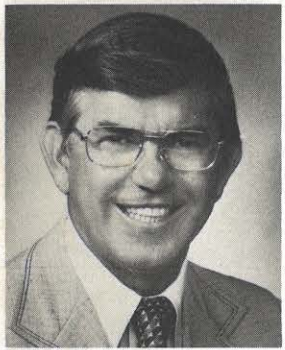
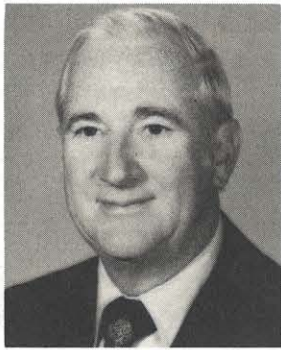


ROOMY SUCCEEDS LLOYD AS APCO VICE PRESIDENT



Lloyd



Roomy

Nicholas Roomy, executive assistant of Appalachian Power Company in Charleston, last month was elected a vice president by the company's board of directors. Roomy will be assuming the position held by Jack Lloyd, that of senior officer of the company in West Virginia. Lloyd has retired from the company.

A native of Logan, W.Va., Roomy is a graduate of National Business College and also completed the Public Utilities Executive Course at Georgia Institute of Technology. He was employed in 1938 at Logan, where he rose to local office manager. In 1959 he became district residential sales supervisor at Huntington. He transferred to Charleston as area development consultant in 1963 and was promoted to executive assistant in 1969.

Lloyd, a native of Longacre, W.Va., attended West Virginia Institute of Technology and the American Electric Power System Management and Advanced Management Training Programs at the University of Michigan. He joined Appalachian at Montgomery, W.Va., as a distribution clerk in 1940 and successively held the positions of area supervisor at Montgomery, area development consultant for the Charleston and Huntington Divisions and area development director of the company. In 1969 he was named executive assistant to the executive vice president and became manager of the Bluefield Division in 1971. He was named vice president in 1975.

APCO REQUESTS 9.2% INCREASE IN VA. RATES FUEL FACTOR

Appalachian Power Company anticipates higher fuel costs in 1980, primarily due to expected increases in coal mining labor costs, transportation of coal and the need for a higher quality coal for a new plant expected to start operations late in the year.

In filing its annual forecast of fuel costs with the Virginia State Corporation Commission on November 15, Appalachian asked that the fuel factor incorporated in its 1980 rates be 9.2 percent above the factor in present rates.

If approved by the SCC, Appalachian's rates will go up on January 1 to allow the utility to recover the anticipated higher cost of fuel. For the average residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, the increase will be \$1.34 a month based on current rates.

Forecasts are submitted to the SCC under a procedure enacted in 1978 by the General Assembly to replace the fuel adjustment clause. Under the new procedure, utilities estimate their fuel costs for the coming calendar year. After a public hearing, approved changes are implemented with billings beginning in January.

Under the new procedure, the SCC reviews the actual recovery of fuel cost each quarter so that any over or under recovery can be corrected.

"Our forecast for 1979 was highly accurate," reports Appalachian's Executive Vice President, John W. Vaughan. "We're just completing our first year using this new procedure and we're pleased that our 1979 estimate was within two percent of our actual fuel costs. This has meant that our customers have experienced a stable fuel cost throughout the year."

Vaughan noted that this request is strictly related to recovery of anticipated fuel costs for 1980 and has no connection with the \$16.2-million rate increase request filed November 9.

APCO SEEKS \$16.2-MILLION INTERIM RATE HIKE IN VA.

Appalachian Power Company on November 9 filed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission a request for a \$16.2-million increase in rates. The company asked that the increase be effective January 1, 1980, on an interim basis, subject to refund, pending final approval at the time of the company's financial review by the Commission in early 1980.

The Commission Staff plans to complete an audit of the company's filing and submit its findings to the Commission by December 21.

John W. Vaughan, Appalachian's executive vice president, said that the company's earnings have continued to erode and that the \$16.2-million being requested is based on the company's operations for the year ending August 31, 1979. He noted these additional revenues would be needed to bring the company's earnings to the level approved by the Commission this past April.

Vaughan attributed the earnings erosion to the ravaging impact of inflation. He said, "Since our last rate increase filing on May 1, 1978, the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, has risen nearly 16% as of September 1979. This request represents an overall average increase of 5.2%."

He added that Appalachian's present financial condition is such that the company does not have sufficient earnings to meet the legal requirements for selling first mortgage bonds and that for the fourth consecutive year, Appalachian will not earn the dividend on its common stock.

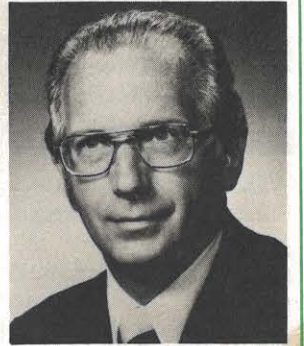
Vaughan further emphasized that the government, in an effort to control inflation, has caused interest rates to move to historic highs. "The prime rate now stands at 15¼% to 15½% at a time when Appalachian is heavily dependent on short-term borrowings because of its major construction program. A high priority in this construction program is completion of the 1,300,000 kilowatt coal-fired Mountaineer Plant in West Virginia by the winter of 1980. This plant will provide electricity for all of the company's customers."

Vaughan noted the increase would vary for individual customers depending upon their usage. He cited several examples of the effect of the increase on typical residential bills. "For a customer using 500 kilowatt-hours a month, the increase would be \$1.38; for 1,000 kwh, the increase would be \$2.31; and for 2,000 kwh, the increase would be \$4.04."

KIRKLAND TO RETIRE; CASSADY, WHITEHURST TAKE NEW POSTS



Whitehurst



Cassady



Kirkland

Appalachian Power's Abingdon and Pulaski Divisions will have new managers, effective January 1, 1980. Jerry R. Whitehurst has been named manager of the Pulaski Division. He will succeed Claud K. Kirkland, who will retire from that position on December 31, 1979. Succeeding Whitehurst as Abingdon division manager will be Rex L. Cassady, distribution superintendent in General Office Transmission and Distribution, Roanoke.

Whitehurst, a native of Norfolk County, Virginia, is an engineering graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and attended the American Electric Power System Management Training Program at the University of Michigan. He joined Appalachian in 1950 as an engineer trainee in Bluefield, West Virginia, and held several positions there before becoming area development consultant for the Abingdon, Bluefield and Pulaski Divisions in 1961. He assumed the same responsibilities for the Lynchburg and Roanoke Divisions in 1969. Later that year he became administrative assistant of the Roanoke Division and was named Abingdon division manager in 1975.

Kirkland will be bringing a career of 43 years with Appalachian to a close when he retires December 31. A retirement story on Kirkland will appear in the January issue of *The Illuminator*.

Cassady came to Appalachian in October 1977 in his present position of General Office T&D distribution superintendent after 25 years with Indiana & Michigan Electric Company. At I&M he worked in various engineering capacities in the station section and was meter section supervisor in Indiana. In Michigan he was named line supervisor of the Benton Harbor Division of I&M in 1971. An Indiana native, he is an electrical engineering graduate of Purdue University. He is a registered professional engineer in Michigan and Indiana.

THE ILLUMINATOR

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GILLOCK, JOHNSON TAKE NEW POSTS



Johnson



Gillock

New managers have been named for two General Office departments of Appalachian Power Company, effective December 1. Gene M. Gillock became manager of the Transmission and Distribution Department, headquartered in Roanoke. He succeeds Charles A. Simmons, who on October 1 became vice president — construction and maintenance of the company. Edsel E. Johnson, former operations engineering supervisor, succeeds Gillock as manager of the Operations Department, also headquartered in Roanoke.

A native Roanoker, Gillock holds a BS degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and last month completed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Program for Senior Executives. He has also attended the American Electric Power System Management and Advanced Management Training Programs at the University of Michigan. While at Virginia Tech, he worked for Appalachian in the cooperative engineering program. He began permanent employment in 1959 as system operating engineer in Roanoke. He worked at Switchback, W.Va., before returning to Roanoke in 1962, and held several jobs in the company's Operations Department before being named system operations manager in 1977.

Johnson is a native of Switchback, W.Va., where he joined Appalachian in 1951 as a utility helper. He remained at Switchback until 1965, when he became a regional chief dispatcher in Roanoke. He was named operations engineering supervisor in 1977. A graduate of West Virginia Business College, he has attended the AEP System Management Training Program at the University of Michigan.

ACCEPTED OIP PROPOSALS

Abingdon Division	16
Beckley Division	1
Bluefield Division	7
Charleston Division	10
Huntington Division	3
Logan-Williamson Division	3
Lynchburg Division	5
Pulaski Division	28
Roanoke Division	9
John Amos Plant	7
Clinch River Plant	4
Glen Lyn Plant	4
Kanawha River Plant	8
Philip Sporn Plant	4
Central Machine Shop	1
Centralized Plant Maintenance	2
GO Accounting	11
GO Customer Services	1
GO General Services	1
GO Hydro	3
GO Land Management	1
GO Operations	7
GO Personnel/Executive	9
GO Public Affairs	5
GO Purchasing	2
GO Transmission/Distribution	3

Total accepted by General Office for processing as of November 16 155

W.VA. TEST HOME COMPLETED



Huntington Division Manager F. O. Helm, center, welcomes guests at the opening of the solar heat pump test home near Hurricane, W.Va.

Nearly 300 persons toured Appalachian Power Company's solar heat pump test home near Hurricane, West Virginia, during a four-day special showing last month. The home will be open over a four-week period for invited groups from the Charleston-Huntington area.

Terra Enterprises Inc. and Davis Builders built the home for Freda J. Slaymaker and Sharon D. Slater. Lawson Bailey, Appalachian customer services manager, said, "The test program in which this home and another home near Roanoke, Va., are a part is unique in the nation. In addition to the solar heat feature and electric heat pumps, the home also contains energy-efficient appliances and lighting fixtures in an effort to achieve energy conservation superior to conventional contemporary homes."

Included are a microwave oven, electric range, refrigerator/freezer, washer, dryer, dishwasher and water heater. "In addition, the fiberglass insulation materials and installation techniques used in the home are the newest, and the insulation levels exceed present industry governmental and Save America's Valuable Energy program recommendations. SAVE is a comprehensive Appalachian program involving ways of using electric and other energy most efficiently," Bailey added.

"All of the features of the home will be monitored by special metering. The collection of this data, which should give us a picture of how the heating and appliances affect the demand for electricity at various times of the day, will help determine the economic feasibility of new energy-conversion equipment and materials, designs, and technical innovations.

"This information will be made available to builders, the electric utility industry, and the general public. We are also hopeful that, if the West Virginia and Virginia homes prove successful, it will help stimulate the development of additional energy-efficient homes," Bailey stated.

The two Appalachian homes are among 10 being sponsored by operating companies of the American Electric Power System.

Referring again to the insulation techniques being used, Bailey said that insulation is a major emphasis in all of the homes. He said that, for example, special attention is being given to reducing infiltration losses around windows, doors, outside walls, from the basement, and other areas.

He continued: "Our test program will last a minimum of 2 years, and summary reports from test data will be made periodically. From the operating experience we will acquire in this program, we hope that our customers, as well as those of other electric utilities across the country, will be encouraged and persuaded to develop truly energy-efficient homes that will go a long way toward preserving our nation's energy resources."

