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# THE ILLUMINATOR

# THE ILLUMINATOR

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## Cover

Blessed is he who sees Christmas through the eyes of children. Pictured on the cover of this issue are six-year-old Ginger and three-year-old Christopher, children of Roger Sizemore, Huntington meter electrician B. They are also the grandchildren of Jim Dorsey, retired Huntington building supervisor.

## Savings plan unit values

| Date     | Fixed Income Fund |       | Equity Fund |       | AEP Stock Fund |       |
|----------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|
|          | VPU               | UCPD  | VPU         | UCPD  | VPU            | UCPD  |
| 1/31/82  | \$1.4280          | .7003 | \$1.7011    | .5879 | \$1.1597       | .8623 |
| 2/28/82  | 1.4398            | .6945 | 1.6219      | .6166 | 1.1831         | .8452 |
| 3/31/82  | 1.4538            | .6879 | 1.6159      | .6189 | 1.2016         | .8322 |
| 4/30/82  | 1.4665            | .6819 | 1.6827      | .5943 | 1.2458         | .8027 |
| 5/31/82  | 1.4799            | .6757 | 1.6345      | .6118 | 1.2503         | .7998 |
| 6/30/82  | 1.4927            | .6699 | 1.6089      | .6215 | 1.2165         | .8220 |
| 7/31/82  | 1.5059            | .6641 | 1.5755      | .6347 | 1.2166         | .8220 |
| 8/31/82  | 1.5215            | .6572 | 1.7717      | .5644 | 1.3692         | .7304 |
| 9/30/82  | 1.5369            | .6507 | 1.7924      | .5579 | 1.3536         | .7388 |
| 10/31/82 | 1.5529            | .6440 | 1.9897      | .5026 | 1.4493         | .6900 |

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 inside story

- 3 Update
- 4 A Latvian Christmas
- 5 A German Christmas
- 6 Protecting the environment
- 8 My last Christmas doll
- 10 An unusual Christmas gift
- 11 Dorton makes holiday favors for veterans, nursing home patients
- 12 Ho, ho, ho, it's Buck!
- 14 Retirement
- 16 Who's news
- 19 Friends we'll miss
- 20 Weddings  
Births
- 21 Service anniversaries
- 22 Pickin' and grinnin' with Horizon
- 23 Is the kerosene heater a smart buy?
- 24 An old fashioned Christmas

## Appliance control devices not feasible on AEP System

An American Electric Power System study, covering two years of field tests involving volunteer customers, shows that direct control of residential appliances such as central space heaters, central air conditioners and water heaters cannot be economically justified for the System's companies.

The study specifically concludes that while such control devices are not justified for the AEP System, "this conclusion cannot be automatically extended to a differently constituted power system, with different characteristics of its load, different mix of its generating capacity and different patterns of its interconnections.

"Simply stated, at the present time it is less expensive both for AEP and its customers to construct power supply facilities to meet the anticipated electric loads of its customers than it is to implement direct control of residential water heaters, central space heaters and central air conditioners to avoid these same loads."

The American Electric Power System is comprised of eight operating electric companies, including Appalachian Power, serving seven million people in seven East-Central states. Some 86 percent of its generating capacity is coal-fired, another 11 percent is nuclear and the remainder is essentially hydroelectric. The study noted that these factors, combined with the System's high load factor, flat seasonal load shape and numerous strong interconnections with other utilities, were part of the basic information critical in developing the study's results.

In direct control management, a utility exercises control of its customer's devices by directly regulating their operation, generally through the use of radio-controlled on and off switches installed in the customer's home. Usually such controls are used on appliances with the largest electrical

consumption.

A number of utilities across the country operate direct control programs. There have been varying reports of progress on these programs.

AEP initiated two field demonstration test programs in 1978 involving water heaters, space heaters and air conditioners. In one test, 85 customers in Fort Wayne, Ind., participated by allowing control of their water heaters. In the other, 120 customers outside Lynchburg, Va., participated by allowing control of their space heaters and central air conditioners.

Following the two-year field test, the data accumulated was subjected to extensive study and analysis.

Results of the study are being distributed to appropriate public officials across the AEP System. □

## Customer Services gets new name

Marketing and Customer Services Department. Beginning January 1, 1983 that will be the new name for the Service Corporation's Customer Services Department.

Dorman H. Miller, vice president - Customer Services, explained that the new name reflects the need for increased marketing of energy produced by the AEP System.

Effective November 1, the Area Development Section of the Department was renamed the Economic Development Section. □

## FERC okays withdrawal of Brumley permit

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last month approved Appalachian Power Company's request to withdraw its preliminary permit to conduct feasibility studies for a pumped storage hydroelectric project at Brumley Gap, Virginia. □

## October winners in EPP, CPP contest announced

Appalachian Power Company's employee incentive campaign to encourage customer enrollment in the Equal Payment Plan (EPP) and Checkless Payment Plan (CPP) is off to a good start. At the end of October, the first month of the campaign, employees added 734 customers to the EPP and 691 customers to the CPP programs.

Any employee who is successful in enrolling a customer in the EPP or CPP program will have an opportunity to win the division prize. Each time an employee enrolls a customer in a program, the employee's name will be placed in the appropriate pool. At the end of the month, a winner's name will be drawn from each pool.

Winners in each category will receive a certificate entitling them to select any item shown in "Collection Q" of the OIP prize groups. A total of six prizes per division will be awarded.

Winners for October were: Abingdon - Martha Farmer (2 prizes); Beckley - Loretta Pryor and Bonnie Evans; Bluefield - Fred Farley and W.A. Perdue; Charleston - Patricia Neil and Leonard Bird; Huntington - Mary Wilcox (2 prizes); Logan-Williamson - Lisa Smith and H.E. Ruloff, Jr.; Lynchburg - Vickie McConaghy (2 prizes); Pulaski - Bennie White and Kitty Byrd; and Roanoke - Kay Guthrie and Ann Altice. □

# A Latvian Christmas

"Christmas in Latvia. I shall forever remember that glorious season in my beautiful, faraway country," says Maiga Udris, chemist assistant at Kanawha River Plant. "This holiday is the most celebrated, long awaited, and holiest time of year. The entire celebration lasts three days. During these 'first, second and third Christmas days', nobody works."

Maiga continues, "This season in America is always, somehow, a time of sadness for me — knowing that in Latvia (now a part of the Soviet Union) celebration of Christ's birth is a crime against the state. Yet the courageous continue to light their tree candles, making sure that heavy, dark curtains are drawn. Blessed America — where Christmas can be worshipped and celebrated with bright lights blazing openly and freely in homes across the nation!"

Maiga notes, "Christmas in America and Latvia differs in many aspects. In Latvia the winters are bitterly cold and temperatures are frequently  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Because of the yards of snow, motorized traffic was practically nonexistent. So to obtain their Christmas trees, people would walk, go on skis, or travel by sleighs to nearby forests to cut their trees themselves. Always the short, double needle trees, which are considered the true Christmas trees, were cut. Pine or spruce were not used.

"For the children this journey to the forest was itself a great event. They would laugh and sing during the trip; their red cheeks and noses were a sight!

"Usually the parents, not the children, decorated the tree. America's Christmas lightbulbs were not commonly used in Latvia nor in much of Europe. Latvians used only real candles, mostly white ones. The parents presented the decorated tree as a special surprise the night before Christmas Eve, which was the main celebration day.

"The children were required to do different kinds of performances in front of the decorated tree, both at home and at school. Mostly their beautiful programs consisted of singing and saying poetry or Bible verses. The young were taught the original, true meaning of Christmas beginning at babyhood. Their performances could move the audience to tears. Their recitation of the most difficult, advanced poems were unbelievable. Only after participation and contributions could the children hope that Ziemas syetkl vecitis might remember them."

Maiga notes, "One of my last Christmases in Latvia was the saddest. The tree was a spectacle: white, shimmering candles surrounded with countless birds of paradise, resting on 'snow covered' branches. The tree itself had had a long, unusual journey. As a friend's present, it had come by military train from the outskirts of Moscow, through the gunfires of war, where our brave soldiers battled in vain for our tiny land.

"In America Christmas is beautiful, rich and so colorful, but for me it is also a time for sadness and heartbreak. My thoughts always return to Latvia, to my roots, to my beginning and ending.

"With this poem, I would like to acquaint you with my beautiful, now lost, country:



Maiga Udris

*Where at Baltic Sea the slender pine trees grow  
Where in storm the fishermen in the amber sea go  
Where from far away the winds me greetings bring  
There is my dear country, there I long to be.*

*Where from far away the winds me greetings bring  
There is my dear country, there I am at home.*

*The waves and mermaids played to me my  
childhood song*

*At the beach I spent all my days of youth,  
At the beach awakes in me this hot desire  
In the world to go away, over lands and seas.*

*At the beach awakes in me this hot desire  
In the world to go away, over lands and seas.*

*Why this life still gives me such a longing for?  
It gave me everything that my heart did wish  
Everything is gone that made me sad and cry  
I did find the happiness, but the longing stays!*

*Everything is gone that made me sad and cry  
I did find the happiness, but the longing stays!*

*Longing for the pretty, pretty Baltic Sea beach  
Where the slender pine trees at the seashore grow  
Where the sea gulls are crying, so white in storm  
they are washed.*

*There is my dear country, there I long to be.*

*Where the sea gulls are crying, so bright in storm  
they are washed*

*There is my dear country, only there I am at  
home. □*

# A German Christmas



The Cox family, Liz, Claudia and Mike, hang a Christmas wreath on the front door of their home.

The sound of church bells fills the air as family and friends silently wade through knee-deep snow on the way to midnight mass, their way lit by handheld candles and lanterns. This is how Liz Cox, the wife of Pulaski Line Mechanic Mike Cox, remembers Christmas — or Holy Eve — in her hometown of Hochheim a/Main, West Germany.

