PUBLISHED FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY • KINGSPORT POWER COMPANY • OF THE AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEM

VOL. XXX No. 6 March 198

### **C&SOE ACQUISITION GETS SEC APPROVAL**

Sometime later this year, if all goes well, Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company will be part of the American Electric Power System.

The Securities and Exchange Commission on February 13 issued an order giving its final approval, without qualification, to the 12-year-old proposal that AEP acquire C&SOE as its eighth operating company subsidiary. The decision came just 10 days short of the 12th anniversary of the date when the two companies filed the proposal with the commission, on February 23, 1968.

The next step is for AEP to seek approval from the C&SOE shareowners (approval by AEP shareowners is not required). This will be done "in the near future," according to AEP Chairman W. S. White, Jr., who expressed "delight" with the news from the SEC. It will take the form of a tender offer of shares of AEP common stock for shares of C&SOE common. Acceptance by a minimum of 80% of the C&SOE voting shares (the equivalent of 88.8% of its common shares) is required for tax purposes. "We do not anticipate any difficulty obtaining it," White added.

In a statement made within minutes of the SEC announcement last month, White reaffirmed AEP's belief that the acquisition will be beneficial to both companies and to their customers, employees and shareowners. Meanwhile, Ben T. Ray, president of the Columbus utility, hailed the SEC decision as "the greatest thing that ever happened" to that company.

Both chief executive officers emphasized that, assuming shareowner approval of the transaction, Columbus and Southern Ohio would continue as a corporate entity as part of the AEP System. "Customers will continue to do business with the company as they have in the past," Ray said. "Columbus and Southern's name, phone numbers and business offices will not change. We'll continue to operate as C&SOE, we'll continue to bill as C&SOE bills. Over the short run there won't be any apparent difference to our customers at all."

When the SEC in July 1978 approved the acquisition "in principle," it laid down two conditions for its final approval. One was that the commission had to be satisfied with the fairness of the ratio of the proposed exchange of stock between the two companies. The other was that AEP and the municipal electric systems of Ohio reach agreement through which the latter would be helped to acquire a central power-generating source. Last May 31 AEP, C&SOE and Ohio Power Company signed an agreement that helps Ohio's 83 municipal systems create the Ohio Municipal Electric Authority, a statewide authority that would acquire and operate generating facilities to provide electricity for their respective systems. In that connection, the agreement calls for the sale of one or two generating units at C&SOE's Poston Plant, under construction, to the authority.

In its February 13 order, the SEC said it was satisfied that both conditions had been met.

C&SOE serves 453,000 customers in central and uthern Ohio, including Columbus, the capital of Ohio and its second largest city. With the acquisition, Columbus would supplant Fort Wayne, Indiana as the AEP System's largest community served, and AEP's customers would total approximately 2.5-million.

The American Electric Power Company's 1980 annual meeting of shareowners will be held April 23 in the city of its future headquarters - Columbus, Ohio. The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. that day in the historic Ohio Theater, Capitol Square, 29 East State Street.

The C&SOE service area, which lies in the center of AEP's seven-state territory, is located in parts of 25 of Ohio's 88 counties. Among the other communities served at retail by C&SOE are these:

Athens, Bexley, Chillicothe, Circleville, Delaware, Gahanna, Gallipolis, Grandview Heights, Grove City, Hilliard, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Wellston, Whitehall and Worthington. Also, C&SOE serves three municipalities at wholesale.

In 1979 Columbus and Southern Ohio had energy sales of 9-billion kilowatthours and operating revenues of \$417 million. AEP's sales were 95.5-billion kwh; its revenues, \$2.81 billion.

## SIX APCO MEN





Kepner

Simmons





Davenport

von Schack





Rotenberry

Gloss

Eleven new members were elected to the American Electric Power Service Corporation's board of directors last month. Most of the changes were in keeping with the practice of some of the operating companies of rotating their representation on the board.

The new Service Corporation directors are:

From Appalachian Power: Thomas A. Rotenberry, Beckley division manager; Jack W. Kepner, vice president - operations; Eugene H. Gloss, Philip Sporn plant manager; Wesley W. von Schack, vice president — administration; J. Robert Davenport, Lynchburg division manager; and Charles A. Simmons, vice president - construction and maintenance. Stepping down were: Frederick O. Helm, Huntington division manager; William M. Robinson, Mountaineer plant manager; and Robert D. Webster, Roanoke division manager.

From Indiana & Michigan Electric Company: A. P. Remillard, Tanners Creek plant manager; and D. V. Shaller, Cook plant manager. They succeeded P. F. Carl, Jr., Benton Harbor division manager, and J. D. Longfield, Breed plant manager.

From Ohio Power: E. R. Hudson, Zanesville division manager; W. L. Kelvington, executive assistant; and J. W. Lizon, Gavin plant manager. Stepping down were: W. A. Leuby, Jr., Portsmouth division manager; R. H. Walton, Jr., Cardinal plant manager; and C. H. Wright, Steubenville division manager.

## APCO BONDS SOLD AT RECORD HIGH

Appalachian Power Company last month sold \$40-million of first mortgage bonds at a coupon rate of 14.75% and a cost to the company of 14.96%.

The 7-year bonds, maturing in 1987, were sold at competitive bidding to Blyth Eastman Paine Webber Incorporated.

"The 14.96% cost to the company of this sale is by far the highest ever experienced by any company in the American Electric Power System," according to John W. Vaughan, president of Appalachian. "The record high interest rate reflects the generally unsettled conditions in the financial marketplace and the fact that the company's bond rating remains extremely low. This low rating can be traced directly to the impact of inflation and the lack of timely and adequate rate relief to offset rapidly rising costs."

In commenting on the sale, Vaughan said that Appalachian recently cut more than \$50-million from its 1980 construction program. "Even so, we will still be spending approximately \$262-million, most of which will be required for completion of the 1,300,000 kilowatt coal-fired Mountaineer Plant and associated facilities in West Virginia late this year.

"Since our construction program has been cut to the maximum extent possible, leaving only the most essential projects, the company had no choice but to proceed with the sale despite the unfavorable market

Vaughan continued: "This is the second major financing to be arranged by the company in recent months. The other financing illustrates even more dramatically the impact interest rates are having on Appalachian. Effective March 1, the company will have to refinance \$23,874,000 in 30-year bonds which were sold in 1950 at an interest rate of 2%%. Refinancing of these bonds was negotiated in December 1979 at an interest rate of 121/2%. And now, just three months later, we are seeing an interest rate on a separate sale that is more than 2% higher.

### **AEP SYSTEM POWER DEMAND** BREAKS RECORD

Records for power demand on the AEP System were broken several times during February.

A one-hour peak demand of 17,793,000 kilowatts was set February 21 during the hour ended 11 a.m. The System's estimated internal load at the time, however, was 10,858,000 kw. The balance of the total load was used mainly in deliveries to Eastern

The February 21 peak demand figure superseded the following peaks set earlier in the month: 17,699,000 kw on February 20; 17,310,000 kw on February 18 and 16,522,000 kw on February 1.

During the seven-day period ended February 20, the AEP System weekly total load hit the new high level of 2.484-billion kilowatthours. The previous high for a seven-day span was 2.471-billion kwh reached during the period ended February 6.

## THE ILLUMINATOR

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

We are an Equal Opportunity employer.

#### Editorial Staff

William A. McClung, Public Affairs Director B. Don Johnson Information Services Manager Betty Lou Carter Editor of Publications

#### Associate Editors

Bill Roeser, Abingdon Kyle McGraw, John Amos Ray Vest, Beckley Dick Bowman, Bluefield Dixie Foster, Central Machine Shop Karen Hutton, Centralized Plant Maintenance Jennings Fulknier, Charleston Luther Houchins, Clinch River Jack Turner, General Coonie Spangler, Glen Dick Roush,

Huntington
Jeanne Sheets,
Kanawha River
Charles Lingar,
Kingsport
Charlie Frye, LoganWilliamson

Jerry Vest, Lynchburg Brenda Lipscomb, Mountaineer Construction Janice Adkins, Moun-

taineer Operations
J. B. Brillheart, Pulaski
Martin Ratcliff,
Roanoke

Jerry Thompson, Philip Sporn

Member of International Association of Business Communicators

### MICHIGAN SCHOLARS SELECTED

Employees from Appalachian Power Company will be among those attending the American Electric Power System Special Executive Development Program at the University of Michigan School of Business Administration from April 21 to May 16.

Attendees include:
H. F. St. Clair, Bluefield station superintendent; P. E. Owens, area superintendent, Logan-Williamson;
A. R. Zagayko, assistant manager, Central Machine Shop; and R. W. McDaniel, Mountaineer Plant production superintendent-maintenance.

Also, N. R. Humphreys, Philip Sporn plant performance superintendent; E. L. Dalton, hydro operations superintendent, GO Hydro, Roanoke; Betty Lou Carter, editor of publications, GO Public Affairs, Roanoke; and L. E. Gearhart, assistant r/w and r/e superintendent, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke.

## ANNUAL REPORT COMING SOON

American Electric Power Company's 1979 annual report, due off the presses this month, covers not only the year gone by but looks ahead to AEP's future in the new decade.

It features a panoramic nighttime view of Columbus, Ohio on its cover and two pages of color photos taken in and around the System's new head-quarters city. Photos of some of AEP's conservation test homes and of its two newest power plants — Rockport and Mountaineer — are also included.

The report will be mailed to all employees during the second half of March.

