who had been director of System communications.

The Communications Division will be responsible for AEP's various communications with its several audiences, including the general public, through press relations and publications; employees, through various employee publications and bulletin boards, and the shareowners, through the company's annual and quarterly reports. The Programs Division's functions will include local advertising; coordination of certain public affairs programs of the AEP System operating companies; "Operating Ideas," and maps and charts, in addition to the future application of television to System needs.

Schnapp Takes New Legal Post

Roger H. Schnapp has been promoted to senior labor counsel in the AEP Service Corporation's System Personnel Department.

Schnapp, who had been labor counsel, will continue to advise on legal matters affecting all phases of personnel, including the coordination of outside counsel and, in certain cases, conducting personnel-related cases before the courts, administrative bodies and arbitrators.

THE COVER

Completely enthralled by their visit with Santa Claus are Alice, left, and Chris, children of George Arnold, general records clerk A, General Office Accounting, Roanoke. Santa is none other than Wendell Reed, systems and procedures analyst, GO Accounting.

AEP EMPLOYEES SAVINGS PLAN

Date	Value Per Unit AEP Stock Fund	Units Credited Per Dollar
7/31/1978	1.0537	0.9490
8/31/1978	1.0385	0.9629
9/30/1978	1.0291	0.9717
10/31/1978	0.9739	1.0268
Fixed Income Fund		
7/31/1978	1.0424	0.9593
8/31/1978	1.0491	0.9532
9/30/1978	1.0559	0.9471
10/31/1978	1.0631	0.9406
Equity Fund		
7/31/1978	1.1683	0.8559
8/31/1978	1.2067	0.8287
9/30/1978	1.2027	0.8315
10/31/1978	1.0977	0.9110

267 COMPETE FOR EDUCATION AWARDS

A total of 267 children of employees will be vying for the 34 AEP System Educational Awards to be given to the winners of the 1979 competition.

Valued at \$3,500, each award will be divided into increments of \$2,000 for each student's first year in college and \$1,500 for the second.

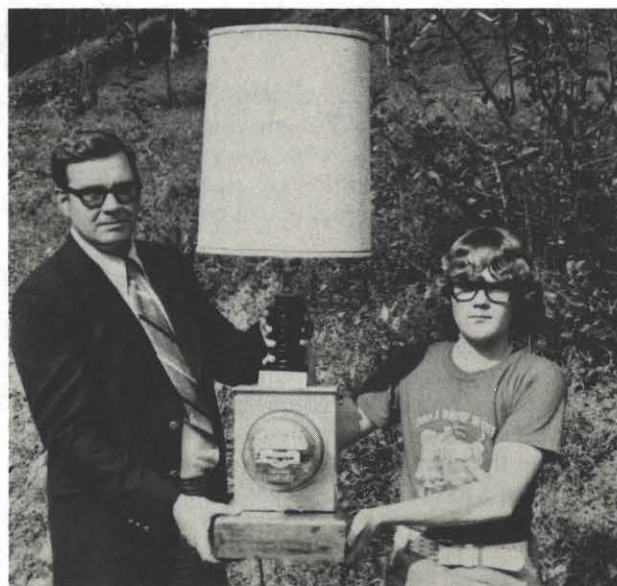
Final selections will be made February 21 by Bernard Ireland, retired educational consultant who has been involved with the AEP program for many years. His decisions will be based on three factors: secondary school evaluations by faculty members, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores and personal motivation as determined by the results of questionnaires probing the interests and objectives of each student award candidate.

Aptitude tests for those requiring them were taken on December 2.

Ohio Power Company was the leader in applicants with 88. Appalachian Power Company had 55, Indiana & Michigan Electric Company, 54. The Service Corporation, with 18 in New York, eight in Canton and one in Lancaster, was next with 27.

Coal mining and transportation operations had 21; Kentucky Power Company and Michigan Power Company each had nine, and Wheeling Electric Company and Kingsport Power Company each had two.

Instituted in 1955 with a single \$500 award, the program is open every year to any System employee's child who will be a high school senior entering college the following fall.



Paul Owens, superintendent of the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division (left), admires the lamp made by Troy Stanley, an 11th grade student at Belfry High School. The lamp was made from a post insulator, meter base and meter which Troy obtained from his uncle who is a Florida Power employee. The lamp has a night light built into the meter in addition to the normal bulb. A three-way switch allows use of the night light, normal light or both. The meter registers usage.

WARD RETIRES EARLY



James Lloyd Ward, station operator A in General Office Operations, Holston Station, elected early retirement December 1.

A native of Kaufman, Texas, Jim began his career in 1946 as a rodman at the then Kingsport Utilities. He was a draftsman junior before transferring to Appalachian Power's General Office Operations Department as a system utility man helper in 1949. He was a system substation operator B before being promoted to his present position in 1955.

Jim has a 19-acre farm on which he raises cattle and chickens. Retirement will afford him more opportunity to pursue his hobbies of fishing, crocheting, embroidering and quilting. Jim says, "I have been embroidering since I was 12 years old. My grandmother taught me how. I had to look after my mother when she was ill, and I did a lot of embroidering at her bedside."

He continues, "I learned to crochet on my own by watching my wife. I usually sell or give away the things I make. My favorite is a crocheted bedspread of red roses with green leaves. I have been offered \$100 for it but I'm not interested in selling it." Jim says it takes about three months to make a quilt, depending on what kind it is. He has made patchwork, lily, applique and many other kinds of quilts.

A member of the Westview Missionary Baptist Church, Jim and his wife Elsie have two children.

MOVING UP



Robert W. McDaniel, production superintendent-maintenance at Amos Plant, will be promoted to maintenance superintendent at Mountaineer Plant on January 1, 1979. He attended West Virginia State College and has studied through International Correspondence Schools.



Charles A. Powell, performance supervising engineer at Amos Plant, will be promoted to plant performance superintendent at Mountaineer Plant on January 1, 1979. He holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



John Lawrence Babiak, former chemist assistant, was promoted to chemist at Philip Sporn Plant on October 1. He succeeds Bob Workman, who was promoted earlier. Babiak holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



James Sutphin, former equipment operator, was promoted to unit supervisor at Glen Lyn Plant on December 1. He succeeds E. J. Candler, who elected early retirement.



Paul David Hull, former line crew supervisor NE, was promoted to line crew supervisor E on November 1. He succeeds L. C. Shaffer, who elected early retirement.



Ishmael Clinton Banks, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in Charleston on November 4. He succeeds P. D. Hull. Banks attended Morris Harvey College.



Andrew Marlin Abshire, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Madison area of Logan-Williamson Division on August 19. He succeeds Corbett Brumfield, who retired.



G. D. Hix, former stores attendant senior, was promoted to Pulaski stores supervisor A on December 1. He succeeds G. D. Roseberry, who elected early retirement. Hix attended Emory and Henry College.

NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

John Amos Raymond Carroll, performance engineer. **Linda Gatens**, junior clerk. **Thearn Ellis, Jr.**, training coordinator. **Jerry Workman**, plant staff accountant junior. **Roger Halstead**, **David Haynes**, **Kenneth Pauley**, **Stephen Deahl**, **Daniel Pauley**, **Boyd Null**, **David Kellar** and **James Dabney, II**, maintenance mechanics C.

Bluefield **David Lawless**, stores attendant. **Sam Froy, Jr.**, **Eugene Davis** and **Larry Mahood**, meter electricians D. **Michael Wallace** and **Ronnie Tiller**, meter readers, Grundy. **William Haun**, tracer. **Brenda Marshall**, junior clerk, Welch. **Jeanine Brewer**, part-time junior clerk, Tazewell.

Central Machine Shop **Howard Keenan**, machinist 1st class. **William Currence**, welder 2nd class. **Paul Dingess**, machinist 2nd class.

Charleston **James Blackwell**, electrical engineer. **Patricia Chapman**, junior clerk, St. Albans. **Timothy Johnson**, meter reader, Montgomery. **Cathy Landers**, junior clerk, Kanawha Valley Power. **David Dodd**, **Anthony Sword** and **Brian Young**, line mechanics D.

General Office **Grover Conner**, engineering technician, GO T&D Meter, Roanoke. **Preston Fitzwater**, **Robert Stover**, **Jackie Coleman**, and **Randolph Jones**, station mechanics D, GO T&D Station, Charleston. **David Kimbler** and **Danny Sanders**, station mechanics D, GO T&D Station, Huntington. **Walter Camper**, civil engineer, GO T&D Civil Engineering, Roanoke. **Cathy Davis**, junior stenographer, GO Hydro, Roanoke. **Awana Gaither**, junior key entry operator, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Kanawha River **Geraldine Pack**, utility worker B.

Kingsport **David Greear**, meter reader.

Logan-Williamson **Billy Smutko**, **Mark Muscia**, **Ronnie Dalton**, **Taylor Tomblin** and **Wilburn Vance**, line mechanics D, Logan. **Johnny Mullins**, line mechanic A, Logan. **Willie Jones**, station mechanic D-division, Logan. **James Holstein**, line mechanic D, Madison. **Ressa Fields** and **Vanessa Thaxton**, junior clerks, Williamson.

Lynchburg **Janice Robertson**, cashier C. **Mary Johnson**, junior clerk. **Randall Jones**, tracer.

Mountaineer Construction **Diana King**, **Eva Duncan** and **Cathy Zerkle**, junior clerks. **Eugene Hester**, electrical construction assistant I. **Scott King**, construction timekeeper II. **Dale Sisson**, receiving/shipping inspector II. **David McCrumb**, assistant chief electrical. **Nader Azizi**, electrical construction assistant I. **Jeffrey Wittman**, construction timekeeper.

