

1979

Dear Fellow Employees:

Unfortunately, **The Illuminator** does not arrive just before Christmas and thus it is necessary to belatedly say I hope that you and your family had a joyous "Holiday Season" and that the new year will be the best ever for you.

As this message is being written on December 22, 1978, we are nearing the end of a productive and busy year. While we did not accomplish everything we would have liked, much progress was made. I personally feel much has been accomplished in getting a better understanding of the energy problem and our company's operations by many of our customers. Early in 1979 we hope to bring you a more detailed report on our accomplishments during 1978.

We cannot, however, close a year and start another without giving particular emphasis to the company's accident prevention program. In 1978 we experienced 19 disabling injuries, an almost 50% reduction from 1977, when we had 36. It now appears the 1978 record will be the best since 1967, when we had only 12 disabling injuries.

Many of our operating units turned in outstanding performances in the safety arena last year.

The employees of General Office Accounting completed 5,000,000 safe work hours on December 13. This goal, representing 14 years of safe work, is the first time any Appalachian Power group has reached this pinnacle.

The General Office Transmission and Distribution employees reached 2,500,000 safe work hours on October 4; and, upon completion of an additional 500,000 safe work hours this coming May, could make GO T&D only the second member of the 3,000,000 safe work hour club.

General Office Operations employees, who have worked since January 18, 1966, without a disabling injury, reached the 2,000,000 pinnacle on March 23 last year.

Reaching 1,000,000 safe work hours during 1978 were the employees of the Roanoke General Departments, Clinch River Plant and Bluefield Division.

Attaining 500,000 safe work hours were Lynchburg and Charleston Division and Amos and Philip Sporn Plant employees. Hopefully, the Abingdon Division will reach this safety landmark later this month.

While we applaud these accomplishments, there are the notes of sadness which remind each of us why the company places so much emphasis on accident prevention and why we as individuals have a heavy responsibility to make these programs work.

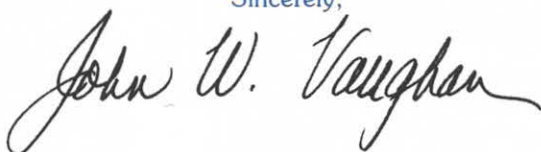
We had two very serious accidents in 1978. In one, an employee was severely burned; and, had it not been for the training and prompt response of his co-workers, who gave him CPR, he would not have survived. Fortunately, after long weeks of hospitalization, he is now home and making progress toward recovery.

The other was a fatal accident which took the life of a fine young man, 26 years of age, with a wife and small son. It was a tragic loss.

These are the grim reminders of why no one of us can ever relax our efforts in stressing safety awareness every day, in every way, both at home and on the job.

Finally, I do want to thank each of you for the part you have played in the success of our company. It is greatly appreciated, and I solicit your continued help in this new year.

Sincerely,

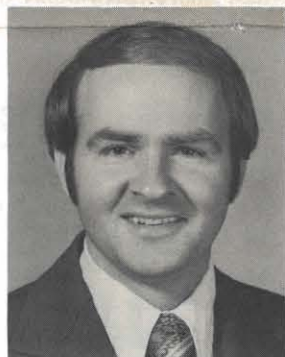


John W. Vaughan
Executive Vice President



Vaughan

FIVE APCO MEN WIN PRIZES IN OPERATING IDEAS COMPETITION



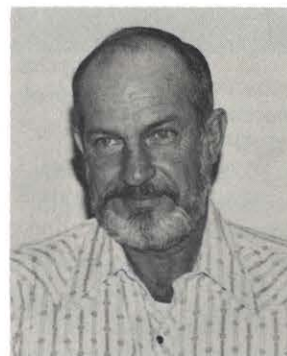
Gearhart



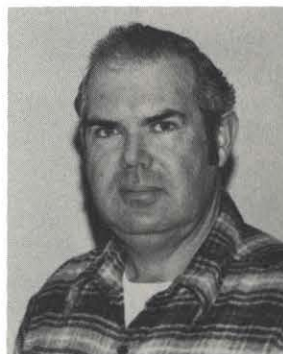
Duty



Prillaman



Kahle



Parcell

Five Appalachian Power employees were among the AEP System prize winners in the 1978 **Operating Ideas** competition. They were awarded shares of AEP Company common stock.

L. E. Gearhart, operations engineer senior, GO

Operations, Roanoke, won 100 shares for his article, "Improved Operation of Claytor Hydro", which was published in the May/June issue of **Operating Ideas**.

B. G. Duty, instrument mechanic A, Clinch River Plant, was awarded 60 shares for his article, "Checks Precipitator Flyash Level Indicators", in the March/April issue.

W. H. Kahle, station crew supervisor NE; W. R. Parcell, station mechanic A-division; and W. C. Prillaman, meter electrician D, all of the Fieldale area of Roanoke Division, divided 60 shares for their article, "Power Source for Trip-Testing Reclosers" in the July/August issue.

Other prize winners were:

D. L. Gibbens, Ohio Power communications engineer, Canton, won 120 shares for his article, "Locates Digital Telemetry Problems" in the May/June issue.

G. R. Dillon, transmission man A, and J. M. Simms, working foreman, OPCo's GO Transmission Department, Gallipolis, shared 120 shares for their article, "Improved Conductor Cart Rides Over Spacers", in the November/December issue.

L. E. Shoemaker, Indiana & Michigan Electric Company maintenance engineer, Tanners Creek Plant, earned 100 shares for his article, "Mechanized Cleaning for Turbine Bolts", in the January/February issue.

D. L. Cross, OPCo transmission engineer, Canton, received 60 shares for his article, "Develops Flexible Shoring Methods and Tables", in the September/October issue.

D. L. Peters, I&M station design supervisor, Fort Wayne, received 60 shares for his article, "Contains Oil Spills at Low-Voltage Stations", in the May/June issue.

E. L. Aldrich and G. L. Bufink, I&M fleet maintenance mechanics A, Fort Wayne, divided 60 shares for their article, "Cleaning Inside of Booms on Bucket Trucks", in the September/October issue.

Marvin Baird and Donald Lucas, OPCo maintenance men, Gavin Plant, shared 40 shares for their article, "Saves Time in MPS Pulverizer Maintenance", in the January/February issue.

T. L. Stropki and G. B. Hahn, OPCo meter technicians A, Canton, divided 40 shares for their article, "Builds Better Data Acquisition Test Set", in the September/October issue.

J. J. Markowsky, head analytical and R/D Section, AEP Service Corporation, New York; D. D. Crabtree, performance supervising engineer, and M. A. Bailey, senior performance engineer, both of OPCo's Gavin Plant divided 60 shares for their article, "Flue Gas Prevents Pluggage in Flyash Lines", in the September/October issue.

T. J. Seery, staff engineer, and E. F. Patrylow, technical illustrator both of AEP Service Corporation, New York, shared 50 shares for their article, "Visual Aids Help Maintain Large Equipment", in the July/August issue.

E. A. Chebli, senior distribution engineer, and R. M. Porter, computer applications division, both of AEP Service Corporation, New York, divided 40 shares for their article, "How to Improve Distribution Circuit Protection", in the May/June issue.

C. H. Yoho, fire protection consultant, AEP Service Corporation, Canton, won 30 shares for his article, "Extinguishing Electrical Fires with Water", in the July/August issue.

In a separate competition, three employees of Ohio Valley Electric Corporation and Indiana-Kentucky Electric Corporation received \$1,500 in cash prizes. The winners were:

R. R. Clark, storeroom supervisor, and H. W. Dye maintenance supervisor, both of IKEC's Clifty Cree Plant, divided \$900 for their article, "Heat Treats Worn Mill Balls to Improve Wear", in the September/October issue.

W. F. Caplinger, OVEC transformer and station inspector, Piketon, Ohio, received \$600 for his article, "Water Spray Cleans Transformer-Cooler Pins", in the July/August issue.

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.

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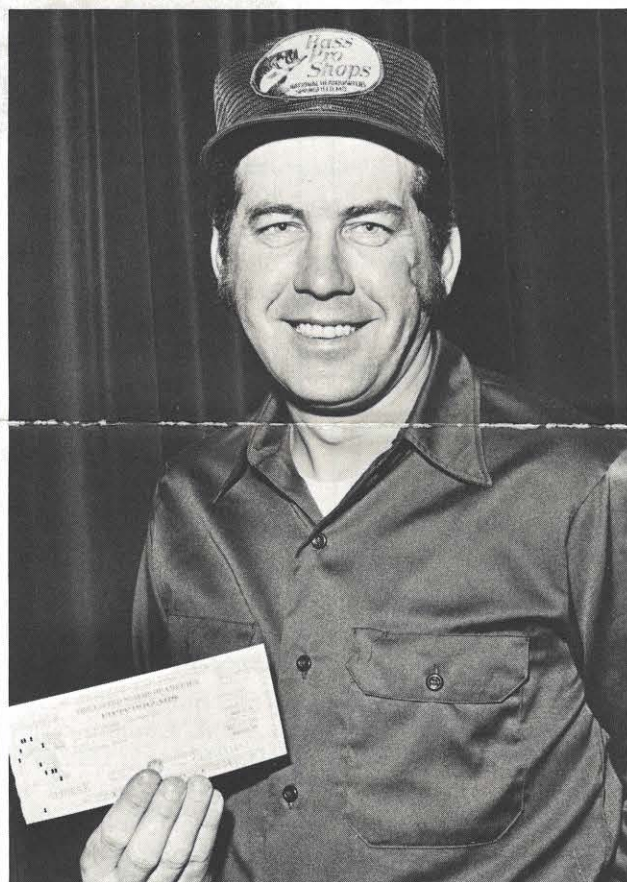
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Jerry Vest, Lynchburg
Janice Adkins, Mountaineer Construction
J. B. Brillheart, Pulaski
Martin Ratcliff, Roanoke
Jerry Thompson, Philip Sporn

AEP EMPLOYEES SAVINGS PLAN

Date	Value Per Unit	
	AEP Stock Fund	Units Credited Per Dollar
8/31/1978	1.0385	0.9629
9/30/1978	1.0291	0.9717
10/31/1978	0.9739	1.0268
11/30/1978	0.9965	1.0035
Fixed Income Fund		
8/31/1978	1.0491	0.9532
9/30/1978	1.0559	0.9471
10/31/1978	1.0631	0.9406
11/30/1978	1.0700	0.9346
Equity Fund		
8/31/1978	1.2067	0.8287
9/30/1978	1.2027	0.8315
10/31/1978	1.0977	0.9110
11/30/1978	1.1230	0.8905

SEARLS EARNS BOND FOR SAVING LIFE



Lester Searls, transmission mechanic A, GO T&D Transmission, Kenova, was awarded a \$50 U. S. Savings Bond for being the first APCo employee to perform a lifesaving act during 1978. The bond was a personal gift from Malcolm E. Reed, building engineer, GO General Services, Roanoke.

