



## JOB POSES FEW PROBLEMS FOR DEAF EMPLOYEE

Roger Smith scribbled furiously on a memo pad. The message he handed across the room read: "Remember, deaf people, we're not stereotypes. But people still have the habit of thinking we are. If something is done wrong, people just determine they are all the same. They are just human beings with differences of their own, like you are."

About two years ago, Roger was hired as a meter reader in Huntington after passing all the company's standard pre-employment tests.

He said, "If there was no job here, I would have left West Virginia."

"Deaf people are looking for better jobs with better benefits," he stated. "Many deaf people, like others with handicaps, are forced into menial tasks because employers won't take the time to overcome unfounded reluctance or fear of hiring someone not quite 'normal'," he said. "It's really not fair. It's not easy for some deaf people. Some of us have gone to college. We've had training, and the only job you can get is as busboy."

Roger has attended two special schools, The West Virginia School for the Deaf at Romney and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, N. Y.

Both Roger and his supervisor agree he has no major problems with his job. "I've had four years of lip reading and carry a pad with me," he said. One problem with lip reading is when someone's lips are buried behind a mustache and a beard, but that still leaves the pad. "Hearing people sometimes just don't know how to communicate with deaf people," he said.

Roger covers six counties in his rounds. The biggest problem he has encountered is illiteracy.

"Sometimes I'm way out in the country to read a meter. I'm surprised how many of these people can't read. If I can't hear and they can't read, how do we communicate?", he said with a large smile flashing.

Another problem all meter readers face is dogs. With a hearing aid, Roger can hear the loud barking of an attacking canine. But he can't use it in the winter because the copper wire becomes too cold to hold.

Roger has been able to adapt to the handicap of deafness. But he has more difficulty with the handicap of intolerance caused by those who refuse to acknowledge his abilities. "There's a kind of an invisible brick wall around deaf people," he mused. "Sometimes you can't take it down, but you can try to remove it brick by brick."

## APCO WINS THREE AWARDS IN SAFETY CONTEST



Pictured at the presentation ceremony in New York are, l. to r., C. A. Simmons, T&D manager; E. H. Gloss, Philip Sporn plant manager; and T. W. Abolin, Clinch River plant manager.

Appalachian Power Company won three of four operating company categories in the 1978 American Electric Power annual safety competition. The General Office T&D Department was the winner of Group A1. Philip Sporn Plant was the winner of Group B1 and Clinch River Plant winner of Group B2.

Units participating in the contest must have actual exposure to potentially hazardous conditions of 500,000 work hours (smaller groups) and 1,000,000 work hours (larger groups). Awards go to the units which have the lowest incidence index rate for the designated number of work hours.

Two trophies are awarded to operating divisions and General Office T&D groups, with one presented to groups with 250 or more employees and one to those with less than 250 employees. Two trophies also go to power plants, again divided by size.

## PILOT MAINTENANCE MECHANIC TRAINING PROGRAM HELD AT AMOS PLANT

The first maintenance mechanic D training program in the AEP System is under way at the John E. Amos Plant. The program was initiated by D. H. Williams, Jr., senior vice president — operations, AEP, Canton, because trained maintenance employees are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Material for the program was developed by R. E. Vernon, AEP training coordinator, Canton, with the cooperation of the Amos Plant Maintenance Department.

Geared for the entry level maintenance employee, the program consists of three phases of training. Phase I, consisting of 90 calendar days, includes a two-week formal classroom/workshop session in which the trainee must complete the prescribed job demonstrations. Phase II, also 90 calendar days, includes a four- to five-week formal classroom/workshop session. The trainee must successfully complete the prescribed "hands on" equipment training and job demonstrations. In Phase III, during the remaining months of the training year, the trainee must successfully complete "on-the-job" training assignments and a series of prescribed advanced job demonstrations. Trainees will be qualified for promotion to maintenance mechanic C when Phase III is completed. Trainees who do not successfully com-

plete any phase of the training must vacate the maintenance mechanic D classification at that time.

The trainees receive instruction in plant safety, clearance permit system, fire protection, work order system, arithmetic, hand tools, measuring instruments and several other maintenance subject areas.

The program at Amos began January 15 and will conclude in January of 1980. Participants in the program are R. A. Richardson, L. J. Hodges, P. J. Carter, J. A. Miller, R. C. Brooks, W. M. Kelly and B. W. Hunter.

The trainees who participated in Phase I were complimentary about the program. "I was very impressed with the safety aspects covered in the program." "I think as far as a new maintenance man, it gave me an idea of what is to be expected of me, and how some of the jobs are to be performed." "I think it is a good program; it has taught me something about the plant and how it operates." "I have learned a great deal that I didn't know, and I am glad I've got the opportunity to take this course." "It gives everyone a general knowledge of the plant and what to expect as a maintenance mechanic."

J. A. Moore, plant manager, says, "This program gives opportunity to people who have the aptitude and interest in maintenance work to gain skills and job knowledge in a much shorter time than that in our previous efforts. Modern power plants are more complex than those in years gone by, and the need for better trained people necessitates a different approach to training and recruiting in all phases of the operation. We have great hopes for the mechanic D training program and expect it to be a pacesetter for other parts of the company."

A. H. Hill, maintenance superintendent, notes, "It's a very good program because it is beneficial to both employees and the company. It is something that has been needed for several years, and we are pleased that the Amos Plant was selected as the first to start the program."

T. H. Ellis, training coordinator, was responsible for setting up and scheduling the program. Others from Amos who participated as speakers or instructors are: D. L. Balding, public affairs coordinator; E. C. Bradley, personnel supervisor; C. L. Julian, production superintendent-maintenance; L. E. Hollins, assistant shift operating engineer; K. L. McDaniel, personnel assistant; R. G. Bayes, utility supervisor; J. R. Bowen, maintenance supervisor; and C. F. Handley, maintenance supervisor.

Tentative plans call for the initiation of a second program at Amos Plant about May 1.



John Miller, left, receives instructions from C. F. Handley, maintenance supervisor. Wilma Kelly, kneeling, drives nails in board. Larry Hodges, right, demonstrates use of the bench vise.

## THE ILLUMINATOR

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## NAGEL: PROPOSED DOE GRID SURE PATH TO POWER-SUPPLY CATASTROPHE

A century ago Thomas A. Edison invented the incandescent light bulb, signaling the birth of the electric power industry.

Since then — or perhaps it only seems that way — the government and the industry have been arguing the pros and cons of establishing a national power grid, a network of high-voltage transmission lines stretching from coast to coast and from border to border.

The U.S. Department of Energy is currently studying the feasibility of installing such a nationwide transmission network, and a draft report it recently put out has generated more discussion — and more controversy. The continuing debate, for example, was the topic at a recent special session of the Power Engineering Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in New York.

Representing American Electric Power, or perhaps more accurately representing the con point of view, was Theodore J. Nagel, senior executive vice president and assistant to the chairman of the AEP Service Corporation. He called for the evolutionary development of power supply and transmission systems throughout the United States. Others on the panel were: Charles Falcone, director of power supply and reliability for DOE's Economic Regulatory Administration (and a former member of AEP's System Planning Department); Frank Potter, staff director of the House subcommittee on energy, and Joseph Swidler, former chairman of both the former Federal Power Commission and the New York State Public Service Commission.

Nagel, in his argument, characterized the proposed plan as "a subterfuge for nationalization of the electric power industry" and said that its installation would "unrealistically assume that this nation's power supply can be planned, operated and managed as a single entity," a premise he termed "fallacious."

Amplifying, he said that "a rational evaluation of the (proposed) national grid's merits will show that it offers nothing new or novel to the solution of our needs for electric energy.

What is needed is a solution to the more immediate problems currently threatening the nation's power supply, he emphasized. Among the more pressing problems, he elaborated, are: the growing lack of suitable plant sites, lengthening construction lead times and regulatory delays, environmental constraints, potential fuel shortages and the increasing difficulty in obtaining capital for construction of plants and power-delivery facilities.

Underscoring his concern for proper priorities, Nagel said, "It is a total misconception to assume that a so-called national grid would bring solutions to the problems that are currently besetting the nation's electric power supply." Moreover, he stressed, "We already have in this nation heavily interconnected and coordinated regional power-supply networks . . . divided into nine regional councils for reliability purposes and into numerous pools and holding companies for economic purposes." Separating such networks into "regional grid corporations," as suggested by DOE, would have disastrous effects on the U.S. power-supply system, he emphasized.

What the DOE plan actually would involve, he said, would be a "restructuring and reorganization of existing power-supply entities." Additionally, he said, the government plan, a rehash of an old idea first presented over 40 years ago, would ignore the very substantial transmission systems already in existence. The plan "regards transmission simply in terms of energy transportation and neglects its important role in the integration of a total power-supply system," he said.

A major argument by Nagel against the need for east-west interconnection across the nation is the comparatively low load density outside the country's three major power supply networks (the eastern U.S., Texas and the western U.S.). Recognizing that England's high density justified its national grid system, Nagel pointed out that the areas between

the three U.S. networks are mostly deserts and mountains with little population and even less industry.

He said that the proposed DOE grid implied that power suppliers should be able to compete for power "by just tapping into a high-voltage transmission grid and then negotiating for power supply on a competitive basis with any near or remote generating system," a concept he termed "technologically ridiculous," and "the surest way to wreak havoc with the entire operation of the U.S. interconnected power system."

He added, "It ignores the basic tenets of power-system planning and operation and is a sure path to power-supply catastrophe."

To put the picture in perspective, Nagel called for "an evolutionary development in power-supply systems," in which "planning and utilization must recognize the interaction of all existing and new facilities in each and every area of the network." It would, he concluded, provide the "surest path to a reliable and economical power supply, with full recognition given to environmental needs."

## COOK PLANT SECURITY SYSTEM IS EXTENDED

While there has been a great deal of publicity in recent months about the potential hazards of nuclear power, there has been very little, if any, on the outstanding safety record of the nuclear power industry . . . and how that came about.

The safety regulations that the nuclear industry must follow — established and closely monitored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission — are without precedent in the history of American industry. Such regulations cover every aspect of a nuclear plant, from its inception, through engineering, design and construction, through operation and, eventually, through its decommissioning.

A good example of the type of precautions that are taken is the new, highly sophisticated security system now in place at Indiana & Michigan Electric Company's 2.15-million-kilowatt Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Michigan. This \$7 million system, recently placed in service, is an extension of the already-tough security system that had been operated at the Cook Plant from the beginning.

John E. Dolan, vice chairman — engineering and construction of the AEP Service Corporation, explained that the new system was added for external reasons and is not related to how the plant operates. "These precautions were not necessary to make the plant safe from an internal, functional standpoint, but they do represent that last extra mile in assuring that no unauthorized person or group interferes with the operation of the plant."

The new system, among many other features, includes a bullet-resistant chamber to house security personnel, metal detectors, explosives detectors and X-ray units for screening materials entering the plant.

## AEP EMPLOYEES SAVINGS PLAN

Date	Value Per Unit	Units Credited Per Dollar
<b>Fixed Income Fund</b>		
1/31/79	1.0846	.9219
2/28/79	1.0912	.9164
<b>Equity Fund</b>		
1/31/79	1.1920	.8389
2/28/79	1.1582	.8634
<b>AEP Stock Fund</b>		
1/31/79	1.0355	.9657
2/28/79	1.0153	.9849

## ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR W. VA.

The annual meeting of the shareowners of American Electric Power Company, for the second time in its history, will be held this year outside New York City.

The session is scheduled for April 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Little Theater of the Charleston (W.Va.) Civic Center. Admission is by ticket.

On the agenda, aside from the election of 13 directors and confirmation of the company's auditors, Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, for 1979, are two shareowners' proposals. One would require that not more than one-third of the Board of Directors be present or past officers of the company or its subsidiaries; the other would have the company report to the shareowners on the amount of its contributions to charities.

In the notice of annual meeting sent to the shareowners last month, AEP Chairman W. S. White, Jr. said that Charleston had been selected because of the success of the first meeting outside New York (held in Canton, Ohio in 1977), which had "convinced us that it would be desirable to hold our annual meetings from time to time in some of the major cities served by . . . the AEP System."

## APCO TO SELL BONDS, PREFERRED

Appalachian Power Company announced last month that it plans to sell up to \$70 million of first-mortgage bonds and up to 1.6-million shares of cumulative preferred stock (\$25 face value) at competitive bidding on May 15. Proceeds will be used primarily to repay short-term debt incurred from construction expenses.

## PENSION INCREASE GOOD NEWS FOR SYSTEM RETIREES

"I think it's the greatest thing since sliced bread!"

That's the way former Ohio Power Company employee George Kehrer of Bucyrus, Ohio, reacted when he heard that he, along with approximately 3,300 other retirees and surviving spouses participating in the AEP System Retirement Plan, would be receiving an increase in their monthly pensions beginning last January 1.

The increase, put into effect in light of the high inflation rates of recent years, affects employees who retired on or before January 1, 1978, and surviving spouses of employees and retirees who died during January 1978 or earlier.

Kehrer's reaction was typical in tone of the appreciative responses from retirees across the AEP System. Many former System employees wrote, phoned or visited the companies they used to work for to express their gratitude for the good news.