Philip Sporn **R. E. Boggs**, **T. S. Whitlatch**, **R. A. Stobart**, **H. Dotson**, **S. D. Carmichael**, **W. P. Ault**, **P. Soulsby**, **S. D. Mace** and **R. K. Harmon**, utility workers B. **G. H. Jones**, production superintendent-maintenance. **J. R. Thompson**, personnel assistant. **J. P. Davis**, plant staff accountant junior. **K. R. Litchfield**, junior clerk.

MALLORY'S SALES OF ELECTRICITY HELPED BUILD THE COMPANY



Richard Park Mallory, who retired December 1 as residential representative in Huntington, began his working career as a railway mail clerk. He was a junior at Morris Harvey College when it relocated from Barboursville to Charleston. Rather than make the move, Dick signed on with the post office. He notes, "I chalked up more traveling miles in those seven years than most people could in ten lifetimes."

He began his career with Appalachian in 1941 as a junior power engineer and during World War II served with the U. S. Navy, achieving the rank of chief petty officer.

When the company began expanding its rural lines, Dick was assigned the task of selling electricity. Smooth-talking Dick proceeded up and down the hills and hollows of West Virginia, telling everyone how nice things would be after they got electricity. In fact, he sold electric ranges, dryers, water heaters and electric heat to people who didn't yet have electricity and it was questionable as to when they would actually get it!

Dick was also talented in woodworking, which proved valuable as he participated in building booths for fairs, home shows, sales conventions and the like. He was one of the first to sell a customer on the idea of an all-electric home. He participated in the "seeding the division" program for two years, in which he actually installed insulation and electric heat in employees' homes.

He won many sales contests and trained many new employees with his smooth approach to handling customers. One of his co-workers says, "Dick never met a stranger. He can meet anyone and in five minutes that person will think he has known Dick all of his life."

Dick is a member of the Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, VFW and Elks Club. He enjoys hunting, boating and deep sea fishing — all of which are included in his plans after a vacation in Hawaii. Dick also plans to travel abroad and spend the winters in Florida. He has four children and four grandchildren.

POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

Abingdon

J. P. Montague, division superintendent, was elected president-elect of the Abingdon Civitan Club for 1978-79.

Betty Fullen, daughter of Fred Fullen, Building Services, was runner-up in the Patrick Henry High School beauty pageant.

Marlene Mitchell, Customer Services, won a blue ribbon for her flower display at the annual Abingdon Tobacco Festival.

C. W. Bacchus, GO regional chief dispatcher, was elected vice president of the Abingdon Lions Club.

Beckley

Beulah Price, wife of R. H. Price, Rupert line crew supervisor, is the recipient of the Community Service Award presented by the Western Greenbrier Chamber of Commerce at its annual dinner.

R. E. Dyke, Oak Hill line mechanic A, was selected by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission to serve as an official for the state high school football championship playoffs.

Bluefield

Elaine Robinette, daughter of Power Engineer Senior L. W. Robinette, attended the West Virginia Association of Student Councils Convention at Jackson's Mill, where she served as convention secretary.

Dottie Lawless, secretary-stenographer and immediate past president of the Keystone-Northfork Woman's Club, attended the 58th annual convention of the Southern District West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs.

Charleston



Charles Bias, personnel assistant, was presented the best speech award by the Toastmasters Club of St. Albans for his six-minute talk entitled, "Let's Stop and Think". He described safety practices at home and on the job.

Renee Lepley, daughter of Retiree Jo Snyder, was elected president of the Clendenin Woman's Club.

E. J. Shaver, Jr., division office supervisor, was elected to the board of directors of Multi-Cap Community Action Against Poverty, Inc.

O. P. Taylor, customer accounting supervisor, attended the West Virginia State PTA Convention.

General Office



Gordon Middlekauff, son of Station Crew Supervisor O. V. Middlekauff, GO T&D Station, Roanoke, was selected outstanding band member in the Breckenridge Junior High School Band this past June. He is now a member of William Fleming High's Marching Golden Band.

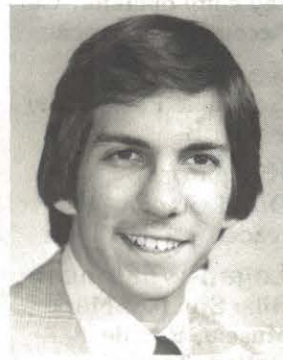


Wendy Karen Smith, riding her horse, My Buddy Alistair, won the reserve championship in the Large Hunter Pony category at the Roanoke Valley

Youth Horse Show. She is the daughter of Patsy Smith, secretary, GO Executive, Roanoke.

Robert G. Givens, electrical engineer, GO T&D Meter, Roanoke, was elected vice chairman of the Craig County Planning Commission.

Samuel Lambert, husband of Joyce Lambert, transmission clerk B, GO T&D Transmission Line, Bluefield, received a 25-year pin from the Cedar Bluff Lodge #260, A. F. & A. M.



Lawrence Terry, Jr., son of Helen Terry, chief PBX operator, GO General Services, Roanoke, was named to "Who Who's Among Students in American Universities and Colleges". He is a senior at the University of Richmond.

David Drewry, son of George Drewry, Jr., R/w agent, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke, was selected a member of the All-City Junior High Football Team (offense). A ninth grader at Woodrow Wilson Junior High, he plays tackle on the school's football team.

Logan-Williamson

Lorrayne Corea, Williamson T&D, was named chairman of the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Drive for 1978.

Floyd Taylor, Jr., division manager, was elected first vice chairman of the Logan County Chapter, American Red Cross. He will serve a two-year term on the chapter's board of directors. **William H. Honaker**, retired line and station supervisor, was elected to a one-year term on the chapter's board.

Lynchburg

Herbert M. Figg, Jr., commercial engineer, was elected chairman of the board of deacons at Chestnut Hill Baptist Church.

J. Robert Davenport, division manager, was named to three-year terms on the boards of directors of Central Virginia Industries, Inc., and The Greater Lynchburg Housing Corporation.

Commercial Representative **Lewis Thomas** and Head Meter Reader **Andy Crews** held open house for Explorer Post 155 in the Main Street office building. They are advisor and assistant advisor, respectively, of the Post.

Pulaski

C. A. Schmidt, Christiansburg customer accounting supervisor, was reelected to a three-year term as deacon at the Main Street Baptist Church. He was named chairman of the outreach and audio and visual aids committees. He was also elected president of The Baptist Highland Association of Baptist Men.

R. B. Kilgore, division superintendent, and **Olen Marshall**, husband of Barbara Marshall, T&D clerk A, were elected to the board of deacons at Pulaski's First Presbyterian Church.

New officers of the Employees Benevolent Association at Hillsville are: **W. L. Akers**, line mechanic D, president; **C. M. Goad**, line mechanic A, vice president; and **Carol Beck**, junior clerk, treasurer. Elected officers of the Wytheville Employees Benevolent Association are: **M. J. Williams**, area service restorer, president; **E. C. Felty**, meter reader, vice president; and **R. V. Dalton**, customer accounting supervisor NE, secretary-treasurer.

Officers of the Pearisburg Employees Benevolent Association are: **D. M. Davis**, area supervisor A, president; **J. L. Dunn**, T&D clerk A, vice president; and **Hazel Walker**, customer accounts representative B, secretary-treasurer.

New officers of the Christiansburg Employees Benevolent Association are: **Jean Curtis**, junior clerk, president; **Mildred**

Dalton, T&D clerk A, vice president; and **Sherry Haley**, junior clerk, treasurer.

Roanoke



Prince Thornton, retired administrative assistant, is the recipient of the 1978 Ruritan of the Year award from the Burnt Chimney Ruritan Club.

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



Cindy Owen, daughter of Tom Owen, engineering technologist, is a member of the Cave Spring Vikings cheerleading squad which finished first in Roanoke County cheerleading competition.

Martin Ratcliff, administrative assistant, was named to fill the unexpired term of T. A. Rotenberry (former R/e & R/w superintendent and now Beckley division manager) as a member of the State Water Control Board Regional Office's Smith Mountain Lake Study.

The North Roanoke Chargers Pee Wee football team captured their fourth Roanoke County championship by defeating the Cave Spring Crusaders 13-0 in the playoffs. The Chargers' record for the season was 7 wins, 0 losses, 1 tie. The team is coached by **Bob Ragland**, drafter A, assisted by his brother, Eddie Ragland; Charlie Anderson, former APCo employee; Henry Hungate, N&W Railway; and Bob's

13-year-old son Dale. **Ira B. Peters**, personnel supervisor, was elected to a three-year term on the Virlina District board, Church of the Brethren. He was also elected to a one-year term as board chairman.



Robert P. Lane, station mechanic C, carded a hole-in-one on the par 3, 175-yard #4 hole at Roanoke's Monterey Golf Course.

HUNTERS SCORE

Central Machine Shop

Pat McGue, welder 1st class, 168-lb., 5-point buck.

Glen Lyn Plant Fairley J. Long, instrument maintenance supervisor, 175-lb., 9-point buck with bow and arrow.

MILLER EARNS DEGREE



Paul R. Miller, Kingsport service clerk, has graduated from Tri-State Technical Institute with an A. S. degree in electronic engineering technology. He began his career with Kingsport Power in 1973 as a meter reader.

SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Deborah Fraley, Abingdon engineering technologist, to **Jerry Belisle**, October 28.



Freda Mae Russell, daughter of S. E. Russell, Kingsport general servicer, to **Eddie Lynn Salyers**, October 20.



Bonnie Carlette Burcham, to **John M. Berry**, son of E. C. Berry, Huntington line crew supervisor E, June 3.



Krya Jo Treadway to **Dallas R. Berry**, son of E. C. Berry, Huntington line crew supervisor E, August 25.

Bonnie Frances Carter, Charleston customer accounts representative B, to **Larry Richard Holyman**, September 15.

Kelly Keyser to **Dana K. Watts**, Huntington meter service mechanic D, October 28.