Reed had earned the \$50 bond as the originator of the company's present safety slogan, "The Power of Safety . . . You". At that time he offered the bond to the first employee who performed a lifesaving act during 1978.

Searls performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a young man who had stopped breathing while enroute with his wife and mother to a local hospital. Realizing the man probably would not make it to the hospital in time, the women had stopped the car and gone to a nearby house to call an ambulance. Searls and Harold Webb, transmission mechanic B, were returning to Kenova from a job in Hurricane when they noticed the parked car and stopped to help.

In presenting the bond to Searls, Reed commented, "In itself, this \$50 Savings Bond is rather small as compensation for saving a human life. However, what greater compensation could anyone derive than just the warm satisfaction from knowing that prompt action at the right time saved another person's life! Along with this Savings Bond, I convey my personal admiration and congratulations."

RETIREES RECEIVE BIGGER CHECKS

The American Electric Power System's approximately 3,300 retirees and surviving spouses of employees and retirees who are participants in the AEP Retirement Plan, beginning this month, will receive larger monthly benefit checks.

To be eligible for the increase, a retiree must have retired on or before January 1, 1978. Likewise, for a surviving spouse to be eligible, the retiree or employee must have died no later than January 1978.

The increased monthly benefits will be paid according to the following formula:

RETIREES will receive a 1½ percent increase for each year of retirement through December 31.

SURVIVING SPOUSES OF RETIREEES will receive a 1½ percent increase for each year since the deceased retiree's date of retirement through December 31.

SURVIVING SPOUSES OF EMPLOYEES will receive a 1½ percent increase for each year between the employee's death and December 31.

Partial years will be prorated. The minimum increase will be \$10 per month.

Meanwhile, also on January 1, several improvements in benefits for active employees who are eligible for them were put into effect across the AEP System. These improvements represent the third and final step in a series of such betterments adopted by the System during the two-year period January 1, 1977 — January 1, 1979.

Details of the improvements were contained in a recent letter to employees and in the November issue of *The Illuminator*.

Highlights of the improvements include:

- Free life insurance equal to an employee's annual salary (previously this was contributory) and the opportunity to purchase, at 60¢ per \$1,000 per month, additional insurance also equal to annual salary;
- An increase from \$2,000 to \$2,500 in the amount of hospital charges that will be paid in full for each insured person (employee and dependents) in any calendar year, but with no increase in cost to the employee.

An open-enrollment period for the life insurance plan will end January 31. During that same period, an open enrollment also is being conducted for employees who wish to participate in the long-term disability plan (who chose not to do so in earlier sign-up periods) without a requirement for evidence of insurability.

LETTERS WE LIKE

Mrs. Frank Ashley of Amma, West Virginia, (Charleston Division) sent the following letter to the company:

"Dear Power Company, You are the only utility company that gives we the people our money's worth in this age of inflation. Your service is excellent, and that \$.86 average cost a day at the bottom of our bill does so much. THANKS!! Merry Christmas to all and may you prosper without getting greedy like the gas company or overload your equipment into lousy service like our phone company."

The Lynchburg office received a Christmas card from the John Gomillion family. The card was inscribed, "Thank you for servicing me and my family this year and all of last year with lights! God bless you!"

Jerry Walton, Lynchburg meter reader, received this complimentary letter from Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Mason of Rustburg:

"We appreciate very much your calling to our attention that we had a leak in our (water) pipe. I know it wasn't part of your job to inform us of the fact, but it may of been some time before we became aware of it so we certainly appreciate your taking the time to tell us. We are thankful Appalachian hires men of your awareness. They do a superb job of servicing our source of power. We thank you."

AEP SYSTEM NEWS BRIEFS

Hardman Takes AEPSC Post

A veteran of service in American Electric Power System generating plants and offices has been elected assistant vice president — plant operations in the Canton office of the AEP Service Corporation.

He is W. J. (Jack) Hardman, who, until his election last month was executive assistant to the executive vice president of Ohio Power Company. He assumed his new duties January 1.

Hardman's AEP career started in 1947, following his graduation from Duke University. His first assignment was in Appalachian Power Company's Cabin Creek Plant; his second was in New York with the Service Corporation's Results Department, designing Muskingum River Plant's instruments and controls. In 1953, he moved to Ohio Power's Muskingum River Plant as results engineer. He was named assistant manager there in 1961 and manager in 1968. He moved to Ohio Power's general office in Canton in 1976 to assume the executive assistant's post.

In the plant operations assignment, Hardman will be concerned with power plant staffing, coal receiving and analysis, operating budgets and cost control. He will report to David H. Williams, Jr. AEP senior vice president — operations, Canton.

MOVING UP



David B. Synowiec, operations superintendent at Ohio Power Company's Mitchell Plant, has been named operations superintendent at Mountaineer Plant, effective February 1. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from West Virginia University.



H. R. Miller, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance supervising engineer at John Amos Plant on December 1. He studied electrical engineering through International Correspondence Schools.

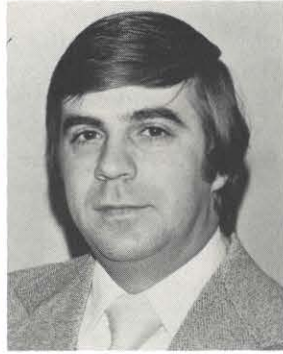


John W. Albaugh, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John Amos Plant on December 1. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Delaware.



Charles P. Tomlin, former performance

engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John Amos Plant on December 1. He holds a BS degree in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University.



Robert W. Osborne, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John Amos Plant on December 1. He holds a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Kentucky.



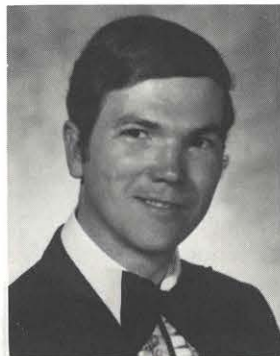
Venkatesh Acharya, former performance engineer, was promoted to performance engineer senior at John Amos Plant on December 1. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from West Virginia Institute of Technology.



Raymond D. Bright, former classification and accounts payable control clerk, was promoted to classification accountant, General Office Accounting, Roanoke, on December 1. He holds an associate in arts degree in business administration and management from National Business College.



George R. Lowe, former classification accountant, was promoted to accounts payable supervisor, General Office Accounting, Roanoke, on November 1. He holds an associate in applied science degree from Virginia Western Community College.



Lynn Barry Short, former electrical engineer, was promoted to electrical engineer senior in the Fieldale area of Roanoke Division on November 1. He holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

GOLF WILL OCCUPY RETIREE



"I want to tell the men here at Appalachian just how much I appreciate them," says John Browning, who was a driver-ground helper in Huntington before electing early retirement January 1.

John began his career as a laborer at the old Kenova Plant in 1940 and held several positions there before transferring to the Huntington Division as a groundman in 1954.

Next to church work — John's a deacon in the Ceredo Church of Christ — his main interest is golf. His experience on the links began as a caddy at the Spring Valley Country Club when he was 12 years old. He has been playing since 1958 and has made three holes-in-one. He consistently shoots in the low 70s and just recently scored 65 for 18 holes.

John looks forward to retirement and, apart from church work and golf, plans "to do whatever my wife Pauline tells me to do."

NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

Beckley
David Anderson, stores attendant.

Bluefield
Ronald Jack Lambert, Jr., meter reader, Pineville. **George Steven Fletcher**, line mechanic D, Grundy. **David Craig Johnson**, line mechanic D, Bluefield. **Ocal R. Smith**, meter reader, Princeton.

Central Machine Shop
James McGee, machinist 1st class.

Charleston
Betty J. Seals, junior clerk. **Kimberly Booher**, office messenger. **Elizabeth Bonham**, junior clerk.

General Office
Richard Anderson, rate analyst senior, GO Rates and Contracts, Roanoke. **Ellen Hicks**, junior stenographer, GO General Services, Roanoke. **Barbara Collins**, junior clerk, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Barry Kemp**, payroll clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **John Donaldson**, statistical accountant senior, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Cyrus Bowman** and **Roy Weaver**, surveyor assistants — rod, GO T&D Civil Engineering, Roanoke. **William E. Ferrell, Jr.**, trans-

mission mechanic D, GO T&D Transmission, Kenova.