THE COVER

Employees' children appearing on the cover of this issue are: top — Debbie, daughter of Anna Cyphers, secretary, Charleston. Second row, l. to r., Jason, son of James Hall, unit supervisor, Kanawha River; and Michael, son of Beecher Robinson, maintenance mechanic A, Amos. Third row, l. to r., April, daughter of James Johnston, plant clerk A, Glen Lyn; Robert, son of Kathy Bopp, stenographer, Pulaski; and Sheena, daughter of Mary Davis, personnel clerk B, Philip Sporn. Fourth row, l. to r., Jeffery and Scotty, twin sons of Charles Vanhoozier, T&D clerk A, Bluefield; Courtney, daughter of Jerry Vest, administrative assistant, Lynchburg; and Ashley, daughter of Dave Bush, meter superintendent, Roanoke. Fifth row, l. to r., Darek, son of Kay Powell, customer accounts representative C, Kingsport; Allison, daughter of Fred Stotts, production supervisor, Central Machine Shop; and Michael, son of Gus Croft, division office supervisor, Abingdon. Sixth row, l. to r., Emily, daughter of W. P. Bailey, line mechanic A, Beckley; Michael Jr. and André, sons of Mike Howard, workers compensation assistant, GO Personnel, Roanoke; Tara, daughter of Paul Williams, maintenance mechanic A, Centralized Plant Maintenance; and Ryan, son of Lawrence Bird, meter electrician C, Logan.

TMI REPORT MERITS STUDY

The Presidential Commission investigating the Three Mile Island nuclear accident made public its report on October 29 — a report that incorporated criticism of all parties involved.

In commenting on the report of the commission, headed by Dr. John Kemeny, president of Dartmouth College, American Electric Power Company Chairman W. S. White, Jr. said that it merited close study.

"The commission has made an admirable effort to determine objectively the causes of the incident at Three Mile Island and to suggest policy and procedural changes that would diminish such incidents in the future. At the same time it has put in perspective such concerns as the health effects of the accident, concluding that such effects will be minimal. We believe such findings merit proper public attention and consideration," White said.

"In assessing the role of nuclear power as a critical part of this nation's energy supply base, the commission has made a number of proposals which would require actions by the President and Congress. While we may not agree with each and every one, we do feel that they merit public attention and debate before any decisions are reached and actions taken. In this regard, we consider it significant that the commission has chosen not to recommend a moratorium on nuclear power development or, in the extreme, abandonment of this energy option. That could have been a case of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

"What all Americans can do now," White concluded, "is assess the report's contents and contribute to the public dialogue, which is vitally necessary before the future of nuclear power is determined by our lawmakers."

In its report, the Kemeny Commission concluded that fundamental changes in the way nuclear reactors are built, operated and regulated were necessary if nuclear power is to remain a viable energy source.

At the same time the commission said that its findings "do not, standing alone, require the conclusion that nuclear power is inherently too dangerous to permit it to continue and expand as a form of power generation." Nor did the commission recommend a moratorium on the construction of new reactors, a proposal now pending in Congress. Its basic message on nuclear power was to proceed — but with caution.

The panel found that the accident at Three Mile Island was the result of a combination of factors: minor equipment failure compounded by deficiencies in operator training, lack of clarity in operating procedures, failure of organizations to learn the proper lessons from previous incidents, and deficiencies in the design of the control room.

The Kemeny group concluded that "in spite of serious damage to the (TMI) plant, most of the radiation was contained and the actual release will have a negligible effect on the physical health of individuals."

Among the panel's key recommendations were these:

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an independent agency headed by five commissioners, should be abolished and replaced by an executive branch agency with a single executive.
2. A permanent presidential oversight committee should be established to monitor continuously the performance of both the proposed new federal agency and the private companies that design, build and operate nuclear reactors.
3. Before any utility is granted an operating license for a new nuclear generating unit, state and local emergency plans should be reviewed and approved by the federal government.
4. A variety of changes should be made in the recruiting and training of reactor operating personnel, in the instruments available to help operators understand the condition of reactors and the availability of equipment to measure the accidental release of radiation. Legal responsibility for operator training and for fundamental design and safety procedures rests with the utility.

Underlying the recommendations was the view that regulation alone will not guarantee safety. "It is an absorbing concern with safety that will bring about safety — not just the meeting of narrowly prescribed and complex regulations," the commission said.

CLAIMS COURT DENIES REHEARING ON BLUE RIDGE

The U.S. Court of Claims in the District of Columbia has rejected Appalachian Power Company's request for a rehearing of the court's negative decision on the company's Blue Ridge litigation against the U.S. Government.

The company had sought damages relating to the nullification of its federal license to construct its once-proposed Blue Ridge pumped-storage and hydroelectric project in Virginia on the New River.

The company still has the option to file a petition for writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court. The filing deadline is mid-January.



W. Va. Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV, along with members of the Mason County Commission and other community leaders, toured the Mountaineer Plant under construction near New Haven, West Virginia, late last month. The Governor praised the \$625 million project for the 3.5 million tons of West Virginia coal to be burned annually and stated that this would cause new employment for some 2,000 miners, with an annual payroll in excess of \$30 million. Chairman of President Carter's Coal Commission, Governor Rockefeller has been a champion of increased coal use as an answer to the country's energy shortage. He has diligently sought legislation which would assist utilities in converting oil and gas-fired generating plants to coal. From left, W. M. Robinson, Jr., Mountaineer plant manager; Governor Rockefeller and Nicholas Roomy, Appalachian Power vice president.



Because he was wearing safety glasses when an accident occurred recently, Gerald Cobb's right eye was saved. Hot molten slag blew from a co-worker's torch, splattering Cobb's glasses and burning a hole through the right lens. Cobb (right) maintenance mechanic at Centralized Plant Maintenance, is presented a Wise Owl Certificate by CPM Manager E. L. Huntley.



Centralized Plant Maintenance was awarded the Executive Vice President's Certificate of Excellence following a safety audit conducted September 24 and 25. To receive certification, an overall rating of 3.5 must be established and the location's incidence index must be lower than the AEP index for a designated period. CPM received a grade of 4.62. Their incidence index was 0.0 compared to the AEP rate of 0.375 for the period August 1, 1978, through July 31, 1979. John W. Vaughan, executive vice president of Appalachian Power (left), presented the certificate to Emmet Huntley, CPM manager.

SAVINGS PLAN UNIT VALUES

Date	Value Per Unit	Units Credited Per Dollar
Fixed Income Fund		
1/31/79	1.0846	.9219
2/28/79	1.0912	.9164
3/31/79	1.0987	.9102
4/30/79	1.1060	.9042
5/31/79	1.1136	.8980
6/30/79	1.1209	.8921
7/31/79	1.1286	.8861
8/31/79	1.1363	.8800
9/30/79	1.1439	.8742
10/31/79	1.1518	.8682
Equity Fund		
1/31/79	1.1920	.8389
2/28/79	1.1582	.8634
3/31/79	1.2241	.8169
4/30/79	1.2278	.8145
5/31/79	1.2066	.8288
6/30/79	1.2577	.7951
7/31/79	1.2705	.7871
8/31/79	1.3494	.7411
9/30/79	1.3513	.7400
10/31/79	1.2638	.7913
AEP Stock Fund		
1/31/79	1.0355	.9657
2/28/79	1.0153	.9849
3/31/79	1.0167	.9836
4/30/79	1.0108	.9893
5/31/79	0.9784	1.0221
6/30/79	1.0267	.9740
7/31/79	1.0383	.9631
8/31/79	1.0105	.9896
9/30/79	.9544	1.0478
10/31/79	.9363	1.0680

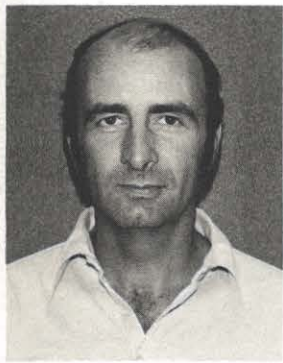
MOVING UP



W. F. Crump, former unit supervisor at Gavin Plant, was promoted to assistant shift operating engineer at Mountaineer Plant on May 16.



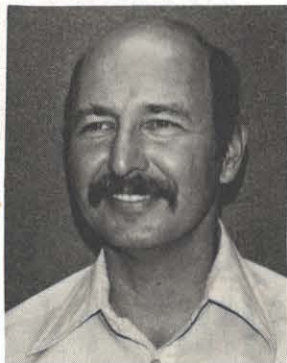
George Roberts, former customer accounts assistant, was promoted to the exempt position of customer accounts supervisor at Point Pleasant in the Huntington Division on October 1. He succeeds the late Norma Jean Harbour. Roberts is a graduate of Mountain State Business College.



L. W. Bausell, former assistant shift operating engineer at Gavin Plant, was promoted to shift operating engineer at Mountaineer Plant on May 16. He attended Abingdon Tech.



Ruth Santopolo, former secretary-stenographer, was promoted to the exempt position of junior buyer in General Office Purchasing, Roanoke, on November 1. She is a graduate of National Business College.



G. M. Douglas, former assistant shift operating engineer at Mitchell Plant, was promoted to shift operating engineer at Mountaineer Plant on May 16. He holds an associate in science degree in industrial supervision and management from West Virginia Northern Community College.



D. E. Hunnel, former special clerk at Kyger Creek Plant, was promoted to office supervisor at Mountaineer Plant on July 1.



J. B. Meadows, former unit supervisor at Amos Plant, was promoted to assistant shift operating engineer at Mountaineer Plant on May 16.



Larry E. Fisher, former maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Amos Plant on November 1.



Donald Ray Huffman, former engineering technologist supervisor, was promoted to general line supervisor in Charleston on November 1. He succeeds Clifford Picklesimer, who was promoted earlier.



Tommie E. Bell, former maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Amos Plant on November 1.



C. W. Wynn, former general servicer, was promoted to line crew supervisor non-exempt in Lynchburg on November 12.



Herbert S. Miller, former maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Amos Plant on November 1.



Emmett D. McGehee, former maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Amos Plant on November 1.



James R. Cottrill, Jr., former maintenance supervisor, was promoted to production superintendent at Amos Plant on November 1.

NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

John Amos, **Joseph Douglas**, **Christopher Hickman**, **Clyde Price, Jr.**, **Michael Witt**, **Rex King**, **Lawrence Calhoun**, **Donald Withrow**, **Matthew Dow**, **Kenneth Chapman**, **Leslie Ward**, **Vernon Huffman** and **Kelly Turley**, utility workers. **Jackie Fisher**, **Willard Crites, Jr.**, and **Okey Redman, III**, control technicians junior.

Beckley **Rita Taylor**, junior clerk. **Larry Darnell**,

stores attendant.

Bluefield **Jeffrey Wood**, meter reader. **Grundy**. **Connie Crockett**, part-time junior clerk, **Tazewell**.

Centralized Plant Maintenance

Roger Robinson, field clerk. **Phillip Davis**, **Kenneth McComas**, **Emmet Rawson**, **Ricky Pickens**, **David Ross**, **Lewis Pulver, Jr.**, **William Stivers**, **James Vaughan**, **Harry Bartles**, **Lawrence Davison**, **Robert Chapman**, **Samuel Cover**, **Ballard Howell**, **Arthur Slusher**, **Major Anderson, Jr.**, **Carl Hesch** and **David Neigler**, maintenance mechanics.

Charleston **Kathryn Hardin**, meter reader. **Donald Fletcher** and **John Nuckles, II**, line mechanics D. **Jerry Clendenin**, custodian. **Charles Workman**, tracer.

Clinch River **Helen Ball**, plant clerk C.

General Office **Wanda Edmonds**, junior stenographer, **GO Accounting**, **Roanoke**. **Timothy Toler**, office messenger, **GO General Services**, **Roanoke**. **Thomas Stephens, Jr.**, rate analyst, **GO Rates and Contracts**, **Roanoke**.

Kevin Carter, junior key entry operator, **GO Accounting**, **Roanoke**. **Robie Rhodes**, junior clerk, **GO Accounting**, **Roanoke**. **Paul Kehrer**, communications engineer, **GO T&D Communications**, **Bluefield**. **Nancy Johann**, junior clerk, **GO T&D R/e & R/w**, **Roanoke**. **Charles Withrow**, surveyor assistant-rod, **GO T&D Civil Engineering**, **Roanoke**. **Charles Niday**, engineering technician, **GO T&D Communications**, **Charleston**. **Mary Nelson**, telephone operator, **GO General Services**, **Roanoke**. **Kyle W. Swim**, engineering technician, **GO T&D Transmission**, **Bluefield**.