# AEP HONORED FOR COAL USE, RECLAMATION



AEP Chairman W. S. White, Jr., left, accepts the New Perspectives Award for 1980 — an original sculpture inside a presentation case — from J. David Moxley, northeast regional partner of Touche Ross & Co.

American Electric Power Company has been honored for its 35-year program of restoring lands that have been strip mined and for its almost exclusive use of coal as a source of power.

Touche Ross & Co., a public accounting and management consulting firm, announced the selection of AEP as a winner of its New Perspectives Award for 1980 at a luncheon in New York City honoring AEP officials.

Russell E. Palmer, managing partner of Touche Ross & Co., said American Electric Power has, throughout its history, "been a leader in pioneering innovative developments to improve the production, delivery and utilization of electric energy through its own research or in partnership with others."

Palmer added "AEP should be especially commended for its success in the environmental field, not only for developing methods for reducing contaminants resulting from coal combustion, but also for its extraordinary success in land reclamation that also provides recreation areas for thousands of people."

Palmer specifically cited the program being carried out by AEP's Ohio Power Company on some 130,000 acres of mining land it owns in south-central Ohio. Since the start of the program in 1945, 39-million trees have been planted, 320 lakes and ponds have been formed and stocked by the Ohio Division of Wildlife with a variety of fish, and 35,000 acres of public recreation areas have been developed, and set aside amid gentle, rolling slopes covered with layers of topsoil and new grass.

The area, known as "Re-Creation Land" attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year for camping, picnicking, sailing, fishing and other leisure activities. It is located in Morgan, Muskingum and Noble Counties in Ohio.

Palmer said the New Perspectives Awards recognize the importance of innovative problem solving. The awards are presented annually to firms, institutions and individuals who have "demonstrated boldness, courage and creativity in attacking some of the problems facing mankind.

He added "the winners teach us an important lesson. All represent a positive attitude, and each example shows that imaginative, courageous people do make a difference."

W. S. White, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer of American Electric Power, accepted the award, an original sculpture by American artist Judith Karelitz.

Other recipients of the award this year are: Philip Morris Company, General Electric Company, Arjay Miller, Dayton Hudson Corporation, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institution, Boston's WGBH-TV, McDonald's and the University of Miami Law and Economics Center.

## WEEK IN ST. MAARTEN IS SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE

A week for two on St. Maarten — the Caribbean island that's half Dutch, half French and all sun — is the grand prize in this year's AEP System Savings Bond Sweepstakes.

Employees who join the payroll savings bond plan for 1980 as well as those who increase or maintain their current payroll deduction for U.S. savings bonds are eligible for prizes in this year's sweepstakes drawing. If they don't win the grand prize, they might win one of 24 \$50 U.S. savings bonds awarded to runners-up.

The special incentives for this year's System-wide savings bond campaign were announced recently by W. S. White, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of AEP and Appalachian and Kingsport Power Companies. White is national chairman of the public utility industry for the 1980 U.S. Savings Bond Campaign, a title which he also held during the 1979 campaign.

Canvassers for Appalachian's and Kingsport Power's savings bond drive will contact employees in June about the payroll-deduction method of buying savings bonds. Twenty \$50 savings bonds selected by random drawing will be awarded to canvassers for their part in the drive. The employee participation card used to determine winners in the sweepstakes drawing contains the name of the canvasser; the more individual participation cards a canvasser hands in, the more chances he or she has to win. If a canvasser is also a participant in the payroll-deduction plan, he or she has an opportunity to compete in both prize contests.

Prior to the start of the bond drive, employees will receive a letter explaining further details about the contest and about savings bonds as an investment.

## WHITE HOUSE REPLIES TO WHITE

W. S. White, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of American Electric Power Company and Appalachian and Kingsport Power Companies, wrote to President Carter in November urging him to "move with all possible speed in deciding the requirements for restoring a viable and much-needed nuclear energy program." He recently received the following reply from the White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 26, 1980

Dear Mr. White:

On behalf of President Carter, thank you for your letter in which you stressed the importance of nuclear energy.

The President believes that every domestic energy source, including nuclear power, is critical if we are to free our country from its overdependence on imported oil. We do not have the luxury of abandoning nuclear power or imposing a lengthy moratorium on its further use.

Licensing decisions, of course, rest with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on a case-by-case basis. The NRC has indicated that it will pause in issuing new licenses and construction permits in order to devote its full attention to putting its house in order. The President has endorsed this approach, but he has urged the NRC to complete its work no later than June 1980.

Once we have instituted the necessary reforms to assure safety, the licensing process will be resumed.

Your interest in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Stuart E. Eigenstat
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs and Policy

Mr. W. S. White, Jr. Chairman of the Board American Electric Power Company, Inc. 2 Broadway New York, NY 10004

## IMPACT STATEMENT | THE ANATOMY OF NOT REQUIRED BEFORE BRUMLEY PERMIT ISSUED

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff has issued a "finding of no significant environmental impact" with respect to feasibility studies the utility proposes to carry out at Brumley Gap in Washington County, Virginia. The studies would be in connection with the preliminary permit Appalachian is seeking from FERC in regard to the company's proposed pumped storage project there.

Commenting on this environmental assessment by the FERC staff, John W. Vaughan, president of Appalachian Power, said that the company is "greatly pleased," and expressed the hope that "the FERC will now act quickly to issue the company the preliminary permit." He noted that the staff finding was confirmation of the position the company has maintained since it filed for a preliminary permit nearly 30 months ago, on August 30, 1977.

Vaughan said that the company wants to study the feasibility of a pumped storage project at Brumley Gap because "Appalachian will need additional generating facilities in the future if the company is to continue to meet the demands of its customers, and pumped storage is a viable option and one we would like to keep open for the future."

In its environmental assessment, the FERC staff noted that Appalachian had filed a Work Plan with the commission May 16, 1979, describing extensively the work to be performed in the engineering and environmental studies. Following that, the staff conducted a public meeting in Abingdon September 11, and a field investigation September 12. Additional information was then supplied the staff by Appalachian, as well as by intervenors who have maintained that an environmental impact statement should be prepared before a preliminary permit is issued

In concluding that no such statement is needed, the staff said that no endangered species, either plants or animals, are known to exist in the proposed project area. They further noted Appalachian has proposed a method of reaching study sites in the Brumley Gap Gorge area that would minimize adverse impacts on the beauty of the area and that the environmental studies would not adversely impact the resources under study. In fact, the staff stated that "the scientific value of the information generated would outweigh any harm done during its gathering."

The staff report goes on: "Staff believes that the predisturbance review procedure suggested by the applicant (Appalachian) is an appropriate approach toward minimizing the environmental impacts associated with the geotechnical studies." The staff recommends that a special article be placed in the preliminary permit requiring the company to implement the pre-disturbance review concept, and to conduct studies in accordance with the standards and criteria presented in the Work Plan.

The staff also calls for another special article in the permit providing for field studies of threatened and endangered species and archeological sites.

"The significant point in this report is the FERC staff conclusion that an environmental impact statement is not required before the issuance of a preliminary permit. Had the staff recommended an EIS, it would have been an unprecedented move, and one which would have served to delay considerably longer the feasibility studies which have already been delayed for nearly 30 months," Vaughan said.

## AN ACQUISITION

**JANUARY** 

- American Electric Power Company and Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company announce proposal for AEP's acquisition of C&SOE as AEP System's eighth operating electric utility, subject to approval of Securities and Exchange Commis-

FEBRUARY -

AEP and C&SOE ask SEC for approval of proposal.

NOVEMBER -

SEC examiner ends 47 days of hearings, during which The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company and The Dayton Power and Light Company oppose proposal on grounds of alleged harm to their power pool arrangement (CCD) with C&SOE. AEP counters that proposal would strengthen CCD arrangement and pledges to continue and improve it at option of CG&E and DP&L.

#### 1969

**JANUARY** 

 SEC staff recommends against proposal approval.

APRIL

- AEP asks SEC to reopen hearings to present additional evidence related to antitrust aspects. SEC grants request. Subsequently U.S. Department of Justice and Ohio Municipal Electric Association become parties to proceeding.

DECEMBER -

AEP files additional evidence. (Throughout 1968-69 strong support is given proposal by Governor James A. Rhodes, Ohio's two U.S. senators, many Ohio Congressmen, the mayor of Columbus, and many civic and business leaders in C&SOE area.

#### 1973

JULY

SEC administrative law judge, in initial decision, disapproves acquisition.

SEPTEMBER -

SEC agrees to review initial decision (otherwise it would have become final).

DECEMBER -

Supporting briefs are filed by: AEP: C&SOE: Attorney General William J. Brown on behalf of the State of Ohio and its Public Utilities Commission; the OMEA on behalf of Ohio's 83 municipal electric systems (which by then had reversed their position and supported the proposal due to AEP's commitment to work with them in acquiring their own central power supply); Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. on behalf of the state's 28 rural electric co-ops (which earlier had acquired their own central power source in an arrangement with AEP), and the City of Columbus. Also, Governor John Gilligan notifies SEC of his administration's support of the proposal.

#### 1974

**APRIL** 

SEC's Division of Corporate Regulation, the U.S. Department of Justice and CG&E and DP&L file briefs opposing the proposal.

#### 1975

**AUGUST** 

SEC instructs parties to submit new data on potential savings and other results of acquisition that might require updating due to length of time since testimony was originally presented.

