



Bestseller

Everything you always  
wanted to know about  
the **Thrift Plan**\*

Explained by  
**Plain Talks, April, 1976**

\* BUT HAVE NOT ASKED



## Wake Up, America!

The death of 24 miners and two Federal mine inspectors in March after underground mine explosions in Kentucky is grisly evidence that gathering raw materials for the energy industry is dangerous.

The tragedy underscores the need to develop a balanced policy for energy production, exploiting all feasible and economical sources. If we depend solely on coal to generate our electrical needs, mine shut-downs — whether due to disasters or strikes — could threaten the country's economic health.

A balanced strategy should include the use of the safest, cleanest and cheapest source of generating electricity for the future — nuclear energy.

There is danger in all occupations, unfortunately. But building, operating and fueling a nuclear plant presents less risk to the public than similar coal- or oil-fired plants.

Mining disasters are regrettable — but neither rare nor readily preventable. Besides deaths from explosions and cave-ins, black lung disease shortens many coal miners' lives.

Oilfield deaths, too, are not unusual. A worker fell off an offshore rig south of Sabine Pass last month and died.

These workers and their families risk death to provide a living for themselves and, as a result, energy for all Americans.

On all measures of performance, the exploitation of nuclear resources stacks up as a prudent course to take. The risks are easily within the limits society has undertaken in the past.

And the benefits are great, indeed.

Look at the record.

A recently-released study by the Atomic Industrial Forum (AIF) showed the generated cost of nuclear-generated electricity to be 12.27 mills (1.227 cents) per kilowatt-hour, including the massive construction costs.\* "This was 63 per cent less than oil (33.45 mills) and 30 per cent less than coal (17.54 mills), "the report stated.

What does this mean to the customers?

Northeast Utilities, a Connecticut-based firm with two nuclear units and partial interest in four others, said the differences between nuclear power and replacement fuel oil saved its one million customers

\$82 million last year. That's an average saving of \$82 per customer.

Virginia Electric & Power Co. said its customers saved \$100 million by having 26 per cent of their electricity generated by nuclear power plants.

Boston Edison's half million customers saved \$31.3 million last year, too.

Commonwealth Edison's 2.7 million customers saved \$125 million because 35 per cent of its load was generated by nuclear power plants. Their alternative was coal.

Thomas H. Lee of General Electric has said the estimated 10-year levelized cost of power from a nuclear power plant beginning operation in 1984 will be 42 mills per kilowatt-hour. That may sound expensive, but his same study showed a coal-burning plant — whether it used high-or low-sulfur coal — would produce power for 60 mills per kilowatt-hour. That's 30 per cent more than nuclear.

Does the consumer want to pay more for the same electricity?

Last year's savings across the country from the generation of electricity from nuclear power plants came to \$2 billion.

Moreover, had that electricity been generated by oil or coal, an additional 10 billion gallons of oil or 55 million tons of coal would have been burned.

"Oil and/or coal prices would have risen and there would have been more sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere," said Carl Walske, AIF president.

And it's "consumer advocates" and "environmentalists" that are attacking nuclear power?

Wolves in sheeps' clothing, rather.

Take a closer look at three major concerns: safety, economics and environment.

### Safety

The safety record of the nuclear industry is exemplary. No member of the public has died as a result of the operation of the 58 nuclear-powered generating stations in America.

The coal mining industry has the worst safety record of any industrial grouping, according to the National Safety Council. The latest figures available — 1973 — show an accident rate of 35.44 disabling injuries per million man-hours worked — more than triple the industrial average. The severity of those in-

\*Information on the AIF study can be obtained by writing to INFO, Atomic Industrial Forum, 7101 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, D.C. 20014.

# PLAIN TALKS

Volume 54 - Number 2

April, 1976

Published Monthly By  
Consumer Communication Dept.

Mike Ross, Editor

Joe E. DeJean, Coordinator,  
Consumer Communication

Pat McMeel, Contributing Editor, Beaumont  
Bill Benedetto, Contributing Editor, Baton Rouge  
Ken Haynie, Artist

GULF STATES UTILITIES CO.  
P. O. Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

## Inside P.T.

- 2 Everything you always wanted to know about the Thrift Plan
- 6 Hull's hellraising electric fiddler
- 9 GSU News
- 14 Retirements
- 15 50 Years Ago
- 16 People on the Move
- 22 Service Awards
- 24 How to find that secret fishing hole

### ABOUT THE COVER

The Thrift Plan — like sex — is one of those topics a lot of people talk about without ever relying on more than innuendo and hearsay for "facts." Since 1957, employes working with the Company longer than one year have been able to contribute a percentage of their earnings to the plan. The Company adds half-again as much directly into the employe's account. Whether to choose stock — with high dividends and long-term capital gain potential — or savings — with secure, if moderate, income — is a decision only the employe can make. *Plain Talks* hopes to clear up a few questions you might have — including how withdrawals are made and how investments are arranged — with this question-and-answer article. Much of the text will be published in an updated Thrift Plan booklet to be sent to employes in May.

#1

Bestseller

Everything you always  
wanted to know about  
the Thrift Plan\*

Explained by  
Plain Talks, April, 1976

\*BUT HAVE NOT ASKED

# Everything you always wanted to know about the Thrift Plan

**What is the Thrift Plan?** The Thrift Plan is a program whereby the Company contributes funds to employees who allow money to be invested in savings accounts or Gulf States stock.

**When was it formed?** The plan was approved by the Board of Directors Feb. 11, 1957; authorized by shareholders June 10, 1957; and became effective Aug. 1, 1957.

**Why was the plan formed?** The plan was formed to encourage and assist employees in a long-range program of savings and to assist the Company in securing and retaining qualified personnel.

**Who may participate?** All regular and full-time employees who have been continuously employed by the Company for at least one year may participate.

## Putting Money In

**How much may an employee contribute?** An employee may designate about 2 per cent, 4 per cent or 6 per cent of his salary to be put into the plan. The percentages are based on salary groupings and are not necessarily exact percentages of every person's salary.

**Is overtime considered in the deductions?** No. Only the annual, straight-time compensation rate is used to calculate deductions.

**How much does the Company contribute?** The Company adds to an employee's account 50 cents for every dollar the employee contributes.

**How is Thrift Plan money invested?** An employee can designate one of three options, or combinations thereof, for his or her money. Savings, common stock and preferred stock can be bought with Thrift Plan money. The plan lists the option of buying U. S. Savings bonds, but current Treasury Department regulations make that option impractical to administer properly.

**Can a person invest part of his deductions in each option?** Yes. The employee can specify a percentage (multiple of 10, like 20 percent or 60 per cent, but

not 48 per cent) of his deductions to be invested in any of the options.

**How many employees participate in the Thrift Plan?** As of February, 1976, 2,439 participated in the Thrift Plan. That is 91 per cent of the eligible employees.

**What is the breakdown of investment directives?** Nearly half — 48 per cent — of those participating in the Thrift Plan put all of their money into savings. Nearly 44 per cent buy common stock with all of theirs. Just less than one per cent buy preferred stock, and 8 per cent invest in a combination of alternatives.

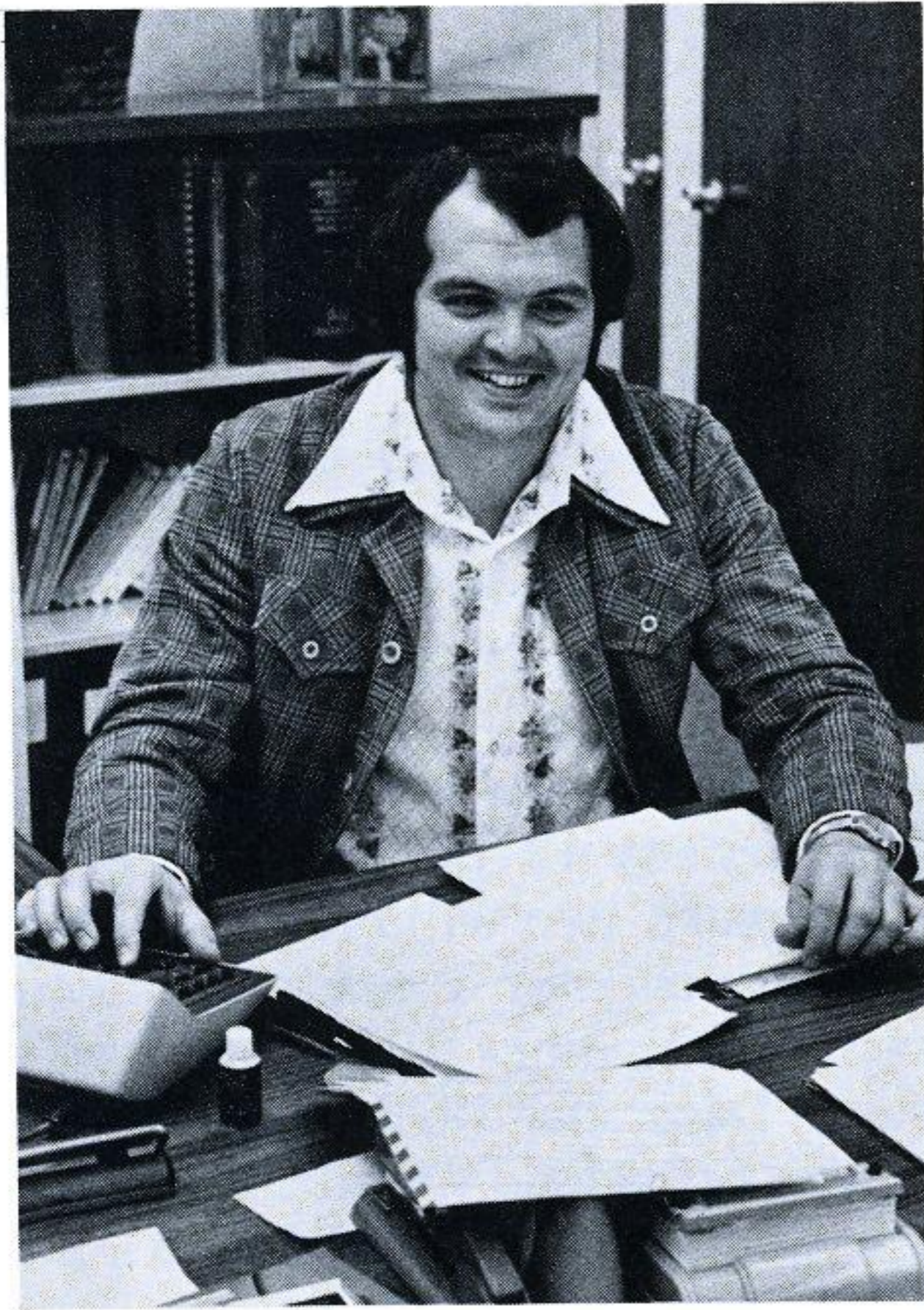
**Can the person change that percentage?** Yes. By filling out a change form, an employee can change the percentages of his or her contributions. But you cannot change more than once every three months.

**Can a person change how much is deducted?** Yes. Just fill out a change form. Again, you cannot change deduction percentages or the manner of investment more than once every three months.

**Who do I contact to get these change forms?** Call payroll department in Beaumont (ext. 3320) or a designated person in your area.

**When are deductions made?** Deductions for classified payroll are made on the pay period closest to the end of the month. Management payroll deductions come on the last day of the month paycheck.

**Can I make up any contributions if I had been deducting less than the full 6 per cent?** Yes. If you have deposited 2 per cent or 4 per cent during any one year or for any two consecutive years, you can deposit 8 per cent or 10 per cent until the difference between your deposits and what you would have deposited at 6 per cent all along is made up. Company contributions will not exceed what it would have added had the percentages been 6 per cent for the whole time. So, if you got a raise, the Company's total contribution would be computed on the wage rates in effect when you were contributing less.



The people who administer the Thrift Plan: (left to right) Dennis Singletary, administrative accountant; Helen Byrd, confidential records clerk; and LeMelle Triplett, payroll administrator.

### Investing the Money

**How are Thrift Plan investments arranged?** That depends on the option you choose.

**What about savings?** Deposits dedicated to savings are initially placed in a passbook savings account at First Security National Bank of Beaumont, which is also the trustee of the Thrift Plan. Should a more attractive savings investment come along, money may be reinvested in it by the trustee. Lately, the plan has purchased huge certificates of deposit (CD's), which have been earning more interest than the passbook savings. Passbook savings draw 5 per cent, compounded daily. But some CD's bought in 1974 and 1975 reached as high as 11 per cent yield. Now that interest rates are down, the yield is 5.7 per cent.

**Who decides what type of CD is bought?** The trustee, with the assistance of the secretary, assistant secretary or other members of the Thrift Plan Committee, determines what savings investment to make. Members of the committee are Floyd R. Smith, chairman of the Board of Directors; Thomas A. Page, executive vice president; and William E. Heaner, vice president-personnel manager. Committee alternates are Robert W. Jackson, secretary and treasurer, alternate for Smith; James L. Braswell, controller, alternate for Page; and J. Ted Meinscher Jr., director-industrial relations, alternate for Heaner.

**How are the stocks bought?** It always seems that the average price is higher than I remember seeing listed in the paper. At the beginning of each month, each account is checked to see how much money — the employee's and the Company's — it contains for investment. The payroll department estimates what the price per share will be and calculates the number of whole shares each person can buy. These numbers

are added up for all accounts, and the trustee is told how many shares of common and preferred stock to buy.

Before stock is bought on the open market, however, a little trading goes on. If one employe is selling stock for a withdrawal and another employe is buying stock, the stock is passed from the seller to the buyer without having left the vault at First Security. This is called "matching out." No commissions are paid in such transfers. The price used in the transfer is the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange.

After the match outs, more stock is bought as needed. Joe Fisher Jr., assistant vice president and trust officer for investments at First Security, currently directs the purchase of the stock. Normal commissions must be paid on these purchases. But these costs are distributed over the whole purchase of stocks, including the match outs, in computing the average price per share.

The price paid for the stock may be more or less than you saw in the paper. Remember, however, that the price in the paper does not include commission costs. Because the plan uses match outs and buys in bulk lots whenever possible, the plan's commissions are usually considerably less than if you bought your shares yourself.

**It sure seems like we buy the stock awfully high. Does the trustee do that on purpose? Do Thrift Plan purchases — large blocks that they are — drive up the price of the stock?** The answer to both questions is no, according to Fisher. He says the price of utilities' stocks has been fluctuating with interest rates more than any other market influence. If he doesn't get a clear signal which way interest rates are going, he'll buy the stock within a week of getting notice of the shares needed — usually in the first two weeks of the

month.

The Company made a study of our stock prices a few years back to find out if buying small amounts of stock throughout the month would be a better idea. It turned out that the price paid by the trustee was right on the average over a period of time. There weren't any cycles in the stock representing either seasonal variations or disruptions caused by the Thrift Plan purchases.

The purchase of preferred stock is often affected by up to two points when the Thrift Plan buys or sells that class of stock. That is because there is so little trading that you have to offer dramatic increase or decrease in the price of the stock to execute the directive of the participant for so few shares.

**Does First Security get any money from the plan? They don't hold the money and buy the stock for free, do they?** First Security charges the Company a management fee for investing the money in stocks and CD's. Last year this fee was about \$15,000 — less than .1 per cent of the assets in the plan.

**Do Thrift Plan participants pay this fee?** No. The Company pays the trustee's management fee. It is not reflected in the employee's yield or commission charged participants.

**How are my interest and dividends reinvested?** Interest earned in the savings plan and dividends paid on stock are combined, giving a dollar figure. Then they are invested in the same manner as a deduction. Say you get half stock and half savings and earn \$10 interest and \$20 dividends one quarter. The total is \$30, which is split \$15-\$15 for reinvestment in savings and stock.

## Taking Money Out

**When can I get my and the Company's money from the Thrift Plan account?** When you leave the Company or retire. Should you die, the account will be liquidated and paid to your beneficiary or your estate.

**You mean I can't withdraw any money until I retire or quit?** No. You can withdraw money you have contributed, but not the Company's money.

**Well, how can I withdraw my money?** Fill out a withdrawal form. State the amount you'd like to withdraw and send the form to payroll department.

**How much can I withdraw?** You may withdraw any funds you have contributed to the plan at any time, but no more than is in your account.

**Are there any penalties if I withdraw my money?** That depends on how long you've been in the plan. If you withdraw anything during your first two years in the plan, you're suspended for another two years. If you've been in for more than two years but less than five years, you will be suspended if you withdraw more than half of the deposits made by you. If

you've participated for more than five years but less than 10 years, you will be suspended for one year if you withdraw more than 75 per cent of your total deposits.

**Does that include the Company's money added in?** No. Just the total dollars invested by you are used to compute withdrawal allowances.

**What about after I've been with the Company 10 years?** Then you can withdraw as much of your money as you like. You still cannot withdraw the Company's contributions to your account until you retire or quit.

**How many times can I withdraw my money during a year?** Only once during any 12-month period without a penalty. If you make two withdrawals within 12 months, you're suspended for a year. So if you make a withdrawal in December 1975, you can't make another one until December 1976.

**What happens if I'm suspended?** Your deductions are halted, as are the Company contributions to your account.

**What about the money — mine and the Company's — still in my account?** It continues to earn dividends and interest like it always did.

**Why did it take me so long to get the money I wanted to withdraw? My buddy got his right away.** The payroll group makes withdrawals and purchases for the Thrift Plan once a month. At the beginning of the month, applications for withdrawals received the previous month are processed at the same time the purchases are made, facilitating the match out procedure. So if you put a withdrawal in during the first week in February, it would be early March — a whole month — before you got your money. But if you placed your request late in February, you'd still get your money in early March. It's too much of a book-keeping hassle to do it any other way. Be aware of the monthly deadline, and you won't be surprised by any delays.

**Can I use the money in the Thrift Plan for collateral on a loan?** No. Neither your money nor the Company's contributions may be used for collateral on a loan.

**When I retire, how long do I have to take my money out?** You can wait up to 12 months before liquidating your Thrift Plan account. This allows you to spread the gains into another tax-year so you're not hit with a big income tax the year you retire.

**Do I have to report the interest and dividends earned by my Thrift Plan account?** Not until you leave the Company and your account is liquidated. The same goes for the Company's contributions and any capital gains accrued. You don't report any of it until you cash in all the chips.

**How about withdrawals?** Don't report them either. It's your money you're withdrawing. You've already paid tax on it when it was deducted from your paycheck.

# Looking over the shoulder of the Thrift Plan stock buyer

By all standard measures of the stock market, the new Gulf States common stock issued in January looked like a good deal.

The stock had hit a new high earlier that month, yet the issuance of stock usually depresses the value of the stock. So the new issue — free of commissions — was thought to be the low point for quite some time.

Moreover, interest rates were falling. Since utility stocks have been tracking with interest rates, when the rates go down, utility stocks go up.

So Joe Fisher Jr., assistant vice president and trust officer at First Security National Bank in Beaumont, bought more than 11,000 shares of the new issue as trustee of the Gulf States Thrift Plan.

Now the Gulf States common is trading in the low 13s. Why didn't it go up? Was buying the new issue the best deal? Can't "professionals" tell when the stock is going up or down?

Such are the hassles Fisher faces as stock buyer for the Thrift Plan and 84 other trusts. Figure as he might to get the best deal for the participants, there'll always be a second-guesser breathing down your neck.

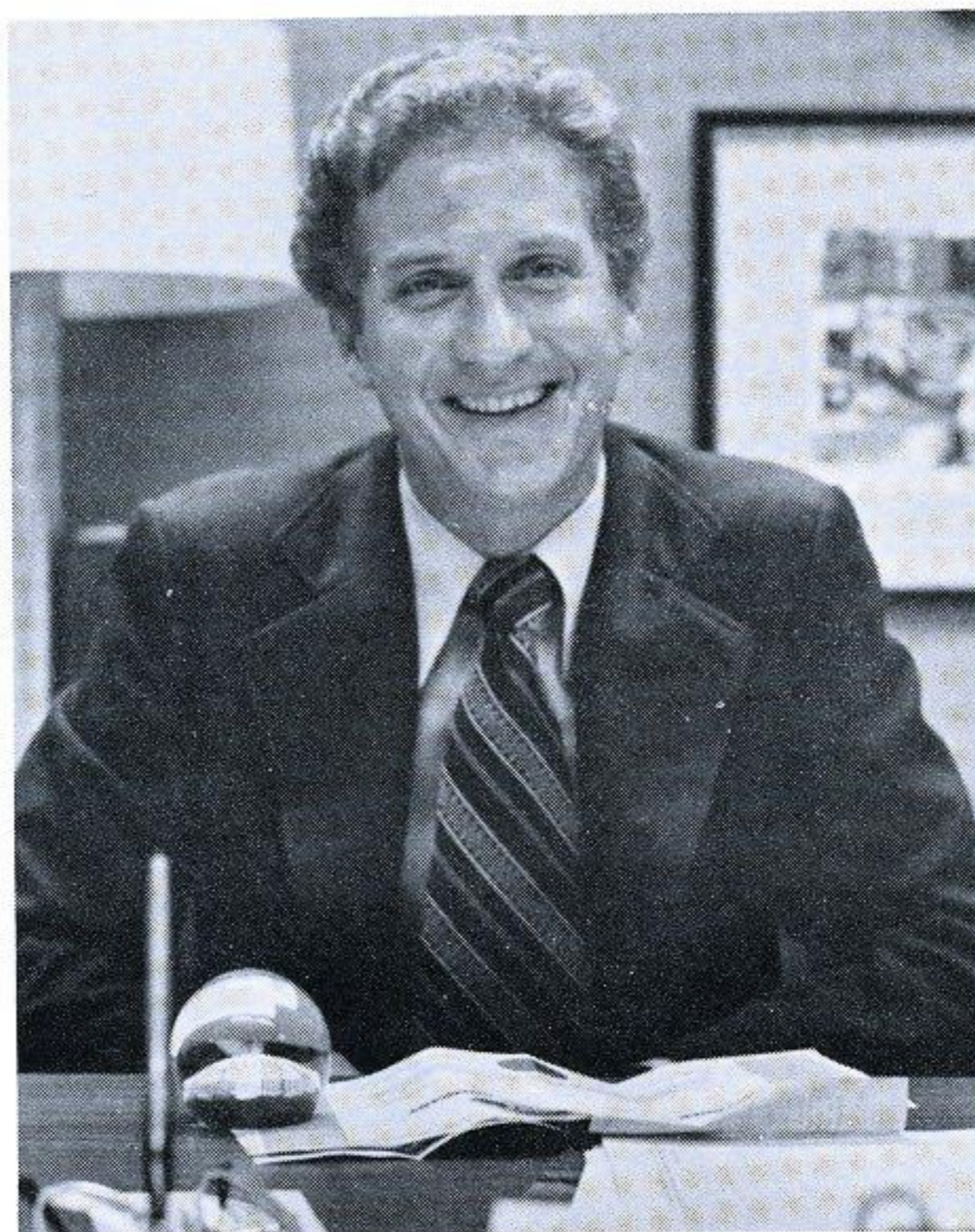
"It's a no-win situation," Fisher admits.

Timing of Thrift Plan stock purchases is a very difficult affair. Gulf States stock, like most utility stocks nowadays, doesn't move with market influences or news about the Company as much as with the variance in interest rates.

The new issue was a prime example, Fisher said. Interest rates turned around right after the sale and started increasing again. The stock price fell accordingly. It also didn't help that the issue was not sold out by the syndicate that handled the sale.

Stock for the Thrift Plan is bought every month.

"LaMelle Triplett calls on the fourth or fifth of the month and tells me I need to buy so many shares of common and so many shares of preferred," Fisher said. "Normally, I'll start buying the stock then and complete purchases within a few days.



Joseph J. Fisher Jr.

"If I feel the stock is going down, I'll wait until later in the month."

Trying to predict the movements of a lightly-traded stock like Gulf States is not easy. Fisher said he looks for changes in the money supply and inflation expectation — both of which affect interest rates — as well as "block reports" distributed by brokerage firms. These reports show persons wishing to buy or sell large blocks of stocks.

"If I see selling interest in the block reports, I'll wait and buy later when the price is lower," Fisher said. "If there's buying interest, I'll do the opposite and buy early in the month."

Invariably, cynics think they could do a better job.

"You're damned if you do and damned if you don't," Fisher said good naturedly. "If the stock price goes up and we haven't bought, you could say: 'Why didn't you buy early?' If it goes down, you'd complain: 'Why didn't you wait?'"

"We're paid to use our best judgement in buying the stock — but we're not given much leeway, since we have to buy Gulf States common and preferred each month," Fisher said. "We're taking an unnecessary risk from the trustee standpoint if we don't buy the stock fairly soon after we're notified how many shares to purchase that month.

"If I don't get any strong indication which way the stock will go, I'll start buying a few thousand shares at a time when I get the call from LaMelle."

The timing of the purchase is more important than the commission rate paid, but the trustee does look out for the least commission, Fisher said. By "matching out" withdrawals and purchases by participants, commissions are eliminated altogether on a sizeable fraction of the total purchase. Also, negotiated rates recently okayed by the New York Stock Exchange have resulted in a drop in normal commissions from more than 30 cents per share to 15-20 cents per share. Both factors give the employe more stock for the money.

Other factors which have affected the price of Gulf States stock include the Texas Railroad Commission order last year calling for a phasing out of the use of natural gas in industrial boilers. That dropped the price of our stock \$1 during just one month when we were trying to issue 3 million new shares.

"We can't anticipate things like that," Fisher said.

The outlook is good for utilities, Fisher believes.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see utility stocks do well in the coming years," he said. "I think inflation has flattened out, and we're not likely to see another tripling in fuel costs again.

"During the 1960s, Gulf States was in the 20s. Now it's earning twice as much money — so why is the stock priced lower?"

"Investors just felt utilities were not worth 10-15 times earnings. Now the stock is selling for about 6-8 times earnings.

"Actually, for a long time things were better for utilities than they should have been," he added. "The adjustment just happened all at one time."

One thing is for sure — no one is sure what any given stock will do at any given time.

"I wish I had a crystal ball," Fisher said.

In fact, Fisher does have a crystal ball on his desk, but he said it's just a paper-weight.

# Hull's hellraising electric fiddler

Back during the Batson oil boom during the turn of the century, 6-year-old Sevan Caruthers sat watching his six older brothers taking turns sawing awkwardly at a violin they had found.

The noise was painful to Sevan.

"Why don't they play it right?" he must have thought. "I can play that fiddle. I know I can."

But Sevan's brothers wouldn't let the "baby" in the family lay a hand on their prized — if misused — musical instrument. Wouldn't want him to break it.