“In Germany we started our celebration on Saint Martin’s Day, the eleventh of November,” Liz recalls. “This feast day honors a Roman soldier who shared his cloak with a shivering beggar — according to legend, the disguised Christ. Children receive fruit and candy in carrying on the tradition of gift giving, as exemplified by the saint.

“In the evening, Martinmas fires were lit on the hills surrounding the town. The blazes signified light and hope in the advent of winter.”

Liz continues, “The third of December is Saint Nicholas Day. Nicholas comes to each house, along with his dirty manservant named Ruprecht. If the children have been good, Nicholas gives them apples, oranges, figs and nuts. The bad children are switched.

“As the time gets closer to Christmas, the children write

letters to Saint Nick instead of Santa Claus, as they do in the States,” Liz adds.

“We always had a big spruce tree, and it was never put up until Christmas Eve. We decorated it with real candles and homemade candy. Some people put apples and nuts on their trees.”

She continues, “After midnight mass was over, we would come home and open our presents. Since we fasted nearly the whole week before Christmas, we were ready to enjoy a big feast. Everybody stayed at home with their own families and nobody visited because it was Holy Eve. On Weihnachten, Christmas Day, we would go to mass again and relatives and friends would come by.

“The celebration of Saint Stephen’s Day on December 26 led into the Holy Twelve Nights.

“On New Year’s Day, we children would go to the homes of kinfolk and recite a lengthy traditional verse that had been handed down from generation to generation, and the relatives would give us money.”

Liz concludes, “Finally, on the sixth of January, we had the Feast of the Three Kings in commemoration of the coming of the wise men to give gifts to the Christ Child. We would always have a play at church, and the children would go out and sing carols from house to house.” □

# Protecting the environment

In the 11 years since its inception, Appalachian Power's Environmental Affairs Department has grown to a group of eight people with far-reaching responsibilities.

Dick Northup, environmental affairs director, explains that the group is called on to be involved in a variety of functions throughout the company.

"You might say we're an industry within an industry," he says. "We conduct regular compliance reviews, we are a training organization, and we provide consulting services on environmental matters to any field organization that needs help."

Northup says that while the company has for decades provided environmental protection in its operations, the Environmental Affairs Department itself is quite young. It was formed in 1971, as a wave of new federal laws concerning the environment took effect.

"Our industry has a positive history in environmental protection. Even back in the 1920s, we used dust collectors at generating plants to remove ash particles. And by 1950, Appalachian was using flyash collectors designed to remove 85 percent of the flyash before it could escape into the air."

The environmental legislation passed by Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s, however, brought with it thousands of regulations and stiff penalties for noncompliance. "In 1971, the company appointed its first environmental director, and from that first step has grown the present organization."

Electric utilities today must comply with more than 30 major federal environmental laws containing hundreds of regulations each. In addition, more regulations are administered by state and local governments. "For each federal statute, there is almost always a set of duplicate state rules. The volume of regulations Appalachian needs to comply with is usually doubled, or even tripled, since we serve more than one state."

The environmental regulations applying to company operations deal with air, water, waste, noise, and esthetic pollution wherever Appalachian generates power or owns transmission



Every week B.J. Ellis, senior environmental clerk, conducts preliminary analyses on rainwater collected at the company's monitoring station near the Matt Funk Station in Roanoke County, Virginia. The sample is sent to an outside laboratory for more extensive analysis. The effort is part of state and national monitoring projects investigating "acid rain."

lines or other facilities, he pointed out.

"The major federal laws we operate under are the Clean Air Act; the Clean Water Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Toxic Substances Control Act; and the Safe Drinking Water Act. To comply with these and other environmental statutes, we have an investment in environmental protection facilities of more than \$330 million.

Environmental Affairs Department employees conduct a number of activities throughout the company to help keep company operations in compliance with regulations.

Every year, for example, Environmental Staff Engineer Bob Robinson leads a team to each of the company's six coal-fired generating plants for an environmental audit.

"We look at every aspect of the plants' environmental programs,"

Bob says. "It's a two-day audit, and we try to be a lot more thorough than the government is with its compliance reviews." Representatives from the federal Environmental Protection Agency or a state environmental agency conduct reviews at one or more plants each year.

"In our own audits, we may find a minor item or two needing improvement," Bob explains, "but never anything major. The field people really do an excellent job."

The environmental group also spends a lot of time gathering data and writing permit applications. According to Northup, that job can be very complex.

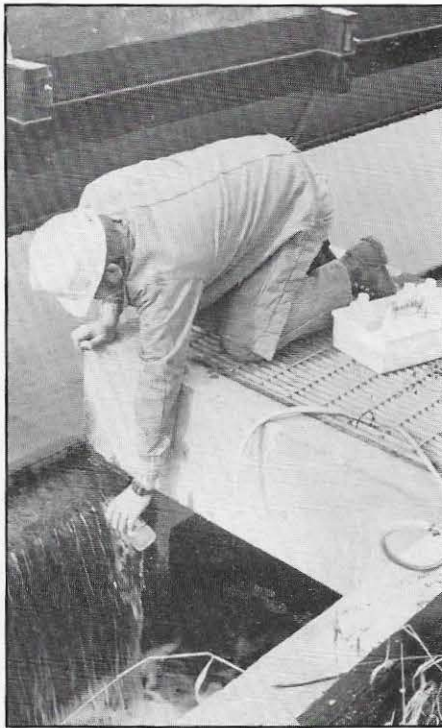
"The company has to have a permit to operate at any facility that has the capacity to discharge anything into the air or water," he says. "The data we're required to gather and submit as part of an application for a new permit or to renew a permit often re-

quires extensive effort and expense."

The department has conducted "smoke schools" at all of the company's plants to help local workers learn to determine the opacity of the smoke coming from the plants. Department representatives also conduct training classes to teach field personnel the requirements of environmental laws and how to comply with them.

"We've had very few occasions over the years when problem situations have come up in our discharges into the air or water. Most of these occasions involved small deviations in measurements of materials we were discharging. But we have had relatively few problems over the years."

The company's PCB program also requires a lot of time and effort. PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, is a substance used in the insulating oil in some transformers and capacitors. While PCB has been in use for more than 50 years, it was identified several years ago as being an environmental contaminant. Manufacture of PCB in the United States was stopped in 1977, and new regulations adopted by the EPA earlier this year require that many of the electric in-



Everette Riffle, technician senior, takes a daily sampling of water from Mountaineer Plant's clean water pond to check for pH.

dustry's PCB transformers and capacitors be replaced by late-1985.

Meanwhile, Northup says, the company is engaged in an extensive in-

spection program involving PCB equipment. Samples of oil in plant equipment and waste oil come to the environmental group for analysis. Disposal of PCB must meet stringent regulations. "The oil is placed in sealed containers," Northup says, "and stored for final disposal. At this time, most of the oil eventually ends up at a PCB disposal facility in Alabama. We have, however, supplied PCBs for a test burn on a special waste incinerator ship in the Gulf of Mexico."

There really are only three ways to dispose of PCB safely, according to Northup. Oil with comparatively low PCB concentrations may be burned, altered chemically, or disposed of in special landfills. High-concentration PCB oils have to be burned in specially designed incinerators. Strict reporting requirements also are in effect for PCB oil spills, too, he added.

Finally, Northup said, the company is participating in the gathering of data about rainfall acidity. "Acid rain is a term most people in this country have read in the last few years. Very little actually is known about changes in rainfall acidity, atmospheric chemistry, and, among other things, whether or not our industry contributes to any acid rain problem. One of the projects we are conducting at Appalachian involves the collection of samples regularly in our acid rain monitoring program." Northup said that samples are collected at a monitoring station established by the company near Roanoke.

"The station is part of two networks. One is composed of 50 monitoring stations in the northeastern part of the U.S., and the other consists of a network of eight stations in Virginia. The samples are collected each week, and, after we conduct some preliminary analyses, they are sent to another lab for further work."

Northup emphasized that operating in an environmentally safe manner is an important responsibility for the company and its employees.

"Too often, people assume that's the responsibility of the Environmental Affairs Department. But that's not entirely correct. It's the responsibility of the people actually operating the plants and building and operating our other facilities. They're doing a great job, and our role is to assist them. □



Tim Mallan, environmental engineer, inspects one of Appalachian Power's two specially equipped oil spill trailers. The trailers, located in Charleston and Roanoke, can be moved quickly to an oil spill site to be used in cleanup efforts. Tim says a quick response to oil spills is vital in order to minimize damage and cleanup costs.



## *My Last Christmas Doll*

Editor's note: This story, written by Betty Snead, Clinch River Plant secretary, is based upon actual events in her life.

"I don't want a doll for Christmas," I said aloud to the reflection in the full-length mirror tilted on its wooden

frame in the calico-sprinkled bedroom.

The image that stared back was of a girl between little and big, child and adult, a time in life when awkwardness was the most outstanding feature. Nothing matched. My ears

were growing crooked and their tips peeked through long, thin, no-color hair. New, deep-ridged, uneven teeth were too big for my mouth and protruded through thin lips. My knobby nose was unbalanced between over-size eyes and set too far to the right — or was it too far to the left? My arms and legs were too long and scrawny for the beginning to develop body. There was, however, no question as to the skeletal form since my bones were all visible, especially the knees and elbows.

"You're too big to play with dolls," I said to the image.

"Then why is it so hard to leave it off the list for Santa Claus?" I asked.

I always made my Christmas list from the Sears & Roebuck catalog. It arrived two weeks ago and I spent hours turning its pages.

The dolls were especially pretty that year. There were newborn, rubber baby dolls with red, wrinkled faces wearing diapers and undershirts holding a bottle. These were called "wet and cry babies." Others were made of china and dressed in black shoes and silk dresses. They had real hair and came with their own little case which held a brush and comb. The bride dolls were gorgeous in their long, white gowns.

But, I was too big to want a doll. Nobody told me, I just knew.

Thanksgiving week came and I knew that I would soon have to give my Christmas list to my parents so I forced myself to abandon the familiar, exciting pages of toys and search for other things.