Christy Lynn Martin, daughter of Robert W. Martin, Oak Hill area supervisor A in Beckley Division, to **Kenneth Lee Mills**, October 7.



Amy Beth Bradley to **Danny Lee Bradley**, son of Hunter D. Bradley, Glen Lyn Plant maintenance mechanic D, September 15.



Dana Lynn Tilley to **Terry Saunders Jones**, son of R. S. Jones, Pulaski line crew supervisor NE, October 29.



Debra Jean Martin to **Michael Wayne Holdren**, son of Wiley W. Holdren, Roanoke line crew supervisor NE, September 23.

Jonie Janell Shrewsbury to **John Walter McGraw**, son of Walter G. McGraw, Beckley residential representative, November 11.

Betty Ann Wood to **Frank W. Harman**, transmission general supervisor, GO T&D Transmission, Charleston, August 19.

BABY PARADE

John Amos
Samantha Denee, daughter of **K. R. Woodson**, utility operator A, October 20.

Bluefield
Larry Wayne, son of **William O. Waldron**, Welch meter electrician C, October 19.

Charleston
Casandra Lee, daughter of **Gary Lee Turley**, St. Albans line mechanic D, October 2.

Nathan Jerome, son of **Ronald L. White**, head T&D clerk, November 13.

General Office
Mark Aaron, son of **J. A. Blevins**, transmission mechanic A, GO T&D Transmission Line, Bluefield, October 28.

Daniel M., II, son of **Daniel M. Monahan**, party chief survey, GO T&D Civil Engineering, Roanoke, October 21.

Kanawha River
Patrick Wayne, son of **Garry A. Smith**, equipment operator, and **Cheryl Smith**, former utility worker A, November 3.

Logan-Williamson
Natalie Ann, daughter of **Ernest Drummer**, Logan station mechanic C, October 10.

Brad Anthony, son of **Eugene Hatfield**, Williamson line crew supervisor NE, November 1.

Pulaski
Jason Toby, son of **B. D. Phillips**, Christiansburg line mechanic A, November 13.

Roanoke
Erin Elizabeth, daughter of **Brian Sheetz**, line mechanic, October 27.

Jay Hampton, son of **G. H. Poindexter**, automotive mechanic A, October 13.

Philip Sporn
Patrick Loran and Patsy Leann, twin son and daughter of **Lorraine Aeiker**, maintenance mechanic B, October 27.



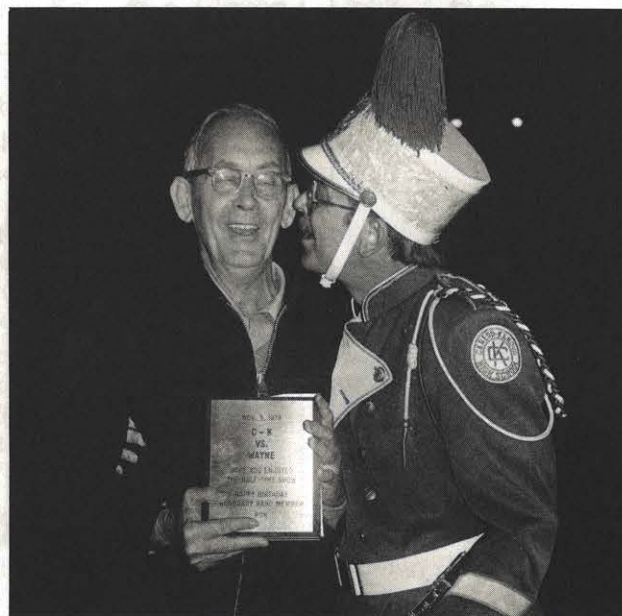
Thomas Hill, retired Glen Lyn Plant equipment operator, and his wife **Effie** were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception given by their five children. The couple, who were married September 26, 1928, also have ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Twenty-five little girls will have a happier Christmas this year because of the women in the Beckley office, who repaired and dressed these dolls for Mac's Toy Fund Underprivileged Children's Christmas Party. This is the seventh consecutive year the Beckley women have participated in this effort.



Calvin R. Brogan, retired Roanoke meter serviceman A, and his wife **Imo** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception give by their daughter and son-in-law at Enon Baptist Church. The Brogans, who were married November 10, 1928, have four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Pearl Lester, Jr., retired Huntington T&D planner, was given an impromptu birthday party at halftime at the Ceredo-Kenova vs Wayne High School football game. Pearl's son, **Ron Lester**, an English professor at Rutgers University, flew in for the occasion and presented his father with a kiss and a plaque. Pearl, a longtime supporter of Ceredo-Kenova athletics, was named an honorary Wonder band member in commemoration of his 67th birthday.

CANDLER RETIRES EARLY



Edward Joseph Candler, unit supervisor at Glen Lyn Plant, elected early retirement December 1. A native of Peterstown, West Virginia, Ed joined Appalachian in 1944 as a laborer at Glen Lyn. During his 34 years' service, he also worked as a utility operator, auxiliary equipment operator B, and boiler operator B and A.

In his spare time, Ed enjoys refinishing antique furniture and doing other types of wood work. He and his wife **Phyllis** have two children and four grandchildren.

WORK IDEAS SHARED

Six Appalachian Power employees offered suggestions for improving performance and saving money in the November/December issue of **AEP Operating Ideas**.

R. D. Martin, engineer B at Glen Lyn Plant, wrote "Streamlines Data for Boiler Tube Repairs". **John Bartholomew**, Huntington general servicer, was the author of "Locates Customers on Life-Support Machines". **Paul Rose**, right of way agent, and **R. W. Edwards**, engineering technician assistant, both of Bluefield, collaborated on "Highway Grid Maps Help Locate Job Sites". **H. F. St. Clair, Jr.**, Bluefield electrical engineer senior, penned "Battery Inverter Powers Fault Analyzer". **R. W. McDaniel**, production superintendent-maintenance at Amos Plant, described "How to Repair Pulverizer Motor Bearings".

VETS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



J. R. Larew
Executive Asst.
GO-Roanoke
40 Years



W. Z. Trumbo
Personnel Director
Kingsport
40 Years



G. T. Boothe
Power Engineer
Logan-Williamson
40 Years



C. L. Phillips
R/w Agent
GO-Huntington
40 Years



G. R. Walls
Maint. Mech. D
Kanawha River
35 Years



Ernest Kavinsky
Cust. Service Rep.
Charleston
30 Years



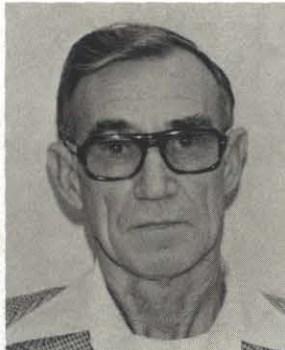
J. B. Britt, Jr.
Maint. Mech. A
Clinch River
30 Years



K. M. Spicer
Line Crew Supv. NE
Roanoke
30 Years



J. D. Porter
Res. Serv. Coord.
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



Clayton Barker
Barge Unloader Op.
John Amos
30 Years



R. R. Smith
Eng. Technologist
Beckley
30 Years



J. P. Fulkner
Administrative Asst.
Charleston
30 Years



R. E. Morrison
Eng. Technician Sr.
Huntington
30 Years



C. H. Mooney
Shift Op. Eng.
Kanawha River
30 Years



J. R. Summers
Utility Worker A
Kanawha River
30 Years



C. H. Wirt
Line Crew Supv. NE
Pulaski
30 Years



D. A. Loy
Commercial Rep.
Charleston
25 Years



R. W. Russell
Maint. Mech. B
Philip Sporn
25 Years



G. J. Cook
Div. R/w Maint. Insp.
Charleston
25 Years



Leonard Adams
Eng. Technician Sr.
Bluefield
25 Years



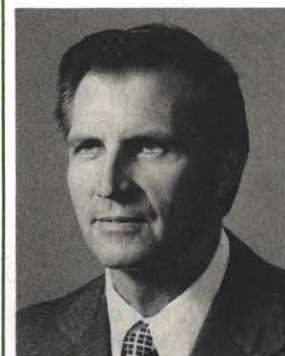
J. A. Randall, Jr.
Residential Rep.
Kingsport
25 Years



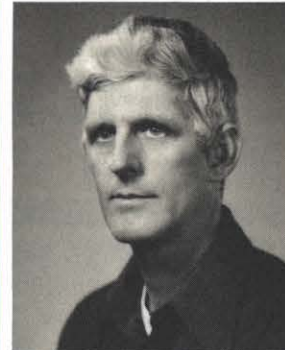
E. V. Harris
Chief Chemist
Glen Lyn
25 Years



J. R. Higgins
Const. Stores Asst.
Mountaineer Const.
25 Years



H. R. Mayes
Electrical Engineer
GO-Roanoke
25 Years



D. L. Goodwin
Line Crew Supv. NE
Lynchburg
20 Years



Patricia Cummings
Personnel Clerk A
Charleston
20 Years

Abingdon
10 Years: **B. L. Ballard**, line mechanic
C. M. H. Monroe, line mechanic A.

John Amos
10 Years: **Nancy Smith**, plant clerk A.
H. W. Roush, equipment operator. 5 Years: **J. W. Saunders**, store attendant. **W. J. Johnson**, maintenance mechanic A. **J. I. Sovine**, maintenance mechanic A. **C. E. Weigand**, maintenance mechanic A.

Beckley
15 Years: **C. J. Howard**, line mechanic A, Rupert. 10 Years: **L. D. Lilly**, station mechanic B.

Bluefield
15 Years: **Roscoe Matney**, engineering technician.

Charleston
10 Years: **Elaine Ricks**, customer accounts representative
B. C. N. Wolfe, drafter C.