Glen Lyn **Freddie Terry**, utility worker B.

Huntington **Cheryl Dunlap**, junior clerk, **Point Pleasant**.

Kanawha River **Thomas Ray Johnson**, utility worker B.

Kingsport **Gregory Smith**, associate rate analyst.

Logan-Williamson **Ollie Davis**, **Nannie Davis**, **Diana Syck** and **Lisa Savage**, junior clerks, **Williamson**. **Jerry Lothar**, meter reader. **Jerry Miller**, commercial engineer. **Joe Carrasco**, meter reader, **Madison**. **Mack Johnson**, tracer.

Lynchburg **R. M. Barksdale**, **G. F. Kidd, Jr.**, **S. A. Fletcher, Jr.**, and **G. M. Hutchinson**, line mechanics D.

Mountaineer Operations

N. L. Roush, coal handler. **C. L. Clark**, performance technician. **G. M. Gill**, custodian. **Carl Matheny**, **S. P. Vaidya** and **T. W. Damm**, performance engineers. **S. R. Ashley**, **M. G. Mullins**, **W. N. O'Neil**, **J. R. Tate**, **A. T. Pepper**, **B. C. Stout**, **V. L. Toppins**, **J. E. Phillips**, **E. C. Roush**, **R. G. Randolph** and **J. P. Wilson**, maintenance mechanics B. **R. L. Barr**, **B. P. McKinney**, **C. E. Roach, Jr.**, **J. R. Dixon**, **J. M. Donahoe**, **J. H. Gianopoulos**, **J. D. Johnston** and **H. E. Midkiff**, control technicians junior. **D. W. Rynnion**, maintenance mechanic A. **D. E. Walker**, performance technician.

Pulaski

E. H. Mahler, residential representative, **Christiansburg**. **T. M. Lineberry**, meter reader, **Galax**. **T. R. Williams**, meter reader, **Hillsville**.

Philip Sporn

Debra Carder, plant clerk C. **Robert Freyburg**, utility worker.

TECH STUDENT AWARDED AEP FELLOWSHIP



Michael Oatts (left), a Virginia Tech electrical engineering graduate student, shows Jack Kepner, vice president of operations of Appalachian Power Company, some of the work he will be doing as one of six national recipients of an AEP fellowship. Kepner traveled to the Tech campus to award Oatts his fellowship. Standing behind Oatts is his course advisor, Leonard Grigsby, professor of electrical engineering.

Michael Lee Oatts of Richmond, Va., a Virginia Tech electrical engineering graduate, has received one of six national fellowships awarded this year by American Electric Power Company.

The fellowship gave Oatts the opportunity to work as a summer intern for the system planning division of AEP in New York City. AEP offers the summer employment to all of its fellowship winners to provide a topic for the master's thesis and to give the student valuable insights into power engineering problems.

Oatts also will be awarded his tuition, fees and book costs during his next year of study, and he will have the offer to work with the company after he completes his degree requirements.

In addition, Tech's electrical engineering department will receive \$1,000 from AEP.

Fellowships in power engineering have been established by AEP at Cornell, Polytechnic Institute of New York, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ohio State University, Purdue, Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Tech.

AEP TO AWARD EIGHT FELLOWSHIPS

The American Electric Power System will award eight fellowships for graduate study in power systems engineering for the academic year 1980-81.

The program is designed to assist students to pursue graduate studies leading to a master's degree in electrical or mechanical engineering, with special emphasis on energy sources, energy conversion systems, electric transmission and distribution, power system protection and related fields. The fellowships may be pursued at Clarkson College of Technology, Cornell University, Polytechnic Institute of New York, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University, The Ohio State University, Purdue University, Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and West Virginia University.

Details of the program are available from the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Departments of the universities or from H. K. Amchin, director — engineering education, American Electric Power Service Corporation.

LETTERS WE LIKE

A Lynchburg customer had these comments about Consumer Circuit, the insert mailed to all customers each month with their electric bill: "When your monthly bill comes, I know it will contain some good reading. Your fliers are so much appreciated, and I treasure each of them, especially October's Thomas Elva Edison. My thanks for his picture. November's 'Money To Burn' was a real gem for those fortunate to have fireplaces. A wish for every employee with Appalachian Power — keep smiling for all of 1980, 81, 82."

A Beckley customer had this word of praise: "I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the quick, efficient work done by the Appalachian Power crews during the October storms in the Summersville-Mt. Nebo area. We have a vacation cabin in the Mt. Nebo area near Route 19, and I was there during the October 9 snow and wind storm that knocked down many trees and power lines, leaving us without electricity. Suddenly I lost the use of the electric heater, electric cooking stove, toaster, water pump, lights and radio. I was very happy to see the trucks and men out working till late at night to repair the lines. Our power was restored by 10 PM October 10, so we actually went without it less than 24 hours. Please pass along a word of thanks to all the foremen, linemen and other maintenance staff responsible for the fine work."

Another Beckley customer also appreciated restoration of his service after an outage: "So few times in this day and time do we stop to say thank you to people that are so important to our lives. Two of your employees that took care of a power failure at my all-electric lake cottage were very courteous and the serviceman that replaced the transformer fuse at 1:15 AM is certainly a credit to the power company. Thanks fellows."

When Pulaski Residential Advisor Martha Horne furnished a pickle recipe requested by a customer, he responded with this note: "I want to express my sincere thanks for your help. You have been so nice to me I will not dread paying my next electric bill."



Bowling has been very much a part of Randy Minnix's life since he was eight years old. Data processing operator B in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, Randy bowls in the Power Keglers, Virginian and Industrial Leagues. In 1978 he bowled on the Wildcats team, which placed second in the Power Keglers League. He was awarded trophies for having high series scratch (639), high series handicap (708), high game scratch (248) and high game handicap (271). Bowling in the 1979 Summer League at Vinton Bowling Lanes, he received trophies for high series scratch (598) and high game scratch (222).

NEW CANTON COMPUTER CENTER BEGINS OPERATION



Operators at the computer console check the cathode ray terminals as they program information into the computer.

The AEP Service Corporation's new Central Computer Complex in Canton, in the planning stages since March 1978, began operation last month.

Housed in a one-story structure one block south of Ohio Power Company's headquarters, the center contains \$15 million of advanced computer equipment combining accounting, customer-service and payroll computer applications, already based in Canton, with engineering and management information applications, formerly located in the New York office.

Each of the System's seven operating companies now has access to the computer and its programs and data through a network of satellite computers and terminals in major offices, customer-service facilities and affiliated coal mines across the System. In addition, they each will have the capability, through this network, to set up their own programs and receive solutions on their local video display or printer terminals.

"We now have a computer network similar to the AEP power system network itself — one that integrates all of our operating companies," said Anthony Gabrielle, vice president — computer applications.

Basically, he explained, the complex is a two-machine operation. "The two computers manage the job flow from across the seven-state AEP System," he said. "As jobs come in, they go through an automatic selection process that recognizes priority scheduling so that the most urgent jobs are processed first."

Canton was selected as the site for the new complex, Gabrielle pointed out, because of its reliable power supply, direct microwave telecommunications with all parts of the AEP System and its secure environment.

The center, in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week, employs 40 technical and computer operations personnel. It is under the direction of Tod Dixon, head of the Computer Systems Division of Computer Applications.

While the bulk of computer operations will now be in Canton, the Computer Applications Department in New York will operate a new IBM 4300 computer to manage all computer input-output devices still there. These include data-entry machines, plotters used for graphs and charts, a microfiche printer and disc-packs for storing incoming and outgoing jobs.

Gabrielle talked about the effort involved in transferring and converting all of the AEP System's existing programming in both New York and Canton to the new computer complex in Canton.

"In the interim we had to keep functioning both our old computer equipment in New York and our new equipment in Canton until we could reestablish our computer communications to focus solely on the new central complex," he said. "Now that the transfer has been completed, I'm sure that the Central Computer Complex, with its expanded computer technology, will greatly enhance the AEP System's effectiveness and efficiency of operation."

POWER PEOPLE MAKING NEWS

Abingdon



Marcy Spencer, daughter of David Spencer, Marion line mechanic B, was elected president of the Mountain Empire Junior Music Club. A sixth grader, she is also vice president of District I of the State of Virginia Junior Music Club.

John Amos

Carl Handley, II, and **Eddie Hudson** were selected as football "players of the week" by the *Charleston Daily Mail*. They are the sons of Carl Handley, maintenance supervisor, and Nancy Hudson, plant clerk, respectively. Carl plays split end for the Hurricane High School Redskins and has established himself as an excellent receiver and punt and kick off return specialist. Eddie was selected for his performance during Hurricane High's game with Milton High in November. He intercepted seven passes, breaking the school's old mark of six, and gained 1,210 yards, cracking the school's old mark of 1,125. His efforts allowed Hurricane to end the season with a 5-5 record.

Beckley

D. L. Kendrick, customer services manager, was elected vice president of the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce for 1980.

Michael Thomas, son of J. C. Thomas, line crew supervisor non-exempt, was selected to the Beckley Midget Football League All Stars.

Keisha Leach, daughter of W. M. Leach, line mechanic A, was named queen of the East Beckley "B" team of the Beckley Midget Football League.

Walter Leach, line mechanic A, coached the East Beckley "Wildcats" of the Beckley Midget Football League to an undefeated season. They were also declared co-champions of the eight-team league.

R. E. Dyke, Oak Hill line mechanic A, and **J. A. Kirby**, Beckley T&D clerk A, were selected by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission to serve as officials of the West Virginia high school football championships.

Bluefield



Barry Coleman was selected for inclusion in "Who's Who Among Outstanding High School Students". The son of Clovis Coleman, Grundy line mechanic A, he is an 11th grader at Grundy High School.



Teresa Sluss, wife of Wilbur Sluss, Grundy area supervisor, was elected president of the Big Rock Elementary School Parent-Teachers organization for 1979-80.



The first annual Peters-town Independent Midget Football League program was dedicated to **David Mann**, Princeton area service

restorer. Mann was instrumental in organizing the league and has also coached little league baseball for several years.



Kurt Rice, son of Mary Lou Rice, Princeton customer accounts representative C, was selected to play on the Princeton Independent Football League all-star team, which won both of their post-season games. Kurt was a halfback for the Leggett-sponsored entry during the regular season. The all-star team was coached by **Bob Shrewsbury**, husband of Sherri Shrewsbury, Princeton customer accounts representative B.



Chad Surface, son of Jim Surface, engineering technologist, GO T&D Relay, Bluefield, was on the championship Bank of Tazewell County team which was scored on in only two games. Chad, playing defensive tackle, made several key tackles to keep the opponents from scoring and recovered fumbles in critical situations. The seven-year-old, 57-pound football enthusiast played with boys ranging in age from 8 to 10. Chad also played many offensive positions, including halfback, end and tackle. He was awarded a trophy at the recent team banquet.

Carla Ann Sluss, daughter of Wilbur Sluss, won second place in an art exhibit at Big Rock Elementary School.

Charleston



Lawrence Kilburn, husband of Retiree Imogene Kilburn, was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows for the State of West Virginia. This is the highest honor a member can receive at the state level.

General Office

Heather and Bryan Donaldson will be appearing later this month in the Maryland Ballet Troupe's presentation of "The Nutcracker Suite" at the Roanoke Civic Center.

They are the children of John Donaldson, statistical accountant senior, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Teresa Plunk, daughter of Joe C. Plunk, manager hydro generation, GO Hydro, Roanoke, was elected freshman representative on William Byrd High School's homecoming court.

Huntington



Residential Representative **Virginia Black** received the Friends of 4-H Award for more than 25 years' work with 4-Hers in Lincoln County, West Virginia.

