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THE ILLUMINATOR

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Cover

Three-year-old Paul Wesley and five-year-old Beverly Marie are all smiles as they tell Santa Claus what they want for Christmas this year. They are the children of Paul Baker, Abingdon line mechanic A. Thomas Brabson, retired Abingdon T&D employee, is no stranger to the role of Santa, having portrayed the jolly old fellow for a number of years.

Social security taxes increased

Social Security taxes will be hiked again beginning January 1, but the jump will not be as severe as the one made this time last year.

All employees and employers across the country on that date will see the taxable wage base of \$29,700 increase to \$32,400 and the tax rate of 6.65 percent increase to 6.7 percent. The new maximum Social Security tax payment for the year will be \$2,170.80, an increase of \$195.75 for both the employee and the company.

* * *

Meanwhile, the company's Personnel Department reminds retired employees of their rights with respect to outside earnings. Retirees may earn the following amounts (such higher ceilings went into effect last January 1) without paying a penalty in the form of reduced Social Security benefits:

- If 65 to 71 years of age, \$5,500.
- If under 65, \$4,080.
- If 72 or over, unlimited.

The penalty for a retiree (under 72) who has earnings above the applicable ceiling is \$1 of reduced Social Security benefits for each \$1 earned. □

Savings plan unit values

Date	Fixed Income Fund		Equity Fund		AEP Stock Fund	
	VPU	UCPD	VPU	UCPD	VPU	UCPD
1/31/81	\$1.2907	.7748	\$1.7132	.5837	\$1.0145	.9857
2/28/81	1.3001	.7692	1.7508	.5712	.9748	1.0259
3/31/81	1.3106	.7630	1.8171	.5503	1.0064	.9936
4/30/81	1.3208	.7571	1.7770	.5627	.9912	1.0089
5/31/81	1.3317	.7509	1.7862	.5598	1.0340	.9671
6/30/81	1.3425	.7449	1.7768	.5628	1.0757	.9296
7/31/81	1.3537	.7387	1.7805	.5616	1.0842	.9223
8/31/81	1.3652	.7325	1.6956	.5898	1.1047	.9052
9/30/81	1.3767	.7264	1.6172	.6184	1.0519	.9507
10/31/81	1.3898	.7195	1.6964	.5895	1.1099	.9010

VPU — value per unit

UCPD — units credited per dollar

HOW TO READ THE ABOVE CHART: The first column lists the days on which unit values are figured; the second shows the market price or value of each unit on that day; and the third indicates how many units you could have bought for \$1 on that day. For example, if the market value or "value per unit" of the Equity Fund were 50¢ on the valuation date (last day of each month), then "units credited per dollar" would be 2.000. This also holds true for the AEP Stock Fund and the Fixed Income Fund.

The variable interest rate for November on the Fixed Income Fund is 13.42%. All monies placed in this fund after April 1 will be credited with an interest rate of 13.42% during the month of November. □

AEP observes 75th birthday

The American Electric Power Company will be 75 years old on December 20 and is making plans to observe the milestone in a number of ways over a period of months.

The observance will be kicked off with a newspaper advertisement, to be published both nationally and in daily newspapers on the AEP System, scheduled to appear on Monday, December 21. A reprint of the ad appears at right.

A highlight of the observance will be showings of a new film, "Interconnections," which focuses on the history of the AEP System. The film is now in the final stages of production. Current planning calls for showings of the movie to all employees on the AEP System and to AEP shareowners at the company's annual meeting next April 28. Public showings are also planned.

A number of active and retired employees of various companies of the System appear in the film, in cameo roles, recalling significant developments in the System's history over the past 75 years. Those from Appalachian Power are Claud K. Kirkland, retired Pulaski division manager, and Sarge Sinclair, retired staff assistant, GO T&D Administrative Section, Roanoke. Representing Kingsport Power is Clancy Bryan, retired executive vice president.

The film is being produced by Paul Werth Associates, Inc., of Columbus and directed and photographed by The Media Group, also of Columbus. Warren W. Widenhofer, director of special projects in the Service Corporation Public Affairs Department, is serving as liaison between the producer and the company. "The film's title takes its meaning not only from the interconnection of systems and electrical facilities," Widenhofer explained, "but also in a larger sense from the interconnection of ideas. In short, each new idea and development is built upon the one before it. As the story unfolds, it follows a double line, one of engineering logic, the other of human initiative."

The film crew shot footage on location in all seven states of the System — Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Ten-



Sarge Sinclair, retired staff assistant for GO T&D Administrative Section, reminisces about the company's early history for the AEP film crew.

**Meeting the challenge
for 75 years.**

The American Electric Power System is 75 years young today. In that three-quarters of a century, there's been a lot of change. And AEP has helped make a lot of it happen.

But, even though AEP now includes eight power companies serving 7 million people in seven states, our approach to our job hasn't changed.

We're still committed to generating an adequate supply of electricity. And to do everything in our power to get it where it's needed, at the lowest possible cost.

Which is why most of our customers still pay less than the national average for their electricity today.

We've also continued to maintain that supply with reliable, responsive service, making sure that the customer is always treated fairly and courteously. Like a customer.


There have been two other constants in our approach to business, too.

We've always encouraged our employees to take an active and positive role in their community life.

And we still think it's our responsibility to provide our shareowners with a fair and adequate return. To date, we've paid 287 uninterrupted dividends.

These have been our guiding principles. And they will continue to be in the years ahead.

**We're American Electric Power.
We're also Appalachian Power,
Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric,
Indiana & Michigan Electric,
Kentucky Power, Kingsport Power,
Michigan Power, Ohio Power,
and Wheeling Electric.**

American Electric Power


nessee — as well as at AEP headquarters in both New York and Columbus.

AEP was incorporated as American Gas and Electric Company on December 20, 1906. The first board of directors meeting was held the following day, December 21. Twelve days later, on January 2, 1907, the

company acquired 23 small electric, traction and other utility companies from a Philadelphia holding company, Electric Company of America. Among these utilities were electric central stations serving Marion and Muncie, Indiana; Canton and Bridgeport, Ohio, and Wheeling, West Virginia — all of which remain as part of the System today. □

\$101 million project to reinforce service reliability completed

A comprehensive \$101-million construction project, designed to reinforce the reliability of electric service to an area stretching south from Charleston to the West Virginia-Virginia border, has been virtually completed by Appalachian Power Company.

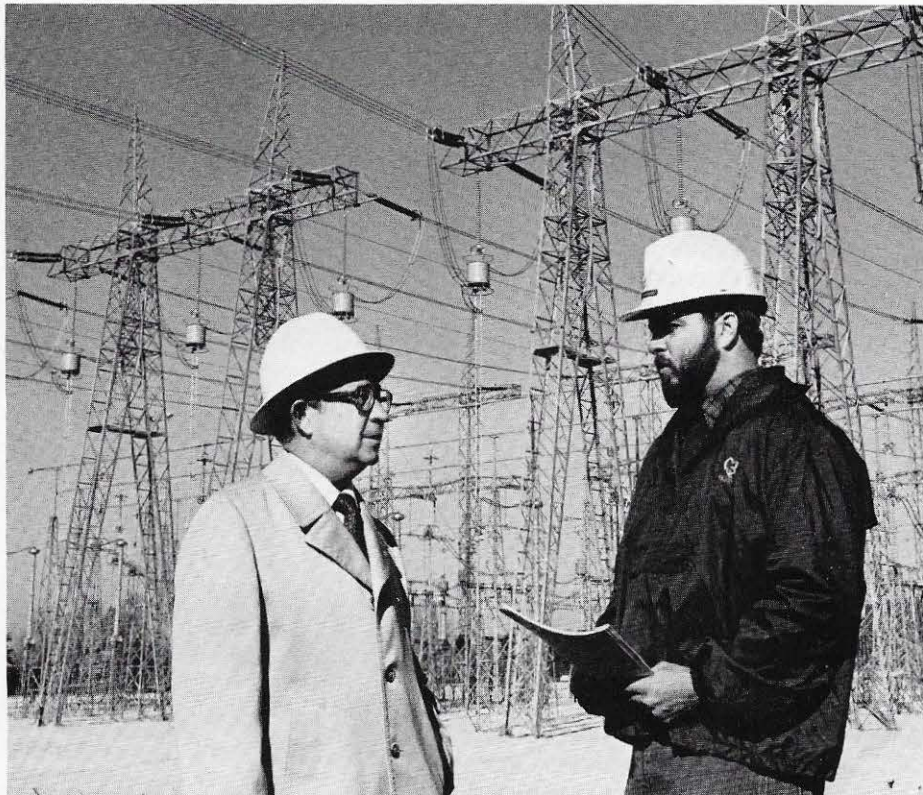
"This project strengthens significantly the sources of power to this multi-county southern West Virginia area. It will help meet the growing demands for electricity from coal mining and other developments in the region," according to John W. Vaughan, president of Appalachian.

Centerpiece of the massive project, which has been under construction for more than three years, is a new 765,000 volt line running from a new substation near Culloden between Charleston and Huntington to a new substation at Oceana in Wyoming County.

This 57-mile extra-high-voltage line was test-energized on October 28, and placed in commercial operation October 30. Construction work on the Culloden-Wyoming line began in 1978, although preliminary work was done as early as 1974.

In addition to the 57 miles of 765,000 volt line and the two new substations at Culloden and Oceana, the project also entailed construction of a new 138,000 volt station at Jim Branch, between Coalwood and Dry Fork in McDowell County; additions and changes at 19 existing 138,000 volt stations; and construction of 49 miles of new 138,000 volt lines. (Some 138,000 volt work remains to be done, but the project is essentially complete. The 138,000 volt work was done to integrate the new 765,000 volt line into the existing transmission facilities in the area.

"The project continues our program of constructing 765,000 volt lines as the backbone of our transmission system, which has proven to be the most economically, environmentally,



With the new Culloden Substation between Charleston and Huntington in the background, Huntington Division Manager Fred Helm (left), discusses the completion of the Culloden-Wyoming 765 kv line with A. G. Phlegar, Jr. Phlegar is a civil engineer in GO T&D, Huntington.

and technically sound means of moving large blocks of power into regions where it is needed. We now have been constructing 765,000 volt lines in Appalachian for more than a dozen years," Vaughan added.

With the completion of the Culloden-Wyoming line, Appalachian operates 524 miles of 765,000 volt line in its two-state service area, 306 miles of it in West Virginia.

A total of 193 towers were built for the line. Construction of the line marked the first time ever that helicopters were used to construct one of this size. The giant helicopter which was used is one of only three like it in the country. The helicopter set 140 guyed-V aluminum towers in 14 flying days and then assisted with some of the other work. Smaller towers were flown to erection sites in one piece, while larger ones had to be divided into two parts, flown in separately, and then joined with the use of the helicopter. □

AEP extends PFBC pact

The AEP Service Corporation last month announced that it has entered into an agreement to carry out the next phase of development of pressurized fluidized bed combustion (PFBC).

The new agreement calls for: operation of a PFBC test facility during 1982 at a power plant in Malmo, Sweden; continuation of design work for a 170,000-kilowatt prototype PFBC plant at Ohio Power Company's deactivated Tidd Plant in Ohio and preliminary engineering, designing and cost estimating for a commercial PFBC plant. The agreement is with Deutsche Babcock, a West German boiler manufacturer, and STAL-LAVAL Turbin AB, a subsidiary of ASEA, the Swedish electrical equipment manufacturer.

The Swedish test facility will provide

an opportunity to operate a totally integrated plant to verify system performance and control.

A decision on whether AEP will proceed with actual construction of the Tidd prototype plant is expected during 1983, first assuming successful completion of work under this agreement and the availability of adequate funding. Construction of the Tidd prototype could be completed by 1987, following a start-up and a test program.

PFBC is an advanced technique for burning high-sulfur coal economically while satisfying environmental standards. It involves the injection of crushed coal and dolomite into a pressurized vessel, where the coal is burned at a relatively low temperature and its contact with the dolomite effectively removes much of its sulfur. □

8,389 customers sign up for EPP

At the end of October, the halfway point in Appalachian Power's Equal Payment Plan (EPP) contest for employees, 8,389 customers had signed up for the EPP. The company's goal is to add 25,000 new EPP customers by January 31, 1982.

Charleston, with 69% of its assigned quota, is in first place among the nine divisions. The other division standings are: Huntington, second; Logan-Williamson, third; Roanoke, fourth; Beckley, fifth; Pulaski, sixth; Bluefield, seventh; Abingdon, eighth; and Lynchburg, ninth.

The prize winners for October are as follows:

Location	Most sign-ups	Draw winner
Abingdon	Garnet Mullins	Martha Farmer
Beckley	Loretta Pryor	Dianna Londeree
Bluefield	Sherri Shrewsbury	Billie Wooldrige
Charleston	Cathy Batten	Robin Hildebrand
Huntington	Brenda Adkins	Robin Hale
Logan	Ona Murray	Debbie Bailey
Lynchburg	Mary Johnson	Joe Ann Otey
Pulaski	Barbara Cantline	Robert Dalton
Roanoke	Toni Roseberry	Martha Jones

The grand prize winner's name will be drawn at the end of the contest from the names of the 54 monthly winners. □

I&M employee wins St. Maarten trip

An Indiana & Michigan Electric Company employee is the grand prize winner in AEP's 1981 Savings Bond sweepstakes drawing. The winner, Wendi Anspach, a personnel assistant senior at I&M, will receive a one week vacation for two at St. Maarten in the Caribbean.

To be eligible for the drawing, an employee had to either join the savings bond plan — money is deducted monthly from an employee's salary toward the purchase of a savings bond — or continue participation in the plan. Employees participating were eligible to win either a trip to the Caribbean or a \$50 savings bond. Twenty-four bonds were awarded to

savings bond purchasers, including five Appalachian Power employees. They are: Betsy Holdren, Glen Lyn Plant; Harry Rhodes, Roanoke; Felix Porter, Charleston; Jerry Corder, Charleston; and Donald Abernathy, Pulaski.

A separate canvassers' drawing was also held for those employees who helped solicit during this year's savings bond drive. Those canvassers who also bought savings bonds were eligible for both drawings. Twenty employees who helped with this year's bond drive were winners of \$50 savings bonds, including four Appalachian and one Kingsport Power employees. They are: B. C. Dishner, Kingsport; Ben Donevant, Logan-Williamson; Susie Adkins, GO-Roanoke; Martha Horne, Pulaski; and R. N. Sammey, St. Albans. □

NEWCOMERS

John Amos

Sandra Richardson, junior clerk.

Beckley

Debra Painter, junior clerk.

Bluefield

Susan Wimmer, junior clerk.

Charleston

Steven Cook, meter electrician D.

General Office

Harold Crosier, data processing operator C, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Wayne Hurt**, personnel assistant, GO Personnel, Roanoke. **Mary Testerman**, junior clerk, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Beverly McNutt**, junior stenographer, GO Purchasing, Roanoke. **Mark Armstrong**, utility helper, GO Operations, Roanoke. **Brenda Starkey**, junior key entry operator, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Glen Lyn

Benjamin Flurie, performance engineer. **Gary Comer** and **Randall Rose**, utility workers B.

Logan-Williamson

William Horn, Jr., meter reader, Logan.

Teresa Scott and **Janet Todd**, junior clerks, Williamson. **Denise Wilburn**, junior clerk, Logan. **Edward Vance**, automotive mechanic B, Logan. **Roger Stanley** and **Jimmy Davis**, meter readers, Williamson.