General Office
25 Years: **N. R. Young**, regional dispatcher, GO-Roanoke.
10 Years: **W. H. McCall**, engineering technologist, GO-Roanoke.
Wayne Pugh, public information coordinator-nuclear, GO-Lynchburg. 5 Years: **Debra Barlow**, stenographer, GO-Roanoke.

Logan-Williamson
10 Years: **Della Simpkins**, T&D clerk A.

Lynchburg
10 Years: **Janice Johnson**, senior telephone operator.

Pulaski

10 Years: **R. E. Lyons**, customer accounting supervisor NE. 5 Years: **S. R. Collins**, meter reader. **R. A. Bryan**, line mechanic C.

Roanoke

10 Years: **E. J. Smith**, line mechanic B. **R. R. Kelley**, automotive mechanic A. 5 Years: **W. M. Hankins**, line mechanic C. **J. R. Wilson**, line mechanic C.

Philip Sporn

5 Years: **M. L. Friend**, maintenance mechanic B. **C. F. Martin**, janitor. **R. A. Young**, maintenance mechanic B.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Charles B. King, Jr., 41, payroll records supervisor in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, died October 31. A native of Giles County, Virginia, he began his career in 1958 as a clerk typist at Glen Lyn Plant. King is survived by his widow Jane, 2969 Treeswallow Road, Roanoke; two sons; two daughters and his parents.



Merrill Rey Atkinson, 78, retired administrative assistant B in Logan-Williamson Division, died November 22. A native of Zaleski, Ohio, he began his career in 1926 as a business man in the old Logan District and retired December 1, 1965.



John Richard Greear, 73, retired Bluefield collector, died November 8. A native of North Tazewell, Virginia, he began his career in 1945 as a collector senior and retired December 31, 1969. Greear is survived by his widow Edith, 306 Preston Street, Bluefield, West Virginia.

Everett Cecil Judy, 84, retired Charleston chief of party, died October 31. A native of Wills, West Virginia, he began his career in 1943 as a meter reader and retired July 31, 1959. Judy is survived by his widow Thelma, Route 1, Box 428, Watha, North Carolina.

STOCK SALE NETS \$122-MILLION

American Electric Power Company netted about \$122 million from the sale November 8 of 6-million shares of new common stock.

The shares were sold to a group headed by Blyth Eastman Dillon & Company at \$20.33 per share. The stock was then resold to the public for \$21 a share. Proceeds will be used to repay short-term debt.

ARMISTEAD ENDS 43-YEAR CAREER



"Just tell 'em I'm retiring after long and faithful service," chuckled R. A. 'Pete' Armistead, who retired December 1 as Roanoke division superintendent.

Pete, who had more than 43 years' service, was looked upon almost as an institution. His career was twice interrupted by military service, first during World War II and again during the Korean conflict.

He recalls, "I jerked soda while I was in high school, drove for my daddy part-time at the family business (Phelps & Armistead furniture store) in downtown Roanoke, and operated the elevator there also."

Pete graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1935 with a BS degree in electrical engineering. Most jobs available then were selling jobs. "Since I wasn't interested in selling and wanted to be an electrical engineer, Appalachian was where I went. Besides, it was close to home. There weren't too many jobs available then anyway. The depression was nearing an end, and things were just starting back up."

Following an interview with Jimmy White, now retired, Pete was hired to do rural surveying and mapping. "The company had just instituted the program. They developed a thing that looked like a two-wheel privy. It had a fluid mounted compass and a small wheel on the back, permitting the driver to map out each street and turn throughout the division. We traveled roads that hadn't been driven on in years."

He continues, "One thing that may be of interest — Paul Bailey, Lynchburg division superintendent, and I worked on the same truck in the meter department in the late '30s. He and I retire on the same day."

Pete recalls a 'big project' he was involved with during his early years with Appalachian. "Several of us had the job of removing the old overhead service in downtown Roanoke and installing new entrance cable on all the stores. Sometimes it was necessary to walk half a block down the street with a ladder straight up in your hands, and people would look at you like you were crazy. The Safety Department would have a fit doing something like that now!"

Another bit of history he recalled was the old Virginia East Coast Utilities the company purchased, which served the Stuart area. "The company sent Randy Lewis, GO station engineer senior, and me down there about 1939. Randy took care of the meter service and trouble shooting work, and I handled the paper work and engineering end of it."

He continues, "All the electricity they had over there then was generated by the old Stuart hydro plant and a diesel powered generator. Twice each day Randy and I would have to start the diesel up to handle peak load conditions."

Pete was called up for military duty April 18, 1941. "That's an odd thing, too. It was mandatory to complete certain correspondence courses and attend reserve summer camp as well as other duties for five years following military school to keep one's officer commission. I didn't do that. In early '41, the Army notified me I had failed to keep up minimum requirements and that I had lost my commission as a second lieutenant. About two months later, the Army wrote me again, reinstating me and promoting me to first lieutenant. Also, in that same letter they called me up to active duty."

Pete was assigned to field artillery from 1941-1944 at Fort Bragg and then shipped to Bournemouth, England. He landed on Utah Beach, Normandy, as part of the D + 21 invasion.

In 1945 Pete returned to work as a distribution engineer and was promoted to distribution substation superintendent in 1950. His service was interrupted by the military once again in August of 1950.

"It was an unusual situation again. Our reserve unit from Roanoke had reached Fort Campbell for summer camp training. When we went through the gates, we were told to turn around and head back. We had been placed on alert to go to Korea."

In March 1951 Pete's unit reached Pusan, and they were engaged in several combat battles before leaving in April of 1952. He came home as a lieutenant colonel.

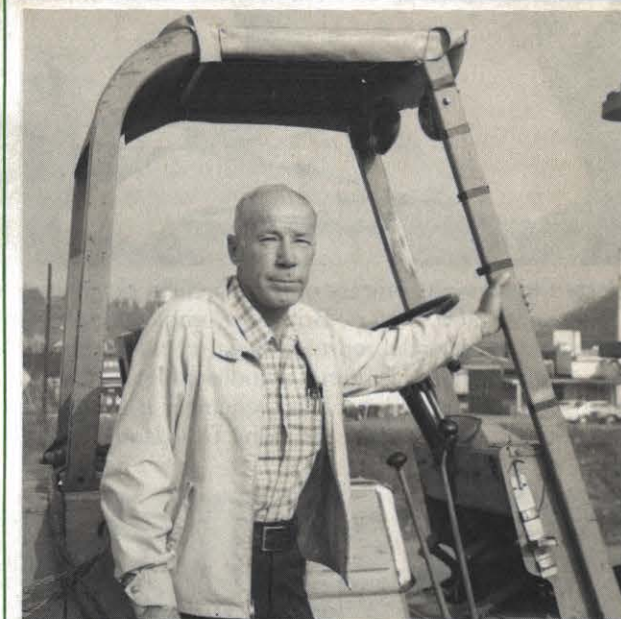
Pete was promoted to area superintendent in 1964, assistant division superintendent of T&D in 1967 and in 1968 to the position he held at retirement. He twice attended the AEP Management Training Program at the University of Michigan.

One of the bright spots in his company career was "helping design the new Service Center building at River Avenue. Getting to move into the new building was real nice. Being at River Avenue was a real improvement over the old Walnut Avenue offices."

About retirement Pete says, "I don't have any special plans. I'll play more golf and catch up on my honeydo's. Our son Butch and his wife are expecting another child in March. We'll fly to California then for a while to be with them. Butch has his own business there, Advance Research and Application Corporation."

The Armisteads have another son and five grandchildren. Pete is a member of First Baptist Church, the Roanoke Host Lions Club, IEEE and Retired Officers Association.

GERALD ROSEBERRY RETIRES TO FARM



"I have been in Stores the entire 32 years I have been with the company," says Gerald G. Roseberry, who was Pulaski Division stores supervisor A before electing early retirement December 1. "I have enjoyed my work, even though it has been hard at times. I have particularly enjoyed my association with the people I have worked with."

A native of Pulaski County, Gerald began his career in 1946 as a storeroom helper. He served with the U. S. Army in the 45th Infantry Division during World War II. The division had the longest front line duty of any division of Europe — 513 days. They specialized in amphibious landings and mountain fighting. Gerald was involved in several major campaigns and received several decorations.

He has about 60 head of cattle on his 150-acre farm, which adjoins the state park on Claytor Lake. He also has a camping area and two cabins that he rents. Although these will keep Gerald busy, he says, "If I get a chance to go places, I'll go. I've got a brand new car ordered just for that."

Gerald is a member of the administrative board and board of trustees at the Mountain View United Methodist Church; the VFW and United Commercial Travelers of America.



The Charleston Division was awarded the Executive Vice President's Certificate of Excellence for passing a safety audit conducted during September. The first requirement for certification is the attainment of an overall rating average of 3.5; Charleston's average was 4.54. The second requirement is that the division's disabling injury index rate for a designated period prior to the inspection be lower than the AEP rate for the same period. Charleston's rate for the period July 1, 1977, through June 30, 1978, was .0030 compared to AEP's rate of 1.1000. C. O. Carlini, Charleston division manager (left), was presented the certificate by John W. Vaughan, Appalachian executive vice president.



Elected to serve as officers of the Bluefield Employees Benevolent Association for 1979 are: seated, l. to r., Bob Yost, engineering technician, treasurer; P. T. Spangler, commercial representative, chairman; and Millie Bishop, GO T&D secretary-stenographer, secretary. Standing, l. to r., Joe Zachwieja, drafter C; Barbara Harris, junior clerk; Bob Farley, engineer B, outgoing chairman; Shirley Saunders, transmission clerk junior; and John Davidson, T&D clerk A.