Carlos Hoschar, son of Head T&D Clerk Charles Hoschar, received a commendation for superior performance of duties while serving as a corrosion control maintenance supervisor aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga.



Velma McMahan, wife of W. C. McMahan, Point Pleasant area manager, was elected president of the West Virginia Baptist Convention of American Baptist Churches. She previously served four years on the state board of West Virginia Baptist Women, three three-year terms on the West Virginia Baptist Convention board, and as second vice president and first vice president.

Kingsport

A. B. Pairgin, right-of-way agent, was elected to membership in the American Angus Association. Membership in this largest beef cattle registry in the world is limited to farmers and ranchers who raise only high quality Angus beef cattle.

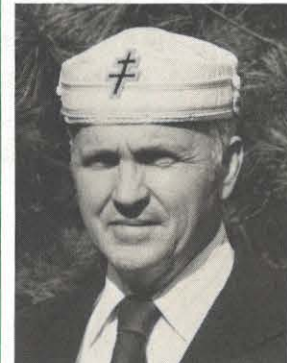
Bob Stewart, meter electrician A, won the Kingsport Bass Club's Nite-Time Tournament held on South Holston Lake with a limit string of bass weighing 9 lb. 6 oz.

Wayne Mullins, line mechanic A, was awarded a first-place trophy, big fish trophy, \$150 and a graphite rod for winning the Atkins Bass Pro Shop Tournament held on South Holston Lake.

Logan-Williamson

Martha Stepp has been selected as "employee of the month" for the seventh time by B. & L. Furniture Company of Williamson. The selection is made via a point system, i.e., total contacts worked during the day, promptness, etc. She is the wife of Gene P. Stepp, Williamson engineer B.

Lynchburg



W. A. Robertson, station mechanic A, was coronated a 33rd degree inspector general Mason by the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction. A member of the Lynchburg Valley Consistory of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Bill is a past master of Marshall Lodge #39.

J. W. Dalton, Sr., station mechanic A, was elected vice president of the New London Ruritan Club and to a three-year term on the club's board of directors. He was also elected to the board of deacons of the Terrace View Union Baptist Church, Bedford.

Pulaski

Division Manager **C. K. Kirkland** was reappointed to a four-year term on the Pulaski Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He is currently serving as chairman of the authority.



Cindy Litteral, daughter of B. C. Litteral, Byllesby maintenance mechanic A, was named football homecoming queen at Fries High School. A cheerleader, she was also named an outstanding senior.

Roanoke



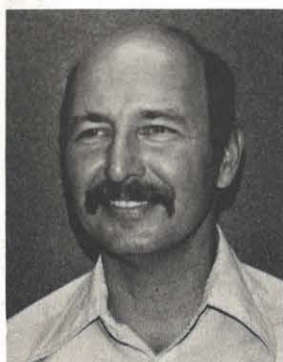
Gene French, engineer B, and his partner Dickie Byrd won a first place trophy and \$500 for their catch of 12 bass in the South Team Tournaments fishing contest at Smith Mountain Lake. Two weeks earlier French won a first place trophy and \$90 in a fishing tournament at Smith Mountain Lake sponsored by the Hardy, Va., Volunteer Fire Department.



Power Engineer **D. E. Vaught** was elected president of the Old Dominion Street Rod Association for 1980. His wife **Yvonne** was elected secretary.

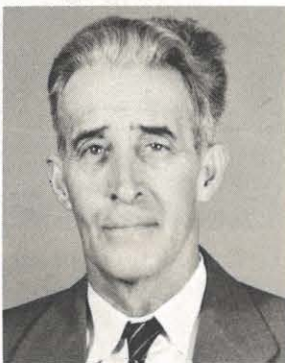
Joel T. Wilson, residential representative, was elected to the Henry County Board of Supervisors from the Reed Creek District.

DOUGLAS EARNS DEGREE



Glenn M. Douglas, shift operating engineer at Mountaineer Plant, has been awarded an associate in science degree in industrial supervision and management from West Virginia Northern Community College.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Alvin T. Reed, 81, retired Charleston meter reader, died October 24. A native of Left-hand, West Virginia, he began his career in 1923 with the West Virginia Water and Electric Company, a predecessor of Appalachian, and retired January 1, 1959. Reed is survived by his widow Dorothy, 416 Palm Way, Tavares, Florida, and a son.



Raymond E. Sheets, 70, retired Pulaski electrical engineer, died November 4. A native of Ashland, West Virginia, he was employed in 1937 as a meter helper in Bluefield and retired September 1, 1974. Sheets is survived by his widow Reba, 315 Second Street, Pulaski, Virginia; two daughters, two grandchildren and two brothers.



Hurley F. Rotenberry, 81, retired Pulaski hydro maintenance man, died November 4. A native of Grayson County, Virginia, he was employed in 1940 as a carpenter in Bluefield and retired February 1, 1963. Rotenberry is survived by his widow Metta, 131 Polk Drive,

Manassas Park, Virginia; three sons, two sisters and one brother.



Morris Lewis, 79, retired helper at Reusens Hydro in Lynchburg Division, died November 9. A native of Reusens, Virginia, he began his career in 1935 as a laborer and retired November 1, 1965. Lewis is survived by two daughters and 11 grandchildren.



William A. Martin, 61, Charleston driver-ground helper, died November 13. A native of Montgomery, West Virginia, he was employed as a laborer at Cabin Creek Plant in 1952 and had been on LTD leave since September 1973. Martin is survived by a son.

BLOOD DONOR HONOR ROLL

Bluefield
Jessie Foster, Grundy meter reader, one gallon.
Leland Looney, Grundy T&D clerk A, one gallon.

Huntington
Corky Lambert, technician, AEP Lab, three gallons.

APCO HAS BEEN MY LIFE



"My wife and I and our family feel that working for Appalachian Power Company has made a better way of life for all of us, and I recommend Appalachian to everyone," states Kyle D. Moore, Sr., emphatically. "Appalachian has been my life for more than 42 years, and I won't forget the good things that have happened to me while in the employ of the company." Kyle retired December 1 as residential services coordinator in Huntington.

He continues, "I was looking for a job that would provide permanent employment and had job applications with three other companies. The late Jimmy Dunlavy, former area serviceman in Milton, found out that I was looking for a job and asked me why I didn't apply at Appalachian. So it was Jimmy that got me started as a groundman on June 9, 1937, at 50 cents per hour.

"I was one of eight groundmen and a foreman, the late Roscoe Strother, who did the climbing for the new crew that was just started after the depression. After six months I got a five cent per hour increase in pay, to do the climbing and timekeeping for the crew."

Kyle adds, "I went from there to a clerk's job in the trouble department and found that job took in being a radio operator and troubleman when needed in Huntington and Milton." He then moved to head distribution clerk in the engineering department, under the supervision of Eddie Mack and Harold Rozier. "Appalachian purchased some property from the Southern

Utilities Company, which included Hamlin, Culloden and Hurricane, W. Va. I was given the Culloden-Hurricane areas to go over the facilities and bring them up to Appalachian standards."

He continues, "When this assignment was finished, I started making layouts for old and new customers alike. (This job is now titled planner.) Then came the days of extensive rural line construction. It was my job to go over the layouts before they were put out for construction and list all materials needed to do the job. There were 14 contractor and three Appalachian crews doing this rural line building. Then it fell my lot to go out and go over these new lines to see if everything had been installed according to drawings and check the contractors' billing for accuracy, then prepare the necessary forms for capitalizing each R. E. line."

Kyle notes, "With the building of new rural lines, the Commercial Department started to increase its sales force so that new load would be installed. R. S. Musgrave, retired division commercial manager, asked me how I would like to be a rural residential sales representative and work the Milton, Barboursville and Hurricane areas with dealers to help them sell appliances to new and existing customers. It finally worked out that I was working residential, commercial and industrial, and I loved it. Then the day of electric heating came, and I had the first electric heating job installed in the Huntington Division, with some help from other Commercial Department employees.

"I was soon made a heating and builder sales representative, still working with and organizing new heating dealers in the territory. I was then promoted to division heating and builder sales coordinator, working Huntington, Logan, Williamson and Point Pleasant. Then came the time to reduce the size of the Commercial Department and call it the Customer Services Department."

Kyle continues, "I married Helen Rose Cunningham, a Methodist minister's daughter, in 1937, the same year I

went to work for Appalachian. We have one son and one daughter, both married, and five grandchildren. Both our son and daughter live in Milton, near us. We will be spending more time with them and my wife's sister in Edgewater, Florida."

A member of the Milton Lions Club since 1938, Kyle has held all offices in the local club as well as zone chairman and deputy district governor twice on the state level. A 32nd degree Mason, he belongs to Lebanon Lodge #68 in Milton. Also a Shriner, he is a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies and Beni-Kedem Temple in Charleston. Kyle attends the Milton Baptist Church.

His plans for retirement include fishing, gardening and helping his wife with her flowers. They will continue to reside at 1231 Glenwood Avenue, Milton.

HUNTERS SCORE

Glen Lyn Fairley Long, instrument maintenance supervisor, 100 lb. doe with bow and arrow.

Huntington
Bruce Langford, Ripley area service restorer, 175 lb. 8-point buck with bow and arrow.

BABY PARADE

John Amos
Justin, son of **Charles D. Williams**, maintenance mechanic C., October 9.

Kathryn, daughter of **Clarence E. Lewis, Jr.**, utility operator A, October 21.

Joshua, son of **James E. Skeens**, maintenance mechanic B, November 10.

Centralized Plant Maintenance
Matthew, son of **Paul T. Williams**, maintenance mechanic, August 13.

Amanda Natasha, daughter of **James H. Bennett, Jr.**, maintenance mechanic, November 1.

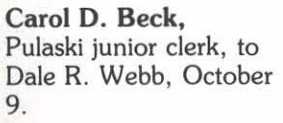
Charleston
Mark Andrew, son of **Barry L. Snodgrass**, power engineer, November 5.

(Continued on page 9)

SYSTEM COUPLES MARRY



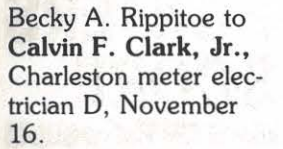
Mary Lee Frye, daughter of Arvle Frye, Kanawha River Plant shift operating engineer, to Richard Pendry Tyler, Jr., October 19.



Carol D. Beck, Pulaski junior clerk, to Dale R. Webb, October 9.



Janet L. Martin, junior clerk, GO Accounting, Roanoke, to Stephen R. Stump, October 20.



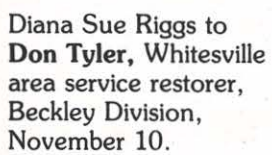
Becky A. Rippitoe to **Calvin F. Clark, Jr.**, Charleston meter electrician D, November 16.



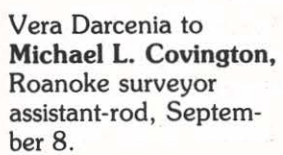
Marie Polino to **William Earle Pearson**, son of Betty Pearson, Lynchburg residential advisor, October 6.



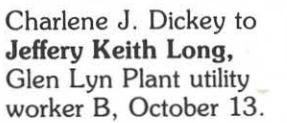
Sandra Kim Swiney, daughter of Jesse W. Swiney, drafter B, GO Operations, Roanoke, to Matthew T. Moran, November 3.



Diana Sue Riggs to **Don Tyler**, Whitesville area service restorer, Beckley Division, November 10.



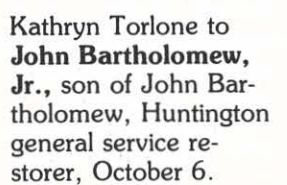
Vera Darcenia to **Michael L. Covington**, Roanoke surveyor assistant-rod, September 8.



Charlene J. Dickey to **Jeffery Keith Long**, Glen Lyn Plant utility worker B, October 13.



Kimberly Edmonds to **Roger L. Meade**, Abingdon line mechanic D, October 19.