I could not generate much excitement over the dancing ballerina music box that I chose to top the list, but at least it was more exciting than the skirt, sweater and socks that I wrote down.

I had doubts about the list and asked some pertinent questions concerning the jolly old man who lived at the North Pole, but I could not come up



with any concrete answers. I asked the questions only of myself. No way would I let anyone know, especially an adult, that I had doubts, this close to Christmas! In fact, just knowing the nature of my questions was not easy to deal with and left me with a hollow feeling deep inside.

Late one evening, after supper when the dishes were cleared, the family sat around the kitchen table.

Mother said, "Let's have your Christmas lists children. Your father and I want to get them in the mail to Santa Claus at the North Pole. It takes a few days for the list to get to him and it takes time for the elves to make the orders in his workshop. We want to make sure he has your toys as he starts out on his sleigh with his reindeer on Christmas Eve."

My mother had made that same statement for as many years as I could remember. But this was the first time that it had not made me tingle with excitement and anticipation. That night it left me numb.

My younger brothers excitedly handed over their lists. Mother and father looked them over and as always reminded them that Santa Claus could not possibly bring everything. He would run out of some things because there were so many children all over the world.

I felt the old, familiar Christmas spirit when I had thoughts of tearing up my list. I would run to my room and make another one. I would put on it a doll, doll clothes, doll stroller, dishes and all the toys that had made Christmas so special in the past!

Just as I shuffled my feet to get out of the chair, mother said, "Is your list ready for Santa?"

I reluctantly reached into my pinafore pocket and brought forth a worn piece of paper.

I stared at the floor and swallowed hot, salty tears that trickled down the back of my throat. Mother read my list and reached it to father. I looked up in time to catch the expression on her face. She had a way of asking a question and never opening her mouth. Her right eyebrow would shoot up in the shape of a question mark and the deep blue iris of her eye would position itself at just the right place to make the dot. A look of sadness passed between my parents and the usual words of caution about Santa Claus being busy and don't be disap-

pointed if you don't get everything on your list were not spoken.

"I'm going to my room," I said and ran from the table. I closed my bedroom door and threw myself across the bed and cuddled my ragdoll. Hot tears soaked through the shoulder of her blue calico dress.

Mother came in later to kiss me good-night, but I pretended to be asleep and she tiptoed out.

I kept busy until school closed for the holidays, then my spirits sank lower and lower.

Since I had not asked for toys and had assumed a grown-up role, mother called on me more and more to help with the Christmas preparations.

This was not like any Christmas that I could remember. All the hustle and bustle was there, but where was the anticipation? Things were no different than they had always been, but yet there was a difference.

"Is a doll that important?" I asked. "Then how do grownups enjoy Christmas so much? They don't get toys or a doll for the rest of their lives. Yet, they seem to enjoy the season. I know they couldn't feel the way I do."

It was time to trim the tree. We used Cedar trees because we liked the aroma. We popped and strung popcorn and brought out the ornaments which were used year after year.

The tree didn't kiss my hand as it had in years past when I hung the ornaments on its branches. Rather it bit and scratched. The popcorn didn't remind me of soft puffs of snow but looked like hard kernels of corn that had not popped. The ornaments did not glitter and sparkle but showed signs of wear and tear.

Christmas Eve arrived and I helped mother in the kitchen. We made mincemeat and pumpkin pies, brought the fruitcakes from their tins and made hard sauce. The country ham was boiling on the cookstove. I couldn't believe that mother could be so happy as she worked and worked. There were fleeting moments when I felt some of the Christmas spirit, then would remember that this year I had not asked for a doll and it suddenly disappeared.

The house was aglow as family and friends stopped by. Mother took time from the festivities to put the little ones to bed. As usual she told them that they would have to go to sleep so

Santa could bring their toys down the chimney and put them under the tree. She gave me a look that said I could stay up as late as I wanted.

When I couldn't stand the adult conversation and activities any longer, I slipped from the room and went to bed.

I had never felt so depressed. Christmas had always been such a joyous, happy occasion. I felt guilty about my feelings. I had been taught the beauty of the birth of the Christ child and its religious significance to mankind.

If only I hadn't bragged to my friends that I didn't want a doll this year, I could have changed my mind.

"Too late for that now," I thought as the Grandfather clock in the hallway struck eleven.

I snuggled deep under the patchwork quilt. I refused to allow myself to think about Christmas morning and fell asleep.

I awoke slowly the next morning when I heard shrieks of delight from my brothers.

I stretched in bed and rolled on my right side as I tried to think what was so special about today. My hand fell on something soft. I slowly opened my eyes and looked down at the prettiest, softest, baby doll that I had ever seen!

I hugged it close and looked out the window at the large snowflakes falling softly and watched as they blanketed the rolling countryside.

I had never experienced such peace and fulfillment as I realized it was Christmas morning and someone who knew the secret desires of my heart had cared enough to slip into the bedroom and place the doll beside me.

I got out of bed and put the doll on top of the dresser, pulled on my robe and joined the rest of the family. I walked into the parlor and over to the Christmas tree. It kissed my hand as I fingered its branches. The popcorn looked as soft as the new fallen snow. I shaded my eyes to shield them from the glitter and sparkle of the familiar ornaments.

Just as the Christ child was born in Bethlehem, a new meaning of Christmas was born in my heart. I knew that as long as I lived, my last Christmas doll would symbolize all that was good in the world. □

# An unusual Christmas gift

Not everyone gets a kinkajou for Christmas, but then not everyone loves animals the way Alfred Plants does. The kinkajou, who was promptly named Yoda because his face resembles that of the Star Wars character, was a present last year from Alfie's wife Marie.

"We didn't know anything about a kinkajou when we got Yoda," Alfie says, "so I went to the library to get some information. A kinkajou is a carnivorous mammal from Mexico and Central and South America. It is about three feet long, has large eyes, a long tail and soft woolly yellowish brown fur."

Alfie continues, "Yoda likes anything sweet but fruit is his favorite food. He also eats hot dogs, raw chicken, baloney and peanut butter sandwiches. The only thing cooked he will eat is pancakes."

Yoda lives in the garage in a large cage Alfie built especially for him. "He sleeps all day and rumbles all night," Alfie says. He likes to be

Alfie's pet goat gets a bit playful at times.



Alfred Plants got this kinkajou as a Christmas present last year.

scratched on his tummy, but he doesn't like to have his tail pulled. He also likes to lick your fingers, probably for the salt in your body."

A coal equipment operator at Mountaineer Plant, Alfie jokingly says, "We have been into crazy animals a long time. We started out with a spider monkey. When we bought it at the pet shop, it was about one foot long, not counting its tail. We kept it in a big cage on the patio. Most people think a monkey's main diet is bananas, but it's bugs. That monkey used to reach out and try to grab flies. He would open up his hand slowly, and if he hadn't caught the fly, he would just shake his head.

"Next we bought a mare, colt and pony from my uncle, which we kept until one threw me and broke my collarbone. After that we decided they were too expensive and got rid of them."

Alfie continues, "It wasn't long after that until we decided to get some sheep for our two girls. We bought one lamb when it was only a day old and raised it on a baby bottle. Those sheep were just like big dogs. They could be clear over on the other side of the field and would come running when we would holler for them. They especially took up with my wife. Unfortunately, two of them died after get-

ting into some poison weeds in brush I had cut down.

"In the meantime, we ordered an incubator and Bob White eggs we had seen advertised in a magazine. We put the eggs in the incubator and turned them twice a day 23 days until they hatched. We had such good luck with those that we bought a larger incubator, and a friend gave us some chicken, geese and duck eggs. We had to turn those, too, and the kids really looked forward to their hatching. At the same time, we bought some peacocks, ring neck golden pheasants, turkeys and silkies (Hong Kong chickens)."

During squirrel season one year, Alfie found three flying squirrels in a nest, which he brought home and kept for several months. "After we let them go, we started raising doves for a friend," Alfie adds.

Today the Plants' menagerie consists of a goat, eight birds, two dogs, several cats and, of course, the kinkajou. "The girls are trying to talk me into getting another monkey," Alfie says. "But I don't know about that. Monkeys are a cost item. I learned that the hard way.

"The veterinarian hates to see me coming," Alfie laughs. "He never knows what we're going to bring in next." □



# Dorton makes holiday favors for veterans, nursing home patients

Holidays spent away from family and friends can be the loneliest times of the year. For this reason, Genevieve Dorton tries to make each holiday a special occasion for patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Johnson City, Tennessee, and the Life Care Center at Churchill, Tennessee.

The widow of Thomas C. Dorton, former Kingsport line foreman, Genevieve made 500 tray favors for the veterans and 138 for the nursing home at Eastertime this year. She does the same for Valentine's Day and Christmas.

Her interest began 20 years ago when the agent for the Churchill Home Demonstration Club asked members to make place mats for Christmas. Genevieve recalls, "That year we cut designs from Christmas cards and wrote Merry Christmas across the center. After that first visit, when I saw all those lonely patients, I just wanted to do more."

She started making cards, stationery illustrated with cartoons, tray favors and place mats to distribute throughout the year. "I remember one man, who didn't have any legs, told me he had nine grandchildren. I told him to take enough cards to send to each one, and he was so happy that he cried."

Genevieve continues, "In the nursing home, there is a woman who doesn't talk. They put one of the rabbits I made on the bulletin board there, and she would stand and look at it and laugh. It got her attention for some reason.

"When I make stationery, I put my name and address on it in small letters, and I have several letters from some of the veterans. The volunteers at the hospital told me that some of the veterans who never wrote letters did after they got that stationery."

Genevieve says, "I have a brother and cousin who get paper from Mead, and they cut it to place mat size. I buy all my own felt tip pens and construction paper, and club members help with some glue work on the tray favors. The envelopes for the cards are also furnished by the home demonstration club.