Mountaineer

Debra Burr, performance technician junior.

Pulaski

Terry Owens, Jr., meter reader, Pearisburg.

Roanoke

Charlotte Janey, telephone operator, Fieldale. **Donald McGhee**, meter reader, Fieldale. **Betty Knouff**, junior clerk. **Barbara Mattox**, junior clerk, Rocky Mount. **Gregory Holland**, customer accounts assistant.

Philip Sporn

Richard Carter, II, **Thomas Dawson**, **Patricia Ferguson**, **Mitchell Mace**, **Monty Pearson**, **Olin Rice**, **Carl Swisher** and **Brent Hogan**, utility workers B. **Sandra Hamilton**, plant clerk C. □

Carl won't leave beloved West Virginia

It took the Great Depression and a world war to separate Carl Mooney from his beloved West Virginia. Needless to say, retirement won't bring about any migratory desires, other than an occasional visit to children.

"I like to hunt and fish like most everybody else, and I like to do it around here," Carl said in an interview before he retired from Kanawha River Plant on December 1.

Although Carl's experiences outside West Virginia comprise only about one-tenth of his 62 years, they were certainly the most unique of his life.

Carl participated in one of the New Deal's classic efforts to combat unemployment during the Depression — the Civilian Conservation Corps, better known as the CCC.

"You had to be 18, unmarried and unemployed for the CCC. Well, I was all three of those things, especially unemployed," Carl said. "The CCC was to help the families. The pay was

\$30 a month, and you got clothing, room and board. Of that money you got \$2 or \$3. It was enough to keep some of the boys in cigarettes. The rest was sent home.

"I spent 33 months in different CCC camps in the late Thirties. I served in Wyoming, two different camps in West Virginia and in Ohio. The last one I was in wasn't but three or four miles from home, over in Kanawha Forest, back of Charleston."

Carl was one of more than 2,000,000 youths who served in the CCC in 2,600 camps from 1933 to 1942, when Congress abolished it. The CCC boys engaged in park development, flood control, tree planting, dam building, wildlife protection and soil conservation.

It was his experience in the CCC in Wyoming that led to another unique experience. Carl registered for the draft at age 21. He had just turned 22 when he was inducted into the Army. In fact, he was still in boot camp when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He picks up the story, "I was in basic training in Georgia. One day the company clerk came around and wanted to know if anyone had ever done any skiing. My hand went up and so did three or four other guys. When I was in that CCC camp in Wyoming, we had done a little bit of skiing.

"A couple of weeks went by, and the company clerk came back around and said pack up your gear, you're going to Fort Lewis in Washington State. They were just starting out this new outfit. Mountain Troops they called us. Or Ski Troops. We trained on Mount Rainier. The Army had taken over one of the ski resorts in that area.

"For six months I was stationed in the Aleutian Islands, which was my only overseas duty because I was assigned to training new men in the States the rest of the time. The Ski Troops were eventually expanded into a division, the 10th Mountain Division, and we moved to Colorado. The men who were sent overseas went to Italy, to the Po Valley," he said.

After the war Carl returned to West Virginia and went to work mining coal. "I had heard that Appalachian was a

good company to work for," he said. "I didn't like the mines, so I applied for a job in 1948 and was lucky enough to get it," he said.

He started as a laborer at Cabin Creek Plant. When the nearby Kanawha River Plant was being finished, he was transferred and spent the rest of his career at Kanawha River. He came as an auxiliary equipment operator, moved up to unit supervisor in 1958 and became a shift operating engineer in 1976, the position from which he retired.

"The men, you couldn't ask for anyone better to work with," he said. "And the company, I don't believe I could beat it anywhere I worked."

The plant's perennially high efficiency record is a source of pride to the employees, he said. But he added quickly, "One thing I'm really proud of here is our safety record." □

My brother got my first APCo job

Clyde Leonard Farley, who retired December 1 as Tazewell area supervisor in the Bluefield Division, laughs when he recalls that his twin brother Claude beat him out of his first job with Appalachian, back in December of 1940.

"At the time I finished high school, I worked as a clerk in a coal company store. Lawrence Riggs was the Appalachian serviceman at Matoaka, and I kept on after him to get me a job with the power company. Along in November 1940, he told my mother he had me the promise of a job if I would go to Bluefield. Mother said, 'Clyde already has a job. How about taking Claude?'. Well, Claude took my APCo job and I didn't get on until March 18, 1941. I went to Narrows and worked with Arch Munsey in the Service Department.

"I have all of my paychecks," Clyde says as he pulls his first check stub



Mooney

out of an envelope. He netted \$35.96 for his first two weeks' work after 36 cents was taken out for old age tax. "I was married and we were buying an automobile then, but my wife was working, too, so we made it," Clyde recalls.

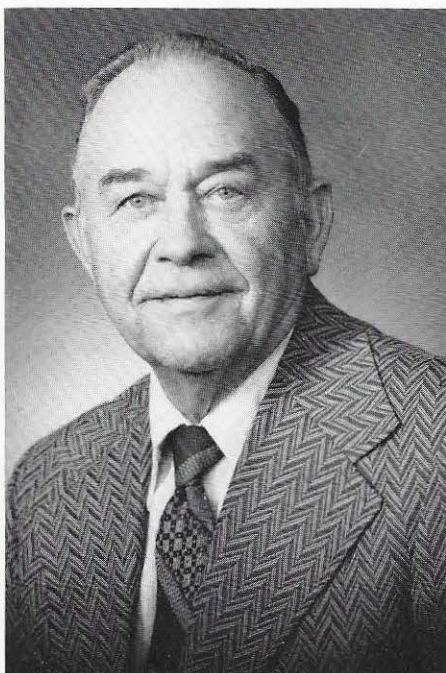
"I have worked in Clintwood, Tazewell, Pineville, Mullens, Princeton and all over Monroe County. In fact, I have worked in about every area in the Bluefield Division. I have done a little bit of everything, including reading meters. If I had it all to do over again, there would be very few things I would change. I have enjoyed working. I have had a few disappointments, but it has all paid off."

One event which stands out in his memory is a big ice storm which hit Wyoming County. "Tip Fletcher called my crew to help. We first stopped at Herndon Mountain and put up a case of trouble. Then we went on that 44,000 volt line from Kopperston to Oceana. We had to break the ice off the poles before we could climb. We were back in the mountains two days.

"I remember, too, a big snowstorm in 1961. I was on vacation and Oscar Adams called and asked if I would come back to work. I went with a crew out of Abingdon, and we worked from Thursday night until Tuesday of the next week.

"For four years I inspected rural electrification when it was started in the late 1940s. It was hard to get contractors back in those days. The contractors would go out in the rural sections and hire people who wanted to go to work. They hired farmers to cut the rights-of-way and dig the holes. We had one farmer who took his team of horses and spotted all our poles for us."

Clyde has been in Tazewell since October 1966, when he was transferred there as area supervisor. There are between 14- and 15,000 customers in the 450 square mile area served out of the Tazewell office. The territory includes parts of Tazewell, Buchanan, Russell and McDowell counties. Clyde's duties consisted of supervising the 25 peo-



Farley

ple working in that office, laying out the work, working up jobs, answering complaints, contacting customers who wanted new service and "trying to keep up with the paper work. Any more, there is a tremendous amount of paper work," Clyde says.

"I had always planned to retire after I had 40 years of service and reached the age of 62. I've been looking forward to it, mainly because of my brother. He is disabled, and I would like to spend some time with him. Claude lives in Princeton, and so do our son, daughter and four granddaughters. My wife's home was in Princeton, so sometime next year we plan to move back there.

"I enjoy hunting and fishing and I have been playing a little golf the last four or five years. I guess I'll get in my wife's hobby of antiques and flea markets. I never did like it much, but she hopes I will go with her some."

Clyde belongs to the First United Methodist Church in Princeton, the Masons, Moose, Elks and Lions. "We want to do some traveling, too, if health permits. We plan to go to Florida sometime in January with Oscar and Ethel Adams, and the wives are talking about a trip to the west coast in April or May." □

Sam spent 45 years in meter work

Sam Bowling, Abingdon meter supervisor, came in with rural line extensions and went out with time-of-day metering. Over the course of 45 years with Appalachian Power, Bowling has seen a lot.

"Rural electrification was one reason I got a job," he said. "There were many new meters coming in, and they started hiring. All I did for a while was unpack new meters and get them ready for tests."

"I was raised in Bluefield and started in the meter department there in 1936. I checked the meters when they came in, that is, the registers, before they were tested.

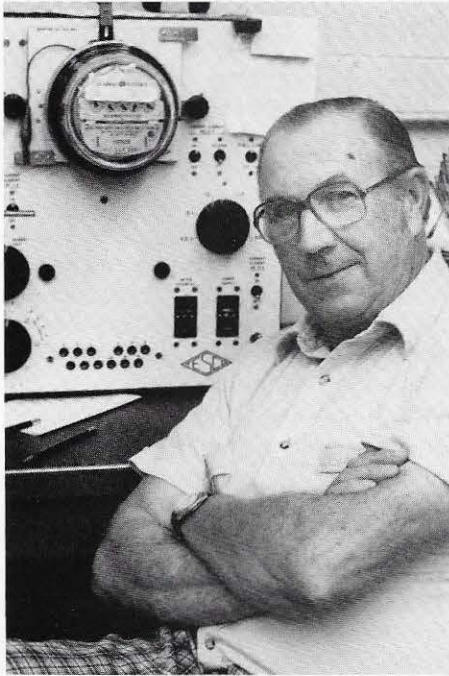
"Within a year I started testing meters in the field with someone else," Sam said. For the next few years he really did some traveling and moving around. "I went to Giles County first, Pearisburg and Narrows. Then to the Mullens field. After that I was put out on my own in Pulaski. I stayed there almost a year."

Sam explained how the old meter testing program used to work, "Back then, a house meter was tested every five years. You wouldn't any more finish one area than you would have to start all over again. Now, you take roughly a one percent sample test."

Pulaski was not home for long. "Around 1939 or 1940 I went from Pulaski back into the Mullens field. And then back to Buchanan County," he said. The Navy and the war interrupted his travels for the company.

Appalachian took over the Holston River Power Company in 1945. After a stint in Pulaski, Sam moved to Abingdon where Appalachian was still in the process of taking over electric service in the area.

"At the time the meter department was set up in Abingdon, I was testing meters and installing them. I also handled high bill complaints for a long time. The district meter department



Bowling

lasted until 1959 when it was moved back to Bluefield. They left two of us here, and I was more or less in charge of the meter work," Sam said. Sam recalled the way things used to be. "Years ago we had an awful lot of what we called a two-wire meter, 120-volt service just for lights. That's all the customer cared about. Then, ranges started hitting the market as well as other appliances. There has been a big change in metering due mainly to the demand for power over the years," he said.

Sam has no definite plans for retirement other than spending some time with his son Steve in Colorado. □

Traveling, antiquing will keep Tom busy

Tom Barnett has a house on Smith Mountain Lake, a van for traveling and a motorcycle. He shares a love of antiques with his wife Virginia. Plus he's thinking about spending several months a year in Florida.

Here, no doubt, is a man who is look-

ing forward to early retirement. "I think that I'll enjoy retirement if I can find enough to stay busy," he says with a slight chuckle.

Early retirement at age 62 after 41 years with Appalachian Power is a step that Tom had considered for some time. He had hoped to time his retirement to coincide with his wife's retirement in February. But uncertainty over the future policies of the Social Security system persuaded Tom to retire before the end of the year.

Though born in Marion, his family moved to Roanoke when he was very young, and Roanoke has been his home all his life. Appalachian has been his only employer as an adult. "I started off in 1940 running the bills on an Addressograph machine. We had an Addressograph plate for each customer. The company's offices were scattered all over downtown Roanoke at that time. Billing was combined with Accounting about the time we moved into this building," he said, referring to the General Office headquarters. "So I transferred to the electric plant section." Tom retired as electric plant clerk A in GO Accounting.

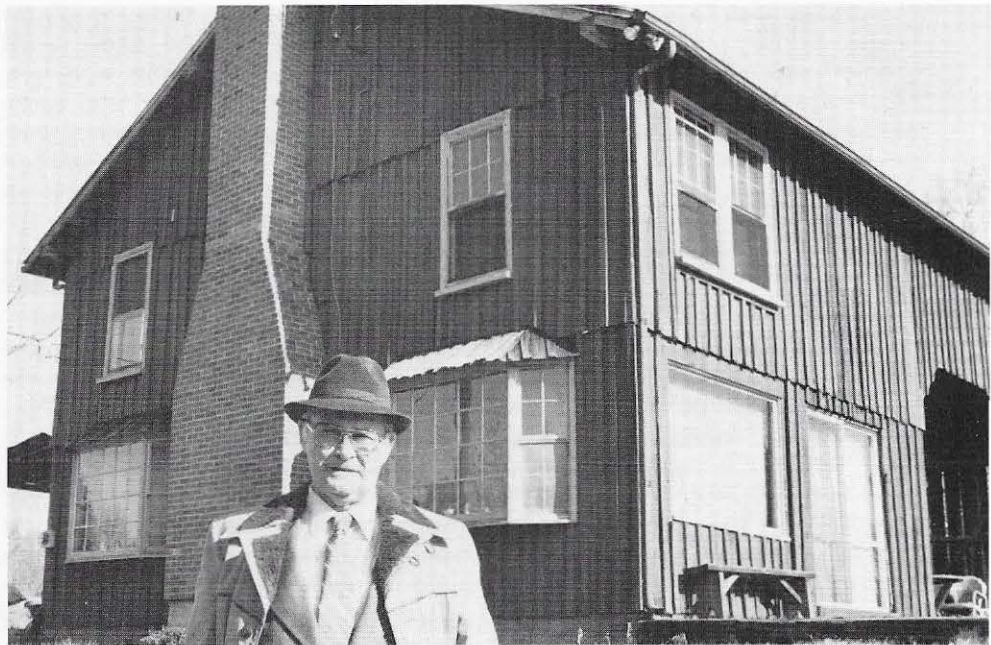
"I guess everybody says this, but my wife and I plan to travel quite a bit. We

love to travel. Our son, who is a pharmacist and is married to a pharmacist, lives in Columbus, Georgia. Our daughter lives in Virginia Beach, and we like to visit both of them.

"We're interested in antiques, so we're going to follow that some, too. That'll keep us busy for a while. Then there's the barn we have at Smith Mountain near Dudley School. We literally bought an old barn and went into the stalls with hoses, pitched the hay out and started from scratch. I've been working on it for a couple of years. We've gotten it livable, even got some electric heat units in it. We'll continue working on it to turn it into a summer place. I don't know that we could make it good enough to make it a permanent home," he said.

Florida also has some appeal. "I plan to check out staying in Florida for a couple of months out of the year. We've been thinking about going down there maybe the first of the year and coming back in, say, April. We have some friends that have a place down there, so we can go down and stay with them and use that as a headquarters," Tom said.

Tom's last day on the job was Monday, November 30. "Just to remind me what it was like to get up and go to work on Monday," he smiled. □



Tom Barnett and his wife Virginia have made this summer home from an old barn.

I'd rather be out working on power lines



Hand

Homer Hand grew up knowing what it meant to get along with people. He was one of eight boys and three girls.

"I've always treated every man as I would want him to treat me," he said, adding about his fellow linemen at Kingsport Power, "If I've got an enemy within this power company, I don't know it."