Three of the four winners in the Lynchburg Division annual fall golf tournament are, l. to r., Jack Collins, engineering technician senior, longest drive on #8 hole; Tom Witt, line inspector, low net and longest drive on #17; and Ralph Bird, residential representative, closest to pin on #15. Not pictured is G. C. Golladay, retired area serviceman, who won low gross honors and was closest to pin on #4. The tournament was played at Ivy Hill Golf Course.



Jerry Whitehurst, Abingdon division manager, delivers a "state of the company" report to some of the division's retired employees and their spouses. J. C. Hughes, personnel supervisor; J. P. Montague, division superintendent; and D. D. Taylor, customer services manager, also spoke to the group. The annual luncheon, held this year at Greenway Haven Party House in Abingdon, is an effort to keep retirees up-to-date on company activities.



John E. Faust, Kingsport Power executive vice president (seated), buys a share of stock in KIPCO, the Junior Achievement company sponsored by the utility, from Delinda Roberts, KIPCO president. Looking on are, l. to r., JA Advisors R. E. Ruecroft, electrical engineer; J. D. Nance, electrical engineer; and J. B. Quillin, Jr., customer services clerk C. KIPCO, operated by 28 Achievers from seven area high schools, manufactures bird feeders and engraved plastic nameplates.

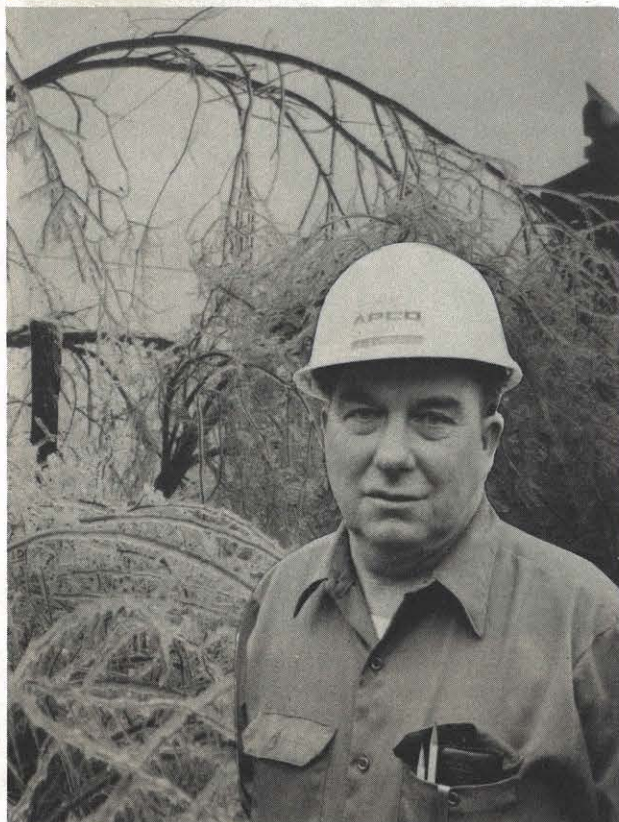


Bluefield Division employees and guests enjoyed their annual Fall Golf Tournament on Columbus Day as 26 golfers teed off at the Fincastle Country Club for the 18-hole event. The tournament, played under the Callaway rules, saw Harold Cutlip, drafter B, take top honors with a low net of 72. Bob Simmons, stores supervisor, came in second with a 73. Garlin Hill, station crew supervisor NE, captured third place with 74. From left, Cutlip, Simmons and Hill.



The John Amos Plant qualified for the Executive Vice President's Certificate of Excellence during a safety audit conducted in October. The plant received an overall rating average of 3.92 (3.5 average is required). The plant's disabling injury index rate for the period July 1, 1977, through June 30, 1978, was .0025 as compared to the AEP rate of 1.1000. (The plant's disabling injury rate must be lower than the AEP rate for a designated period.) The certificate of excellence was presented to Amos Plant Manager J. A. Moore (left) by John W. Vaughan, Appalachian executive vice president.

SANTA WORKS ON CHRISTMAS AND SO DO WE



Wiley Holdren, Roanoke line crew supervisor NE

"Christmas Day is one time you like to be with your family, but it doesn't always work out like that. When there's an emergency like we had in 1975 — people without electricity in very cold weather — you feel you've got to go."

"When Ralph Amos, line crew supervisor, called, we were just about ready to stuff ourselves — eat too much in other words. That's what we always do on Christmas Day. Some of the children had come in, and the family was just enjoying the closeness and spirit which that special day brings.

"On my crew there were three of us, which included Wayne Likens, line mechanic A, and Phil Burkholder, former employee. We worked on through the night till the next afternoon.

"It wasn't awfully bad when we first got started, but it progressively got colder throughout the night. Raining like it was, you got damp and the cold seemed to go all way through you. I kept thinking how nice it would be to get home to a warm bed.

"Because of the worsening weather, it was first one trouble spot and then another. The worst spot of trouble for the crew occurred in the Windy Gap Mountain section. Ice had built up on a 7,200-volt line to the point that it caused it to sag down into pine trees and burn in two. I'd never been down in that particular section where the line was down. We had to shoot the line to see where the flash occurred so that we could begin patrolling by foot. The ice and snow made it mean. Our weight would cause us to break through the frozen crust; and, when you tried to get your feet out, it felt like it was pulling a leg off.

"Another trouble spot in Scruggs near Smith Mountain Lake required three or four hours' patrolling before we even got to the downed line. It was cold, and the snow from the pine trees kept falling down the back of my neck.

"I guess the worst of it all was going without food in the cold for a 13-hour stretch. When we did have a chance to stop, it was at an old country store. About all we could get was a drink, pack of Nabs and a cake. That tasted mighty good at the time but not like that good meal waiting at home!"



R. L. "Pete" Payne, Amos Plant unit supervisor

"I have worked on Christmas Day for 23 out of 30 years, and the other seven years I either spent in the military or on vacation. Like everyone else, I would like to spend Christmas Day with my family, but I consider this as part of my job in the service the company provides to the public. I can't imagine a Christmas without electricity because of all the lights and decorations that depend on it.

"Working on Christmas Day creates a very lonely feeling for my family, but they have adjusted well. When working on the midnight shift, the toughest part is staying up most all day to make preparations for Christmas Eve and then going on to work. My wife always makes an extra special effort in preparing the Christmas meal, but when I work on Christmas Day I have to miss it. But she always saves me a portion. Most of the time relatives visit on Christmas Day and, if I am working day shift, I miss talking and eating dinner with them.

"I realize to keep the units going someone has to work on Christmas Day so I just consider this as part of my job."



Sam Russell, Kingsport general servicer

"Of the 17 years I've been a troubleshooter, I have worked on Christmas Day 14 times. Usually it is very quiet and one has a feeling of loneliness.

"When my children were small, we always opened our gifts on Christmas Eve, which has now become a family tradition. If my shift falls on Christmas Eve, the family always waits until I get home to open gifts.

"Of course, I would rather be home on Christmas Day, but I accept the fact that working on holidays is part of my job. There are rewards to working on Christmas Day, however. Sometimes we get a 'lights out' call and usually it is a family that is in the middle of preparing Christmas dinner. It makes you feel good to know you have helped someone to be able to enjoy their holiday.

"Usually Christmas Day is very quiet, but one stands out particularly in my mind. In the early 1960s, we had an underground line burn up about 2:30 in the afternoon on Christmas Eve. We worked on rebuilding the line overhead until about 9:00 PM. Two hours later we were called out again and worked until 3:30 AM on Christmas morning. I had just gotten home, when I was called out again at 4:30 AM to make repairs caused by an automobile accident. Finally at 9:30 AM we all went home. Fortunately, there were no more call outs that day.

TRAVEL AHEAD FOR GILLIAM



J. W. "Wimpy" Gilliam, Kingsport custodian, retired December 1 after 38 years' service. A native of Scott County, Virginia, he began his career in 1941 as a crane operator at Kingsport Utilities' steam plant. He served with the U. S. Navy during World War II in both the Atlantic and South Pacific. Jim returned to work in 1945 as a stores attendant and the following year became a truck driver-groundman. In 1974 he assumed the position he held at retirement.

Wimpy recalls a narrow escape he had while working as crane operator at the old Kingsport Steam Plant. The crane ran on an overhead track above the boilers. On the trip to the outside, he would take a load of ashes and return with a load of coal and dump it in the bunkers above the boilers. One day the rivets that held the overhead track sections together gave way, causing the crane to derail, and left it hanging by one wheel 40 feet above the boiler room floor. Wimpy says, "I didn't wait for my fellow workers to get a ladder and get me down. I was afraid the crane would fall so I crawled out and got on top of the crane and made my way to the steel beams of the boiler house roof and climbed down."

Another experience he remembers occurred while he was a truck driver-groundman. "I was driving an old model line truck with a load of 38 poles. We were going up a real steep hill when the motor died and the truck started rolling down the hill backwards. A fellow worker, Joe Smith,

jumped off the truck, grabbed an old stump that was on the side of the road and tried to put it under the rear wheels, but the truck was going too fast. I could not get out because the door on the driver's side could not be opened due to the derrick poles that were stored on the side of the truck, so I just tried to steer the truck to the side of the road. By the time the truck reached the bottom of the hill and a curve in the road, it was going too fast to make the curve. The truck and all the poles went over a steep bank and hit a tree. No one was hurt, but I was sure scared."

In his spare time, Wimpy enjoys gardening, collecting silver coins and riding steam-powered trains. He hopes to ride some of these out West. A member of the Oak Drive Mission, he plans to do more visitation for his church during retirement. He also plans to do "lots of traveling by plane". He will visit relatives in New York City during Christmas and will take a trip to Canada next spring. Wimpy is also a member of Hammond Post #3 American Legion. He and his wife Daisy have six children and 13 grandchildren.

BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL

Bluefield

Dave Chumbley, meter electrician A, two gallons.