It took Sevan nearly a year, he figures, before he sneaked in a few notes on his brothers' violin.

That was all it took.

"It seemed like it was as big as a bass fiddle," Caruthers remembers. "But I was able to play any tune I'd ever heard on it right away.

"I played it so well they (his brothers) gave it to me."

So began Caruthers' musical career. Now 78 years old, he remains the colorful fiddlers' patriarch in Hull, Tex.

## Command performance at age 7

His first professional venture was a command performance at the age of seven.

"It was at a saloon in Batson," he said. "I was in knee-high pants and really scared. We lived back in the woods, and I'd never seen that many people before.

"My dad tied me to a table so I wouldn't run away."

He didn't run away, and the patrons loved it.

"They'd throw silver coins to me," he said. "My pockets got so full they pulled my pants down."

Caruthers can still play the fiddle fairly well — and always with a lot of zest and humor. But age has taken its toll on his hearing, and modern backup groups use amplified instruments, so Caruthers had to take an assist from Gulf States.

He electrified his fiddle. He attached a guitar pickup to the instrument 24 years ago and adjusts the volume so he can hear what he's playing. Caruthers added the amplifier largely as a reaction to the increasing "racket" produced by the backup bands and square dance groups he played with.

"With all the guitars and big amplifiers, they ain't goin' to let ya hear no fiddle," he said. "My boy in Houston had a pickup on his fiddle, so I tried one. At first I couldn't play at all with it on. But it didn't take too long to get used to it."



Sevan Caruthers and his electric fiddle

Caruthers' first violin — the one he got from his brothers — eventually came unglued. He tried a few and borrowed a few before settling on one he found inside a player piano.

The piano also played violin from a roll. It belonged to an old teacher. When she realized Caruthers would take good care of it, she gave him the "player fiddle."

"I'd seen the thing play by itself when I was young, and I wanted it," Caruthers said. "I've had several that's better than this one. But I like this one. It has a nice soft tone.

"I just turn on enough electricity to make it play."

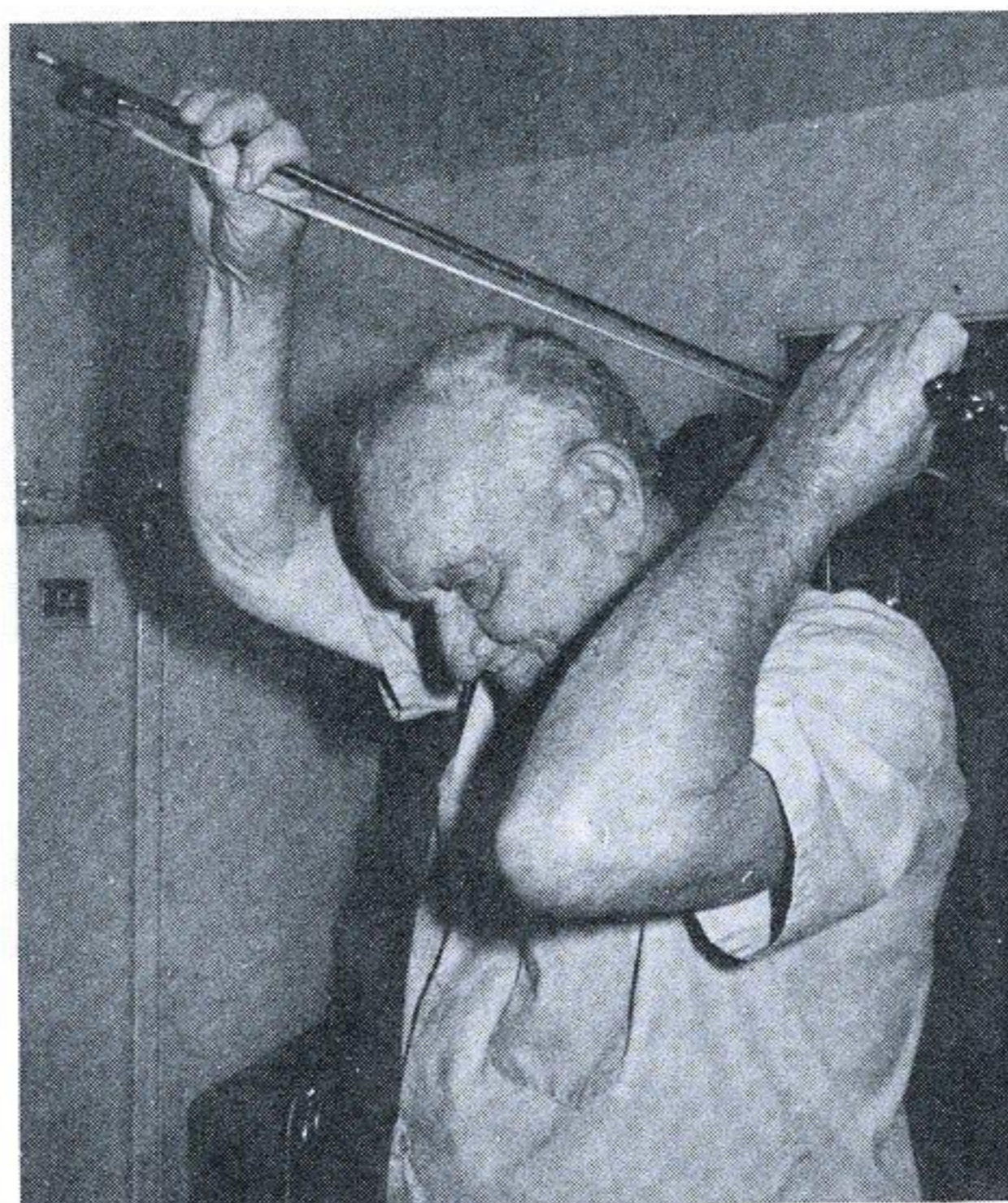
And play it he can. Caruthers can still boast with the best of them and play a mean lick to boot.

"I can play a thousand of these things," he said, interrupting a demonstration breakdown. "I can play all night and not play the same tune twice."

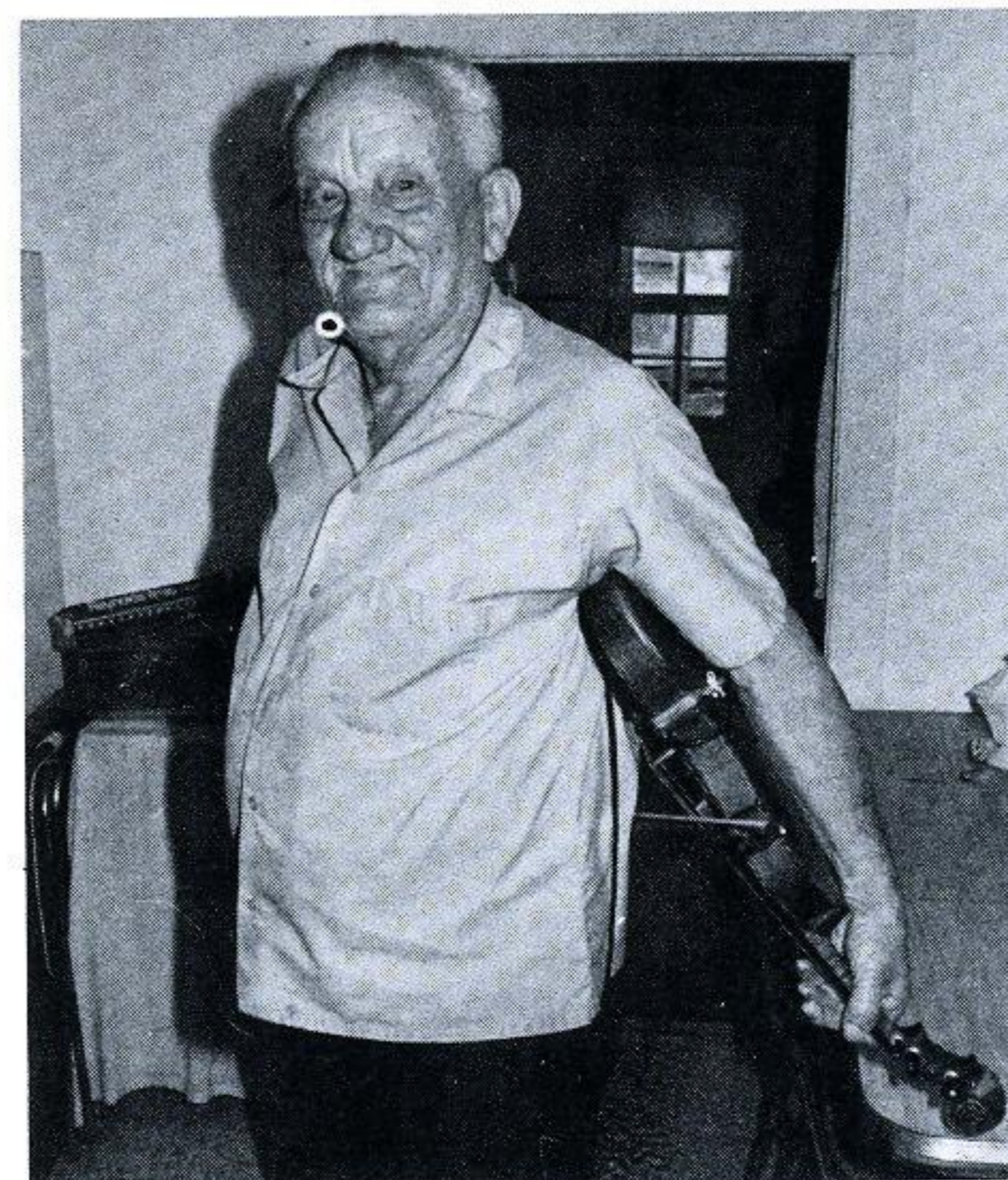




Dancin' & fiddlin'



Over the head fiddlin'



Behind the back fiddlin'

### It's not what he plays, but how he plays it

With Caruthers, however, it's not what he's playing so much as how he's playing it. He is a noted ham with more playing positions than you could imagine.

He can put the violin in front of his body, rather than underneath his chin. He can play it over his shoulder. Or over his head. Sometimes he strums it like a ukulele. Wearing the right type of shoes, he's even been known to sit down, put the bow in his shoe and move the violin up and down while fingering the tune.

"When I had my teeth, I'd put the bow in my mouth and play in and out," he said, gesturing in and out vigorously with both arms.

"At dances, women would come up to me while I was playing and want to dance," Caruthers said. "But I wanted to fiddle."

So they compromised — and did both. Caruthers wrapped his arms around the lady and fiddled behind her back.

"Poor guitar player would have to dance by himself," Caruthers joked.

Caruthers has always been a crowd pleaser, especially at old-time fiddling contests, where his antics won approval when they were judged by audience applause.

"After we'd play they'd stand 'em all up and hold a hand over your head," he remembered. "The contestant with the most applause took home the prize."

Caruthers has taken home quite a few prizes. His first came at the picture show in Daisetta, just south of Hull.

"I had worked in the oil field that day and was muddy up to my waist," he said. "A friend told me there was a fiddling contest and told me I ought to enter. I didn't want to, but he talked me into it."

"All the fiddlers from Jefferson and Liberty Counties were there, and there I was looking like a tramp. I

borrowed a fiddle, and we all played a round of breakdowns.

"I beat 'em.

"Then a waltz.

"It knocked them off their feet.

"I won, but it made some of the other fiddlers mad — borrowing a fella's fiddle and beating him with it."

Nowadays the contests are judged by a panel of three non-competing fiddlers. The very mention of judges gets Caruthers "red-headed" — as his wife calls it — with ire.

"I don't understand these fiddlin' contests nowadays," he said. "I sees people win that can't play nothin'.

"They should have left it up to the people."

His humorous, anarchistic approach to fiddling got him in trouble with the judges in one Alabama contest, he remembered.

"I made the judges mad," he said, recounting how many different positions he'd used in that performance. "But when I got outside, they (members of the audience) gave me a red ribbon."

### Can't read a bit of music

To this day, Caruthers doesn't read a bit of sheet music. His repertoire of breakdowns and waltzes is stored in his head.

"Put a piece of music up in front of me, and it just looks like a wire fence with a bunch of junk hangin' on it," he said.

Caruthers' foot taps strongly with each song's beat, and his fingers move marvelously fast over his fiddle's strings, but he admits his memory's not as sharp as it used to be, and his reactions aren't as quick either.

The declining quality of his music, increased competition from dedicated youngsters and his stubborn desire to be a cutup on stage has ostracized him from modern fiddling ranks.

"I guess I'm just an old-timer and always will be," he lamented.

(Continued from inside front cover)

juries is rated at 5,154 by the council, nearly eight times the industry average severity of 654.

Is increasing our dependency on coal as an energy provider the right answer in terms of human safety?

Concerns for the safe operation of nuclear plants and the proper disposal of their wastes are real. The plutonium formed in fission reactors is very dangerous and must be handled with the utmost of care. So far it has been. Proper waste disposal in geologically stable formations seems justified and safe. Sensible regulation should see to it that there is no cause for future alarm. The ballyhoo over a meltdown catastrophe than has a next-to-nothing chance of occurring is completely unjustified. Design changes, when needed, should be discussed in a reasoned, not emotional, manner.

The publicity-staged resignations of three General Electric nuclear engineers and an official with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission contributed nothing but distorted rhetoric to the assessment of nuclear power. None of the men disclosed any "bombshells" that would prove deceit on the part of the industry.

The use of nuclear energy can even be construed to helping save lives by decreasing the need to mine coal. If we rely totally on coal-fueled boilers for electricity, coal production would have to double or triple, various reports state. Knowing the dangers in a coal mine, who, and at what price, will work to extract that resource?

Those living near a nuclear power plant are as safe as those living next to other plants. The radiation escaping from a nuclear plant is barely perceptible above the "background" radiation we're constantly exposed to from the sun and naturally radioactive elements in buildings and the earth itself. Radiation is not nearly as sinister a quantity as people believe. It's a natural phenomenon we live with every day.

Eugene P. Wigner, LSU professor and Nobel Laureate in physics, estimates the radiation coming from a coal plant is three times that coming from a nuclear plant. That's because the coal stored at the plant contains radioactive elements, too, which are concentrated by burning and released into the air.

## Economics

Can we afford to build nuclear reactors? The question should be, can we afford NOT to build them?

Besides natural gas and hydroelectric power, nuclear energy is still the cheapest way to generate electricity. And that takes into account the massive amounts of money needed to build the plants.

At Gulf States, we're lucky. We still burn natural gas. It's comparatively cheap and very clean. But when the Texas Railroad Commission begins enforcing the reduction of natural gas as a boiler fuel in 1981 and our contracts expire in 1985, how are we going to generate electricity?

We plan on converting existing units to burn fuel oil and to build only coal, lignite and nuclear units from here on out.

That is a prudent solution.

But if natural gas is banned from use in boilers, can restrictions on the burning of oil in boilers be far behind?

Future generations will effectively harness the power of the sun and the power of nuclear fusion of seawater. But in the meantime, American utilities need to continue to provide a sure supply of electricity to our customers.

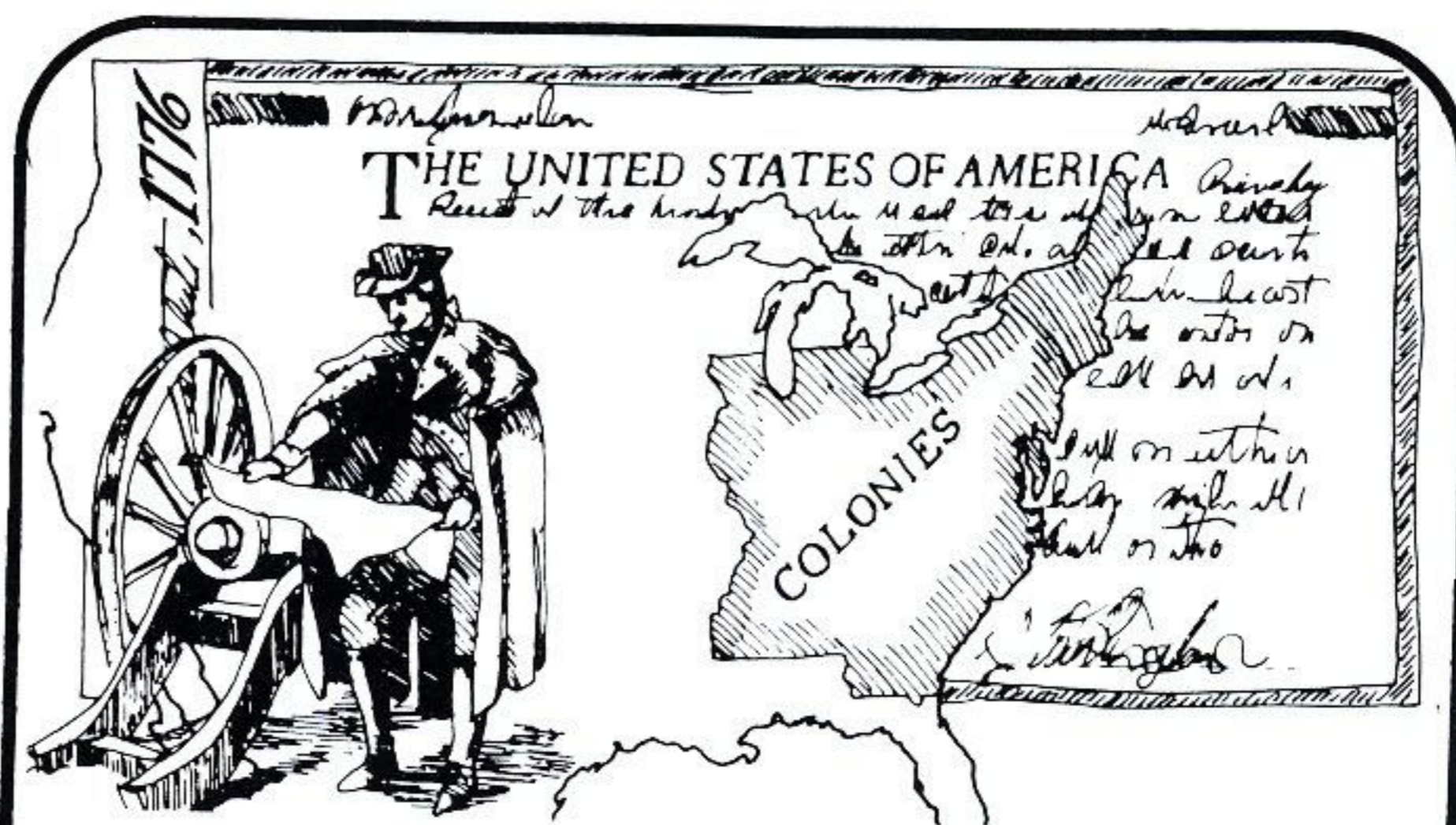
## Environment

With little air pollution, cooling towers to cool water used in the plant and the minimal mining and no drilling needed to provide fuel, nuclear power plants disrupt our environment much less than the alternatives.

If coal is the energy panacea, will we stand for the loss of lives in the mines inevitable with stepped up production? Will we stand for spoiling Western lands stripped of shallow coal seams? Will we pay for costly rehabilitation of such lands in water-scarce areas? Will we pay the tremendous transportation costs of hauling coal from mine to plant? Will we pay for pollution control equipment that costs vast sums of money and saps 15 per cent of the plant's output? And will we cheat our lives and those of future generations by fouling the air with massive amounts of dust and sulfur dioxide that cannot be scrubbed from the flue gases?

Wake up, America!

If you're interested in lower electrical bills now AND in the future, stop hassling the nuclear power industry. Watch over it like a hawk, but let it live.



## They financed freedom for you

The Continental Congress of 1776 had no power to tax. America was going broke. Low on bullets and beans, the revolution was almost out of steam. But Americans took stock in their new country to the tune of \$27 million. They financed freedom. Gaining freedom was expensive. Keeping it costs even more. So sign up with your Payroll Savings Plan. You save more than money. Call LaMelle Triplett (extension 3150) for details.

## *First woman on board?*

# Lorene Rogers nominated for director

Dr. Lorene L. Rogers, president of The University of Texas, has been nominated for election to the Company's Board of Directors at the annual shareholders meeting to be held in Beaumont May 13.

If elected, she will be the first woman to serve as a Gulf States director.

"We are pleased and privileged that a person with the outstanding record and leadership abilities of Dr. Rogers has accepted the nomination to serve on our Board of Directors if elected by the 37,000 shareholders of the Company," said Board Chairman Floyd R. Smith.

Dr. Rogers became president ad interim of The University of Texas at Austin on September 25, 1974. She was named president on September 12, 1975.

She has also been nominated to serve as a director of Texaco, Inc.

A biochemist, Dr. Rogers was a vice president of the University from Sept. 1971 until Aug. 31, 1974. She resigned that position and was on a one-year leave of absence, after which she intended to return to her professorship of nutrition in the Department of Home Economics,

when she was asked to accept the ad interim presidency.

In addition to her three years' service as a vice president, Dr. Rogers has been associate dean of the Graduate School (1964-71) and a research scientist and assistant director of the Clayton Foundation Biochemical Institute (1957-64). She joined the UT Austin faculty in 1949 and has taught both chemistry and nutrition.

Early in 1974 she accepted a three-year appointment to the American Council on Education's Commission on Administrative Affairs and Educational Statistics.

Active in the field of international education, Dr. Rogers was the keynote speaker in Tehran, Iran, in July, 1974, at a Conference on Higher Education in the U.S. In 1968, she visited eight countries in East Africa, interviewing candidates for the African Graduate Fellowship Program (AFGRAD) and meeting with university officials and national ministers of education. She also served on the Association of Graduate Schools committee on international education.



Her honors include a teaching excellence award from the Students' Association. She was a National Science Foundation visiting scientist from 1959 to 1962, lecturing at various high schools on University research activities.

## **Danny Rozas: Lifesaver and crimestopper**

Danny Rozas, communications serviceman first class, is a storybook hero.

On the morning of Jan. 13, Rozas was



driving down a street when he was flagged down by a lady who said smoke was coming from the apartment adjacent to hers.

Rozas called the dispatcher on the radio and requested the Fire Department be notified. Then he rushed into the apartment complex, found smoke coming out the door of one apartment, forced open the locked door and found a lady unconscious on the living room sofa. Rozas carried the woman outside and gave her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the Fire Department arrived with oxygen and mechanical resuscitation equipment.

The woman stopped breathing several times, Rozas said.

"There is no doubt that the prompt action of Mr. Rozas contributed to the eventual saving of her life," said Louis Mosca, Lake Charles fire chief.

For his action, Gulf States President Norman Lee presented Rozas with the President's Lifesaving Award; the Lake

Charles City Council issued a resolution commending Rozas' action; and Sammie Bono, GSU service supervisor and Lake Charles city councilman, gave Rozas a key to the city.

But the heroics didn't stop with the saving of the woman's life.

Later that month, Rozas saw a man being chased by a group of people. He suspected a robbery had been committed and called police. Following the fleeing man, Rozas saw the man throw something underneath a house and eventually trap himself in a fenced yard.

It turned out that an elderly couple had been robbed at a nearby parking lot. Rozas waited at the fenced yard until police arrived to arrest the suspect. He then led officers to the house under which the man had thrown the loot.

In case you don't believe heroism can be inherited, Rozas' 9-year-old daughter, Rhonda, and a friend, Terri Ross, helped recover money stolen from a fast food restaurant that same month.

# Increase in stock ceiling asked

Holders of Gulf States common and preferred stock will be asked to increase the number of authorized shares of capital stock by 169 per cent at the annual shareholders meeting May 13.

If approved as proposed by management, common stock ceilings would be increased from 40 million shares to 100 million shares. There are currently slightly more than 32.5 million shares of common stock outstanding.

The number of \$100 par value preferred stock shares authorized would double — from 3 million shares to 6 million shares. The Company has issued 1.175 million shares of such stock in 10 different series.

A new class of preferred stock — without par value until set by the Company prior to issuance — would also be established, with a limit of 10 million such shares.

The total number of authorized shares of Gulf States common and preferred would jump from 43 million to 116 million.

The officers of the Company recommend the increase to provide for future financing requirements and to be able to take fullest advantage of the financing vehicles available to the Company.

The new class of preferred stock would presumably be offered to the public in the future at prices within reach of individuals. The par value of preferred

stock sets the limit that the holder can expect should the Company be liquidated — not a likely prospect. Par value is a legal quantity not to be confused with the market value of the stock.

The Company generally tries to maintain a mix of financing of 50 per cent bonds, 35 per cent common stock and 15 per cent preferred stock.

To the investor, preferred stock has some of the advantages of bonds — preferential dividend payment — and some of the advantages of common stock — a higher rate of return than on bonds.

Likewise to the Company, preferred stock is cheaper than common stock in terms of earnings required and does not mortgage part of the Company's assets, as do bonds.

In addition to the elevation of the stock ceiling and the election of Dr. Lorene Rogers (see accompanying story) as director, shareholders will be asked to eliminate entirely the existing limited pre-emptive rights common shareholders have to subscribe to new issues and to indemnify directors and officers of the Company as a result of legal action arising from the administration of employee benefit plans.

Through the competitive bidding procedures commonly used for new issues, existing shareholders have adequate opportunity to purchase new shares of stock. The elimination of existing, very

limited pre-emptive rights written into the Company's articles of incorporation is considered a formality which would allow, for example, new shares of stock to be issued each quarter for dividend reinvestment.

"By using new shares instead of existing ones, new capital would be constantly brought into the Company," said Tom Page, executive vice president.

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 imposes personal liability on those officers and directors of a company who administer the company's employee benefit programs. The proposed indemnification for the applicable officers and directors would provide Company protection from any personal liability during their service to the Company.

Common shareholders will also be asked to approve a restated articles of incorporation to be filed with the Texas Secretary of State. The articles were last restated in 1968 and amended in 1972 and in 1975. Any proposals approved May 13 would be included in the restated document.

The May 13 gathering will actually be concurrent meetings of both preferred and common shareholders. Preferred shareholders, however, may vote only on those issues that affect the issuance and nature of preferred stock. Common shareholders may vote on all issues.

## River Bend digging ahead of schedule

Most work at River Bend is proceeding at or ahead of schedule.

The excavation of the plant site is currently seven weeks ahead of schedule. This is primarily due to favorable weather. The contractor has planned a total of eight weeks' shutdown time but has only used one week so far.

Excavation is down to "elevation 94" — or 94 feet above sealevel. Excavation will continue down to elevation 20 — or 74 more feet dug out.