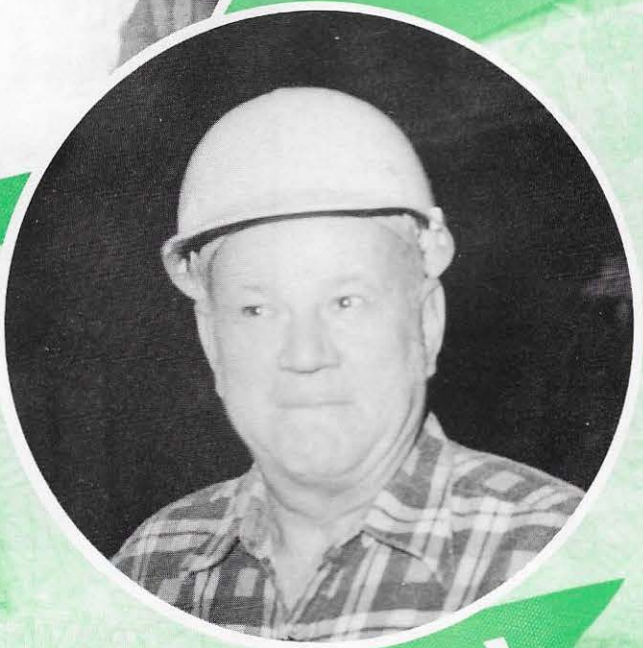
Genevieve Dorton

"In the winter time, I can't just sit down and do nothing," Genevieve confesses. "My hands are never idle. Just give me a box of crayola and a box of paper, and I can work with it all day if I don't have anything else to do. It is just my thing!

"I love helping and doing things for other people. It makes my day brighter when I visit the hospital and nursing home and take the cards and other things. Just seeing the happy faces and how the patients appreciate anything you do for them makes it worth all the time I spend. I pray each day

that God will help me to make someone's life a little brighter. In doing so it gives me a blessing." □

Ho, Ho, Ho...



...It's Buck!

Buck Stone, Kanawha River Plant maintenance mechanic B, for many years took on a second job during December. It didn't pay anything, but the rewards were tremendous.

Buck portrayed Jolly Ol' Saint Nick at Christmas parties for children of plant employees as well as at family get-togethers and other functions in the neighborhood.

He recalls, "I hesitated when they first asked me to play Santa Claus because I am not much of an actor and you have to be a pretty good actor to fool children. "One particular time all the children at the elementary school in Chelyan were gathered in the gymnasium. My youngest boy, Dean, was seven, and one of the neighbor boys was about eight or nine. When I walked out on the stage, the neighbor boy said, 'Aaah, that's not Santa Claus. That's Buck Stone.'

"When I got home, my little boy said, 'Daddy, Chuckie said that was you.' I asked him, 'Do you believe Chuckie or do you believe that was Santa Claus?' He replied, 'Well, I don't know.'

"I decided I would let him know that Christmas, so I kept the Santa suit. On Christmas Eve I put on the suit and slipped out the back door and came around to the front. I knocked on the door, and Dean answered it. I had him fooled for a little while, but he had suspicions and figured me out from my movements. I tried to change my voice, but there are certain things about your voice that are hard to change.

"While I had the suit on, I decided to go on out through the neighborhood. It was a beautiful Christmas Eve, snowing and just ideal for Santa Claus. I went to all of the houses on the street where there were children, and knocked on their doors. The children just screamed and jumped up and down. I asked them if they had been good boys and girls, and every one of them said they had. I told them to hurry off to bed and go to sleep, and I would be back. I walked all the way through town doing that.

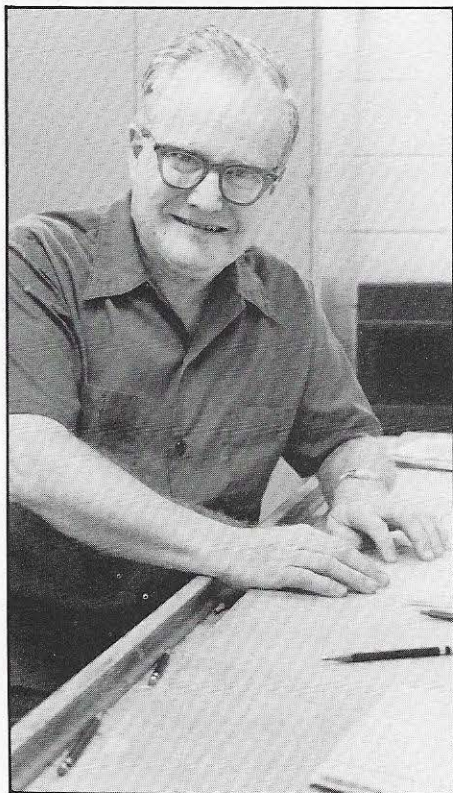
"My mother-in-law lived in a neighboring section of town, so I decided I would go down there. I must have walked a mile, waving to everybody as they came along. While I was on the road a car stopped, and the people wanted to know if I would play Santa Claus to their children at 10 o'clock that night. I didn't know them or where they lived, but they gave me directions and I said I would be there.

"When I arrived, they had all their toys in a car parked out front. I got the toys out and walked in with them. One of the children, a 13-year-old girl, was a strong believer in Santa Claus. When I started pulling the toys out, she just jumped up and down and grabbed me around the neck. I thought sure she would tear my beard off. Well, I finally got through and left, but I believe that was one of the happiest Christmases those children ever had."

Buck continues, "The last time I played Santa Claus was at a family Christmas party about three years ago. I come from a very large family, and my brothers and sisters have several children and grandchildren so it makes a pretty good size congregation.

"Nothing in particular happened that time, but still it was amazing to watch how the children looked at Santa Claus. I wonder lots of time if they look at Santa with a doubtful eye or if they just admire him. I figure their reaction is mixed." □

## Stanley Smith retires from Amos Plant



Smith

"I have been working for 45 years, and that's long enough for anybody," says Stanley H. Smith, Jr., who retired December 1.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Stanley graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He worked for the U.S. Corps of Engineers in Huntington before joining Union Carbide Corporation. During his 24½ years there, he designed heating, central air conditioning, and underground pipe systems and later became a specification writer. He moved to the company's Institute Plant in 1966 and soon afterward was caught in a company personnel reduction.

"I got a temporary job with Appalachian Engineers with the understanding that when I finished my project

with them, I would be out," Stanley recalls. "In the meantime a local employment agency sent me to see several people, including Marvin Morrison at Cabin Creek Plant. I was quite surprised when the phone rang one day, and K.M. Wiles, personnel supervisor at Philip Sporn Plant, asked me to come for an interview. I had never heard of Sporn Plant or New Haven, W. Va., but I got a road map and didn't have any trouble finding my way there."

Stanley continues, "I worked at Sporn nearly a year and a half, driving 116 miles round trip every day. When Al Moore (retired plant manager) offered me a job as performance engineer at Amos Plant in 1970, I took it because it is only 16 miles from home. The work here has been very interesting. I have been doing some structural design and other non-electrical work in my 12 years at Amos."

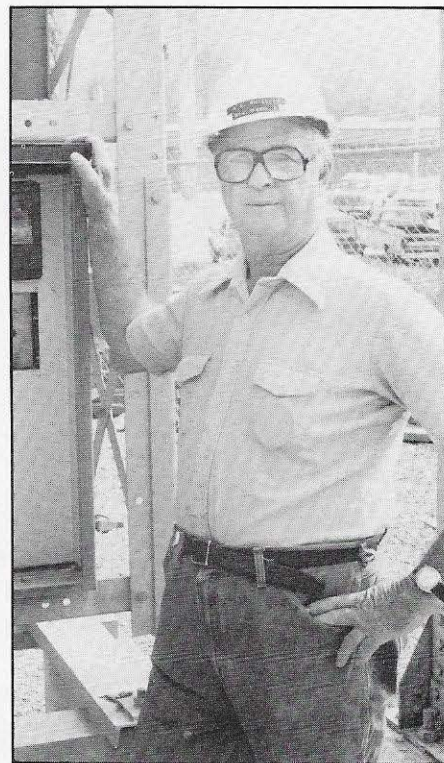
For the foreseeable future, Stanley plans to stay in South Charleston, W. Va. But he and his wife Lela hope sometime to move to Charleston, South Carolina, where the winters are warmer.

"I have a 700-page book on electrical circuits I'm going to start working on after I retire," Stanley says, "and I want to set up my model railroad. I have 35 cars, 8 engines, and 200 feet of track, but I haven't had very much time lately to work on it." A former member of the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers, he belongs to the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church in South Charleston. □

## I have enjoyed my work with the company

"I have enjoyed my work with the company very much," says Millard Phillips, who was a station mechanic A in the Williamson area of Logan-Williamson Division before electing early retirement December 1.

He continues, "You hear so many



Phillips

people say they just can't wait until retirement. But I feel about retirement the same way I did about military service. When I went in the Navy, I had six years to pull and couldn't wait until the time was up. As the time grows near, however, you start remembering things and you sort of dread it. There'll be things you will miss and friends you will be away from."

Millard, a native of Pike County, Kentucky, was discharged from the Navy in 1946 as an electrician first class. He spent five of the six years on both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and saw considerable action during World War II.

"I helped put the new battleship USS New Jersey into commission in the Philadelphia Navy yard," he recalls. "I spent a few months on a mine sweeper and some time on the USS Massachusetts, USS Ranger and USS Siboney, an aircraft carrier. When the big atomic bomb was dropped, I was between China and Japan."

Following discharge from the service, Millard spent six months at an automobile machinist school in Ashland. Then he came back home and worked in the mines for two or three years un-

til they closed. He came to work at Appalachian Power in 1952 as a maintenance man helper.

"I guess the thing I have liked most about my job was the construction part," Millard says. "I have helped build quite a few substations."