Glen Lyn Thomas Rick Ould, Jr., utility worker B.

Kanawha River
David Michael Hastings and **Ray McNeal Burs**, utility worker B.

Mountaineer Construction
John White, mechanical construction assistant II.

Roanoke
R. L. Turner, meter reader, Fieldale. **R. V. McKinney, Jr.**, tracer.

Philip Sporn
William Sheets, office supervisor. **Allen Hamm**, chemist assistant.

REVENUE ACT EXPLAINED

Impact of the Revenue Act of 1978 on AEP System taxpayers has been interpreted by Patricia L. Young, payroll supervisor in the Service Corporation's Treasury Department. Her analysis follows:

Although the act stipulates lower income-tax withholding for most taxpayers, reductions in individual rates have been provided primarily for lower and middle-income taxpayers. The personal exemption for each taxpayer, spouse and dependent has been increased from \$750 to \$1,000. In addition, the standard deduction, or "zero bracket amount," has been increased from \$3,200 to \$3,400 for married persons filing joint returns; from \$2,200 to \$2,300 for single persons and unmarried heads-of-households, and from \$1,600 to \$1,700 for married persons filing separately.

These changes are reflected in lower federal income tax withholding beginning January 1.

For 1979, the combined Social Security-Medicare rate for both employer and employee is 6.13%. The new taxable wage base, is \$22,900, up from \$17,700 in 1978. Thus, the maximum Social Security-Medicare tax this year will be \$1,403.77 for both employer and employee.

The new rates apply to every American taxpayer.

HESSON HEADS FOR FLORIDA



"I have greatly enjoyed working with Appalachian, and I never met anyone I didn't like. The company always had a knack of hiring good people," says Otis Hesson, who was T&D clerk A in the Point Pleasant area of Huntington Division before electing early retirement December 1.

A native of Mason County, West Virginia, Otis began his career in 1945 as a groundman. He transferred to the T&D records section in 1953 and was promoted in 1958 to the position he held at retirement.

Otis enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing and, most of all, looking for young saplings from which to make canes. In 35 years of pursuing this hobby, Otis has fashioned hundreds of canes, many of which were sold at his daughter's store in Morgantown, called the Apple Barrel. Otis searches the woods for sassafras trees near honeysuckle vines. The vines grow around the trees, giving them twisted shapes. Otis relates that when the sassafras trees are green, after soaking the ends in water, the limbs are pliable enough to fashion them to resemble the turned end of a regular cane.

Following a deer hunting trip in Tyler County, W. Va., Otis and his wife Edna will spend the winter in Florida.

POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

Abingdon



R. N. Trent, engineering technician senior, received an award from the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers for his outstanding service to Abingdon Elementary School.

Toby Cook, attended a workshop in New York City for teachers of paraprofessional personnel in home health service. Only seven locations in Virginia were selected to send representatives. Toby is the wife of J. L. Cook, station mechanic B.

Sammy Campbell, husband of Lois Campbell, Accounting, was elected president of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce for 1979.



Donna Kestner, daughter of W. S. Kestner, line mechanic A, was named "Miss Patrick Henry" for 1978-79. She is a junior at the school.

Beckley

D. L. Kendrick, Jr., customer services manager, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce.

Residential Advisor **Sandra Palen** won a first prize blue ribbon for her entry of a curly Boston fern in the "Christmas — Bright and Beautiful" Raleigh County Garden Council annual show. **Eileen Worley**, secretary-stenographer, won a third prize yellow ribbon for her Madonna arrangement. Both Sandra and Eileen are members of the Woodcliff Garden Club.



John McGraw, son of W. G. McGraw, residential representative, has completed Rotary Wing Flight School at the U. S. Army Aviation Center, Ft. Rucker, Alabama. An honor graduate, John was appointed a warrant officer and received his wings as an Army aviator. He has been assigned to a three-year tour in Stuttgart, Germany, and will fly the UH1 helicopter.

Bluefield



Pat White, wife of Princeton Area Supervisor Ted White, was presented a life membership pin by the Trinity United Methodist Women, Bluefield, at the organization's Blue Ribbon luncheon.

Lois Rounion, retired secretary-stenographer, was elected secretary of the Bluefield area T-Tolers Club, a tole and decorative painters club, soon to be affiliated with the National Society of Tole

and Decorative Painters, Inc., She has also been appointed membership chairman of the Bluefield Community Concert Association for their 1979-80 membership drive. She has served as a board member of the association for many years.



Tom Martin, stores attendant, was elected president of the Green Valley-Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department for 1979.

Harry Buston, meter electrician A, was elected second vice president of the Pocahontas Electrical & Mechanical Institute.

Marie Nash, wife of Wade Nash, retired meter electrician B, was installed as mission coordinator of the First United Methodist Women of Bluefield, Va.

Charleston

C. O. Carlini, division manager, was reelected to the board of directors of Junior Achievement of the Kanawha Valley, Inc.

Clinch River



Gordon Munsey, son of George E. Munsey, maintenance mechanic B, was selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among American High School Students". A senior at Lebanon High School, Gordon is a member of the Student Council Association and the Gifted and Talented. He also plays the trumpet in two school bands.



William Trail, son of James R. Trail, maintenance supervisor, is serving with the U. S. Navy in Saudi Arabia.



Randall Garrett, son of Harold O. Garrett, maintenance mechanic A, was crowned homecoming king at Lebanon High School. A senior at LHS, Randy plays tackle for offense and defense on the football squad and is a member of the Varsity Club, Track Club and FFA.

General Office

Entries by **Meredith Lovegrove** for the cover design of Roanoke's Patrick Henry High School student directory won the first through the fourth places. Her design was also chosen for the cover of the school's annual Christmas Dance program. She is the daughter of C. Richard Lovegrove, public information supervisor, GO Public Affairs, Roanoke.

Rosemary Buchanan was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Boones Mill Town Council. She is the wife of L. R. Buchanan, building supervisor, GO General Services, Roanoke.

Dwayne Drew, son of Louis Drew, express driver, GO General Services, Roanoke, was named football defensive player of 1978 at William Fleming High School. A 6'1", 225-lb. senior, Dwayne had 82 unassisted tackles, seven sacks and recovered seven tackles. He recovered one fumble and returned it 38 yards for a touchdown. Drew's position was nose guard. He was also kicker on the offensive team and punter on defensive.

R. W. Staton, right of way agent, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Roanoke Valley Speech and Hearing Center.

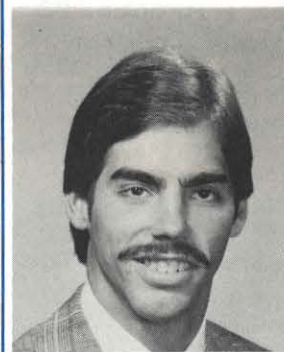
Revonda Faye Bowers was reappointed to serve as a page in the House of Delegates for the 1979 session of the Virginia General Assembly. A freshman at Lord Botetourt High School, she is the daughter of Shirley Bowers, secretary, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke.

R. D. Coffman, right of way agent, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke, was elected to his second term as church board chairman of the Williamson Road Church of the Brethren.

Glen Lyn

Glenn K. McClaugherty, a sonar technician serving with the Pacific Fleet in Hawaii, was chosen the U.S.S. Whipple's sailor of the quarter. He received a commendation from Whipple's Commanding Officer W. C. Francis. Glenn is the son of R. K. McClaugherty, chief plant dispatcher.

Kingsport



Jeffrey Simpson, son of M. C. Simpson, executive assistant, was graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia with a master of business administration degree. He is a member of Sigma Iota Epsilon, honor society in business administration.

Mike Fugate, son of Superintendent Emory Fugate, was appointed quality control manager of Big Time Enterprises, a Junior Achievement Company.

Carl E. Kilgore, engineering technician, was elected president of the Weber City, Va., Optimist Club.

Private Secretary **Joyce Potter**, chairman of the Kingsport Altrusa Club's yearbook, was awarded a silver bowl for winning first place in the district yearbook competition.

Lynchburg

J. Robert Davenport, division manager, was named vice chairman of Central Virginia Industries, Inc., and will also serve on the executive committee.

Pulaski

Division Manager **Claud Kirkland** was elected to a three-year term on the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He also received a framed resolution from the New River Community College board "as a genuine expression of appreciation to Mr. Kirkland for his many contributions and work toward the success of New River Community College in its early and formative years". Kirkland, whose term expired last year, had been a board member since its inception.

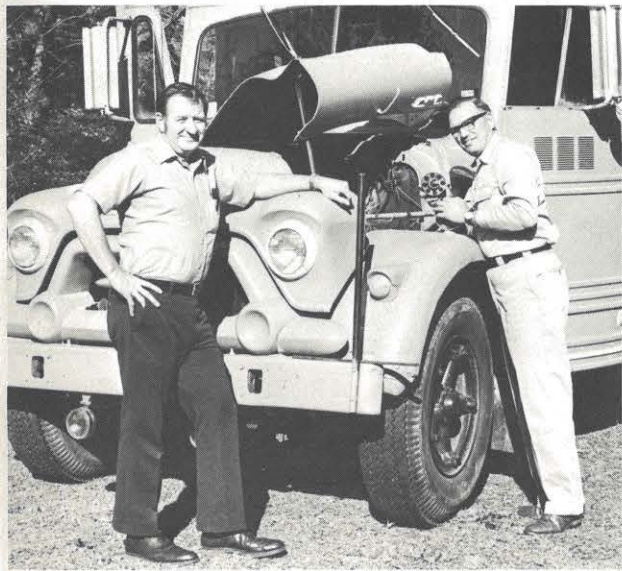
Elected officers of the Claytor Hydro Benevolent Association are **H. L. Honeycutt**, maintenance mechanic A, president, and **F. E. Rouse**, maintenance mechanic A, secretary-treasurer.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Roy James Kidd, 68, retired Bluefield meter serviceman B, died December 5. A native of Bluefield, Virginia, he began his career in 1936 as a laborer and retired July 1, 1968. Kidd is survived by his widow Beatrice, Route 2, Box 345, Bluefield, W. Va.; one daughter and two grandchildren.

