



PLAIN TALKS



JUNE, 1976

Coal: An abundant resource

(EDITOR'S NOTE: My Commentary in the April issue of Plain Talks, "Wake Up, America!" emphasized the relative safety of nuclear power with respect to conventional energy sources — particularly coal. While not disputing the conclusion of the article — that all economical energy sources should be tapped by our country — Robert R. Kautzman, fuels consultant for Gulf States, felt the coal industry was depicted unfavorably. He requested, and is gladly granted, this opportunity to explain the many advantages of our utilizing this country's abundant coal resources to their fullest extent possible. — M.R.)

by Robert R. Kautzman

If one analyzes the energy requirements of this country for the next 25 years, in view of the probable availability of domestic fuel to meet this demand, it becomes evident that we must rely more heavily on coal for electric generation.

Due to my belief that coal is of the utmost importance to the future stability of the electric industry and that it will eventually play a key role in Gulf States' future, I consider it necessary and important to place coal and its use into their proper perspective.

Coal is abundant — fantastically abundant. Some 219 billion tons of reserves are economically recoverable in America alone. Even at twice current consumption rates, this represents hundreds of years' supply and constitutes 90 per cent of our total domestic fuel reserves.

Domestic quantities of oil, gas and uranium, however, are in quite limited supply.

Remember the oil embargo?

A prime example of a limited fuel supply is our domestic oil reserve. When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quadrupled prices in 1973, the United States had about 36 billion barrels of proven oil reserves. The country was then consuming 6 billion barrels of oil per year — fast enough to drain the reserves in only six years. The most optimistic recent projections of U.S. crude oil production say this country will never produce more than 5 billion barrels of oil per year, according to a recent article "Depleting Oil and Gas Reserves Signal Need for Alternate Energy Sources" by D.M. Axelrod.

Looking at these projections and at the existing supplies of domestic natural gas and uranium, it is obvious that if the United States intends to reduce or eliminate its dependence on the foreign energy market in a timely fashion, we must rely more heavily on our most abundant fuel — coal.

Sheer abundance is not coal's only asset, however.

Coal is also becoming a competitive fuel when comparing overall costs for electric generation. This is particularly true when one compares nuclear and coal. In the past, nuclear had a clear cost advantage over coal. Initial construction costs of nuclear plants were higher, but the cost of uranium fuel was considerably lower than coal. Thus the levelized cost over the life of a nuclear plant was less. This is beginning to change, however, due primarily to a rapid increase in nuclear construction and uranium costs.

Gulf States, for example, has both coal and nuclear plants scheduled for operation in the early and mid-1980s. Estimated construction costs for the River Bend units average \$862 per kilowatt of installed capacity. The coal units at Nelson Station will average \$666 per kilowatt.

Low Sulfur — low pollution

These coal units will burn low sulfur Western coal. They will not require any extra equipment to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions, barring further revision of Federal and state air pollution regulations. If coal with a higher sulfur content were used, however, the necessary air pollution control equipment would cost another \$60 per kilowatt.

Uranium is still cheaper than coal — but the gap is narrowing. The coal to be burned at Nelson Station is estimated to cost \$1.25 per million BTU. This price includes mining, reclamation, transportation and handling costs. That figure should remain relatively stable, provided transportation costs do not increase drastically. High sulfur coal or Texas lignite mined closer to our plants should cost even less.

Uranium prices, however, have more than doubled in recent years — from \$0.25 per million BTU to \$0.55 per million BTU. Such increases may well continue due to the shortage of supply and the current inability to reprocess nuclear fuel on a large scale for reuse.