The memory of the April 1977 flood of the Tug, Guyandotte and Levisa will be forever etched in his memory. "Cecil Ball, who retired last month, Bill Brewer, and I were in a boat, doing some switching at the Sprigg Station. The water was so swift that it was all we could do to get through the yard to the road. Cecil, Bill and I stayed over in the hollow from the station for two days and two nights. It was really something to sit there and see everything in the world going down the river. Cecil lived in a company house next to the station, and we watched the water go over the top of his house."

After retirement, Millard plans to spend a good bit of his spare time on his 80-acre farm. "My wife tells me I traveled so much while I was in service that she has a hard time getting me to go somewhere," Millard laughs. "But I really love farming. When I was a young boy, I could see all the other young kids who lived on the West Virginia side of the river going fishing or swimming while I was hoeing corn. I thought many a time that I wouldn't mind if my dad would sell that farm for 50 cents. But after I grew up I learned to appreciate it, and liked it well enough to buy the farm from him."

Millard also enjoys carpentry. "I consider myself a pretty fair carpenter," he says. "I have built quite a few things."

Millard's wife Mary Ann retired last January as postmistress at Forest Hills, Kentucky. They are the parents of two sons and two daughters. The oldest son is an ordained minister but both boys currently work for a coal company. The two girls, following in their mother's footsteps, are postmistresses. □

## Appalachian has been a good company to work for



Ruth Wilson is ready to serve coffee to friends who drop by, using the pewter coffee service she got for her 45th service anniversary.

"I thought Appalachian would be a good place to work, and it turned out to be," says Ruth Wilson, who retired October 1.

Ruth joined the company in 1937 as a

stenographer in the Beckley Engineering Department following graduation from Sullins College, Bristol, Va. She moved to the Managerial Office in 1953 and since that time has served as secretary to five district or division managers.

Ruth expects to "enjoy retirement after I get over the feeling I am on a long vacation. After you have worked for 45 years, it is a bit difficult to get out of the habit, at least right away. I still wake up automatically at 6 o'clock in the morning, and I guess I always will," she laughs.

Now that she has more time for leisure activities, Ruth plans to rejoin the Beckley Woman's Club, in which she had once been active. "Another thing I'm going to do is read, read, read," she adds. "Then I will take up my music again. I studied piano until I went away to college and, after I came home, kept it up for a good many years. I haven't played for the last ten years."

Beckleyans are fortunate to have Shepherd's Center, which claims to be the "city's fun spot for retired and older adults." Ruth has already selected three of the center's activities — travelogue, needlepoint and bridge classes — in which to participate.

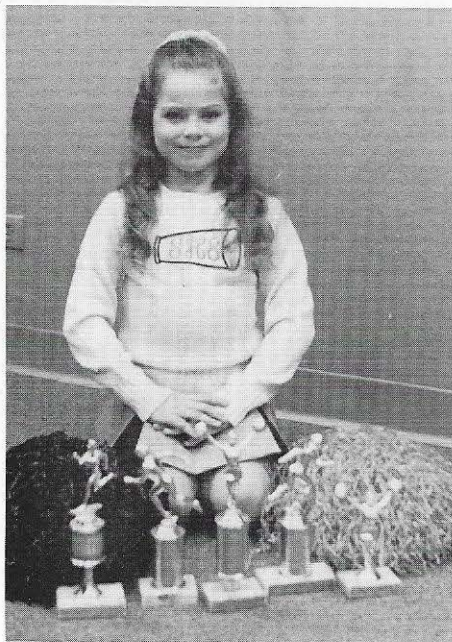
"I also plan to do some traveling," she concludes. "My college roommate lives near Charlottesville, Virginia, and I visit her quite a bit. The only trip in the offing right now though is a visit to Williamsburg during the Christmas season."

The girls in the Beckley office treated Ruth to a retirement dinner at a local restaurant. Among the gifts she received were a crushed glass jewel box, a string of pearls, and — lest she forget how it is to get up and go to work each morning — a music box which plays "Nine to Five." □

## Charleston

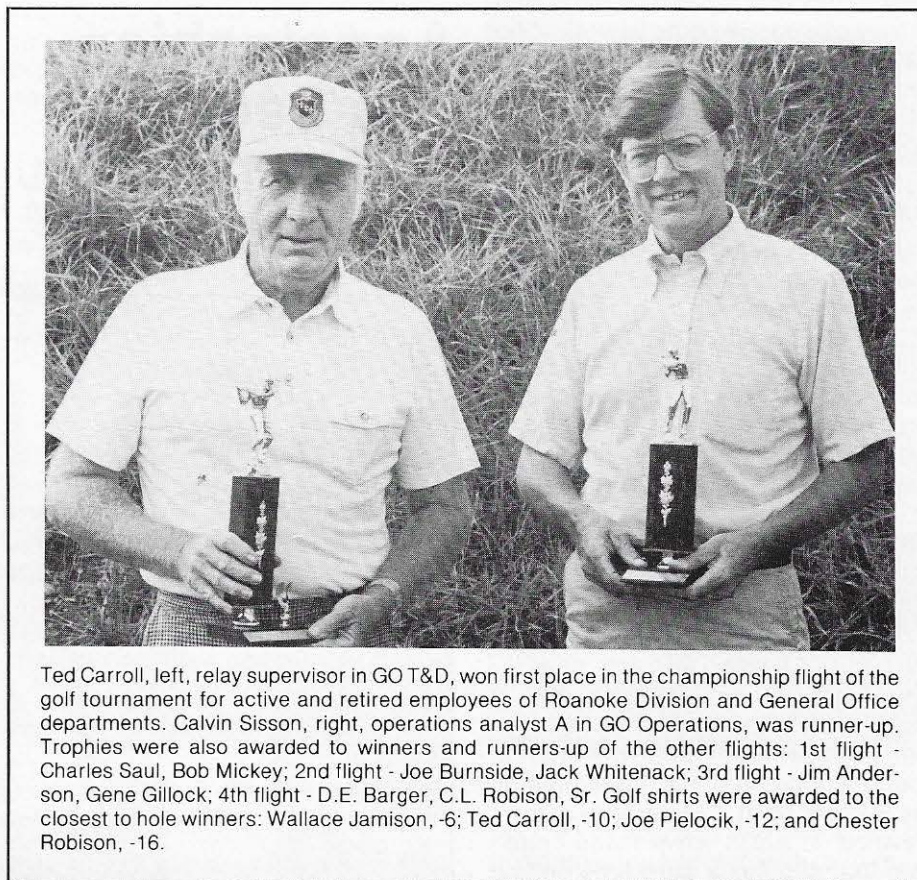
**Fluger Spencer**, line maintenance and construction representative, was named vice captain of the Second Division of the Second Eastern Region of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He is commander of St. Albans Flotilla No. 24.

**Steve Cook**, meter electrician D, was promoted to sergeant in the West Virginia Air National Guard.



**Kami**, daughter of Sue Craddock, customer accounts representative C, was named cheerleading mascot at Spring Hill Elementary School. In addition, she is a cheerleader for the Spring Hill midget football team. Kami also participates in long distance races in Kentucky and West Virginia. She won the 6-mile Kentucky Apple Run in her age group and has won awards in the Women's Kanawha Forest run and the St. Francis Hospital run.

**Jack Shaver**, administrative assistant, was elected to the board of directors of the West Virginia Human Services Association. □



Ted Carroll, left, relay supervisor in GO T&D, won first place in the championship flight of the golf tournament for active and retired employees of Roanoke Division and General Office departments. Calvin Sisson, right, operations analyst A in GO Operations, was runner-up. Trophies were also awarded to winners and runners-up of the other flights: 1st flight - Charles Saul, Bob Mickey; 2nd flight - Joe Burnside, Jack Whitenack; 3rd flight - Jim Anderson, Gene Gillock; 4th flight - D.E. Barger, C.L. Robison, Sr. Golf shirts were awarded to the closest to hole winners: Wallace Jamison, -6; Ted Carroll, -10; Joe Pielocik, -12; and Chester Robison, -16.

## Kingsport

The Kingsport Altrusa yearbook, edited by **Joyce Potter**, private secretary, won first place in competition with yearbooks from 41 other clubs at the Altrusa annual district conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

## Bluefield

New officers of the Bluefield Employees' Benevolent Association for 1983 are: **Susan McQuail**, junior clerk, chairman; **Joan Leftwich**, stenographer, secretary; and **Gene Davis**, meter electrician B, treasurer. **Tom French**, engineering technologist, GO T&D Communications; **Mike Farmer**, line mechanic A; **Bud Perdue**, office supervisor; and **Phil Buchanan**, engineering technologist, GO T&D, were elected members of the board.

**Ken Roberts**, power engineer, will serve on the board of directors of the Welch Chamber of Commerce for 1983. □

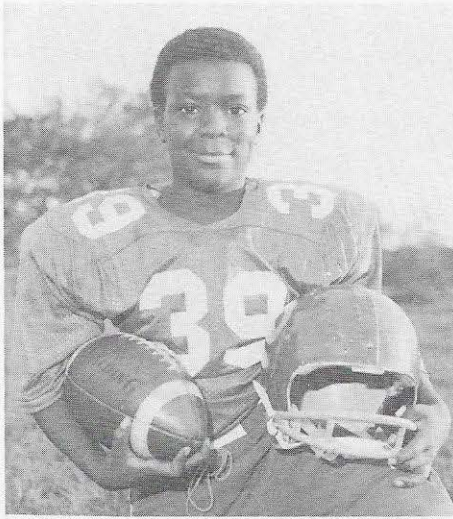
## Wed 50 years



**Lewis Price**, retired Roanoke stationman C, and his wife **Estelle** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 1 at their home. The Prices have one daughter, one son and five grandchildren. Their son, **Dean**, is a right of way agent senior in GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke.



## Roanoke



Robbie, son of Bill Morris, surveyor assistant-rod, was quarterback on the undefeated, untied, and unscored-on Ruffner Junior High football team, which was the Roanoke City junior high champion. An eighth grader at Ruffner, Robbie played six years of sandlot football with the Northwest Recreation Club.