Due to timing of the announcement, many retirees regarded the pension increase as an unexpected Christmas present:

"Your letter was truly a bearer of good tidings and great joy at this happy, yet expensive holiday season."

D. C. Duncan, Venice, Fla.  
Appalachian Power retiree

"I want to tell you how much my wife and I appreciate the raise in my pension fund. We believe it was one of the nicest Christmas presents we ever got."

Harold E. Westphal, Kendallville, Ind.  
Indiana & Michigan Electric retiree

Nearly all of the retirees who wrote in expressed appreciation that AEP had recognized the needs of pensioners living on fixed incomes in these inflationary times. Some had specific plans for the extra money. A former Ohio Power employee said that the increase would be enough to cover the cost of his mobile home rental space. A Kingsport Power retiree remarked that AEP's announcement was like receiving a letter stating his electric service would be free for the remainder of his life.

Others wrote:

"The increase really will be a great help to me financially, and I know that other retirees feel the same way."

B. L. Burnley, Lynchburg, Va.  
Appalachian Power retiree

"It is a good feeling to know that the company recognizes our needs in this time of inflation and cares enough to take action. This will definitely help."

Nancy M. Kos, New York  
AEP Service Corporation retiree

"We are certainly thankful for the company's generous increase in retirement benefits. It will enable us to have some extras that we desire from time to time."

"Clancy" Bryan, Kingsport, Tenn.  
Kingsport Power retiree

Several spouses of deceased AEP employees and retirees expressed their own special thanks:

"Had a letter when I got home that I have an increase in my pension. I am thankful for that. Appalachian Power has really been good to me, through Raymond."

Thelma Ray,  
Widow of Appalachian Power retiree

"My husband has been gone for nearly 13 years and the part of his pension he left for me is certainly wonderful. I'm grateful for the fact that he worked for a company that allowed an employee to take care of a wife."

Florence L. Watson,  
Widow of Ohio Power retiree

Many retirees were touched by what they regarded as the company's genuine concern of their welfare:

"Singing praises of AEP as a company that cares for its employees is nothing new for me. Now the news that retirees' pensions are being increased adds to the company's glory . . . and makes this retiree feel

she is neither forgotten nor neglected."

Wanda Hines, Laguna Hills, Calif.  
AEP Service Corporation retiree

"It is gratifying to feel that Appalachian, for whom the majority of retired employees gave their best working years, has not 'turned us out to pasture' and forgotten us financially."

Annise Craig, Roanoke, Va.  
Appalachian Power retiree

Gene B. Hale, vice president—personnel of the AEP Service Corporation, in commenting on the recent pension increase, said that the AEP System intends to remember its retired employees in the years to come, too. "The company plans to periodically review the need for future pension increases in light of its own financial standing and prevailing economic conditions," he concluded.

## CHINA SYNDROME SUSPENSEFUL BUT PURE FICTION

**The China Syndrome**, "a moderately compelling thriller about the potential perils of nuclear energy" (*Variety*), opened last month at movie theaters across the country. It stars Jane Fonda, Jack Lemmon and Michael Douglas.

From the film entertainment standpoint, the movie is a good one. From an accuracy standpoint, it's something else.

Like most entertainments, Syndrome requires the audience to believe what is being said and done on the screen — which, for those not familiar with how a nuclear power plant works, is not difficult. In other words, it sets up a series of premises that must be "bought" by the viewer, each in its turn, before it can build up the thrills to their climax. Here are some of them:

**PREMISE** — A shift supervisor at the nuclear plant cannot get his superiors to acknowledge his concerns about a possible safety problem he believes could result in a catastrophic accident. The superiors close their eyes to his warning because they believe that following his advice would cost too much.

**REALITY** — No utility can afford to risk a nuclear accident. But, aside from that basic fact, any employee of a nuclear plant, if unable to get his superiors to acknowledge a safety concern, may simply call (collect) the nearest regional office of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC and its inspectors have the authority to order the immediate shutdown of any nuclear plant if they find this advisable or necessary. In fact, a copy of such notice — i.e., encouraging plant employees to contact the NRC in such unlikely event — is required by law to be posted in every nuclear plant to make the procedure clear to the employees. It even gives the telephone number. And, if the employee does not wish to identify himself, he can make an anonymous call and the NRC will still investigate.

At Indiana & Michigan Electric Company's Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in Michigan, the job of contacting the NRC is very simple. The NRC has a resident inspector on the site.

**PREMISE** — The safety system leading to the movie "accident" is described as being out of service, under repair — in fact, this is a key part of the scenario.

**REALITY** — In real life, each safety system is comprised of two redundant trains, and the plant is not allowed to operate with both of them out of service at the same time. In addition, there is a great deal of diversity of systems, such that the plant's safety would not depend on any one system.

**PREMISE** — The movie begins with what is supposed to be a "near miss" potentially catastrophic accident, seen from the perspective of the control room of a nuclear plant. The operators are scurrying around, trying to figure out what's happening and how to deal with it.

**REALITY** — In actual circumstances, the NRC requires that nuclear design does not take credit for control room operators' actions for the first 10 minutes of an accident.

At the Cook Plant, its reactor design includes automatic initiation of engineered safeguards systems, with no need for the operators to "agonize"

over whether to open certain valves, as in the film. This orderly and safe performance would, of course, not be interesting enough to serve as a scene in a thriller.

At Cook, a unique ice-condenser containment is designed to contain any steam or chemical energy accidentally released within the reactor-containment building. A bed of millions of ice cubes completely encircles the upper area of the containment structure. Should the reactor water be released through a break in its enclosed system (flashing instantly into steam as it does so) — a highly unlikely eventuality — the resulting pressure build-up in the bottom compartment would force open hinged panels leading to the ice. Air and steam would flow into the ice bed, where the steam would condense as it came into contact with the ice, and only air would emerge into the top portion. The result: only a small increase in containment pressure provided by a completely passive system requiring no operator action.

**PREMISE** — The film's script asserts that, if all attempts to cool the nuclear fuel were to fail, the fuel would melt and cause steam explosions every time it came into contact with water.

**REALITY** — The film fails to take into account that nuclear plants are designed for the worst conceivable pipe rupture. The reactor-containment building includes a variety of systems designed to condense any radioactive steam vapor from the fuel and reduce the pressure build-up inside the building. And the building's massive walls are designed to withstand the worst conceivable pipe rupture.

Even if the fuel could melt its way through the bottom of the reactor, then through the bottom of the massive concrete and steel-reinforced containment building, and finally through the plant's foundation — it would then be about 50 feet underground. It might then travel an additional short distance underground (but certainly not "all the way to China," which is how the film got its name). By then, considerable time would have elapsed, and the molten mass, cooling all the time, would finally solidify into a glassy, slag-like material and would stop moving.

**PREMISE** — The film portrays a crude stereotype of a utility executive whose greed condones operating an unreliable plant and even condones murder to keep it on the line.

**REALITY** — If a plant is unsafe, it is unreliable. If it is unreliable, it cannot be counted on to produce the most electricity it can, most of the time. It is in the best interest of a utility to keep a plant in top condition and not let an accident happen.

Management of utility companies is always concerned with all aspects of safety, especially those relating to nuclear power. Utilities, in fact, have taken the initiative to contact their employees regarding safety conditions, inviting them to contact them directly in the event any concern they may have about any aspect of plant safety is not resolved through normal channels.



John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian Power (right), presents a certificate of excellence to Assistant Roanoke Division Manager Glenn H. Reynolds for the division successfully passing a safety audit. The first requirement for certification is the establishment of an overall rating average of 3.5; Roanoke received 3.895. The second requirement is that the division's incidence index be lower than the AEP index for a designated period. Roanoke's index for January 1-December 31, 1978 was .3311; AEP's was .7663.

## LOAD FORECASTING: THE HOW AND WHYS

The National Electric Reliability Council told the nation in September that it might expect to have electricity shortages in the 1980s.

While the announcement came as no real surprise to anyone in the electric utility industry, it brought up an interesting question. How does the NERC know this? Or more importantly, how does the AEP System know that it will have a shortage of generating capacity in the 1980s if it does not continue to build the plants that it has planned?

The answer to both questions is: AEP doesn't **know** anymore than the weatherman **knows** it will rain tomorrow or that the upcoming winter will be a severe one.

However, while neither the weatherman nor AEP's System Planning people can be absolutely positive about the future, both have refined their prognosticating skills into such a science that they can make forecasts with a high degree of certainty.

"There is no absolute way to forecast the future," said Gregory Vassell, senior vice president — system planning for AEP. "We have to recognize the uncertainties of the future and plan a flexible system."

If that sounds a little like avoiding the issue, consider a few of the factors which might influence future electrical energy growth:

- Fluctuations in population growth,
- Changes in the economy creating an unsteady demand for energy,
- Local taxes which influence industrial expansion,
- The weather/climate,
- The price of electricity, which affects the amount customers use,
- The price and availability of substitutable energy sources, i.e., forms of energy such as gas and oil, which can be substituted for by electricity in certain areas,
- Load management, such as off-peak pricing, which should decrease the demand for peaking power,
- Social and political events, such as the Arab oil embargo, which can cause vast changes in supply and demand of energy,
- Conservation efforts, and
- Inflation.

However, despite all the variables affecting electricity usage, as H. M. (Sam) Hall, assistant vice president — generation planning, points out, "AEP's forecasts are usually at least 90 percent accurate."

How do they do it?

We look at past experience, Vassell explained, and try to anticipate or judge the relationships between events and electricity use.

This is done by mathematical models designed over the years to equate the relationship between any independent variable and electricity usage. For instance: a mathematical model could be designed to show the relationship in the past between the temperature and electricity demand. Given the mathematical model and the temperature for tomorrow, it is possible to forecast, to a high degree of accuracy, how much the temperature will affect the load.

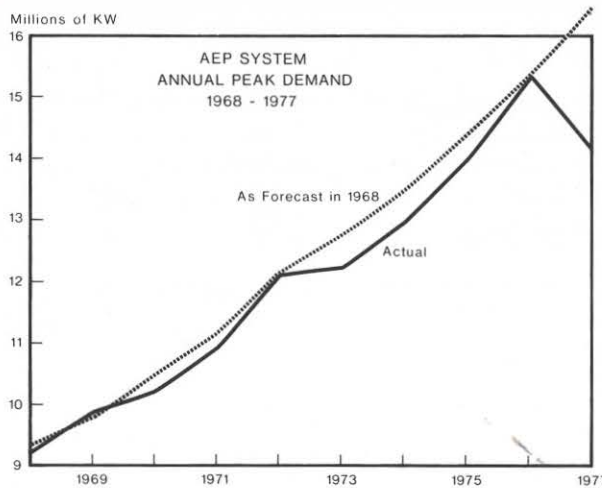
The same technique is used for forecasting an increase in the use of electricity compared with the rise in the sales of electric toasters or any other possible independent variable.

It must be remembered, however, that no one factor can exclusively influence energy needs. The forecast is made only after a multitude of relationships is evaluated and combined to give a composite picture.

Before a "final" forecast is made, two independent forecasts — a "micro" and a "macro" — are computed and compared with one another.

The "micro" forecast is composed of a detailed analysis of various factors affecting the load growth in each specific, localized area of each operating company, Vassell said. A "macro" forecast is based on analysis of peak demand and energy use on an aggregate System basis.

A comparison of these two independent forecasts provides a valuable check of their validity and helps



This chart demonstrates the accuracy of System Planning's forecasting. The dotted line represents its forecast, made in July 1968, of the System's peak demand for each year during the decade 1968-77; the solid line is what really happened. Note the accuracy of the forecast, with the two lines virtually parallel for the first nine of the 10 years and touching in two of them: 1972 and 1976. The major departure in 1977 was not due to lack of demand: we could have sold more but were temporarily short of capacity, for several reasons, during that period.

to determine areas of possible weakness before arriving at the "final" forecast, which incorporates an element of judgment.

Results are tempered by judgment to reflect important developments such as environmental requirements and growing shortages of oil and natural gas, Vassell continued.

In both "micro" and "macro" forecasts, elements to be taken into consideration are subdivided into minute classifications for observation. Various aspects of residential, commercial and industrial usage are broken down into detailed statistical data before any conclusions can be reached.

To verify the accuracy of the final forecast, it is later compared with the actual demand. Load forecasts for the 10-year period 1967-1977, for example, are compared with real-life sales figures, and the mathematical models continuously refined for future forecasts as more information is fed into the process.

"What is important in forecasting to sharpen and improve our results is feedback," Vassell said, pointing out that forecasting is an area where putting off decisions to the last possible moment provides added information that increases the accuracy of the results.

Yet, after all that meticulous attention to detail, and after using computers and mathematical models and working at the problem from two separate approaches, why are the results less than 100 percent accurate?

"The key thing in forecasting," said William Mekolites, head of the Regional Power Supply Planning Division, "is the concept of uncertainty. Nothing **guarantees** the future will be anything like the past."

Another big problem is the reliability of the independent variables.

If, for instance, it is found that there is a valid inter-relationship between weather and electricity usage, forecast results are still limited by the accuracy of the weather predictions.