General Office

C. M. LaGrow, regulatory and statistical reports supervisor, GO Accounting, Roanoke, three gallons.

R. F. Howard, drafter A, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke, ten gallons.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?



Deanna Lynn, seven-year-old daughter of Bernard Wayne Fink, Glen Lyn Plant utility worker A

What is Christmas

Christmas time is very important because we can hear about the first Christmas. Mary and Joseph had to pack up their belongings and go to Bethlehem. It was crowded there so they finally found a stable where Jesus was going to be born. The news of Jesus birth was spreading all over. When Jesus grew a little bigger Mary and Joseph decided to go to Egypt so King Herod would not kill Jesus because Mary and Joseph loved Jesus. On Christmas morning we can open our gifts to see what we have. I go to my Grannie's house and eat special food with my cousins. Christmas means very much to me and I have so much to say but I can not say it all.

Deanna Fink
Rt. 3, Box 344-A Princeton W.Va



Janie, ten-year-old daughter of C. O. Carlini, Charleston division manager

What Christmas Means To Me By Janie Carlini

Some people think that Christmas is just getting presents. I do too, but I also think that it is celebrating the birth of Jesus. At Christmas I like to visit my cousins and grandmothers. I like to eat and eat when I go there I have fun, and that's what Christmas means to me.



Kirk, five-year-old son of Linda Jennings, Pulaski secretary-stenographer



CHRISTMAS IN A SILENT WORLD



To Ronnie Epperly, Christmas is helping select the tree, personally picking out the gifts he plans to give his family, lots of people, lots of smiles and Santa Claus. Christmas is an angel, a star, and a baby. He loves and understands all these things. But Ronnie will celebrate Christmas in a silent world. He will not share in the merry jingle of bells or the soft notes of Silent Night.

When Ronnie's parents, Linda and Ronald Epperly (he's a maintenance mechanic B at Centralized Plant Maintenance), learned he could not hear, they were determined he would not grow up expecting society to adjust to his handicap. Rather they would begin to teach their five-month-old son to adjust to his environment.

Ronnie was only four years old when the Epperlys requested he be enrolled in the Romney School for the Deaf and Blind, nearly 300 miles from home. School officials hesitated, saying their policy was not to take children quite that young. But the Epperlys persisted and when Ronnie was tested, he was performing on a seven-year-old level. The vibrant four-year-old traveled by special bus to Romney, coming home only for holidays.

Linda says, "Four years old is so young to separate a child from his family and home, even when it's best for him. You just pray that he understands. Although Ronnie adjusted beautifully at the school and learned rapidly, we still had those heartbreaking moments like when he would send his papers home to us and sign his name, then draw a stick boy with tears coming from the eyes".

She continues, "During the 1978 summer vacation from Romney, we investigated the possibility of Ronnie being taught in our community. The West Virginia Board of Education is still considering this alternative, searching for a qualified teacher; but, if a program cannot be worked out locally, then there is really no choice but to send him back to Romney. It is not fair to Ronnie to be deprived of the chance to learn."

Ronnie communicates mostly through sign language. His tiny hands quickly and expertly explained the role of the angel in the Christmas story. Santa Claus is communicated with bubbling excitement and laughter.

Like most five-year-olds, Ronnie likes the thrills of life — motorcycles, football, baseball and anything that flies. Linda adds, "A friend of ours took Ronnie up in his private plane; and, as soon as we touched down, Ronnie gave the sign for up, up!" He is a gentle child, but quick to offer a hearty resistance to anyone who would dare scuffle with him or his sister, nine-year-old Rhonda.

"Our only problem is occasionally when he can't get us to understand something. It frustrates him, and us, but his patience and tolerance has taught us to take a longer, calmer look at the day-to-day occurrences that at one time would have easily upset us," Linda notes.

This Christmas the Epperly home will be alive with all the traditional trimmings of Christmas — Ronnie will see to it!

MY MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS



Kelly Buckland, retired Pulaski T&D Clerk senior

"My most memorable Christmas was Christmas Day of 1944, near the end of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium, near the German border.

"The Germans were making their last stand to overrun the Allies by trying to push us back into Antwerp, Belgium, and hold us there, where they could come back across France to the English Channel. The weather had been very bad, with a very heavy overcast. For this reason the Army Air Corps couldn't move prior to this day.

"On this day the Air Corps flew bombing missions deep into Germany. There were between five and six thousand planes in the air — bombers, fighters and escorts — these being Allies and enemy planes.

"At our location it was supposed to have been quiet; but, when we started to move, German planes started strafing us. Later these planes were brought down by our anti-aircraft 90 MM guns. Two of my buddies and I had to jump into an old shell crater. Then one of our own jeeps with the driver, looking for shelter, came in the crater on top of us.

"This day will always remain in my memory at Christmas."

Photo courtesy Pulaski Southwest Times



Connie Dawson, tool crib attendant, Central Machine Shop

"Christmas was meant for children as the refrain goes. My most remembered Christmas was the first year I taught school. Some kindergarten age children have to make Christmas in their hearts as some of my students did.

"We had decorated the room with ornaments the students had brought from home or hand made. As the days grew nearer for our Christmas program and exchange of gifts, the Spirit of Christmas was bubbling in their eyes. Little did I realize the wide variety of gifts I would receive from the children.

"The students exchanged their gifts first, and then they gathered around me on the floor (everything done with 4- and 5-year-olds is done on the floor) while I opened my gifts. Many of the gifts were beautiful and expensive, but the most valued of all were these: one pair of shoe strings, one set of jacks, bubble gum, one Matchbox car (slightly used) and one flashlight (broken).

"But not to be forgotten was Cindra, who had kept her package with her all day. Finally her moment had come and she stood tall in the middle of the circle, handing me her specially wrapped package (more tape than paper). She said, 'Tee-shirt (she couldn't say teacher), I bought this with my bery own money alls by myself.' When I opened the package, there in all their glory, beaming at me, were four 60-watt light bulbs."



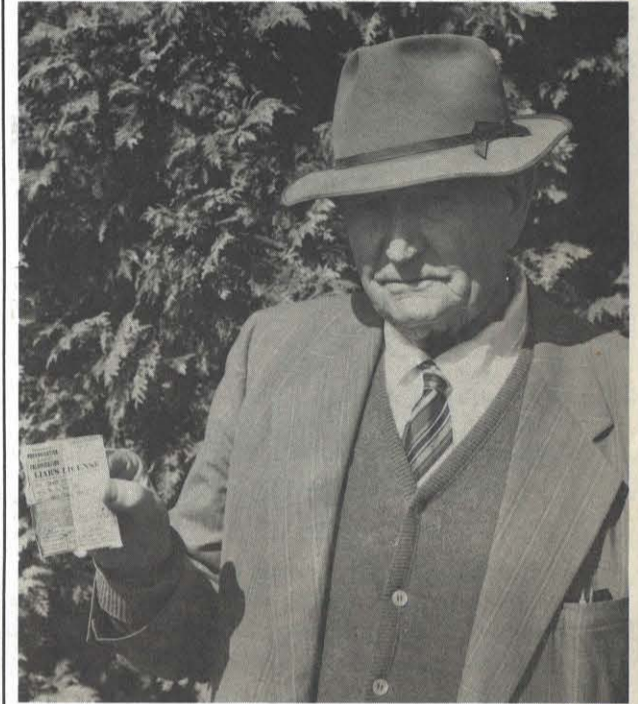
Robert L. Nay, mechanical construction assistant I, Mountaineer Construction.

"By 1943, materials needed for the war effort had really caused shortages of everything in retail stores. Toy shipments were grabbed up the minute they hit the shelves. We had six preschool grandchildren in the family with fathers in the Navy.

"Probably early in November, my mother hit upon the idea of making an item or two for the kids for Christmas. I played around with wood some, and she was good at sewing. We made a couple of things — trucks and dolls that didn't look too bad.

"My dad worked shift work at the defense plant, so mother and I would grab a bite of supper, then go to work on the projects. The thing got to snowballing and by mid-December we had a pretty good bunch of stuff put together. I was just a kid at the time and afraid the youngsters wouldn't like homemade toys. When we got it all painted and assembled under the tree, it was pretty respectable looking.

"The grandchildren really seemed to like everything. They must have because they still talk about it at Christmastime, and 1943 is beginning to reach back a few years."



Grady Coley, retired Gate City area sales representative, Abingdon Division.

"Shortly before Christmas of 1910, I completed the world's first ski-plane, one which would move on runners rather than wheels. It had a wing span of about 28 feet, and the runners were made of treated oak. I tried unsuccessfully several times to make the plane airborne but could not build up enough speed to obtain actual flight. (The airplane had just been introduced in 1903.)

"Frustrated, I came up with the idea to fasten a large log to the plane. The idea was to place the log on a steep hill and allow it to roll down the hill with the plane attached. This would give the plane the necessary momentum needed in order to achieve flight.

"On Christmas Day I implemented my plan, using a log eight feet long and 24 inches in diameter. I was seated behind the controls and, when the prop was released from under the log, the plane commenced moving down the steep hill. Faster and faster it went until the canvas material just blew off the plane.

"When the plane reached the bottom of the hill, I realized my mistake but too late to correct it. We crashed into the side of the mountain, demolishing my airplane. I wasn't injured, but that ended my aviation career.

"The following year, however, I enjoyed my most memorable Christmas ever. I had been dating a girl named Anna for some time. One evening she told me we were going to have to break off our relationship. I tried convincing her I was a pretty straight fellow, didn't have many bad habits and didn't even cuss very much, all to no avail.

"A few weeks passed and I received a letter from Anna, inviting me to her house to spend Christmas afternoon. I arrived promptly and spent the whole day in the parlor watching it snow and passing the time with her family. After the family had settled down for the evening and we were all alone, I asked her the big question — would she be my wife. After some deliberation, she said yes.