#### 1976

**APRIL** 

- AEP filings of updated data are completed. Also, SEC staff and Justice Department, still in opposition, file briefs.

#### 1977

DECEMBER - AEP and C&SOE urge SEC to expedite decision, stressing protracted indecision is having serious effect on their planning and financing of system expansions.

#### 1978

JULY

SEC approves acquisition "in principle," subject to two conditions: (1) that it be assured of the fairness to both utilities of a proposed ratio of exchange of common stock by which acquisition would be carried out, and (2) that it be assured that AEP and the Ohio municipal electric systems had reached agreement on how AEP could help them acquire their own central power supply.

#### 1979

MAY

AEP, C&SOE, AMP-Ohio (representing the municipal electric systems) and Ohio Power Company sign agreement setting up mechanics of establishing a power supply for the municipal systems.

JUNE

The above agreement, as well as documents supporting the proposed ratio of the exchange of stock, is filed with the SEC.

SEPTEMBER -

Ohio Legislature approves resolution placing on the June 1980 ballot a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would facilitate the establishment of an Ohio Municipal Wholesale Electric Authority to generate and sell electricity, as called for in the May agreement.

#### 1980

FEBRUARY -

SEC gives final approval, without qualification, to the acquisition proposal.

TO COME

Tender offer to C&SOE shareowners of AEP common shares for C&SOE common shares.

## **I&M ANTITRUST DECISION UPHELD**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago last month upheld an antitrust decision against Indiana & Michigan Electric Company. The appellate court sustained a decision handed down in January 1979 by the U.S. District Court for Northern Indiana in a consolidated antitrust proceeding involving three separate court actions brought in 1974-1977 by 10 municipalities in Indiana and Michigan.

The Court of Appeals did, however, vacate a damages award (\$12.1 million after trebling) and injunctions against I&M, remanding the case to the trial court to rehear and reconsider the damages and

In the original suits, the municipalities, all wholesale customers of I&M, had alleged that the company had violated federal antitrust laws by requiring them to pay a wholesale rate higher than the retail rate charged to industrial customers of I&M. The company contended that it had followed the ratemaking procedures specifically established by the three regulatory agencies which control the company's activities in its service area: the public service commission in Indiana and Michigan, which govern retail rates and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which governs wholesale rates.

## APCO EMPLOYEES OFFERED JACKETS



David Hamm, electrical engineer in GO T&D Meter, Roanoke (left), models the pile lined APCo jacket. Linda Naff, T&D clerk in GO T&D Station, Roanoke, displays the kasha lined jacket.

When General Office Transmission and Distribution employees were given windbreakers last year in recognition of their having worked 3-million consecutive safe manhours, the jackets proved to be

Taking their colors from company vehicles, the beige jackets have orange and black stripes on the left front and an APCo insignia on the right. An American flag adorns the right sleeve.

In response to popular demand, these jackets can now be purchased by any employee at company cost. Prices (including sales tax) are: unlined \$9.36; kasha lined \$11.96; and pile lined \$14.56. Jackets come in children's sizes 4, 8, 12 and 16 and adult sizes small, medium, large, X-large and XX-large.

To purchase jackets, simply fill out the form below and return it to the Stores Section of your office or plant, along with a check made out to Appalachian Power Company for the amount of the order. Shipping costs will be absorbed by the company. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

#### APCO EMPLOYEE JACKETS

Please send me the following APCo jackets:

No.	Kind	Amount
	Unlined jacket(s) @ \$9.36	\$
	Child's481216	
	Adult _S _M _L _XL _XXI	L
	Kasha lined jacket(s) @ \$11.96	\$
	Child's481216	~
	Adult _S _M _L _XL _XXI	L
	Pile lined jacket(s) @ \$14.56	\$
	Child's481216	
	Adult _S _M _L _XL _XXI	L
	(Prices include sales tax) TOTA	L \$

Check made payable to Appalachian Power Company must accompany order. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. Return order and check to Stores Section.

Department

Division/Plant/GO Dept. Location

Name

## EMPLOYEES' IDEAS **SAVE \$2 MILLION**

Suggestions submitted by employees through Appalachian Power's Operations Improvement Program during 1979 were estimated to save \$1,956,493, according to Methods Engineer Fred E. Hornbeck, who coordinates the program.

A total of 190 accepted proposals were received for processing by the time the 1979 program ended on December 16, down from the 305 submitted during 1978. Thirty proposals originated in the plants; divisions were responsible for 105; and general office departments submitted 55.

Fifteen locations achieved 100 percent or better of their committed goal for the year: John Amos, Clinch River, Kanawha River and Philip Sporn Plants; Pulaski Division; and GO Accounting, GO Customer Services, GO Hydro, GO Land Management, GO Operations, GO Personnel/Executive, GO Purchasing, and GO Transmission and Distribu-

Certificates were awarded to Kanawha River Plant, Pulaski Division and GO Accounting for having the most effective operations improvement programs during 1979.

## **ACCEPTED OIP PROPOSALS**

Abingdon Division					
Beckley Division					
Bluefield Division0					
Charleston Division					
Huntington Division					
Logan-Williamson Division					
Lynchburg Division					
Pulaski Division					
Roanoke Division					
John Amos Plant					
Clinch River Plant					
Clan Lun Plant					
Glen Lyn Plant					
Kanawha River Plant					
Philip Sporn Plant					
Central Machine Shop0					
Centralized Plant Maintenance					
GO Accounting5					
GO Customer Services					
GO General Services					
GO Hydro0					
GO Land Management					
GO Operations					
GO Personnel/Executive0					
GO Public Affairs0					
GO Purchasing					
GO Transmission/Distribution 0					
Total accepted by General Office for					
processing as of February 13 24					



J. Robert Davenport, Lynchburg division manager, was regional representative for the Bedford-Lynchburg area for the sixth annual Sixth District Economic Conference held last month at Natural Bridge, Virginia. Congressman M. Caldwell Butler and Senator John W. Warner co-sponsored the conference. Pictured above are Butler, left, and Davenport.

## HALL HONORED **AS GOODWILL AMBASSADOR**



Jenny Hall, Charleston customer accounts representative (center), was presented a "West Virginia Ambassador of Goodwill Among All People" certificate by A. James Manchin, secretary of state of West Virginia (left). At right is James R. Noony, whose service request prompted the honor.

Jenny Hall, Charleston customer accounts representative B, has been presented a "West Virginia Ambassador of Goodwill Among All People" certificate by the Honorable A. James Manchin, secretary of state of West Virginia.

The honor came about because of the efficient way in which she handled a customer's service request.

The customer, James R. Noony, was moving from the Falling Rock area to Charleston and was in the process of having utility services disconnected at his old address and placed in his name at the new address. Noony was apparently having problems with other area utilities' handling of his request. When Jenny took Noony's call to Appalachian, she promptly made the necessary changes for the accounting procedure. Noony responded with the following note: "This is just a small token of my appreciation for your kindness and help on my account. It is a pleasure to know in this hurried world that there are people like you still around. AEP should be very proud that you are aboard with them." Later Noony remarked, "Not only was she knowledgeable in her work but she was very friendly and kind in her conversation".

Noony was so impressed with Jenny's courtesy that he related the incident to Mr. Manchin, who suggested that she be presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate.

Jenny was invited to Manchin's office and sat in his chair while the award was presented. Manchin made one of his famous impromptu speeches, praising her for her fine work.

Jenny says, "I was surprised. It was nice having someone say thank you in such a unique way. I handled this customer as I would any other. I try to be as helpful as I can to all our customers."

## CAVINGS DI AN

Date	Value Per Unit	Units Credited Per Dollar
1/31/80	Fixed Income Fund 1.1756	.8506
1/31/80	Equity Fund 1.4339	.6974
1/31/80	AEP Stock Fund .9423	1.0612

## MOVING UP



Charles L. Julian, former outage coordinator, was promoted to maintenance superintendent at John Amos Plant on February 1. He succeeds Arthur H. Hill, who was promoted to assistant plant manager at Big Sandy Plant. Julian attended Indiana State University.



Gregory Jay Clark, former electrical engineer in Charleston, was promoted to area supervisor A in Logan-Williamson Division on November 1. He succeeds M. R. Archibald, who was promoted to supervising engineer. Clark holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Ohio Northern University.



William Haskel Jones. former St. Albans area superintendent, was promoted to Charleston division line superintendent on February 16. He succeeds R. R. Griffith, who was promoted to division superintendent. Jones attended the West Virginia Institute of Technology and holds a degree in electrical engineering from International Correspondence Schools.



Robert N. Sanney, former electrical engineer senior, was promoted to St. Albans area superintendent on February 16, succeeding W. H. Jones. Sanney holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from West Virginia Institute of Technology.



Raymond Joseph
Haynes, former engineering technician in
Charleston, was promoted to administrative
assistant in Huntington
on February 16. He
succeeds Dick Roush,
who resigned. Haynes
holds a bachelor of arts
degree in psychology
from West Virginia
State College.



Ronald H. Hogan, former electric plant clerk A, was promoted to the exempt position of electric plant accountant in General Office Accounting, Roanoke, on February 1. He holds a degree in junior accounting from National Business College.



Norris R. Keeling, former line inspector, was promoted to rightof-way inspector in Charleston on March



Kermit L. "Buck"
McDaniel, former personnel assistant, was promoted to plant safety coordinator at John Amos Plant on February 1. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from West Virginia State College.