As an example: one indicator of energy demand is the Gross National Product. Although we can accurately compute the inter-relationship between the GNP and needed generation, our calculations may be off if the economists' prediction of the GNP is erroneous.

There is one group of critics that likes to hold up these inaccuracies in forecasting as proof that figures are being manipulated for a utility's own gain. The theory they advocate is that the more a utility predicts, the more it builds, the more it can enter into the rate base, and the higher the rate base, the more the utility's rates can be raised.

However, from strictly a business position, it would be to the company's advantage **not** to expand at this time, Vassell pointed out.

"There is absolutely no corporate incentive to risk our money," he said. "We could manage our load so we could cut customers off when the demand became too great for us to supply the needed electricity."

This would mean more income from installed facilities and would eliminate the risk that is taken every time the company puts millions into new construction.

Obtaining capital is difficult, he went on to explain. Ten years ago every company in the AEP System had "AA" and "A" bond ratings. Today, because of the ravages of inflation and high financing costs, the three largest of the companies have "BAA" bond ratings. This results in both higher interest rates and greater financing limitations.

If the company were able to stop borrowing money for expansion, it could improve its financial position.

With the understanding that load forecasting is not an exact science with 100 percent accurate findings, what are the effects of miscalculations?

In the case of underforecasting load, resulting in underbuilding of generating capacity, the effects would first be a deterioration of electric service and, ultimately, not enough power to supply the overall demand, with rotating blackouts to customers as the only alternative.

If this should happen, the only solution to the problem would be to add additional generating capacity. However, given the long lead time required for building new facilities, customers could be without sufficient electricity to fill their needs for several years.

On the other hand, should a forecast be in error and predictions in excess of reality result in over-building, the effects could be minimized by slowing down construction, Vassell explained.

"Generation and delivery facilities — even when temporarily not used to serve firm customers — can be used for sales to other deficient systems. Then, after a short period of time, these facilities would be needed to meet our further firm load growth.

"Also, in the time of rising and inflationary costs, the customers will be better served in such an event, on an economic basis, than if capacity had been delayed and were to come into service in small increments and at a higher unit cost," Vassell added.

"It is essential to forecast to the best of one's ability, taking into full account the real-world situation. However, recognizing the uncertainties of the future, some error in the forecast may be inevitable."

## NEW AEP MOVIE EXPLAINS NEED FOR EHV LINES

A new motion picture featuring 765,000-volt transmission has been produced by the AEP System for showing to employee, public and school groups in areas served by the AEP operating companies.

Titled "Assignment 765", a copy will be available in each division office next month.

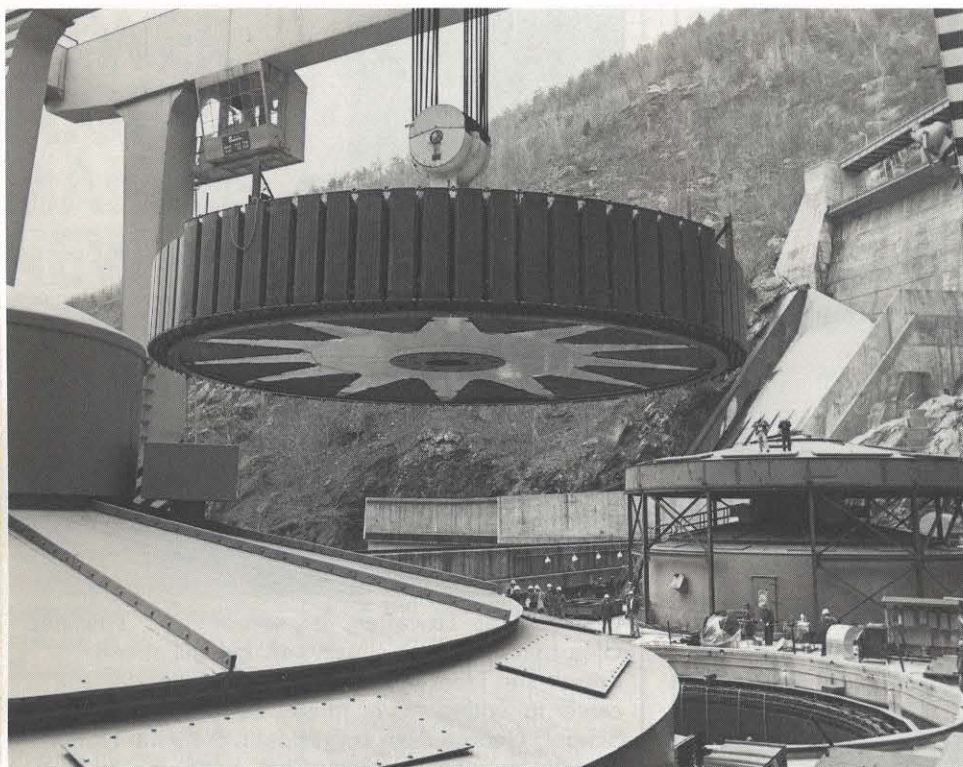
Because the AEP System plans to construct several hundred additional miles of 765,000-volt lines in the next few years, the film is being made to provide information and build understanding of the need for such extra-high-voltage lines.

"Assignment 765" describes the technical and operational features of the lines and details some of the research that preceded their planning and construction. Dr. Edwin Carstensen of the University of Rochester, who has done extensive studies on the bioeffects of electric and ultrasonic fields, appears in the film.

The story line for the film develops around a newspaper reporter who is researching 765,000-volt transmission in connection with the announcement that a new line will pass through his community.

The script was developed by Frank Siedel of Cleveland, who has written and produced several previous movies for AEP, including "What Time is the Power on Today" and "Re-Creation Land." Lowell Wentworth of the Film Group, a Boston firm, directed the film which features four professional actors from New York and Cleveland.

Much of the footage for "Assignment 765" was shot in late October in Findlay, Ohio. *The Courier*, Findlay's daily newspaper, was the setting for some of the scenes. Other scenes were shot at Findlay College and in Ohio Power Company's Findlay office.



The rotor for the third reversible unit at Smith Mountain Dam was set last month. The rotor is 40' 9" in diameter, 63" high and will weigh 410 tons when completely assembled. Construction on the 100,000 kilowatt unit began in 1977 and testing is expected to begin in May. When this unit is completed, the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project will have a capacity of 600,000 kilowatts.



J. A. Moore (left), manager of the John Amos Plant, conducted Japanese coal and electric company officials on a tour of the plant last month. From left are Hiroshi Ohta, president of Kimpo Electric in Tokyo; Shoichi Shimura, vice president and manager of Hokkaido Electric Power Company's materials and fuels department; Toshiyasu Shimoda of Hokkaido Electric's nuclear power department; Hirotsuke Hanada of Hokkaido Electric's fuel planning section; Shoji Ueki, president of Tokyo Electric Maintenance Company; Nobuo Ohi, manager of Tokyo Electric Maintenance's nuclear power department; Makoto Okamura, general manager of Tokyo Electric Power Company, Washington, D.C.; Toshio Abe, assistant general manager of coal for Mitsui and Company, USA; and H. Makimura of Mitsui's coal department. Three representatives from the Governor's office also participated in the tour. Photo courtesy Charleston Daily Mail.



Abingdon Division employees were treated to a "safety" breakfast recently in recognition of their having completed 500,000 consecutive safe work hours on January 29. Pictured above are some employees of the Clintwood area.

## COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING UNDER WAY IN PULASKI



A training course in communications composition, first on the Appalachian System, was completed by several supervisory and secretarial personnel in the Pulaski Division last month, and a second group is now involved in the study.

The need for this type training was discussed several months ago at a division staff meeting; and, after approval by the executive vice president and personnel director, Division Manager Claud Kirkland contacted Ron Chaffin, head of continuing education at New River Community College. They discussed some of the division's communications problems and how they could be solved.

Dr. Nancy K. Bird, associate professor of English, developed a course for employees, entitled "Effective Business Communications". The course carries two quarter hours college credit with a pass/fail grading system. It consists of nine two and one-half hour sessions, and is taught in the Pulaski office auditorium by Dr. Bird and Dr. Margaret Smith.

The course is being evaluated by the training section of General Office Personnel for possible expansion to other divisions. All Virginia operating divisions have access to community colleges which are in a position to offer the course.

Upon completion of the course, employees are able to plan and compose various types of internal reports and memorandums, letters to individuals and organizations outside the company, and work more effectively with secretaries to produce better written communications. Topics covered include: organizing a written communication; using standard forms for letters, memos and reports; setting the proper tone of a communication; asking for the desired response; writing a narrative to support a statement or request; using effective sentence structures; choosing the best words and phrases; writing clear statements; persuading people; communicating bad news; and working effectively with a secretary.

Glenna Cox, personnel clerk C, says, "I think the class is beneficial. However, I have only been out of school four years, and the course we are taking has changed very little since then. It's more like a review for me. It will probably be a lot more helpful to those who have been out of school longer."

Harry Jennings, records supervisor, notes, "The course has called to my attention some problems that are encountered with ineffective written communications. If the letter or memo does not contain clear specific language, then there could be a breakdown in communications. This course has caused me to pay more attention to my letters. It has helped me to be more self-confident to some degree."

## SCHOLARS PICKED

Employees from Appalachian and Kingsport Power Companies will be among those attending the American Electric Power System Management Training Program at the University of Michigan from April 17 to May 11.

From Appalachian are: J. C. Hughes, Abingdon personnel supervisor; J. B. Aird, III, Roanoke station superintendent; R. W. Adkins, Amos Plant production superintendent-operations; Leo Cook, Huntington line superintendent; and E. D. Vaught, station supervising engineer, GO T&D, Roanoke.

Also, D. L. Kendrick, Jr., Beckley customer services manager; R. A. Reed, meter supervising engineer, GO T&D, Roanoke; and R. M. Rottgen, Philip Sporn Plant production superintendent-maintenance.

C. S. Lingar, personnel assistant, will be attending from Kingsport Power.

## TILLINGHAST RESIGNS

The resignation of John Tillinghast as a director of American Electric Power Company and as vice chairman — research and a director of the AEP Service Corporation was announced last month.

He also resigned as a vice president and director of each of AEP's seven operating electric utility company subsidiaries and as a director of five of its coal-mining subsidiaries. The resignation as a director of AEP was effective March 23; the others, March 29.

Tillinghast said that his plans will be announced in the near future.

John E. Dolan, vice chairman — engineering and construction of the Service Corporation and a vice president of each of the seven operating companies, was elected to succeed Tillinghast as a director of three of the latter: Indiana & Michigan Electric, Kingsport Power and Michigan Power Companies. Membership of the boards of the other four operating companies was reduced, eliminating the vacancy.

## MEET OUR 1979 AEP EDUCATIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Thirty-four sons and daughters of System employees have been selected to receive American Electric Power Educational Awards. Each winner will receive \$2000 for his first year in college and \$1500 for his second year.

The Educational Awards program was begun in 1955, with a single cash prize of \$500. The awards, based on grades, test scores and other information, are administered by the AEP System Educational Trust Fund. They are generated from dividend on AEP common stock and other investments and can be used only for educational purposes.

The winners from Kingsport Power and Appalachian Power Companies are:



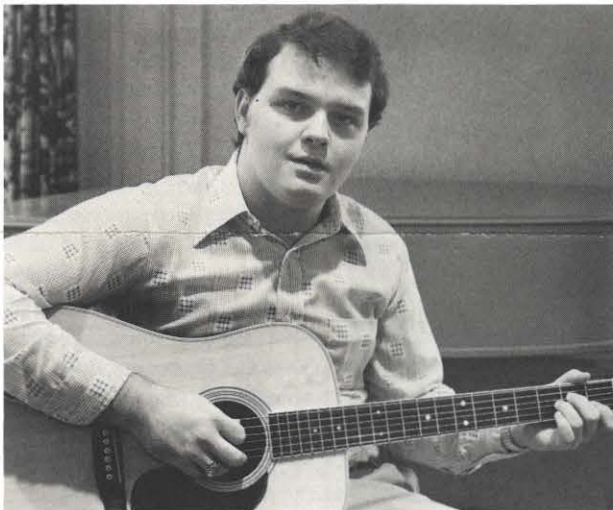
**Lawrence C. Jennings, Jr.**, son of L. C. Jennings, Charleston line mechanic A. He will major in civil engineering at the West Virginia Institute of Technology. At Sissonville High School, Larry is Student Council president; past president of the French Club; Math Club treasurer and member of the National Honor Society. He has also participated in football, wrestling and track. He attended Boys' State last summer and has attended the Youth Camp sponsored by the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department. Larry is a former treasurer of his Sunday School class at Humphrey's Methodist Church.



**Jeffrey Taylor**, son of Floyd H. Taylor, Jr., Logan-Williamson division manager. Jeff is a member of the National Honor Society and the marching, concert and jazz bands at Logan High School. He was named to the all-county band for three years and all-area band one year. He has been listed in "Who Who's In Music", "Who's Who Among American High School Students" and "The Society of Distinguished American High School Students". Jeff is youth parish representative and a member of the bell choir at Nighbert Memorial Methodist Church. He will major in business management at West Virginia University before going to law school. His sister, Joyce, was an AEP Educational Award winner in 1974.