Homer retired on December 1 after 37 years with Appalachian and Kingsport power companies.

Interestingly, he was the only one in the large family born outside Virginia. His birthplace was Luthern, Tennessee. "When I was very young, the family moved to Jonesville, Virginia, seven miles below Pennington Gap, so I was raised in the area of the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. My dad was a farmer and cattleman," he said.

Growing up in a large family in the mountains taught him the meaning of

hard work. "I've always been taught that if you promised a man that you would work for him for so much, give him the best that you had," he said.

Homer worked several jobs before coming to Kingsport in 1941. "I worked with Atlantis Steel Company at one time, helping to build bridges. We built that overhead bridge near Pennington Gap, coming from over towards Big Stone Gap. And I worked timber around Harlan and Evarts, Kentucky," he said.

"I came to this town and went to Florida for Mason-Dixon trucking lines. I worked for Mason-Dixon until I went to work for Appalachian Power. I had volunteered for the medical corps during the war, but I was turned down because I had some brothers in the service at the time," he said.

It was in July 1944 that Homer was hired by Appalachian. He had heard about an opening from a friend at his boarding house. "I worked out of Roanoke and out of Charleston part of the time, doing transformer maintenance work," he said. He returned to Kingsport Power in 1946 as a groundman and worked on the line crew the rest of his career.

"I appreciate the modern equipment we have now, but I still don't regret knowing the hard way to do things," he said. "The roughest line that was ever built around here was built up Bays Mountain. I wore out one or two pairs of shoes on that mountain in 13 days of building that line. We had a horse pulling on the wire and 12 or 13 men pulling it. And we still came near to not getting it up there."

Homer was on sick leave due to arthritis during the five months before his retirement. He said he would have much preferred working.

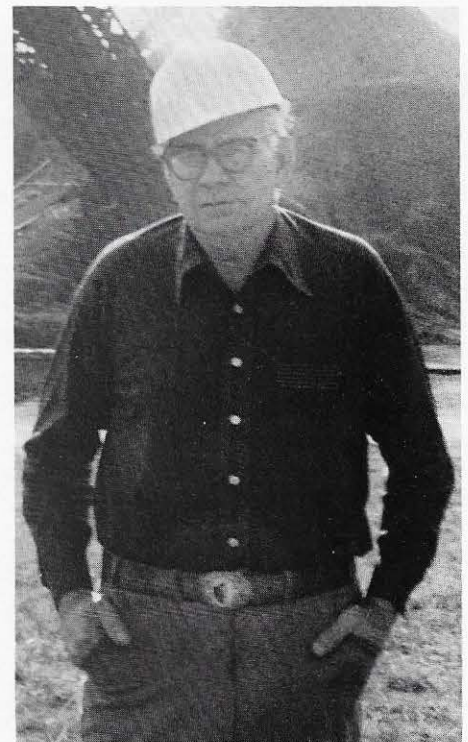
"I'm not afraid of electricity, but I respect it. And I love this kind of work. I love electrical work more than any kind of work there is. I've been off with this arthritis, but I'd rather be out there working on those power lines. You will find that when the time comes to give it up that it's hard to do," he said. □

You couldn't find a better bunch of men

"After World War II, the first place I came looking for a job was at the Logan Plant," recalls Ray Stamper. "I had two brothers who worked for the mines in Logan. I went over there to see them and liked Logan so I decided to stay."

He transferred to Clinch River in 1958 as a utility man. The plant was still under construction but they were in the process of stockpiling coal. When Ray retired December 1, he was a coal equipment operator at Clinch.

Ray says he missed out on the flood which occurred at Clinch River some years ago, but he was in Logan during the record flood of the Guyan in '56. "I never will forget that. I was the last one to go down and turn off the boiler feed pumps at the Logan Plant. The water almost got in before I got out. I came in on the day shift that morning and didn't get to go home until the following morning. We had to go out



Stamper

the back of the plant and carry food in across the railroad bridge."

A member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Bristol, Ray served in the Army nine years. "I enlisted, and my time was about up when the war started. I was overseas 3½ years." He served in the 10th infantry regiment under General Patton. "When I landed at Normandy, the troops were already established 20 miles inland," Ray says. He was also in the Battle of St. Lo, one of the most decisive bat-

ties of the war. During his service, he was awarded, among other things, a purple heart, bronze star and five battle stars.

Ray and his wife Esther enjoy tent camping and have several favorite camping spots in Virginia and North Carolina. "I am kinda interested in the Civil War, and there are a few places in Virginia I would like to go see. My wife's uncle was in the Civil War, and I have an old gun made in 1864."

Ray has one son living at home and two in St. Petersburg, Florida, so a trip down there is a good possibility. One of his hobbies is making butcher knives from old saw blades. "I don't sell the knives, just give them to friends," he says.

Ray concludes, "I don't believe you could have found a better bunch of men to work with. Everybody at the plant treated me good, from the bottom to the top. When you work that long with a bunch of men, you sort of hate to give it up." □

Think safety for a joyous holiday

Safety is always important. Because of the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, however, a special effort is needed to avoid the extra safety hazards associated with Christmas merrymaking.

The Christmas tree

Be sure your Christmas tree is fresh. It is less of a fire hazard. Branches should be springy and needles firm. Stand the tree in water and maintain the water supply. Keep the tree away from drapes and heat sources such as fireplaces, television sets or radiators. Make sure it does not block doorways and fire exits.

Use only nonflammable decorations and certified lighting sets. Don't use indoor lights outdoors and vice-versa. Check each set for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using. Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

Colored spotlights above or beside a metallic tree are safer than strings of lights on the branches and give a good effect.

If there are small children in the home, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small, removable parts out of the reach of children and avoid trimmings

that resemble candy or food — a child could eat them.

Safe toys

Don't spoil Christmas and its fun by giving a child an unsafe gift. Purchase only toys which suit a child's age.

Look for the manufacturer's safety information (such as "nontoxic" or "nonflammable") on the toy packaging and follow the manufacturer's safety recommendations.

Inspect toys for wear or damage that could be dangerous. Encourage older children to keep their toys in places where younger ones can't reach them.

Entertaining

Christmas holidays are a time for parties and gatherings. If you are a host, your responsibility is to ensure the safety of your guests.

Before the party, do some home hazard hunting. Are rugs securely skid-proofed? Do extension cords trail across the floor? Is the fireplace properly screened? Does furniture block normal walking areas or exits? Are large ashtrays handy? Are walkways sanded? etc.

Give your guests a pleasant "morning after" instead of a hangover. Respect the wishes of any guest who says "No, thanks" to the offer of a drink, especially if he or she is going to drive. Driving after drinking is the

cause of many serious traffic accidents, but there are other hazards too:

- a person who has been drinking is more likely to take a fall;
- fires from careless use of smoking materials are more likely;
- because alcohol dulls the senses, an intoxicated person does not feel the cold and is more subject to exposure.

Serve snacks early; this tends to slow down the assimilation of alcohol. Plan some activity such as games to cut down on the amount of alcohol consumed.

It takes time to eliminate alcohol from the body system. Close the bar an hour or so before guests are expected to leave; this can be done by serving coffee and food. If someone has had too much to drink, tactfully suggest a carpool with a sober driver or arrange transportation by taxi.

The kitchen is a big hazard area because it's a natural gathering place. Cut down on confusion and possible injuries by clearing the kitchen — except for one or two persons to help.

* * *

Christmas is a time for giving. This holiday season, please remember, safety is the greatest gift. □

A doll to please every little girl

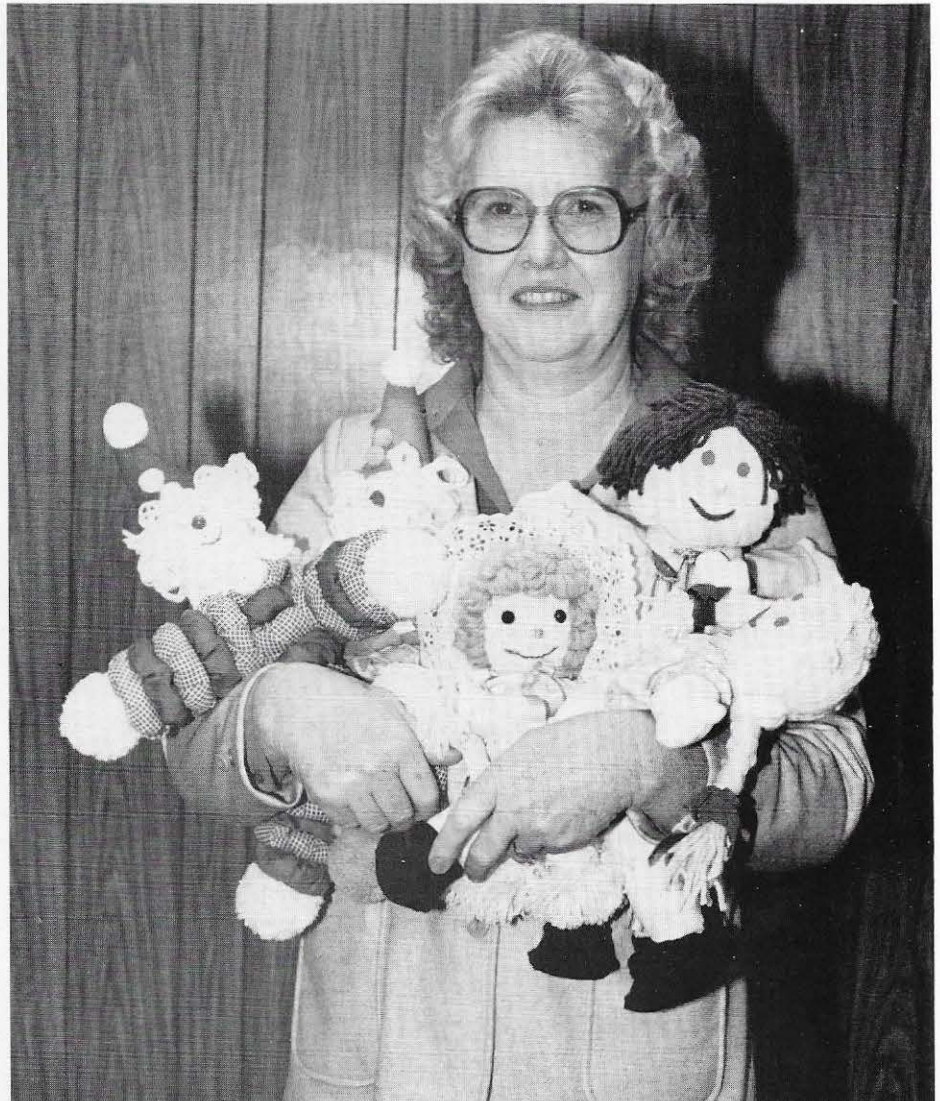
Until a few weeks ago, opening the door to the home of Jerri and Don Jones was like opening the door to Santa's toy shop — there were dolls of all sizes, shapes and colors.

No, Jerri isn't Santa's dollmaker. But she was co-chairman of the UMW bazaar at St. John's United Methodist Church in Scott Depot and making dolls was her contribution to the event.

"We had about 20 women who helped with this year's bazaar," Jerri says, "including Louise, wife of Joe Pullen, Central Machine Shop production engineer, and Florence, wife of Emmet Huntley, manager of Centralized Plant Maintenance." Jerri is the wife of Don Jones, equipment inspection superintendent at CMS.

Jerri continues, "Everyone does their own thing. There are a lot of girls who do macrame and others who make things by hand who can't sew well on the machine. I do a lot of the machine sewing and make all the clothing for the dolls. I sometimes sew until 1:30 in the morning. When I make the dresses, I usually make about ten at one time. And some of the dolls I helped put together.

"The clown doll is perhaps the hardest to make because there are 27 circles of fabric in each doll. The boy and girl rag dolls take at least a full day to make because there is a lot



Jerri Jones holds some of the dolls made for the St. John's bazaar.

more work than meets the eye. I named the boy and girl Susie and Mike after my daughter and son-in-law," Jerri says with a laugh. "You can't work with something that long and not give them a name.

"My favorite doll of all is the hand puppet. I made 24 of those myself. The puppet is made to be used on the left hand. Your thumb goes in the doll's head, second finger in the doll's left hand, and little finger in the doll's right hand. You can make the doll hold a bottle and even wash its face. The puppets are just fascinating."

One of her granddaughters will be the recipient of a handmade two-foot Scarlet O'Hara doll this Christmas. "I can't make any of the Scarlet dolls for the bazaar because just the lace on

that doll costs \$9. We donate all the material for the handcrafts which are sold at the bazaar."

Jerri says they sold between 75 and 100 dolls at the bazaar, held the first Saturday in November, and are still getting orders for others. "They run from \$7.50 to \$10.00, and where can you get a doll for that price these days?" she asks. "The children in the neighborhood all come by to see the dolls, even the teenage boys. My son, in fact, is giving one to his girl friend for Christmas," Jerri notes.

"Making dolls is something I enjoy and anything you enjoy is easy to do," Jerri says. And the building fund of St. John's is \$2,500 richer because of the efforts of Jerri and the other ladies of the church. □



Jerri's favorite doll is this hand puppet.

Mother, son reunited after 25-year separation

Perhaps more than any other day in the year, Christmas is a time for being with the ones you love.

Christmas came early this year for George Johnston, line mechanic A in the Clintwood area of Abingdon Division. March 30, in fact. It was on that day that George and his mother were reunited via telephone after a separation of 25 years.

George's parents were divorced when he was three and for a while he went back and forth between the two. George was six when his mother moved to California, after losing a bitter custody suit. "After that," George recalls, "I had the feeling I shouldn't ever mention her name again. I didn't even have a picture of mother, but I never stopped thinking about her."

Time passed and George's father remarried. In 1965, the family moved from Royal Oak, Michigan, to Clintwood, Virginia, where George met his future bride, Senna.

They were married in 1969 and the next two years he spent overseas in



George Johnston and his mother at her home in Florida.

the military. "After I got back, we went to Texas in October of '71. That was when I really started thinking about trying to find my mother. I had always felt like she could have found me if she really wanted to. My fear about finding her was that she had established another family and I might upset everything.

"I give all the credit for finding my mother to Senna. She kept encouraging me even though every way we turned was a dead end. All I had to work with was my mother's maiden name, which was on my birth certificate. I thought she had been born in Florida. I found out later that she had lied about her birthplace because she was under age when she and dad got married.

"A friend who worked for the police department in my hometown in Michigan told us he would try to help us. Then he went into service and that search ended," George adds.

Senna notes that someone had written to Dear Abby about their problems in locating their kinspeople, and Abby listed an address of the Salvation Army Missing Persons Bureau in

California. "The Salvation Army referred our request back to their organization in Georgia, which was responsible for our State of Virginia, and they couldn't come up with anything. We were about to our last straw when we saw a Phil Donahue show about adopted kids who wanted to find their real parents. He gave an address of another organization who might help, and we were planning to write them," Senna recalls.

It was about that time that their first break came in the long search. George says, "Senna contacted a friend who had known our family back in Michigan and asked for help in locating my mother. We waited and waited and thought the friend wasn't going to come up with anything."

Senna says, "Then about 4 o'clock on March 30 this lady called and kept asking if this were George Johnston's residence. When I assured her it was, she asked if George still wanted to know where his mother was. She gave me his mother's address and phone number but asked me not to call until they could tell her. She had been sick and they wanted to break it to her gently.