"I felt this would be a good time to seal our bargain with a kiss, but Anna would not agree. She claimed there would be plenty of time for that after we were married.

"I made a pretty good choice because we have been married over 56 years."

HOW CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATED IN MY HOMETLAND



Aruora Pureza, general records clerk B, General Office Accounting, Roanoke, native of Pangasinan, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

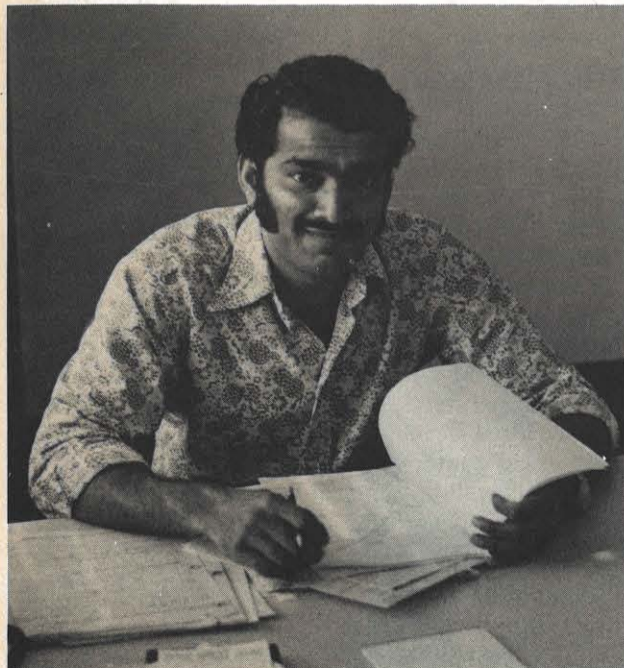
"We celebrate Christmas in the Philippines much as we do over here. We exchange gifts, send cards and things like that. But one thing we do over there that I haven't seen done here is Christmas caroling. The little children go from one house to another and sing. Santa Claus is a tradition that we have, but he does not come through a chimney since we don't have chimneys over there.

"We have natural pine trees and also artificial Christmas trees. But the typical Christmas tree over there is made up from a tree with lots of branches. We try to paint it white to make it a white Christmas even if we don't have any snow.

"Many of our customs were handed down from whoever ruled us for awhile. Our culture is mixed.

"We celebrate Christmas on the first day of December. We also have the Three Kings, which is celebrated January 6. Really, our celebration is December 25, the day Christ was supposed to have been born, to January 6, which is the Three Kings. From the religious side of it, Christmas as well as the Three Kings is a big feast for the Catholic Church.

"The Philippines are predominantly Catholic, and the highlight of Christmas is the mass that is celebrated at midnight. Even the other religions there have programs in their churches until 12:00 P.M."



Narasimha "Nick" Shenoy, Charleston electrical engineer, native of Athikaribittu, Karnataka, India.

"In India we have more Catholics than Protestants. I'm a Hindu myself, and we don't celebrate Christmas in the sense that we don't go to church. But we join others at their home to celebrate Christmas.

"For those who do go to church, however, there is a long mass on Christmas Eve, with a guest priest coming to preach. It starts at midnight and goes until early morning. Then everyone goes home and drinks and eats. The favorite dish is roast pig.

"Christmas isn't commercialized like it is here. There is little gift exchange. People who can afford it do give a gift, but it is candy or a basket of fruit. We don't decorate a Christmas tree. Once I was in Bombay for Christmas, and the streets were lit up with decorations. In Bombay, Christmas is celebrated for many days. But I come from a small place and we only celebrate one day.

"I never heard of Santa Claus until I came to this country. In the first place, we don't have much snow there so Santa couldn't come with his reindeer. There is snow in the northern part of India, up in the mountains, but where I am from, we had very nice weather. It stays about 70 degrees from June until February. And from February to June, it stays around 90 degrees.

"My wife Aruna and I celebrate Christmas like you do now. We've never had a Christmas tree before; but, since we have a five-month-old daughter, we do plan to have one this year."



Ardavaz Shahbazian, Kanawha River Plant performance engineer, native of Tehran, Iran

"Saint Gregory, the Illuminator, brought the faith of Christianity to Armenia in the Year 303. His church is still active today and is located in a small town called Echmiadzin, which is not far from Yeravan, the capital of Armenia.

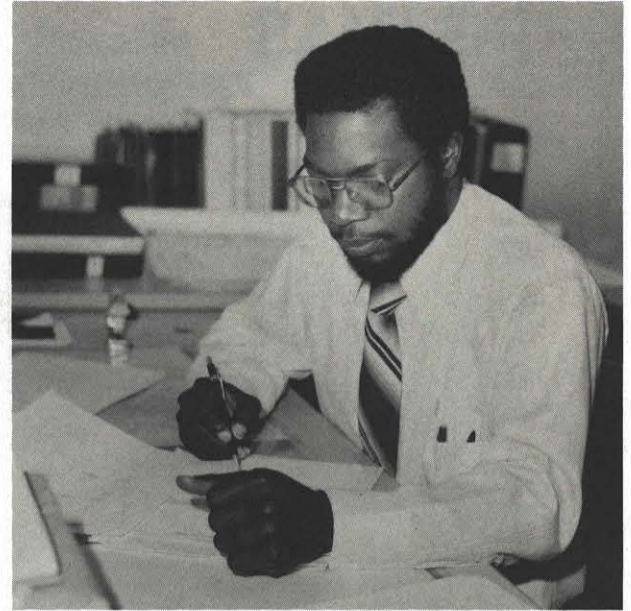
"Ever since the year 303, the Armenian Church celebrates both the birth and the baptism of Jesus Christ on the same day, the 6th of January. Because Jesus was baptized when he was almost 30 years old, his baptism happened nearly on the same day as his birthday, according to church traditions. For this reason, this feast is called birth and baptism, or Christmas and Epiphany.

"In the beginning, all Christian churches celebrated both Christmas and the baptism of Christ on the same day, the 6th of January, as the Armenian Church does. But later the date of Christmas was changed to the 25th day of December, which was the pagan feast day of the sun in Rome. In order to abolish this heathen feast, the Roman Catholic Church transferred Christmas from the 6th day of January to the 25th day of December.

"However, to this day, the Armenian Church, being faithful to the old tradition of Christianity, continues to celebrate Christmas and the baptism on the same day, the 6th of January. Therefore, in the Armenian Church, after the offering of Christmas BADARAK (mass), a special ceremony of the blessing of water takes place every year. The cross is immersed in this blessed water and then taken out again, symbolizing the baptism of Jesus Christ.

"Armenians celebrate their Christmas slightly different from Americans. As one respect, on Christmas Eve, the whole family gathers in the home of the oldest member of the family. Before supper, it is customary to burn some kind of incense called Khoong. This is to remember our ancestors on this important holy feast. It is also a traditional Armenian custom to have fish, rice and eggs on the table for the supper. During supper, children sing Christmas songs at the table. After a long evening, everyone returns to their homes. Armenian children,

just as Christian children all over the world, go to sleep wondering what will be under the tree for them the next day."



Fidelis Ovuworie, electrical engineer, General Office T&D, Roanoke, native of Nigeria, West Africa.

"Christmas is surely a time of joyous celebration. We have our friends and relatives over. Everybody gathers around, we have some good food — usually rice with chicken or beef — and after that have a little party. Then we play music and dance to it. Towards the evening, people go to midnight mass. In the earlier years they used fireworks to celebrate, but that was banned during the Civil War.

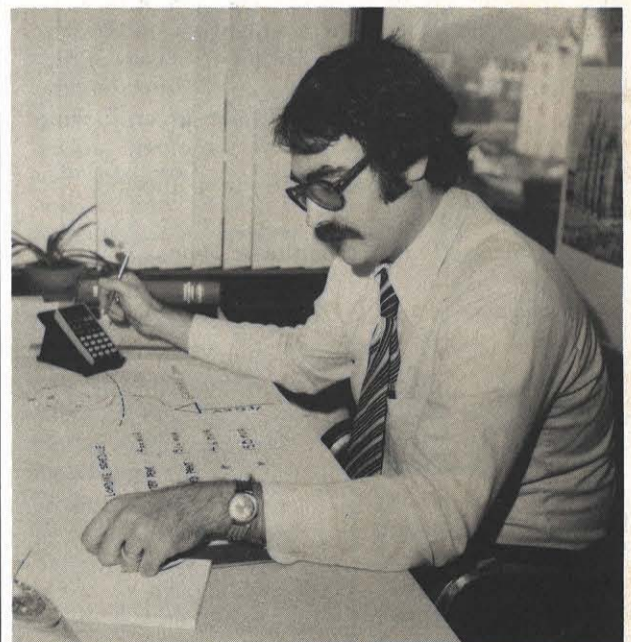
"Our festivities start about the 24th of December and last to the 2nd of January, although it is not a continuous thing. We observe Christmas Day on the 25th.

"Christmas is a time when people take their vacation to travel back to their hometowns and villages. They visit their friends and relatives and take the kids to show them where they are from.

"Christmas trees and Santa Claus are more for the affluent people. They are the ones who take their children to shop and see Santa Claus. In the cities, they have decorative lighting and really decorate outside. In the countryside, it is a little different.

"We don't exchange gifts except to close relatives, but we have toys for the little ones. It is mostly a time when the parents buy a lot of new clothes and shoes for the kids for the coming school year.

"I have been in the United States for eight years and have been back home once (in 1976) during Christmas. The festivities have not changed. There are many religious groups in Nigeria, the most populous one being the Moslems. They don't observe the religious activities but they do celebrate Christmas with the Christians."



Karabet Adjemian, electrical engineer, General Office T&D, Roanoke, native of Greece.