**Laura Jean LaGrow**, daughter of Clifford M. LaGrow, regulatory and statistics supervisor, General Office Accounting, Roanoke. At Cave Spring High School, Laura is a member of the marching band and solo ensemble, French Club, National Honor Society and has been a Student Council member and on the girls' track team. She participated in PLUS (Peer Learning Using Students) for two years and was among the top 20 junior girls. Also during her junior year she participated in the AIFS trip to France, Switzerland, Italy and Monaco. Laura was a member of both the all-county and all-regional bands for five years and has been a candy striper. She attends Colonial Avenue Baptist Church. She has been accepted at Mary Baldwin College, where she plans a double major in education and law. She would like to have a career in juvenile law.



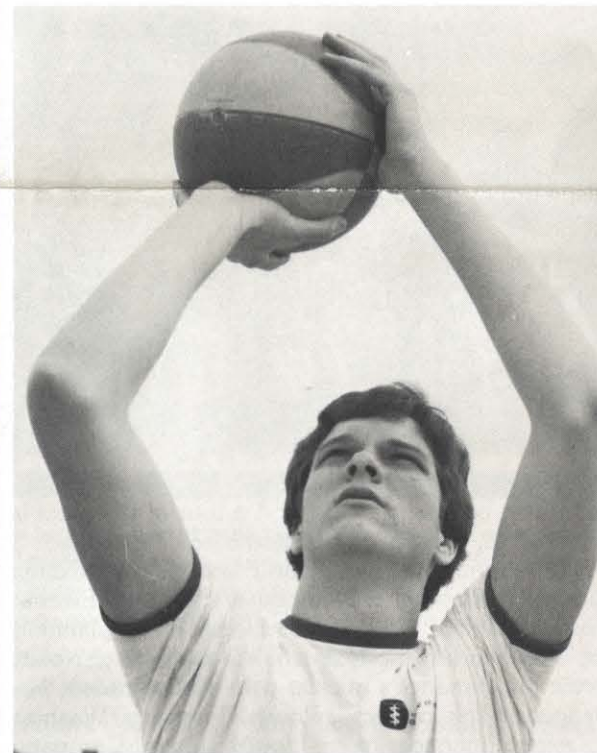
**Nathan Hartgrove**, son of Don L. Hartgrove, Kingsport meter electrician A. At Dobyns-Bennett High School, Nathan is vice president of the Jets (engineering) Club. He is an assistant Sunday School teacher in the youth department at Midfield Freewill Baptist Church, where he is also a soloist, plays guitar with the church musical group and is a past president of the youth group. He has worked part-time with a local furniture store. Nathan has been accepted by Tennessee Technological University, where he will major in electronics engineering. He plans a career in industrial electronics.



**Ellen Ferguson**, daughter of W. H. Ferguson, Jr., Abingdon commercial engineer. She is president, advanced band; vice president, Civinette Club; member, Principal's Advisory Council and National Honor Society; and SCA representative at Abingdon High School. She is a member of the youth fellowship at Abingdon United Methodist Church. Ellen enjoys swimming, water skiing, jogging and playing the piano. She will major in bio-chemistry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University in preparation for a career in pharmacy.



**George Alan Thwaites, Jr.**, son of G. A. Thwaites, Glen Lyn Plant unit supervisor. He will attend Emory and Henry College, in preparation for a career in writing, art or music. At Narrows High School, George Alan is president, National Honor Society; member, Ecology Club, band, varsity football, and track teams, and staffer, Green & Gold Times. He was named to the 1st team, offense and defense, All New River District and All Virginia Highlands. He was also named to the 2nd team, offense and defense, All Region IV and received honorable mention, All Area (Bluefield). George Alan participates in the Giles Little Theater and the Giles County Schools Extended Education Group and is marshall of The Order of DeMolay. He is a choir member and past vice president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at First United Methodist Church.



**Phillip Buchanan**, son of W. B. Buchanan, Jr., Pearisburg area service restorer in the Pulaski Division. A senior at Giles High School, Phil is French Club president, SCA and Hi-Y parliamentarian, a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Symphonic Chorale. He was a member of the school band for three years and played the trombone. This school year he played varsity football and basketball and is a member of the track team. Phil attended Boys' State last summer and served two terms as president of the Giles County 4-H Council. He serves on the Youth Advisory Council of the Green Valley United Methodist Church and has held all offices in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship. He is a member of the Methodist Men — Eggleston Charge. Phil will study either computer science or business pre-law at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

**Lyle Lawrence**, son of Lyle E. Lawrence, Charleston line mechanic A. At Sissonville High School, he has been a member of the band, math, chemistry and English bowl teams, and the Math Club. Lyle was among the top 10 senior high winners in the annual Kanawha County Mathematics Field Day competition last month. He has held part-time jobs at a local restaurant and hardware store, and enjoys gardening, fishing and carpentry. Lyle will major in engineering but has not decided which college he will attend.

# POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

## Abingdon

**Randy Morefield**, in state competition for high school bands, won second chair for snare drum and will participate in a state concert at Virginia Beach this month. The son of J. C. Morefield, Randy is a junior at Patrick Henry High, Glade Spring.

**J. G. Craig**, Customer Services, was elected to the Burley Tobacco Festival and Farm Show board of directors.

**D. C. Landreth**, Engineering, was named chairman of the Pellissippi District, Sequoyah Council, Boy Scouts of America.

**Vickie Carr**, daughter of Valentine Carr, Records, had the lead role in the Virginia Highlands Community College production of "Antigone".

**J. P. Montague**, division superintendent, was named public relations chairman for the Pellissippi District, Sequoyah Council, Boy Scouts of America. **D. D. Taylor**, customer services manager, was selected to serve on the Scouting committee for the district.

**R. N. Trent**, Engineering, was elected president of the Abingdon High School PTA.

## Beckley

**Julie Palen**, daughter of Residential Advisor Sandra Palen, received a trophy for being selected "outstanding cheerleader" at the citywide basketball tournament for elementary schools, sponsored by the Beckley-Raleigh County YMCA. A fifth grader, Julie was chosen from cheerleaders of Institute Elementary School.

## Bluefield



**Denise McKinney** was one of five Welch Junior High seventh graders who qualified for the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test, the initial phase of the Study of Mathematical Precocious Youth "talent search" conducted by Johns Hopkins University. To be eligible, students were required to score at least the 97 percentile of the national norms for their age-grade group on the total mathematics part on an achievement battery test. The daughter of Paul McKinney, Welch general servicer, Denise will participate in the McDowell County Elementary-Junior High all-county band festival for the third consecutive year.



**Reginald Belcher**, a third grader at Glenwood Elementary School, was selected by the Mercer County Board of Education to participate in the county's program for gifted students for grades 2 through 6. Qualifications are based on test scores as well as school grades. Reginald is the son of Walter Belcher, automotive mechanic A.

**Basil Vassar**, Tazewell residential representative senior, was presented a certificate of appreciation for his more than 20 years' work with the Appalachian Council, Boy Scouts of America.

**Oscar Adams**, customer services manager, attended the West Virginia District Mid-Year Conference of Kiwanis International. He is lt. governor of the Eighth Division.

**Diane Fanning**, wife of Building Supervisor Buck Fanning, was installed as conductress of the Bluefield Chapter 102, Order of the Eastern Star.

## Charleston

Third grader **Melissa Taylor** has been named cheerleader of the fifth grade all-star basketball team, selected from six schools in the Sissonville area. The daughter of Customer Accounting Supervisor Pat Taylor, she is also a majorette for a Little League football team.

**Robert Sanney**, electrical engineer senior, assisted with the mentally retarded special olympics team at Canaan Valley recently.

Division Manager **C. O. Carlini** was appointed vice chairman of the 1979 campaign of the United Way of Kanawha Valley, Inc. Secretary **Anna Cyphers** was elected corresponding secretary of the Junior Department, Woman's Club of Charleston, for 1979-80.

## General Office

**W. M. Haulsee**, regional chief operator, GO Operations, Danville, was elected chairman of the American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission for 1979-80.

**Ricky Brooks**, custodian, GO General Services, Roanoke, placed third in the senior 4-man relay and third in the mixed relay in roller skating competition at the Hampton Invitational Speed Meet.



**John Larew**, executive assistant, was elected president of the Personnel Association of Roanoke.

**Larry Dougan**, personnel supervisor, GO Personnel, Roanoke, was elected secretary of the Personnel Association of Roanoke.

**Russell Stiff**, civil engineer senior, GO T&D Civil Engineering Section, Roanoke, was elected president of the Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

**Cynthia Dawn Scott**, daughter of Evelyn Scott, junior stenographer, GO Personnel, Roanoke, was chosen to play in the spring recital of the Thursday Morning Music Club.

## Huntington

**W. C. McMahan**, Point Pleasant area manager, was appointed by the Mason County Commission to the advisory committee of Region II Planning and Development.

**Charles Fowler**, Point Pleasant line crew supervisor NE, was appointed by the Mason County Commission to the Mason County Development Authority.

**Dick Roush**, administrative assistant, was named to the board of directors of the Cabell-Huntington Pediatric Clinic. He was also appointed publicity chairman of the Central Ohio Valley Industrial Council (COVIC).

## Kingsport

**Brenda Hughes**, cashier C, rolled 652 and 646 series in the Friday Night Mixed Bowling League.

## Lynchburg



**Donna Wade**, T&D clerk junior, was named "sweetheart of the day" by WLVA Radio Station in Lynchburg. She received a corsage and dinner for two at a local restaurant.

**Cathy Davenport** participated in the Longwood Invitational Meet as a member of the forensic team of E. C. Glass High School. She is the daughter of Division Manager J.

Robert Davenport. Division Manager **J. Robert Davenport** has been appointed chairman of the Public Service Division of the United Way of Central Virginia.

## Pulaski

**Sue Spivey**, daughter of D. K. Spivey, engineer B, was selected to participate in the Southwest Virginia Regional Symphonic Band for the third consecutive year. A senior at Pulaski County High School, she plays the clarinet.

**J. L. Dunn**, Pearisburg T&D clerk A, was elected to the board of trustees at the Petersburg United Methodist Church.



**Mrs. H. L. Honeycutt**, wife of the Claytor maintenance mechanic A, is serving her second consecutive term as president of the Radford Business and Professional Woman's Club.

**Michael Byrd** has received a master of science in education degree in vocational and technical education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He is the husband of Catherine Byrd, Christiansburg customer accounts representative A, and the son of R. D. Byrd, Christiansburg meter reader.

**D. L. Eversole**, Byllesby maintenance mechanic B, was awarded a certificate for completing International Correspondence Schools' practical electrician course.

**Sarah Bucklen**, wife of L. L. Bucklen, Wytheville residential representative, was appointed to the policy and procedure committee at Wythe County Community Hospital.

New officers of the Galax Employees Benevolent Association are **Regina Isom**, customer accounts representative C, president; **Angela Jackson**, junior clerk, first vice president; **J. L. Lawrence**, meter reader, second vice

president; **K. R. Belton**, meter reader, secretary-treasurer; and **H. B. Shepherd**, line crew supervisor NE, director.

## Roanoke

Customer Services Manager **Claude Reynolds** was elected vice president of the Roanoke Valley Science Museum.

**Prince E. Thornton**, retired administrative assistant, was presented a ten-year award by the Franklin County Community Action organization in "grateful recognition for support and service".

**James Reynolds**, son of Assistant Division Manager Glenn Reynolds, was chosen as an associate member of the Beta Theta Chapter of Beta Beta Beta, national biology honorary fraternity at the University of Richmond. He is a sophomore, majoring in biology.

Meter Superintendent **Dave Bush** was assistant coach of the Andrew Lewis Junior High Wolverines basketball team, which took fourth place in the Roanoke Valley District. The Wolverines had a 9 win, 7 loss record for the season.

# FOUR SHARE WORK IDEAS

Four Appalachian Power employees wrote articles which appeared in the March/April issue of **AEP Operating Ideas**.

**L. A. Johnson**, Kanawha River Plant engineer B, collaborated with **P. A. Dalporto**, AEP environmental engineer, on "Saves Maintenance On Coal Flow Meter Vanes". **R. F. Shoemaker**, plant performance superintendent, and **R. E. Herndon**, performance supervising engineer, both of Amos Plant, co-authored "Pump Motor Current Controls Flow Valve". **Ted M. Payne**, Huntington meter service supervisor, wrote "Dual Safety Foot For Ladder Levelers".

## CLAYBURN RETIRES TO THE GOOD LIFE



"I'm going to take it day by day. If I wake up one morning and feel like taking a trip, I'll go," says Charles Henry Clayburn, who was head custodian in Pulaski before electing early retirement April 1.

Charles joined Appalachian in 1953 and was promoted in 1968 to the position he held at retirement. His wife Rozell, currently on LTD leave, is a senior telephone operator in the Pulaski office.

Charles likes gardening and raising flowers. He notes, "I'm also getting into model railroad-ing". He is a lay leader, treasurer and member of the administrative board of Clark's Chapel United Methodist Church and a member of the board of directors of the Pulaski County Chapter, American Red Cross. Charles and Rozell have one child and three granddaughters, which he claims are his pride and joy.