This photo of George and his mother was taken in 1953.

"I was so excited I told the whole neighborhood," Senna recalls. "Everybody but George, that is. I told my sister and my mom and dad."

As luck would have it, George stopped by his in-laws that evening on the way home from work; and his father-in-law, not knowing that George had yet to be told, started talking about the phone call. George says, "I wasn't sure it was really true, though, until I actually talked to my mother."

Senna adds, "About 7 o'clock that evening, I answered the phone and a lady asked if this were George Johnston's residence. She said 'I am his mother, can I talk to him?' I almost dropped the phone, I was so excited."

George says, "I recognized mother's voice the minute I heard it even though it had been 25 years. She kept crying and saying over and over, 'I want to see you'. We talked about what had happened to me over the

years and how I was. I called her back the next day and we talked about 1½ hours."

Two weeks later, George, Senna and their two daughters headed for Bradenton, Florida, where his mother and stepfather live. "The funny part about it is they live in a town not too far away from Senna's sister, whom we had visited several times," George says. "We stopped to rest at Senna's sister's, and I called mother. We made arrangements to meet at a shopping mall in Bradenton. She said she would be in a white cadillac with an orange top. We watched for the car and finally saw it pull in and circle the lot. I flagged the car down when it came over our way.

"When we got to her house, it felt like for the first time in my life I had come home. The minute I walked in her door, I was home. Since mother was remarried, it could have been an awkward situation, but it wasn't. Her husband just took us right in. He loves

children, and the girls were treated better than they have ever been in their life.

"I found out that mother had wanted to contact me all these years but was afraid to. She had kept in touch with my dad's people for a long time, but when we moved to Clintwood, she lost contact. As it turned out, my stepfather had the same attitude I had — he thought that if I really wanted to find her, I could. I didn't know anything about my mother's family. It was only after we got back together that I found out my maternal grandmother is still living and I have a whole lot of relatives on her side of the family who are dying to see me."

George found out he has a half-brother, who is also married and has two children. "After we were with him for a while, it was amazing to find we have a lot of the same habits and the same likes and dislikes.

"My stepfather thanked me for finding mother and told me he thought it would help her a whole lot. She has multiple sclerosis. He said I was all she talked about for years and years. He had made a 3' x 4' frame for mother to hang some of my baby pictures in. She even had a picture of the doctor who delivered me. She had all of my old photo albums, pictures of her wedding to dad, divorce papers, and everything. She said she knew someday she would see me and she saved it all. I was looking at those pictures and realized just how much I had missed her.

"Mother, of course, missed my wedding to Senna and the birth of our two daughters, but she was tickled to death when she found out we had named the youngest after her.

"Mother came up to see us this summer, and the first thing she wanted me to do was take her for an airplane ride since I have a pilot's license. We won't be able to celebrate Christmas together, but we will be going down after the first of the year. When I've been with the company long enough to get three weeks' vacation, we will spend two weeks down there every year.

"You know," George confides, "I came home from work not too long ago and told Senna that, for the first time in years, I felt like a whole person. I feel just like the weight of the whole world lifted off my shoulders." □



George found he has a lot in common with his half-brother "Skeeter" (left).

Puppetry: a family ministry



The entire Flowers family is involved in puppetry. Back row, l. to r., Thelecia, Lois and Ed. Kneeling, Kyle and Alanna.

"There are many ways to minister," says Logan Engineering Technician Ed Flowers. "Our way is through puppets.

"I went to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for a while because I thought I wanted to be pastor of a church. But I guess the Lord had a different idea about that. Then several years ago, when I was teaching school in Florida, some puppeteers came to our church and put on a program. At the time I was youth director and in charge of children's church, and their visit motivated me to get my own puppet."

Ed started out with a ventriloquist doll he bought at Sears for \$12. "The little

figure would always want to act up in church, and I would teach him how he was supposed to behave. I used him for about a year.

"While we were still in Florida, my wife Lois and I worked with another couple who were interested in the puppet ministry. A friend built the stage, and Lois made the drapes. After the couple got tired of it, they let us have it all. It just kept mushrooming and growing."

Today the puppets number about 150 and the puppeteers include not only Ed and Lois but their three children as well. "My oldest daughter, Thelecia, is 14. She started when she was 5 years old and could just barely reach

over the top of the stage. Kyle is 10 now and has been in it 4 years; Alanna is 8 and she has been helping about 3 years.

"We never insisted that our children become puppeteers. We just introduced them to it, and they got enthused and carried through. We used to have a lot of Thelecia's friends involved until they found out it was more work than it is play. Thelecia enjoys it though and never complains when she has to give up something to go put on a program.

"We have found that a puppet is a great teaching tool. You can communicate things with a puppet that you couldn't by just standing and talking. Children can turn you off when you try to talk to them. If there is an adult talking, the children would be all over the place, but a puppet grabs their attention and just holds it.

"We respect the puppets," Ed adds. "Our children never play with them at home. And when we give a program, the children in the audience can't come up after the show and play with them. Small children don't really understand what is going on behind the stage. If they would find out there is someone back there working the puppets, they will lose that teaching experience."

Ed and his family do not charge for the programs they give. "We will go any place where anybody will let us give a program. Since gasoline has gotten so high, we do ask for enough to cover that expense. If they take up a collection, we may get \$15 or \$100 but the money we make is put back in the program. We have done puppet shows at schools to make money for recreational equipment, and we once did a program to raise money for a girl who had a series of operations."

Ed will be the first to admit that a puppet ministry can get to be very expensive. "The puppets run anywhere from \$75 to \$100 apiece. Lois has made some, which are just as good if not better than the bought ones. Those ran about \$12 apiece for materials."

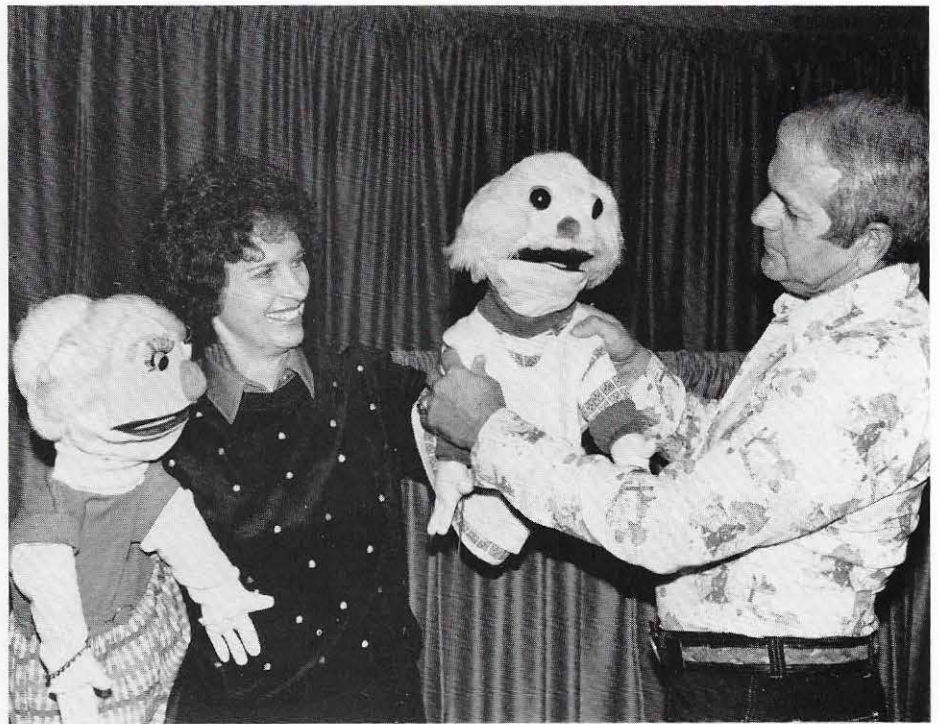
Ed's family has about 20 or 25 different programs from which to choose. "First we find out what type of audience we will have when we put

on a program. If it is for a church, the program will be a spiritual one. We have another one for schools which teaches children how to pronounce the different sounds in the alphabet.

One program we give is on what the abuse of alcohol does to your body. It is geared to public school students from K through 12th grade. We have one called 'keep off the grass', which is about drug use. The people I buy my material from also have a program called 'crime prevention'. It is about talking to strangers and tells how to protect your home and things like that. It is geared to be used by police departments for public schools. I have not been able to get the police department here enthused about it, so I am trying to save enough money to buy it myself."

Although Ed has invested over \$2,000 in educational materials for the puppet ministry, he does a lot of the script writing himself. "You can buy tapes of skits already made, but we often sit down and let our minds wander and come up with ideas.

"We plan ahead of time and practice before we go. Then I will usually sit down and put the whole program on tape. Kyle runs the PA system. He has to know when to cue. We do a lot of ad libbing, too."



Lois made these puppets for about \$12 apiece. Their clothing was worn by the Flowers children when they were younger.

A talented musician — he plays the autoharp, 12-string guitar, piano and tenor banjo — Ed often writes his

own music to accompany the skits. He has even formed his own publishing company — Rhododendron Music Company — and often gets requests from people who want music published. "It costs me about \$300 to publish a song, and I charge them exactly what it costs me. I've invested about \$1,500 in the sheet music I've published and I guess I made about \$100 in sales over the last year. People often ask me if I have a record of my music, but it just takes too much money to press a record. It costs about \$2,000 to record one song. I'm just hoping one of these days some big names, like the Gaither Trio for instance, will latch on to my music.

"Last Christmas we were really busy giving programs. We were doing puppet shows up until the 23rd of December. We were so involved that Lois was still doing Christmas shopping right up until the very day.

"I believe in the puppet ministry. I guess that's why I continue to invest so much money in it," Ed concludes. "It has molded my family together. It has given us an activity where we can be on the road together. And it's given us fellowship and enriched our spiritual life." □



Kyle and Alanna look at some of the puppets which are used in a Christmas program.

Joyce Slack, craftswoman

"I have always worked with crafts; but, after the children were grown, I became more involved," says Joyce Slack, in what might be the understatement of the year.

As a teacher in the Putnam County community education program for the last five years, Joyce has taught over 2,000 ladies to do everything from arranging flowers to making fancy candies and fall and Christmas decorations.

The wife of Bob Slack, assistant shift engineer at Amos Plant, Joyce had no plans to take a full-time job, much less teach a class. But one thing led to another, and Joyce fell in love with her work. But that's getting ahead of the story.

Joyce explains, "Bob started out at Cabin Creek, then Clinch River and now Amos. Right after we moved back to the Charleston area, a friend of mine who had a flower shop asked me to help her out. I told her I would help a little bit but not all the time. Then Jim Frazier, head of the community education program in Putnam County, asked me to teach floral designing. I told him that I just didn't think I would be able to teach, so I got my friend who was in the flower business to teach that fall.

"Jim had seen some of my work, though, and kept wanting me to teach. Finally he called and said, 'I'm not asking you, I'm telling you. I'm signing you up to teach flower arranging and fall and Christmas decora-

tions. You'll be working such and such days and such and such nights.' I told Jim, 'I considered you a friend.' He replied, 'I am, but I need you.'

"Well, I just fell in love with the work. You meet so many beautiful people and I just get carried away when I'm with them. The ladies in my classes bring patterns of different things to me, and I ask their permission before I pass them on to the other students. I don't like to do the same things over and over. I like variety, as you can see in the samples," says Joyce as she looks over the various crafts displayed in her living room.

"I have people in my classes who have a lot of talent, and then I have people who love it but just aren't that handy. I'm a firm believer that if you are going to teach, you should let your students make the crafts as they go along. You can only learn by doing. I have been to classes and watched demonstrations and then gone home and couldn't remember what had been done. So my classes are 'hands-on' demonstrations.

"In my candy classes, my students feel the consistency of the candy. Then when they get home and try to make it themselves, they can feel whether it is right or not."

Joyce adds, "When classes start out in the fall, I teach about three days and nights a week. The closer it gets to Christmas, however, it expands to five days and nights a week. The classes are held in the county library



Joyce Slack displays some of her Christmas crafts.

or high school, the only places large enough to handle the volume of people who sign up. If we had a separate building for community education, we could have classes every day. But we have to share the library with all other community organizations.

"My family has always supported me in my crafts by helping to cut wire, spray paint, clean up, dip candy or anything else I've asked them to do. Bob, my husband, is very good to help in loading the car and bringing things for my class when I've left them at home. He's very creative, too, and has given me hints to improve my crafts."

Joyce's crafts and candies make very nice gifts for Christmas or any special occasion during the year. But she says that arranging flowers for weddings has become one of her specialties. "I enjoy working with the brides, as they are usually close friends of my children. They purchase the supplies, and I create the arrangements. I don't charge for my time because it is a hobby."

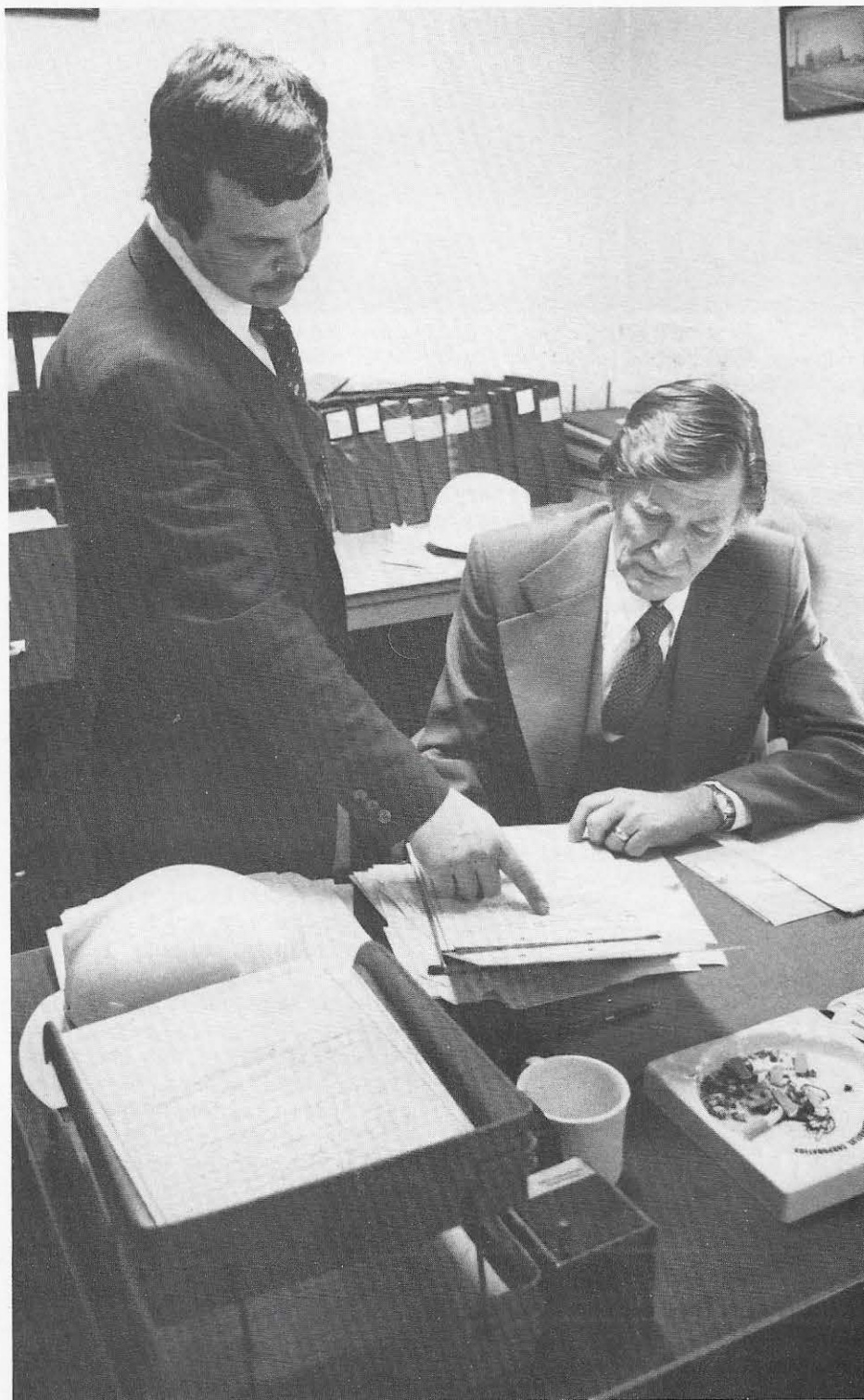
Although Joyce sounds like one busy lady, she found time earlier this year to be a student herself — in a cartooning class. "The lady at the hobby shop couldn't understand why in the world I would be interested in cartooning since my children are grown. But I reminded her I had a grandson I could make cartoons for.