Kathryn Torlone to **John Bartholomew, Jr.**, son of John Bartholomew, Huntington general service restorer, October 6.

COZY HALSTEAD COMPETES ON TV GAME SHOW



"I can't believe it was the first thought that went through my head when I heard Johnny Olsen say, 'Cozy Halstead, come on down.'" But that's exactly what happened when Cozy and her husband Steve visited the CBS Studio in Los Angeles, California, to view a taping of the Daytime Price Is Right game show.

"The Price Is Right has always been my favorite game show, and I've had a long-time dream of being a contestant," explains Cozy, secretary to Bob Adams, construction manager for Mountaineer Plant. "So when we first planned our vacation, I wrote for tickets to the show."

Contestants are picked by Production Manager Phillip Wayne, who interviews each person, just before the taping of each show. Nine contestants are chosen from a crowd of approximately 300, but none are told beforehand that they have been selected.

After bidding unsuccessfully on three items during the first half of the show, Cozy had the right price when she bid \$300 on a set of French cookware that retailed for \$315. She then went on stage to meet show host Bob Barker, played the Mountain Climber Game and won a \$2,000 Celestral juke box. After spinning the wheel along with her opponents, Cozy was unsuccessful in getting in the Showcase Showdown at the end of the show. However, she left with a total of \$2,340 in prizes.



New officers of the Bluefield Girls' Service Club for 1980 are, seated l. to r., Faye Hankins, telephone operator, treasurer; Kim Pickett, tracer, president; and Eulalia Footo, T&D clerk A, secretary. Standing is Pauline Vinciguerra, customer accounts representative A, vice president.



D. D. Leffel, engineering technologist supervisor, GO T&D Transmission Line Section, Bluefield, won the Pocahontas open trapshooting Championship at Tri-Angle Gun Club. He is currently West Virginia National Guard pistol champion, Tri-Angle Gun Club trap champion and Tri-Angle Sportsman Club's all gun champ (rifle, pistol and shotgun). Leffel is also international pistol, bullseye pistol and smallbore rifle champion of the Mercer Country Rifle and Pistol Club for 1979.

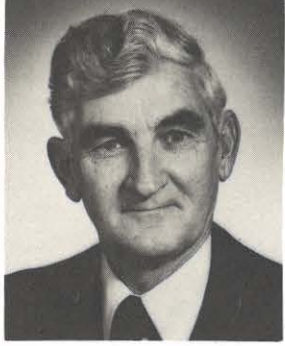


New officers of the APCO Club, social organization for employees in the Fieldale area of Roanoke Division, are: seated, l. to r., Virginia Metz, T&D clerk A, secretary, and Maynard Handy, engineering technician senior, treasurer. Standing, l. to r., D. A. Bryant, customer accounts representative B, president; and J. E. Thompson, customer accounts representative C, vice president.



Gerry Cunningham, 12-year-old son of Gerald Cunningham, Lynchburg line crew supervisor non-exempt, participated in the Dixie Youth World Series at Leland, North Carolina. Gerry was a member of the Madison Heights Dixie Youth All Stars that were crowned Virginia state champions. He played second base and outfield and finished the season batting .666 for his team, with two home-runs. Last year Gerry played for the Knicks in the Amherst County Recreational Youth Basketball League. Gerald Sr. coached the Knicks, which have been undefeated for two years.

VETS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



D. L. Hopkins
Cust. Serv. Rep.
Huntington
35 Years



T. B. Henly, Jr.
Division Civil Engineer
Bluefield
35 Years



B. P. Coley
Eng. Tech. Supv.
GO-Roanoke
30 Years



H. F. Roush
Yard Superintendent
Clinch River
30 Years



R. W. Hayes
Station Crew Supv.
Charleston
30 Years



J. A. Self
Meter Serv. Mech. C
Abingdon
30 Years



E. E. Webb
Shift Op. Eng. (LTD)
Pulaski
30 Years



L. A. Linkous
Personnel Supervisor
Bluefield
30 Years



G. W. Turner
Cust. Accts. Rep. B
Roanoke
30 Years



Ralph Holmes
Line Mechanic A
Charleston
25 Years



J. M. White
Unit Supervisor
Glen Lyn
25 Years



C. D. Thompson
Asst. Shift Opr. Eng.
Glen Lyn
25 Years



R. K. Allen
Collector
Charleston
20 Years

Abingdon
5 Years: **R. L. Murphy**, meter reader.

John Amos
15 Years: **Paul Kennedy**, assistant shift operating engineer.

Bluefield
10 Years: **Tracy Weiss**, customer accounting supervisor.
R. R. Mitchell, line mechanic A.

Central Machine Shop
5 Years: **R. E. Casto**, machinist 1st class.
J. W. Johnson, machinist 1st class.
D. R. Wilson, winder 1st class. **R. L. Wilson**, production supervisor.

G. R. Stewart, winder 2nd class. **J. A. Burks**, winder 2nd class. **J. C. Alford**, machinist 2nd class.

Centralized Plant Maintenance
5 Years: **W. E. Mitchell, Jr.**, maintenance mechanic B.

Charleston
15 Years: **D. K. Brown**, area service restorer. **R. E. Martin**, T&D clerk A. 10 Years: **T. J. Holt**, engineering technician senior. 5 Years: **M. K. Slack**, custodian.

General Office
30 Years: **R. V. Evans**, transmission mechanic A, GO-Bluefield. 15 Years: **G. A. Hylton**, general bookkeeper, GO-Roanoke. 10 Years: **C. E. Wright**, drafter A, GO-Roanoke. **A. F. Willis**, drafter B, GO-Roanoke. **J. W. Swiney**, drafter B, GO-Roanoke. **Joyce Lawson**, secretary, GO-Roanoke. **D. S. Fisher**, hydro maintenance supervisor, GO-Smith Mountain. **P. A. Cooper**, data processing operator A, GO-Roanoke. **H. E. Colwell**, forestry control utilization superintendent, GO-Roanoke. 5 Years: **M. B. Clark**, customer accounting clerk C, GO-Roanoke. **Josephine Cabbler**, telephone operator, GO-Roanoke.

Glen Lyn
10 Years: **S. D. Holinger**, performance engineer.

Huntington
10 Years: **D. R. Haddox**, meter superintendent. 5 Years: **S. L. Dillman**, meter reader.

Kanawha River
10 Years: **David Hall**, maintenance mechanic B. 5 Years: **Larry Stone**, barge attendant.

Kingsport
15 Years: **C. L. Morrison**, line crew supervisor.

Logan-Williamson
15 Years: **Gene Stepp**, engineer B. 5 Years: **Orrvis Chaffin**, meter reader. **Dennis Carter**, station mechanic A.

Lynchburg
10 Years: **A. C. Channaiah**, engineering technologist supervisor. **O. E. West**, stores attendant.

Roanoke
15 Years: **Darrell Joyce**, station crew supervisor NE. 10 Years: **Ronnie McGhee**, line mechanic A.

Philip Sporn
10 Years: **James Gilmore**, maintenance mechanic B. **Robert Bragg**, instrument mechanic.

BROWN TO HEAD WEST



"I came with Appalachian on October 13, 1942, as a guard at London Hydro in the Charleston Division," recalls Harvey Brown, who was a maintenance mechanic A for GO Hydro at Smith Mountain before his retirement December 1.

He continues, "Because our country was at war, it was essential that all large plants and industries necessary to the war effort be protected. I patrolled the grounds at London Hydro, carrying a shotgun, until the end of the war, when I started working there in maintenance. Later I transferred to Marmet Hydro as a utility operator. After 20 years at Marmet, I returned to Winfield for about a year and a half, then back to Marmet. Finally, in 1967, I came to Smith Mountain.

"I have seen many changes made throughout my years with the company. When I first came to work, we did all of our own maintenance. Anything that had to be done, we did it. There was no such thing as contracting our work out. Sometimes we worked 16 to 18 hours a day, clearing out heavy trash and debris.

"I'll never forget an experience I had during one of our annual inspections at Marmet. We set up scaffolding under the turbine blade as usual. While working, a board gave way under me and before I knew it, I was hanging by two boards, one under each arm. While looking 20 feet down into about 20 more feet of water, my supervisor yelled, 'grab

that board'. I responded, 'd . . . the board, grab me'." "My plans for retirement are to take it easy and see all of the United States, particularly the western states and Mexico. Between now and the summer of 1980, my wife Blanche and I plan to sell the house and move to San Diego, California, where her sister lives."

Harvey explains, "We became interested in moving to San Diego during a visit in December 1978. We had traveled there by camper. During our stay I was struck by a heart attack and was in the hospital for 28 days for open heart surgery. Because of the surgery, we flew back to Roanoke on the first day of May, leaving our camper behind. The experience of surgery was not pleasant, but we liked San Diego enough to want to live there and use it as a base for our planned travels."

BABY PARADE

(Continued from page 7)

General Office
Shawn Edgar, son of **D. L. Richardson**, transmission mechanic A, GO T&D Transmission, St. Albans, October 28.

Tracey Michelle, daughter of **Janie Ollie**, senior key entry operator, GO Accounting, Roanoke, October 15.

Dana Nichole, daughter of **Nona Wallace**, classification and accounts payable clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Jennifer Lynn, daughter of **R. J. Kishmeider**, communications engineer, GO T&D Communications, Charleston.

Glen Lyn
Jason Mac, son of **Mackie Mullins**, maintenance mechanic C, October 3.

Logan-Williamson
Heather Nicole and Crystal Dawn, twin daughters of **Dwayne Starr**, line mechanic C, Williamson, October 11.

Jeremia Lee, son of **Patricia Cox**, cashier, Williamson, September 18.

Family Customs That Celebrate The Season



Tricia Boyd, junior clerk, Roanoke

"Our special Christmases are centered around Mama. There are 12 of us children, the youngest 12 and the oldest 36.

"Last Christmas we had a mother's ring made for her, with a stone for each of the children placed on the ring.

"I look forward to those Christmas dinners because it's not often all of us are together — that is special. This year one of my brothers is stationed at Langley Air Force Base at Hampton, Virginia, and he probably won't be in for Christmas.

"We always have a big Christmas. All of the children and grandchildren come in on that special day. There are usually around 50 for Christmas dinner. We have an oblong table and a long bench. The plates are lined all the way around the table. Mama has the children seated on the bench with the adults gathered around the table. The laughter and closeness of that day take on a special meaning."



Dale Cooper, Princeton T&D clerk A, Bluefield Division

"A few years ago, Jessie Lane, line mechanic A, asked me to supply a Christmas tree for the Southern Highlands Community Mental Health Center in Princeton, where his daughter Brenda teaches. The gratitude of the director and the handicapped children was so overwhelming that I began to look forward to donating a tree each year.

"I really enjoy the thank you letters from the children, who range in age from six to 12 years. Once a student wrote, 'Thank you. It is a very nice thing of you to give it to us. The tree makes the room smell nice'."

Dale also furnishes a Christmas tree from his nursery for the Princeton office and gives many of the Princeton employees Christmas trees for their homes.

"It's a great feeling to know that I have put a little sparkle in the Christmas of others."



David Shrewsbury, engineering technologist, Pulaski; son Todd, wife Charlotte and daughter Lisa

"We have strong feelings about family togetherness, especially during the Christmas season. Both my wife Charlotte and I are from families of four children; and, since leaving home 12 years ago, all of us have been together every Christmas except one. I hope this won't happen again. It was like having Christmas at a stranger's house with the long faces and sadness in our hearts for the one family missing.

"The most important part of our Christmas celebration comes when the lights are turned out and everyone lights candles while sitting around the fireplace, listening to the traditional Christmas story from the Bible. Then each child stands and sings a solo he has practiced for weeks. Afterwards, everyone joins in singing carols and opening presents. Good food and presents are not the most important thing in our Christmas. What is most important is sharing the closeness of family and not forgetting the real meaning of Christmas."