## KENETH HEDGE RETIRES



"Appalachian is a mighty good company to work for," declares Raleigh Keneth Hedge, who was a Pulaski Division maintenance man before retiring April 1. He has been on LTD leave since 1976.

A native of Pulaski County, Virginia, Keneth began his career in 1960 as a laborer and was a helper and junior maintenance man before being promoted in 1970 to the position he held at retirement.

With 81 acres of land to take care of, Keneth states, "If I ever get able, I would like to do a little farming or pasture some cattle." He adds, "I haven't done any fishing for about 15 years, but I may try to do some now."

Keneth is a member of the Simpkinstown Baptist Church. He and his wife Ella Mae will observe their 40th wedding anniversary in June.

## MCALPINE TO KEEP BUSY



Bennett McAlpine, Kingsport residential advisor, retired April 1 after 25 years' service.

A native of Pelzer, South Carolina, she holds a BS degree in home economics from Winthrop College and has taken extension classes from Wofford College. She had broken service with Kingsport Power prior to rejoining the company as a home economist in 1955. She was named home service representative in 1959 and in 1974 to the position she held at retirement.

Bennett recalls, "Early in my employment, home economist Becky Lee and I were crossing Broad at Center Street when we met two ladies to whom Becky spoke. As soon as we were out of hearing distance, I was told that I should have spoken also. They were ladies that had been present at a home demonstration club meeting in which we had participated. Becky said, 'They remember you. Always speak whether you recognize them or not.' Several weeks later when I was out in a

company car alone, I saw what I thought was one of our line trucks. Remembering Becky's suggestion, as I approached the truck I started blowing the horn and waved furiously with a smile from ear to ear as I passed . . . a green telephone truck! I continued on my way laughing instead of being embarrassed. There are still times I wonder 'who was that' when I exchange greetings."

In her spare time, Bennett enjoys sewing, embroidery and knitting. She recently acquired an interest in quilting and picture framing. She grows roses in the summer and enjoys food preparation, both canning and freezing, and collecting recipe books.

Bennett recently completed a three-year term as deacon in the First Presbyterian Church, where she has also served as circle chairman and is a member of the chancel choir and church orchestra. She is a charter member and was first president of the Altrusa Club of Kingsport. Bennett was the first woman to chair a major committee of the Chamber of Commerce. She has been president and program chairman of the Southwest Virginia-East Tennessee Home Economics Association and is a former member of the American Home Economics Association, Tennessee Home Economics Association and Home Economics in Business. She is also on the board of the Netherland Inn Association.

Bennett and her husband "Mac" have three children: Bill, who received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and lives in San Francisco; Mary, who lives in Atlanta; and Anne, currently in Dhahran, Saudia Arabia. All three worked as summer employees of Kingsport Power several years ago and each was an AEP Educational Award winner. "For this," Bennett notes, "we are real pleased and grateful."

Looking to the future, Bennett plans "to do things at home that there has not been time to do like sewing for the grandchildren, using scraps in patchwork and applique pillows and quilts, to

prepare a book of mementos for each child. I would like to spend more time with music and possibly play the violin with the symphony orchestra." Bennett played violin three years in the Parker orchestra, playing once under John Phillip Sousa's direction. She recalls, "He gave me an autographed picture after I presented his 76th birthday cake. The children have capitalized on this." Bennett studied viola while in college and played in the school's orchestra for four years.

She concludes, "I am looking forward to visiting with my family more. I plan to go to Hawaii in the fall and also to teach some classes in the adult education program at Dobyens-Bennett High School.

## TRAVEL AHEAD FOR KEY



"I was hired for two weeks' work and ended up staying for 43 years," recalls Woodrow Hatcher Key, Lynchburg meter service mechanic A, who retired March 1.

Woodrow, a native of Bedford County, Virginia, joined Appalachian in March 1935, working on the construction of lines out of the Centerville Station. A line foreman named Tucker gave him a job, and he worked about three months before being laid off. One rainy, cold Friday morning several months later, Woodrow went into Lynchburg, ran into Tucker and asked him for a job. Tucker told Woodrow to come in on Monday morning and he might have two weeks' work for him. That two weeks stretched into 43 years.

Woodrow remembers, "Back in the old days we had to set every pole by hand. You would dig a hole for a pole and then realize

200 feet down the way there was another pole waiting for you. The changes over the years have been for the better and have made a difficult job much easier."

It was while setting poles by hand that a tragedy befell one of his co-workers. "I was working with a contractor crew near Elon when a pole got away and fell, striking a contractor employee and killing him. It's something I haven't forgotten, and it has always made me more safety conscious."

Active in civic affairs, Woodrow is a charter member of the Lyndan Ruritan Club and a charter member and organizer of the Lyndan Volunteer Fire Department. Woodrow and his wife Ruth attend Flat Creek Baptist Church, where he has served on the board of deacons.

Woodrow adds, "Ruth and I both like to travel so we hope to do quite a bit of that in the future. If everything goes all right, we plan to go to the west coast later this year. We are planning to spend a couple of the winter months each year in Florida and then come back to Lynchburg in the summer, where I have a garden that keeps me busy." They have two children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, whom they plan to visit.

Woodrow concludes, "I am looking forward to getting caught up on some of the things I have been intending to do but haven't had a chance. After working with so many good people all these years, I am really going to miss them. Appalachian has been a good company for me to work for. As a matter of fact, it is the only job I have ever had so it is with mixed feelings that I retired."

## HUNTERS SCORE

**General Office**  
Thomas Tyree, transmission mechanic A, GO T&D Transmission, Roanoke, 10-point buck.

## PRICE ENDS 32-YEAR CAREER



Robert H. Price, line crew supervisor exempt in the Rupert area of Beckley Division, elected early retirement April 1.

A native of Richwood, West Virginia, Bob began his career with Appalachian in 1946 as a lineman C. He advanced through the positions of lineman B and A, district troubleman and area serviceman before being promoted to line foreman exempt in 1967.

Although Bob has no specific plans for retirement, he hopes to begin a woodworking shop. "It is something I have always wanted to do but never had the time," he says. Bob's wife Beulah gave him a radial arm saw last Christmas, and since then he has either purchased or been given a planer, sander, wood lathe and other tools. Bob has found some old chestnut wood and wants to begin by building a gun cabinet and perhaps a table or two.

The Prices will spend some time at their camp on the Greenbrier River near the Monongahela Forest, where they enjoy hunting and fishing. Bob plans to add an efficiency apartment to the cabin so that they will not have to heat the entire place.

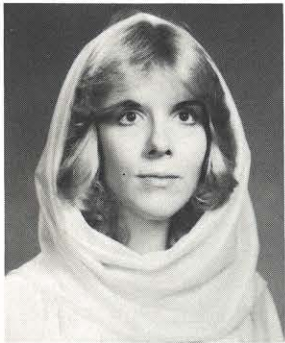
Bob is a member of the Lewisburg Elks Club and the Rainelle Masonic Lodge #166. He and Beulah have four children and five grandchildren.



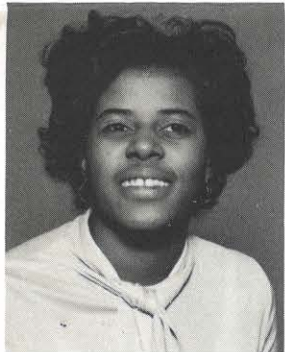
## SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



Ann Elizabeth Jackson to **James Benson Brillheart, III**, son of J. B. Brillheart, Jr., Pulaski administrative assistant, March 3.



**Karen Elaine Pioch**, daughter of Edward Fred Pioch, Charleston electrical engineer, to William Arnold Cassels, February 17.



**Janice Lee Smith**, Abingdon junior clerk, to William Walter Cannon, February 16.



**Cathy Jean Landers**, Kanawha Valley Power junior clerk, to William H. Batten, March 10.



Dreama Gay Phillips to **Daryl Brent Swecker**, Bluefield line mechanic D, February 4.



Mary Louise Hartley to **Alvin T. Warner**, Beckley automotive mechanic B, February 17.

Brenda Searls to **Don Gritt**, maintenance mechanic B, Centralized Plant Maintenance, February 23.

## BABY PARADE

**John E. Amos** Lisa Dawn, daughter of **Deanna "Susie" Cunningham**, junior clerk, February 19.

Brandon Neil, son of **David Cawley**, maintenance mechanic C, February 10.

Amber Lynn, daughter of **Jerry Tucker**, maintenance mechanic A, March 10.

**Bluefield** Timothy Leonard, chosen son of **Judith Dillenbeck**, Tazewell meter reader, adopted February 28.

**Clinch River** Holly Ann, daughter of **Lewis Nash**, equipment operator, December 11, 1978.

Jeremy Jackson, son of **Joe Breeding**, equipment operator, December 2, 1978.

Patrick Miles, son of **Ora Cantrell**, utility operator B, December 2, 1978.

Thomas Chad, son of **Thomas Taylor**, maintenance mechanic B, December 30, 1978.

**Pulaski** Ryan Edward, son of **W. R. Brockmeyer**, line mechanic C, February 16.

**Roanoke** Todd Allen, son of **G. A. Mullins**, line mechanic C, February 1.

**Philip Sporn** Douglas Steven, son of **Douglas Draper**, engineering technologist, February 5.

Julie Anne, daughter of **James McDougal**, utility operator, January 5.

Robert Jason, son of **Robert Workman**, performance engineer senior, March 2.

## RETIREE'S HOBBY DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH TRAVEL PLANS



Whenever Virginia Mottice gets the urge to travel, which she does frequently, she just packs up her needlepoint and takes it along. In fact, that's one of the things she likes most about her hobby.

Virginia, retired private secretary in GO Operations, Roanoke, says, "It is something to do at the beauty parlor, when you are waiting between planes, and on shipboard. On tours, I have met so many interesting people because they were doing needlepoint, too. It is something nearly everyone has in common."

Virginia started doing needlepoint about four years ago. She recalls, "I had a friend visiting me who could do needlepoint. I had always wanted to learn but thought I couldn't. My friend said, 'We are going to learn right now', so I went down the street and bought a bell pull. Can you imagine a beginner starting on a bell pull? But I think it is the prettiest piece I have ever done. It took about two months to complete."

Virginia continues, "The most difficult one I have ever done is a pocketbook. They are so tedious. You have the back and the front and the boxing to do." She has made three bell pulls, three door stops, and numerous pillows. She says, "I just enjoy doing it. It grows on you. You have needlepoint at home, and you go out and buy more just because it is too pretty to pass up. Most of the needlepoint I give away."

She adds, "I have two antique chairs I am going to replace the needlepoint on. I am going to put an off-white background on them instead of the wine and black like they used years ago."

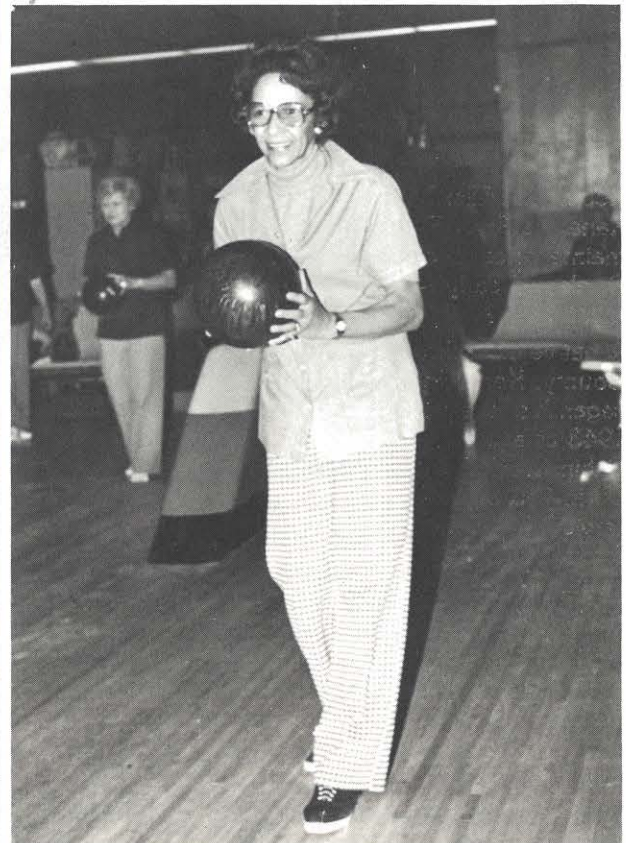
Virginia says, "I use the half cross and continental stitch. There are a lot of new stitches out, but I haven't taken them up. The half cross and continental stitch will do anything I want done."

She adds, "I have taught Bertha Leffler (retired head, mailing section, GO General Services, Roanoke). She is doing a good job to be just starting out."

Since her retirement in 1971, Virginia has been on both a Caribbean and Mediterranean cruise, to

Europe and to London twice, and all over Canada. She notes, "There isn't a section of Canada I haven't been in, even up into Nova Scotia. Last year we toured the back roads of New England for the first time. We stayed in old inns dating back to the 1700s and 1800s. I really loved that trip. We visited a lot of antique shops, which I didn't need, that is for sure."

## RICKS ROLLS 625 SERIES



Most bowlers are headed for a bad night when they go to the lanes feeling tired. But Elaine Ricks, Charleston customer accounts representative B, claims being tired helped her roll a 265 game and 625 series in the recent Women's Classic League at Robin Lanes.