"You know," Joyce says with a smile, "with Bob working shift work and the children gone, I thought I might become bored. So far I haven't had time for that!" □



Joyce shows her students how to dip cream cheese balls in chocolate.

Jim Ball: keeping the work environment healthy



Jim Ball (standing), details his test results with Ted Manson, manager of Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company's Picway Plant.

American Electric Power employs hundreds of engineers, technicians and other highly skilled personnel throughout the System, but the responsibility of Industrial Hygiene lies with one man — Jim Ball — who is concerned with their healthy working environment.

James C. Ball, industrial hygienist in the Service Corporation's System Personnel Department in Columbus, is responsible for recognizing, evaluating and controlling those environmental factors or stresses, arising in or from the workplace, that may cause sickness, impaired health, significant discomfort or inefficiency among workers across the AEP System.

Industrial hygiene, although not a new discipline, has come into prominence with passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. However, it probably began with Hippocrates in the fourth century B.C., with his recognition of lead poisoning as an occupational disease associated with the smelting of metals, and has developed into its present form over the centuries.

AEP has always been concerned with the safety of and a healthy environment for all its employees. One of the newest exemplifications of this concern came earlier this year with the employment of Ball as a full-time hygienist.

"The field of industrial hygiene has grown in the last several years," says Ball, a native of West Virginia and graduate of John Marshall University with a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry and a master's degree in occupational safety and health. "In 1970 there were only 1,800 hygienists in the country. Today, there are more than 5,000 working in all types of industry throughout the U.S."

Prior to joining the company last spring Ball had worked for Union Carbide as a toxicologist lab technician and as senior industrial hygienist for the West Virginia Health Department.

The Service Corporation's formal industrial hygiene program, although still in its infancy, is well-structured and has been well-received by safety directors and managers throughout the System. At present, Ball's services are provided on a request basis.

"Usually, the safety director or manager calls for an evaluation of a problem or a potential problem," Ball

said. "We've never been asked to conduct an overall survey of a facility because the program is new. In any event, that's the job of the company's safety personnel. But, when they think they have a problem that needs technical evaluation, they call on our department."

Except for Ball's work, and the work of operating companies' safety personnel, the only other survey at AEP System facilities is done by state and federal agencies.

"Agency surveys are done periodically and without warning," Ball explained. "Neither the consultant nor the state or federal agency is responsible for providing engineering controls or other corrective measures."

Ball's goal is similar to that of a state or federal agency: detect a situation that is hazardous or may become hazardous. But that's where the similarity ends.

"I approach a visit to a facility similar to the way an outsider would, only with a different attitude," Ball said. "I feel the approach is helpful in two ways: first, I see the facility or an area of the plant, as a potential problem the way an outsider might; second, my meeting with the manager and safety director will prepare them for dealing more effectively with representatives outside the System in the future."

When a request comes for a particular test to be run or there is the potential problem with certain equipment or material, Ball does a literature search before any on-site testing.

"I must become acquainted with the material or equipment in question," he said. "Many times I will call the Purchasing Department for the name of the company which supplied the equipment, material or chemical so I can contact the manufacturer to obtain a material data safety sheet to evaluate the contents of the product. From that I can determine what elements or constituents I will have to test for when I arrive at the facility. The research is my favorite part of the job. In doing it you learn a little bit about every job in the facility. You become acquainted with many trades from the studies performed."

On arrival at a facility Ball discusses the situation in question with the manager and the safety director, followed by a walk-around test at the site to detect any potential problems



Jim Ball uses a hand-held air monitor to determine the presence of air contaminants during the checking of an equipment seal by C&SOE's George D. Davy, mechanical repairman journeyman.

with his trained eye. He then takes samplings.

Tools of the hygienist's trade are very important in the sampling process. He relies heavily — depending on what he's testing for — on portable air-monitoring pumps, an infrared analyzer (for measuring gases, vapors, fumes and mists), a gas chromatography (for measuring solvent vapors), a sound-level meter (for spot-checking excessive facility noise) and a noise dosimeter (for determining time-weighted averages of facility noise).

After the testing is completed, the results are compiled. Occasionally, an air sample must be sent to an accredited industrial hygiene laboratory. Ball then has a closing conference with the manager and safety director to explain the results of the test and, if a problem has been discovered, to recommend a solution. He then follows up with a written report on the testing procedures for the manager's records.

How do the employees react to his presence and his sophisticated equipment?

"I've found that employees at the facilities are interested in their work environment and concerned about their safety and the various substances they work with and around each day," Ball said. "During my on-site consultation many employees

are curious as to why I'm there and pleased that the company is concerned for their safety. The general public today is frightened by chemicals in general because of the negative media coverage they have received. AEP is concerned about the safety of its employees on the job, but it all comes down to using common sense."

What are some of the major health-related problems employees come into contact with while on the job?

"While all the facilities on the AEP System may require the use of potentially hazardous substances in carrying out their operations, there are no real problems with which employees or management should be concerned," Ball said. "All potentially hazardous substances are properly contained. When employees come into contact with them, they should use proper equipment like safety glasses, gloves and respirators, and there will be no problem. Everything on earth, man-made or natural, can be potentially toxic, but everything is beneficial too. Even water can be toxic because of its mineral content and its toxicity, like all substances, is evaluated according to the dose. The body needs a certain amount of iron and zinc, which are metals. We must find a healthy balance in our environment. Everything is related to chemistry." □

MHD

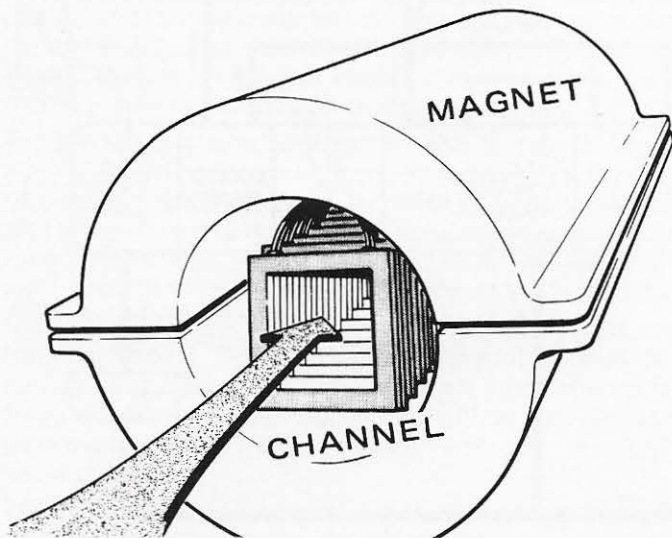
A Progress Report

Magnetohydrodynamics. It's a mouthful to say, but well worth remembering, because it's a process that can squeeze up to 50 percent more electricity out of a ton of coal than today's conventional steam generating plants.

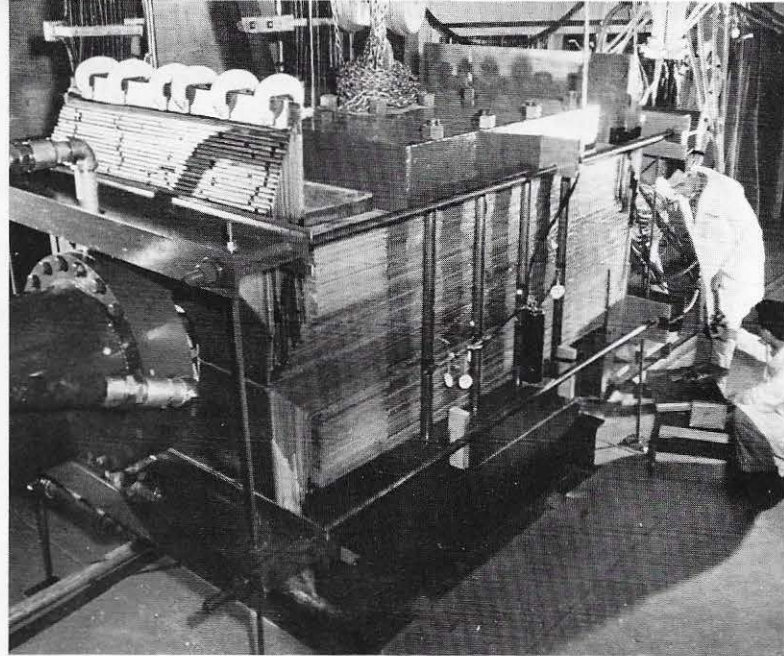
Magnetohydrodynamics, or MHD as it is more commonly known, is an electric generating system which obtains power from conducting fluids or gases as they move through magnetic fields. Its attractiveness stems from the fact that a portion of thermal energy in a gas or liquid is converted directly into electric power without the need for a turbine or a rotating generator.

The absence of any moving parts in contact with the hot working fluid relatively simplifies the system and facilitates higher plant efficiencies. In the MHD process, coal is burned in preheated and/or oxygen-enriched compressed air to produce temperatures in the range of 4,500° to 5,000°F. The hot gas is seeded with an ionizing material, usually potassium, to increase its electrical conductivity.

This seeded gas, known as plasma, is allowed to accelerate through a channel, producing direct current



The "channel" is the heart of the MHD generator. It consists of several hundred hollow rectangular metal frames stacked horizontally and insulated from each other to form a long corridor through which the hot gases flow. Electrodes are mounted on opposite sides of each frame. (Illustration © 1977 by TRW, Inc.)



Avco-Everett Research Laboratory's Mark II experimental magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) power generator.

electricity which is then extracted by means of electrodes. Because the MHD process requires a very strong magnetic field, the best and most economical way to achieve this is with the use of a superconducting magnet.

Surely, you say, a highly sophisticated technology such as this must have been developed only within the last few years. Actually, the concept was realized over 140 years ago when Michael Faraday tried to measure the voltage induced by the flow of the River Thames (his moving conductor) through a magnetic field (that of the earth). His efforts were unsuccessful only because the quantities he was trying to measure were very small, but his basic idea was certainly valid.

More recently, in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Westinghouse Research Laboratories attempted to generate electricity by passing the exhaust from a gas turbine through a magnetic field. We know now that these attempts were unsuccessful because gas conductivity was far too low at the 900°F. temperature used.

Philip Sporn, the late president of the American Electric Power Service Corporation, was one of the first to be intrigued with the possibility of large-scale MHD generation of electric power. And, once America's space program got underway in earnest in the 1950s, scientists began understanding the characteristics of gases and metals as they carried out research in missile re-entry, for example.

Thus, in the late 1950s, Avco-Everett Research Laboratory in Everett, Massachusetts, which had done aerodynamic research, and AEP teamed up for a three-month preliminary study of MHD. The results were so promising that in 1959, three AEP System operating companies (Appalachian Power, Indiana & Michigan Electric and Ohio Power) joined forces with seven other electric utilities and Avco-Everett to develop an MHD generator.

In the next few years, this consortium made substantial progress in several important areas, including work on:

- electrodes which could exist in the high-temperature gases;
- a simple but effective method for recovering neces-

sary alkali "seed" material which is required to make the hot combustion gases more electrically conductive;

- a coal burner suitable for an MHD generator; and
- a saddle-shaped superconducting magnet, the largest of its size ever built at that time, which operated at -450°F .

At that point, the next logical step was the construction of a 30,000-kilowatt pilot MHD generating plant. But during 1966 and 1967, efforts were unsuccessful to broaden the financial support of the project by attracting other participants. The MHD project drifted toward limbo.

"From the mid-1960s until the mid-1970s, very little progress was achieved in MHD technology in the U.S.," says C. H. "Dan" Shih, manager of the Electrical Research Section with the AEP Service Corporation in Columbus. "In the late 1960s, the emphasis — and the research grant money — was primarily going to nuclear power projects." Very low cost projections for nuclear power and over-optimistic forecasts for fusion squeezed the enthusiasm for MHD.

However, by the mid-1970s, the OPEC oil embargo, shortages in natural gas supplies and problems involved with burning high-sulfur coal in an environmentally acceptable manner at conventional steam-generating plants brought about a resurgence of interest in MHD. More recently, that resurgence has been given a further boost by the present negative regulatory and political climate toward nuclear power.

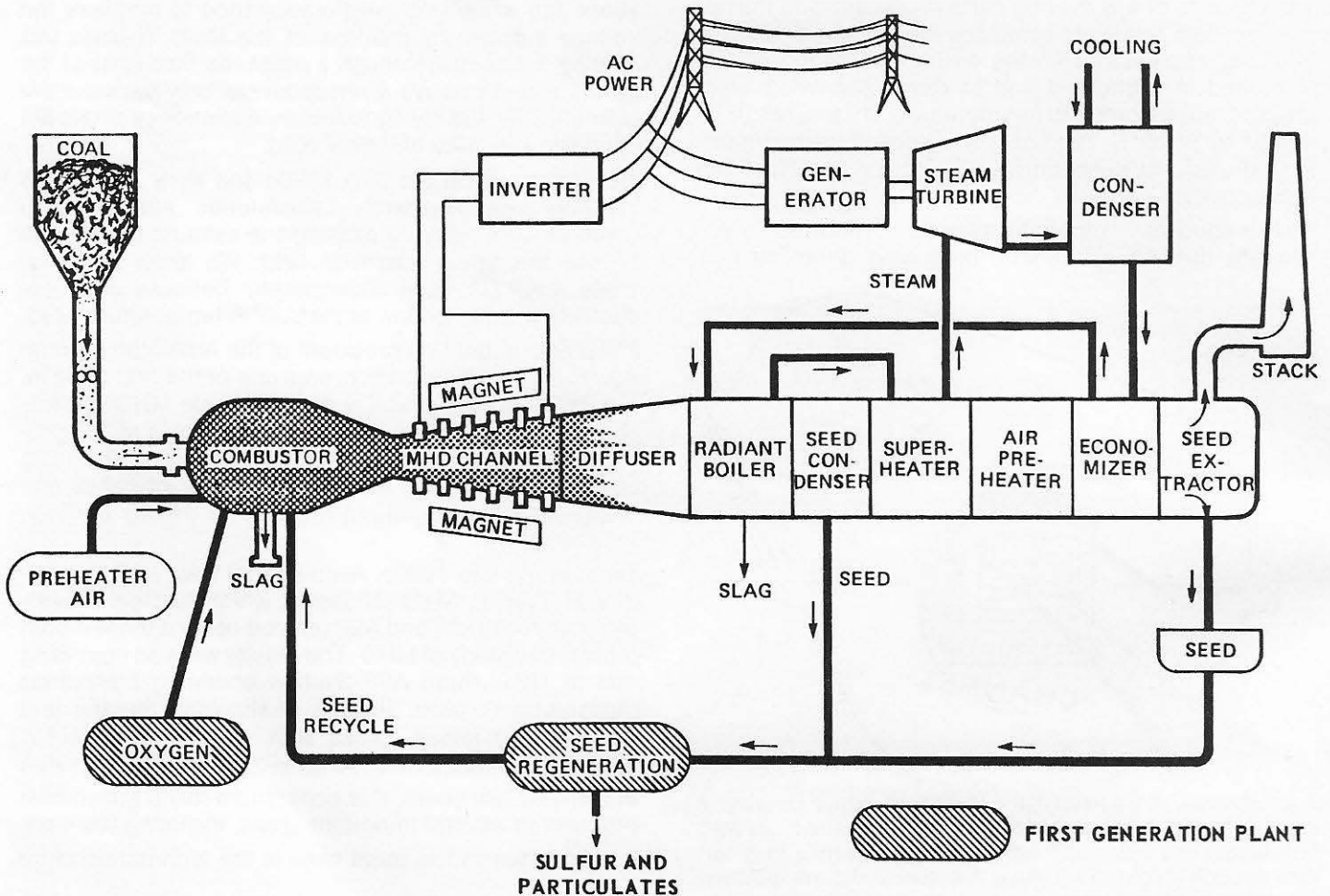
The federal government is heading this new research into MHD, and a new facility (known as the Component Development and Integration Facility) has been built near Butte, Montana, to test components or complete power trains needed in the MHD process. "The research is so expensive," says Shih, "that no single utility or corporation could afford to finance the MHD project. That is why we are working in conjunction with the federal project."