CHARLESTON MEN TOUR COUNTRY IN CONVERTED BUS



Clayton Starcher, left, and Charlie Conners.

Clayton Starcher, Charleston meter electrician A, and Charlie Conners, Charleston area service restorer, have visited 27 of these United States over the past seven years. They make their trips with a group of men who travel in a 1957 model school bus which has been converted into a camping trailer.

When the bus was purchased by one of the men eight years ago, it already had over 107,000 miles on it. It now contains a kitchen, dining table, bathroom and ten built-in cots.

After the bus was converted, the men decided to take a trip out west on a hunting, fishing and sight-seeing expedition. Since that time, the group has made a trip annually.

Charlie says, "It's not just the people that go on these trips but it's what's inside the people that makes them so much fun. It's the fellowship that counts. This is a real compatible bunch of men, and everybody gets along real good together." He adds, "Each year we have some 10 extra people requesting to go, and there is just not room for everyone."

They visited Wyoming five of the seven years. One trip was to the south, visiting Texas, Old and New Mexico and surrounding areas. In 1974 the group went to Alaska, perhaps the most memorable trip of all. They drove 117 hours straight, stopping only for gasoline and other necessities. The trip covered some 9,500 miles. Clayton states, "It was an adventure of a lifetime." On this particular trip they did very little hunting or fishing but a lot of sightseeing.

Planning, purchasing and storing food supplies for the trips is quite an undertaking. Supplies included 90 dozen eggs and 100 loaves of bread, donated by the Kroger Company.

Clayton's primary job is being the liaison man in charge of routes and road conditions. He starts working on a trip two years in advance to be able to secure all the needed information. Charlie is head driver and chief mechanic of the bus trailer. Each man who goes on the trip takes charge of one specific area. Charlie notes, "Even though I am the head driver, I do not do all the driving as we alternate normally between three men."

While traveling, they have church services, prayer meetings, testimonials, and singing. As a matter of fact, three people have been "saved" while on the trips. Charlie says, "Instead of taking a bottle, we take the Bible, and the whole trip is devoted to this style of living."

When they go to Wyoming, they usually park their bus-trailer on the same ranch in Savayor, about 200 miles west of Denver. They normally get their quota of deer, and the rest of the time is spent on sight-seeing tours and just enjoying nature. Charlie rarely goes hunting, but he got his first deer this year. One of the other men on the trip got a 22-point, 250-lb. buck with a horn spread of 35 inches.

They are presently working on a trip to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland for 1979. The trips vary in cost, depending on the length of time and mileage involved. The first trip they made to the west coast cost \$44 per man. The same trip this year for the same number of people cost \$150 each. The Alaska trip averaged \$250 per man.

Each year, a couple of months after they return, a dinner is held for the people on the trip and their families. Slides of the trip are shown and they decide on the following year's trip, giving them ample time to make the necessary arrangements.

Charlie and Clayton are both enthusiastic about the trips and plan to continue as long as they can. They concur, "It's a great feeling to be on one of these trips, and we will remember them as long as we live."

SULLIVAN WRITES BOOKS ON PLANES



As a youngster living across the road from a small airport in Wilmington, North Carolina, Jim Sullivan developed a lasting interest in airplanes. Through the years he collected photos of aircraft, built models and read books about them.

Jim gathered much material on the F4U Corsair of World War II and Korean War fame, with the idea of someday writing a book about the plane and sharing his material with others.

The someday became a reality when he was contacted by Squadron/Signal Publications of Warren, Michigan, about the possibility of doing the book. Prior to that time he had written several articles and submitted photographs to *Air Progress* and *Air Classics* magazines as well as other national aviation publications. He has also written articles for the *Journal of the American Aviation Historical Society*.

Jim says, "Most of my weekends and spare time was spent writing my first book, 'The F4U Corsair In Action'. Approximately six months of actual work time was spent." That book has already sold in excess of 15,000 copies.

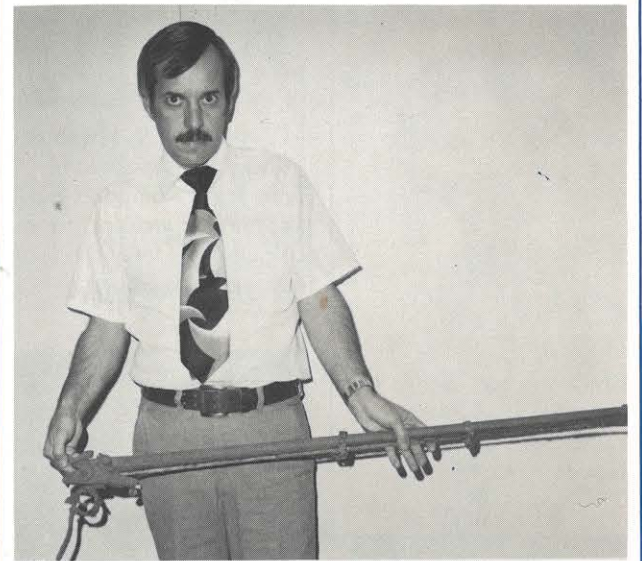
A second book entitled "The F6F Hellcat In Action" is to be published early in 1979. Jim spent another six months in writing and laying out this book.

He did research at the National Archives in Washington, D. C., to select some of the photographs to be used in the books and gathered information from members of the American Aviation Historical Society. Other photographs he printed in his home darkroom. Jim's wife, Linda, secretary-stenographer in General Office Purchasing, Roanoke, helped on weekends with the typing and proofreading.

Auto Center manager of Sears Roebuck and Company in Roanoke, Jim had 11 years' experience in layout and copy writing in the company's advertising department. He also has a solo license to fly a Cessna 150.

Currently, Jim is writing a third book on the F9F Panther Jet used by the Navy and Marines in Korea.

HARLOWE FINDS 114-YEAR-OLD MUSKET



C. F. Harlowe, general records clerk A, General Office Accounting, Roanoke, recently discovered a musket which probably belonged to a Confederate soldier. He bases his theory on the fact that the gun was made from various parts that were picked up on the battlefield and made usable. "This was common for the Confederate soldier," explains C. F., a Civil War buff.

C. F. is a member of the reactivated Company D of the 11th Virginia Infantry Volunteer Regiment, informally known as the Fincastle Rifles. Though the emotions and issues which caused so many men to give up their lives in battle have long since expired, the members of this unit are intent upon seeing that the role played by at least one group of fighters is not forgotten. Dressed in uniforms of authentic grey and butternut wool pants and tunics, the members of the company meet several weekends a year to camp, drill and stage mock battles.

C. F. says, "I found the gun in the Saylor's Creek area east of Farmville, Virginia. This is where the last major engagement of the war between the States had taken place on April 6, 1865. It was the Retreat Route used by General Gordon's Confederate II Army Corps, who had been under attack by General Humphrey's U. S. II Army Corps for the past 14 miles.

C. F. and a friend, Harold Wyatt, decided to search a wooded area along the Jamestown Road near the Lockett House, "an original structure still occupied and showing the marks of many bullet holes on all sides, attesting to the heavy fighting in that area".

He continues, "After about two hours of searching, I picked up a strong signal from my metal detector. When I knelt down and pulled back a small shovel of dirt and leaves, part of a barrel was exposed, along with a ramrod retaining spring. I called to my friend to come at once. We carefully pulled the dirt and leaves back, exposing the entire musket just as it had been dropped. After examining it for a few minutes, it appeared the soldier had fired his last shot, breaking the mainspring in the lock and rendering the weapon useless. Apparently he took the musket by the barrel and smashed it against a tree, breaking off the buttstock and bending the trigger guard, then either dropping or throwing it down. It remained undisturbed from April 6, 1865, until November 25, 1978, almost 114 years later."

SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Kimberly Gale Burks to **Randall C. Jones**, Lynchburg tracer, November 24.



Teressa Leigh Moore to **Dean Kelley Pratt**, son of D. S. Pratt, Pulaski engineering technologist, November 18.



Tammy Lou Whitt to **Charles Bradley Addair**, son of Charles Addair, Logan-Williamson custodian, July 23.



Cathy Flowers to **James C. Dabney, II**, maintenance mechanic C, John Amos Plant, December 2.

Claudia Foose to **Jack C. Burris**, Point Pleasant custodian, Huntington Division, December 6.



Cynthia Beth Hughes, daughter of James C. Hughes, Abingdon personnel supervisor, to William E. Endean, November 18.



Joyce Ann Whitt to **Johnny Addair**, son of Charles Addair, Logan-Williamson custodian, November 18.



Robbie Gayle Payne, daughter of E. M. Payne, GO T&D stores supervisor, Roanoke, to W. A. Irvin, III, son of W. A. Irvin, Jr., GO T&D R/e & R/w supervisor, Roanoke, November 18.