"I had worked the night before, and I was really very tired," she said. "Being tired helped to slow my legs down. Sometimes I run up to the foul line too fast and I get completely off balance. This may not make sense to you, but it does to me. I'm a very hyper person who is constantly on the go."

Elaine got better as she went along, with 154, 206 and 265 games. She "slowed down" to just the proper speed in the last game for two strikes, two spares and then eight straight strikes. A right-handed bowler, Elaine says she rolls "a plain straight ball. It's not fancy at all, but it seems to work pretty good. I've got a whole wall full of bowling trophies, three shelves high."

Elaine bowled a 299 game six years ago, missing a perfect game by one pin. She used to bowl in three leagues and had a high average of 189. She now bowls only in the Women's Classic League but still carries a 171 average.



Garnet and Ollie Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary December 31, 1978, with an open house. He was a unit foreman at Glen Lyn Plant before retiring in 1963. The Browns have two sons, two daughters, ten grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. Their son, Bennett, is maintenance supervisor at Glen Lyn. Their daughter, Irene, is the wife of Roy Pendleton, Glen Lyn unit supervisor.

## YOU LOOK BACK AND THANK THE GOOD LORD



For 33 of the 34 years they have been married, G. R. "Speed" Young and his wife have cared for foster children.

Recalls Mrs. Young, "I stayed with my mother a lot when Speed was in service. A lady asked me if I would care for a little boy, and that's how we got started. We had the little boy for four years. By the time the mother was able to take the little boy, we had our first daughter. After our little girl got big enough for somebody to play with, we didn't have anyone so I applied for a girl to be with her. Instead of one girl I got two."

Even though the Youngs eventually had five children of their own, they still found room in their hearts and home for foster children. At one time they had 19 in their home; now they have ten, including one of their own.

Speed says, "Sometimes we just have them for a few weeks until they work things out with their parents and go back."

Mrs. Young adds, "We've had one boy for eight years and another boy, who's blind, since he was eight years old. He's 26 now. And one of the girls, who is 18, we've had since she was between one and two years old — about all of her life."

Many of the foster children are physically handicapped. Mrs. Young notes, "A lot of them have a handicap now and a lot of them have improved since we've had them."

Not all the children go to the same school, and it takes a real system to get them ready each morning. Mrs. Young says, "I'm up at 5 o'clock each morning, and Speed leaves about 15 minutes to 6. The two children that have to leave at 7 I get up about 15 after 6. They are the retarded ones, and I feed and dress them myself. I have them on the bus before I start getting the other ones up. That still leaves me one small boy that I have to dress, although he feeds himself. I have to get him to the bus and the rest of them dress themselves. I've just gotten used to it, I guess."

She continues, "Usually I try to get in bed at 10 PM if I can, but some nights we stay up until 11 or 12 rocking one of the boys to get him to bed. The rest go to bed okay."

Mrs. Young adds, "The only morning they have to sleep in is Saturday, but they're so used to getting up at 6:00 that they're ready to get up. Speed takes them all to Sunday School except the one little girl that's retarded."

The 26-year-old blind boy speaks to young people at various churches. "It was a gift given to him I guess," volunteers Mrs. Young. "You can ask him about anything in the Bible and he can tell you the verse and the chapter. I bought the first set of Bibles for him, and he wore it out. Then the Welfare Department bought the next set."

How do you cook for that many people? Mrs. Young replies, "I got used to it." Speed adds, "I don't believe she could cook a meal for three or four people. There has to be a dozen before she can cook."

Mrs. Young notes, "I used to bake bread every day. I don't do that now. But still, when I fix potatoes, I peel 20 pounds to mash for one meal. My sister-in-law helps me a lot with my work. She comes down and helps me do things around the house, but I do all the cooking myself. One of the girls helps with the dishes. I have one little boy, who doesn't talk, that is awfully good and wants to help me in the kitchen."

Speed does some gardening, "but most of mine is in the hayfields with cattle, horses and ponies. Two of the children are fairly good help, plus my boys. And I've got Mama's little angel — he tags around everywhere I go. He tries to help, he's learning."

The Youngs have to buy milk but they raise their own beef cattle. "Right now," Speed says, "we have five head of cattle, four horses and a pony."

The foster children have become as much a part of the Youngs as their own family. Mrs. Young says, "We have some here now that if we had to see them go it would be heartbreaking. We've gotten awfully close to those little ones. When they have something wrong, we give them more attention than we did our own."

She continues, "We've had several that we've raised that I think really appreciated it, but we have raised several that didn't. The children that were a little older when

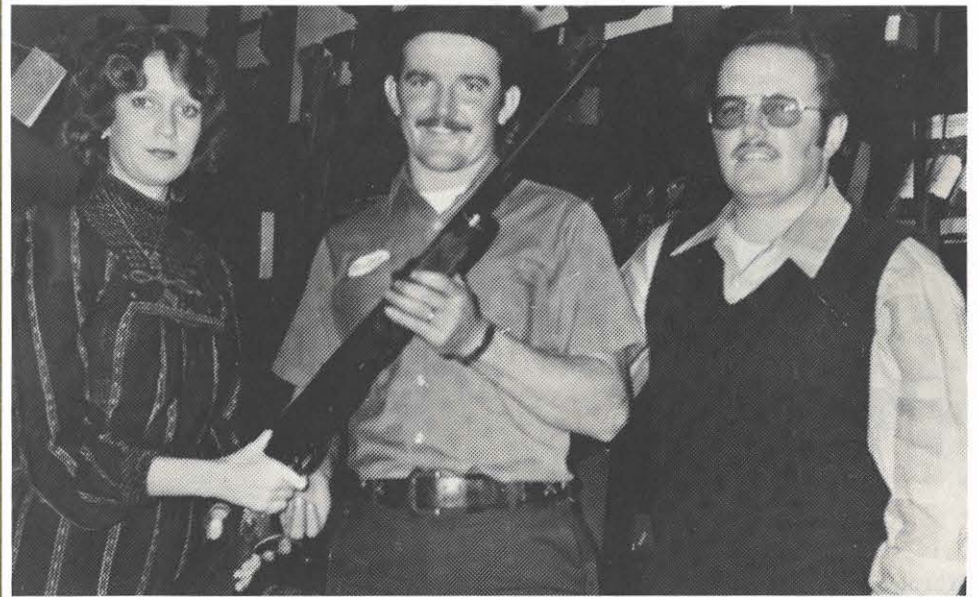
we got them were more or less set in their ways. They think they should be able to come and go as they please, which you can't let them do. You have to have rules to go by."

Speed adds, "The difficulty is being able to get through to them. One of our foster boys that I'm very proud of, who lives in Wyoming, lacks just a little bit of having his doctorate. He was in a little bit of trouble when he came to us, but I was able to get through to him. We started helping him what little bit we could to get him on the right foot. He made the decision of what he wanted to be and went to saving money."

Mrs. Young adds, "He just bought the farm next door to us and paid \$90,000 for it, so he has come a long way. He didn't have any family other than us, and we just helped him through school and that was it."

What has been the most rewarding experience? Speed answers, "The greatest satisfaction in the world is to see a young lady or young man go out on their own and make a half way success. You look back and thank the good Lord that you tried to help them a little bit along the way."

One foster daughter, who lives next door to the Youngs, has kept two foster children herself on a day care basis.



Wanda Berger, wife of Harry F. Berger, Jr., Roanoke line mechanic C, won top prize in the recent Glade Hill Division of the Franklin County Rescue Squad fund raising project. She was awarded a 30-06 Remington rifle from 220 Sporting Goods for her winning draw. From left, Wanda Berger; Wallace Richard, first lieutenant of Franklin County Rescue Squad, Glade Hill Division; and Larry Wood, employee of 220 Sporting Goods, donor of the prize.



New officers of Roanoke Division's Reddi-Lite Club, an employees' social organization, are, from left, Bill Loope, station crew supervisor NE, vice president; Nancy Dickerson, stenographer, secretary; Cathy Doyle, junior stenographer, assistant treasurer; Vicki Rutledge, secretary-stenographer, treasurer; and Bob Jones, stores attendant senior, president.



Elected to serve on the executive committee of the Welch Employees' Benevolent Association for 1979 are: seated, l. to r., Sheila Castle, senior telephone operator, secretary-treasurer; Tracy Weiss, customer accounting supervisor, chairman; and Tom Reed, meter reader, member. Standing, l. to r., Clifford Sledd, line crew supervisor, member; and Mike Richardson, line mechanic D, member.

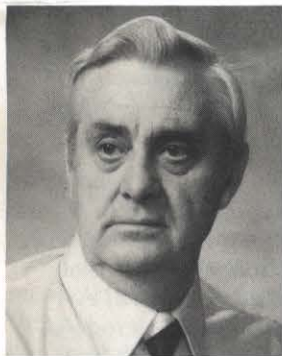
# VETS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



**C. R. L. Brown**  
Driver Ground Helper  
Roanoke  
30 Years



**D. C. Landreth**  
Eng. Technologist  
Abingdon  
30 Years



**H. W. Cox**  
T&D Clerk A  
Abingdon  
30 Years



**A. L. McLaugherty**  
Maint. Mech. (LTD)  
Pulaski  
30 Years



**E. L. Rasnake**  
Ground Helper  
Abingdon  
30 Years



**Catherine Swain**  
Cashier B  
Roanoke  
30 Years



**R. L. Mills**  
Power Engineer  
Roanoke  
30 Years



**D. J. Hill**  
Station Mechanic C  
Roanoke  
30 Years



**Woodrow McClung**  
Maint. Mechanic A  
Kanawha River  
25 Years



**Rozell Clayburn**  
Sr. Tel. Op. (LTD)  
Pulaski  
25 Years



**E. J. Wooten**  
Eng. Technician Sr.  
GO-Charleston  
25 Years



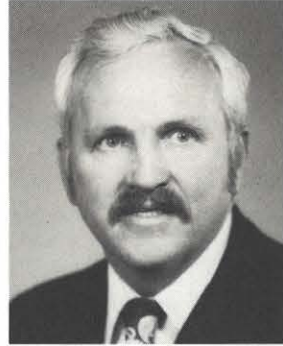
**J. B. Berg**  
Accounting Manager  
GO-Roanoke  
25 Years



**B. B. Briggs**  
Inst. Mechanic B  
Kanawha River  
25 Years



**H. H. Shank**  
Inst. Maint. Supv.  
John Amos  
25 Years



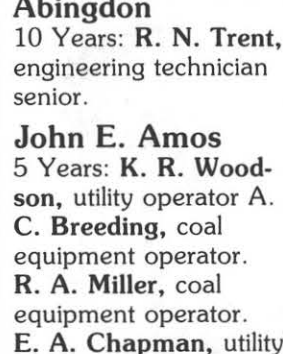
**W. A. Robertson**  
Service Mechanic A  
Lynchburg  
25 Years



**T. P. Dalton**  
Garage Supv. NE  
Bluefield  
20 Years



**R. B. Kilgore**  
Div. Supt.  
Pulaski  
20 Years



**Abingdon**  
10 Years: **R. N. Trent**,  
engineering technician  
senior.

**John E. Amos**  
5 Years: **K. R. Woodson**,  
utility operator A. **C. Breeding**,  
coal equipment operator. **R. A. Miller**,  
coal equipment operator. **E. A. Chapman**,  
utility operator A. **G. K. Chapman**,  
coal equipment operator. **W. E. Lowe**,  
maintenance mechanic B. 10 Years: **S. H. Smith, Jr.**,  
performance engineer. **J. E. Kaneday**,  
stores supervisor.

**Bluefield**  
10 Years: **S. L. Oxford**,  
automotive mechanic A. **R. K. McLaughlin**,  
general servicer. **T. L. White**,  
area supervisor.

**Central Machine Shop**  
5 Years: **D. A. Arthur**,  
machinist 1st class. **Mike Johnston**,  
stores attendant senior. **L. A. Wood**,  
machinist 1st class. **Bill Dean**,  
production superintendent. **J. A. Stewart**,  
power equipment mechanic 1st class.

**Charleston**  
10 Years: **N. A. Baker**,  
electrical engineer. **R. L. Chafin**,  
line mechanic A. **R. J. Haynes**,  
engineering technician.

**Clinch River**  
15 Years: **Jeane Linkous**,  
stores clerk A. 10 Years: **S. L. Foster**,  
maintenance mechanic B. 5 Years: **N. E. House**,  
maintenance mechanic C.

**General Office**  
15 Years: **Judy Caldwell**,  
secretary-stenographer, GO-Roanoke. 10 Years: **R. A. Waid**,  
right of way agent, GO-Roanoke. **J. B. Sudderth**,  
electrical test specialist, GO-Charleston. **W. T. Sink**,  
electrical engineer, GO-Roanoke. **A. A. Siers**,  
transmission mechanic A, GO-Bluefield. **Helen Sabo**,  
stenographer, GO-Bluefield. **A. C. Powell**,  
drafter A, GO-Roanoke. **L. T. Hubbard**,  
control electrician B, GO-Roanoke. **J. G. Ferrell**,  
engineering technologist, GO-Roanoke. **J. L. Bundy**,  
transmission special clerk, GO-Bluefield. **W. R. Black**,  
tax accounting clerk A, GO-Roanoke. 5 Years: **J. R. Wertz**,  
maintenance mechanic B, GO-Roanoke. **L. A. Slusher**,  
station operator B, GO-Roanoke. **L. H. Betterton**,  
maintenance mechanic B, GO-Roanoke.