For the past three years, American Electric Power has had a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy to assist in the evaluation and selection of the best design, materials and components — from an electric utility standpoint — for a demonstration MHD generating plant.

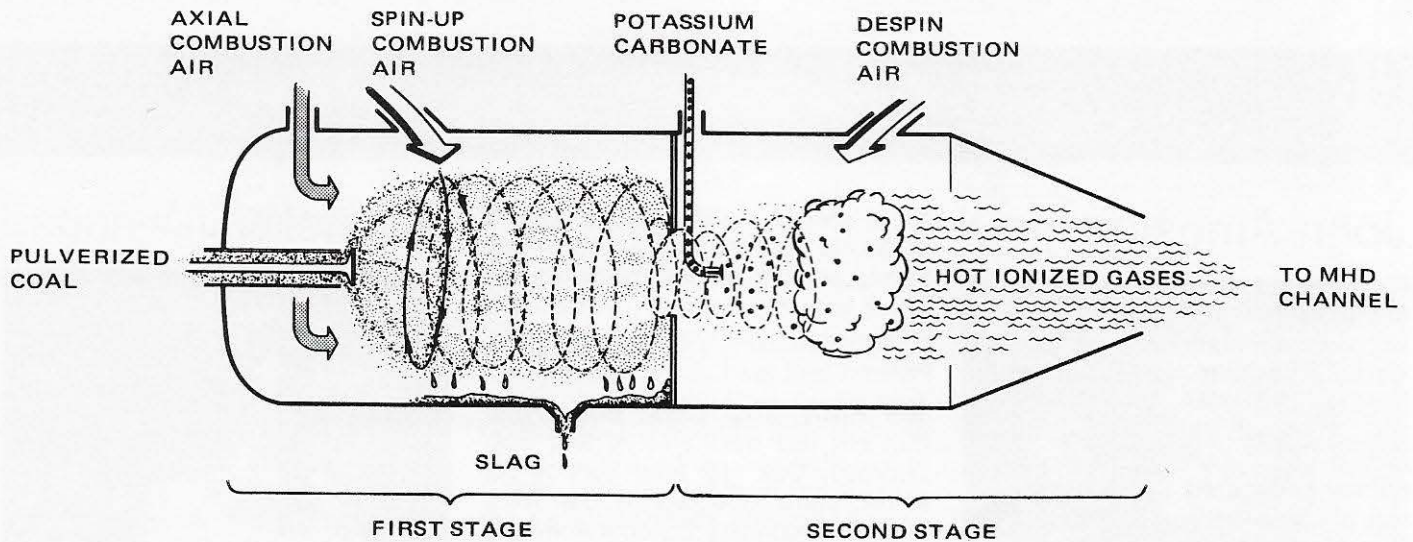
"DOE is interested in our assessments and evaluations because it knows that we are a potential user of MHD technology and it is aware of the considerable MHD research that AEP pioneered in the past," Shih explains.

MHD testing is considerably different now than it was in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Those early tests showed merely that an electric current could be produced by sending hot, ionized gases through a magnetic field at a high velocity — but usually it lasted for only a few minutes.

With MHD technology now essentially proven, today's tests center around such concerns as the reliability or availability of an MHD generating plant, the efficiency or



What an MHD power plant would look like.



Pulverized coal is fed into the first stage of the MHD system's combustor. Preheated combustion air entering the chamber produces a swirling flow. In the second stage, the swirling hot combustion gases are seeded with potassium carbonate to make them electrically conductive. (Illustration © 1977 by TRW, Inc.)

economic gains that could be realized by an MHD system as opposed to a conventional steam-generating plant, and the environmental acceptability of the MHD process.

As far as availability is concerned, the Avco-Everett Laboratory recently completed a 1,000-hour MHD generator test that provided considerable evidence that MHD components can be made durable enough for commercial operation.

Economic gains by using MHD are difficult to quantify in exact terms. The capital costs of constructing an MHD system are expected to be about 10 or 15 percent higher than those for a conventional steam-generating plant. Operating costs of an MHD plant, however, should be substantially lower because of the more efficient use of fuel.

MHD plants have been predicted to achieve overall efficiencies in the range of 48 to 60 percent compared with 40 percent for today's best conventional fossil-fuel plants and 33 percent for current nuclear powered plants. The bottom line is that the cost of electricity might be 15 to 20 percent cheaper from an MHD plant than a conventional coal-fired steam-generating plant.

Finally, MHD is ideally suited for the burning of high-sulfur Eastern coal. "An economic solution to the control of pollution is perhaps the single most important item that the utility industry considers in developing new coal-based technology," says Manoj K. Guha, a staff engineer with the AEP Service Corporation's Mechanical Engineering Division in New York City.

"In this respect, the MHD process has an obvious advantage because it is a process where coal with up to five percent sulfur can be burned without pre- and/or post-treatment for sulfur dioxide emission control," Guha points out.

The potassium, which is used to make the swirling hot combustion gases more electrically conductive, costs many times more than coal on a pound-for-pound basis. Therefore, it must be recovered and reused in order to keep the MHD process economical.

Fortunately, the potassium interacts with the sulfur from the coal, forming potassium sulfate. The potassium can

be reclaimed from the potassium sulfate for reuse, and the sulfur is effectively cleaned from the coal. "The amount of potassium seed needed to increase the conductivity to an economically acceptable level is sufficient to remove over 95 percent of the sulfur from the coal," says Guha.

An MHD generating plant, Shih and Guha say, must also include a steam bottoming-cycle plant to make maximum use of the energy in the coal. "The exhaust gas from the MHD channel has considerable energy since its temperature is around 3000°F. and can be utilized through a conventional steam generator," says Shih.

Because of this, an MHD generator could be installed as a "topping system" on the front end of a conventional coal-fired steam-generating plant, where it would draw off about 20 percent of the coal's total energy. The hot exhaust gases coming from the MHD topping system would then be used to power the conventional steam turbines, which in turn would extract additional energy — as much as 35 percent.

Shih and Guha are the two individuals most directly involved with today's AEP effort in MHD. Shih holds a doctorate in electrophysics from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, while Guha earned a doctorate in metallurgy from Brown University. While Shih's work is primarily with the flow of gases and the ionization of particles in the MHD process, Guha's concentration is on the composition of materials needed to withstand the tremendous temperatures.

Will the MHD story have a happy ending? Unfortunately, no one knows for certain. Federal budget cutbacks and the Administration's plans to dismantle, or substantially reduce, the functions of the Department of Energy have given the MHD research timetable an unsettled and uncertain air again.

But there has been great progress in MHD just since the mid-1970s. "The technology of MHD can stand on its own now," says Guha. And the technology of MHD may someday open the way to a greater or more economical utilization of high-sulfur Eastern coal by electric utilities. That could have big benefits for the AEP System and the coal industry as well. □

WHO'S NEWS

John Amos

Tina, daughter of Dannie Carte, production superintendent-yard, was selected Miss Buffalo Fire Department by the town citizens. Votes were a penny each, and money collected was donated to the fire department. Tina is a tenth grader at Buffalo High. One of her gifts was a \$50 Savings Bond donated by Dorsel Barnett, a former Amos employee. □



Nick, son of Junior Clerk Elizabeth Nixon, is a member of the Shady Spring Midget League football team which won the Beckley Civitan Club Midget League football championship.

Jim Kirby, T&D clerk, Bob Dyke, Oak Hill line mechanic A; and Bob Thomas, Oak Hill area service restorer, were selected by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission to officiate the 1981 West Virginia State High School football championship playoffs. □

Centralized Plant Maintenance

Gary, Jr., son of G. A. Sigman, maintenance mechanic A, was appointed assistant baseball coach for Glenville State College. A senior majoring in business education, Gary is also vice president of the Interfraternity Council. □

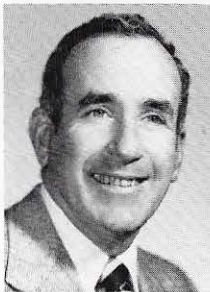
Abingdon

Bill Ferguson, energy services engineer, was elected to the board of directors of the Glenrochie Country Club.

Chuck Talley, energy services engineer, and Larry Brown, surveyor, were instructors for the Webelos leader training section of the Sequoyah Council's Cub Scout Pow-Wow program. □

Beckley

Clyde Barker, personnel supervisor, was selected "Kiwanian of the year"



by the Beckley Kiwanis Club. He served as the club's president for 1981 when the club achieved the second highest point total of any Kiwanis Club in West Virginia.

Tom Rotenberry, division manager, was appointed to a three-year term on the Raleigh County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Jeff, son of Administrative Assistant Ray Vest, was elected to the student council at Shady Spring Junior High School, where he is a seventh grader.

Bluefield



Mary Kay, daughter of Leland Looney, Grundy T&D clerk A, was the winner of the Miss Grundy Junior High 1982 pageant. A freshman, she is president of the SCA. □



Dr. Ron Ely, president of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, presents a certificate of appreciation to Abingdon Division Manager Rex Cassady in recognition of his superior service to the organization. Cassady was chairman of the first business-energy seminar sponsored by the Chamber.

Logan-Williamson

Harry Ruloff, division superintendent, was elected a member of the board of directors of the Logan Kiwanis Club.

Ruby, wife of Retired Division Superintendent Jim Richmond, was a first-flight winner in the Logan Country Club Women's Association Fall Invitational Tournament. **Jerry**, wife of Division Manager Floyd Taylor, received a West Virginia pin for low net score. □

Charleston

Diana, daughter of Garage Supervisor Jim Young, has been awarded a \$500 scholastic scholarship to Marshall University. She was named homecoming queen at Dunbar High School, where she is co-head varsity cheerleader; president, Future Business Leaders of America; senior class representative on student council; and member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Future Secretaries of America.



Jeanne Talhouk, electrical engineer; **Tom Williams**, electrical engineer; and **Darrance Woodrum**, customer services advisor, are company advisors for Junior Achievement of Kanawha Valley.

Charlie Conner, area service restorer, and **Clayton Starcher**, meter electrician A, were in a party of six who caught 56 King Mackerel that weighed 450 lbs. and measured from 8 to 36 inches in length. The fish were caught about 15 miles off Nags Head on the North Carolina coast.

Nancy, daughter of Jack Jarrett, Kanawha Valley Power Company hydro plant supervisor, was first runner-up in the Charleston High School homecoming queen contest. She was also an attendant to Miss Charleston High Mountain Lion.

Agnes, daughter of Norman Cald-

well, Kanawha Valley Power Company hydro operator, was an attendant to Miss Charleston High Mountain Lion.

Amy, daughter of Art Burdette, engineering supervisor, was first runner-up for queen of the Poca Invitational Cheerleader Festival. She is head cheerleader for the Campbells Creek Cougars football team, which plays in the Kanawha Valley Football League.

Kelly, daughter of Bill Harmon, Jr., station mechanic A, completed a one week minority introduction to engineering course at Georgia Tech. A senior at DuPont High School, she is president of the French Club.

Elizabeth, daughter of Claudia Thomas, customer accounts representative C, won first place in the prettiest category in the St. Albans Mall Halloween costume contest. She was dressed as Little Bo Peep. Elizabeth won a cash gift certificate.

Troy and Todd, sons of Beverly Meadows, St. Albans junior clerk, won first place for the most original Halloween costume at the Sand Run Gospel Tabernacle Church's Halloween party. Todd, who had an actual leg injury, dressed as a patient in a wheelchair and Troy dressed as the mad scientist doctor. □

Kingsport



James Luke Kesterson, customer services representative senior, was named "Kiwanian of the Year" by the Cosmopolitan Kiwanis Club of Kingsport. A 16-year member of the club, he has a perfect attendance record and has held several offices, including vice president in charge of programs and Inter-Club committee chairman.

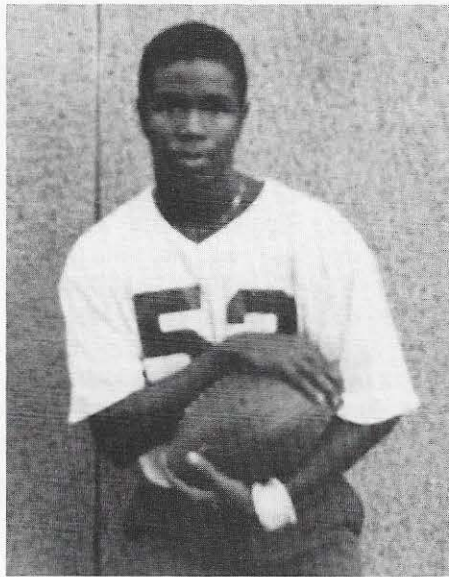
Shannon, son of G. W. Gott, meter supervisor, was named "most athletic" by the students at Sullivan West Middle School, where he is an eighth grader. Shannon participates in all sports except basketball. □



Members of the Bluefield Girls' Service Club visited several sick and shut-in retired employees on October 30 and treated them with Halloween pumpkins filled with candy and fruit. The visits are part of a project started two years ago to keep in touch with retirees in the Bluefield area. From left, Mary Kirby, customer services representative; Judy Johnson, GO T&D stenographer; Frances Keller, personnel assistant; and Heidi Litton, customer services advisor.

Lynchburg

The Lynchburg Division fall golf tournament was held at Colonial Hills Golf Club. **Jim Martin**, retired line inspector, won low gross in the championship flight and an award for the longest drive on the 18th hole. **Bill Robertson**, station mechanic A, won the low net honors for the championship flight. **Jesse Ashworth**, customer services representative, won low gross in the first flight of the tournament and **Randy Golladay**, line mechanic A, won low net. **Tom Witt**, line construction and maintenance representative, won the award for the shot closest to the pin on the par three, third hole.