The digging is necessary because the soil is not up to standards to support the load of the reactor building. New material will be trucked onto the site from the nearby Bayou Sara Sand and Gravel Pit to fill in the area after the hole is dug.

The new material will be carried in on the North Access Road, which should be in service as you read this. After paving was completed, guard rails were installed

and the area seeded for erosion protection. Most of the clearing and some of the grading operations for the River Access Road are also complete.

The stilling basin is built. The basin is a pond in the south end of West Creek constructed to calm the water discharged by the dewatering system. That system pumps water out of the ground to lower the water table and keep the excavation area dry.

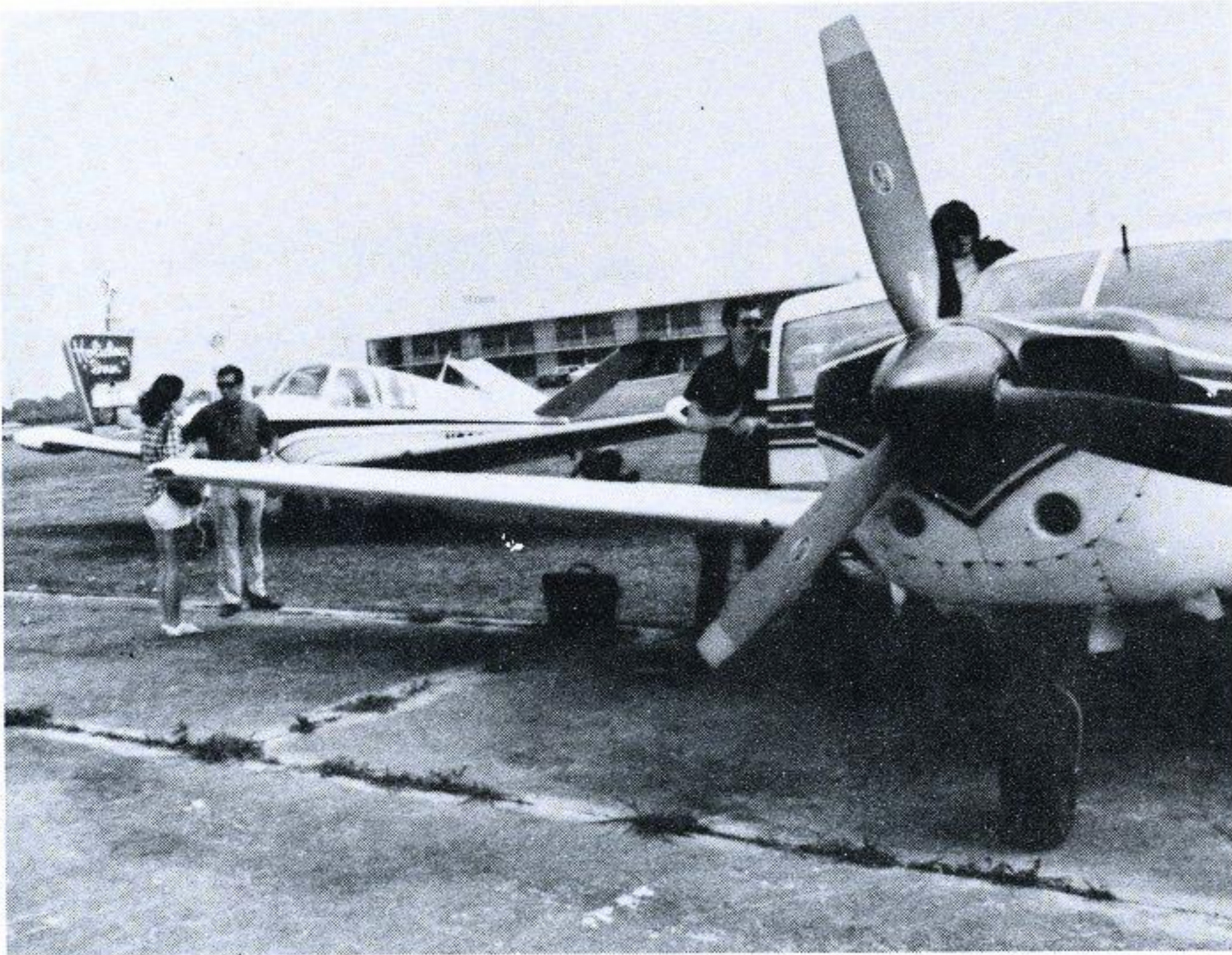
Farther north on the creek, a concrete drop structure is being built by Stone & Webster. The structure will prevent erosion in the creek.

The Grant's Bayou substation supplying construction power to the site should be completed in early April.

Temporary "B" trailer facilities are in place. The site of the permanent construction headquarters at the north construction area is being excavated.



Larry Smith checks schedule



Motel with a parking lot for planes



Joe Faulk in the pilot's seat

## Louisiana Bicentennial Air Tour

The Bicentennial may not send you up in the air, but it's going to send a group of private pilots from all over the country to Louisiana this month.

They will be flying high and low around Louisiana as part of the Louisiana Bicentennial Air Tour.

Rendezvousing in Baton Rouge, the group of up to 50 planes will stop in many Louisiana cities, learning about the state's culture, cuisine and industry. In addition to Baton Rouge, Jennings and Lake Charles in the Gulf States service area are included on the tour.

In the state capital, the pilots will eat seafood, have desert at the Governor's Mansion and visit the LSU Rural Life Museum.

They will spend two days in Jennings because a motel is located just off the

Jeff Davis Parish Airport runways. The pilots will taxi up to a seafood buffet followed by a Fais-Do-Do on April 28. The next day they will go on a "proficiency run" to Oakdale, Bunkie, Mamou and back to Jennings — seeing the sights along the way — while estimating the air time and fuel required for the round trip. The person with the calculation closest to his or her plane's consumption wins a prize at the end of the tour.

The group moves to Lake Charles April 30 to attend the Contraband Days Ball and festivities. A closing banquet will be held in Baton Rouge May 1 at LSU.

In this fifth year of the tour — known as the Louisiana Air Tour in non-Bicentennial years — a number of anniversaries will be celebrated en route. April 29 is the anniversary of the Louisiana

Purchase. May 1 is the anniversary of the founding of LSU, and May 2 is the 25th wedding anniversary of the trip's organizers — Emile and Fran Selles.

Reservations for the tour have been submitted from as far away as California and Wisconsin, Mrs. Salles said.

Planning to return for a second tour is Clayton Arnold, 76, a retired banker from Tulsa who didn't start flying until he was 60 years old and his wife had divorced him.

"This flying has added 10 years to my life," Arnold said last year. "I'd walk into the bank and not know anybody. I didn't have any friends. They were all dead or sick."

"Now I'm in a number of flying associations and have new friends with whom I share the hobby."

### **Gulf Staters aid airport, air tour**

The Jennings stop on the Louisiana Bicentennial Air Tour is the result of new facilities and traditional hospitality at the town. Several Gulf Staters contribute directly to this effort.

Tommy Brooks, senior engineering assistant, is a member of the Airport Authority of Jeff Davis Parish. The Authority guided projects which improved the runway lighting at the airport, expanded the number of hangars and established a non-directional beacon at the field for lost, cloud-shrouded or night pilots to home in on with their instruments.

Melvin Garman, also senior engineering assistant, is a member of the parish policy jury — like county commissioner's court in Texas. Garman represents Ward 2 (Jennings), the ward that raised the money for the airport improvements.

Joe Faulk, serviceman, was one of the first pilots to take lessons at the newly established flight school and was the first new student to solo at the field. He and John Bordelon, consumer service representative, will be helping with the hospitality while the tour is in Jennings.



Clayton Arnold: 76-year-old pilot

# Turbines



Two turbines in Louisiana were being reassembled during March. A lone contractor's millwright (above) cleaned the low pressure gland steam seals of the Willow Glen 3 turbine. Work was completed on the generator (lower right) after one man had to dive into the housing to help secure the top half of the bearing bracket.

Meanwhile, Gulf Staters were putting the Louisiana Station 2A turbine back into position. Joey Albert, mechanic's helper, posed after scraping clean the gland steam seals (lower left). Jim Chandler and Jesse Denham, both first class repairmen, and George Naquin, master repairman, installed the thrust bearing oil seals on the turbine's spindle.





**ATTRACTING NEW JOBS** — Malcolm Williams, area development director, dined and talked with Louisiana Lt. Governor Jimmy Fitzmorris Jr., guest speaker at the March 9 banquet held by the Louisiana Industrial Development Executive Association (LIDEA) in Baton Rouge. "Jobs for our Third Century" was the theme of the two-day meeting. Attending were about 250 city officials, Chamber of Commerce employees and developers throughout the state. The purpose of the meeting, held in cooperation with the Louisiana State University College of Business Administration, was to tell Louisianans how to attract industries — and thus, new jobs — to their state. Earl Broussard, area development representative in the Lafayette District, attended for the city of Breaux Bridge, La. Williams is president of LIDEA.

## THRIFT PLAN

Purchases of Gulf States Utilities common and preferred stock made by First Security National Bank of Beaumont, the trustee, during Feb., 1976, covering employee deductions and Company contributions through Jan., 1976, were as follows:

### COMMON STOCK

Shares	Date purchased	Price per share	Total cost	Commission
2	29 January	14½	\$ 29.00	\$ 0
3,000	6 February	14 1/8	42,879.68	504.68
3,396	10 February	14 1/8	48,261.71	293.16*

Total: 6,398 shares bought at an average price of \$14.249827 per share.

### PREFERRED STOCK

Shares	Date purchased	Price per share	Total cost	Commission
20	12 February	55	\$ 1,130.80	\$ 30.80
1	12 February	55 1/8	56.67	1.54

Total: 21 shares bought at an average price of \$56.546190 per share.

The trustee deposited \$74,386.51 with the savings department of First Security National Bank of Beaumont.

\*Includes 2,000 shares "matched out" by the trustee at a cost of \$.05. These shares balance withdrawals with purchases at no commission cost. The extra nickel, in the instance, occurred from rounding up of half-cent amounts on the sale of uneven numbers of shares being redeemed by individual accounts. (Example: one share at \$14.125 netted \$14.13 — a half-cent more than the listed price.)

## Louisiana scholars

by Anna Raymond  
Departmental Clerk  
Lake Charles

Gulf States was well represented at Dec., 1975, graduation exercises.

**Jim Richardson**, marketing superintendent, received his Master of Business Administration degree from McNeese State University. **Bill Harrington**, consumer service representative in Lake Charles, meanwhile, got his Bachelor of Science degree in business management.

**Billie Blevin**, departmental clerk in the Lake Charles garage, saw three members of her family graduate from McNeese. Her son, David Ray Blevin, received a degree in forestry; her brother, Howell Ernest Rion Jr., received a degree in math education; and her daughter-in-law, Diane Blevin, was graduated cum laude in psychology.

Diana Smith, wife of Nelson Station control operations foreman **Derrick Smith**, was awarded her Master of Education degree from McNeese.

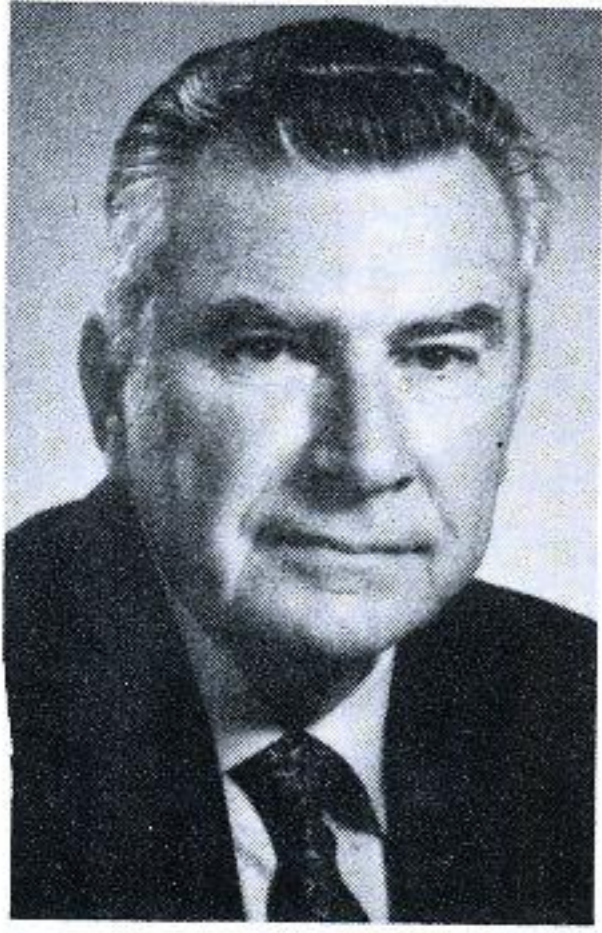
Also receiving bachelor degrees from McNeese were: Bryant Mier, son of **Rufus Mier**, consumer services supervisor, marketing; Kirby Raymond, son of **Anna Raymond**, departmental clerk for Lake Charles marketing, business management; and Harold Chapman, nephew of **Jimmy Broussard**, service foreman in Jennings, environmental science.

In Lafayette, Odette LaCombe, wife of **Horace "To-To" LaCombe**, consumer service representative, was graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana with an education degree.



**THIS ATOMIC WORLD** — Southeast Texas high school students were treated to a funny, and educational, show on the origins of atomic energy entitled "This Atomic World." Orlan Ihms, a Texas A&M staff member, explains to the assemblies how the atom is structured, how static electricity is formed (top left), how radioactive tracers work and how a reactor can work to produce steam for electricity (top right). Ihms constantly tours the state during the school year. He makes a complete circuit about every three years. He travels and lives in a mobile home.

# RETIREMENTS



**James K. Powell**



**William L. Hickman**

**James K. Powell**, T&D service foreman in Lafayette, will retire June 1 with 44 years' service to Gulf States.

A native of Dallas, Powell was graduated from Cheneyville (La.) High School and attended Coyne Electrical School in Chicago.

He joined the Company in 1932 as an operator and appliance repairman in Lafayette. He became serviceman in 1936, appliance repairman first class in 1941 and service foreman in 1953.

Powell is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the International Electrical Inspectors.

He is married to the former Gladys Mire of Lafayette. The couple has two sons.

The Powells have a farm in Cheneyville in central Louisiana, where they will spend much of their retirement. Powell said he also plans some trips, fishing, hunting and gardening.

His most memorable moment on the job occurred in 1935 and has left him wary of lightning ever since.

"When I was dispatching in 1935 we had a transmission line out and I was calling out the line crew when lightning hit the H-frame structure in the Lafayette substation yard," Powell related. "It came in on the telephone line and knocked me silly.

"They worked on me 10 minutes before I came to.

"After that, I built me a stool and put 34.5 kV insulators on the legs. When it lightened after that, I crawled up onto the stool."

**William L. Hickman**, laborer II at Louisiana Station, retired March 1 with nearly 30 years with the Company.

Born in Ethel, La., Hickman attended schools in East Baton Rouge Parish. He served in the U. S. Army for 3½ years during World War II and joined Gulf States in 1946 as a laborer at Louisiana Station.

He progressed to laborer II in 1963.

**Clifton J. Soileau**, garage mechanic second class in Baton Rouge, will retire June 1 with nearly 33 years' service to Gulf States.

A native of Washington, La., Soileau attended high school there. He joined Gulf States in 1943 as a helper in the Baton Rouge T&D garage. He was made garage mechanic third class in 1945 and progressed to second class in 1947.



**Clifton J. Soileau**



**Samuel D. Wells Jr.**

**Samuel D. Wells Jr.**, collector in Cleveland, retired April 1.

A native of Bedias, Tex., Wells was graduated from Iola (Tex.) High School and served 30 months in the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II.

He joined Gulf States in late 1945 as a T&D helper in Conroe. One year later he was named apprentice and soon thereafter moved to Navasota. He became a substation mechanic in 1947 and serviceman in Cleveland in 1950.

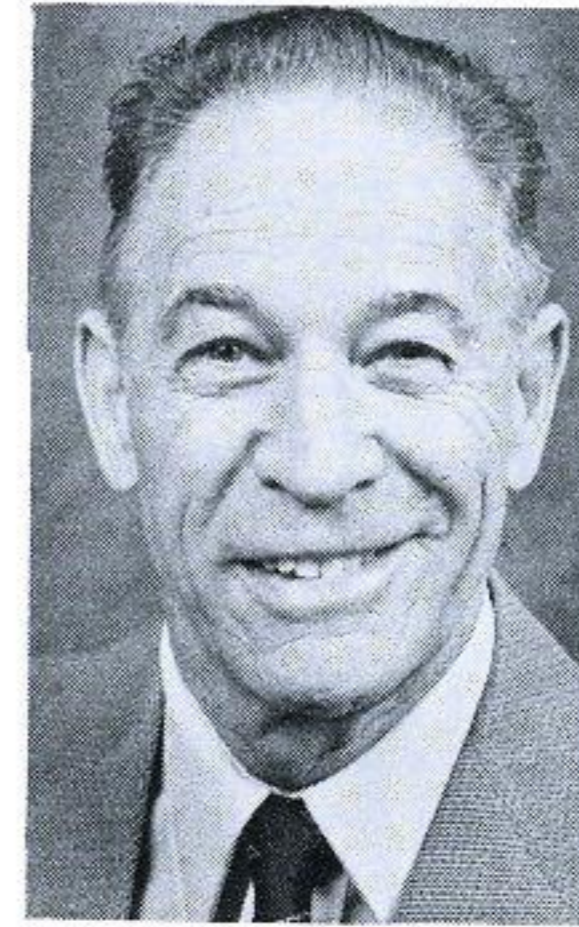
Wells was named collector in 1971.

Wells is married to the former Doris Fay Hurst of Anderson, Tex. The couple has three children.

Wells hopes to live as comfortably in retirement as possible, camping and tending to his dogs and rock shop when his health permits.



"Before he went bald, Wilbur had beautiful wavy hair."



**Gerald P. Handley**



**Clarence B. Pearson**

**Gerald P. Handley**, utilityman in the Lake Charles line department, retired March 1 with nearly 41 years with the Company.

A native of Lufkin, Tex., Handley was graduated from Lake Charles High School.

He joined Gulf States in 1935 as a helper in the Lake Charles T&D department. He became a substation mechanic in 1941 and was named utility man in 1949.

He is married to the former Nevelyn Faulk of Lafayette. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.

The Handleys plan to "travel and take it easy."

**Clarence B. Pearson**, assistant T&D supervisor at Choctaw Service Center, retired April 1 after nearly 35 years' service to the Company.

A native of Kentwood, La., Pearson was graduated from Kentwood High School.

He joined Gulf States as an apprentice lineman in Baton Rouge in 1941. He had progressed to lineman fourth class in 1942 when he served more than three years in the U. S. Navy during World War II. He was reinstated as a lineman first class and was promoted to line foreman in 1950. He became assistant supervisor in 1969.

He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Pearson is married to the former Pearl Bush of Bogalusa. The couple has four children.

Pearson's retirement plans include building a new home in Kentwood, "where I intend to do a lot of fishing, some fox hunting and a little gardening."

His most memorable moment with the Company was in 1957 when the City of Jennings commended his line crew for helping repair the damage wrought by Hurricane Audrey. The honor "made me realize how satisfying it is to be one of the many Gulf Staters who are dedicated to serving our public."





Lynell J. Henry      Paul A. LeJeune      Edwin E. Kaltwasser

**Lynell J. Henry**, laborer II in the Baton Rouge gas department, retired March 1 after 24 years with the Company.

Henry is a native of Lobdell, La., and attended schools there. He joined Gulf States at age 20 as a laborer at Louisiana Station in 1952. He progressed to laborer II in 1963 and was transferred to the gas department in 1967.

**Paul A. LeJeune**, serviceman first class in Port Allen, retired March 1 with more than 18 years' service to the Company.

Born in Lobdell, La., LeJeune was graduated from Port Allen High School. He served two years in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

LeJeune joined Gulf States in 1957 as a T&D line helper in Port Allen. He served as apprentice in Baton Rouge and then in Port Allen in 1962-63, becoming a lineman fourth class in late 1963. He progressed to lineman first class in 1966 and was named serviceman first class in 1970.

**Edwin E. Kaltwasser**, serviceman first class in Huntsville, retired April 1 after 40 years with Gulf States.

A native of Deanville, Tex., Kaltwasser attended Caldwell public schools and joined the Company in 1936 as a T&D helper in the Navasota line department. He was named lineman third class and transferred to Huntsville in 1937, progressing to lineman first class in 1946.

He was changed to serviceman first class in 1948.

Kaltwasser is a member of Forrest Masonic Lodge No. 19 and the Cincinnati Hunting Club. He has served as assistant Cub Scout master in Huntsville.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Amyett of Greenville, Miss. The couple has a son and a daughter.

Kaltwasser plans to split his retirement time between Huntsville, Lake Livingston and the hunting club, where he plans to work "till all fish are caught and deer killed."

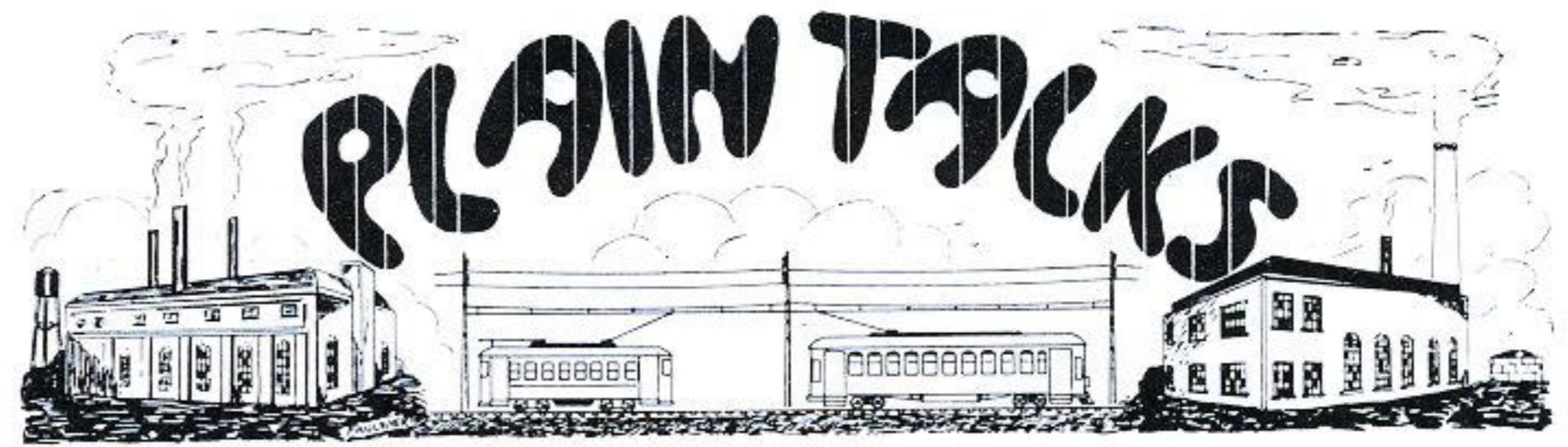
## Franklin given CUA pursestrings

T. G. Franklin, Lake Charles Division accounting supervisor, was elected treasurer of the 1976 Calcasieu United Appeals Feb. 20.

As treasurer, Franklin oversees the payment of CUA bills and the disbursement of all funds to its 19 member agencies.

Last year the charity surpassed its \$535,000 goal with collections of \$552,347 for its human care services.

"The 1974 and 1975 campaigns produced more new money than any two other campaigns in CUA history," Franklin said. As treasurer, he is also a member of the CUA Board of Directors.



# 50 Years Ago

A General Progress Award was announced April 24 to be awarded later in the year "to that property which has shown the greatest general progress during the six months from May to November."

Criteria for selection included appearance of grounds, buildings, personnel, equipment and advertising; service and courtesy to customers, safety conditions, fire protection conditions, improved records, increased sales and elimination of wasteful practices.

The Silsbee Ice, Light and Power Co. and a distribution system in Hull and Daisetta were acquired by Gulf States.

"The Louisiana Electric Co. Inc. was ready to scrap their car No. 4 after a switch engine rammed it but Master Mechanic Pressler of our company said if it was shipped to Beaumont his department would repair it. It was and they did, and . . . The bill for repairs, including labor was only \$617.86 and the car is as good as new."

Lines and poles were removed from either side of Proctor Street in Port Arthur from Houston to Augusta Streets. The service was moved to alleys. The setup was quoted as being "As pretty as any we've seen."

Condenser tubes were in place, and the water walls on the Neches Station No. 1 boiler were being installed. The concrete smokestack reached about 40 feet. Construction on the river crossing tower at Mansfield Ferry had started, and 6,500 feet of 12-inch, 35-lb. pressurized gas line were ordered to make the connection with the Magnolia Gas Co. refinery.