Robert Joseph Schilling, former equipment operator, was promoted to unit supervisor at Kanawha River Plant on February 1. He succeeds H. P. Johnson, who is on LTD leave.



C. L. Smith, former line mechanic A, was promoted to line crew supervisor in the Pearisburg area of Pulaski Division on February 16. He succeeds C. L. Dunigan, who was promoted to area supervisor.



Alfred M. Jones, former stores attendant, was promoted to the exempt position of line inspector in Charleston on March 16, succeeding Norris Keeling. Jones attended Iowa State College.

## HUNTERS SCORE

Beckley Charles Richmond, husband of Joann Richmond, customer accounts representative C, 180-lb., 12-point buck; 120-lb. spike buck with bow and arrow; 150-lb. doe with muzzle loader.

Kingsport
J. B. Quillin, residential advisor, spike buck and 3-point buck.

Lynchburg W. C. Boblett, meter service mechanic, 150-lb., 6-point buck and 12-lb. turkey gobbler. Fred Austin, line crew supervisor exempt, 100-lb. spike buck and 10½-lb. turkey gobbler. Dennis Austin, son of Fred Austin, 125-lb. spike buck. Paul Keys, right-of-way agent, 11-lb. turkey hen.

Mountaineer **Operations** Roger Smith, unit supervisor, 180-lb., 8-point buck; 75-lb. doe with bow and arrow. Jerry Cunningham, unit supervisor, 200-lb., 9-point buck. Woody Hudson, utility operator A, 181-lb., 8-point buck. Beryl Wilson, unit supervisor, 182-lb. doe with muzzle loader. S. D. White, utility operator A, 183-lb. doe. J. B. Meadows, assistant shift operating engineer, 140-lb., 6-point buck.

Pulaski G. D. Jones, stores attendant, 140-lb., 6-point buck with bow and arrow. A. J. Anderson, equipment service advisor, 150-lb., 10-point buck with bow and arrow and turkey. H. B. Shepherd, line crew supervisor NE, 130-lb., 6-point buck. J. R. Painter, line mechanic C, 175-lb., 9-point buck and turkey. R. T. Wingate, area service restorer, turkey. K. R. Belton, line mechanic D, 85-lb. doe. **N. M.** Quesenberry, right-ofway maintenance inspector, 155-lb., 6-point buck and turkey. R. E. Semones, engineering technologist, 130-lb. doe.

Philip Sporn Tom Hoffman, assistant shift engineer, 15-lb. turkey.

## NEW FACES AROUND THE SYSTEM

John Amos Frederick Tipane, engineer B. Bobby Gibson and David Brumfield, performance technicians junior. Gregory Smith, George Kinder, David Laughlin, Gregory Means, Timothy Echols and Mark Dunlap, maintenance mechanics D. Barbara Taylor, personnel assistant. Ricky Warren, William Greene, III, Thomas Thursack, Richard Veazey, Harold Hedrick, Randy Martin, Richard Rutledge and John Hull, utility workers. Mary Bannister, junior clerk.

Beckley Elizabeth Nixon, junior clerk. Dianna Londree, junior clerk, Oak Hill.

Bluefield
Gary Bazzie, meter
reader, Princeton.
Bueford Shell, custodian. Jess Franklin,
Jr., station mechanic
D.

Central Machine Shop Manfred Wagner, production machinery specialist.

Centralized Plant Maintenance Bruce Cottrill and Charles Watterson, maintenance mechanics B.

General Office Douglas Queen, electrical engineer, GO T&D Station, Bluefield. Crawford Godsey, R/w agent, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke. William Price, engineering technician, GO T&D Station, Charleston. Paul Sheets, R/w agent, GO T&D R/e & K/w. Charleston. Jackie Mills, engineering technician senior, GO T&D Station, Bluefield. Leslie Carter, electrical engineer, GO T&D Station, Huntington. Ronald Dean, systems and procedures analyst, GO Accounting, Roanoke. Doris Harris, classification and accounts payable clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke. Clifton Blair, custodian, GO General Services, Roanoke. Karin Gastineau, classification and accounts payable clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Huntington
William Fizer, Robert
Davis and Terry
Damron, line
mechanics D. Scott
Stewart, line mechanic
D, Point Pleasant.

Logan-Williamson Donald Washington, engineering technician, Williamson. Thomas Meek, tracer, Logan. Samuel Smith, Jr., line mechanic D, Williamson. Diana Syck and Nannie Davis, junior clerks, Williamson. Jerry Luther, meter reader, Logan. John Venturino, stores attendant, Williamson. Danny Kennedy, meter reader, Williamson.

Lynchburg Glenda Renea Harrison, meter reader. Teresa Burch, junior clerk.

Mountaineer Construction Charles Allensworth, receiving/shipping inspector. Catherine Mower and Rosemary Blount, junior clerks.

Mountaineer
Operations
A. B. Yoho, performance engineer. B. J.
Flesher, maintenance mechanic. M. L. Ralbusky, R. E. Hoffman, and R. P. Cale, utility operators B.
C. M. Mooney and R. L. Wood, coal handlers.

Pulaski Rose Meadows, junior clerk. W. E. Woodyard, Jr., meter reader. L. M. Willard and R. S. Bell, line mechanics D, Christiansburg.

Roanoke Robert Wagner, engineering studenttemporary. Steven Richardson, line mechanic D.

## FAMOUS FAMILIES GO HOLLYWOOD WITH FEUD



Descendants of America's most famous feuding families, the Hatfields and McCoys, met face to face on ABC Television Network's popular game show, "Family Feud". The Hatfield clan includes: front row, l. to r., Sally Hatfield Leland, Robyn Hatfield Meadows, Ernestine Hatfield, Carol Sue Hatfield Busick, Don Hatfield Gilman. Back row, l. to r., Henry D. Hatfield, Cecil Hatfield, Pamela Hatfield Cline, Virgie Hatfield Barrett and Dutch Hatfield.

The famous Hatfield and McCoy feud of the 1880s has been fought again, this time on a Hollywood stage instead of the Tug Fork.

Descendants of the two famous hill-country families traveled to Hollywood last October for the taping of programs for the ABC Television game show, "Family Feud". Ten members of each family were chosen after auditioning with 130 other members of the Hatfield and McCoy clans. Included were Henry D. Hatfield, stores/garage supervisor in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division, and his wife Ernestine. Henry is a great-great nephew of Devil Anse Hatfield, the clan leader in the days of the feud.

Henry says, "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Ernestine and me. It was one of the highlights of my life. We would probably never have gone to Los Angeles otherwise. This was Ernestine's first time on a plane. She was scared to death. After we went aboard the plane, the chief stewardess took Ernestine into the cockpit and introduced her to the pilots, navigator and engineer. They really gave her the grand tour, trying to put her at ease. It must have done some good for on the flight back, she fell asleep. She was an 'old hand' by then, I guess."

The contestants left on their trip from Huntington on a Tuesday, flying first to Pittsburgh and then directly to Los Angeles. They were met at the airport by a representative of the Goodson and Todman agency. Then they traveled to the Holiday Inn in Hollywood, and were given the remainder of the day to themselves.

Henry says, "While we were there, we saw the 'Tonight Show' (Ernestine sat in Johnny Carson's chair) and the 'Hollywood Squares'. I talked to Peter Marshall, who hosts 'Squares', and we met Skip Stephenson, star of 'People's World'. We also visited Grauman's Chinese Theater and the Hollywood Wax Museum."

A total of five games were played, and a different audience of about 600 people attended each show's taping. All the shows were taped the same day.

Henry states, "Richard Dawson, host of Family Feud, is one of the nicest people I've ever met in my life. He's as sincere and as interested in people as anybody I've ever met. This surprised me; I thought he'd be some kind of 'smart' operator but he wasn't. He was so congenial and considerate of people, just a really nice person. The producer, Howard Felsher, was fantastic. They fed us, and they got anything we wanted."

He continues, "Ernestine and I each won about \$1,100, plus several really nice prizes — rug shampooer, luggage, four-slice toaster, jewelry, leather goods and all sorts of other things.

Legend has it that the Hatfield-McCoy feud was started over the theft of a pig, and for all of the taping there was a pig on stage.

When asked what had been handed down to him about the feud, Henry replied, "I believe, at that time, each family resented the other and its achievements. You take the Hatfield clan now — and, naturally, I'm prejudiced — Devil Anse got his name when he was a captain in the Confederate Army. The Hatfields were fairly wealthy, big landowners and all."

"There was a trial to decide the ownership of a pig. In those days, people cut slash marks on the animal's ear to identify ownership. The judge who heard the case — he was a McCoy, married to a Hatfield — decided in favor of the Hatfields, and I guess the feud really took off from that point. There were other instances and other people involved outside the Hatfield and McCoy clans."

Henry adds, "Devil Anse was a man who really loved his family. When one of his sons was attacked and stabbed about 20 or so times and shot several times, he watched the young man laying on his deathbed for two or three days. Earlier he had effected the capture of two or three McCoys and tied them to pawpaw bushes. Devil Anse then sent word to Randall McCoy, the McCoy clan leader, that if his son died, the prisoners would die also. Shortly afterward when the Hatfield youth passed on, the prisoners were put to death."

He concludes, "Nowadays we never think of the feud. Our two families have been joined by marriages and so forth over the years. Both families have some of the finest people you'd ever want to meet. The feud, while it does have some historical value and should be remembered for that reason, certainly causes no problems for any of us now."