"Christmas in Greece is an entirely religious occasion. People are expected to meditate, to think of the occasion, to understand it, and to prepare for the midnight liturgy. Most of the day is spent preparing for the after-midnight dinner. The highlight of the evening is the midnight mass. The people go to

their churches; and, when they come back, they have a big dinner.

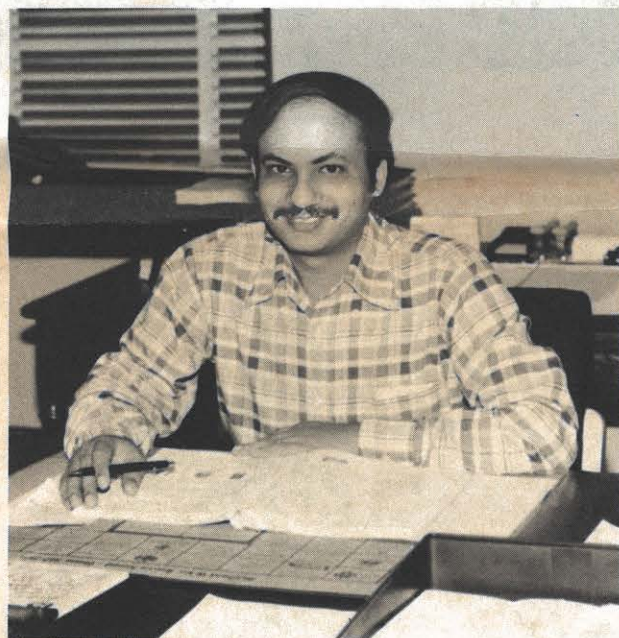
"We have Christmas trees in Greece the same as we do here, and they are decorated with the same kind of ornaments. There is always a miniature nativity scene underneath. The exchange of presents is reserved for New Year's.

"St. Nicholas comes down the chimney on the night of December 30 and hides all his gifts in the house. Then the children get up the next day and look for them. Normally the boxes aren't put under the tree but hidden behind chairs or furniture where they are not too conspicuous. The gifts are not to be opened, just collected and put in one certain place. That night there is a party before midnight and, when the New Year comes in, we open the presents. The children receive toys, and the adults anything they wish.

"When St. Nicholas was alive, he was believed to be very rich. He used his wealth to bring food to poor people. What he would do is bake pies, put coins in them and give them to the people to eat. While they were eating, they got the golden coins, which was like a present to them. That tradition has been kept for many years.

"On New Year's Day we have what we call pitta (pie). When the pie is baked, a golden coin or something valuable is put inside of it. (We used to put in a golden coin until the price of gold became so high). That night everyone gets together and the pie is sliced, with everyone picking his own piece. One is cut for every member of the family and also one for the house in which they live. Whoever gets the valuable piece will have a very happy and prosperous year.

"My wife and I celebrate by opening half of our gifts on Christmas Eve and the other half on New Year's."



Paul Bhasin, Bluefield electrical engineer, native of India.

"India is under the influence of three major religions — Christian, Moslem and Hindu. My exposure to the Christmas celebration began during my early school days in the private British Christian Missionary School at New Delhi. I was taught to celebrate the holiday season much as people do in the United States.

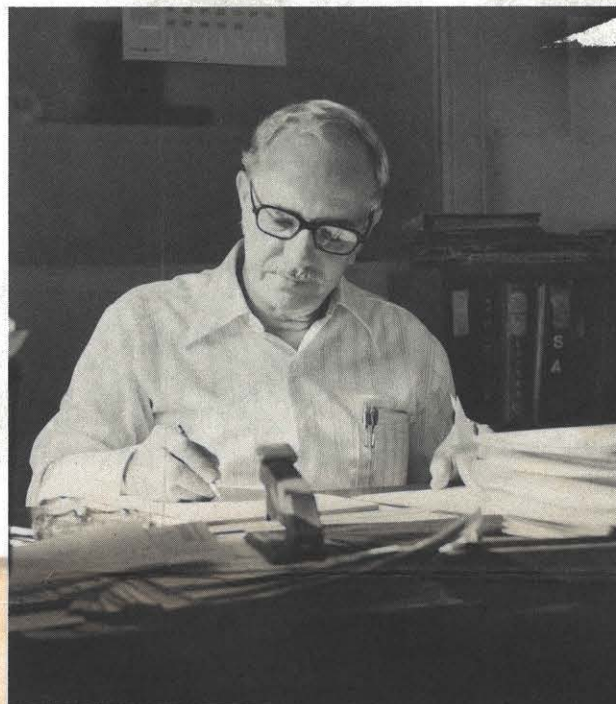
"Teachers at the mission would provide and decorate an evergreen tree each year. Treats were provided for the children whereas the missionaries would exchange gifts. Christmas cards were sent to friends and family members. After dinner on Christmas Eve, people would congregate, bringing musical instruments (Spanish guitars) to go caroling through the Christian community.

"A Christmas Eve worship service on the mission premises was always a part of the Christmas season. The length of the Christmas season and the method

of celebration for the Christian community was very similar to the holiday season in the United States.

"In parallel with Christmas, the Hindus and Moslems celebrate a holiday season called 'Diwali', which begins in November and extends into the new year. At this time, restaurants, hotels and government buildings are gaily decorated with bright lights and gala decorations. During this holiday, which is determined by the signs of the moon, the people celebrate with many parties. This festive occasion is climaxed on December 24 evening as Christians and non-Christians gather in hotels and restaurants to celebrate with food and drinks. On December 25 the government officials and members of the community visit at the President's home to extend their holiday greetings. The holiday season ends with another evening of parties on New Year's Eve."

IF I HAD ONE WISH FOR CHRISTMAS



Henry Kiser, head T&D clerk, Williamson area, Logan-Williamson Division

"Speaking as a Christian, my wish at this time is that all people of the world would turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as their personal saviour. If this could happen, then we could be closer to world peace."



Pamela Hayes, Pulaski junior clerk

"About this time each year, Yuletide begins to ring, 'Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men'. If I had one wish for Christmas, I'd wish this could really be true. Our world needs just one day of real peace and happiness. Life was not meant to be sad and unhappy but delightful and enjoyable for us all.

"However, if this is not possible, I'd take just one day of no complaints about electric bills."



Brenda Legge, Huntington personnel clerk A

"Many people, without close friends or family, find the holiday season quite a lonely time. My wish for Christmas is that *everyone* could experience the warmth and closeness between friends and family that I have been fortunate enough each year to share with mine."



Lloyd Miller, retired Lynchburg customer services supervisor, and his wife Aileen

"Peace on earth, good will to all men is Aileen's and my wish for Christmas, not only for 1978 but for all time. My having witnessed the devastation of unthinking men during the last war, I find it inconceivable that human beings would allow such a thing to happen again. With modern technology, transportation and education available, there is really no reason why peoples of the world cannot settle their differences and live in peace.

"Today we are only a few short hours from our farthest neighbors and only a few minutes by satellite. Therefore, peace among all peoples of the world would make every day another truly Christmas day."



BAILEY SAVED TWO LIVES DURING CAREER

"I plan to make every day a Saturday", says Paul L. Bailey, who retired December 1 as Lynchburg division superintendent. He and his wife Marie plan to spend a lot of time at a camp on the coast, fishing and visiting. An avid wood and metal worker, he

also enjoys clock repair. His prime joy in life, however, is being a connoisseur of other people's treasures (junk collecting). Fellow employees state that if there is anything in the world you need and can't find, just check with Paul and he is sure to have it somewhere!

When Paul graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a BS degree in electrical engineering, jobs were few and far between. He says, "The superintendent of a Pocahontas Fuel mine near War, West Virginia, thought I was a pretty good ball player. In those days, baseball teams in coal camps were very popular so he hired me. I went to work in June 1935, picking bone and slate on a tippel. The first of July the miners went on strike. Before they went back, I happened to get a job with Appalachian and never went back to the mines. In those days you were very fortunate to get a job with Appalachian because in most cases the only people they hired were college graduates."

The most memorable experience of Paul's career was the terrible Hurricane Camille flood in Nelson County on August 19, 1966. He was one of the first men on the scene. Some of his co-workers report they didn't want to go in but when they found that Paul was determined to go, they told him they would go with him. The area was rampant with snakes, and Paul was almost bitten several times. One time he fell in a hole and would have drowned if someone had not pulled him out. He recalls, "Tractor-trailers and other large trucks were broken up like matchsticks. I didn't get home to see my family for five days."

Prior to World War I, Paul was the first man to go to Atlanta to learn pole top resuscitation, and it was this training which enabled him to save the lives of two men.

In 1938 Paul received the American Gas and Electric safety merit award for first aid to J. H. Merriman, after Merriman had come in contact with a 4000 volt circuit. In 1946 Paul was awarded the Edison Electric Institute Resuscitation Medal for saving the life of a fellow lineman, J. W. Stiff, by artificial respiration after he had come in contact with a live wire. The copper used in the medal came from the original Edison two-wire system installed in New York City in 1881 under the personal supervision of Thomas A. Edison.



During World War II, when Paul was a captain in the Army, they moved into a chateau in France which had been used by DeGaulle. There were no lights, and all they had were some candles. There were still some wires up which had not been cut so Paul said, "Well, boys we're going to steal a little current tonight if I can find some way to climb that pole." One young soldier said, "You can't do that captain." Paul replied, "Man, I've been doing this more years than you are old." He climbed the pole, and they had lights when no one else did.

Paul graduated from VPI&SU as a second lieutenant. He has been in the Army Reserve for 27 years and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Paul and his wife attend Fort Hill United Methodist Church. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club and past president of both the Lynchburg Society of Engineering and Science and the Industrial Management Council. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Paul concludes, "My work experience with Appalachian has been very gratifying, and I have had the pleasure of working with some outstanding people. I worked for both Pete White, now AEP chairman, and John Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian. I have witnessed many changes over the years, most of which have been for the better."

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