Marlene Mitchell, customer accounts representative A, Abingdon

"A traditional Christmas at our house means that my husband, daughter and I, along with my brothers and sister and their families, go to visit my parents in Tazewell, Virginia. On Christmas day, we have dinner, exchange gifts and catch up on all the family news. Since some of my family come from as far away as Michigan, some usually stay over for a few days, which makes the occasion even more enjoyable.

"In an effort to accommodate both families, a gathering for my husband's immediate family is done during the Christmas period also. Until his mother's death in 1972, this was always at his parent's home. The group now rotates the location so that all the brothers and sisters have a turn at hosting the affair.

We do the same thing at this gathering as we do for my own family's gathering.

"One significant point is that all of the grandchildren, including a great grandchild, attend the affair. Hopefully, these children will continue the practice. We have done this ever since we were married, over 21 years ago.

"We look forward to these get-togethers each year. The groups are close knit, with lots of fellowship and a true appreciation of the value of our families. We realize how fortunate we are to be able to experience this togetherness and wish that everyone could have this same opportunity."



Everett Harris, chief chemist, Glen Lyn Plant

"Advent, which is four weeks before Christmas, starts the preparation for Christ's birthday. The excitement comes to a climax on Christmas Eve with assembling of the manger scene in our living room fireplace, followed by the family attending Midnight Mass. The service is a happy time for all since Christmas is a reuniting of families, visiting relatives and friends.

"On returning home, we enjoy having refreshments and opening the family gifts around the Christmas tree. The festival spirit continues until the wee hours of the morning and then to bed, sleeping until rested.

"Christmas Day is spent in a leisurely fashion, making long distance phone calls to our out-of-state relatives, until the late traditional dinner with friends. The evening is enjoyed with our neighbors and children's friends."



Jack Jarrett, hydro plant supervisor, Kanawha Valley Power; wife Bonnie and daughter Nancy

"We enjoy Christmas so much that we get an early start before all the hustle and bustle which accompanies the season. We put up our Christmas tree the first of November. Christmas is a time to be with our friends and our family. We start having people in before Thanksgiving and continue until after New Year's. We normally have three decorated Christmas trees inside our house and one tree outside that a neighbor and I decorate.

"Christmas is a joyous time for us, and what's better than spending this time with the people closest to you!"

Employees' Children Explain Meaning of Christmas



Holly, nine-year-old daughter of Bill Roeser, administrative assistant, Abingdon.

Well, it's fun and games and presents, too,
Family and friends that come and visit you.
It's sleigh rides, snow, and ice ...
Making crazy lights is nice.
It's snow mobiles and things like that,
You bundle up in your mittens and hat.
Santa comes on Christmas Eve
Leaving presents for you to see.
Laying under the Christmas tree.

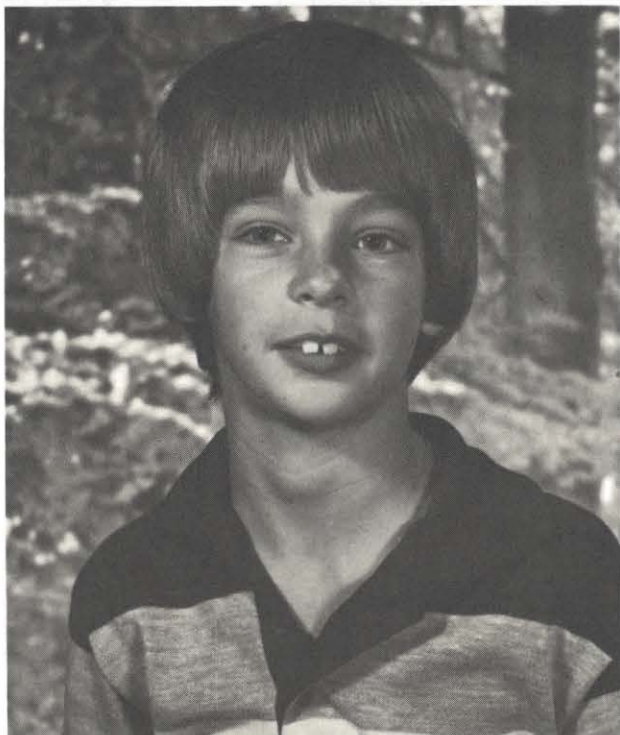
But the most important thing to remember
Is the birthday we celebrate at the end of
December.

Jesus was born in a manger far, and the
Shepherds came by the light of the star.
Because He lived, we learned to love...
LOVE... That's what Christmas is to me!



Traci Bowen, ten-year-old daughter of Robert L. Bowen, Jr., performance engineer senior, Kanawha River Plant.

Christmas day is when
Jesus was born what
I like about Christmas
is when I wake up
and see all my gifts
under the Christmas
tree and my grandparents
come and spend the
night. My grandmothers
help my mother fix
Christmas dinner and
I call my friends and
see what they got for
Christmas.



Wesley Scott Hall, eight-year-old son of Debra Hall, cashier C, Kingsport.

Christmas is a happy time.
We celebrate Jesus' birthday. It is a
time of giving to those who are dear to
us. It is also the time when Santa comes to
town.



Beth Ann Stotts, 11-year-old daughter of Fred Stotts, production supervisor, Central Machine Shop

Christmas to me
means the time of
year when all of
your relatives get
together to go to
church and remember
that glorious night
when Jesus was born.
We also eat together
and exchange Christmas
presents with one
another. To me I
think Christmas is
made up of love



Susan Loudermilk, daughter of R. L. Loudermilk, commercial engineer, Beckley

Christmas is celebrated because Christ was born
Mary had a baby that night, 1979 years old. Christ
was born and it's his birthday. It means we give
presents and have a good time. I like to get presents
from Santa Claus and other people



Jennifer Lynn, six-year-old daughter of Jevene Bowling, plant performance engineer, Clinch River.

Jesus' Birthday
Santa Claus comes
and we play out
in the Snow



Greg, nine-year-old son of Catherine Byrd, Christiansburg customer accounts representative A, Pulaski Division.

Christmas is a day that people give
you presents and you give
them presents. And visit your
friends and relatives. I like
to have fun on Christmas.
That's what Christmas
means to me.

My Most Memorable Christmas



Hubert K. Shabdue, area development consultant, General Office Customer Services, Charleston

"Christmas away from home and family is never a pleasant experience, especially for a 19-year-old Marine 5,000 miles away in the jungles of Bouganville, in the South Pacific, during World War II.

"Five of us were manning a forward observation post after we had drawn our defense perimeter awaiting the arrival of the Army units who were to relieve us. We were 'dug in' across from the Torkena River with the slopes of Mt. Bogana directly ahead of us.

"Since it was Christmas Eve 1943, we used the resourcefulness all Marines were known for to 'procure' a half gallon of medical alcohol and grapefruit juice. We engaged in some friendly drinking to ease the pain of our predicament. All went well in the silence of our vigil and eventually I reached a relaxed state of self-contentment and fell asleep in my fox hole.

"At daybreak on Christmas morning, I awoke with a terrible sense of trembling. My body was being banged against the sides of the fox hole and every attempt to stand found me on my back again. I had a feeling of panic you wouldn't believe. Then I glanced over the edge of the fox hole, and it dawned on me that things outside were moving. Trees were swaying. Rocks were rolling down the hillside and terrified cries were coming at me from all the other guys.

"As it turned out, old Mt. Bogana, an active volcano, had decided to celebrate Christmas also, and she was shaking and thundering, creating an earthquake across the entire island. It's a terrifying experience to go through an earthquake; but, given the circumstances, I was sure glad the island was quaking instead of me.

"Later that day we were treated to our first hot meal in over two months. As I finished my meal and started back to the front, I was handed a carton of Camel cigarettes as a gift. As I opened the carton, a slip of cardboard was exposed. It read, 'These cigarettes courtesy of the employees of *The Charleston Gazette*, Charleston, West Virginia,' my old hometown! How's that for a windup to an exciting day?"



Jack Walters, customer accounting administrator, General Office Accounting, Roanoke

"My most memorable Christmas would have to be December 25, 1945, the day Betty and I were married.

"We had known each other all our lives; our parents were friends before we were born. I lived in Davis, West Virginia, and Betty lived in Thomas, about three or four miles away. Since the two towns were so close, a group of us teenagers would often gather at Betty's house for songs and games or before attending the local movies.

"We dated about six times while I was in the Navy. This was in 1944 when I passed through Davis on my way to Harvard to take a course given by the Navy. From then on we corresponded by mail until I came home on terminal leave December 10, 1945. I saw her on the 12th, proposed on the 13th, and we got married on the 25th.

"Betty's kid brother, who was in the service, had only been in town for a few days and was leaving Christmas night for China. He requested that we get married before he left so he could be there for the wedding.

"In all of our 34 years of marriage, we almost had one argument, but nobody will believe me. There's no secret to a happy marriage; it's just the matter of wanting it to work. It will if you want it to."



Jackie Bill Phillips, maintenance mechanic, Centralized Plant Maintenance

"I was seven years old and recovering from one of my constant bouts with pneumonia. This was during the 30s and things were very tight. Although my dad was working, it was still hard to provide for a family of eight. More than anything, I wanted a football, knowing full well that I would be lucky to receive candy or fruit. Well, on Christmas morning, there it was — a football for me.

"Now I realize just how much our family had to sacrifice for that one gift. It's sad that most of our country has forgotten, or never known, the joy that comes from receiving just one small surprise at Christmas."



Larry Davison, maintenance mechanic, Centralized Plant Maintenance

"Christmas 1968 will be in my memory forever. I was scared that it would be my last one. I came home to my parents and 11 brothers and sisters on military leave from Viet Nam, where I was a helicopter mechanic and gunner. My division had just survived two Tet offensives. I was certain only miracles were keeping me alive but not too certain just how long these miracles were going to last.

"During Christmas I had to make a decision about returning to Viet Nam for another six months and then receiving my full discharge or completing the full 12 months at another location. All during Christmas day I tried to 'store away' little bits and pieces of happiness and memories. The day after Christmas I made my decision. I would return to Nam."



Helen Findley, junior clerk, Abingdon, and husband Richard

"Richard and I had always been together at Christmas until 1968, when he was sent to Viet Nam. It was a most despairing, dispirited Christmas for both of us and our two children. Needless to say, we were hoping for a much more joyful Christmas with family and friends the following year.

"When Richard returned from his tour of duty in 1969, he was stationed at Wright-Patterson air base in Dayton, Ohio. We arrived there on December 19 and stayed in the guest barracks until we could get settled in. It seemed the only good thing we were going to be able to say about this Christmas we had been looking forward to was that at least we were together again.

"As a new family at Wright-Patterson, we were assigned a sponsor, a military person, who was to help us become oriented with the base. Our sponsor and his family were extremely helpful and kind. They gave us Christmas with all the trimmings, including a tree, gifts for the children and Christmas dinner. This special Christmas united our family during an era of uncertainty and allowed my husband, my children and myself to share a wonderful feeling of togetherness. Even though we were in a strange place, it was the kindness of people that set this Christmas apart from others."

(Continued on page 15)

It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive



Dennis Selbe (left), line mechanic A, and Joe Haynes, engineering technician, Charleston

Every year the St. Albans Jaycees sponsor a Christmas party for underprivileged children in the area. The children are treated to a meal, clothing, toys, entertainment and a visit from Santa.

Involved in organizing this year's party, as they have for the past three, are Bob Watson, line mechanic A; Dennis Selbe, line mechanic A; and Joe Haynes, engineering technician, all of Charleston Division's St. Albans office. They will entertain 50-60 children between the ages of 6 and 12.

Comments Selbe, "During the year we work on many fund-raising projects, which require numerous manhours. While these projects are being conducted, I sometimes wonder if the effort is really worth it. But when December rolls around and we start working on the underprivileged children's Christmas party, I start wishing we had tried two or three more projects so we could have more money to spend on these kids.