## FOSTER: I DON'T VIEW MYSELF AS HANDICAPPED



Dave Foster, left, talks with G. A. Settle, customer accounting supervisor.

Dave Foster, Abingdon meter reader, could best be described as "straightforward and determined".

Born with no fingers on his right hand and partial fingers on his left hand, Dave is what others consider "handicapped". Dave, however, feels differently. "Technically, I am handicapped but I don't view myself as such." His condition has not prevented him from striving to attain his goals.

He received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Virginia Intermont College in May 1978. After applying unsuccessfully for jobs elsewhere, he applied at Appalachian in August of that year. He knew of Appalachian from his mother, Anne Foster, a former Commercial Department employee, who "liked the people and working with the company".

Dave was persistent, calling back every four to six weeks to see if anything had opened up. In January 1979 he was called in for an interview and placement exercises. Interviews for jobs are arduous enough, but Dave had another problem: a speech impediment. "This impediment causes some communication problems when I hurry," says Dave, "but as far as the customers on my route are concerned, I have not had any problems communicating with them. As a matter of record, I probably have no more or no less problems than any meter reader."

When Dave was 15, doctors were able to build up a "post" on his right hand from stomach tissue, enabling him to use the post to grip objects. "I have not needed special equipment", he relates. "I can do most anything. One of the few things I haven't mastered yet is putting chains on the truck."

Dave continues, "People's attitude about my problem is probably worse than the problem itself. Upon first seeing my hands, there usually is an embarrassing silence, as if reluctant to acknowledge the fact that my hands are different. If people are open about it, it doesn't bother me. Once they ask about it, I don't have any difficulty talking about my condition."

"People on the job have been more than helpful — office people, other meter readers, just everyone. The biggest job-related problem I've had was just not knowing the county. This caused me to stay pretty much behind the other meter readers, but once I had covered the routes, the meter reading schedules made more sense, and I was able to improve. A lot of credit goes to my supervisors, who were very cooperative in helping me to get oriented and to catch my mistakes. They recognized that I was new on the job, and they stressed the importance of accuracy because of the problems that can arise from a meter reading error. This has also helped me to realize that sometimes the only contact the customer has with our company is through the meter reader. Therefore, it's always necessary to be well mannered and good natured no matter how difficult the customer. Basically I enjoy what I'm doing — seeing the county, meeting the people, and being able to manage my time to meet my changing work conditions."

Dave, a member of the Abingdon Jaycees, is interested in civic affairs. His leisure time is spent writing short stories. Even though he has not had any published, he plans to keep on trying. He has completed five stories, most of which deal with people and feelings.

Dave concludes, "One thing companies should consider, regarding handicapped people in general, is to be patient and understanding. I feel that by doing this they will gain a valuable asset to the company. In the long run, the handicapped person will truly demonstrate his worth so that the company and the individual each gain."

## HUNTINGTON PHONE SYSTEM GETS NEW 'DIMENSION'



Enjoying the use of the new DIMENSION telephone system are these Huntington Contract employees: Standing, I. to r., Debbie Frazier, Barbara Calhoun, Maggie Spurlock and Donna Holley. Seated, Mary Lou Wilcox, customer accounting supervisor NE.

Faster and improved telephone communications with customers have resulted from the installation of the new DIMENSION 400 Electronic Telecommunications System in the Huntington office and service buildings last November.

Since the original telephone system was installed in 1952, the number of customers served out of the Huntington office has increased and new phone extensions were added as additional personnel were hired. A survey indicated only 50 percent of incoming calls were "getting through" without a busy signal and employees were frustrated with delays in calling out.

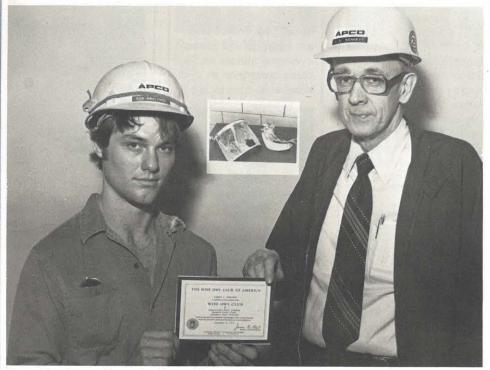
The study also showed that a large number of calls made to the office concerned establishing credit or inquiring about overdue bills or were requests for beginning or ending residential electric service.

These two major areas of business were separated in the new DIMENSION system and given direct-call numbers of their own. These two numbers each have multiple phones with personnel to answer them. The existing telephone number continues to be used for all other calls, including calls concerning power failure.

DIMENSION, selected after various systems were studied from the standpoint of both service and cost, has many advantages over the old system. For example, one phone and one line will now be able to do the work of several lines and extensions. Features include: automatic call back if the line you call is busy; call forwarding to you at another office automatically; signal of call waiting if you are using your extension; conference calls at a touch of a button; and transfer of calls without requiring the service of the operator. Each phone was "tailored" for its intended use.

Employees were trained in the use of the new system the week prior to the cutover. Customers were notified of the new numbers through a newspaper ad, news release and special bill insert.

A semi-monthly telephone courtesy pamphlet is circulated to all customer contact employees to keep them aware of the proper techniques and attitudes.



R. L. Rawlings, Kanawha River Plant utility operator, had a close call recently when molten ash from an ash hopper sprayed over him, melting everything except the brim of his hard hat and burning a hole in his face shield. There is no doubt the shield saved his eyes and protected most of his face. J. A. Bennett (right), plant manager, presents Rawlings (left) with a Wise Owl certificate, decal for his hard hat, and a lapel pin. In becoming a member of the Wise Owl Club of America, Rawlings joins more than 60,000 others whose eyes were saved by wearing eye-protective equipment.

## AUTOMATED PAYMENT PROCESSOR IMPROVES COMPANY'S CASH FLOW



Junior Clerks Robbie Rhodes, left, and Sharon Lowman operate the IBM 3762 payment transaction processor. In the background is the IBM 3791 controller.

"A dream come true" is the way Cash Clerks Anne Flanagan and Doris Smith describe the new automated payment processor in General Office Accounting, Roanoke.

The new system, IBM Payment Transaction Processor, consists of an IBM controller and three dual station 3762 payment transaction processors. This system replaced manual procedures that utilized adding machines, tachometers for endorsing/receipting, data processing equipment and key entry time required for entry of mutilated documents. In addition, the old system required the coordinated effort of several General Office sections, one exempt supervisor, ten nonexempt clerks and two or three temporary clerks during times of peak volume.

After the equipment was programmed and tested using expired coupons and substitute check documents, training on one station began in late October. Each employee involved got 'hands-on' practice before full scale processing began on November 5, 1979.

Under the old system, current day business ended at 11 AM in order to meet the data processing schedule and to allow sufficient time for preparing receipts for deposit. Now, due to the advanced features of the IBM 3790, current day processing continues until 3 PM. Dependence on other GO Departments has now been eliminated.

During the weeks of November 5 and 12, 1979, \$19.3 million was deposited by the section and same-day credit increased by approximately \$2.5 million as a result of the extended business day. Also during this period, some 64,000 additional electric accounts were updated one day earlier than previously possible. More recently, almost \$5 million in payments were processed in a normal day.

Central Cash is now handling approximately 350,000 customer payments per month with two less clerks than were necessary under the old system. In the near future, customer payments processed will increase by 175,000 to 180,000 when Central Cash assumes responsibility for collection agency receipts.

Jack Walters, customer accounting administrator, says, "The future holds untold possibilities for improved remittance processing and applications in areas not yet analyzed."



A special coffee and donut break was given St. Albans union employees, who were the first to achieve 100% participation in Charleston Division's United Way campaign. Marvin Dillard (left), area servicer and president of IBEW Local 978, and Dennis Selbe, line mechanic A and chairman of the St. Albans union group United Way campaign, display the 100% participation certificate. Dillard was cochairman of the United Way campaign among union employees in the entire division.

## **POWER** PEOPLE MAKING **NEWS**

#### **Abingdon**

Linda Phillips, junior stenographer, was elected recording secretary of the Washington County Chapter, National Secretaries Association (International).

Gordon Craig, residential representative senior, was elected secretary of the Burley Tobacco Festival and Farm Show Association.

Rex L. Cassady, division manager, was elected to a two-year term on the board of the Washington County United Way.

#### **Beckley**

R. L. Loudermilk, commercial engineer, was reelected to a fourth term as chairman of the administrative board of the United Methodist Temple, Beckley.

T. A. Rotenberry, division manager, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the United Fund of Raleigh County, Inc.

David and Nick, sons of Junior Clerk Elizabeth Nixon, won fourth place in their respective weight groups in the West Virginia State YMCA PeeWee Wrestling Tournament. Eight-year-old David wrestled in the 51-lb. class and 10-year-old Nick in the 71-lb. class. This is the first year of wrestling competition for both boys.

Mike, son of J. C. Thomas, line crew supervisor NE, was chosen as a member of the YMCA Buddy. League All-Star Team.

#### Bluefield

Jane, wife of Division Office Supervisor Kenneth Jackson, was installed as corresponding secretary at the charter meeting of the Bluewell Woman's Club.

Tim Glover, surveyor assistant, is assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 18, Bluefield.



Dwight Meadows, Pineville general servicer, was reelected president of the Wyoming County Commission.



Mary Lou Epperly. daughter of Personnel Supervisor Lloyd Linkous, was selected to represent Radford University in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges' This is one of the highest honors conferred annually by the American academic community. A senior business accounting major, Mary Lou was recently inducted into the Delta Mu Delta national honor society.