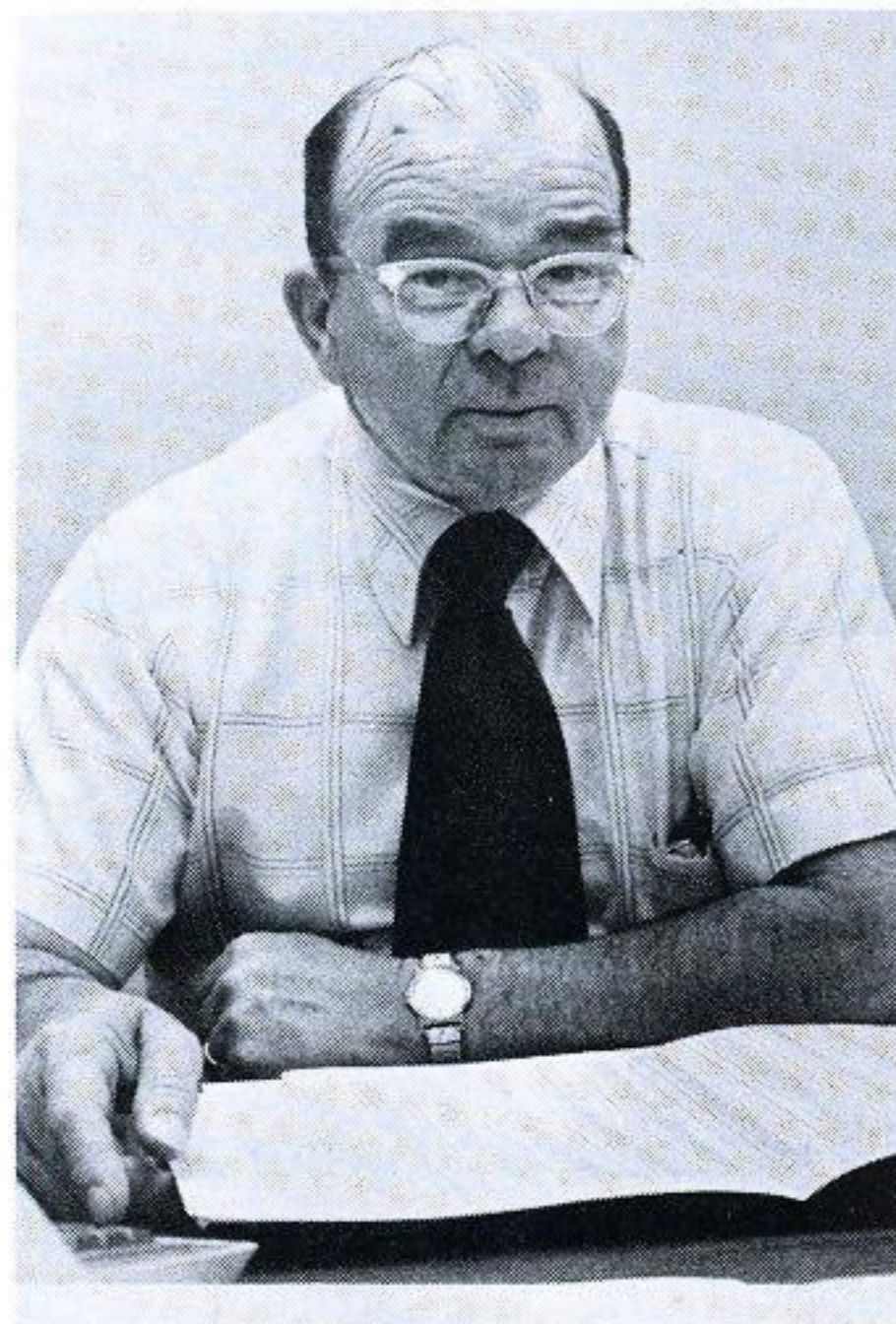
"Brader, at a carnival in Port Arthur with Ingraham, thought he saw a dollar. A little boy made a move as if to pick it up. Brader made a dive for it. He wasn't going to let any kid beat him to that dollar. But it wasn't a dollar. It was an aluminum disk put there by the kid, who, with his dozen friends and sundry other folks standing around, had a good laugh as Brader scraped the mud accumulated in his plunge off his elbow."

"Operator Hazenby, who drives a Chevrolet to his home in Tyler County frequently, on a recent trip ran out of cylinder oil and having no substitute, placed some hog lard in the crankcase and he nearly starved to death before reaching his destination because of the sausage odor emanating from the exhaust."

"Miss Marie calls Mr. (L. M. 'Diddy') Welch, with whom she shares an office down at the distribution department, our uncivil engineer.

"Welch told Miss Marie the other day he would get anything she wanted. She asked him to get out."

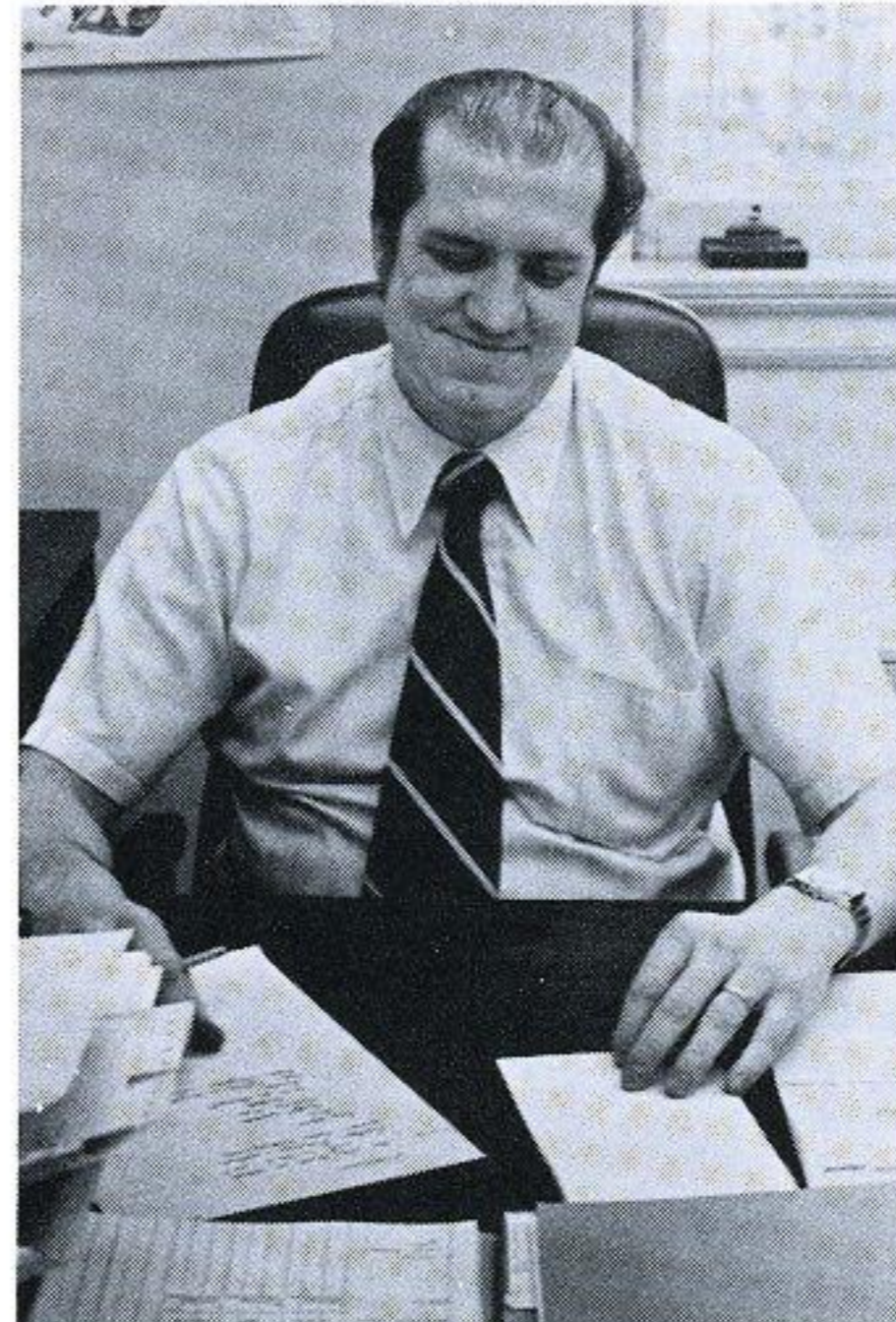
# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



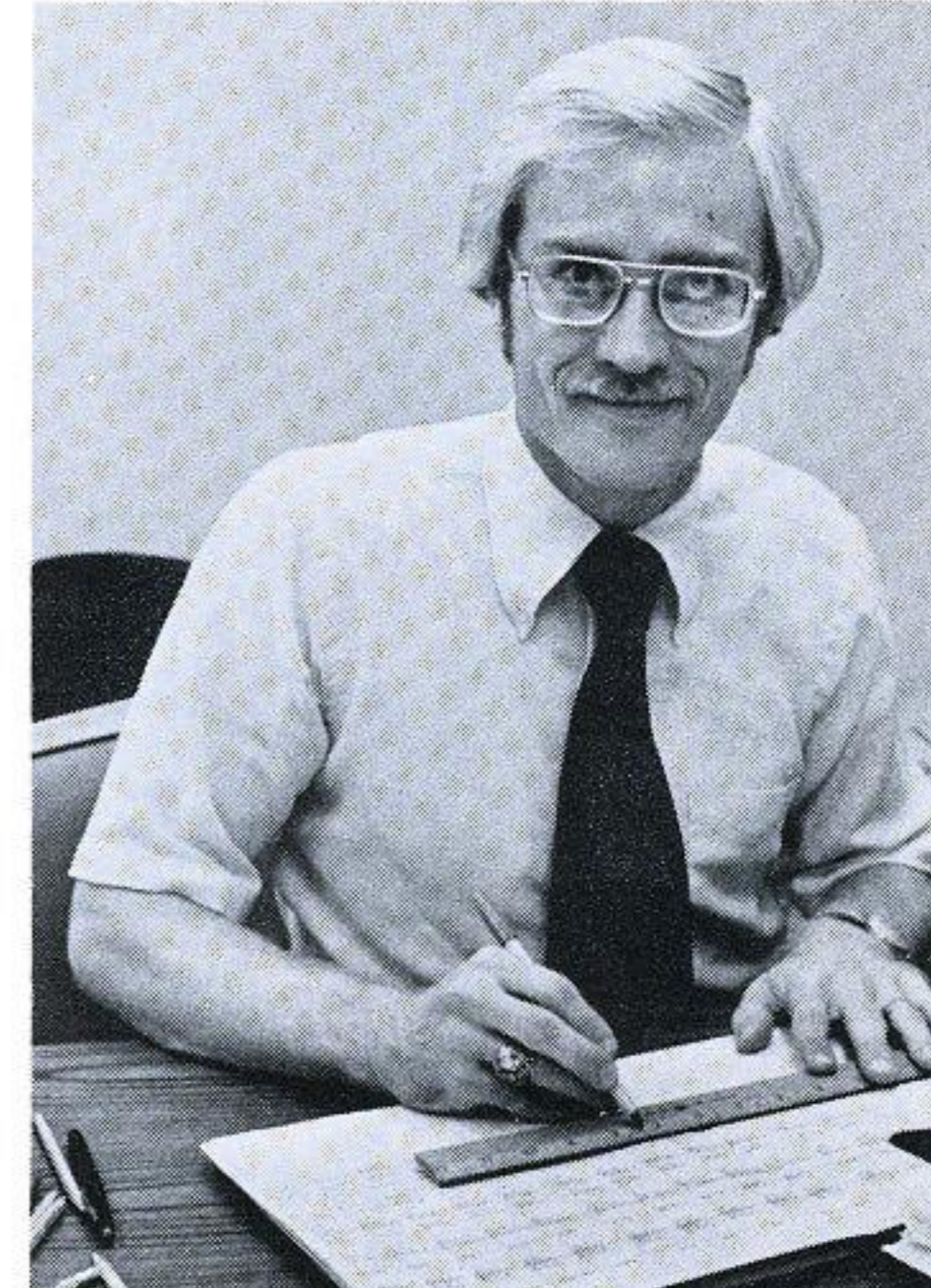
William M. Hurt



Brandon C. Bryan



J. Jimmy Delahoussaye



Herbert E. Stein

A reorganization within the financial services department has resulted in a realignment of the responsibilities of six employees.

**William M. Hurt**, formerly director of the operating budget, was named director of budget analysis. **Brandon C. Bryan**, formerly financial administration coordinator, was promoted to supervisor of budget services. **J. Jimmy Delahoussaye** and **Herbert E. Stein**, formerly administrative accountants, were both named senior budget analysts. **Raymond Holm**, formerly supervisor of accounts payable, is now supervisor of cash management. **William A. Cropper**, formerly financial analyst, became senior financial analyst.

Completing the reorganization, **Anne Parrish**, formerly administrative accountant, is now a financial analyst. She will continue to work for Holm in cash management.

Hurt will become a "financial sleuth," compiling financial and statistical comparisons of the operations of companies similar to Gulf States. He seeks to find areas where the Company needs to improve. The performance relationships ferreted out by Hurt will be made available to employees wishing to improve within their responsibility areas.

Bryan will be responsible for the construction and operating budgets. He will report to Bob Wynne, assistant treasurer and budget manager. Initial goals will be to computerize many reporting practices and to eliminate much of the manual work involved in compiling the operating budget "bogey."

Bryan will also retain responsibility for the corporate model he developed for long-range corporate planning in his previous position.

Delahoussaye (pronounced "de-la-WHO-say") and Stein will report to Bryan. Delahoussaye will be responsible for forecasting, preparing and analyzing the construction budget. Stein will perform a similar function for the operating budget.

Holm's expanded responsibilities will encompass all aspects of short-term money management. Gulf States has Federal Power Commission authorization to borrow no more than \$160 million on the "short-term" market — chiefly commercial paper and bank loans that are repaid relatively quickly. Such borrowing is necessary because the Company's construction expenditures exceed the cash obtained from its operations. Short-term borrowing is generally cheaper and more timely than long-term financing — stocks and bonds, for example.

Cropper will be charged with the long-term financing. In addition to the issuance of new stocks or bonds — generally used to pay off the short-term debt — Cropper will help devise novel methods for financing future projects which require considerable amounts of money. Among others, the Company hopes to finance separately the proposed steam-electric plants, pollution control facilities, fuel oil inventory and the purchases of construction equipment and nuclear fuel.

"For example, we have to buy the nuclear fuel four or five years ahead of time," Cropper said. "By 1981, we may have \$50 million invested in fuel which is making zero revenue. We are trying to figure out a way to have the fuel without the investment of our money."

Both Holm and Cropper will report to Bill Malec, assistant treasurer.

## WILLIAM M. HURT

A native of Navasota, Hurt has worked for Gulf States since 1937, when he signed on as a messenger in the accounting department in Beaumont. After service in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Hurt was promoted to customer accounting clerk. He served in a number of positions in division, general and plant accounting before being named supervisor of customer accounts in 1956. Hurt became administrative assistant in systems and procedures 19 months later and administrative assistant in customer accounting in 1960.

Hurt moved to the budget department as an accountant in 1964 and became director of the operating budget in 1973.

Hurt graduated from Navasota public schools and has received accounting training from Texas A&M, Stone and Webster, Louisiana State University and a Houston business college. He is a director and past president of the Sabine Chapter of the National Association of Accountants.

Hurt is married to the former Lyda Drouet of Beaumont. The couple has a son serving in the U. S. Air Force and three married daughters.

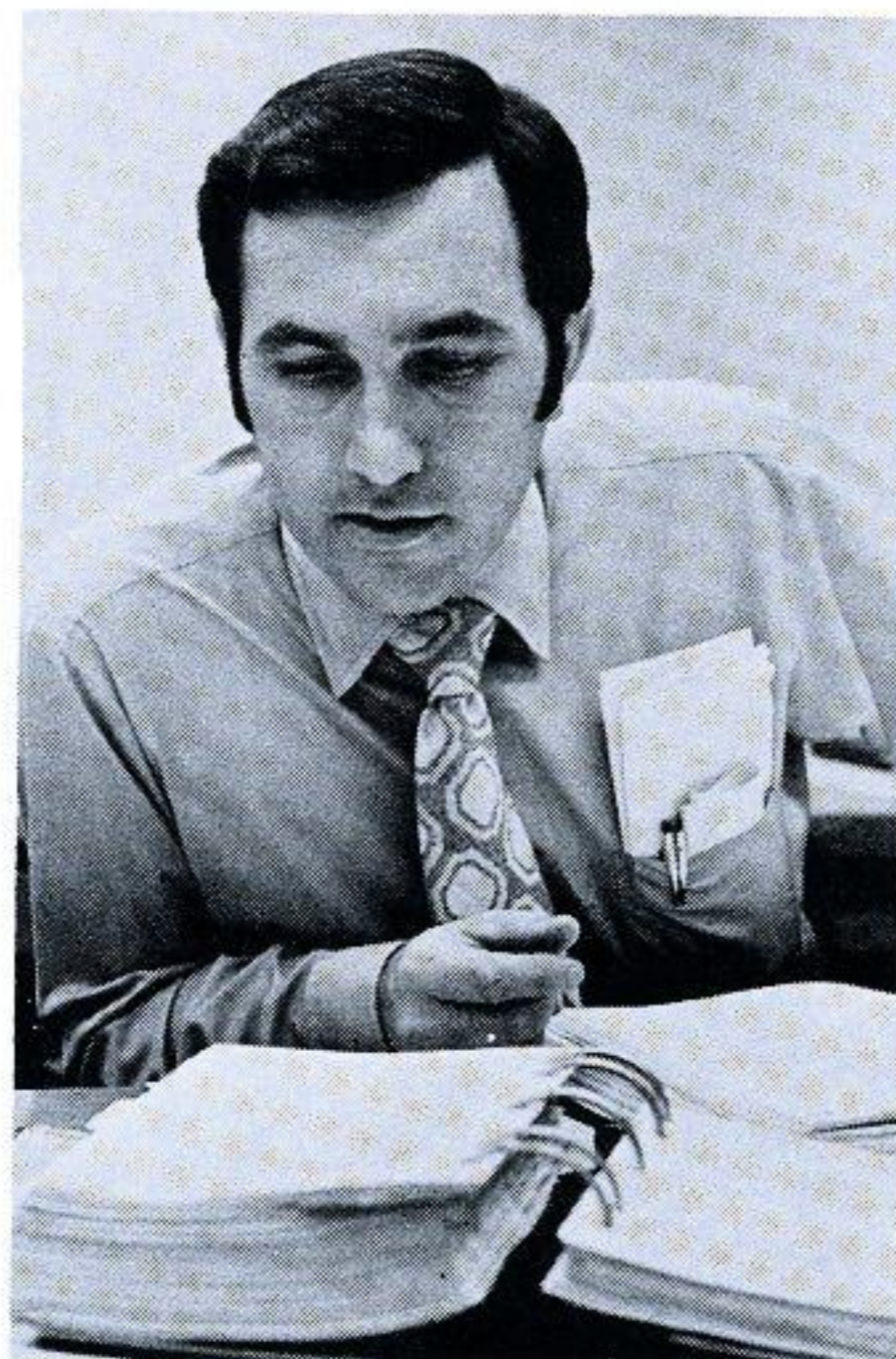
## BRANDON C. BRYAN

Bryan is a native of Beaumont and an M.B.A. graduate of Lamar University.

He joined the Company in 1968 as a scheduling assistant in system engineering planning. He moved to financial services one year later as an administrative assistant. He was promoted to financial administration coordinator in 1972.



Raymond Holm



William A. Cropper

**J. JIMMY DELAHOUSAYE - HERBERT E. STEIN**

Delahoussaye is a native of New Iberia, La. He received a B.S. in accounting from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1969 and joined Gulf States as an administrative accountant in plant accounting. Following a two-year tour with the U.S. Army at their finance school and in Germany, Delahoussaye returned to plant accounting in 1972. He transferred to the budget department in 1973.

He is married to the former Merline Meaux of Abbeville, La. The couple has two young girls, in first and second grades.

Stein was born in Pierre, S. Dak., and raised in New Orleans. He received a B.S. in business in 1969 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, where he was co-captain of the track team and ran on the conference champion 440-yard and mile relay teams. He also placed fifth in the long jump in the 1968 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championships.

He joined Gulf States as an administrative accountant in general accounting after his graduation. He transferred to the budget department six weeks later. Stein served nearly three years in the U.S. Army — including two years in Germany — in the early 70's.

Stein is married to the former Rebecca Ann Baker of Fenton, La. The couple has a 4-year-old son, William.

Both Delahoussaye and Stein expect to complete their MBA's at Lamar University in May.

**RAYMOND HOLM**

Holm is a native of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. He attended the Memphis College of Accountants and is a veteran of both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force.

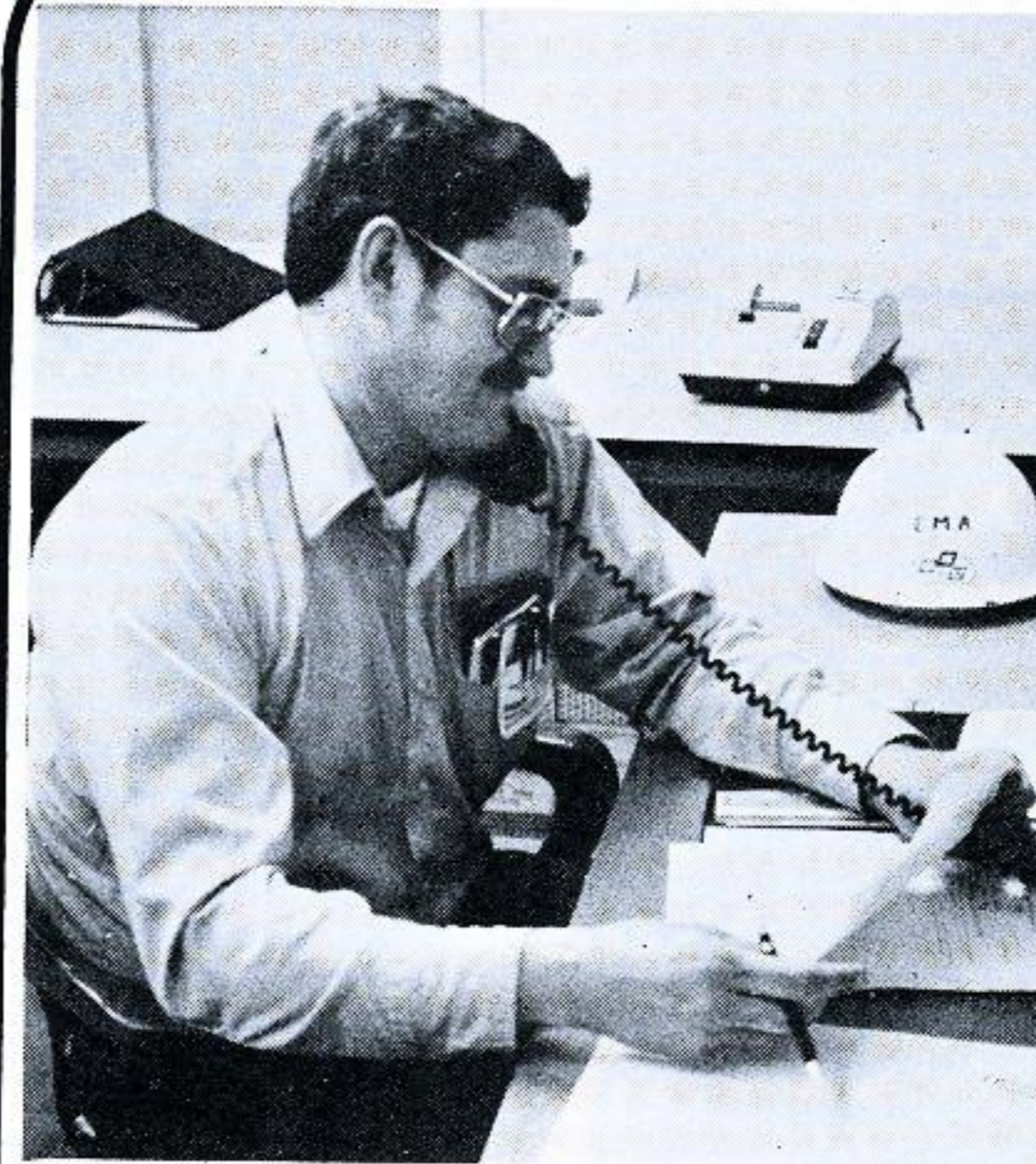
He joined Gulf States in 1962 as a utility pilot in the aviation department. He became an administrative assistant in stores accounting in 1967 and supervisor of accounts payable in 1972.

He is married to the former Virginia McQueen of Crosby, Miss. The couple has three children.

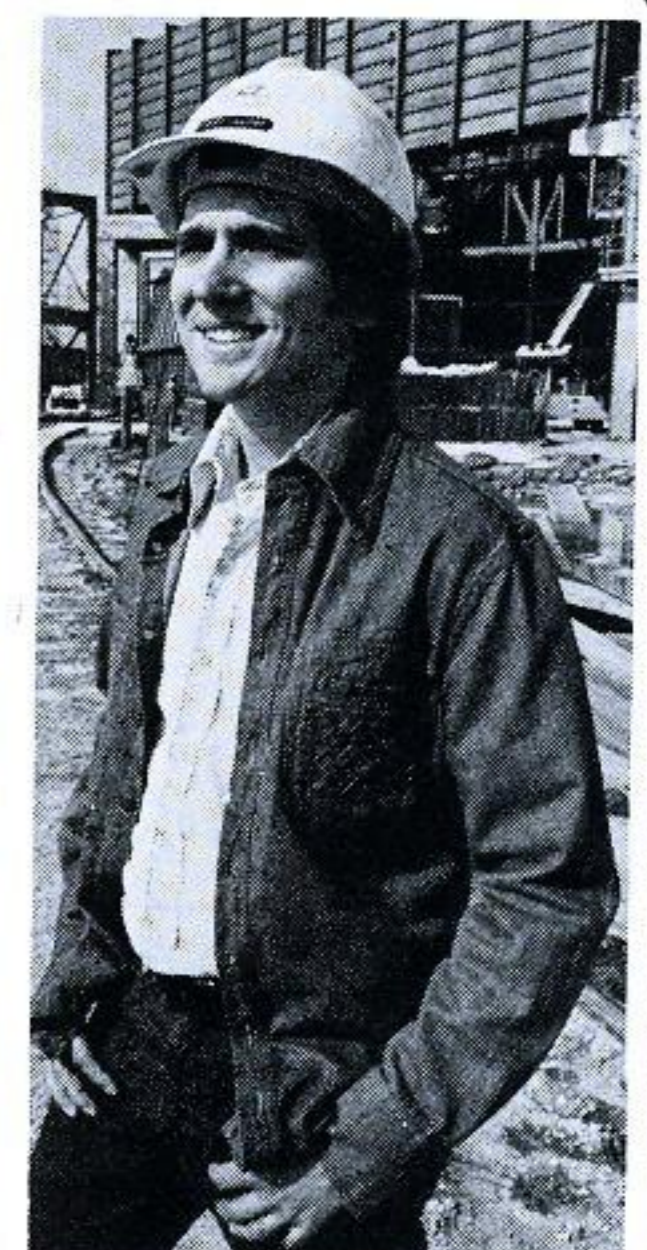
**WILLIAM A. CROPPER**

Cropper is a native of Beaumont. He holds a general business degree from Texas A&M and a Master of Business Administration degree from Lamar University.

He joined Gulf States in 1969 as assistant purchasing agent in Beaumont. Ten months later he was transferred to system



Michael Petry



Perry J. Walker

Michael Petry and Perry J. Walker, engineers formerly in the system production department, have been transferred to the power plant construction department. Both will remain assigned to the power plants where they have been serving. Petry is at Nelson Station; Walker works at Willow Glen.

Both men will continue to coordinate the construction activities at their particular power plants. Environmental control equipment is being added at Nelson 4 and at Willow Glen 3. Willow Glen 5 is also nearly completed.

Petry is a native of Crowley, La. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force before joining Gulf States in 1967 as an engineering helper in system engineering design in Beaumont. Eight months later he was named building equipment attendant in T&D.