"Each year as I work on this project I keep thinking about how lucky I have always been to be able to provide for my family. This alone makes the Christmas season much more enjoyable."



Displaying some of the macrame brooms in various stages of completion are, front row, l. to r., Hope Baucknecht, Vicky Barton, Brenda Jividan and Irene Goff. Back row, l. to r., Jeanne Wray, Nancy Hudson, Linda Gatens, Nancy Arthur, Ona Willard, Nancy Smith, Sheri Frantz and Sharon Lett. Others participating but not pictured are Wanda Barrett, Carolene Rollins and Pam Snodgrass.

Realizing that some parents do not have the necessary resources to provide food and toys for their families at Christmas, a group of clerical employees at John Amos Plant went to work.

They obtained the name of a needy family from the Putnam County Good Neighbor League, for which they would provide food for Christmas dinner and a new toy for each child in the family.

To defray expenses of such an undertaking, the employees met together during lunch and coffee breaks to make decorative macrame brooms, which

were sold to fellow employees.

The fellowship while working together on the brooms, the anticipation of helping a neighbor, and, finally, witnessing the joy on the mother's face when she was presented with the gifts made this a more meaningful Christmas for all who helped in the project.

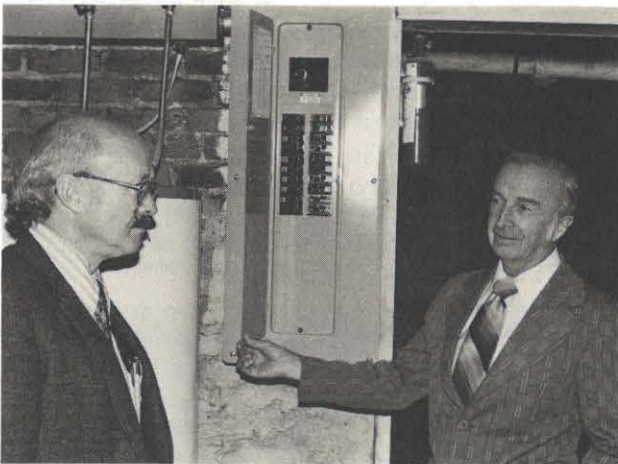


Front row, l. to r., Marion Greever, III; Frances; Faith Regina; M. G. "Buddy" Stowers, Jr., Wytheville line crew supervisor NE, Pulaski Division; and Edgar Allen. Back row, l. to r., Teresa Gale and Melissa Dawn.

Because of the concern of the Buddy Stowers family for God's word and for those who are less fortunate, this Christmas will not be just another day in the life of little Chun Tsai Wu of Taiwan. Instead it will be a day of love, of receiving gifts and rejoicing in the knowledge that someone else cares.

The Stowers' have been sponsoring Chun for three years through World Missionary Evangelism, Inc. "The whole family decided this was something we should do because we believe it is a worthy cause. We cannot send gifts directly to Chun. Instead we send a specified amount of money each month and extra money at Christmas and Easter. We also send extra money for school supplies."

"And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me." (Matthew 18:5) Likewise, the happiness of the Stowers' family is assured, for . . . "he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he." (Proverbs 14:21)



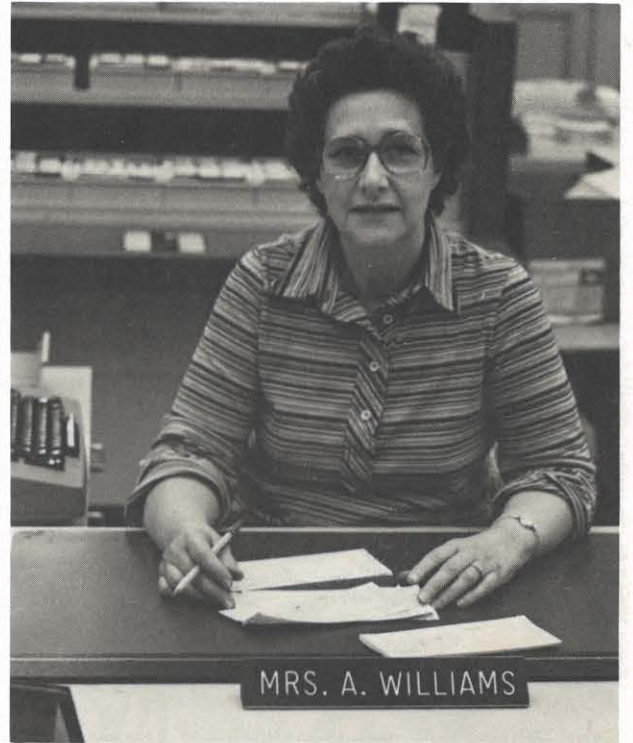
Bucky Buchanan (left), residential advisor, and John Kahle, power engineer, Abingdon

Serving on the board of directors and the building committee of Highlands Home in Abingdon has provided a way for Bucky Buchanan and John Kahle to give of their time and talents to help those less fortunate. Highlands Home is an emergency shelter for dependent and neglected children from birth to age 18 until they have been placed in a permanent home or reunited with their families.

"We saw the need for installing new electrical service and adequate circuits for all electrical equipment. We rewired the home, insulated the attic and made other major improvements to help the home reduce costs and save energy. The Abingdon Employees Benevolent Association and several other employees have made contributions of money, as well as labor, in support of the home.

"Because Abingdon Division employees have been willing to help, it has given all of us a great deal of personal satisfaction knowing that in helping those who cannot help themselves we are doing something worthwhile. That in itself is spiritually rewarding. We'd like to pass on this thought,

"Instead of just doing something once a year at Christmas, why not believe in the idea of Christmas the year round?"



Adele Williams, customer accounts representative, Kingsport

"As a member of a very large family, I remember many Christmases which stand out as "something special". There have been some seasons when we were saddened by the loss of loved ones; yet the family love that was evident drew the remaining family even closer.

"We always met together on Christmas Eve with festivities starting with a potluck supper. The grandchildren in the family would stage their own Christmas play. We would sing carols and Jolly Old St. Nick would make an entrance with gifts for the small ones and then we would exchange gifts.

"Then, a few years ago, Jackie entered. My husband and I sponsored Jackie, a beautiful, blonde-haired, 13-year-old from the Freewill Baptist Home for Children at Greeneville, Tennessee. Jackie was from a broken home; and, even though she received the best of care at the children's home, she enjoyed being a part of our family activities. When she came to spend her first Christmas with us, she was awed by the large family and the many activities we shared as a group. She was treated as though she were one of the grandchildren and took part in everything. Needless to say, all of my family "adopted" her. Even though she received many material gifts, the light showing in her eyes for being accepted as a member of the family seemed to tell us that our love, caring and sharing with her was appreciated.

"We received the greatest joy for, after all, Christmas is based on the greatest of all things, God's love for us. We are repaid when we share this love with others. Jackie is now married and lives out-of-state. We feel that having been able to share our Christmases with Jackie was the best gift we ever received."

(Continued on page 15)

Merry Christmas And Happy Birthday

Christmas makes for a great day. So does a birthday. But what happens when the two important events fall on the same day for you — and always will?

Some APCo employees who have birthdays on or near Christmas share their feelings.



Carol White, secretary-stenographer, Logan-Williamson

"You know, sometimes Christmas is almost over before I realize it's my birthday. Christmas sort of overshadows my birthday, and we're not really a "birthday" family.

"My parents named me after the Christmas carols. My sister usually sends me a combination "Happy Birthday-Merry Christmas" card and that reminds me it's my birthday. I must say though, when you get to be my age, you tend to forget birthdays.

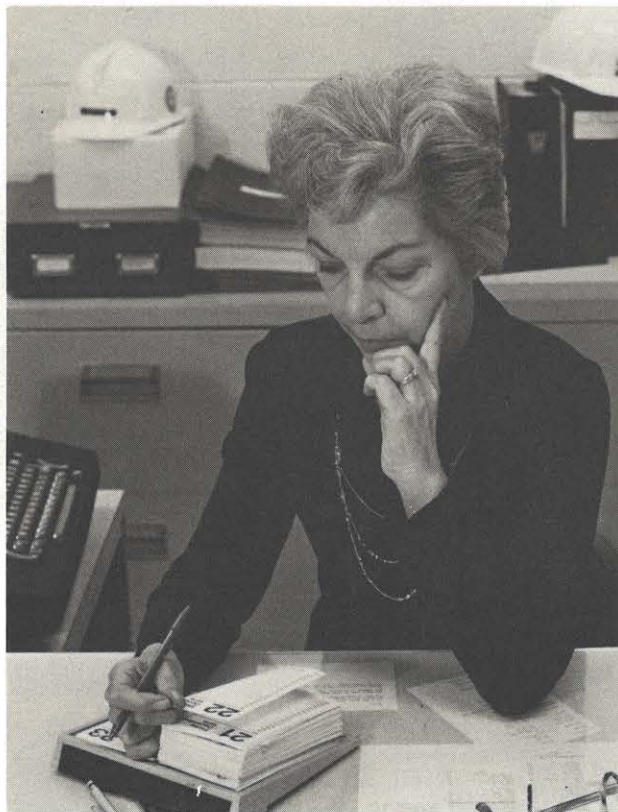
"I suppose the most vivid reminder of the day that I can recall is a past Christmas birthday when Marg Parkins, Charleston customer accounts representative B, presented me with two gift packages. In the first package, I was pleased to find one earring, accompanied by a card which read "Merry Christmas". In the second one, as you may already have guessed, was the second earring with a card which proclaimed "Happy Birthday".



Paul Owens, Williamson area superintendent, Logan-Williamson

"Actually my birthday occurred at 12:22 AM December 26, 1944. My mother wanted me to be born on Christmas Day so she told the doctor that she was working on daylight savings time; and, after some pestering, he changed my birth certificate to read 11:22 PM December 25.

"When I was growing up, I sometimes felt slighted because I didn't get a real birthday party. The family, however, always made sure that there were some gifts for me marked as birthday presents. I have come to ignore my birthday as I have gotten older. My wife Sally usually gives me a gift on June 25 to celebrate my "half birthday".



Chris White, plant clerk special, John Amos

"I feel sorry for any kid born in the month of December. When I put in my appearance on an icy December 22, the family doctor told my mother, "This baby never will finish wanting — she came into the world facing a Christmas tree."

"The main thing that baby kept wanting was some attention on her birthday. I'd get my usual little package with an apologetic, "I was just so busy getting ready for Christmas that I didn't have time to think much about your birthday". That line got so it sounded like a phonograph record with the needle stuck. I could finally buy that story at 45, but at 5 I felt like Orphan Annie. Even though my sister Iris was another wintertime baby, it still wasn't like this Christmas birthday syndrome. It might get cold, but January 22 was *her* day!

"Then when I was 17, working in Arlington, Virginia, during World War II, my cousin and I shared a small apartment with a girl named Hazel from Long Island, New York. We gave my cousin a birthday party on July 11. It was such a success that Hazel and I were lamenting our December 22 and December 26 birthdays. I suggested that if Roosevelt could change Thanksgiving, we could surely change our own birthdays.

"We sat down and wrote our relatives, telling them that for their shopping convenience we were moving our birthdays to August 8 so they would have ample time to shop for our gifts without being sidetracked by Christmas.

"It worked like a charm! Packages began arriving from our parents, aunts, cousins such as we had never seen before. My mother even mailed me a birthday cake, admittedly in small pieces when it arrived, but oh so good! We threw a joint birthday party on August 8, a date which had been selected to coincide with our meager paydays so we could afford refreshments. We had friends and fun, and we joked that we would forgive the past and concentrate on our presents.

"For a few years after the war, Hazel and I exchanged cards on our adopted birthdays. We finally drifted apart and lost track of each other. Still, every August 8 my mind goes back to that day in 1943, and I wonder where Hazel is and if she is having a happy birthday."