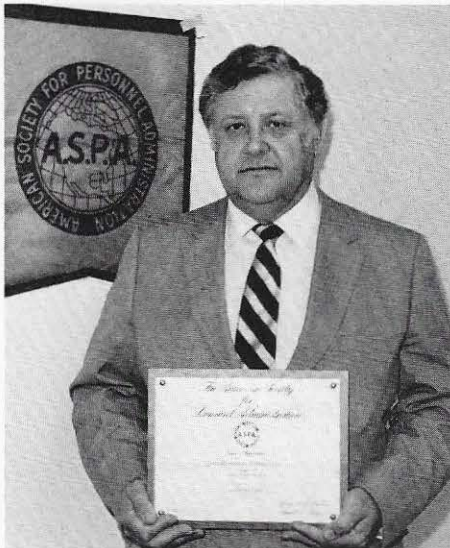


Steve, son of Bill Morris, surveyor assistant-rod, has been named to the 1981 All-Roanoke City junior high football team as 1st team all star defensive back. A ninth grader at Ruffner Junior High, Steve has been a starter at his defensive back position for two seasons. His team has been

undefeated and city champion for the past two seasons and has given up only 12 points. Steve played three years of sandlot ball, two of those on championship teams from northwest in the Roanoke City League.

Mary Mills, retired utility clerk senior, was recognized by Villa Heights Baptist Church for teaching Sunday School for 53 years.

Joni, daughter of Dick Isner, stores supervisor, is a member of the Cave Spring High School volleyball team which finished its second consecutive undefeated season and won the Group AAA Northwestern Regional. Joni was named to the all-regional team. □



W. David Crews, personnel supervisor, has been presented a "superior merit" award for the accomplishments of the Personnel Association of Central Virginia, of which he is president. The Chapter, which is part of the American Society for Personnel Administration, competed against others throughout the United States and qualified for the award due to excellence in chapter management in several categories. □

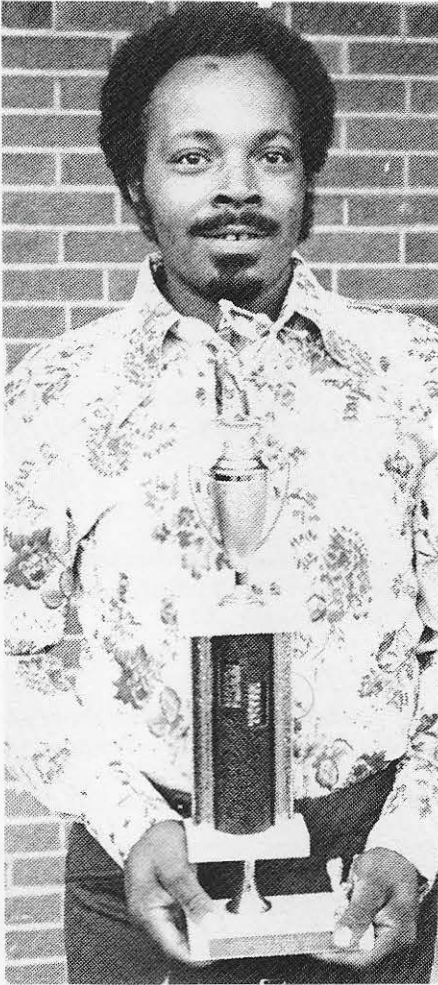
Roanoke

Sharon Kay, daughter of Burton Grogan, Fieldale line crew supervisor, was elected captain of the varsity basketball cheerleaders at J. D. Bassett High School. She is also co-editor of the school annual.



The Steelers, coached by Bluefield Engineering Technician Bob Edwards (far right), won the Princeton City Midget Football League for 1981. Sponsored by the Princeton Boosters Association, the Steelers compiled an impressive 6-0 record.

Pulaski



Chester Robinson, Galax meteorologist, shot a 79 on the par 72 Rivermont Golf Course, Siloam, N.C., to win the first annual Black Golf Tournament of Galax. He received the championship flight trophy.

Mark, son of Dan Adams, Wytheville area supervisor, played on the Max Meadows team which won the championship in the third, fourth and fifth grade category in the Ft. Chiswell High School sandlot football program. **Chris**, son of Dan Adams, and **Freddie**, son of Fred Fowler, right-of-way agent, played on the Max Meadows team which won the championship in the sixth and seventh grade category. **Chris** and **Freddie** were named to the sandlot program all-star team. Fred was one of the coaches. □

Bruce McCall, customer services

manager, was appointed to a one-year term on the supervision and business management curriculum advisory committee at New River Community College.

Paul Gress, energy services technologist, was re-elected high priest of the Royal Arch Chapter No. 39 of the A.F. & A.M. □



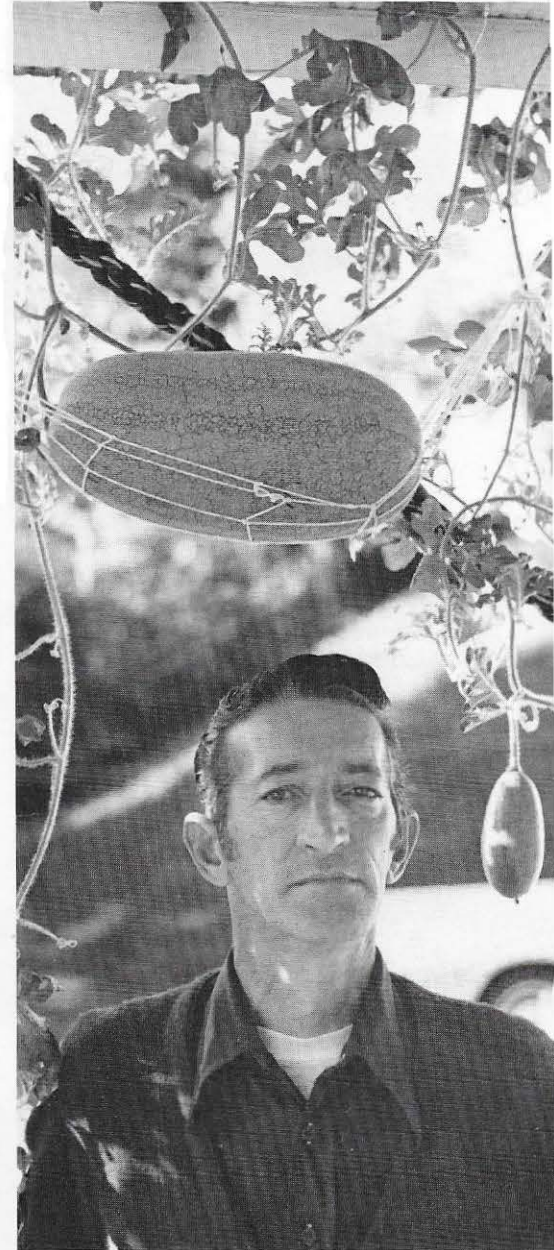
Philip Sporn

Dan Bloxton, utility worker A and member of the Ravenswood Barbell Club, broke three meet records in the eighth annual Mountaineer Open Meet. A novice competing in the 242 pound class, Dan set a new record in the squat with a 551 pound effort, set another mark in the deadlift with a 634 pound effort and his total, 1,560 pounds, was a new mark. Dan sandwiched the squat and deadlift records around a bench press of 375 pounds to take first place in his class.

Tim Tucker, utility worker A, won first place in the color travel category in the Mason County Fair photo contest.



A 1,340 lb. steer raised by **Lou Ann**, daughter of Marvin Roush, shift supervisor, was judged the best of 49 entries in the Mason County Fair baby beef contest. The steer was purchased by Shoney's, Inc., for \$2.25 a pound. □



Almost anyone can grow watermelons on the ground, but Kingsport Engineering Technician Wayne Fletcher grew some in the air this past summer. It seems that a few seeds found their way into a flower bed after Wayne and some friends had eaten a watermelon on the patio of his home. At first, Wayne thought he had a cucumber vine growing up through a trellis. But when the cukes started getting bigger, he realized they were watermelons. To prevent their weight from tearing down the vine and trellis, Wayne devised a hammock made from strong twine to support the melons until they ripened. This photo was made in late September, about two weeks before the melons were harvested.

WEDDINGS



Taylor-Kirby



West-McWilliams



Mahler-Powell



Kilgore-Ford

Judy Kirby to **Mark Taylor**, digitizer C, GO T&D Computerized Drafting, Roanoke, September 25.

Ann McWilliams to **David West**, September 19. David is the son of Wilbur West, Charleston meter electrician A.

Elaine Powell to **Ed Mahler**, Pulaski customer services representative, November 28.

Catherine **Laura Ford** to **Carl Stephen Kilgore**, October 17. Carl Stephen is the son of Carl Kilgore, Kingsport engineering technician.

Debra Burpon to **Charles Zuspan, Jr.**, Philip Sporn Plant control technician junior, October 23. □

Sandra Richardson to **Christopher Michael Tyer**, Amos Plant utility operator B, October 30.

Pamela Lee to **John Miller**, Amos Plant maintenance mechanic C, November 5.

Janet Sue Newman to **Robert Kosa**, Philip Sporn Plant auxiliary equipment operator, October 24.

Kathy Kincaid to **Ben Selbe**, Charleston area service restorer, October 17.

BIRTHS

Abingdon

Sarah Beth, daughter of **Lenny Ballard**, line mechanic B, November 16.

Emily Beth, daughter of **Howard Stevens**, station mechanic C, November 12.

John Amos

Brandon Keith, son of **Bryan Ward**, utility operator B, October 18.

Bluefield

Tracy Annette, daughter of **Jeffrey Smith**, meter reader, November 15.

Centralized Plant Maintenance

Brittani Danae, daughter of **Mark Merola**, maintenance mechanic B, October 26.

Charleston

Angela Michele, daughter of **Ron White**, head T&D clerk, October 23.

Meghan Leigh, daughter of **William Chester**, line mechanic A, October 11.

Brooks Lee, son of **Steve Trout**, St. Albans meter reader, October 31.

General Office

Dennis Wilson, son of **Frank Campbell**, senior reproduction machine operator, GO General Services, Roanoke, November 5.

Adam Howard, son of **Fred Beck**, senior reproduction machine operator, GO General Services, Roanoke, and **Sharon Beck**, stenographer, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke, November 8.

Patricia Abigail, daughter of **Timothy Mallan**, environmental engineer, GO Environmental, Roanoke, October 7.

Roy Shannon, son of **Anita Prusak**, key entry operator, GO Accounting, Roanoke, October 13.

Logan-Williamson

Christie Dawn, daughter of **Orvis Chaffin**, Williamson meter reader, October 10.

Brandon Dwight, son of **Taylor Tomblin**, line mechanic C, October 28.

Mountaineer

Kassie Lorraine, daughter of **Sherry**

Flesher, stores clerk B, October 29.

Melissa Ann, daughter of **Larry Lehew**, custodian, October 31.

Justin Chayne, son of **Herman Ohlinger**, control technician senior, November 10.

Roanoke

Robert Lewis Lynsey, son of **Sherry Howlett**, cashier B, October 3.

Philip Sporn

Julie Christine, daughter of **Paul Grimm**, utility worker A, October 11.

Mary, daughter of **William Plantz**, equipment operator, October 5.

Angela, daughter of **Calvin Engle, Jr.**, utility operator, October 27. □

Kesha Renee, daughter of **Victor Counts**, maintenance mechanic B, September 4.

Tyron Jason, son of **David Stroud**, maintenance mechanic D, September 8.

Justen Ephrain, son of **David Rutherford**, maintenance mechanic B, September 21. □

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Rankin



Shockey



McDaniel



Hicks



Bucklen



McClearn



Lutton



Musgrave



Barker

Emmett Chapman Rankin, 68, retired GO T&D manager, died November 23. A native of Luray, Virginia, he was employed in 1935 as a groundman in Roanoke and retired January 1, 1978. Rankin is survived by his widow Nancy, 1114 Clearfield Road, S.W., Roanoke; two daughters; three grandchildren, and one sister.

Carol Leo Shockey, 68, retired Bluefield personnel supervisor, died November 11. A native of Glengary, West Virginia, he was employed in 1938 as a groundman and retired on May 1, 1978. Shockey is survived by three brothers and two sisters.

Ellis Shelton McDaniel, 59, Kanawha River Plant maintenance supervisor, died November 17. A native of Standard, West Virginia, he was employed in 1966 as an electrical maintenance man at Cabin Creek Plant. He had been on LTD leave since September 1976. McDaniel is survived by his widow Joanne, Box 116, East Bank, West Virginia, and one daughter.

Joseph Stewart Hicks, 62, retired Beckley truck driver-groundman, died November 8 following an extended illness. A native of Furburn, Kentucky,

he began his career in 1945 as a car washer and took disability retirement on November 1, 1963. Hicks is survived by his widow Gwen, Box 773, Crab Orchard, West Virginia; one son; three brothers and one sister.

Holley Ezekiel Bucklen, 74, retired meterman A, GO T&D Meter, Roanoke, died November 19. A native of Clay, West Virginia, he began his career in 1926 as a record clerk and retired June 1, 1971. Bucklen is survived by one sister, one brother and one stepson.

Wayne Overton McClearn, 33, engineering technologist, GO T&D Engineering, Roanoke, died November 24 of pneumonia. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, he joined the company in 1973 as an engineer B. McClearn is survived by a son and a daughter, his parents and a brother.

Robert Samuel Lutton, 55, Philip Sporn Plant maintenance supervisor, died November 22 after an extended illness. A native of Mason County, West Virginia, he was employed in 1951 as a laborer. Lutton is survived by his widow Isabel, 2507 Mount Vernon Avenue, Point Pleasant, W.Va.; and two daughters.

Robert Musgrave, 75, retired Huntington division sales manager, died November 15. A native of Mason County, West Virginia, he joined the company in 1927 as a residential salesman and retired February 1, 1971. Musgrave is survived by his widow Mildred, P. O. Box 2307 Manatee Station, Bradenton, Florida; two sons; nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. His son, James Musgrave, is personnel supervisor at Mountaineer Plant.