**Glen Lyn**  
10 Years: **G. H. Higginbotham**,  
equipment operator. **J. D. Jackson**,  
auxiliary equipment operator.

**Kanawha River**  
35 Years: **John Telisko, Jr.**,  
maintenance mechanic A. 5 Years: **Gloria Saunders**,  
plant clerk B.

**Kingsport**  
10 Years: **R. T. Kern**,  
line mechanic A.

**Lynchburg**  
10 Years: **S. E. Burnette**,  
meter service mechanic A. 5 Years: **D. G. Morris**,  
meter reader.

**Philip Sporn**  
10 Years: **P. M. Harmon**,  
equipment operator.

# RETIREE WAS MR. APCO



**Roscoe Olen Stricklen**,  
area service restorer in the  
Whitesville area of Beckley  
Division, elected early retirement  
April 1.

A native of Beaver, Kentucky,  
Strick began his career in 1937  
as a helper in Charleston District's  
Substation Department. He worked  
there until August 1943 when he  
joined another company and later  
served in the U.S. Army. He was  
rehired in 1947 and was a lineman  
C, B and A before being promoted  
to district troubleman in the  
Whitesville area. That classification  
was later changed to area  
serviceman and then to area  
service restorer. When Beckley  
became a division in 1970, the  
Whitesville area was transferred  
from Charleston to Beckley.

For almost 30 years, Strick has  
been "Mr. Appalachian" to the  
people of the Whitesville area,  
often being their only contact with  
the power company since there are  
no line crews or office personnel  
located there.

Concerning his early retirement,  
Strick said, "I wanted to quit while  
my health was good, and I could  
enjoy some of the things I have  
not had time to do. I just want to  
relax, do some hunting and fishing  
and visit with the children in  
Florida, Virginia and Tennessee."

Strick and his wife Oreta have  
five children and 11 grandchildren.  
They are members of the  
Sylvester Missionary Baptist Church,  
where he serves on the board of  
trustees.

## MILLER RETIREES EARLY



Robert A. Miller, Kanawha River Plant maintenance mechanic D, elected early retirement April 1.

A native of Jackson County, Kentucky, he began his career in 1943 as a janitor at Cabin Creek Plant. During his 36 years' service, he advanced through the positions of utility operator A, boiler auxiliary equipment operator B and A, and boiler operator D, C and A. He transferred to Kanawha in January 1978 after the closure of Cabin Creek Plant.

Robert enjoys fishing and camping in his spare time. He says, "I'm planning a trip to Mexico as soon as my sons are out of school. I won't have time to get lonesome; I will be keeping busy selling ceramics, something I got into recently." (A story about his ceramics hobby appeared in a recent issue of *The Illuminator*.)

Robert is married and has four children and three grandchildren.

## RETIREE PLANS WINTER IN FLORIDA



John A. Thompson, Beckley meter electrician A, elected early retirement April 1 after more than 32 years' service.

A native of Beaver, West Virginia, John began his career with Appalachian in June 1946 as a laborer. He worked as a meter helper B and meterman C and B before being promoted to meterman A in 1949. Later the job was reclassified as meter electrician A.

John attended Beckley College, Chicago Technical School and Coyne Electrical School. He is a member of the Beckley Masonic Lodge #95, Beckley Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Mt. Hope Commandery #22 and the Beni Kedem Temple. He is a past president of the Beckley Shrine Club.

Retirement plans for John and his wife Anna call for spending most of the winter in Florida, fishing and playing golf. The spring and summer will be spent in Beckley, playing golf and working in his well-equipped woodworking shop.

## MOVING UP



**Ralph L. Matthews**, former assistant yard supervisor at Ohio Electric Company's Gavin Plant, was promoted to yard superintendent at Mountaineer Plant on March 1. He attended Weirton Technical School.



**J. R. Loving, Jr.**, former electrical engineer, was promoted to meter engineer senior, GO T&D Meter, Roanoke, on March 1. He holds a degree in electrical engineering from International Correspondence Schools.



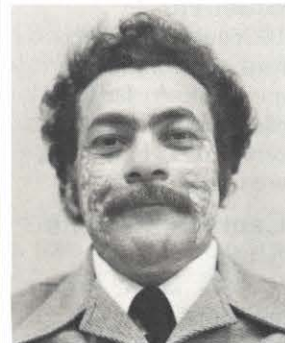
**Roy Spencer, Jr.**, former Kanawha River Plant personnel supervisor, was promoted to personnel supervisor at Philip Sporn Plant on April 1. He succeeds Rome Williamson, who will retire on May 1. Spencer holds a BS degree in chemistry from Morris Harvey College and is working toward a master's degree in business administration.



**J. L. Price**, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in the Lebanon area of Abingdon Division on February 3. He succeeds J. D. Farmer, who was promoted earlier.



**Clem E. "Skip" Babcock**, former maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Centralized Plant Maintenance on March 1.



**Charles E. "Chuck" Lewis, II**, former maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Centralized Plant Maintenance on March 1.



**B. R. Lemar**, former meter service mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor NE in Lynchburg on February 10.

## NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

**John E. Amos**, **Sherri Frantz** and **Susan Rinick**, junior clerks. **William Moore, Jr.**, and **John Hall**, control technicians junior. **Jeffrey Huffman**, **Jerry Jeffers**, **Donald Curry, Jr.**, **Vernon Karnes**, **Omer Bennett, III**, **Edward Young**, **James Poindexter** and **George Glasco, Jr.**, utility workers.

**Bluefield**  
**Kimberly Pickett** and **Johnnie Osborne**, tracers. **David Burchette**, meter reader, Pineville. **Ralph Kupner, Jr.**, line mechanic D. **Jeffrey McClanahan** and **David Rowe**, line mechanics D, Grundy. **Jerry Blessing**, station mechanic D. **Mary Sue Henry**, junior clerk.

**Centralized Plant Maintenance**  
**R. E. Bickle**, **O. J. Arbogast**, **M. A. Thomas**, **E. S. Bailey, Jr.**, **R. A. Thomas**, and **R. E. Thomas, Jr.**, maintenance mechanics B.

**Charleston**  
**Kathy Lloyd**, office messenger. **Steven Patton** and **Anthony Lloyd**, line mechanics D. **Barbara Hart** and **Latachia Truslow**, junior clerks. **Dale Petry**, meter reader, Montgomery.

**Clinch River**  
**Danny Long**, **Gregory Cook**, **Stanley Wagoner** and **Pauline Kiser**, utility workers B.

**General Office**  
**Karen Vandergrift** and **Sharon Lowman**, junior clerks, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Dianne O'Leary**,

junior key entry operator, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Marvin Saunders** and **Robert Long**, custodians, GO General Services, Roanoke. **Kemoh Tonkara**, engineering technician, GO T&D Communications, Roanoke. **Ronald Orange**, utility helper, GO Operations, Roanoke. **Timothy Thomas**, electric plant clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **David Keith**, surveyor-instrument, GO T&D Civil Engineering, Roanoke. **Donald Trump, Jr.**, station mechanic D, GO T&D Station, Roanoke.

**Glen Lyn**  
**Jesse Edward Wilson**, **Jackie Lynn Moore** and **Roger Lee McCorskey**, utility workers B.

**Kanawha River**  
**Donnie R. Hearn**, utility worker B.

**Kingsport**  
**S. A. Kilgore**, line mechanic D. **Cindy Templeton**, junior clerk.

**Lynchburg**  
**Kaye Mitchell**, meter reader.

**Mountaineer Operations**  
**John Blake**, control technician junior.

**Roanoke**  
**Perry A. Hazelwood**, line mechanic D, Stuart. **Dale M. Ridgeway**, meter reader. **Michael J. Simmons**, line mechanic D. **Wanda Harbour**, cashier C, Stuart. **Glenn Haskins**, reservoir groundskeeper.

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



**Edward J. Candler**, 60, retired Glen Lyn Plant unit supervisor, died February 28. A native of Peterstown, West Virginia, he began his career in 1944 as a laborer and elected early retirement December 1, 1978. Candler is survived by his widow Phyllis, Route 4, Box 608,

Princeton, W. Va; one daughter, one son, three sisters, three brothers and four grandchildren.



**William Tavenor Goodloe, Jr.**, 77, retired system transmission records supervisor, GO T&D, Bluefield, died January 24. A native of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, he began his career in 1938 with the then American Gas and Electric Service Corporation and retired October 1, 1966. Goodloe is survived by his widow Kathryn, 10 Park Place, Short Hills, New Jersey, and one daughter.

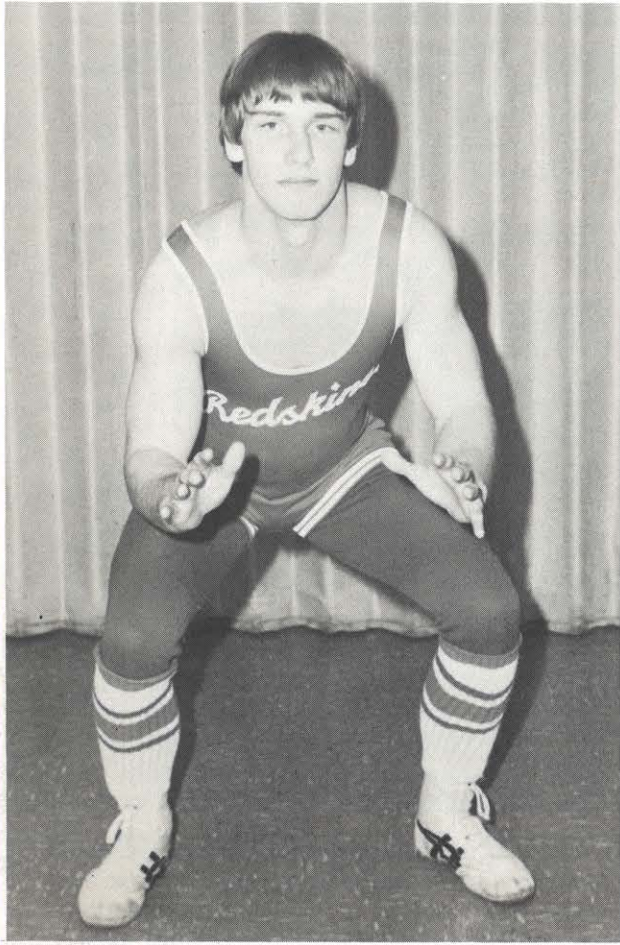


**Charles Ronald Street**, 51, residential representative in the Point Pleasant area of Huntington Division, died March 12. A native of Liverpoole, West Virginia, he began his career in 1951 as a maintenance helper in Charleston.



**William Cassels Gilmour**, 64, retired administrative assistant B in the Point Pleasant area of Huntington Division, died March 18. A native of Coal Fork, West Virginia, he began his career in 1937 as a meter reader in Logan and elected early retirement August 1, 1975. Gilmour is survived by his widow Bernadine, 2416 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Point Pleasant, W. Va; and two daughters.

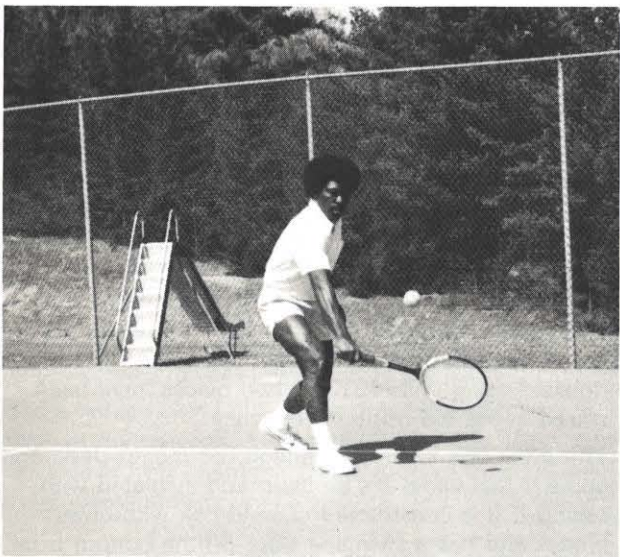
## SLACK WINS WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP



Dale Slack, son of B. J. Slack, assistant shift operating engineer at Amos Plant, has won his second West Virginia State AA wrestling championship. Both of Dale's victories were in the 167-lb. class. This climaxed a four-year wrestling career by the Hurricane High athlete, who was a successful football player as well.

Dale's overall record stands at 68-16-1. At Hurricane, he holds records in winning percentage, reversals, and takedowns. He was never pinned in his high school career, although he was a starter for most of his four years.

This past year, Dale won titles in the Red Dog, HUPCO and Nitro Invitational wrestling tournaments. He has also qualified to represent West Virginia in a cultural exchange program, entitling him to wrestle in Europe this summer.