Guy Funk, garage supervisor, Roanoke

"I was born and experienced my early childhood in the depression, and I can remember some hard times at Christmas. My father had been with the N&W Railway for 25 years when he was cut off in the early 30s. He went to work for the WPA and helped build William Byrd High School in Vinton at a pay of 9 cents per hour. Presents were few, but yet we felt blessed with what we had.

"For many years I felt I had been cheated by being born on Christmas Day. I didn't get the birthday gifts that one normally gets. I put emphasis on material things because I thought those would be the things that would last. However, I learned different in 1950 when I found the true meaning of Christmas — Christ. I can remember wondering why I was born on Christmas Day. For a long time I felt religion was for squares. Now in looking back, I believe it was being born on that day that brought me closer to Christ.

"Christmas took on another special meaning to me in 1956 when I started playing Santa Claus. The Roanoke Jaycees were conducting a Christmas tour for the underprivileged children, and their Santa Claus backed out two hours before he was to appear. I received a call from someone at our Walnut Avenue Office, asking me if I could fill in. I played Santa Claus from then until about three years ago. I think I hugged every kid in Roanoke. Regardless of who the children were, to them I was Santa. Seeing the joy in those children's faces made it all worthwhile. Playing Santa made me realize that bringing a little happiness and satisfaction to someone else is what Christmas is all about."



L. A. Willard, garage supervisor, Pulaski

"I still tease my 87-year-old mother that she stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was born on Christmas day.

"Having a birthday on December 25 makes it easy for folks to remember. Even though my special day falls on Christmas, my birthday is not forgotten. At family get-togethers they always sing 'happy birthday' to me.

"The month of December is special for me in two other ways. My wife Eileen and I celebrate our wedding anniversary on the 28th and December 27 is the anniversary date of my employment with Appalachian."

(Continued on page 15)

Birthday

(Continued from page 14)



Dan Wynegar, station mechanic A, Abingdon

"I've always been glad that my birthday falls on Christmas for several reasons.

"First, everyone who knows me always remembers my birthday. This was especially important while growing up because I came from a large family — four brothers and five sisters. In a large family, birthdays somehow have a way of being forgotten. But my parents always remembered to give me an extra something at Christmas simply because they wanted to recognize my birthday as something special.

"Another reason was that, in the past, the company gave you your birthday as a personal day off. Since my birthday was on Christmas and it was a holiday, I also got the next day off. This was really nice during the festive holiday season.

"But the most important reason of all is that it's a reminder to me that this is probably the most special day of the year."



Calvin Clark, Jr., meter electrician D, Charleston

"I wouldn't change it for any other day, although I have wished that my birthday was on some day other than Christmas. It's not that I feel cheated. I just plain forget about my birthday due to the excitement of Christmas.

"My parents always had to remind me, and sometimes they would forget, too. My parents started cutting the cake and giving me the birthday presents on the 24th of December. I always received the same amount of Christmas presents as my brother, and I received the same amount of presents as he would on his birthday, so I can honestly say I've never been cheated."



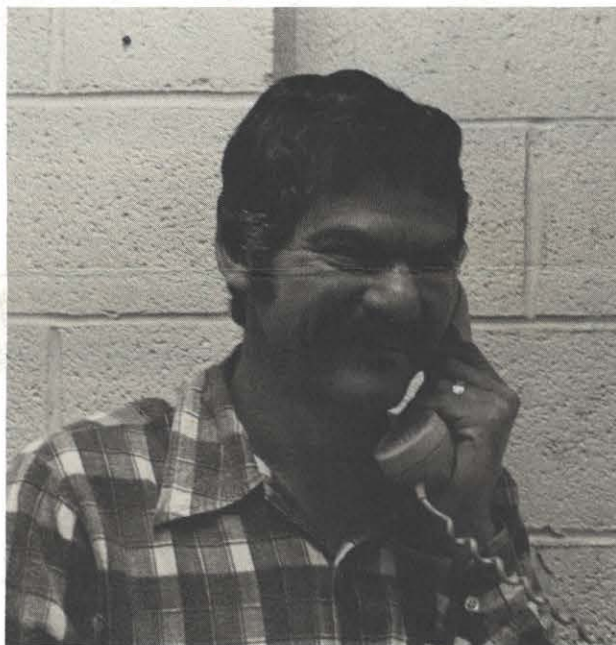
Mary Carter, meter reader, Beckley

"Having my birthday on Christmas has always made me feel special because there were seven children for my parents to keep up with, and it was not easy for my parents to forget my birthday.

"I have never received a belated birthday card. The birthday wishes were always written out at the end of my Christmas cards."

Blessed

(Continued from page 13)



William R. Hickok, instrument maintenance supervisor, Amos Plant

"Between 6 and 8 PM on December 19 this year, through the Winfield Lions Club, many little ones will have the excitement and joy of personally getting a telephone call from Santa.

"In the background will be heard hammering, sawing, pounding and the chatter of elves as they go about the business of making toys to the strains of Christmas music. The temporary 'workshop' is at Winfield Court House.

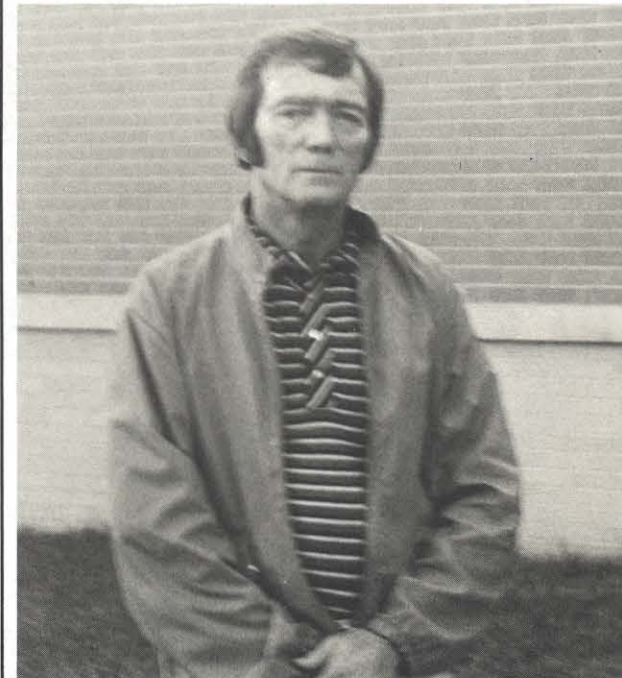
"Santa will ask the kids what they want for Christmas but won't promise to deliver a certain item. He'll just assure the kids that he will see what he can do about it.

"We send out letters to Mama through the elementary schools, asking her to return the form to us by December 17 if she would like Santa to call her child. She also provides tidbits of information which serve to make the calls more credible. Our feedback tells us that these children are amazed at the scope of Santa's knowledge about them, and many really walk the chalkline for the next few days following his call.

"We handled about 130 calls last year, talking with most of the children in each household we dialed. I can think of no better way of getting the Christmas spirit than through these conversations. Even though we go to quite a bit of trouble to make these calls, there is no way of describing the pleasure we get out of it. You'd be surprised at what some of the kids come up with. One little fellow freely admitted he hadn't exactly been nice to his sister but pleaded for Santa's understanding, saying that both she and 'her mother' had been hassling him."

Memorable

(Continued from page 12)



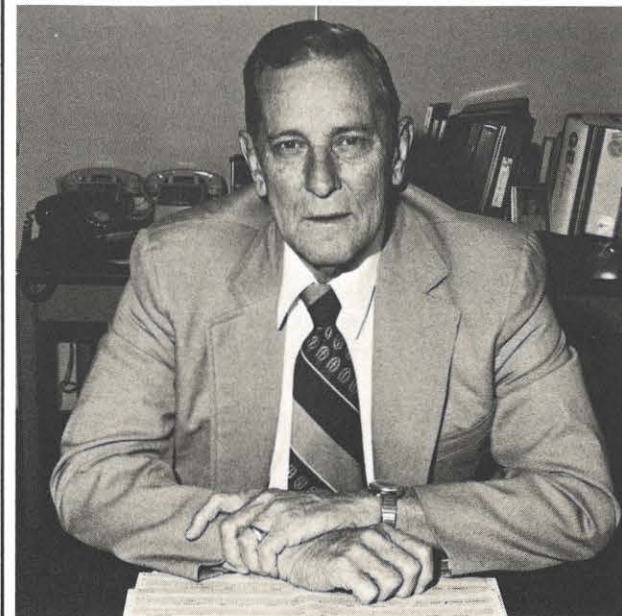
E. Leroy Baker, general servicer, Lynchburg

"My most memorable Christmas was in 1975. This was the first Christmas in a number of years that I had been sober. In years past, I didn't even remember Christmas coming 'n going. I only remember waking up after Christmas with a tremendous hangover.

"Before the Christmas in 1975, I had almost reached a point of no return. I didn't realize that I had such a severe drinking problem. I would blame everyone except myself for my problems. When a person is in this condition, he does not realize he has a problem.

"In the summer of 1975 I entered Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center in Lynchburg, where I gained a new lease on life. After entering the center, I became very concerned with other people who had this sickness. I continued to work with the center and Christmas 1975 I helped others face their problem during the holiday season.

"My life has really changed since then. Each Christmas since I'm able to enjoy the friendship of loved ones and friends. That Christmas sticks out in my mind for my daughter came to me and said, 'I've really got a daddy now'."



Paul R. Baker, customer service supervisor, Huntington

"I was wounded during a conflict at Saint Lo on July 9, 1944 — coincidentally the same day my daughter Bari was born — and I spent my Christmas of 1944 in the First General Hospital outside Paris.

"The 30 people in my ward were injured who were due to be transferred back home. We were thinking of our loved ones back in the States, and morale was low throughout the hospital. The doctors and nurses realized this and made attempts to cheer up the patients and do anything to keep our minds occupied. A Christmas dinner was planned and decorations were everywhere throughout the wards. The spirit of the doctors and nurses at First General during that Christmas in 1944 was one of the greatest gifts I have ever received."



the
ILLUMINATOR
December 1979



RETIRES MAKE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TO AID CHORUS

Jim Mundy, retired employee relations supervisor, and Chaffin Duncan, retired safety director, put their heads together and came up with a project to help support the Appalachian Chorus and at the same time spread Christmas cheer for the holiday season.

The idea of making miniature Christmas trees from cones of long leaf pine trees began in Venice, Florida, where Chaffin resides during the winter. While in a hardware store, a display of a simple painted pine cone caught his eye, and he decided to make some for his neighbors and friends in Florida. The pine cones were easy to get because his house was near a large concentration of pines. He collected several cones and sprayed them various colors.

When he returned to Roanoke this past summer, he brought some of the painted cones with him and gave them to friends in Roanoke. After learning that his boyhood church, First Christian in Pulaski, was having a bazaar, he donated some to raise money for the church.

When Chaffin learned the Appalachian Chorus was having a holiday bazaar last month to raise money for music and costumes, he called neighbor Jim Mundy to

discuss the possibility of making the miniature trees as a contribution to the chorus. They decided to decorate the cones with ornaments to make them miniature Christmas trees.

Jim took over the task of decorating the trees. He attached small beads and crystal-like ornaments to the edges of the cones with thin wire. The work is tedious, requiring about one day per tree. Jim also designed and made candle holders, using dried Probiscus plant seed pods from Australia. The candle holders are most unusual and perfect for the holiday season.

This is not the first time the men have been associated with the Chorus. Jim has operated his own audio equipment for the Chorus' rehearsals and performances since it was founded about ten years ago. He makes eight-track and cassette stereo tapes of the performances for the Chorus to sell.

Chaffin's association with the Chorus is that of a faithful patron. He says "their music is divine" and plans to delay his return to Florida by two weeks so that he can attend the Chorus' performance for Roanoke area retirees on December 9.

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Jim Mundy, left, and Chaffin Duncan display some of their handiwork created especially to help support the Appalachian Chorus.