Rhonda, daughter of Grundy Area Service Restorer Ronnie Daniels, has been selected to participate in two regional bands. A senior at Grundy High, Rhonda was chosen for first chair alto clarinet with the District VII All-Regional Concert Band. She was also picked to p form with the East Tennessee State University Honors Band, which includes top student musicians from Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina and Georgia. Rhonda was chosen as the most improved band student at Grundy High last year and received three medals for clarinet solos at the District VII Solo and Ensemble Festival.



Jonathan, son of Engineering Technologist Jay Farley, was selected for first chair tuba with the Southwest Virginia Region VII Symphonic Band. He also plays the bass guitar and trombone with the Graham High School marching, concert and state bands.

Evelyn, wife of Pineville Area Supervisor Jack Martin, was appointed to the advisory committee of the Wyoming County Vocational and Technical Center. She was also selected to serve on the board of directors of Southern West Virginia Community College.

#### Central **Machine Shop**



T. C., son of W. D. Salisbury, machinist 1st class, has been selected for the Middle Kanawha Valley Conference football team. A 5'10", 145-pound ninth grader at Horace Mann Junior High, he plays defensive back for the Horace Mann Eagles.

#### Charleston

James Crane, building supervisor, was elected chairman of the board of trustees at First Baptist Church of Nitro.

#### **General Office**

Jerry, son of Tom Allen, rates and contracts engineer, GO Rates and Contracts, Roanoke, was selected defensive corner back for the Blue Ridge District's first team. Jerry played offensive tailback for Lord Botetourt High School this past season and averaged 3.4 yards per carry.

J. W. Hagerman, supervising engineer, GO T&D Transmission Line, Bluefield, was elected to the board of directors of the Bluefield Union Mission.

### Huntington

Fred Helm, division manager, was elected president of Huntington Industrial Corporation, an arm of the Greater Huntington Area Chamber of Commerce. He has served on the corporation's board for five years and is also a member of the chamber's board of trustees.

### Kingsport



David, son of Roy Kern, line mechanic A, was named to the Senior High All County Band, All Upper East Tennessee Band and University of Tennessee Honor Band. He is a first chair trumpet player with the Ketron High School Band.



Janet, wife of Harold Gillenwater, was elected president of the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary for 1980. She was also appointed chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee to study noise abatement in the city. She is serving as a representative of the Kingsport City school teachers.

Luke Kesterson, residential representative, was elected chairman of the Netherland Inn Association's steering committee for 1980. His wife Wanda was elected president of the association.

Harold Gillenwater, station mechanic A. was named fireman of the year for 1979 by the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department.

#### Logan-Williamson

First Lieutenant Bruce E. Akers was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for outstanding service with the Army in Korea. Lt. Akers served one year with the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea before being stationed with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Division of the U.S. Army Missile and Munition Center and School at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. He is the son of Matewan Area Servicer Jerry Akers.

Floyd H. Taylor, Jr., division manager, was installed as a vice president of the Chief Cornstalk Council, Boy Scouts of America.

#### Lynchburg

Douglas Fitchett. electrical engineer, was elected secretary of the Monelison Volunteer Fire Department.

#### Mountaineer Construction



Bryan, son of Landon Stepp, electrical assistant I, made the first team All-Southern High School as defensive back and first team All-State as defensive back. The Point Pleasant High School senior averaged almost six yards a carry as a wingback.



Mike, son of Herman Ohlinger, electrical assistant I, played on the Big Black football team which went to the state tournament for the first time this year. The team had a 11-1 record for the season. A sophomore at Point Pleasant High, Mike also plays fullback on the JV team.

#### Pulaski

On a recent telecast of "PM Magazine", Mike Davis, a service foreman with C&P Telephone Company, was featured along with his three female telephone installer-repairmen. Mike is the son of the late D. M. Davis, former Pearisburg area supervisor. One of the installer-repairmen featured was Susan Alderman, daughter of M. L. Saunders, Jr., station mechanic A. The three girls are known as "Mike's Angels". The syndicated program is telecast over 29 stations in Virginia and West Virginia.

F. G. Fowler, Jr., right-of-way agent, was appointed to a fouryear term on the Wythe County Planning Commission.

P. C. Payne, Jr., meter electrician A, has been named Scoutmaster of Troop #345, sponsored by the Pulaski First United Methodist Church.

L. L. Bucklen, residential representative, was appointed to an advisory committee on energy forums at Wytheville Community College. The college is taking part in the national program, "Energy and the Way We Live". The goal of the program is to create public awareness at the grass roots level of the dimensions and ramifications of the energy question as it affects our lives and our values as a society.



C. E. Burnett, maintenance mechanic B, was elected president of the Radford Turn-N-Q Square Dance Club. New officers of the Galax Employees Benevolent Association are: B. M. Phipps, line mechanic A, president; R. A. Bryan, Jr., line mechanic C, vice president; J. R. Painter, line mechanic C, secretary-treasurer; R. C. Sharp, area service restorer, director; C. A. Robinson, meter reader, director; and T. M. Lineberry, meter reader, director.

#### Rognoke

Todd, son of Jerry Joyce, Fieldale station mechanic C, won first place in the Cub Scout Pack 330 model car show. Johnny, son of Kathy Cobbler, stenographer, won second place in the event. The show was sponsored by the Sanville Ruritan Club.



Stephen, son of Charles Robinson, line mechanic A, won a first place blue ribbon award for his speech, "The History of the Light Bulb", judged the best in the fourth grade at Rocky Mount Elementary School. The contest was sponsored by the Rocky Mount 4-H Club.

Residential Representative Margie Cahill was appointed to a three-year term on the Roanoke City Extension Service Advisory Committee.

Mike, son of Jim Nichols, Jr., general line supervisor, helped lead the Fieldale-Collinsville Spartans to the Collinsville-Henry County wrestling championship. Mike, a wrestler in the 155-lb. class, boosted F-C's point total with two wins by pins in the day-long event, winning his consolation final.



Personnel Supervisor Ira Peters was elected president of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Valley.

#### **Philip Sporn**



Karen, daughter of Shift Engineer William Brown, was selected as third chair flutist in the 1980 West Virginia All-State Band. A senior at Wahama High School, she has played the flute and piccolo in the Wahama band for five years. She received six superior ratings at the Tri-State Solo and Ensemble Festival, performed with the 1979 W. Va. All-State Band and was nominated for the McDonald's All-American Band. Karen is president of the senior band and participates in the pep band.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Plymale of the Service Craft 505 Naval Reserves was chosen "sailor of the quarter" for October-December 1979. A maintenance mechanic, Mike has been a reservist for seven years.

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Charlie Foster
Mundy, 71, retired
Bluefield line inspector,
died February 3. A
native of North Tazewell, Virginia, he was
employed in 1936 as a
lineman and retired
January 1, 1969.
Mundy is survived by
his widow Russell,

Route 1, North Tazewell, Virginia; his mother; one son; two grandsons; six sisters and three brothers.



Brad Smith, 76, retired Cabin Creek Plant utility operator, died February 4. A native of Hernshaw, West Virginia, he began his career in 1943 as a laborer and retired February 1, 1969. Smith is survived by a sister.



Bernard Lester Curry, 64, retired Logan-Williamson line inspector, died February 8. A native of Load, Kentucky, he was employed in 1945 as a groundman B and elected early retirement December 1, 1977. Curry is survived by his widow Grace, 377 McKellar Street, Chillicothe, Ohio.



Walter U. Blatt, 81, retired Huntington truck driver-groundman, died February 13. A native of Wetzel County, West Virginia, he was first hired in 1928 and had broken service until being permanently employed in 1932 as a truck drivergroundman. He retired in March 1961. Blatt is survived by one daughter and one son.



The Comics team, with 96 points, was winner of the first half of the APCo-Kilowatt Bowling League in Huntington. The Live Wires team, with 86 points, was runner-up. Members of the Comics team are, l. to r., Corbin Bobbitt, husband of Inis Bobbitt, secretary-stenographer; Dorcas Moncer, customer services clerk A; Charlie Burdette, stores and garage supervisor; Jo Cole, wife of Milt Cole, and Milt Cole, equipment services representative senior.



Members of Mil-R-Tyme, the Charleston Divison-sponsored Junior Achievement company, assemble their product — executive timers. The 12" size timers, shown above, sell for \$5.00; a 24" size is priced at \$12.00. The JA company name was coined from the use of Miller Beer bottles in the timers. From left, Debbie Sharp; Max Domascho, JA president; Wendy Barker; Jim Blackwell, electrical engineer, advisor; Carol Calvin; Fred Pioch, electrical engineer, advisor; Libby King; and Charlie Walker, residential representative, advisor.



The Class "D" team edged out the Midkiff team 52-49 to win the John E. Amos Basketball Tournament, played February 17 at St. Albans Junior High School. Class "D" received the championship trophy while each player was presented an individual trophy. Bob Smith was the recipient of the most valuable player award. The tournament is one of many activities sponsored by the Amos Employees Social and Recreational Committee. Members of the Class "D" team are: front row, l. to r., Bryan Ward, utility worker, and Jerry Hodges, maintenance mechanic D. Back row, l. to r., Bob Smith maintenance mechanic D; Van Greene, utility worker; and Branchford "Little Man" Arthur, maintenance mechanic D. Mike High, maintenance mechanic D, was not present when picture was taken.