Jane Elizabeth Sult, daughter of Ellis F. Sult, GO T&D transmission inspector, Bluefield, to Mark N. Mustard, November 17.

Donna L. Marr, junior clerk, Mountaineer Construction, to Curtis A. Morris, November 4.

Rita Coates, stenographer, Sporn F. A. P. Project, to John D. Gresham, October 28.

CHAPMAN ENDS 31-YEAR CAREER



"I enjoyed working for this company for 31 years. If I hadn't, I would just have left," states Frank Chapman, who was head custodian in Huntington before electing early retirement January 1.

Chappy, as friends affectionately call him, is in remarkable physical condition for a man of 63 years. A natural athlete, he can hold his own with the younger set. Chappy relates the most humorous experience during his career was definitely the time Earl Jackson, division office supervisor, challenged him at jogging. Evidently, Earl was no match for Chappy!

Chappy recalls fondly the early days of his career when Appalachian sponsored company softball tournaments and he was a member of the Huntington team. At one time he batted .666 and made the all-tournament team. During Chappy's first game, L. E. Perkey, now line crew supervisor, called out to Chappy: "I'm the fastest man on this team; and, if you are on base, you had better be around those bases fast or I'll run up your back." As it turned out, the tables were reversed. Perkey was on first base when Chappy hit a home run. By the time Perkey was running toward home plate, Chappy was pushing him in.

Retirement will give Chappy time for doing the things he likes best — sports of all kinds, including golf. He began playing golf while in his mid-50s and now plays consistently in the high 80s and low 90s. He and his wife Irene plan to visit their son in upstate New York early this year.

BABY PARADE

John Amos Joey Wade, son of **James H. Coulter**, equipment operator, November 29.

Stacy Elizabeth, daughter of **Kerry L. Willard**, utility worker, November 13.

Charleston Natalie Kay, daughter of **Danny Lee Cantley**, stores attendant senior, November 18.

Clinch River Jed Ashley, son of **Carter L. Chafin**, maintenance mechanic B, September 13.

General Office Kristi Mabelle, daughter of **G. A. Hammons**, station operator C, GO Operations, Turner Dispatch, November 22.

Glen Lyn Kelly Autumn, daughter of **Richard S. Frymyer**, utility worker B, November 21.

Logan-Williamson Nancy Marie, daughter of **Debra F. Marcum**, Williamson junior clerk, October 15.

Mountaineer Construction James Michael, son of **Pam See**, stenographer, November 10.

Pulaski Christy Denise, daughter of **C. A. Terry, Jr.**, automotive mechanic A, November 17.



Regina Brewster, wife of Richard Brewster, Bluefield T&D clerk A, admires the $\frac{3}{4}$ carat diamond she won in a drawing. The diamond, given by Citizens Insurance Agency of Bluefield, was the highlight of the open house held in celebration of the firm's 75th anniversary.

DANCING KEEPS HARRIS YOUNG



Mantie Hurley and Henry Harris.

According to Henry Harris, retired engineering aide, General Office T&D, Roanoke, there's truth to the statement, "Put a little fun in your life — try dancing".

Eighty-two-year-old Henry has been dancing since the summer of 1977, at the suggestion of Mantie Hurley, whom he met on a blind date. Mantie is an assistant to Frank Roupas, a Roanoke dance instructor.

Henry relates, "My favorite dances are the fox trot, waltz, jitterbug, tango and the rhumba." He has become so smooth a dancer that he and Mantie now perform for various organizations such as the American Red Cross, Colonial American National Bank and the Science Museum.

In fact, the two made such beautiful music together that they are planning to be married sometime this year. Henry adds, "I asked her to marry me when we were at the New Year's dance in 1977, and she accepted."

Henry likes to show off his various dances when he entertains at his home. "I entertained in my house numerous times last year. I like to entertain because I like to cook. I started cooking when my first wife became ill. I had to cook for the children when they visited from time to time. My best meal is steak with all the trimmings."

Although dancing and entertaining keep Henry busy most of the time, all fun without work is definitely not his style. He works four hours a day as a bookkeeper for a local company. He notes that next to dancing, his favorite hobby is swimming.

QUILT TELLS STORY OF 50-YEAR MARRIAGE



Prince Thornton, retired Roanoke administrative assistant, and his wife Jo were presented an unusual story quilt by their three children on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

"We call it the memory quilt," says Prince. "It captures the highlights of our 50 years of marriage." Each of the 30 frames in the quilt has an embroidered picture about a significant or meaningful family event. A silk umbrella in one of the frames is reminiscent of their 21st anniversary. Jo recalls, "Prince came home one evening with the umbrella and said, 'Well, open it and see how you like it.' When I did, 21 dollar bills, each representing a year's marriage, rained down."

Another frame marks their second honeymoon, a trip to Niagara Falls in 1940. Reddy Kilowatt and the AEP logo in another frame recalls Prince's long service with Appalachian.

"I've never seen anything quite like it," adds Prince, "how the children remembered the special little things. One frame brings to mind the birth of our first child, Ed. Ed is shown with a cereal bowl on his head and 'last bite' written above. When he was a baby, if you didn't get the bowl the moment he finished his cereal, he would turn it upside down on his head."

"Joyce, our second child, couldn't say 'grape juice' when she was learning to talk. If there was grape juice on the table, she wouldn't drink anything else. She would keep asking for 'jape jupe'. The same was true of pickled beets with our daughter Peg. She couldn't say pickles, and she loved them so much she would keep asking for pic-pics." Both of these expressions are depicted on the quilt.

The quilt top was presented last May 4, when the Thorntons celebrated their anniversary, but the quilt wasn't completed until later that year. Jo, an expert seamstress, added a backing and stitched a ribbon design from frame to frame. On both back and front, it looks like a ribbon runs from corner to corner. "Because of that, we also call it the 'tie that binds'," Jo notes.

Prince adds, "The whole anniversary get-together was a total surprise. Our children tricked us. Peg and her family were here from Indiana; and, as we left church that Sunday, we were with them. They drove right past the house and said, 'we're taking you to Roanoke for Sunday dinner'. On the way home, she said we might as well stop in to see Joyce. When we walked in, everyone was waiting. We didn't know what to think."

"The quilt will always be special to us and something we'll cherish forever," Jo states.

The Thorntons have ten grandchildren. Of his two great-grandchildren, Prince jokes, "It's the only thing in the world I've ever been great at." He says, "The first year of retirement, I tried the normal pattern of sitting around. After a year of that, I had almost driven Jo crazy and was ready to climb the wall myself. When you sit around like that, you have a tendency to procrastinate. 'I'll get to that this afternoon or maybe tomorrow', I would say. I'm convinced that work is just as necessary as food is for a person to maintain a healthy outlook on life. Now I work three days a week at Clements Ford Tractor Sales in Rocky Mount. The part-time job brought back a tremendous feeling of value. It made me feel like I was continuing to contribute to the mainstream of life."

Prince is a member of the Franklin County Community Action Group, secretary of the Roanoke Goodwill Association and is active in the Red Valley United Methodist Church. He participates in the Smith Mountain Lake Ministry program and continues to deliver sermons as a guest speaker in various churches. He recently was named "Ruritan of the Year" by the Burnt Chimney Ruritan Club.

FATHER-SON TEAM STAR IN VINTON PLAY



What do Snoopy and Elvis Presley have in common? Very little . . . until Kevin Goins came along.

When he isn't attending fourth grade at Vinton's Hardy Road School, Kevin imitates Elvis Presley and, a few weeks ago, was seen on the stage of William Byrd Intermediate School's auditorium playing Snoopy in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown". The play was presented by the Vinton Players, and Kevin's dad, Rodney Goins, regional dispatcher in General Office Operations, Roanoke, played Charlie Brown.

Rodney has been interested in acting for years and was in his first play when he was a junior in high school in Bluefield. He hadn't had time for acting lately; but, after attending a few Vinton Player meetings, decided to try out for this play. Kevin's 11-year-old sister and 14-year-old brother are both interested in drama, too.

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" consisted of a group of scenes from the comic strip "Peanuts". The play was full of singing and dancing, and Kevin, as Snoopy, did both.

"Kevin's sort of a ham anyway," says Rodney. "I think we did a doggone good job, if I do say so myself."

Both father and son are big fans of the comic strip. They studied their lines after Kevin got home from school each day and attended rehearsals every night except Wednesdays and Sundays.

Photo and story courtesy Roanoke Times & World-News.



Some 45 persons attended the annual Christmas luncheon for retirees of Charleston Division and Cabin Creek Plant, held December 14 at Humphrey's Pine Room. Santa Claus, portrayed by Leroy Balding, public affairs coordinator at John Amos Plant, gave out the door prizes.