C. W. Claytor has been ranked the number 6 player in West Virginia by the West Virginia District of the Middle Atlantic Lawn Tennis Association. The ranking is for both singles and doubles. He is the husband of Barbara Claytor, Beckley junior clerk. C. W. began playing tennis five years ago and has been playing competitively for three years. During 1978 he finished second in the singles competition in the Beckley-Raleigh County YMCA Spring League, Mullens Lions Club Tournament and the Oak Hill-Fayetteville Open Tournament. He finished first in the YMCA Fall League. In doubles competition, C. W. teamed with Dr. Bill Wine to win the Oak Hill-Fayetteville Open and the YMCA Fall League while finishing second in the YMCA Spring League.

## ST. ALBANS HONORS WATSON



Robert Watson, Charleston Division line mechanic, was named "outstanding young man of the community" by the City of St. Albans. This is the first year a Jaycee member has won the award, presented annually by the city and the Jaycees.

Bobby is active in community affairs, not all of which are Jaycee-sponsored. He arranged a work party to build a three-room house for a senior citizen who had no place to live. He has also helped several senior citizens get electric service for their mobile homes. On his own time, he secured and set poles and wired for the service.

During the Christmas season, Bobby acted as a community Santa Claus, visiting homes of children and senior citizens. He also served on a Jaycee committee to provide food, clothing and toys for 66 underprivileged families.

This past year he also worked on these projects: muscular dystrophy fund raising drive; Haunted House for underprivileged children; Little League football, basketball and baseball; taught bicycle safety at a bicycle motor cross; worked on the Sternwheel Regatta; and sold Christmas trees as a fund-raising project. He is an interior director of the St. Albans Jaycees and on the YMCA board of directors.

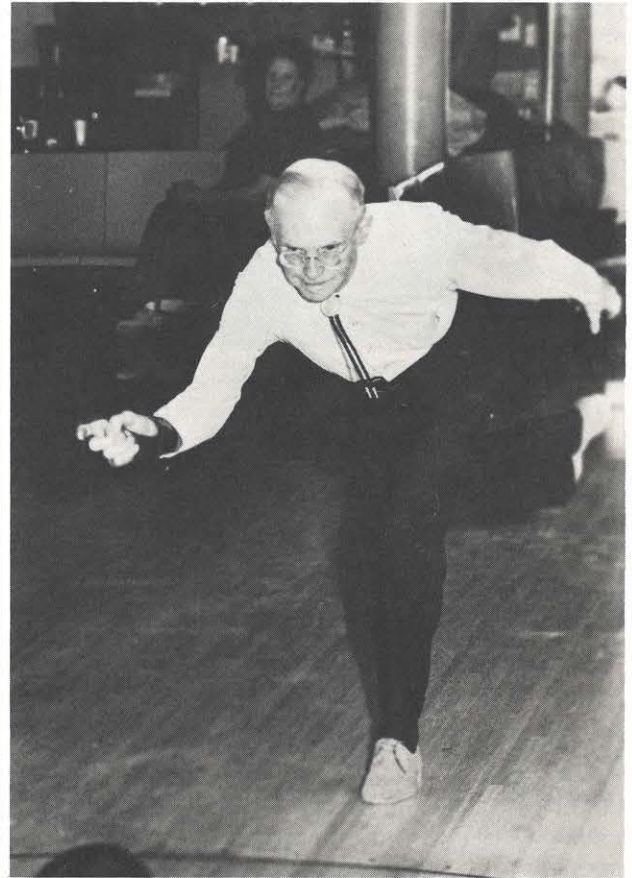
As a new endeavor, Bobby plans to take young men who have been in trouble on a tour of the West Virginia state prison, where they will hear lectures by various officers. Hopefully this will direct them toward a more meaningful life.

Bobby relates his most memorable service came this past winter. He received a call from a senior citizen who was unable to get an ambulance to take his seriously-ill wife to the hospital. After visiting the man's house, he convinced an ambulance service to come to the woman's aid. They were unable to bring their vehicle all the way to the house so he talked them into bringing a stretcher to transport the patient from the house to the vehicle. The he convinced them to call another ambulance service which had a four-wheel drive. As a result of Bobby's efforts, the patient did get to the hospital on time.



Claud K. Kirkland, Pulaski division manager (left), presents an International Correspondence Schools certificate to J. L. Marshall, residential representative senior, upon his completion of the ICS electrical engineering course.

## KARL EVANS: IT PAYS TO KEEP ACTIVE



According to Karl Evans, retired chief plant dispatcher at Cabin Creek Plant, it pays to keep active. And that's exactly what he's been doing since his retirement in February 1964.

February 2 was Karl's 80th birthday, and all his friends in the Senior Citizens' Bowling League surprised him with a birthday party at Robin Lanes. (Karl is president of the Tuesday Robin Senior's League.) Even more of a surprise was that Nellie Williams, wife of Cabin Creek Retiree Ken Williams, had a reporter and photographer from the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* there to interview Karl.

Minnie, Karl's wife for 59 years, fretted all week long that her husband would discover the surprise party. She had to be ever so careful. Only a day before the party, Karl found her in the kitchen baking a cake. "Who's the cake for?" Karl asked. "Uh . . . someone in the league is having a birthday," she stammered. "Oh," he replied as he left the kitchen. Karl simply could not believe someone would go through all this fuss for him.

Minnie almost ran into trouble again the day of the party. She wanted her husband to dress nicer than usual for his surprise but she was afraid to nag him because he might become suspicious.

That afternoon Karl entered the alley clad in a white shirt and a rope tie that was bound at the neck by his lucky silver dollar. And was he ever surprised. The League members had bought a two-foot high trophy which was inscribed "Karl Evans — 80 Years Young, 1979 Average — 145". As he accepted the hugs and handshakes of his bowling colleagues, he quietly said, "I feel lucky like a lucky man. I feel real lucky."

Karl is lucky. Though one of his children died in 1955, he still has a daughter, six grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren in addition to his wife. He can tell stories about Charleston before it had paved roads. Except for brief stints in Belle and Dunbar, he has lived in East Bank for most of his life. In 1964, he retired after a 41-year career with Appalachian. Though he keeps busy bowling in two leagues, traveling to occasional tournaments and being secretary of a local Mason's chapter (a post he has held for 51 years), he still finds the time to teach Sunday School.

Karl began bowling at 60. He has had a 235 game and a 600 series. His approach is steady, his ball is deadly accurate. He makes few strikes but misses few spares. He rolled games for 157, 157 and 139 for a 453 series on his 80th birthday. The following week he rolled a 525 series.

## LETTERS WE LIKE



When Carl Reveal, hydro maintenance mechanic C for Kanawha Valley Power, stopped to help a man who was having car trouble, the man was so appreciative he wrote the following letter to the Charleston office:

"I was returning to Charleston from Dayton during the snowstorm on February 18. I had just entered Winfield, West Virginia, when my auto engine failed."

"I was very pleased when I looked out of the car to see an APCo truck stop beside me. Your employee, Mr. Carl Reveal, offered to assist me in trying to restart my car. We were not successful; however, Mr. Reveal's efforts were very much appreciated by both Mrs. Peters and myself. Mr. Reveal graciously offered to take us to a point where we could telephone for aid. We accepted. He was very much the 'good samaritan'."

"Knowing that people like Mr. Reveal are employed by Appalachian Power makes paying my electric bill almost a pleasure."



The 23 members of the Beckley Engineering Section formed a new employees club, the C and C Club, on February 1 and appointed J. M. Hunt treasurer. The Engineering Section has been housed in the Beckley Masonic building since 1976. Pictured above are members, from left, C. H. Mann, J. M. Hunt and O. J. Weldon.

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## MAKING LIL-DOLLS LOTS OF FUN FOR JOY GAILEY



"Everybody likes them, but most people don't want to pay \$6 for the Lil-dolls I make," says Roanoke Junior Clerk Joy Gailey. "They're worth it though when you consider the cost of the kit and the time to make them. I've just been giving them as gifts on special occasions."

Joy's interest in making Lil-dolls was kindled by a former co-worker. She notes, "At my other job, there was a lady who brought some of the ones she'd made, and I couldn't believe how cute they were. I decided to get a few kits and try it myself."

Joy adds, "The kits come with clothes and other material needed to finish the complete doll. They average \$3.25 per kit and two to three hours time is involved for a finished doll. Once you start one, it's difficult to put it down until you've completed the whole thing. I've found them that interesting."

The body of the doll is made of Styrofoam and comes in several sizes. The Styrofoam also comes in various colors for different skin tones. Joy says, "You can make the popular figures, such as Snow White or Little Bo-Peep. One of the first I made was a snow queen for my mom. She's sorta uppity, and the snow queen reminded me of her. She had a big laugh when I told her why I had that doll for her," Joy remarked.

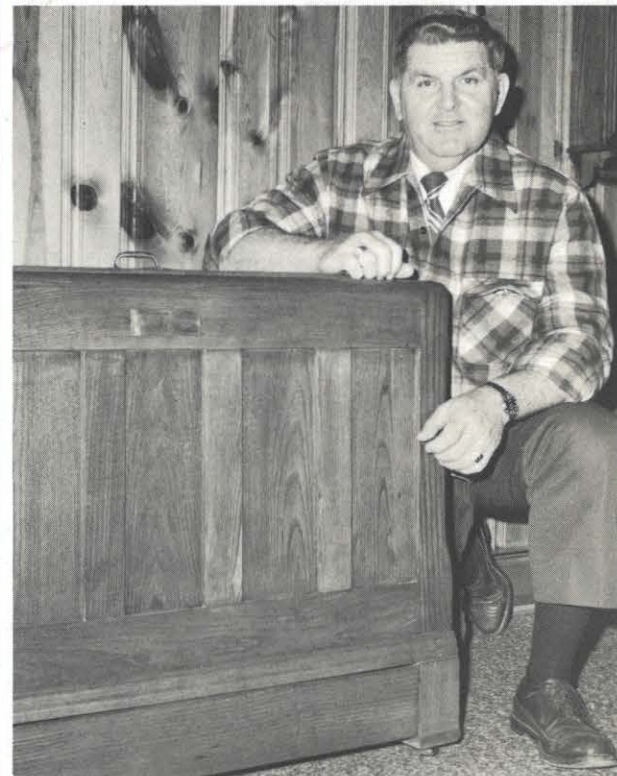
Joy declares, "The most difficult process is understanding the directions. You can't always figure out what they're saying. Another trouble spot on some models is cutting the right shaped patterns."

She concludes, "They are a lot of fun to make. You can do one in an evening while you watch TV."

## ACCEPTED OIP PROPOSALS

Abingdon .....	1
Beckley .....	1
Charleston .....	3
Huntington .....	2
Lynchburg .....	1
Pulaski .....	2
John E. Amos .....	1
Clinch River .....	1
Kanawha River .....	5
Philip Sporn .....	3
Centralized Plant Maintenance .....	1
GO Accounting .....	1
GO Land Management .....	1
GO Operations .....	1
GO Personnel .....	2
GO Purchasing .....	1
GO Public Affairs .....	1
Total as of 3/16 .....	28

## ICE, DRINK BOXES RARE FIND FOR ANTIQUE COLLECTOR GUY FUNK



Guy Funk, Roanoke garage supervisor, searched more than four years for an antique ice box. "I made regular rounds to the flea markets and even made a trip to Abingdon to look at one," he says.

"I was talking one day to Bertha Leffler (retired head-mailing section, GO General Services, Roanoke), and mentioned to her I'd looked everywhere. She said, 'Come on out to the house, and I'll sell you one'."

Guy continues, "The ice box was what I was looking for; but, when I opened the door of that old building, a brass tag on something else caught my eye. I didn't know what it was, but I knew it had to be special. As it turned out, that visit to Bertha's was very special."

"I had to laugh at Guy," Bertha says. "My daddy is 98 years old, and Guy asked him what it was. Daddy looked at him and said, 'You don't know what that is? It's a little bit older than you. That's one of the first drink boxes used around Roanoke'."

Bertha continues, "When my family moved to Roanoke in 1920, we had five milk cows. Mama churned and sold the butter and milk to neighbors. We had to have something to keep it in, and that's why she bought the drink box. She liked it because the exterior is made of oak and it looks like a piece of furniture."

Guy says, "When I carried the drink box to Montgomery County to have it refinished, the man who did the work remarked, 'My, my, where in the world did you get that? I haven't seen one of those since I was a young boy, and it's a nice one'."

Guy adds, "Bertha's grandmother bought the ice box around the turn of the century and broke up housekeeping in 1940. The two pieces have been stored in the old out building since."

The drink box is 36 inches high, 36 inches deep and about 4 feet wide. It's tin lined and insulated with sawdust. It is constructed of solid oak with brass hinges and has a swinging door on the bottom front panel to permit removal of a pan which caught water as the ice melted.

"It refinished beautifully," Guy notes. "It was stripped, restained and varnished. Once the brass hinges were buffed, it looked like new. We had to go to a little more effort on the ice box. The metal on it had to be sent to St. Albans, W. Va., for rechroming. They're both in mint condition now."

He concludes, "I've had a lot of compliments on them from friends coming to the house. Just as it was with me, no one knows what the drink box is until I tell them."