## **SYSTEM COUPLES** MARRY



Nancy Fisher McCrary, daughter of M. E. McCrary, assistant accounting manager, GO Accounting, Roanoke, to Timothy Barber, December 30.



Terry Lynn Poe, Bluefield office messenger, to M. Shane Ashley, January 12.



Deborah Ann Royal, daughter of F. M. Royal, Pulaski meter reader, to Brian Vincient Harr, January 20.



Elaine Chadwell to Carl D. Matheny, Mountaineer Plant maintenance engineer, December 29.



Donna Jean Staley to Homer D. Nance, Huntington line mechanic C, December



Vanessa Denise Thaxton, junior clerk in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division, to Jackie Lee Phillips, December 22.



Patricia Lynn Bench, junior clerk in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division, to Earlin Prater, January 18.

## BABY **PARADE**

Abingdon Joshlyn Eugene, son of H. L. Stanley, Clintwood line mechanic D. February 4. Kristy Renee, daughter of R. D. Poe, meter

electrician A, February

John Amos Larry W. Cutlip, braker, November 7. Sherice Nicole, daughter of Larry A. Goff, maintenance mechanic A, January 7.

Jennifer Renea, daughter of William E. Moore, Jr., control technician junior, January 27.

Beckley Rebecca Lynn, daughter of Wesley L. Walker, right-of-way agent, February 8.

Alison Beth, daughter of Janet Lacek, customer accounts representative C, January 9. Phillip Steven, son of Trina Griffith, junior clerk, February 6.

Bluefield Daryl Wayne, son of Russell Calfee, engineering technician, January 26.

Central Machine Shop James Ryan, son of

James W. Johnson, machinist 1st class, January 30.

Jason Allen, son of Glenn A. Withrow, tractor trailer driversemi, February 3.

Charleston Jeremy Randall, son of Kimberly Hutchinson, meter clerk C, January

Clinch River Sarah Denise, daughter of Jerry Lee Yates, utility worker B, December 11.

**General Office** Elaine Ruth, daughter of Richard Anderson, load research and allocation analyst, GO Rates and Contracts, Roanoke, January 24. Michael A., son of

Sandra Collier, secretary-stenographer, GO Customer Services, Roanoke, January 18.

Ashley Noelle, daughter of E. L. Westmoreland, regional dispatcher, GO Operations, Roanoke, January 22.

Mountaineer Construction Mark Austin, son of Ray Taylor, civil construction assistant I, January 29.

Amanda Erin, daughter of Nader Azizi, electrical construction assistant I, February 1.

Mountaineer **Operations** Ben Allen, son of Benny McKinney, control technician junior, January 2. Jamie Marie, daughter of James Greene, coal handler, February 3.

Pulaski Corey Rush, son of W. L. Akers, Hillsville line mechanic C, February 2. Shannon Elizabeth, daughter of H. R. Hart, Christiansburg meter reader, December 26.

Jennifer Lynn, daughter of A. S. Jackson, Hillsville customer accounts representative B. January 14.

Erin Renea, daughter of E. C. Felty, Wytheville meter reader. January 27.

Travis Todd, son of T. D. Alderman, Hillsville area service restorer, October 18. Ami Michelle, daughter of Carl S. Farris, Jr., meter reader, Novem-

Roanoke Chad Edward, son of James Hyler, Fieldale meter reader, January

ber 9.

## **HARRIS RETIRES EARLY**



Victor Anderson Harris, Williamson general servicer in the Logan-Williamson Division, elected early retirement February 1. A native of Chattaroy, West Virginia, Vic was employed in 1944 as a meter helper. During his more than 35 years' service, he worked as a serviceman C, troubleman B, serviceman A, area serviceman and

general servicer. Vic and his wife Violet will continue to make their home at 1234 Crestview Drive, Williamson, during retirement. They have four children and six grandchildren. Vic enjoys fishing in his spare

## TURNER **ENDS 30-YEAR** CAREER



George Walker Turner, customer accounts representative B in the Stuart area of Roanoke Division, retired March

George, who began his career with Appalachian in November 1949, holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He had previously worked for the State of Virginia Soil Conservation Department and held various jobs in Stuart. George recalls. "Ammon Sears, Stuart

area manager, told me the company was looking for someone. The job was securing rightof-way and electric service contacts. Bruce Cox, then Fieldale district manager, and John Vaughan, then commercial manager, did the interviewing." George began his

career as a rural sales

representative junior. "The company was promoting the sale of electricity and part of my job was to help load our lines. If a customer needed service hookup or wanted a new line to come into the area, it was my responsibility to handle it. Jimmy Hall, a right-of-way agent working out of Roanoke, had been assigned some of the work in the Stuart area to help catch up on a backlog of right-of-way jobs. He called me one afternoon and said, 'You've got a man over there who is really complaining and said he wouldn't accept any amount of money to sign the agreement. He is awfully upset and won't give us the rightof-way. Maybe you better go see him.' When I got over there, the customer and his small son came out. I just pulled a nickel out of my pocket and handed it to the boy. We became instant friends. I talked for a little while and got the agreement. When Jimmy called me to see how I made out and what it had cost us, I told him it was easy and just took a nickel to get the right-of-way. He couldn't believe it,' George related.

George was assigned to the 685th Radar Signal Aircraft Warning Company during World War II. He says, "I remember that well. It lasted 4 years, 1 month and 10 days for me." He was stationed in Newfoundland for two years. "We were Army Signal Corps at that time but assigned to the Air Force. It was part of the radar early warning."

He adds, "During our radar training in 1942, we were stationed at

Fort Fisher just south of Carolina Beach, Virginia. The fort is near the mouth of Cape Fear River, and the enemy subs were very active all along the east coast. They torpedoed one of our tankers near the fort, and we sat up all night and watched it burn.

George and his wife Susan have one son. He is a past member of the Patrick County Jaycees and the Collinsville Lions Club and holds a lifetime membership in Patrick County's VFW Post #7800.

### COLLEGE **GRADS**



Rodney G., son of J. L. Dunn, Pearisburg T&D clerk A in the Pulaski Division, graduated summa cum laude from West Virginia Institute of Technology with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. An AEP scholarship winner in 1976, Rodney has an academic average of 3.945 on a 4.0 scale and was listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges".

J. B. III, son of J. B. Brillheart, Jr., Pulaski administrative assistant. graduated from Radford University with a bachelor of arts degree in German. He was inducted into Eta Sigma Phi, classical fraternity. Membership is based on outstanding scholastic achievement in Latin.

Lewis graduated from

Virginia Polytechnic In-

## VETS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



W. H. Jones Engineering Tech. Sr. Charleston 40 Years



D. T. Hayner Maintenance Supv. Glen Lyn 40 Years



R. L. Tipton Station Mech. B. (LTD) Kingsport 35 Years



J. F. Hicks Engineer B Huntington 35 Years



C. L. Peters Auto. Mech. A (LTD) Roanoke 35 Years



Joyce Potter Private Secretary Kingsport 30 Years



E. F. Pioch Electrical Engineer Charleston 30 Years



R. A. Sheffey, Jr. Engineering Supv. Abingdon 30 Years



H. R. Hill Meter Serv. Mech. A Charleston 30 Years



Virgil Adams Asst. Plant Manager John Amos 25 Years



D. K. Spivey Engineering Technol. Pulaski 25 Years



J. R. Bradley Meter Serv. Mech. A Charleston 25 Years



C. D. Roush Stores Attendant Philip Sporn 25 Years



J. D. Hackney Instrument Mech. A Clinch River 20 Years



H. F. St. Clair, Jr. Station Supt. Bluefield 20 Years

Abingdon
10 Years: R. D. Poe,
meter electrician A.
Delta Purky, customer
accounts representative
B. D. H. Spencer, line
mechanic B. 5 Years:
Sharon Gobble,
stenographer. J. W.
Vencille, meter reader.

John Amos 20 Years: L. R. Brewer, Jr., assistant shift operating engineer.

Beckley
10 Years: G. W.
O'Dell, line mechanic
A, Rupert. L. E.
Smith, customer accounts representative
B.

Bluefield 15 Years: Charles Branscome, line crew supervisor NE. 10 Years: Thomas Cahill, surveyor. Scott Phipps, line mechanic A. 5 Years: John Romans, meter reader.

Centralized Plant Maintenance 10 Years: George Korn, Jr., maintenance mechanic A.

Charleston 10 Years: C. K. Ross, engineering technician senior. R. S. Trigg, engineering technologist supervisor. K. L. Chambers, auto mechanic A. D. P. Jones, auto mechanic A.

**General Office** 15 Years: R. M. Wise, Jr., distribution engineer senior, GO T&D Engineering, Roanoke. 10 Years: P. E. Smalley, electrical engineer, GO T&D Meter, Charleston. R. W. Mullen, data processing operator A, GO Accounting, Roanoke. D. S. Thomas, communications clerk A, GO T&D Communications, Roanoke. R. M. Stiff, civil engineer senior, GO T&D Civil Engineering, Roanoke. R. W. Hartless, data processing operator A, GO Accounting, Roanoke. 5 Years: E. Spencer, station mechanic C, GO T&D Station, Bluefield.

Huntington
15 Years: Brenda
Harvey, personnel
clerk A. 10 Years:
R. I. Ridgeway, meter
reader. B. L. Hagley,
stores attendant. J. E.
Blake, line mechanic
A. W. H. Carver, auto
mechanic C. 5 Years:
J. C. Cogar, line
mechanic A, Point
Pleasant.