VETS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



S. P. Dahmer
Payroll & Pers. Acctg. Supv.
GO-Roanoke
40 Years



Nick Roomy
Executive Asst.
GO-Charleston
40 Years



Howard Ferguson
Operations Supt.
Clinch River
30 Years



C. E. Petry, Jr.
Maint. Mech. C.
John Amos
30 Years



J. J. Lane
Line Mechanic A
Bluefield
30 Years



E. J. Haga
Stores Attend. Sr.
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



Pauline Vinciguerra
Cust. Accts. Rep. A
Bluefield
30 Years



H. L. Chambers
Purchasing Asst.
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



M. W. Scott
Residential Rep.
Charleston
30 Years



J. B. Showalter, Jr.
Stores Supervisor A
Charleston
25 Years



J. E. Moss
Line Crew Supv. (LTD)
Charleston
25 Years



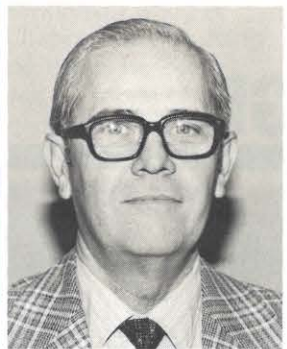
F. F. Webb
Control Elec. A
GO-Roanoke
25 Years



James Preston
Meter Reader
Logan-Williamson
25 Years



F. E. Smith
Maint. Mech. B.
Philip Sporn
25 Years



T. W. Wolfe
T&D Clerk A
Bluefield
25 Years



Gertrude Fowler
Meter Clerk A
GO-Roanoke
20 Years



J. H. Jessee
Unit Supervisor
Clinch River
20 Years



H. C. Jackson
Unit Supervisor
Clinch River
20 Years

Charleston
10 Years: **R. L. Childress**, station mechanic B. **Robert Watson**, line mechanic B. **J. L. Utt**, line mechanic A.

Clinch River
20 Years: **Bobby G. Hobbs**, unit supervisor. **R. C. Chafin**, guard. 5 Years: **Clyde A. Keith**, maintenance mechanic C.

General Office
25 Years: **P. F. Roush**, assistant regional chief dispatcher, GO Operations, Roanoke. 15 Years: **E. A. Hensley**, regional dispatcher,

GO Operations, Charleston. 10 Years: **O. V. Rutledge, Jr.**, station operator A, GO Operations, Roanoke. **Linda Perdue**, payroll special clerk, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **W. R. Johnson**, maintenance mechanic A, GO Hydro, Roanoke. **J. B. Eubank**, engineering technologist, GO T&D, Roanoke.

Kanawha River
10 Years: **Edward Sheets**, chief chemist.

Logan-Williamson
10 Years: **Hubert Lester**, line crew supervisor NE.

Pulaski
10 Years: **C. M. Goad**, line mechanic A. **J. H. Palmer**, area service restorer.

Roanoke
15 Years: **D. J. Dickerson**, line mechanic A. 10 Years: **Ella Edwards**, customer accounts representative B. 5 Years: **J. L. Joyce**, meter reader.

Philip Sporn
25 Years: **Billy Thomas**, instrument mechanic B. 5 Years: **David Eades**, maintenance mechanic B. **John Hill**, maintenance mechanic B. **Jack Sorden**, instrument mechanic B. **Stanley Shaver**, janitor. **Danny Dyer**, instrument mechanic A. **Herbert Slone**, maintenance mechanic B.

RED LEMONS RETIRES



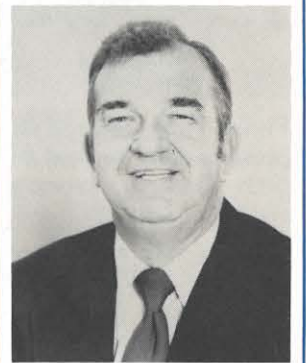
Aulden E. "Red" Lemons, Pulaski dealer sales representative, elected early retirement January 1.

A native of Pulaski, Virginia, Red attended Lees-McRae College and West Virginia Business College. He began his career in 1937 as a stenographer

and was a clerk, clerk senior and residential sales representative senior before moving in 1950 to the position he held at retirement. He has been on LTD leave since 1973.

A member of First United Methodist Church, he served a two-year term on Pulaski Town Council. He and his wife Mary Ann have two children and five grandchildren.

RAYFIELD RETIRES EARLY



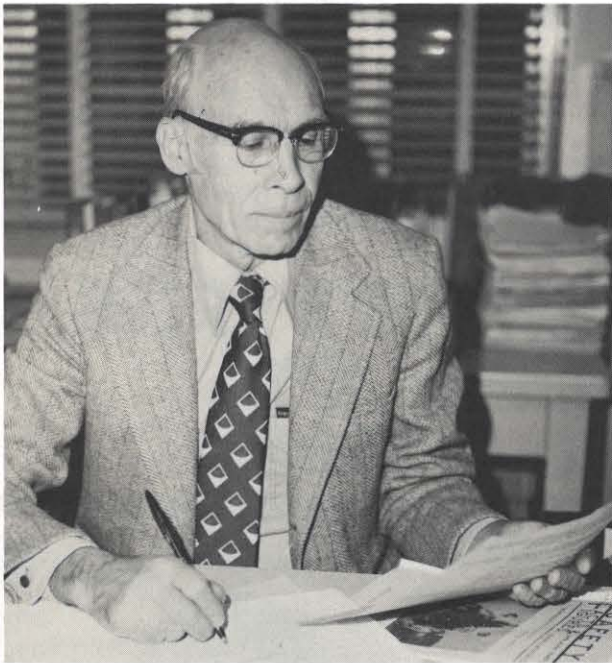
J. G. "Ray" Rayfield, Kingsport records supervisor, elected early retirement January 1 after 32 years' service.

A native of Lancaster, South Carolina, Ray began his career in 1947 as a clerk junior in the plant records department. He was a senior distribution record clerk and head T&D clerk before being promoted in 1961 to the position he held at retirement. Ray attended Tusculum College and the AEP Management Training Program at the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration.

During his early years with Kingsport Power, he played shortstop on the softball team and was a member of the bowling team. Ray says, "Since I've always been a sports fan, I especially enjoyed my years of playing softball and bowling on the company's teams."

Ray is a member of the Moose Lodge and the VFW. He and his wife Nancy have three children and one grandchild. They plan to spend winters in their 31-foot Airstream Camper in the Indian River Campground in Indian Rock Beach, Florida.

THEIS READY FOR RELAXATION



"Looking back to my start with the AEP System and considering my several different locations on construction, I never thought I would last through 41 years with the same company," reflects Paul E. Theis, who was accounting staff assistant senior in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, before electing early retirement January 1.

Paul says, "I feel that my employment years link me to both the beginning and present dates of our company's history as an electric utility. My first job with the system was at the Windsor Plant near Wheeling, West Virginia, in October 1937. This plant was torn down a few years ago. It had been built during World War I. Later I was to see duty at the Deepwater power plant in New Jersey; military service during World War II as an airplane bomber mechanic in the Mediterranean Theatre; Tidd Plant in Ohio; and Sporn Plant in West Virginia before transferring to Roanoke in 1964 to become associated with the General Office Accounting Department."

"Over the years," Paul notes, "the basic underlying utility accounting theory has not changed a whole lot, but there certainly have been new ways 'invented' for applying it. I have fully enjoyed being in the electric utility field during my working years and can't say I would do anything different if I had to live the same years over again."

"There have been a lot of challenges along the way to keep me plenty busy. I consider myself fortunate to have worked in the accounting areas of both power plant construction and operations and in General Office activities, involving me in the transfer of the accounting to Roanoke for Central Operating Company, Central Coal Company and Central Appalachian Coal Company; the establishment of the accounting systems for the jointly owned power plants (Sporn and Amos) and also for the Central Machine Shop and Centralized Plant Maintenance group."

Paul continues, "A few years ago the company acquired Cedar Coal Company, and it was my responsibility to coordinate the conversion of Cedar's accounting to our way of doing business. This involved a couple of trips to Dallas, Texas, which is Cedar's former headquarters location. Another coal company challenge was to coordinate the establishment of the accounting when Southern Appalachian Coal Company was formed a few years ago."

"In between times I have participated in rate case activities, commission audit coordinations and various affiliated matters. These and many other activities could not have been handled without the good working relations offered by fellow employees all along the way and from top to bottom."

"I now look forward to enjoying my retirement years; and, with the memory of all the good AEP System years to support me, I know this enjoyment will be accomplished."

Paul and his wife Therma expect to do some trailer traveling, attend square dancing festivals, visit friends and relatives and 'grow up' with their four grandchildren. A member of the Lutheran Church, Paul has been an usher, council member, financial secretary and treasurer.



HENRY RECALLS EARLY DAYS

"Let's just say I'll let each day take care of itself, I'm not making any definite plans for now," says Dewey Henry, who was Roanoke stores attendant senior before electing early retirement January 1.

Dewey recalls that Tom Kirby, now workers compensation assistant, helped him get on with the company. "Back in 1938, if you could get a job anywhere, you took it. I knew Tom; and, when he told me there was going to be an opening in the Stores Department, I went right down to see John Farr, who headed up the Purchasing Department then. I was in his office every morning, hanging onto his coattail asking about work. He finally said, 'I'm going to have to give you a job to get you out of my hair'."

When Dewey was hired in September of '38 as a clerk, he joined forces with Tom Kirby and Tom Lunsford, now purchasing supervisor, who were already in the Stores Department. He says, "I worked with Kirby for about eight years and Lunsford a little longer. We had some good times then. After quitting time, we'd team up and play handball over a net in the storeroom. We used to match a lot, too. Everybody would help get the line trucks out in the morning, and then we would play kingpin to see who bought drinks for all the rest. Those were fun days — we were close in the storeroom with those guys. At Christmas, we would exchange gifts."

Dewey adds that Pete Armistead, who recently retired as Roanoke division superintendent, is one of his best friends. "We were always chummy. I'd always call him 'dad' when I'd see him, and he would refer to me as 'son'. I always liked Annise Craig, retired private secretary. She had a wonderful disposition, always seemed to want to help. She was one of my favorites. Annise also processed the paper work to put me on the payroll when I joined Appalachian."

Dewey grew up on a farm in Peru, Indiana. He recalls, "I'll never forget something my father told me back on the farm. He said, 'Son, when you leave here to go to work on a public job and you're told to do something, you do it, and you work hard and do a good job.' I've always tried to live up to that. When I went to Appalachian, I was looking for work, and I always tried to give an honest day's work."