Louie Barker, 71, retired Beckley stationman helper B, died November 18. A native of Curry, West Virginia, he began his career in 1943 as a laborer at Logan Plant and took early retirement on June 1, 1971. Barker is survived by his widow Garnet, Route 1, Box K60A, Chapmanville, W.Va.; two sons and one daughter. □

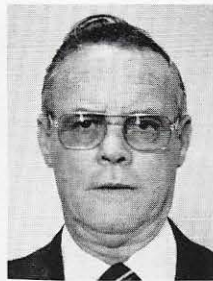
SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



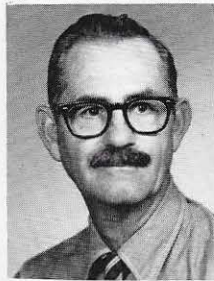
Buck Buchanan
building supv.
GO-Roanoke
40 years



James Combs
trans. mech. A
GO-Bluefield
35 years



Burnard Wallace
reg. chief op.
GO-Kingsport
35 years



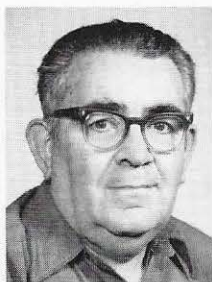
Hubert Farley
eng. technologist
Beckley
35 years



Robert Jones
construction supv.
Bluefield
35 years



Al Pairgin
r/w agent
Kingsport
35 years



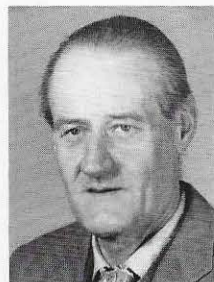
Louis DeFelice
auto. mechanic A
Bluefield
35 years



Carl Smith
area serv. restorer
Oak Hill (Beckley)
35 years



Harry Smith
meter reader
Bluefield
35 years



Robert Simmons
gr. helper (LTD)
Roanoke
35 years



Lewis Smythers
line & sta. supt.
Abingdon
35 years



Ernest Damewood
maint. mech. A
Philip Sporn
30 years



William Doolittle
unit supervisor
Philip Sporn
30 years



William Jones
stores attend.
Philip Sporn
30 years



Julian Moore
sta. mech. A
GO-Charleston
30 years



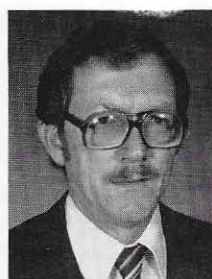
Ona Murray
cust. acc. rep. B
Logan-Williamson
30 years



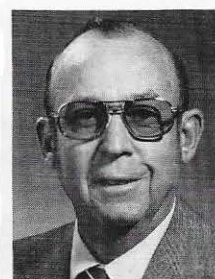
Ken Roush
line crew supv.
Pt. Pleasant (Htg)
30 years



Charlie Walker
cust. serv. rep.
Charleston
30 years



Benny White
cust. acc. supv.
Pulaski
25 years



Giles Carter
maint. mech. A
Clinch River
25 years



Barbara Marshall
T&D clerk A
Pulaski
25 years



Glen Hicks
area serv. restorer
Huntington
25 years



Wes Walker
r/w agent
Beckley
25 years



Fred Moore
op. inf. supv.
GO-Roanoke
20 years

Abingdon

15 years: **William Clapp**, meter reader. 5 years: **William Anderson**, stores attendant.

John Amos

30 years: **John Reitmire**, maintenance supervisor. 15 years: **James Martin**, utility supervisor. 10 years: **David Oldaker**, coal equipment operator. **Thomas Toliver**, material coordinator-maintenance. **William Frazier**, maintenance mechanic A. **Richard Thomas**, maintenance mechanic A. 5 years: **Ronald Cobb**, utility operator A. **Joseph Conkle**, maintenance mechanic B. **Franklin Esterly**, utility operator A. **Joseph Willard**, performance technician junior. **Daniel Meddings**, utility operator A.

Central Machine Shop

5 years: **Robin Margolis**, stores attendant.

Charleston

5 years: **Troy Page**, auto mechanic B.

General Office

15 years: **Helen Terry**, chief telephone operator, GO General Services, Roanoke. **Billy Ball**, communication specialist, GO T&D Communications, Bluefield. 5 years: **Anna Craddock**, classification and accounts payable clerk C, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **George Laurey**, general accounting administrator, GO Accounting, Roanoke. **Pat Reavis**, senior key entry operator, GO Accounting, Roanoke.

Glen Lyn

15 years: **Richard Gray**, maintenance mechanic B. 5 years: **Janice Broyles**, maintenance mechanic C.

Huntington

5 years: **Constance Bird**, T&D clerk, Point Pleasant. **Sharon Burton**, meter electrician.

Kanawha River

15 years: **James Warden**, maintenance supervisor.

Lynchburg

10 years: **William Bogle**, meter electrician C.

Mountaineer Construction

15 years: **Lawrence Matthews**, assistant chief mechanical construction, Putnam Coal Terminal.

Pulaski

5 years: **Jerry Houseman**, meter reader. **Beverly Reynolds**, stenographer.

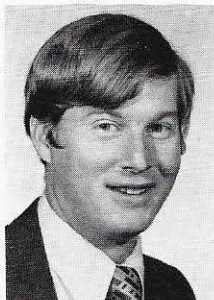
Roanoke

15 years: **Larry Conner**, general servicer. **Artist Jacobs**, meter service mechanic A. **Thomas Kennedy**, line crew supervisor NE. **Raiford Turman**, line mechanic A.

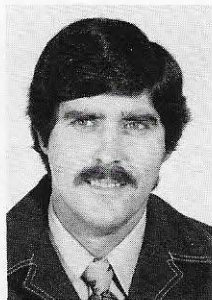
Philip Sporn

5 years: **David Johnson**, maintenance mechanic B. **John Hale**, maintenance mechanic B. **David Hudnall**, maintenance mechanic A. □

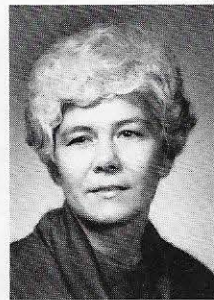
PROMOTIONS



Miller



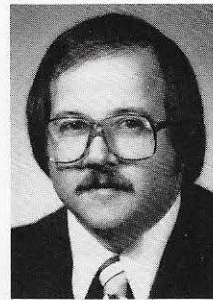
Clark



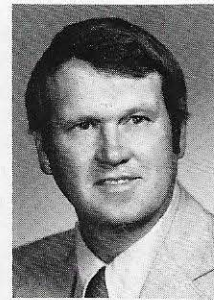
Bass



Tulloh



Jacovitch



O'Neal

R. Paul Miller, station mechanic C nonexempt, was promoted to the exempt position of engineering technologist in Kingsport on November 1. He holds an associate degree from Tri-Cities Vocational Technical School and a bachelor of arts degree from Bob Jones University.

Carl Clark, performance technician nonexempt, was promoted to the exempt position of performance engineer at Mountaineer Plant on November 1. He succeeds J. L. Babiak, who transferred to Tanners Creek Plant.

Clark holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Rio Grande College.

Stephen Jacovitch, station construction representative, GO T&D Station, Roanoke, was promoted to station crew supervisor in Lynchburg on December 1. He holds an associate in applied science degree from Virginia Western Community College.

David Tulloh, maintenance mechanic A, was promoted to maintenance supervisor at Mountaineer

Plant on June 1, succeeding Paul Blizard, who retired.

Barbara Bass, customer accounts representative A nonexempt, was promoted to the exempt position of Lynchburg office supervisor on November 1, succeeding Frank Giles, Jr., who is on LTD leave. Bass holds an associate degree in business management from Central Virginia Community College.

Glenn O'Neal, station mechanic A, was promoted to station crew supervisor in Beckley on August 8. □

Like many high school seniors, Anna Buchanan is trying to decide where to go to college. But what she really wants to do is return to Chile.

This summer she spent two months with a Chilean family in Santiago as part of the Open Door Student Exchange program.

Illuminator readers might recall a story from the June 1980 edition about a Chilean girl, Carolina (pronounced Carolena) Pinto, who lived with the Buchanan family in Giles County in early 1980. Anna's father, W. B. "Buck" Buchanan, Jr., is area service restorer in the Pearisburg area of Pulaski Division.

Most of Anna's time during July and August was consumed by attending classes with Carolina at her private British day school, named Redland. The course load included philosophy, world history, sociology, economy, English and Spanish.

Chile, for those who have forgotten their geography, is frequently described as that bony, crooked finger of a country that hugs the southwest coast of South America, crushed between the Pacific Ocean and the Andes Mountains.

In fact, Chile is 2,650 miles of rocky coasts and soaring mountain peaks. It is part of the volatile Pacific Ring of Fire characterized by earthquakes and volcanoes. "There was an earth tremor while I was there," she recalled. "One night we were eating dinner, and the table started shaking. And I noticed that everyone was looking at the light swing back and forth. It gave me a queasy feeling."

A military dictatorship rules the country and has a very visible impact on everyday life. "They just don't have violence or crime to speak of. I'm talking about street crime. It's like living in a little fairy tale. You feel totally safe. The police all carry machine guns. I'll give you an example. We were in a taxi one day, and our taxi was pulled over. Just to check the driver's license, they held one machine gun on the driver and one on us. It's very militaristic there," she said.

Whereas much of American high school social life revolves around cars and the mobility they bring, such is not the case in Chile. "Inflation is rampant. Everything is so expensive. Clothes are unbelievable. So are cars, of course, so not many kids



Anna Buchanan looks over a scrapbook filled with photos taken on her visit to Chile.

Buchanan visits Chile in exchange program

have cars. But the city has a splendid subway system, called the Metro, that is immaculate. And the buses go everywhere. They are not very safe, but they go everywhere," she said.

The Catholic Church plays a large role in the life. Every day is a saint's day, for example. "Life is pretty religious. I went to mass with them once. The church we went to was in a shopping center. It was a big stone structure, very cold appearing. People don't get dressed up to go to church like we do. They just walk in off the street," she said.

The American influence is heavy on most forms of entertainment. "All the forms of entertainment I went to were American. This included live enter-

tainment and films. I went to see "Superman" and "The Final Conflict," which was about Pearl Harbor.

"Also, most of the television shows are from North America. I got to see Michael Landon speaking Spanish, the Waltons, BJ and the Bear, Sheriff Lobo, Rescue Helicopter and the Dukes of Hazzard. You can go down the street and hear somebody yell, 'YeeeHaaa'... They think that's what everybody in North America does. There was a washer woman who came to the house who loved BJ and the Bear," she said.

All in all, it was an unforgettable experience, according to Anna. "I want to go back. I'd love to," she said. □



Dan Robinette will keep this '67 Corvette.

I've always been a Chevrolet man

"The way I look at it, you can go out here and see a new Corvette anywhere but you won't see many models like mine. Well, there are a few around, but not driven daily. I like having something not everybody else is driving."

That sums up one reason Dan Robinette devotes the lion's share of his spare time to restoring old Corvettes. The Kingsport Power meter reader provides the rest of the story. "I've been a car freak since the time I was about 10 or 11 years old. My dad was pretty much of a car trader, and he's the one who got me interested in cars. By the time I was old enough to work, I'd spent my whole adolescent period and teen years fooling with cars.

"I've had 32 cars, and I've always been a Chevrolet man, especially back in the late '60s and early '70s when they had all the factory hot rods: Super Sports, Chevelles and 1968 and 1969 Z-28 Camaros, along with the hot Ford and Mopar "Muscle Cars."

"The old Corvette and the early Camaros were my picks. I've had nine Corvettes and seven Camaros. There were three or four Chevelles stuck in there, some Novas, a 350 Vega and a factory Super Sport 427 Impala, four speed."

Dan said he has bought, fixed up and sold a lot of cars over the years. But the '67 Corvette he has now (and the one pictured) is one he will keep. "One of my favorites is that model Corvette. I had wanted a '67 coupe for a long time. In not too long I will have had it two years. When I bought it, it needed everything. The paint was shot. The interior was shot. I had to put bearings in the rear end, new brakes, exhaust, rebuild the transmission. I just got it painted, but it hasn't been buffed out yet. The bumpers have been rechromed. But I haven't even touched the inside yet.

"It's about 80 or 85 percent complete now. Yes, I'm going to keep this one. It's a keeper. I'll have close to \$6,500 in it when I'm finished. I've seen that model with the same options sell for

around \$8,000 and \$8,500," he said. As far as he is concerned, the Corvette heyday was the mid-1960s. "I have ranged from a '61 model up to a '69. My favorites, as I've said, were built between 1963 and 1967. You know, the old Stingray type. I did buy a '69 model once. It's the only late model that I've had," Dan said.

It's obvious why a small segment of the American public has had an enduring love affair with the Corvette. "It's the only true American two-seater sports car. Of course, a lot of people scoff at the new ones because they've grown pretty fat. And another thing. Let's face it. It's the same basic body size they've had since '68. It's due for a face lift, which they are supposed to get into in 1983. The '83 model is supposed to be a totally redesigned car, smaller. I went to a show in Atlanta a couple of years ago, and they had a prototype model. It was a beautiful car. If they don't make it, they're crazy," he said.

And that comes from someone who is admittedly crazy about Corvettes. Are you listening Detroit? □

Garland and the tomato vine

Unlike the fable about Jack and the beanstalk, this story about Garland and the tomato vine is true.

Garland Hill, Bluefield station crew supervisor, explains, "I have a real nice garden spot, and we grow a lot in the garden. When I put in two rows of Rutgers red juice tomatoes this spring, I had an extra plant left. I went in the hothouse, dug up a spot and mixed about a pound of fertilizer with four shovels of sand, and set the plant in that. The thing just took off.

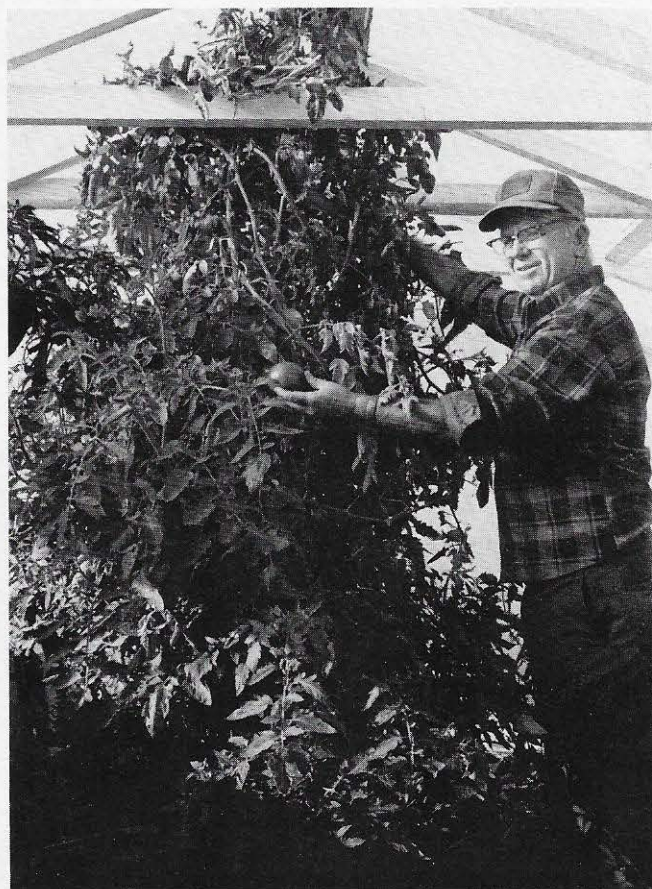
"I had some nice tomatoes out in the garden. The plants averaged about 2½ feet, but this one is 9½ feet high. It went all the way to the top of the hothouse. I have shelves on the side of the hothouse, and I can just barely walk around the vine. I've never seen anything grow like this plant did.

"At the time this picture was made, I had taken 52 tomatoes off the vine. Since then I've taken about another dozen and a half, and right now there are another dozen and a half getting ripe.

"I don't have any heat in the hothouse and don't intend to. The front of the vine is frozen, but the back gets heat from the outside wall of my house and is still growing."

Garland says he built the hothouse earlier this year, using some storm windows he had stacked up in the basement. "The windows came out just right to build the house," he adds. "It really saved me a lot of lumber. I built the top out of clear fiberglass.

"I hope to retire in a little over a year and a half. When I do, I want the hothouse to play around with and grow flowers and garden plants. This tomato plant is the only thing I have planted in the hothouse so far." □



Garland Hill's 9½ foot tomato plant has yielded more than 80 tomatoes since spring and there's more on the vine.



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