**Robert D. Webster**, division manager, was elected a director of the Roanoke Valley Industries for a three-year term.

**John Wright**, power engineer senior, was elected president of the Roanoke Affiliate Chapter, American Diabetic Association. He is also on the board of directors of the Civitan Club of Roanoke and is chairman of the budget planning committee for Roanoke's First Baptist Church. □

## General Office

New officers of the Appa-Mo Club, a social organization for GO Accounting employees, Roanoke, are: **Sherry Graybeal**, electric plant clerk C, president; **Calvin Robertson**, general records clerk C, treasurer; and **Shelia Peters**, general records clerk B, secretary. **Joyce Lawson**, secretary, was elected to a two-year term as advisor.

**Ron Hogan**, electric plant accountant, GO Accounting, Roanoke, scored a hole-in-one at Countryside Golf Course recently. He was using a

6-iron on the par 3, 163-yard No. 6 hole.

Serving as officers of the Employee Vending Organization in the Roanoke General Office building are: **Jimmy Wagoner**, electric plant clerk B, president; **Isaac Webb, Jr.**, electrical engineer, vice president; and **William Booze**, office supply clerk, secretary-treasurer.

**Michael Rock**, operations improvement program coordinator, GO Executive, Roanoke, was elected to a second term as first lieutenant-training officer of the Troutville Volunteer Rescue Squad. His wife **Naomi** was elected vice president of the squad. Both are certified emergency medical shock trauma technicians and certified American Heart Association CPR instructor-trainers. Mike is also a life member of the Virginia Tech Volunteer Rescue Squad, where he was first lieutenant-training officer while attending VPI&SU.

**Jane Glover**, electric plant clerk A, GO Accounting, Roanoke, won \$250 for being the 2,000th person to visit a new Hardee's Restaurant in Roanoke.

**Anthony**, son of Elizabeth Barksdale, secretary-stenographer, GO T&D Administrative, Roanoke, graduated from Marine Corps basic training at Parris Island, S.C., in July. He attended Postal Clerk School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, and is currently stationed at the Marine Institute in Washington, D.C. □

## Mountaineer



**Roger Clark**, maintenance mechanic A, was elected president of the Mason County Fair Association. □



There's a little bit of Georgia in Mason County, West Virginia, thanks to Andy Trawick, assistant manager of Mountaineer Plant. Andy has donated this 1929 McCormick-Deering Farmall tractor to the Mason County Farm Museum at Point Pleasant, W. Va. The tractor was one of two purchased new by his father for use on their 400-acre farm in Linton, Georgia.

## Huntington

Sylvia Ridgeway, a teacher at Huntington High School, has been appointed by the state superintendent of schools to the basic skills task force to define what basic skills are needed for new and future teachers. Sylvia is the wife of Raymond Ridgeway, meter reader.



Jon Atchley, customer services advisor, won first place in both "First Timers" and "Speak Up Competition" at the West Virginia Jaycee convention Quarterly. His impromptu topic for

Speak Up Competition was, "Why I'm Proud to be an American."

Allen, husband of Cathy Taylor, stenographer in the AEP Lab, Huntington, along with partner Jack Barker won first place in the West Virginia Governor's Cup State Flatwater Championship Canoe Race. The 24-mile race was held on the Elk River in Buchanan, W. Va. Allen also took first place in the C-1 class in the West Virginia State Open Canoe Whitewater Championship Canoe Race. This was a 12-mile race from McCreedy Beach to Thurmond, W. Va. □

## Lynchburg

Sonny White, division superintendent, was elected vice president of the Lynchburg Society of Engineering and Science.

David Crews, personnel supervisor, was appointed Central District Explorer chairman for the Boy Scouts of America.

New officers of the Appalachian Retired Employees Association in Lynchburg are: Frank Smith, president; Jack Harker, vice president; Bob Hooper, secretary, and George Gillette, treasurer. Board members are Massie Howard, Kay Hudson, Roy Tibbs, Eugene Proehl and Agnes Dillard. □

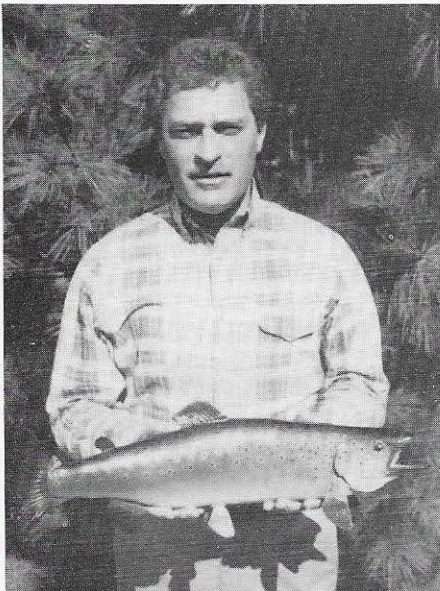


John E. Faust (seated), president of Kingsport Power Company, buys a share of stock in Conductors from its president, David Light. Conductors is the Junior Achievement company sponsored by KPCo. Looking on are, l. to r., J.A. Advisors Kay Powell, customer accounts clerk B; Debbie Church, junior clerk; Eugene Fields, engineering technician senior; and Howard Hudson, engineering supervisor. Conductors, operated by 28 Achievers from six area high schools, manufactures glass covered cheese boards, boot jacks and paper weights.



Six Amos Plant employees and members of their families participated in a five-mile run/walk-a-thon which raised \$450 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Buck McDaniel, safety coordinator at Amos, coordinated the event as the fund-raising chairman in the Hurricane area for the West Virginia/Kentucky Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Participants included, l. to r., Linda Habeb, junior clerk; Sharon Lett, plant clerk A; Jeannie Wray, personnel clerk C; Ona Willard, personnel clerk; Jon Wray; Carrolene Rollins, personnel clerk A; Buck McDaniel; and Sharry Willard.

## Abingdon



Dave, son of Bud Hutton, customer services representative senior, caught a world record 3 lb. 15 oz. brown trout in the Great Smoky Mountains, using a size 14 thunderhead. The trout, caught upstream from the Tremont Environmental Center, is the largest to be taken on two-pound test equipment.

Glenn Reynolds, division manager, was elected to a three-year term on the board of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

L.C. Angle, Jr., power engineer, presented a program on Stonewall Jackson at the November meeting of the Washington County Historical Society.

Award ribbons were presented to Shirley, wife of Marvin Croft, Accounting; Linda Kegley, Customer Services; Lois Campbell, Accounting; and Teresa, wife of Phil Young, Customer Services, for their home economic entries in the Washington County Tobacco Festival. The women are all members of the Washington County Suburban Extension Homemakers Club.

Linda Kegley, Customer Services, represented the Washington County Chapter of Professional Secretaries International at the Southeast District Conference in Norfolk, Va. □



When John Albaugh was promoted to plant engineer at Amos Plant recently, he treated his co-workers in the Performance Department with a 6-foot deli sandwich. Despite its size, the hungry technicians consumed the sandwich in record time.

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Burford



King



Ferrell



Falls

George Donald Burford, 84, retired Lynchburg meter service helper, died October 30. A native of Amherst County, Virginia, he was employed in 1927 as a groundman and retired July 1, 1963. Burford is survived by his widow Frenchie, 533 Eldon Avenue, Lynchburg, Va.; two sons; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William Hubert King, 64, retired Logan-Williamson line inspector, died November 8. A native of Huntinshirt, West Virginia, he was employed in 1946 as a meter helper in Williamson and elected early retirement April 1, 1980. King is survived by his widow Helen, Box 128, Belfry, Kentucky; one daughter; two sons; two brothers; two sisters and four grandchildren.

Archie Glen Ferrell, 69, retired Bluefield planner senior, died November 13. A native of Penvir, Virginia, he was employed in 1941 as an appliance serviceman in Bluefield and retired October 1, 1976. Ferrell is survived by his widow Nellie, 3206 Cumberland Road, Bluefield, W. Va.; one son; one daughter and five grandsons.

Marcus B. Falls, 64, retired Huntington PBX operator, died October 28. A native of Blueridge Springs, Virginia, he began his career in 1953 as a junior clerk and retired August 1, 1966. Falls is survived by his widow Ruth, Route 2, Box 2123, Summerfield, Florida, one son and one daughter. His son, Gary, is a line mechanic A in Huntington. □

# WEDDINGS



Hutton-Bowers



Lawson-Kilgore



Merrifield-Hall



Smith-Sink



Paterson-Spicer



Stillwell-Browning



Walter-Elder

Angela Sue Bowers to James Hutton, September 25. Angela Sue is the daughter of Jackie L. Bowers, Abingdon automotive mechanic A.

Gina Lynn Kilgore to Chris Lynn Lawson, October 1. Gina Lynn is the daughter of C.E. Kilgore, Kingsport engineering technician.

Rita Jo Hall to Terry Lee Merrifield, November 5. Rita Jo is the daughter of David Hall, Kanawha River Plant maintenance mechanic B.

Donna Celeste Sink to Joe Allen Smith, Roanoke line mechanic D, October 23.

Cathy Ann Spicer to Allan Clark Paterson, October 15. Cathy Ann is the daughter of Kenneth Spicer, Roanoke line crew supervisor exempt.

Arnetta Browning to David R. Stillwell, Logan energy services engineer, August 27.

Sheila K. Elder, Beckley junior stenographer, to Donald R. Walter, Beckley line mechanic C, November 20.

Mary Etta Quesenberry, Pulaski personnel clerk C, to Wayne C. Greene, October 22.

Debra Dunn to Jerry L. Jeffers, John Amos Plant utility operator B, October 21. □

## BIRTHS

### John Amos

Matthew Edgar, son of Thermon Taylor, maintenance mechanic A, October 25.

Angela, daughter of Harold Hedrick, utility worker, November 11.

### Bluefield

Stephanie Dawn, daughter of Jerry Phillips, station mechanic C, November 3.