"I was fortunate, too. Both my kids worked during the summers for the company, which helped pay for their college. I couldn't have sent them without it."

Dewey's son Michael is art director for Stone Printing Company in Roanoke. His daughter Rosemary is married to a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force. They are stationed at Edwards Air Force Base, California, where he is assigned to the B-1 bomber program.

Dewey says, "I never made too much money, but I'm proud of what I've done. I got a house paid for and sent two kids through college."

Dewey is a member of the First Church of the Brethren in Roanoke and the Blue Hills Golf Club. He and his wife Hazel plan a trip to Florida in February. "We might just take in the dog races. My brother is an airline captain for Allegheny and has a condominium in Daytona. When he gets a long break, we'll go. We always have a big time."

COLLINS CLOSES UTILITY CAREER



Howard J. Collins, Logan-Williamson Division personnel supervisor, elected early retirement January 1.

A native of Ashland, Kentucky, he is a graduate of Boothe Business College and has studied personnel and labor relations through International Correspondence Schools. He also attended the AEP System Management Training Program at the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration.

H. J. began his career in 1935 as a stores clerk in Logan and transferred to Logan Plant the following year. Following service in the U. S. Navy during World War II, he was named Logan Plant office supervisor. He was promoted to Logan District personnel supervisor in 1951 and to division personnel supervisor in 1964.

Utility service is a tradition in the Collins family. H. J.'s father, the late Howard R. Collins, had 46 years' service when he retired as distribution superintendent of Kentucky Power Company. A substation in the Ashland area is named in his honor. And H. J.'s sister worked for General Telephone Company for over 40 years before retiring as chief operator.

Active in civic affairs, H. J. served two years as president and ten years as secretary of the Logan County United Fund. He is currently on the executive committee of that organization's board. A member of the Logan Lions Club since 1943, he has served in various capacities, including president. He also served as cabinet secretary-treasurer of District 29-0 of Lions International, composed of over 50 clubs. He has been president of the Logan County Crippled Children's Society, Logan County March of Dimes and the Community Council. He has been on the advisory board of the Salvation Army for many years. The Logan County Chamber of Commerce presented H. J. with a certificate of appreciation for his community endeavors. An elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Logan, he teaches the Men's Bible Class and sings in the choir.

H. J. enjoys reading, attending sports events, music and travel. He recently toured the Holy Land and visited several Mediterranean countries. Retirement plans include "remaining in the Logan area and just doing what I want to do, taking each day's opportunities".

He concludes, "Changes in the company have been many during my years of service. The flow of employees, the increasing complexity of the operation, have offered opportunities and challenges. Personnel work has never been dull. I like people, like to be able to help them. I have enjoyed the associations with many wonderful people throughout the company, and I'll miss these relationships. But there comes a time when we all need to relax, to slow down, and I feel this time has come for me."

"Perhaps the most rewarding thing about a job like this is to observe the development of employees. To know that people are coming along to take more responsibilities, to be leaders in our company, gives supervision and management a great deal of satisfaction."

H. J. and his wife Lillian have a son and a daughter. Their daughter Nancy is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and resides in Lexington, Ky. Their son John, also a UK graduate, will receive his degree from the West Virginia University School of Dentistry this year.

VICKIE TOTTEN IS TOP HORSEWOMAN



Vickie Totten, Beckley meter reader, brought home a first-place ribbon and silver platter in the "girls' barrel racing" category, riding her horse, "Light Foot Lizzie". She also captured second place, carrying with it a ribbon and covered silver bowl, riding another horse, "Zero Lucky Seven". To achieve these honors, Vickie competed in shows in West Virginia as well as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. At the designated end-of-year, points were added up, and it was revealed she had won not only first but also second place in the West Virginia Horseman's Association for 1978.

In five years of competition riding, Vickie has won what she terms "a carload of ribbons" and at least 100 trophies. This year, in competition at the West Virginia State Fair, she won the first-place blue ribbon in "girls' barrel racing", riding "Little Joe Roper". She also earned fourth- and fifth-place ribbons in the same category but riding different horses. Also at the state fair, she won a third-place ribbon in the "roadster pony race" (pulling a buggy) with her 52-inch-high pony, "Little Lots of Trouble".

In local competition in 1978, Vickie won the \$100 "Dash-For-Cash" race, riding "Zero Lucky Seven", at the Mullens Horse Show. She received a three-foot trophy in addition to the \$100 cash prize. She also took a first-place blue ribbon and silver tray in the "girls' barrel racing" competition at Mullens.

Vickie and her boyfriend Herbie take a lot of pride in caring for their combined eight horses. She admits having little extra time after feeding, grooming and training her horses, but anyone talking with her realizes she loves every minute of it. Sometimes, after a particularly difficult workday, Vickie will decide to put off some of the chores required for a little while. But she always makes the mistake of checking on her horses; and, as she puts it, "If you've ever had 16 large, hungry eyes staring at you, you know there's nothing to do but feed them."

Vickie is now raising two colts which she hopes to show next year. And, in January, she is looking forward to a new colt from her mare.

As with most show horsemen, Vickie and Herbie have a mascot who travels everywhere with them. Vickie describes the mascot as "full of rotten" but a real "attention getter". "He thinks he's a dog, even rides up front with us. But he's really a goat!" What's his name? "Goat", of course.



KEATLEY IMPRESSES TECH STAFF

"A super effort by a young man who loves the game of football." That's how Virginia Tech linebacker coach Lou Tepper describes senior linebacker Chip Keatley for his effort against archrival University of Virginia. Chip is the son of Beckley Area Service Restorer K. K. Keatley.

Leader of the Tech defense, Chip played approximately 61 plays during the Virginia game and was credited with making 13 unassisted tackles and 7 assists for a total of 20 tackles for the game, or a tackle every third play. "That's some performance," says coach Tepper. It was one of the top efforts by a Fighting Gobbler player this season.

Recruited as a wide receiver from Woodrow Wilson High School, Beckley, where he was an all-state performer in football, basketball and track, Chip was switched to defensive back and played all four defensive back positions before being switched to an inside linebacker this spring.

"It's a shame he was placed at the right position so late in his career," said Tepper. "If he had another year or two to play, he would develop into one of Tech's great players."

Chip was chosen captain of the defensive team by the coaching staff.

WILDCATS ARE LEAGUE CHAMPS



Dave Friley, president of the Beckley Civitan Midget League football (center) congratulates Walter Leach (left) and Sam Yost for winning the 1978 championships.

The East Beckley Wildcats, coached by Walter Leach, line mechanic A, and A. O. "Sam" Yost, area service restorer, won the 1978 Beckley Civitan Midget League football championship by capturing both the A and B team championship games.

Each entry in the league has two teams: an A team,

comprised of 11- and 12-year-old boys, and a B team, made up of 9- and 10-year-olds. Both the A and B teams finished the regular season undefeated, posting perfect 7 wins 0 loss records. Then they closed out the season by defeating Coal City and Sophia for the championship. This was the second championship in three years for the A team. The B team won three championships and finished runner-up twice in the last five years.

Although Sam plans to give up coaching, saying "eight years is long enough", Walter plans to continue for at least a couple more seasons. His son, Walter, was a member of the B team and will move up to the A team next season.

COOPER'S TREES BRING JOY TO OTHERS



Dale Cooper, Princeton T&D clerk A in the Bluefield Division, is particularly popular with his co-workers as the Christmas season approaches. For many years Dale has supplied the Princeton office with a Christmas tree from his nursery as well as free trees to all employees who want them.

For the Christmas season just passed, Dale provided a tree for the Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center in Princeton. He says that a mere "thank you" was all he expected for his gift. However, a few days after giving the tree, he received several letters from the children who were capable of writing as well as the director.

One student wrote, "Thank you. It is a very nice thing of you to give it to us. The tree makes our room smell very nice." Another letter read, "Thank you for the Christmas tree. We enjoyed it. We have made it beautiful. It was nice of you to give it to us." Dale states, "It's just a wonderful feeling to know that you helped bring happiness and enjoyment to children less fortunate during the Christmas season."

BLUEFIELD GIRLS' SERVICE CLUB CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY

The Bluefield Girls' Service Club, the only one of its kind in the American Electric Power System, celebrated its 50th anniversary in October with a program and luncheon in the Bluefield office auditorium.

According to Retiree Helen Sue Tyree, who was the club's original secretary-treasurer, the Service Club was organized in October 1928 at the request of Herbert Markle, then Bluefield general manager. He had been impressed with a similar club in another company and felt the girls in the Bluefield office should have such an organization. Helen Sue recalls, "He told us girls he wanted us to form a club and added, 'All right, if you can't do it, you're all fired'."

According to Helen Sue, the organizational meeting took place in the office she shared with H. E. Shedd, the company's first safety director. There were only two desks, two chairs and two filing cabinets in their office, and 15 girls stood while trying to organize the club. At that time the company office was located on Raleigh and Commerce in Bluefield.

Helen Sue proposed the motto, "Loyalty and Service to our company, to our club, and to each other", which still reflects the purpose of the organization. Membership in the Service Club was automatic upon employment. Since September 1978, however, membership is optional.

The Club was discontinued from April to November 1929, when it was reorganized with Mary Jenkins as president.

Over the span of 50 years, records recount beginnings of practices which are still active. A great deal of pride for the members, as well as for local management, is gained from the worthwhile contributions made through the club. From a most meager beginning, when funds were raised through various projects to be used for helping the needy, the practice has been continued in some manner.