Petry received his electrical engineering degree from Lamar University in 1973 and was soon promoted to engineer in system production at the Main Office. He was transferred to Nelson Station in 1974.

Petry is married to the former Jean Lanese Dugat of Sour Lake. The couple has two young sons.

Walker is a native of Beaumont and a 1970 mechanical engineering graduate of Lamar University. He joined the Company in 1971 as an engineer in system production. He was transferred to Willow Glen in 1972.

Walker is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He is married to the former Judy Bonvillion of Beaumont, a customer accounting clerk in the Gulf States Baton Rouge office. The couple is expecting their first child.

marketing and named market research analyst. He moved to financial services in 1973 as financial analyst.

Cropper is a member of the Beaumont A&M Club and St. Ann's Men (SAM) at St. Anne's Catholic Church.

He is married to the former Genon Gay Oliver of Corpus Christi. The couple has two children.

**ANNE PARRISH**

Mrs. Parrish is a native of Waycross, Ga. She was graduated from Valdosta State College with a degree in business administration and finance. She had worked as an accountant in an Atlanta bank and as an officer in a Beaumont bank before joining Gulf States as an administrative accountant in 1974.

She is married to Alan Parrish of Atlanta.

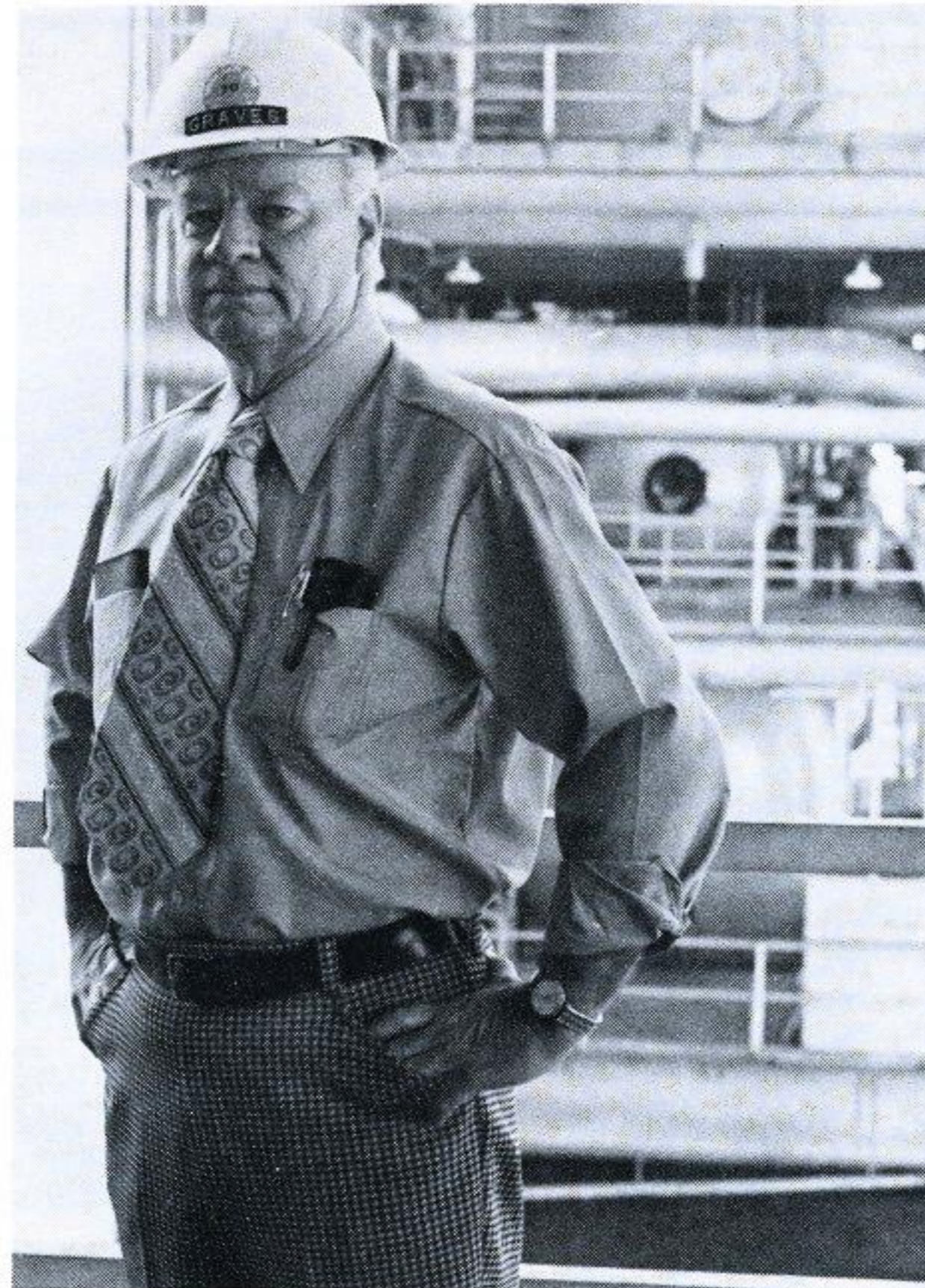


**Weldon L. Smith Jr.**

**Weldon L. Smith Jr.**, formerly superintendent of Willow Glen Station, has been promoted to superintendent of site construction at River Bend Station near St. Francisville.

Smith will be responsible for controlling and monitoring construction efforts at the site of Gulf States' first nuclear power plant. General contractor and design engineer for the project is Stone & Webster, Inc.

Replacing Smith at Willow Glen is **John T. Graves**, formerly operations su-

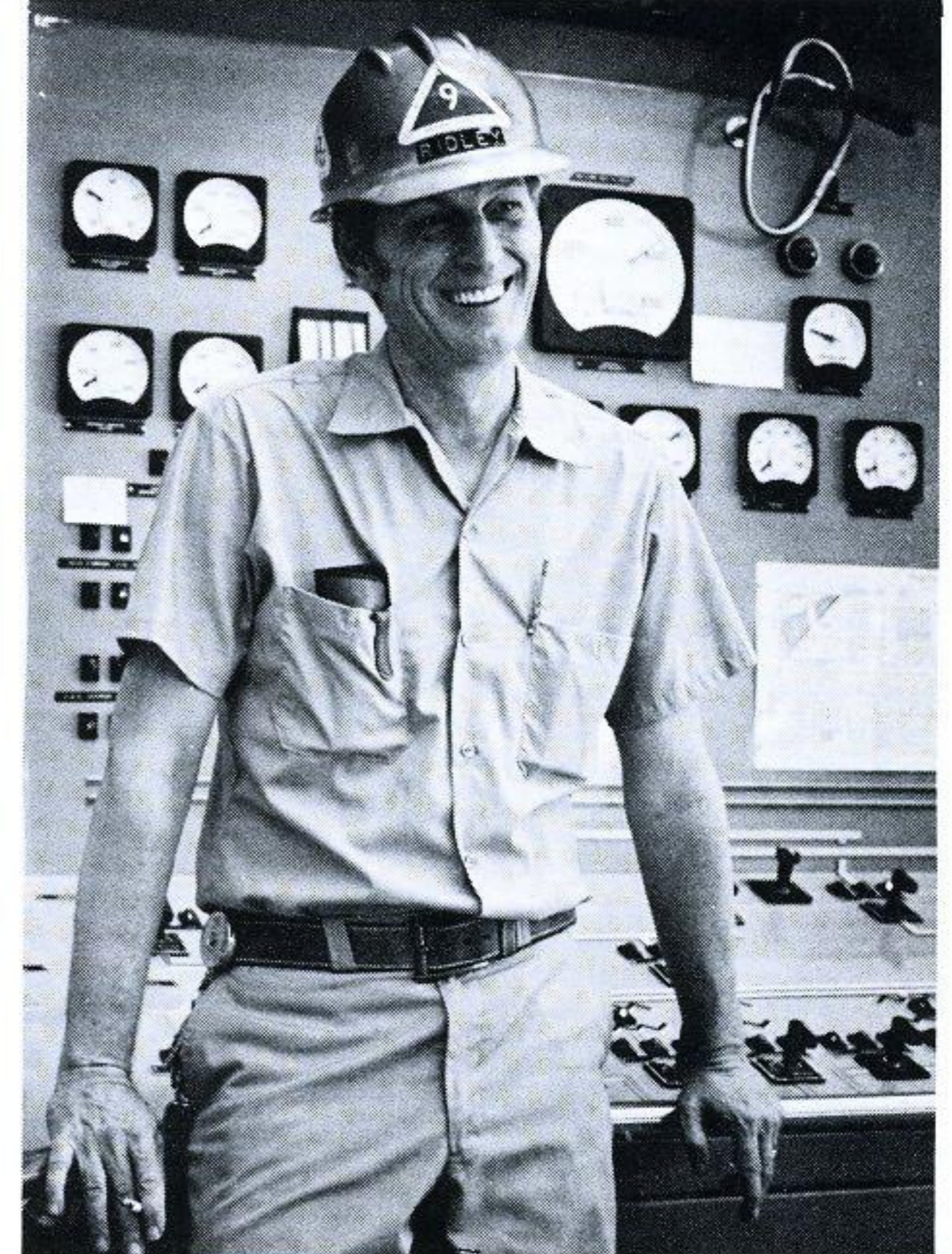


**John T. Graves**

pervisor at Sabine Station. **Hal J. Ridley**, formerly control operations foreman at Sabine, has been promoted to operations supervisor there.

Smith is a native of Jasper, Tex., and a 1959 graduate of Lamar University. He joined Gulf States as a chemist in system production in Beaumont after a six-month stint in the U.S. Army. Smith moved to Baton Rouge in 1965 as chemist at Louisiana Station.

He was promoted to general maintenance supervisor at Louisiana Station in



**Hal J. Ridley**

March, 1970, and to superintendent at Willow Glen five months later.

He is a member of the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce and the Gonzales Rotary Club.

He is married to the former Alice Jones of Beaumont. The couple has three children.

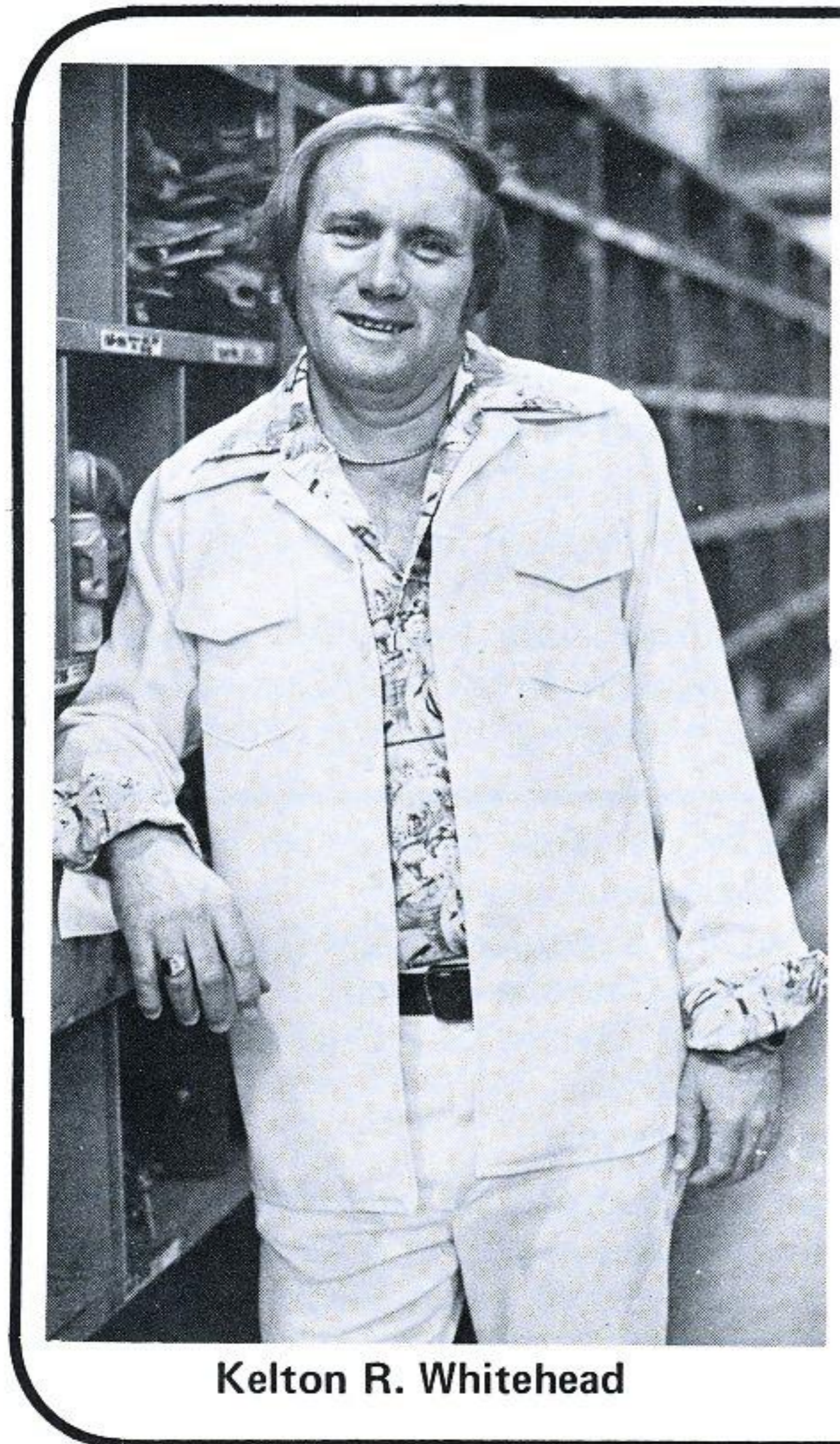
Graves is a native of Baton Rouge who spent his early years with the Company at Louisiana Station. He graduated from University High School and attended Louisiana State University three years. He was hired in 1940 as an oiler at Louisiana Station. He had progressed to operator's helper when World War II broke out. He served five and a half years in the U. S. Army and returned as an auxiliary operator. He progressed to switchboard operator in 1951 and to head fireman in 1952. In 1958 he was selected to become one of the first crew of control operations foremen at Nelson Station. He was chosen in 1961 to be the first operations superintendent at Sabine Station.

Graves is a member of the American Legion and the Orange (Tex.) Chamber of Commerce.

He is married to the former Martile Waller of Baton Rouge. The couple has no children.

Ridley was born in Sour Lake and was graduated from Beaumont High School. He began his Gulf States career in 1947 as an operator's helper at Neches Station. Twice serving about one year in the U. S. Army, Ridley rose through the ranks to auxiliary operator in 1950, to turbine operator in 1952, and to switchboard operator in 1962.

He was promoted to control operations foreman at Sabine Station in 1963.



**Kelton R. Whitehead**

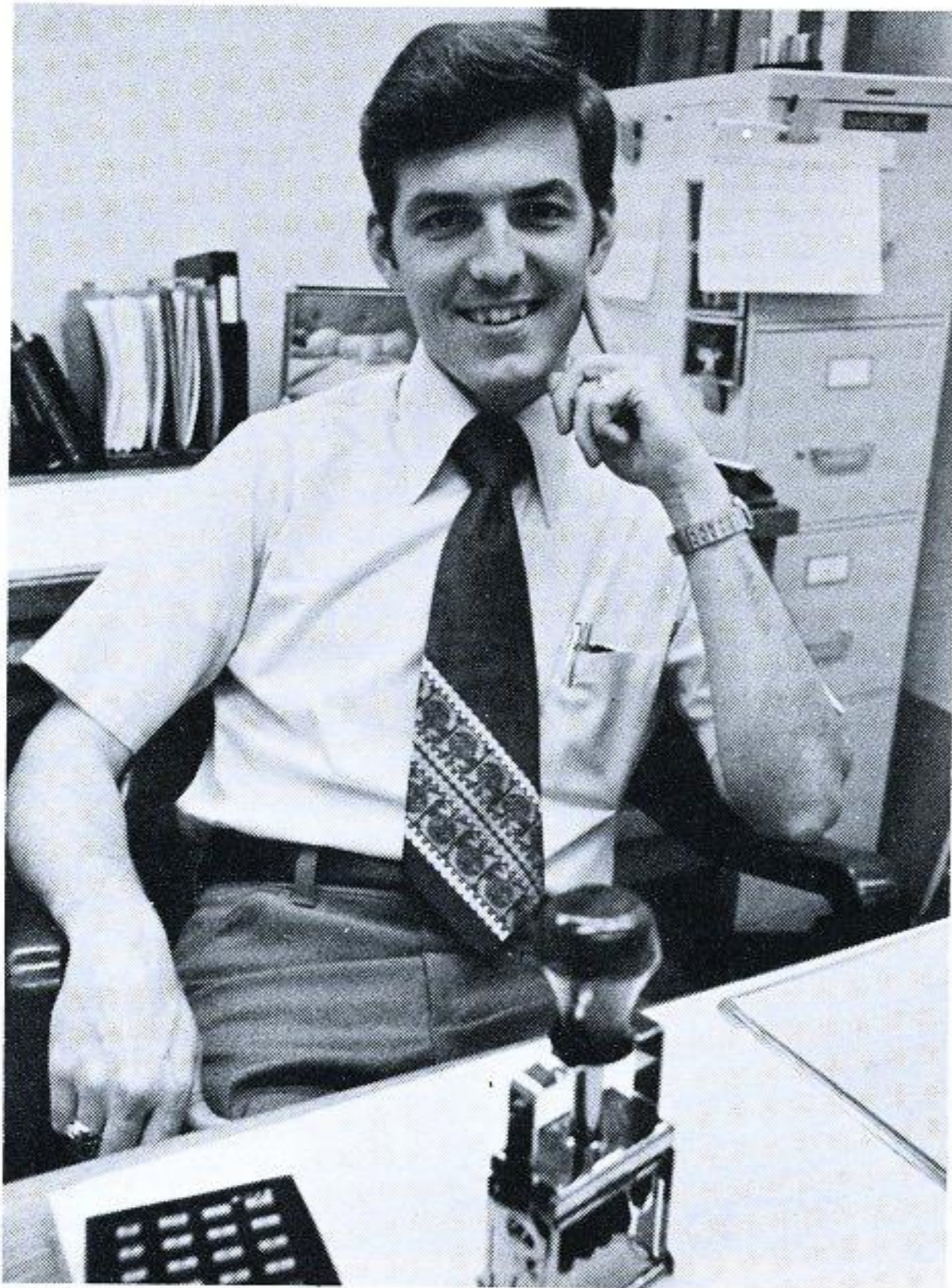
**Kelton R. Whitehead**, formerly Choctaw Service Center storeroom foreman in Baton Rouge, has been promoted to supervisor of the storeroom. He succeeds Manson C. Corkern Jr., who was transferred to the accounting department in the downtown office.

Whitehead will be managing the introduction of the computerized Material Management System at Choctaw. He also plans to add more racks and bins to accommodate more equipment.

Whitehead was born and reared in Denham Springs. He joined Gulf States in 1962 as a storeroom assistant. He rose to storekeeper in 1970 and to foreman in 1974.

He is a member of the Livingston Parish Recreation District #2 and has been a recreation baseball coach for nine years. He is a basketball referee and an executive committee member of the Baton Rouge Officials Association.

Whitehead is married to the former Jewell Byrd of Denham Springs. They have two teenaged sons.



**Ken Sandberg**

Two engineers have been promoted to supervisor and another added in the quality assurance department.

**Ken Sandberg**, formerly engineer in the "QA" department, has been promoted to project quality assurance supervisor. **Mike Hillhouse**, formerly engineer at Sabine Station, has been transferred to QA and promoted to construction quality assurance supervisor.

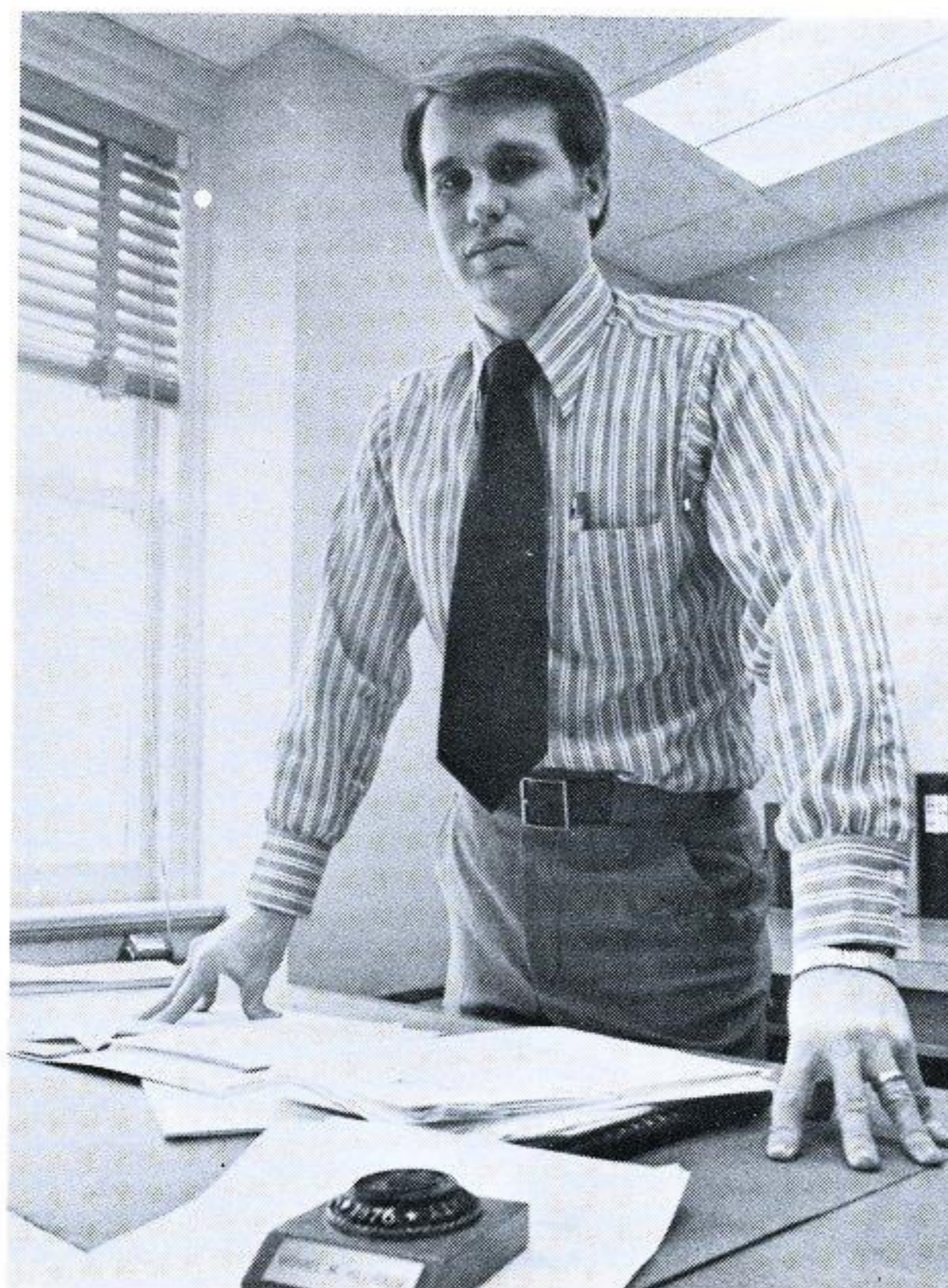
**Ed Matejick**, formerly engineer in the power plant engineering and design department, has been transferred to QA as a quality assurance representative.

The QA group is responsible for assuring to the Company and to the appropriate regulatory bodies that the River Bend nuclear power plant is being built properly. Sandberg will be responsible for all quality assurance work at River Bend — including engineering and design quality assurance of various vendors' work as well as construction quality assurance at the site itself.

"We must be sure that quality is not jeopardized by either cost or schedule," Sandberg said. Hillhouse will be directly responsible for quality assurance at the River Bend construction site. He will see that construction and safety systems satisfy all applicable codes and regulations.

"All the equipment that is installed must be what we said it would be in our PSAR (Preliminary Safety Analysis Report)," Hillhouse said. "There will be no shortcuts or sloppy construction."

Eventually reporting to Hillhouse will be a number of quality assurance representatives specializing in various disciplines. Matejick has been the only one named so far. He will oversee the civil engineering and structural work at the site.



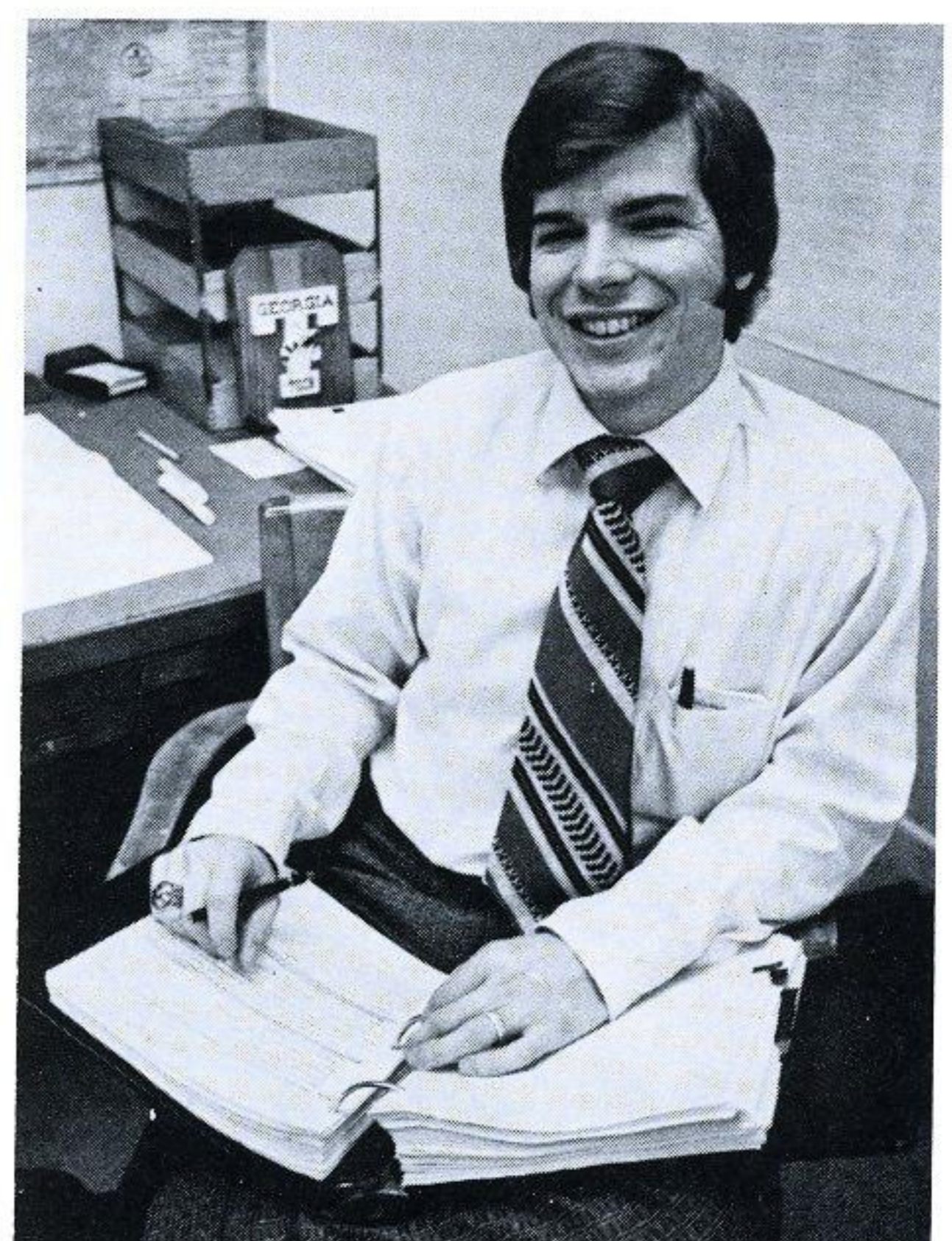
**Mike Hillhouse**

Sandberg is a native of Austin and a 1971 mechanical engineering graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. He then joined the Company as an engineer in system production. A year later he was transferred briefly to power plant engineering and design before moving to the QA group in October, 1972.