Kanawha River 5 Years: Thomas Cox, instrument mechanic C.

Kingsport 10 Years: Susan Dedrick, personnel clerk A.

Logan-Williamson 15 Years: Clarence Evans, general servicer. Edith Williams, senior telephone operator. 10 Years: Sam Whitt, Jr., area service restorer. Roy Mills, general servicer. James Jeffers, station mechanic A.

Lynchburg 10 Years: T. L. Knight, T&D clerk A. 5 Years: H. E. Giles, meter reader.

Mountaineer Construction 5 Years: Linda Fields, clerk.

Pulaski 10 Years: W. O. Vaughan, personnel supervisor.

Roanoke
15 Years: William
Loope, station crew
supervisor NE. 10
Years: Frederick
Dearing, garage supervisor NE. Ronnie
Wray, stores attendant
senior. 5 Years: Sheila
Sigmon, stenographer.

Philip Sporn
10 Years: Bracy
Kinnaird, maintenance
mechanic B. Virgil
Watson, equipment
operator. Carl Cline,
unit supervisor. Robert
Bowen, maintenance
mechanic B.

## LEWIS MILLS RETIRES



Robert Lewis Mills, Roanoke power engineer, retired March 1 after 31 years' service.

stitute and State University with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and was employed by Westinghouse for 10 years. He says, "I started out as a tester, testing switch gear and then as part of the Westinghouse training program, I attended graduate studies at Pittsburgh University." He continues, "As a matter of history, I worked in the Westinghouse building where the first radio broadcast in America originated. Following World War II, the Mills' were living in Atlanta and decided they wanted to get back to Virginia. "I knew a good many people at Appalachian, so that's where I applied," Lewis recalls. He was hired as a power sales engineer senior B and later worked as power sales engineer senior, division power sales engi-

engineer.
Lewis says, "I've enjoyed my work, yet still look forward to retirement. I plan to explore a few golf courses I haven't explored yet and just might travel a trout stream or two I haven't ventured to before.

I'm looking forward to

going fishing with my

neer, division commer-

cial and industrial sales

supervisor and power

supervisor, division

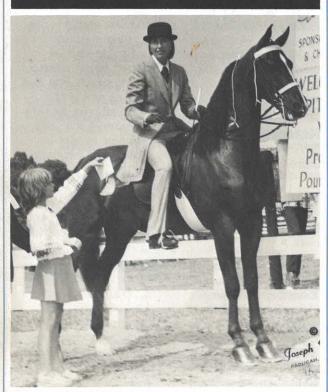
commercial sales

two grandsons. Last summer I had Ben, eight-years-old, on the golf course for the first time. He was here on vacation from Atlanta. The youngest grandson, five-year-old Brian, lives in Roanoke. I've already bought both of them a fishing pole." He also has a six-month-old granddaughter.

Lewis adds, "I may hang my shingle out and do a little professional engineering work after retirement, too." He is a registered engineer in Virginia and Georgia.

Lewis is past president of the Raleigh Court Lions Club; past member of the Illuminating Engineering Society; past Sunday School superintendent and currently a member of the board of directors of Woodlawn United Methodist Church. He and his wife Irene, who have twin sons and a daughter, will continue to reside at 2533 Montgomery Avenue, S.W., Roanoke.

## **BONHAMS SHARE LOVE OF HORSES**



Sue Bonham

Their love of showing horses is very much in evidence when talking with Bill and Sue Bonham. Sue is electric plant clerk A, General Office Accounting, Roanoke.

Both received awards at the Virginia Horse Shows Association awards luncheon in Charlottesville earlier this year. Sue was presented a ribbon, trophy and plaque for the American Saddlebred Pleasure Horse Division. She also received a plague from the American Horse Shows Association. Bill received the same awards for the Senior Western Pleasure Horse Division, plus another trophy for High Point Western Horse of the Year.

Last month Sue received awards from the American Saddle Horse Association of Virginia. Her pleasure horse, Bluemont Bourbon, also captured first-place honors for his division in that association. To receive these high point awards, a horse must be recorded with the respective association and the owner must be a member. Points are accumulated at member shows and are based on number of entries, amount of prize money given, and placing in class.

Sue purchased Bluemont locally in 1974. "He was three years old and very man-shy," she relates. "We found when he was being broken to ride that he was beaten and truck tires tied to him to keep him from running away. The first week I brought him home he threw me against a fence, and I ended up in the hospital emergency room. It's taken a long time to build his confidence in me, but the results the last few years have been well worth it.'

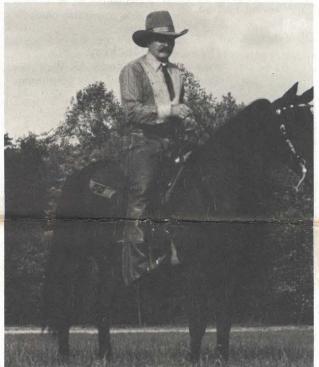
DO NOT FORWARD
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED Appalachian Power Company Roanoke, Virginia 24022 ATT. POSTMASTER

At the 1979 Virginia State Show in Richmond, Bluemont defeated 26 other horses to win his championship class. Other championships and reserves were received at Renan, Buchanan, Dublin, Blackstone, Broadway, Pearisburg, Spottswood and Greenville. He also placed in the top four in shows in West Virginia and North Carolina.

Bill's quarter horse, Double Oh Pine, was purchased in 1976 in Lexington, Kentucky. He was five years old and had been shown sparingly. In 1977 Pine won 52 blue ribbons in western pleasure and hunter hack classes at open and registered quarter horse shows. Due to lack of transportation, Pine was shown very little in 1978. In 1979, however, he received championships and reserves at Chesterfield, Dublin, Blackstone, Roanoke Civic Center, Toga, Broadway, Spottswood, Harrisonburg, Dooms, Chatham and Marlington, West Virginia.

Sue adds, "Many people ask if we run into problems having two different breeds of horses. We try to choose shows that have classes for both horses. When we go to a quarter horse show, Bill shows Pine in western classes and I show him in hunter hack classes. This is one of the advantages of the quarter horse being very versatile."

For anyone interested in buying a horse, Sue has this advice. "Make sure you're willing to devote time each day to your horse, not just once a week or month when you get ready to ride. Horses are a big responsibility but much pleasure can be derived from them."

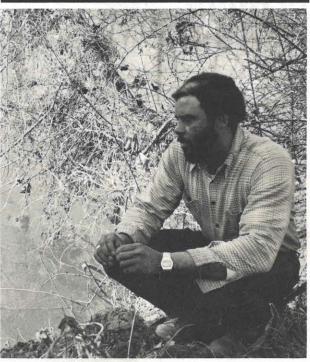


Bill Bonham



Haskel Jones, Charleston line superintendent, was named "Boss of the Year for 1979" by the St. Albans (W.Va.) Jaycees. Jones was cited for his continuing support of Jaycee ideals. He has helped the organization with their annual underprivileged children's Christmas party, Christmas tree sales, and their project to install Christmas lights for the City of St. Albans. This was the first year the St. Albans Jaycees have selected a "Boss of the Year" and Jones was the unanimous choice. Jones, left, is congratulated by Dennis Selbe, line mechanic A. At the time the award was given, Jones was St. Albans area superintendent. Jaycee members working for him then were Selbe; Joe Haynes, engineering technician; and Bob Watson, line mechanic A.

## PILSON HELPS IN RESCUE ATTEMPT



"I just feel compelled to help out if I think someone is injured," says Rudy Pilson in talking about his efforts to recover the body of a neighbor who drowned after his car plunged into the Smith River recently. The accident occured in the Koehler Community, about one mile south of the Fieldale office, where Rudy works as a line mechanic A.

Rudy relates, "I was sick and had left home around 8 AM for a doctor's appointment. When I saw the commotion ahead, I had no idea, as I pulled off the road, that I would know anyone involved. It was awfully cold that morning — freezing or even below — and Smith River seemed even colder when I realized the car belonged to my neighbor."

He continues, "The accident was witnessed by three Bassett High students on their way to school. They told me the car had for seemingly no reason veered off the road into the water. When it happened, they turned around and rushed to get help. By the time I arrived, the Fieldale Life Saving Crew was there. The front end of the car was actually down in the water and one of the front doors was open. I guess we knew that no one could survive in water that cold for very long. I kept thinking of my training in the company's life saving courses and that a person would drown in 3-5 minutes. It had already been a good 30 minutes and no one had been spotted in the water.'

It was Rudy who noticed something moving near the car's front. "Jimmy Nester, a former Appalachian employee and a member of the Life Saving Crew, walked out across the top of the car to investigate. He reached down and tugged at a jacket. My first question was, 'can you tell if it's a man or a woman?' I knew the worst had happened and only wondered if it would be the husband or the wife.'

Nester and Pilson maneuvered a rope around the victim and managed to pull him in. Rudy barely escaped falling into the freezing water in the process. "It was very obvious that our efforts were too late," Rudy said. "His eyes were completely dilated and there was no pulse."

Rudy described the incident as "very upsetting emotionally. Maybe it wouldn't have bothered me so much if I hadn't known the man and talked with him a few days earlier. After we placed him on the stretcher, I began to heave as I walked back up the bank. Part of that may have been due to my illness and maybe because another wreck at the exact same spot four days earlier claimed the life of someone else I knew. It was an experience where one wishes that more could have been done . . . If we had just gotten there a little sooner."