A few years ago management approved that profits from the Coco-Cola vending machine might be used by the Service Club for this purpose. Monetary contributions increased and expanded to a larger number of community organizations. Contributions are made to the local United Fund Drive, Teaching Bible in the Schools, Salvation Army's Camp Joy for Children, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the Mercer County Opportunity Work Shop, the Benevolent Association and the March of Dimes Telerama. Approximately \$10,000 has been contributed to these and other worthwhile organizations over the past 50 years.

Also, for several years, two baskets have been prepared each Thanksgiving for needy families. In 1977, food and gifts were distributed to the patients at St. Mary's Nursing Home in Bluefield at Thanksgiving.

Committees of the Service Club actively promote good employee relations. Recreational projects for all employees have included bingo parties, pot luck suppers, square dances and Halloween masquerade parties.

The utility committee remembers employees with appropriate cards or gifts at times of illness and loss of loved ones. During the war years, special projects of "round-robin" letters to company servicemen and the mailing of cookies and gifts were a part of the club's goodwill work.

In keeping with the original intent of the organization, monthly programs are mainly educational. Representatives of management, department heads and other specialists within the company are invited to bring programs dealing with the specific function of the person or department. Two planned safety programs are scheduled each year. No meetings are held during vacation months of July and August. During this time, however, a cookout or picnic is usually planned.

Club members have toured many local community projects, including the new library, the Salvation Army Citadel, the Bluefield Multi-Care Center, Hill Street Housing Project and others.

Special events observed by the club were the anniversary programs in the 25th and 40th years and the Centennial Celebration of West Virginia on June 24, 1963, when each member appeared at work in her centennial dress. The National Bicentennial was also observed on October 19, 1976, with bicentennial dress and a luncheon.

Members have taken several weekend trips to the company's Byllesby, Claytor and Smith Mountain Dams and the Glen Lyn, Clinch River and John Amos Plants.

Club dues are used for gifts to honor brides, retiring or transferring members and gifts to program guests for the annual Christmas luncheon as well as for cards, postage and flowers for members.

When the club was first organized, the Pollyanna secret pal idea was used for several years. Now secret names are drawn in November, with members exchanging gifts at the Christmas luncheon. Santa is always present for this gift-giving time. And retired members are invited to all special events.

The club is governed by adopted bylaws and standing rules, and by an executive and advisory board composed of immediate past officers and those currently in office.

The "President's Pictorial" project was an idea of many years standing until 1971, when it was actively pursued by Lois K. Rounion. Through research in the club's scrapbooks and minute records, correspondence with resigned and retired past presidents, an assortment of pictures and negatives were gathered. A local photographer, through tedious process, developed each into a uniform size to be placed in the pictorial. At this time, the presidents numbered 35 for the 43-year span of the club's existence.

Jack Lloyd, then Bluefield division manager, officially unveiled the gold-draped pictorial at the October 1971 anniversary celebration, dedicating it to the posterity of the club and designating that it be hung, for permanent record, in the Bluefield office conference room. Pictures of succeeding presidents have been added to the pictorial each year.

Officers of the Girls' Service Club during the 50th year were Frances Marcum, president; Joan Leftwich, vice president; Patricia Owensby, secretary; and Joyce Lambert, treasurer.



Present for the 50th anniversary celebration were: seated, l. to r., Betty Lou Carter, Guinele Mitchell, Patricia Owensby, Jean Leftwich, Helen Sue Tyree, Frances Marcum, Lois Rounion and Mary Archer Murphy. Front row, Cheryl Armistead, Faye Hankins, Patricia Banks, Elsie Hale, Shirley Saunders, Mildred R. Bishop, Betty Boyd, Mildred G. Bishop, Eulalia Footo, Pauline Vinciguerra, Helen Sabo, Nell Nunnery, Jessie Hill. Second row, Thalia Myles, Linda Wiley, Judy Johnson, Shirley Honaker, Barbara Harris, Frances Keller, Edna White. Back row, Heber Stafford, Buck Fanning, Howard Meadows, McKinley Cornett, Oscar Adams, Bill Belchee, Kenneth Jackson, Mary Lou Mash, Sue Hankins and Lloyd Linkous.



General Office Accounting, Roanoke, is the first group in the AEP System to reach 5,000,000 safe work hours without a disabling injury. The record for the 180 employees began September 3, 1964, and was reached on December 13, 1978. For their accomplishment, employees were treated to coffee and doughnuts in the Roanoke office auditorium. Pictured here are, l. to r., Jim Berg, accounting manager; Wayne Shafer, statistical accountant; Wendell Reed, systems and procedures analyst; and Frank Bonds, statistical accountant.



Pat Hill, left, and Rick Sanders, both utility workers A, admire the certificate of merit awarded to employees of Philip Sporn Plant for having reached 500,000 safe work hours without a disabling injury on October 27, 1978.



Rescue workers comb through the wreckage of the Southern Crescent. Marvin Crank, Lynchburg area service restorer (wearing plaid shirt), is to the right of the ladder. His son, Hank (also wearing a plaid shirt), is on the left of the ladder. Bill Hensley, Lynchburg line mechanic B, was on the inside of the kitchen car. Photo courtesy Waynesboro News Virginian.

APCO EMPLOYEES RESCUE VICTIMS OF TRAIN WRECK

Two Lynchburg Division employees and a son of one of them were among those called to aid in rescue operations when eight passenger cars of the Southern Railroad's Southern Crescent toppled into a ravine near Shipman, Virginia, on December 13, killing six persons and injuring more than 40 others. They were Marvin Crank, area service restorer; his son Hank, a member of a local volunteer fire department; and Bill Hensley, line mechanic B.

Marvin recalls, "Someone called me about 6:30 AM, I don't know who it was, and said he heard

there was a train wreck near Shipman and that I should get down there as soon as possible. At the time, I did not realize it was a passenger train. The only connection I can make is that my father worked for the Southern Railroad for 46 years and when people think of the Southern Railroad in the area they think of our family. Maybe this is why I was called."

He continues, "We found a very gruesome situation when we arrived on the scene. One woman, who had been trapped under the wheels, was cut in half. One of the people we helped rescue was an injured flagman. After being pulled from the car, we administered CPR but later on he had a heart attack and died." Marvin and Hank were on the scene from 6:45 AM to midnight.

Kimball Glass, captain of the Lynchburg Life Saving and Rescue Squad, who coordinated the rescue efforts at the wreck site, credits APCo employees with helping save many of the lives. In particular, Bill Hensley, who spent 12 hours down in a hole in the wrecked kitchen car with a cook, Med Haynes, who was trapped between a stove and a refrigerator.

Bill, a member of the Monelison Rescue Squad for two years, received a call about 6:45 AM, asking him to report to the squad hall on Code 4. When he arrived at the hall, he was told there had been a train wreck but did not realize its magnitude until getting to the scene and seeing the twisted masses of metal.

Bill was ordered to start going through the cars, looking for injured and possibly the dead. As he went to the hole in the kitchen car, he heard Haynes' screams for help.

While trying to clear some of the debris from around the cook, Bill bent down to pick something up and discovered it was the back of a man's head, who was dead. "It was a tremendous shock to find something like that," Bill said. On the other side of the refrigerator, rescue workers found the body of a 14-year-old boy.

Haynes suffered broken legs, several lacerations and third degree burns from big pots of boiling water which overturned on him. Workers administered morphine and intravenous fluid and began the task of dismantling the rail car to move the stove.

During the rescue efforts, Haynes kept asking Bill not to leave. He responded, "I am not leaving until you come with me. Sometimes," Bill said, "I had a headache that was unbearable due to tension. Rescue efforts were slow because heavy equipment had to be used to tear away parts of the car. Cutting

torches couldn't be used because the car's skin was stainless steel. Also, we had to be careful in moving the debris for fear of shifting the weight of the car. The debris could have shifted and cut off the man's legs as well as trap my partner and me, working in a very confined space."

Sometimes Bill had to place himself over the body of the injured man to protect him from flying debris when they were trying to peel the stainless steel skin off the car with a cable and winch on a small bulldozer. "I would be the first to say I was scared to death, realizing that one mistake and the debris could shift and fall over you and the car could roll over the hill anytime because it was sitting on the side of an embankment."

Another cause of concern to Bill was the fact that another railroad car was on top of the kitchen car, and the car's wheels were dangling loose. A railroad official informed them the wheels could drop off anytime, but Bill was determined to stay with Haynes. He was finally removed about 5 PM that afternoon.

When rescued, the cook told Bill, "I sure am glad you got me out of there. I didn't think I was going to make it."

Bill has since visited Haynes at the University of Virginia Hospital, where he is in the intensive care unit. His left foot had to be amputated and he is being treated for burns. When Bill walked into the room, he asked, "Do you know who I am?" Without hesitation the man responded, "I sure do."

Both Bill and Marvin credit the CPR training they received at Appalachian as being a tremendous help in their lifesaving efforts. "We wish more people would take an interest in this program and get more involved because it can be and is a matter of life or death." As Bill points out, "You have a response time of maybe 5 minutes. Once a person is a victim of cardiac arrest, after six minutes they are normally considered clinically dead. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that CPR be administered as quickly as possible."

Glass concluded, "When I sent Hensley down into the hole with the trapped man, I did not realize what the situation was. The pressure on Bill was great, but he did an outstanding job and is a fine credit to his rescue squad, the community and the power company."

These employees did indeed act in accordance with the Virginia Life Saving Crews' creed: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

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