He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Sandberg is married to the former Janice Simpson. They have one 11-month-old son.

Hillhouse is a native of Tulsa, Okla., and a 1970 electrical engineering graduate of Texas A&M University.



**Ed Matejick**

Hillhouse is married to the former Diana Lynn Dooley of Iola, Tex. The couple has one son born in February.

A native of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Matejick was a 1975 graduate of Georgia Tech in civil engineering. He joined the Company July 1, 1975, just four days before last year's strike.

At Georgia Tech, he was a member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity and was elected to Chi Epsilon, the honorary civil engineering society. He is a member of the Houston Georgia Tech Alumni Association.

He is married to the former Theresa Ward of Atlanta, Ga.

**Camilla P. Adams**, formerly financial administration coordinator in financial services, has been promoted to staff accountant reporting to Tom Page, executive vice president.

Mrs. Adams will conduct special studies and perform various assignments for Page.

For example, she is gathering information pertinent to the rate increase application and will gather the latest information on the effects of increasing prices on the usage of electricity.

Mrs. Adams is a native of Shreveport, La.

She was graduated from Lamar University in 1968 with a business administration degree in accounting.

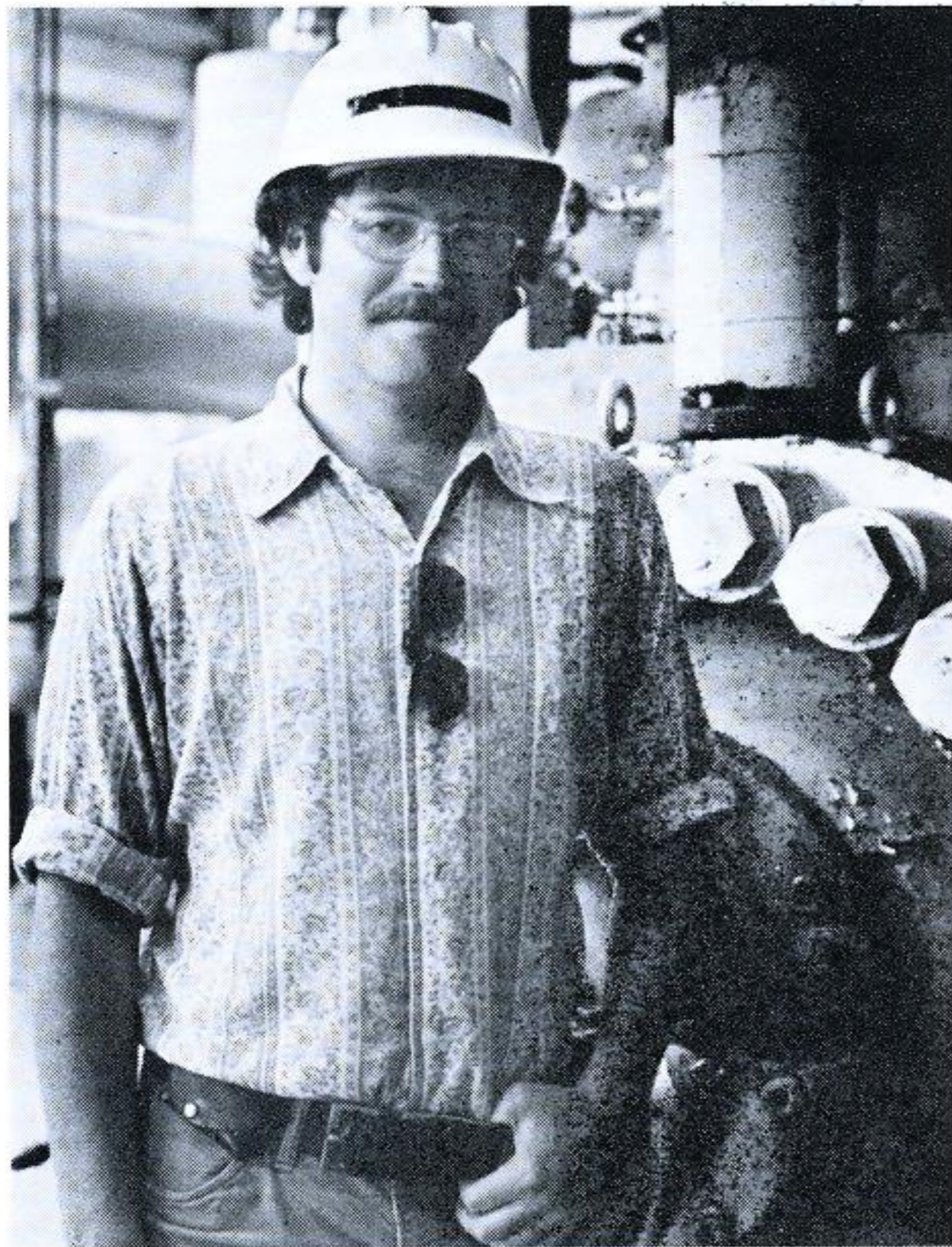
She joined Gulf States after graduation as an administrative accountant in general accounting.

She was promoted to financial administration coordinator in 1972.

Mrs. Adams has three teenaged children.



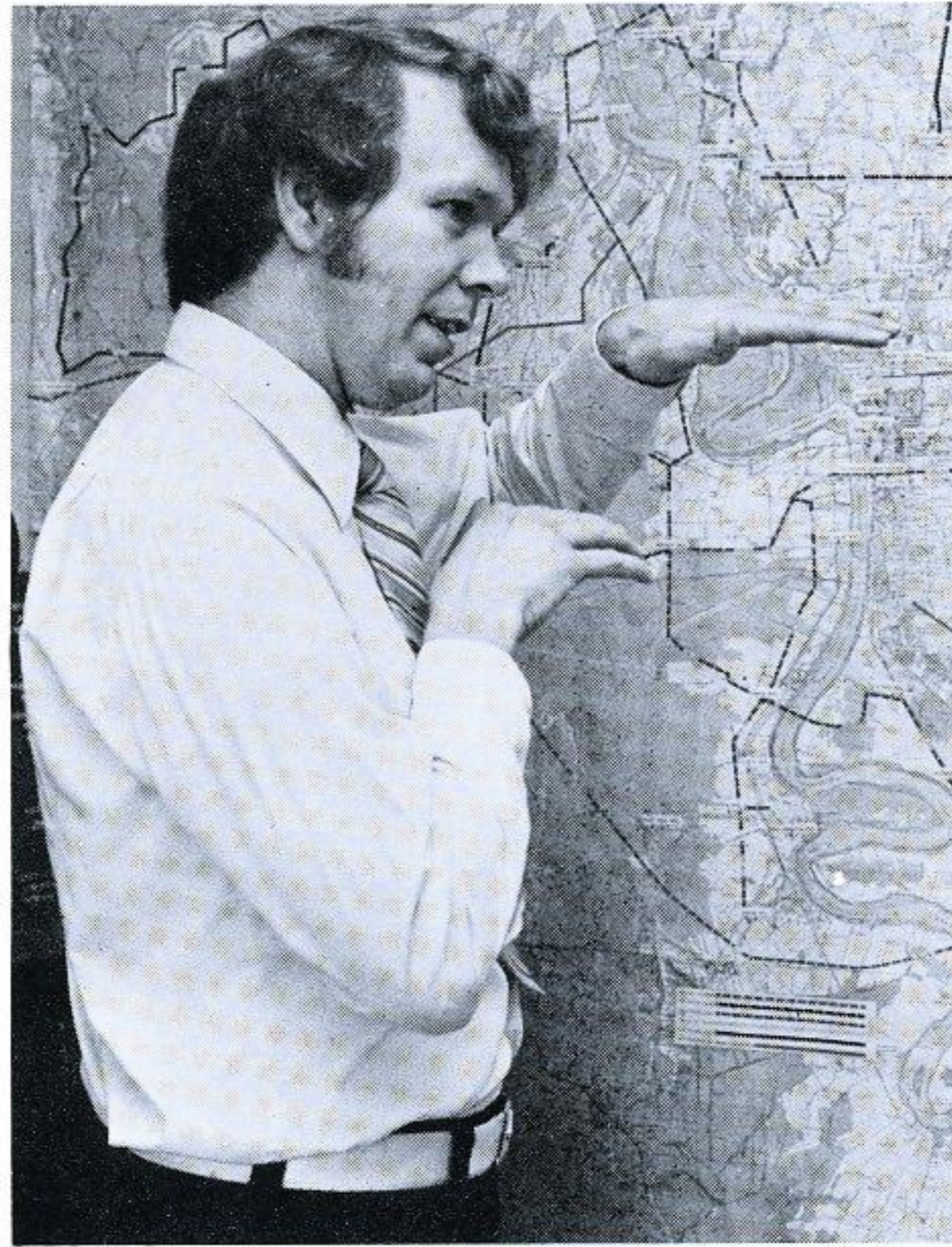
**Camilla P. Adams**



**Joe Leavines**

**Joe Leavines**, formerly engineer in system production, has been transferred to Sabine Station as plant engineer, replacing Mike Hillhouse. (See quality assurance promotions, page 19.)

**Charles L. Byars**, formerly engineer in system engineering planning, has been transferred to Leavines' former system production assignment of coordinating engineering work associated with Louisiana Station. **Robert H. Pohl**, engineer in system engineering planning (see *Plain Talks*, Feb.-March, 1976, page 30), has been moved to Byars' slot designing Louisiana transmission lines. **Pamela J. Webb**,



**Charles L. Byars**

formerly engineer in system engineering design, has been transferred to Pohl's former job in system engineering planning designing Texas transmission lines.

Leavines was born in Houston and was graduated from Texas A&M University in 1973 with a degree in nuclear engineering. He joined Gulf States as an engineer in system production after his graduation.

Byars is a native of Warren, Ark., and a 1970 electrical engineering graduate of Louisiana Tech. After college, Byars joined Gulf States in Lake Charles as an engineer in T&D. He was transferred to



**Pamela J. Webb**

Beaumont in 1972 as an engineer in system engineering design. Two years later he was transferred to system engineering planning.

He served four years in the U. S. Air Force prior to attending college.

Byars is married to the former Betsy Sheppard of Fort Myers, Fla. The couple has three children.

Miss Webb, a Port Arthur native, joined Gulf States in 1971 as an engineer in system engineering design after her graduation from Lamar University with a degree in electrical engineering.

**L. Dudley Clarke**, formerly utility foreman in Lake Charles, has been promoted to assistant general line foreman. He replaces Perry A. Dickinson, who retired Oct. 1, 1975.

Clarke is a native of Kaplan, La., and a 1954 graduate of Kaplan High School. He served three years in the U. S. Air Force during the Koren Conflict before joining Gulf States in 1957 as a helper in the Lake Charles T&D line department. He progressed to lineman first class in 1962 and was named utility foreman in 1972.



**L. Dudley Clarke**

He is a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2130 and the Industrial Mangus Club. He has been active in scouting for 15 years and is also past vice president of the A. A. Nelson P.T.A.

He is married to the former Joyce Lerpín of Kaplan. The couple has three children — two in high school and a preschooler.

**Jeanne B. Johnson**, formerly senior clerk in the Lake Charles division accounting department, has been promoted to supervisor of customer accounts in Lake Charles.

She will supervise 13 persons, including the customer accounting clerks and the janitors in the Lake Charles office.

A native of Jennings, Mrs. Johnson was graduated from Lake Charles High School and Vincent's Business College. She joined Gulf States in 1944 as a messenger in the Lake Charles division accounting department. She later served one year as PBX operator before being named customer accounting clerk in 1946. She was promoted to senior

customer accounting clerk 30 months later. She was named senior clerk of credit and collections in 1975.

Mrs. Johnson is treasurer of the American Business Women's Association chapter in Lake Charles.

Mrs. Johnson has one son and three grandchildren.



**Jeanne B. Johnson**



**Carter G. Davis**



**Mike Yennie**

A reorganization of the information and data services (IDS) department has resulted in four promotions.

**Carter G. Davis**, formerly director of electronic data processing (EDP) systems support services, has been promoted to director of IDS planning services. **Mike Yennie**, formerly supervisor of EDP application development, has been promoted to director of EDP implementation services.

**Tom Amerine**, formerly systems analyst, has been promoted to senior systems analyst. **Bob Dowies**, formerly methods analyst, has been promoted to systems analyst.

Davis will be responsible for planning future computer systems the Company will need and how data and programs for those systems should be structured. His expanded duties will cover planning in records management, microfiche and microfilm in addition to EDP. Yennie will direct the detailed programming and installation of approved systems.

The duties of Amerine and Dowies are essentially unchanged. Their promotions are in recognition of achievement in their former positions.

Davis is a native of Clarksville, Tenn. He attended Austin Peay State College and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict.

He joined Gulf States in 1956 as an accounting clerk. He was named junior accountant in IDS systems support services in 1957 and promoted to systems analyst in 1961. He was promoted to supervisor of EDP systems support services in 1964; to supervisor of EDP commercial support services in 1968 and to director of systems support services in 1971.

Yennie is a native of Lake Charles and a 1963 business administration graduate from McNeese State College. He served three months in the U.S. Navy and joined Gulf States in 1964 as a junior accountant in accounting services. He became an administrative accountant in 1967 and was transferred to IDS systems support services two months later. He was promoted to EDP systems design supervisor in 1968 and to supervisor of EDP application development in 1972.

Yennie is married to the former Patsy Verret of Hayes, La. The couple has three children.

Yennie is chairman of the EDP section of the Texas Utilities Conference, a member of the Southwest Football Officials Association and the Y.M.C.A.

Amerine is a native of Houston and a graduate of Beaumont High School. He attended Lamar Univ. for two years and also spent two years in the U. S. Navy.

He joined Gulf States after his discharge from the Navy in 1960 as an engineering helper in system engineering (survey). He progressed through other engineering assignments in relay & communications and in planning before becoming a systems analyst in IDS systems support services in 1967.

Amerine is a director of the Beaumont Bowling Association.

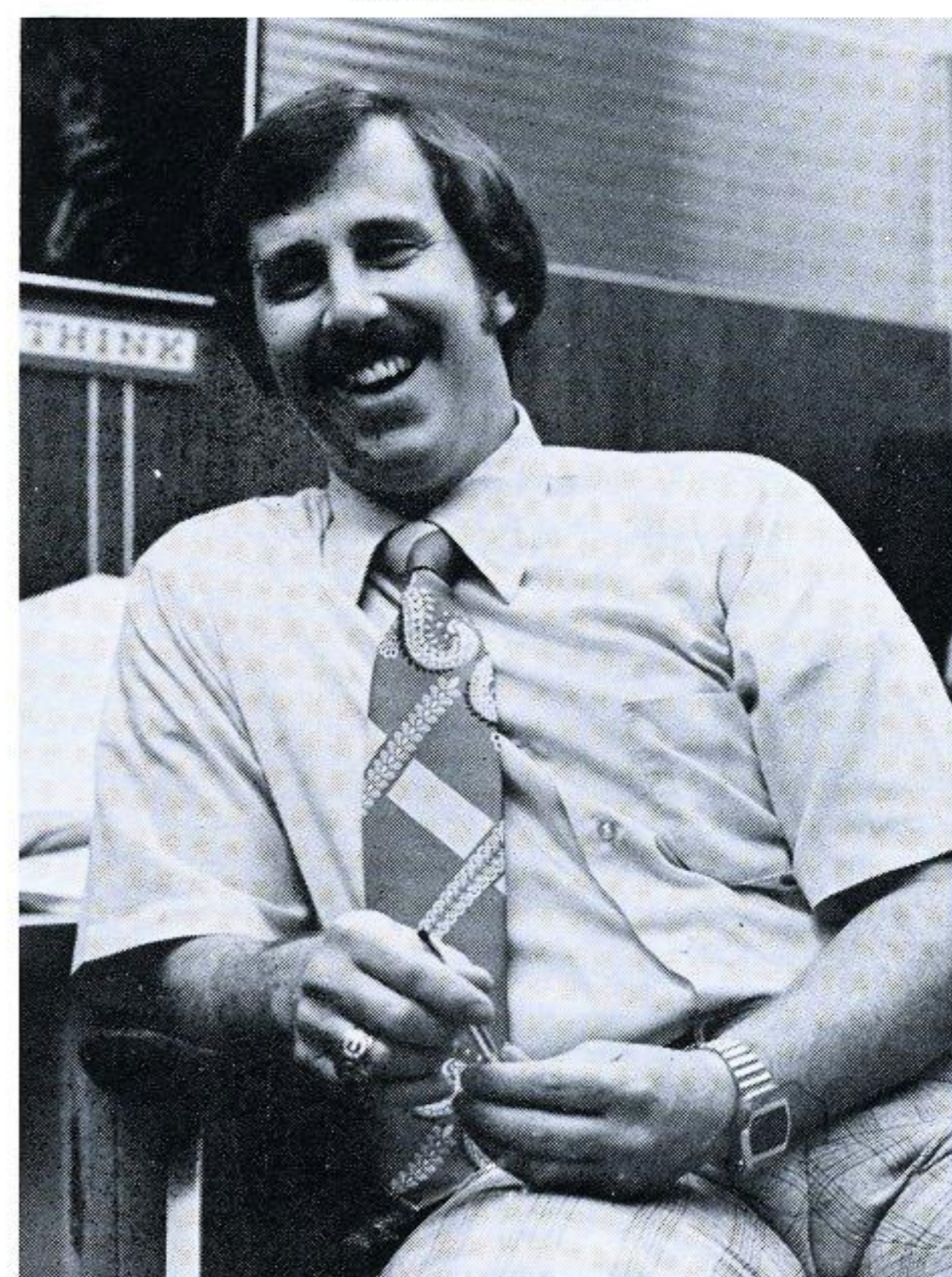
He is married to the former Katherine Ann Spafford of Beaumont. Mrs. Amerine is EDP scheduling and controls coordinator and daughter of Ralph Spafford, system marketing coordinator. The couple has two children.

Dowies is a native of Lake Charles and a 1972 business administration graduate from McNeese State University. He joined the Company as a residential sales representative in Lake Charles following his graduation. He was transferred to IDS in Beaumont as a methods analyst in 1975.

Dowies is married to the former Kathryn Hebert of Lake Charles. The couple has two children.