### Charleston

Julia Lacey, daughter of Harold Wiseman, power engineer, October 31.

Richard Travis, son of Richard Garretson, auto mechanic B, October 16.

### General Office

Zachary Alan, son of Jerry Zwart, operations engineer senior, GO Operations, Roanoke, November 9.

Allison Moore, daughter of James Perry, labor relations assistant, November 10.

### Kanawha River

Gregory Allen, son of Allen Tinnel, performance engineer, November 2.

### Logan-Williamson

Alisa Marie, daughter of David Stone, engineering technician senior, Logan, October 15.

### Mountaineer

Matthew Bradley, son of Brad Yoho, performance engineer, October 14.

Joseph Scott, son of Ron Cale, utility operator A, October 25.

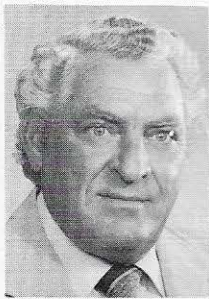
### Roanoke

Sean Thomas, son of Tim Lawlor, customer services advisor, October 15.

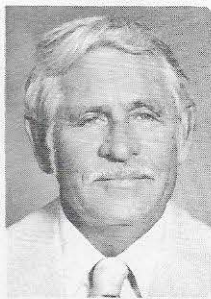
Stephanie Dawn, daughter of H.J. Berger, Jr., Rocky Mount line mechanic C, September 5.

Justin Matthew, son of Mike Swalley, Rocky Mount office supervisor, October 31.

# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



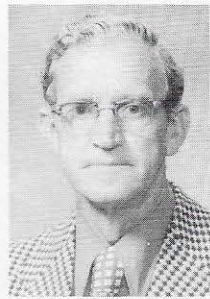
**Ancel Hutton, Jr.**  
cust. serv. rep. sr.  
Abingdon  
35 years



**Lewis Ingram**  
general servicer  
Fieldale (Rke.)  
35 years



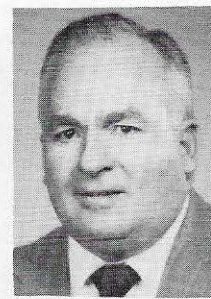
**C.H. McCallister**  
line con. & main. rep.  
Huntington  
35 years



**Henry Jones**  
general servicer  
Abingdon  
35 years



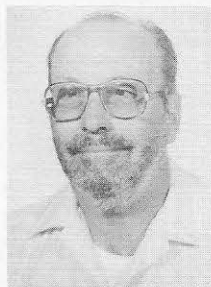
**Eulalia Footo**  
T&D clerk A  
Bluefield  
35 years



**Ray Thomas**  
drafter A  
Lynchburg  
35 years



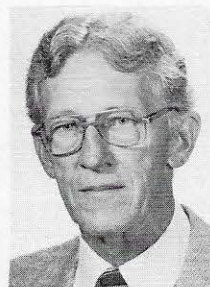
**Elmo Payne**  
stores supv. A  
GO-Roanoke  
35 years



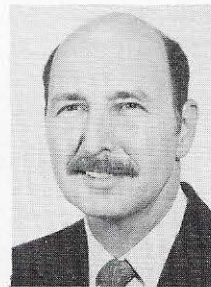
**Alfred Jones**  
line con. & main. rep.  
Charleston  
35 years



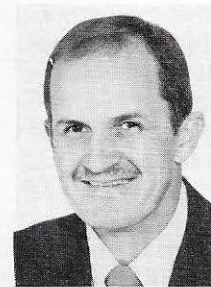
**George Abshire**  
inst. maint. supv  
John Amos  
30 years



**Delmer Cavender**  
office supervisor  
Charleston  
30 years



**Glenn Douglas**  
shift operating eng.  
Mountaineer  
25 years



**Ralph Matthews**  
yard superintendent  
Mountaineer  
25 years

## Abingdon

15 years: Thomas Russ, line crew supervisor nonexempt.

## John Amos

10 years: Larry Wilkinson, maintenance mechanic A. Billy Clark, utility operator A. Floyd Baier, control technician senior. 5 years: Kenneth Parsons, performance technician. Richard Aeberli, maintenance mechanic A. Anthony Wallace, maintenance mechanic A. David Cawley, maintenance mechanic A. Jerry Starkey, maintenance mechanic B.

## Bluefield

10 years: Calvin Belcher, Jr., meter reader. 5 years: Alex Yazdani, electrical engineer. Floyd Wilson, Jr., station mechanic B.

## Charleston

15 years: Lenders Oxyer, line mechanic A.

## Clinch River

40 years: Eugene Wyatt, coal equipment operator.

## General Office

35 years: Mildred Smith, customer accounting clerk A, GO Accounting, Roanoke. 25 years: Gene Garner, transmission inspector, GO-Bluefield. 15 years: Richard Hill, transmission inspector, GO-Bluefield. Linda Frith, general records clerk B, GO-Roanoke. James Buch-



**Andy Crews**  
head meter reader  
Lynchburg  
25 years



**Lee Martin**  
maintenance mech. C  
Glen Lyn  
20 years

anan, Jr., engineering technologist, GO-Bluefield. 10 years: Gayle Thomasson, electric plant clerk A, GO-Roanoke. Sue Hankins, stenographer, GO-Bluefield. Fred Beck, senior reproduction machine operator, GO-Roanoke. 5 years: Steven Ellison, transmission mechanic C, GO-Bluefield. Debbie Taliaferro, load research data processor C, GO-Roanoke. Mark White, transmission mechanic C, GO-Roanoke. Richard Moody, transmission mechanic C, GO-Bluefield.

## Glen Lyn

10 years: Harry Johnson, coal sampler.

## Kanawha River

10 years: Gary Morris, instrument mechanic D. Elsie Allen, stores clerk A.

## Lynchburg

35 years: Leroy Baker, general servicer. 10 years: Larry Ring, stores attendant. 5 years: Raymond Copeland, automotive mechanic A. R.G. Ramsey, meter electrician C.

## Mountaineer

5 years: Lee Gangwer, utility operator A.

## Pulaski

15 years: Smitty Smith, line crew supervisor nonexempt. Sonny Westmoreland, line crew supervisor nonexempt. Nathan Via, line mechanic A. 5 years: Roger Turpin, station mechanic C (LTD). Ricky Hall, station mechanic B. Carol Webb, customer accounts representative C.

## Roanoke

15 years: Robert Johnson, line mechanic A. Roger Dillon, line mechanic A. Doyle Hamilton, engineering technician. 10 years: Ruth Viperman, customer accounting supervisor nonexempt. 5 years: Herbert Abbott, Jr., line mechanic C.

## Philip Sporn

15 years: Frank Ryther, fire protection inspector. Glenn Evans, maintenance mechanic A. 10 years: Herman Elliott, maintenance mechanic B. 5 years: Elmer Dempsey, maintenance mechanic B. James McDougal, auxiliary equipment operator. Larry Scarberry, maintenance mechanic D. □

# Pickin' and grinnin' with Horizon

Almost from the moment he picked up his first plastic ukulele as a kid, Herbie Campbell has had an abiding interest in music.

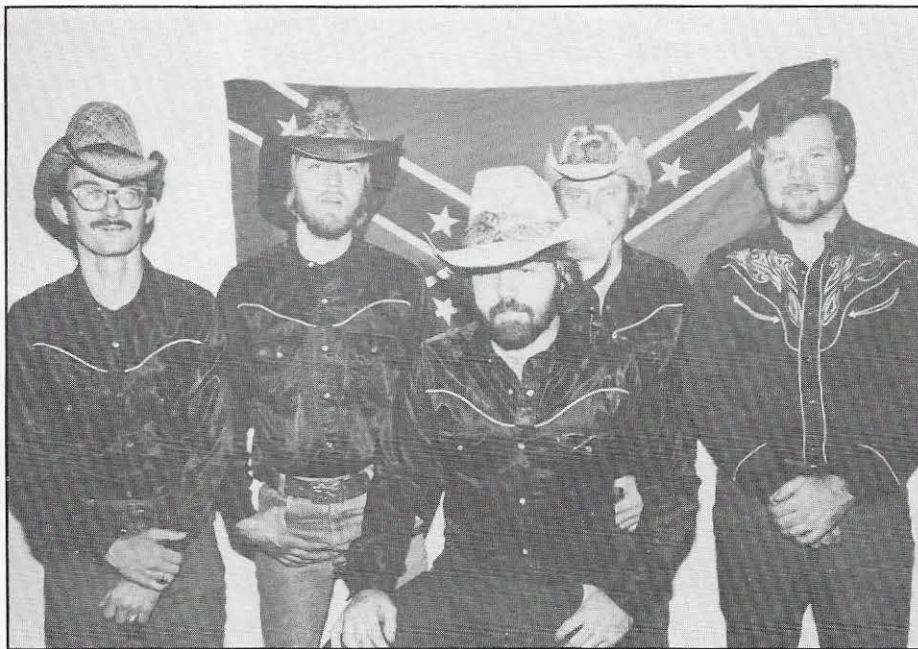
"I played in my first talent show at Mountain View Elementary School in Roanoke," Herbie said. "I loved all kinds of music but eventually settled into country and western. The Hilltop on Shenandoah Avenue in Roanoke is where I used to get together with a lot of the pickers in the Valley.

Herbie really leads two lives, as far as income is concerned. He sings lead vocal and plays guitar and banjo for a five-man group named Horizon. He attributes his music talent to his mother, who plays the piano, although an uncle on his father's side is a professional musician. Herbie is also a licensed electrician and works full-time in the maintenance department at the ITT Electro Optical Products Division plant in Roanoke. This side he attributes to his father H.A. Campbell, who is a general servicer in Roanoke Division.

Horizon, whose members have been together for only 14 months, is one of the busiest bands in the Valley. "We're booked every weekend for several months. I think we've clicked really well for a group where all the members work full-time jobs during the day," he said.