**Tom Amerine**

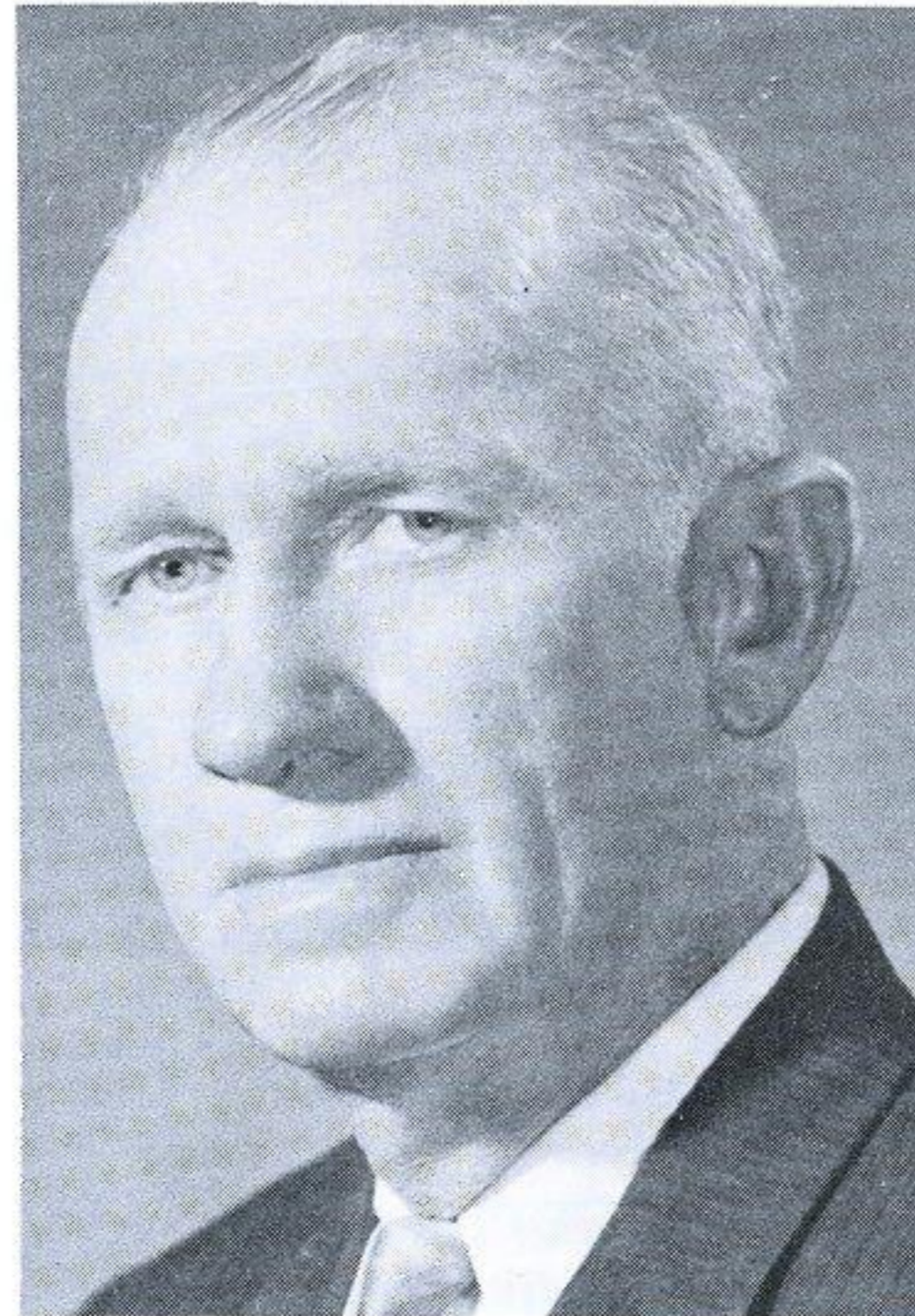


**Bob Dowies**

# SERVICE AWARDS

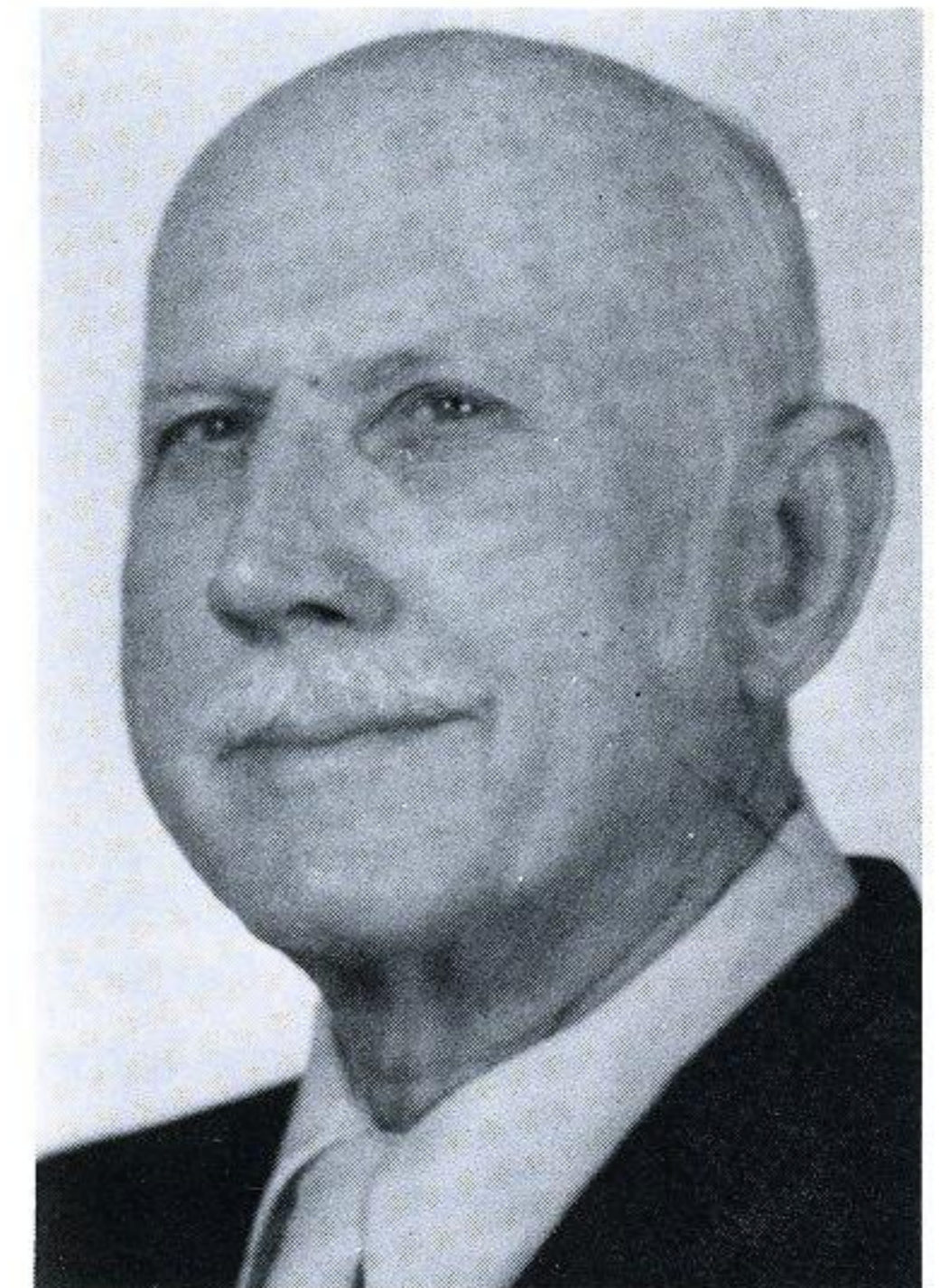


**Edward J. Vogel**  
Engineering Design  
Beaumont



**E. E. Kaltwasser**  
Electric T&D  
Huntsville

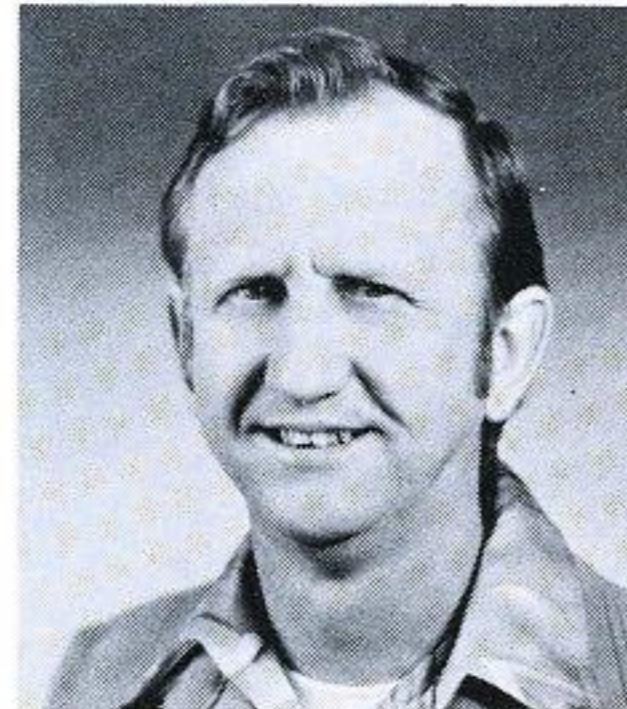
## 40 Years



**C. H. Watler**  
Division Production  
Lake Charles



**Clifford A. Toups**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge

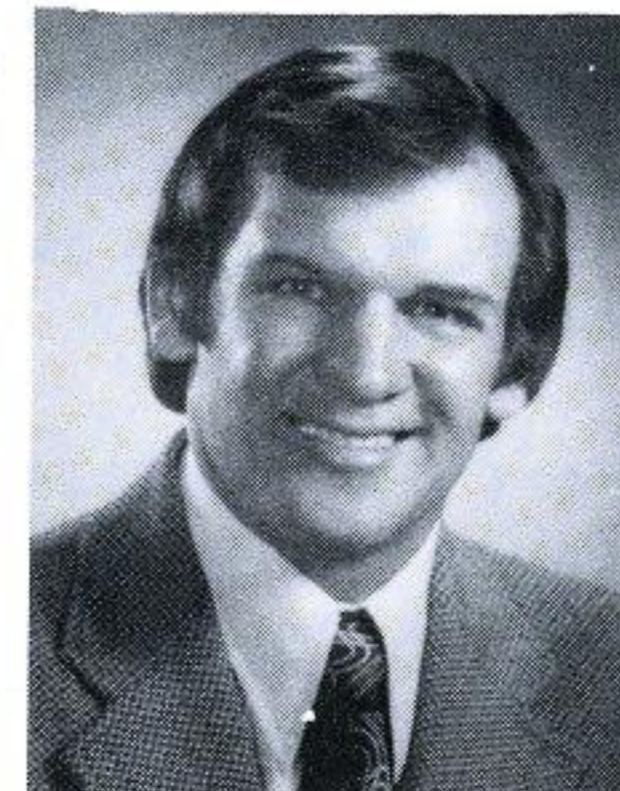


**Scott W. Bunch**  
Division Production  
Baton Rouge

## 20 Years



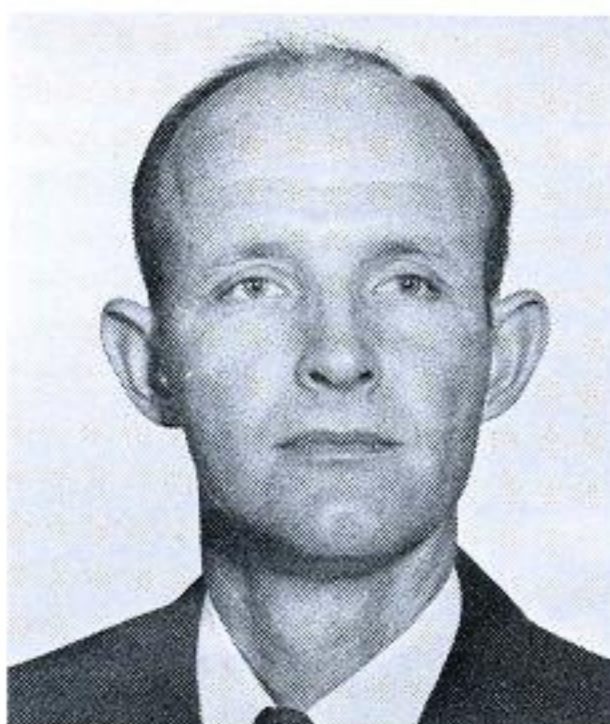
**Charlotte H. Griffin**  
Personnel  
Beaumont



**Martin F. Telger**  
Electric T&D  
Anahuac



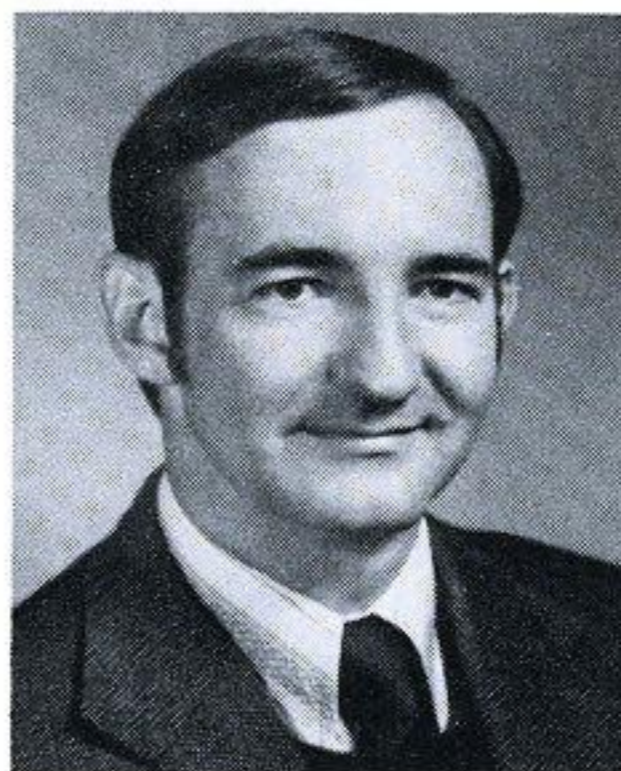
**Lonnie E. Stalsby**  
Engineering Design  
Beaumont



**James C. West Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Groveton



**Carl J. Paline**  
Electric T&D  
Denham Springs

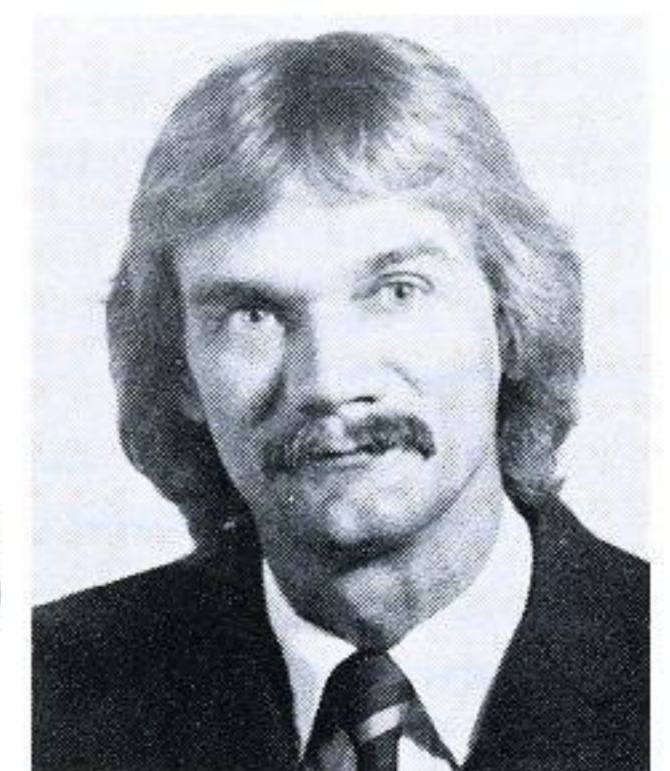


**Thomas R. Stirling**  
Engineering Planning  
Beaumont



**Juett D. Blevins**  
Electric T&D  
Orange

## 10 Years



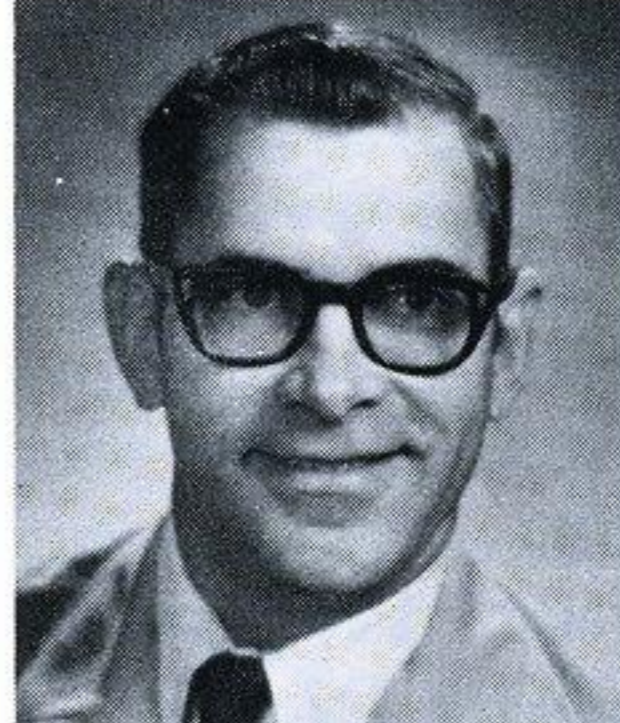
**Morris L. Jenkins Jr.**  
Division Production  
Baton Rouge



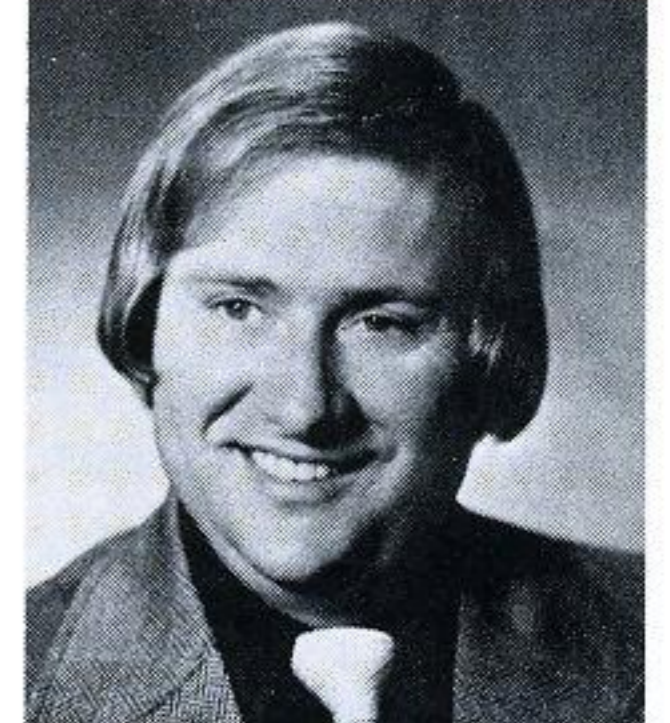
**Ralph M. Knobloch**  
Power Plant Construction  
St. Francisville



**James G. Guidry Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont



**Bobby J. Gillentine**  
Engineering Planning  
Beaumont



**Richard P. Hebert**  
Gas  
Baton Rouge

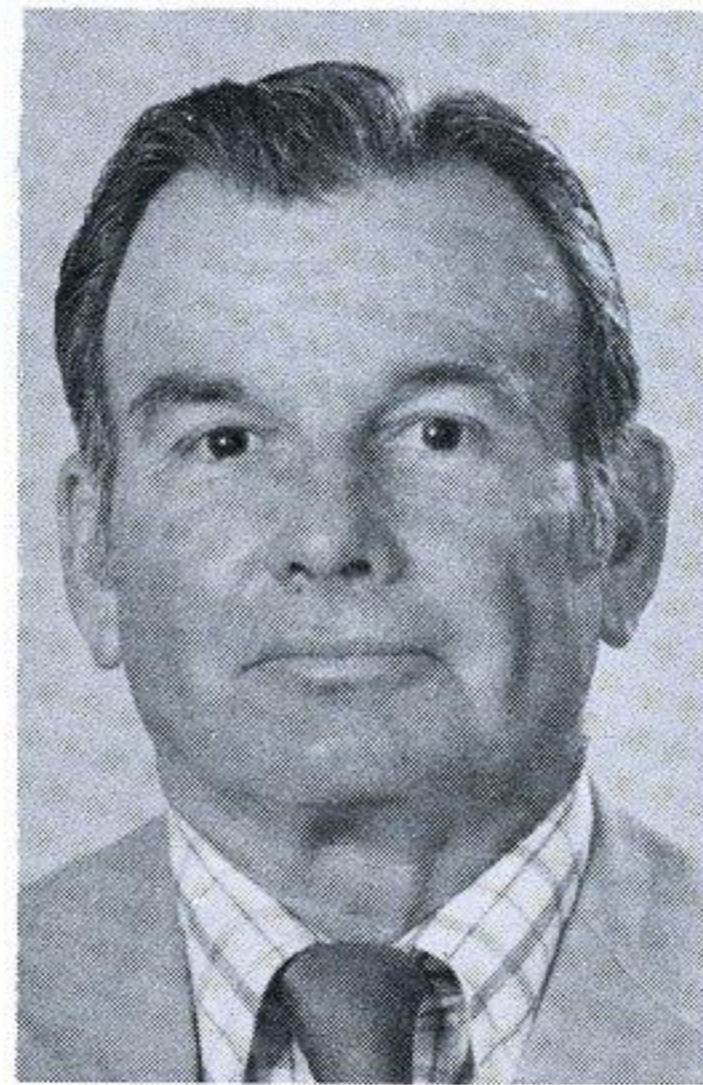




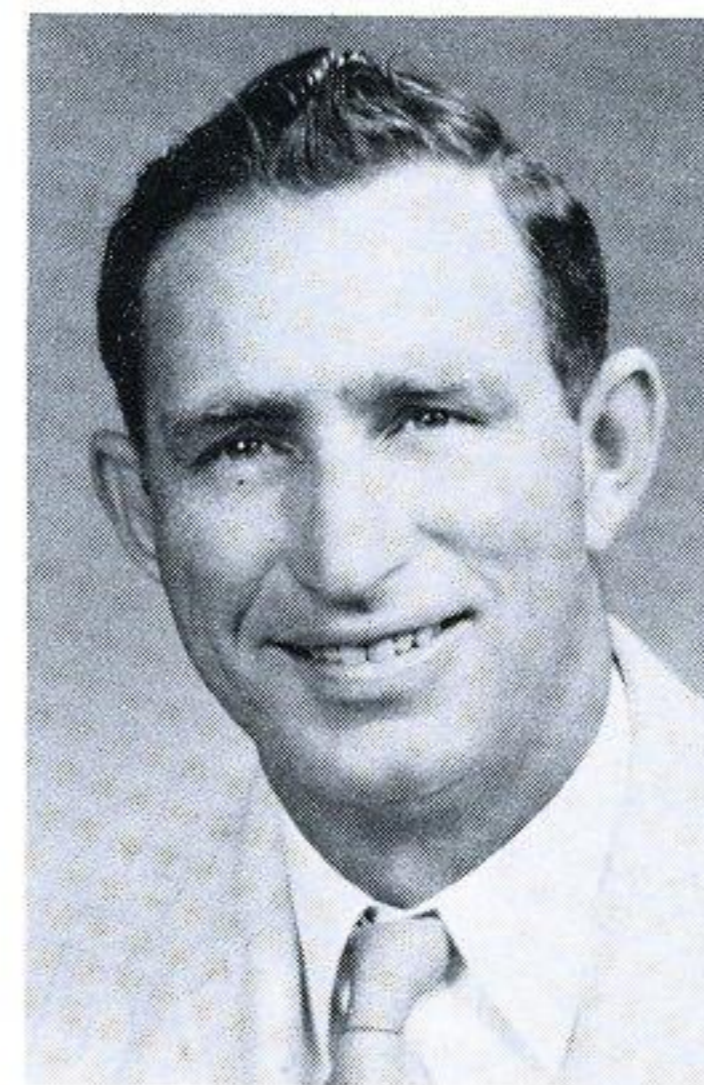
**Joseph C. Queen**  
Electric T&D  
Port Arthur



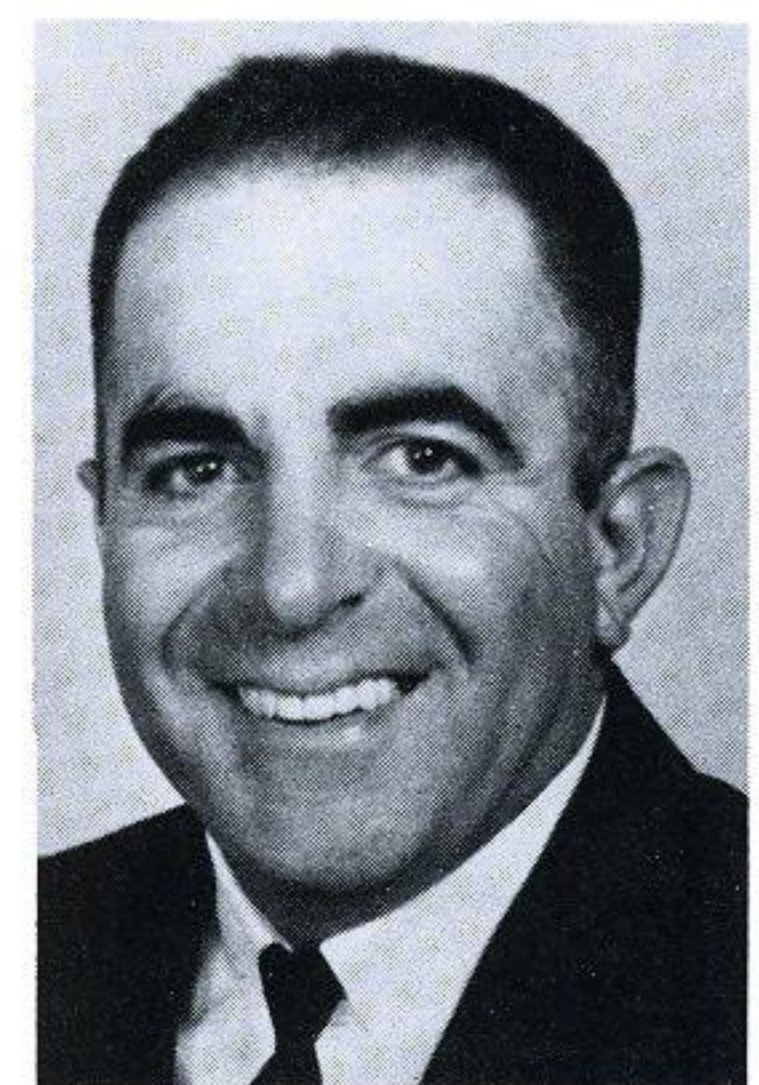
**Harvey Hatch**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge



**David T. Pate Jr.**  
Electric T&D  
Woodville

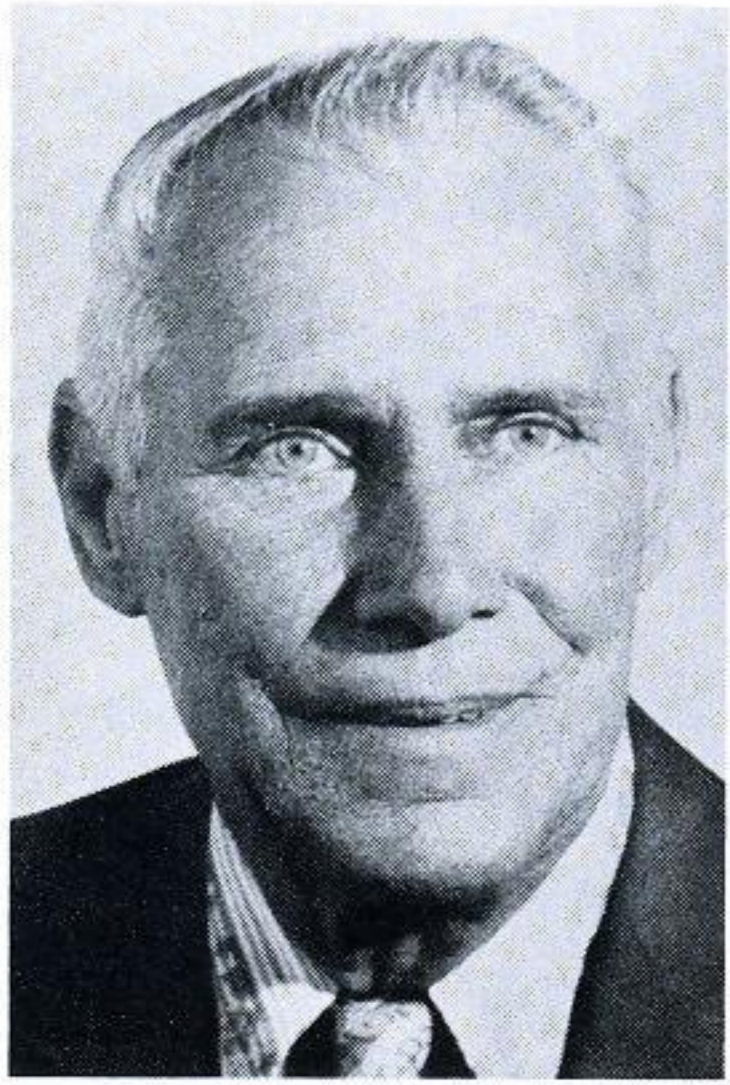


**Willis T. Lang**  
Electric T&D  
Beaumont

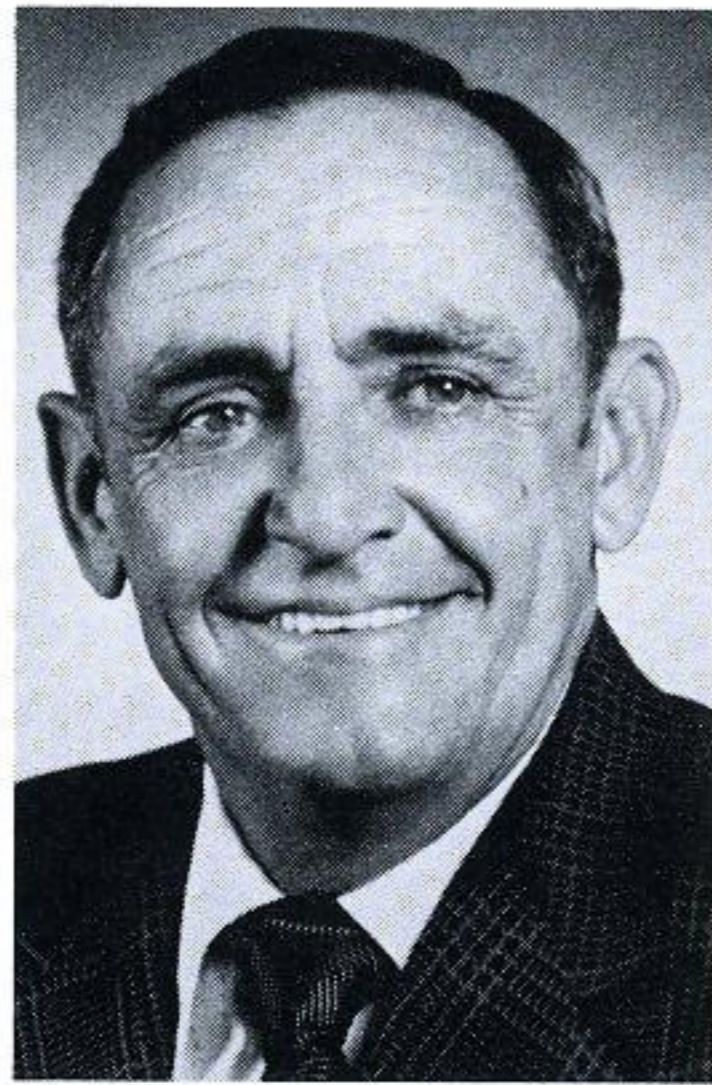


**Kamille J. George**  
Electric T&D  
Lake Charles

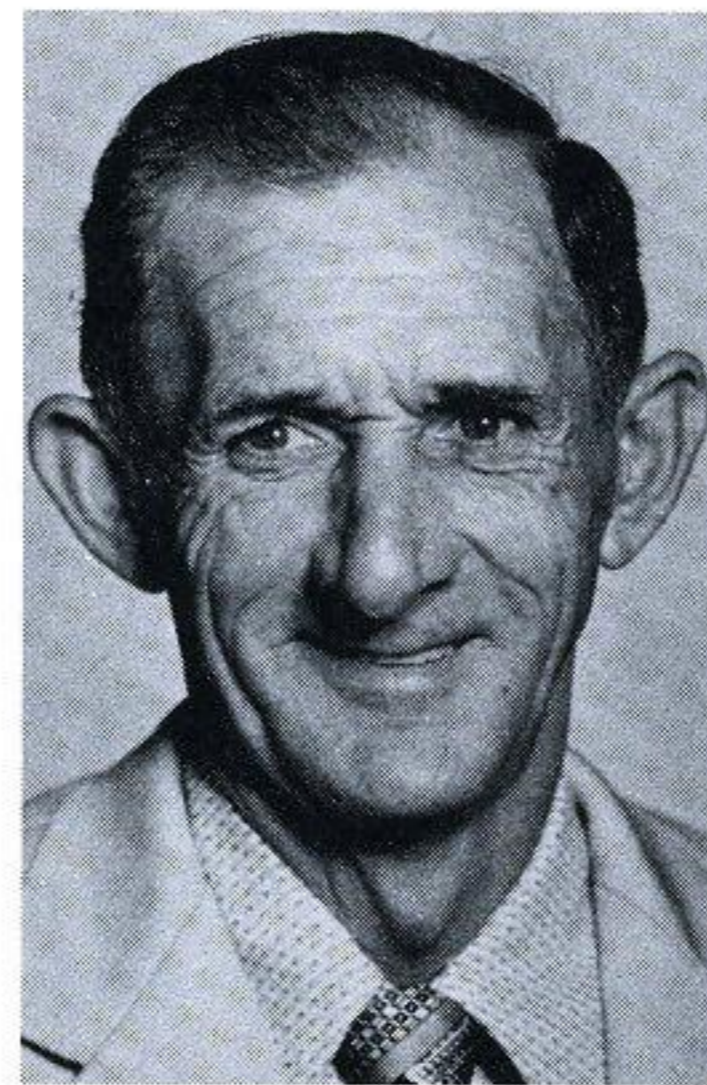
# 30 Years



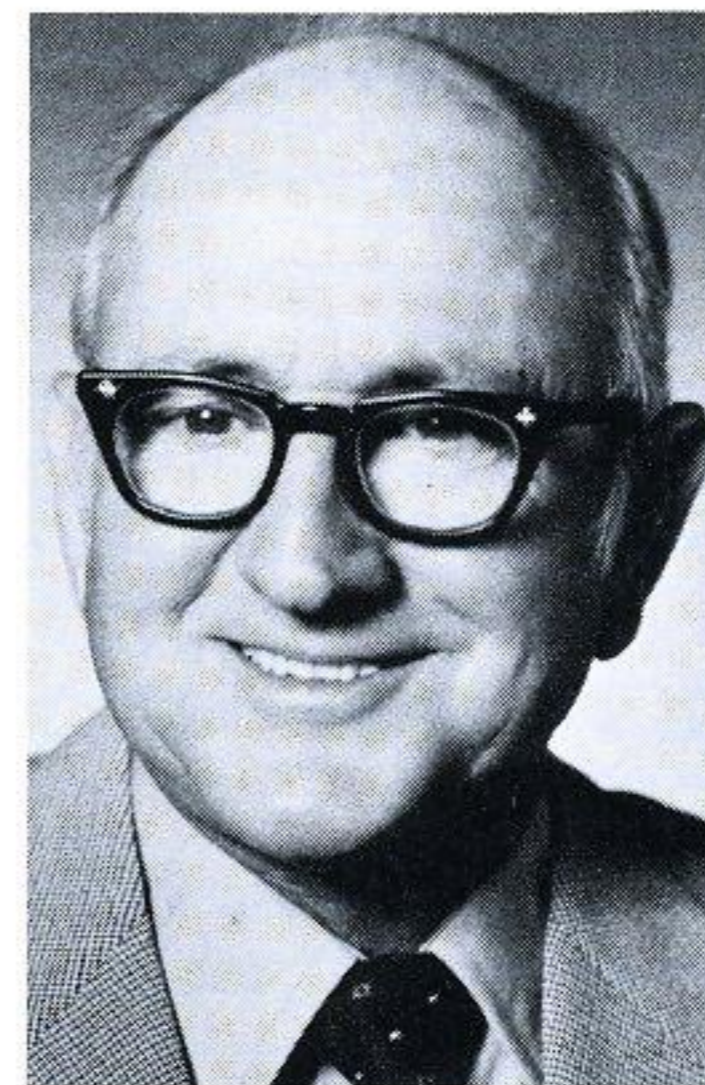
**Robert H. Steele**  
Electric T&D  
Orange



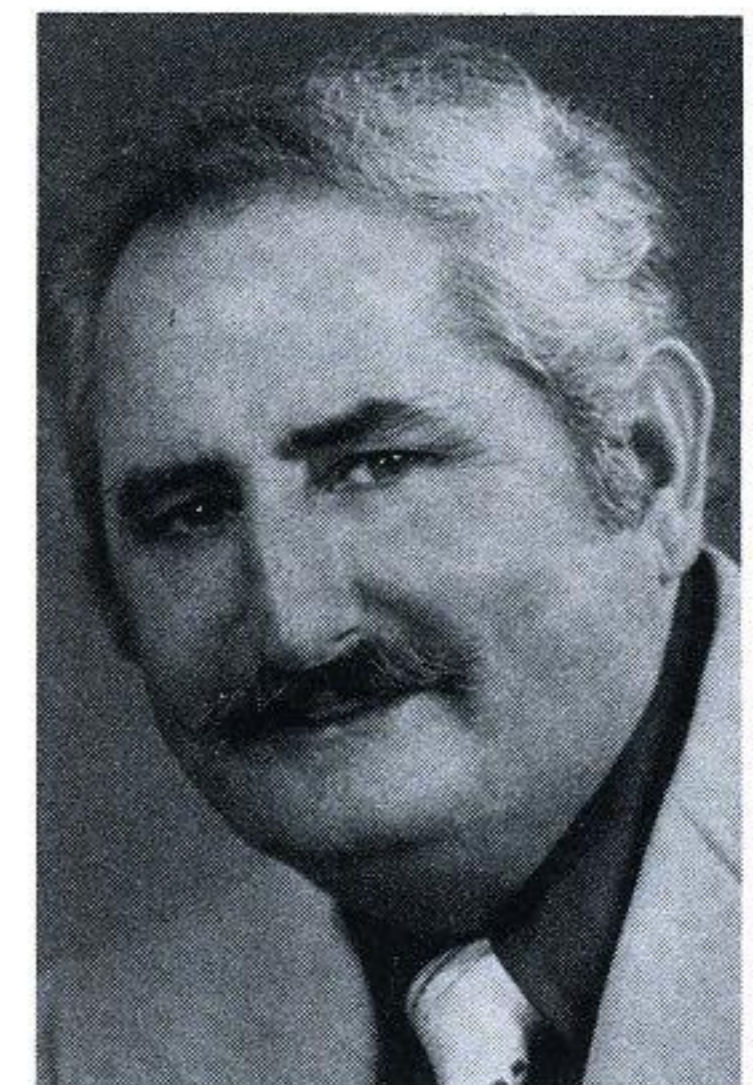
**Junior F. Aubin**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge



**Amos L. Fontenot**  
Division Treasury  
Jennings



**Malcolm P. Percle**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge



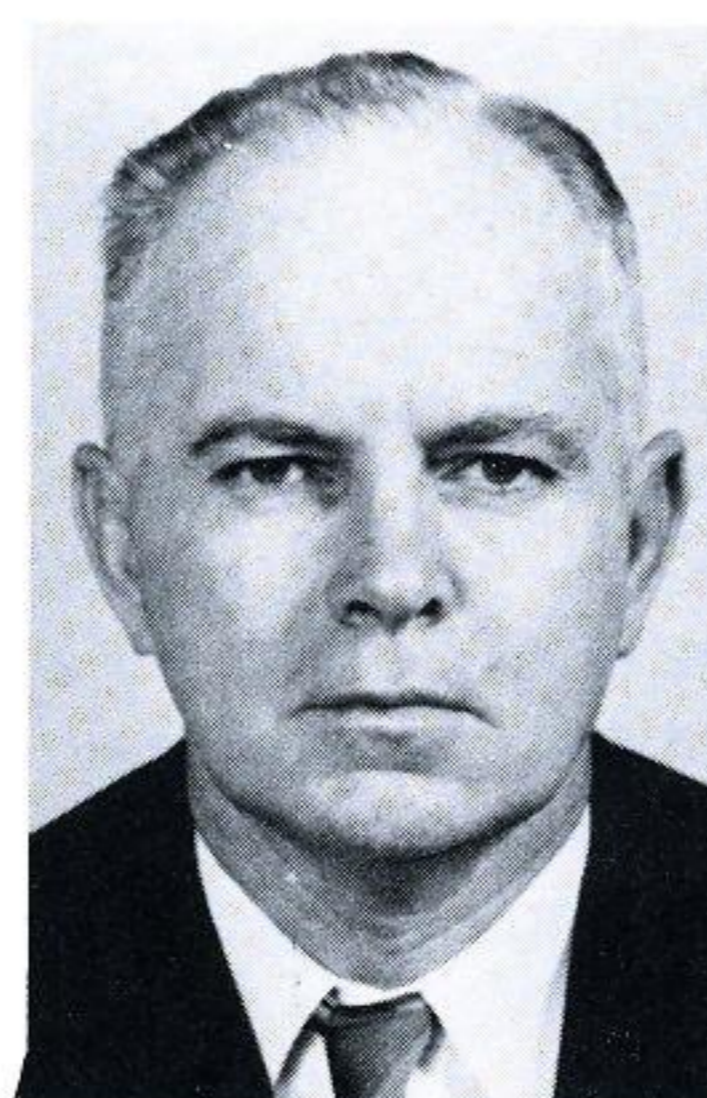
**John I. Vice**  
Electric T&D  
Port Arthur



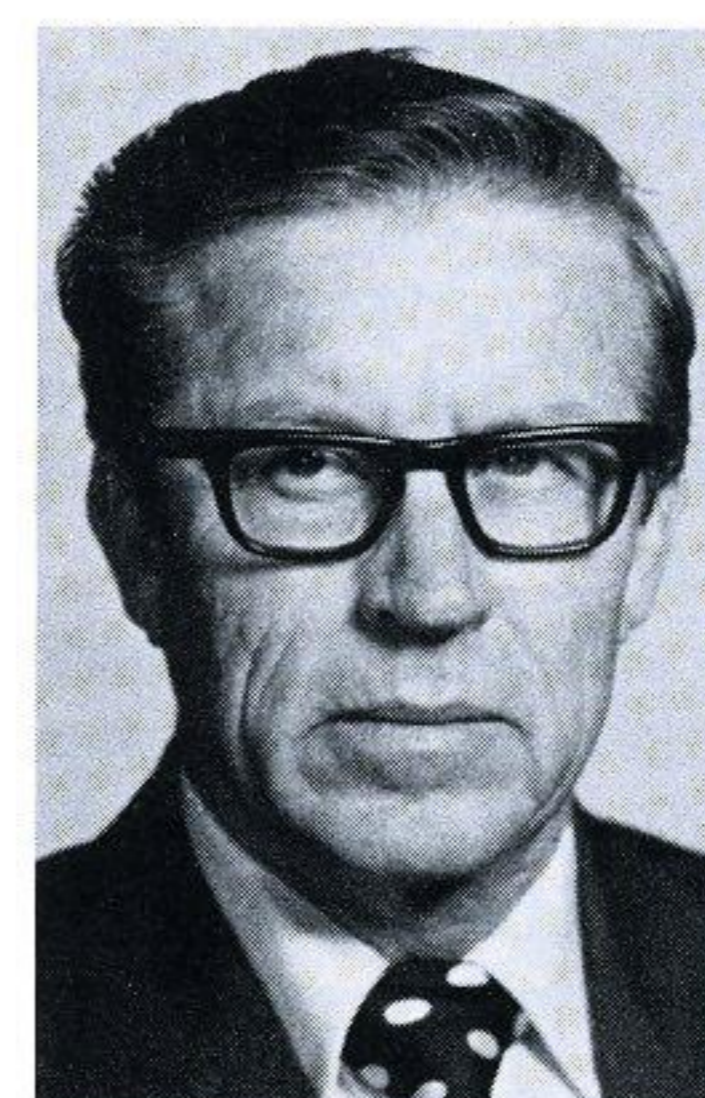
**Carlos E. Torrans**  
Electric T&D  
Lake Charles



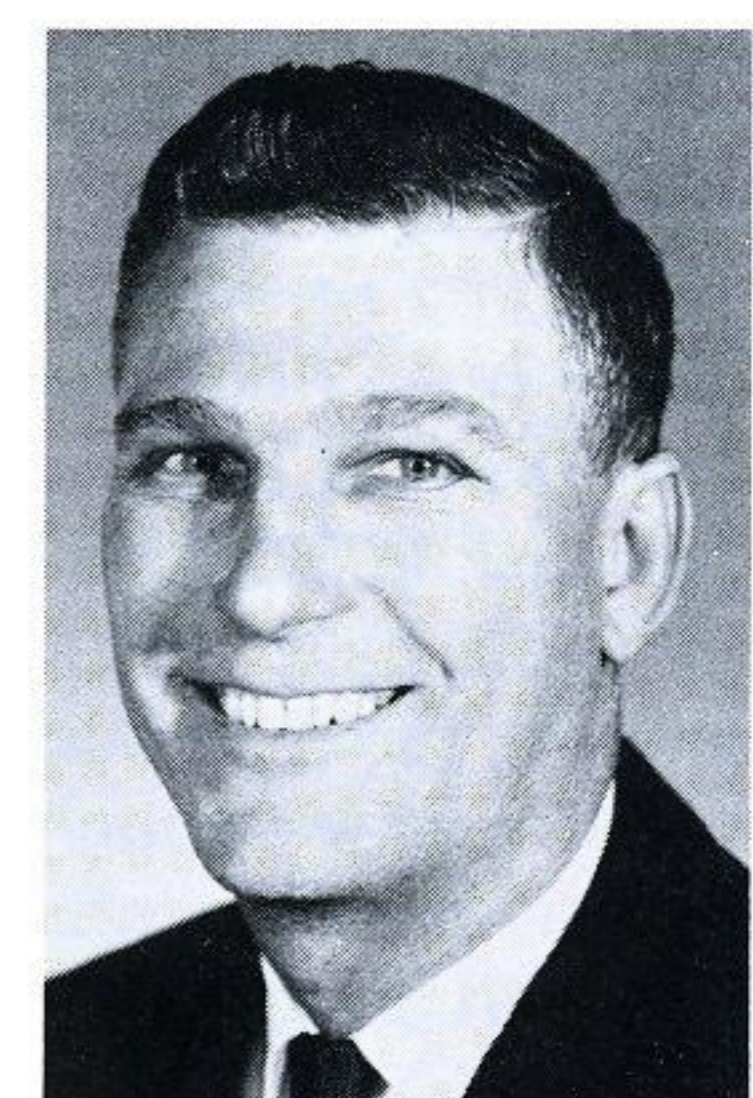
**Ross Reed**  
Division Operations  
New Caney



**Edgar K. Dewoody**  
Electric T&D  
Sulphur



**Oscar A. Gann**  
Electric T&D  
Jennings



**Floyd J. Gonzales**  
Electric T&D  
Baton Rouge

# How to find that secret fishing hole

*by Butch Suitt*  
*Senior Engineering Assistant*  
*Drafting*

Farm ponds, stock tanks, woods lakes, sloughs and bayous.

These are places most anglers bypass in favor of more glamorous reservoirs. Yet these out-of-the-way places can provide fishing experiences you may never forget.

And finding these "secret" holes is half the fun.

Locating small fishing holes is more difficult than finding the big lakes — after all, everyone knows where Toledo Bend Lake is.

There are three basic ways to locate the ponds — word of mouth, visual reconnaissance, and the use of maps. Often it takes a combination of all three to find them.

## **Word of mouth**

Word of mouth is probably one of the least reliable of the methods. People tend to stretch the truth when it comes to fishing, but a tall tale can be an excellent starting point.

Ask around. Your barber or a fishing tackle dealer, for example, can be an excellent source of data. Don't overlook your cattle feed dealer. Foresters and land surveyors can also be good sources in finding out about ponds and woods lakes.

## **Visual Reconnaissance**

Nothing beats going out and looking for the honey holes.

Planning on making a trip? Keep alert on the way — you may find that special place alongside of the road. Borrow pits can offer excellent fishing and are often visible from the road.

If you have access to an airplane, then you are really in luck. In just a few minutes of flying time, you can spot enough ponds to keep you fishing for months. You'll probably be able to locate ponds and lakes that are not visible from the ground.

## **Use of maps**

Maps are an invaluable aid in locating ponds and

lakes, especially if you don't have access to an airplane. There are several types of maps that are especially helpful for this purpose.

Aerial photographs are excellent because they are actually a picture of the ground; and you can easily locate the ponds, nearest roads, houses, etc. The county agriculture agent has a set of these photos in his office that is available for you to look at. If you find a particular area that you are interested in, you can order a copy of the photo for less than \$3.

Another good map for this purpose is the county or parish "planning board" map available from the Highway Department. These maps cover each county or parish and show the state and county roads and the various streams, lakes and ponds.

Still another good map to use to locate fishing holes is a U. S. Geological Survey map, also called a topographic or contour map. Ponds, lakes, and sloughs show up as blue areas on these maps, and it is an easy matter to locate some physical feature nearby which will help you find the pond when you arrive. These maps can be obtained from many mapping and blueprinting firms in Texas and Louisiana, or from the U. S. Geological Center, Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

## **Be sure to get permission**

Once you've located a prospective fishing hole, the next step is to contact the owner of the land and get permission. Trespassing fines can be expensive.

If you know the owner of the land, ask if you can fish his pond. Chances are, it'll be o.k. If not, offer a dollar or two.

If you don't know who the owner is and can't find out by asking around, a trip to your county tax assessor may be the answer. The person paying taxes on a particular property is public record, although it may take a little digging to find out.

After you've located the fishing hole and secured permission to fish it, load your tackle and head for it and be prepared for what could be the catch of a lifetime.

# Try it - You'll like it

Rufus Mier  
Lake Charles

Rufus Mier is an experimenter. And a good cook. The combination is essential.

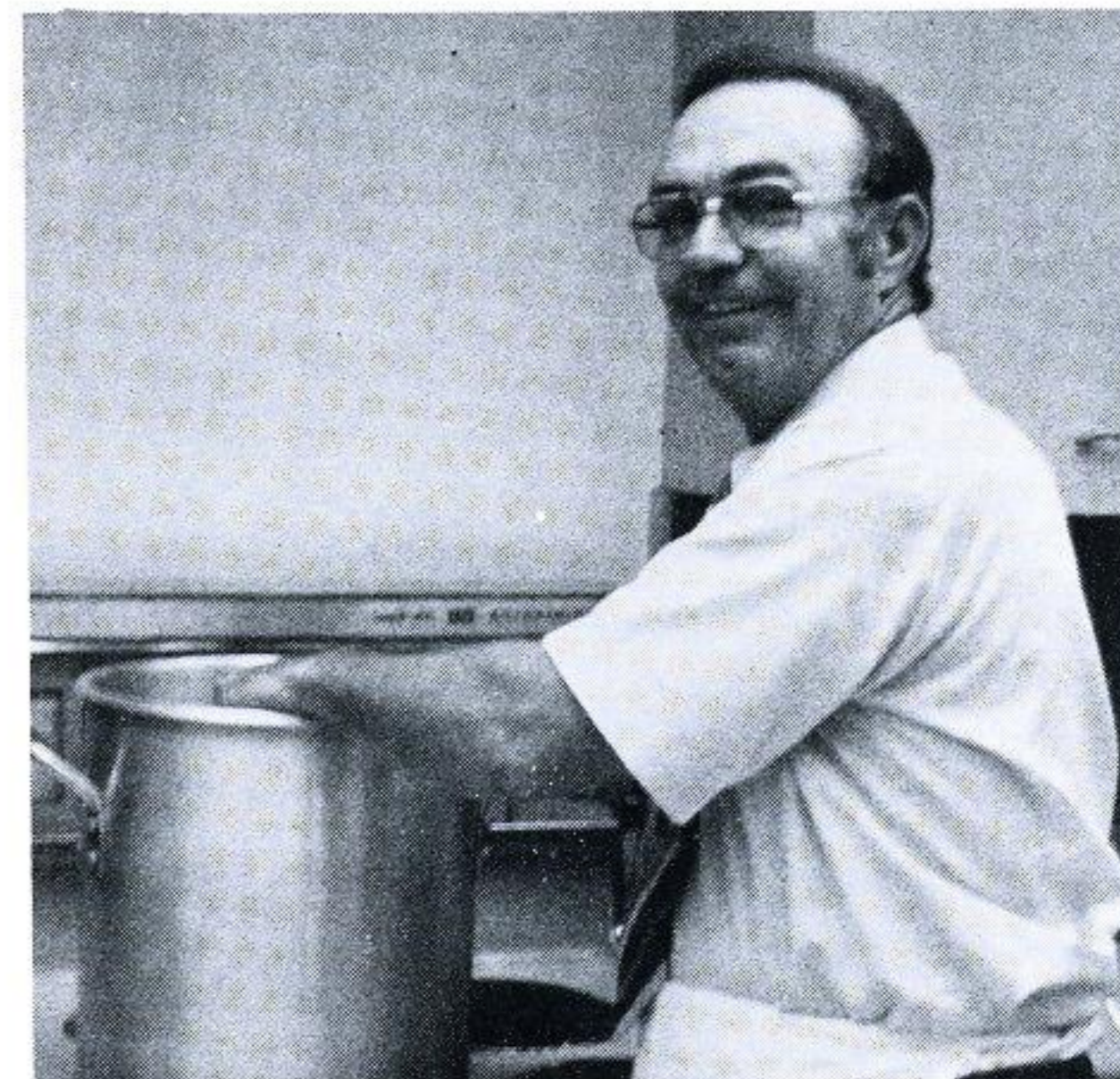
"Experimenting is the key to getting good recipes," said the Lake Charles supervisor of consumer services. "Read a lot and try a bunch of new ways to cook and spices. What have you got to lose? If you ruin a dish, so what. You create a new dish and you've really got something."

Mier got started cooking back in the 1940s when he found himself cooking for hunting, fishing and camping expeditions in South Louisiana. Soon he was cooking for groups that would hold meetings in the Gulf States offices in Lafayette and, later, Lake Charles.

The recipes here are standard Cajun fare. Those amused by Sosthene's (pronounced "So's-tă") Gumbo might be interested in how Mier learned of using peanut butter in gumbo. Al Mesko, a master chef with Hotpoint, recommended to a Catholic school that they use their excess peanut butter in soups, Mier said. Just put some popcorn on top of the soup; and the kids will try it and love it, Mesko told the nuns.

It worked, and Mier tried using peanut butter in his gumbo. (Not without other meats, vegetables or fish, however.)

The experiment certainly paid off in a delicious dish.



## HOW TO MAKE A ROUX (Pronounced Roo) CAJUN STYLE

1/2 cup shortening  
1 black iron skillet  
All-purpose flour

Heat shortening on low heat. When shortening is hot, add small amounts of flour, stirring continuously with wooden spoon until it resembles a soupy cake batter. On low heat, keep stirring (about 20 to 30 minutes) until roux turns a milk chocolate color. Remove from heat, continually stirring. Let set. Remove excess fat.

## SOSTHENE'S GUMBO

"You brought four quarts of water to boil. Add some roux until the gumbo looks like the 'Chafa-Liar' River (Muddy). Put two chopped onions in there and cook like hell for about two hours. Then you put the meat in there and boil it till it's tender. You can make it more better if you put some green onion tops and parsley and a little bit of gumbo file' after it's cooked. Invite your frans."

Gumbo can be made with:

Dove  
Quail  
Pheasant  
Turkey  
Grouse  
Chicken  
Duck  
Guinea hen  
Goose  
Venison  
Rabbit  
Squirrel  
Beef  
Pork  
Jerky

Sausage  
Okra  
Peanut butter  
Oysters  
Shrimp  
Crab  
Fish  
Lobster  
Boiled eggs  
Crawfish  
Clam  
Alligator  
Nutria  
Turtle  
Frog

## JAMBALAYA (with fresh sausage, chicken or pork)

Season and brown meat in a large pot using a small amount of oil. Add small amount of water to form a rich brown gravy. A little Kitchen Bouquet can be added for help. Cook until meat is tender. Stir in cooked rice and green onion tops. Heat for a few minutes. Serve as a main dish casserole.

## WILD DUCK PACO

For each wild duck:  
2 Tbsps. butter or margarine  
Salt  
Pepper  
Meat tenderizer  
1/4 medium yam  
1/4 apple  
1/4 medium onion  
2 strips bacon  
12" x 12" aluminum foil  
4 Tbsps. sherry

Season duck with butter, salt, pepper and meat tenderizer, being careful to season the inside cavity well. Stuff cavity with yam, apple and onion. Place bacon along duck's breast (hold in place with toothpicks). Fold foil to form a boat-like appearance. Place duck in foil and add sherry. Close foil and bake at 350 degrees 2 hours. Open top of foil and spoon some of the juices on duck's breast. Place in broiler with foil open for a few minutes to brown duck. Serve as main dish.

## FRIED FISH FILET

Marinate fish filets overnight with a mixture of prepared mustard, salt, red pepper and vinegar (keep refrigerated). Shake fish filets in yellow cornmeal and deep fry. Sprinkle a mixture of melted butter, Worcestershire sauce, and lemon juice over fried filets. Serve hot with hush puppies or French fries.

## SEAFOOD STEW

4 Tbsps. roux  
1/2 medium onion, chopped  
1/2 green pepper, chopped  
Salt and pepper  
2 lbs. peeled shrimp  
One 10 oz. jar oysters  
1/2 lb. crab meat  
2 Tbsps. chopped green onion  
Parsley

Add water to roux to form a thick gravy. Cook chopped onion and green pepper on low heat until done (about 30 minutes). Season to taste. Add shrimp, oysters, crab meat and green onion. Simmer about 15 minutes. Add parsley and serve over steamed rice. (If gravy is too thin once seafood is added, it can be thickened by adding cracker crumbs.)

## CRAWFISH ETOUFFE

1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 1/2 sticks butter or margarine  
1 oz. crawfish fat (use additional butter or margarine if fat is not available)  
1 lb. peeled crawfish  
2 Tbsps. chopped green onions  
Salt and red pepper  
1 Tbsp. chopped parsley

Saute' onion in butter on low heat until wilted onions turn clear. Add crawfish fat; cook on low heat 10 minutes. Add crawfish and green onions. Cook on low heat 15 to 20 minutes. Add salt and red pepper to taste. Sprinkle with parsley and serve on steamed rice. Serves 3.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

**PLAIN TALKS**

Bulk Rate  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Beaumont, Texas  
Permit No. 11

P. O. BOX 2951  
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



# SAFETY THE SPIRIT OF 76