On a regular basis the group can practice only on weekends. "We all get along real well. In fact, we have yet to have our first argument. I think this comes through when we're on stage. We've attracted a real loyal following; some people follow us around wherever we play. This means a lot to us," he said.

One of the most recent good things to happen to Horizon involved a trip to Nashville. In October the Vinton downtown business association sponsored a festival to promote business. Part of the festival was a musical contest. At almost the last minute Horizon decided to enter the contest and won first place. The prize was an all-expense-paid weekend trip to Nashville in conjunction with a charter trip for the Songwriters Convention and the Fiddle and Banjo Club in the Valley.



Members of the Horizon band, one of the busiest in the Roanoke Valley, are: (from left) Tommy Davis, Frank Repath, Herbie Campbell, Buddy States and Jerry Fleming.

"The first night we were in Nashville our schedule called for the whole group of people we had come down with to have dinner at a club called the



Herbie Campbell sings lead vocal and plays guitar and banjo for Horizon.

Cannery. Well, they told us to take our instruments with us. So, we had dinner, and they called us up to play a couple of songs. We ended up playing about 40 minutes. I'd say about 80 percent of the audience was from different parts of Virginia. We got a big reception.

"The next night, Saturday, we were scheduled to appear on the Grand Old Opry. But this show was right around the time that one of the Wilburn Brothers, Doyle, died. So, his brother Teddy played a song for him. This was in the time when we would have appeared," Herbie said.

"We're hoping something good will come out of the trip, which was real well done by the Vinton merchants. There were some agents in the audience at the Cannery, and they asked us to send some tapes. They are looking for creativity, and that's what we have to work on. If we could get together on some original material, I believe we could really go. I've worked on some things in the past but have never published anything."

Herbie said it would take a good contract for the group members to give up their jobs and hit the road as full-time musicians. But he would love to do it if the right opportunity came along. □

# Is the kerosene heater a smart buy?

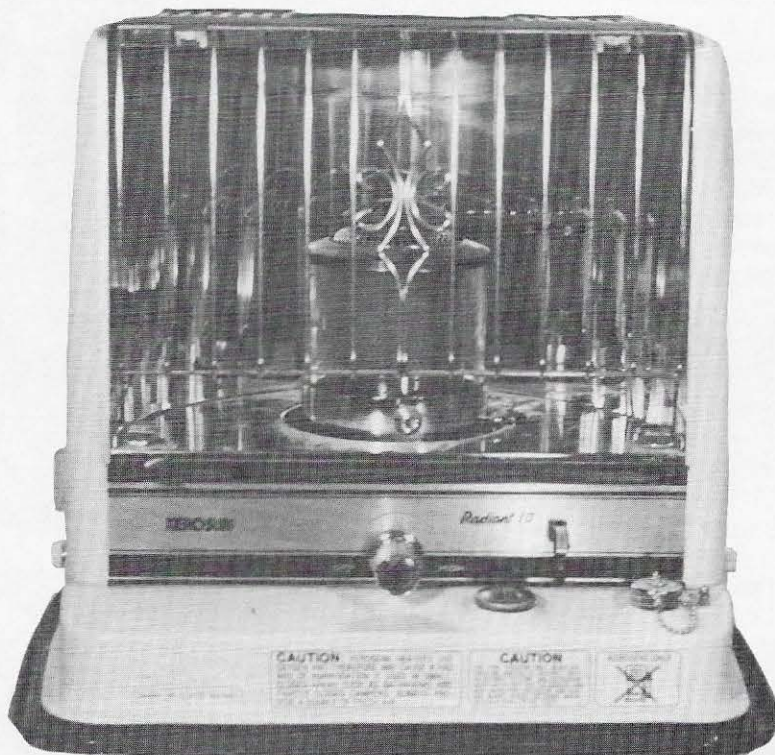
Just prior to the winter of 1981-82, an old concept in space heating — the kerosene heater — was resurrected. Heating with kerosene is nothing new. Despite kerosene's disadvantages (indoor-pollution, fire hazard and burns) millions of Americans used kerosene heaters until they were virtually outlawed during the 1940s and 1950s.

Today's newer models are being heavily advertised. Three-million units were sold last year alone. As a result of the kerosene heater's recent popularity, *Consumer Reports* published an in-depth analysis in its October issue. Three questions were given considerable attention: Do they pollute indoor air? Are they safe? And do they save on the utility bill?

First, the question of pollution. *Consumer Reports* considered the indoor air-pollution hazard to be the kerosene heater's most serious drawback. They are not vented to the outside as are furnaces and wood-burning stoves. As a result, their products of combustion collect within the home. Although the kerosene heater industry claims that the heaters present no indoor contamination hazard, *Consumer Reports* found them to be significantly hazardous, particularly for those with respiratory ailments. The tests examined levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide produced. The results were unanimous: kerosene heaters produce levels of pollutants exceeding manufacturers' stated levels and, in most cases, exceed maximum acceptable levels established by the federal government. The contaminant problem is enhanced when heaters are improperly adjusted or when lower grades of kerosene are used.

*Consumer Reports* questioned the safety of kerosene heaters. If the unit is tipped over when in use, a serious fire hazard exists. Normal temperature of a typical heater is reported to be between 750° - 800° and can cause a severe burn if touched or a fire if it comes into contact with combustible materials.

Do they save on the utility bill? This question is more difficult to answer



for some parts of the country — but not in AEP's service area.

A recent AEP Customer Services Department study, based primarily on the *Consumer Reports* findings, revealed that most of the AEP System's residential customers would experience a lower operating cost with a portable electric heater if the cost of a gallon of kerosene were at least \$1.75 and if the kerosene heater operated at its 90 percent rated efficiency. However, *Consumer Reports* studies indicated that the average "measured" efficiency for kerosene is only 63.6 percent and not 90 percent. Under such circumstances, any residential customer served by any of the eight AEP operating companies would experience a lower cost for heating if he chose a portable electric heater.

In any case, the cost effectiveness of kerosene heaters is questionable when initial cost and annual maintenance are considered. *Consumer Reports* recommended considering a portable electric heater.

In addition to the pollution and energy-saving aspects, the article examined other points that make kerosene

heaters less than desirable. One often overlooked fact is that they cannot be thermostatically controlled but have only one heat setting — full on.

Before purchasing a kerosene heater, carefully reading the October issue of *Consumer Reports* is a must. □

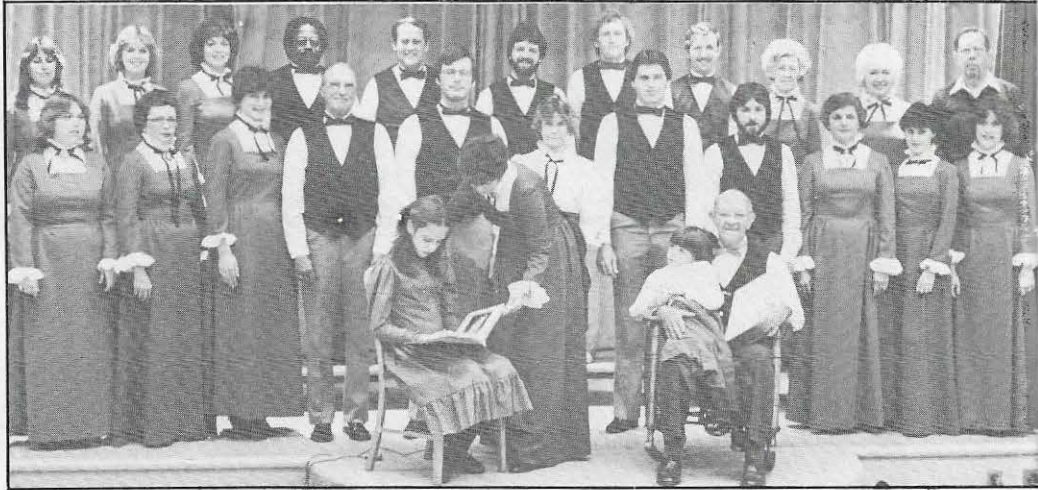
# An old fashioned Christmas

Employees in the Roanoke General Office building will be treated to "An Old Fashioned Christmas" December 20 when the Appalachian Chorus gives their annual Christmas concert.

The tradition began in 1971, the year the chorus was formed, and has continued for 10 of the past 11 years. The chorus will also give two performances for retired employees and friends on December 19 at 2 and 4 p.m. in the Appalachian auditorium.

Shut-ins are not forgotten either, according to the choir's business manager, Tom Hubbard, electric plant accounting supervisor. "We plan to rent a bus again this year and go caroling at the homes of people who are sick or shut-in. The Personnel Department provides us with a list of names. One year, for example, we went to the home of an employee whose son was dying of cancer. And we always visit John Terry, who is on LTD, because we still consider him part of us. (John was one of the original members of the chorus.) We always get a tremendous welcome wherever we go," Tom adds.

The chorus will also be spreading Christmas cheer throughout the Roanoke Valley, with evening performances scheduled for three nurs-



The Appalachian Chorus pictured at a dress rehearsal for their "Old Fashioned Christmas" concert.

ing homes and two civic organizations.

"The greatest reaction the chorus ever had — and I don't think there was a dry eye in the group — was at a Methodist retirement home in Nashville, Tennessee," Tom says. "A 90-year-old lady was chosen to respond to us when we finished our performance. She was stooped and used a walker; but, when she stood up, she said in a loud, clear voice: "This morning when I got up I had never heard of the Appalachian Power Company. But after having the pleasure of hear-

ing you people sing and knowing that you came down here at your own expense, I know that the Appalachian Power Company is a very, very great company."

The 24-voice chorus is directed by Evelyn Scott, GO personnel clerk C. Lila Munsey, civil engineer, GO Hydro, is pianist, and Paul Bernard, operations coordinator, GO Operations, is percussionist. All expenses of the chorus for music, costumes and props are paid through fund raising projects such as bake sales, flea markets and cook book sales. □



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