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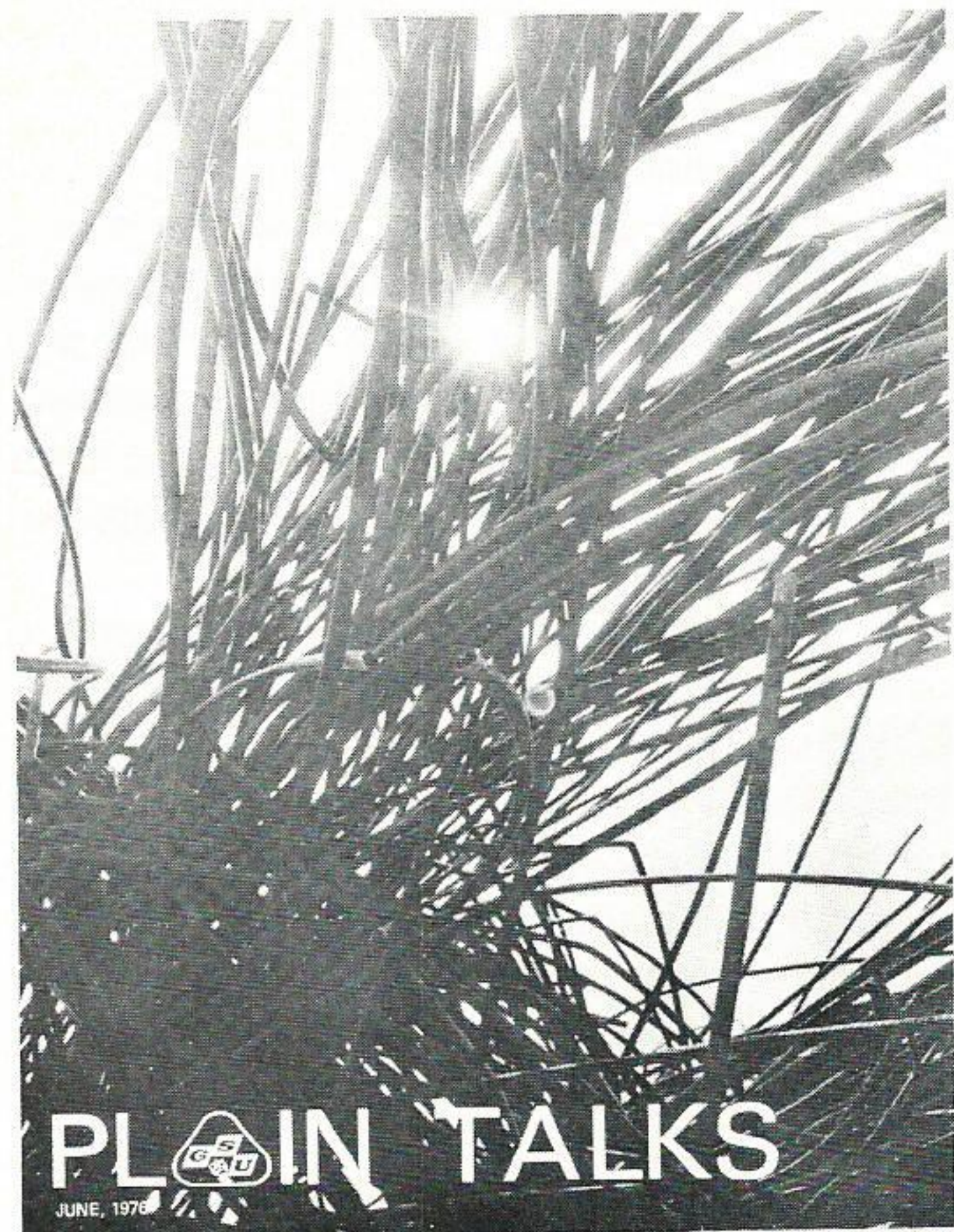
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ABOUT THE COVER

Strange picture on the cover, isn't there? It may look like a jumbled mess, but it's part of more than 200,000 pounds of condenser tubes removed from Unit 3 at Sabine Station and sold for scrap for more than \$100,000 — the largest scrap sale in the Company's history. The sale marks a turning point for both Sabine Station and the scrap and salvage operations of the Company. By deciding to replace the worn copper tubes with corrosion-resistant titanium alloy tubes, condenser leaks which led to damage to feedwater heaters and the unit's boiler should be eliminated. Also, Al Tarver has begun an aggressive push to expand the Company's commitment to reconditioning equipment previously thrown away. The Sabine story begins on page 2, the scrap and salvage story on page 4.



Sabine Unit 3

Corrosion problems at Sabine Station should be declining now that titanium alloy tubes are being installed in the condenser of Unit 3.

The corrosion-resistant metal should prevent condenser leaks which have plagued the unit recently and caused corrosion and leaks in the first point heater (see *Plain Talks*, Feb.-March, 1976, p. 12) and the boiler itself.

Half of the 20,000 condenser tubes have been replaced in recent weeks, with the other half set to be changed out next year. The old tubes — made of a copper-nickel alloy — were worn at their ends, where the water motion is most turbulent and the corrosion and erosion most active.

The original plan called for the ends of the tubes to be cut off and the central sections used to replace similarly corroded condenser tubes in Units 1 and 2, which have shorter condensers.

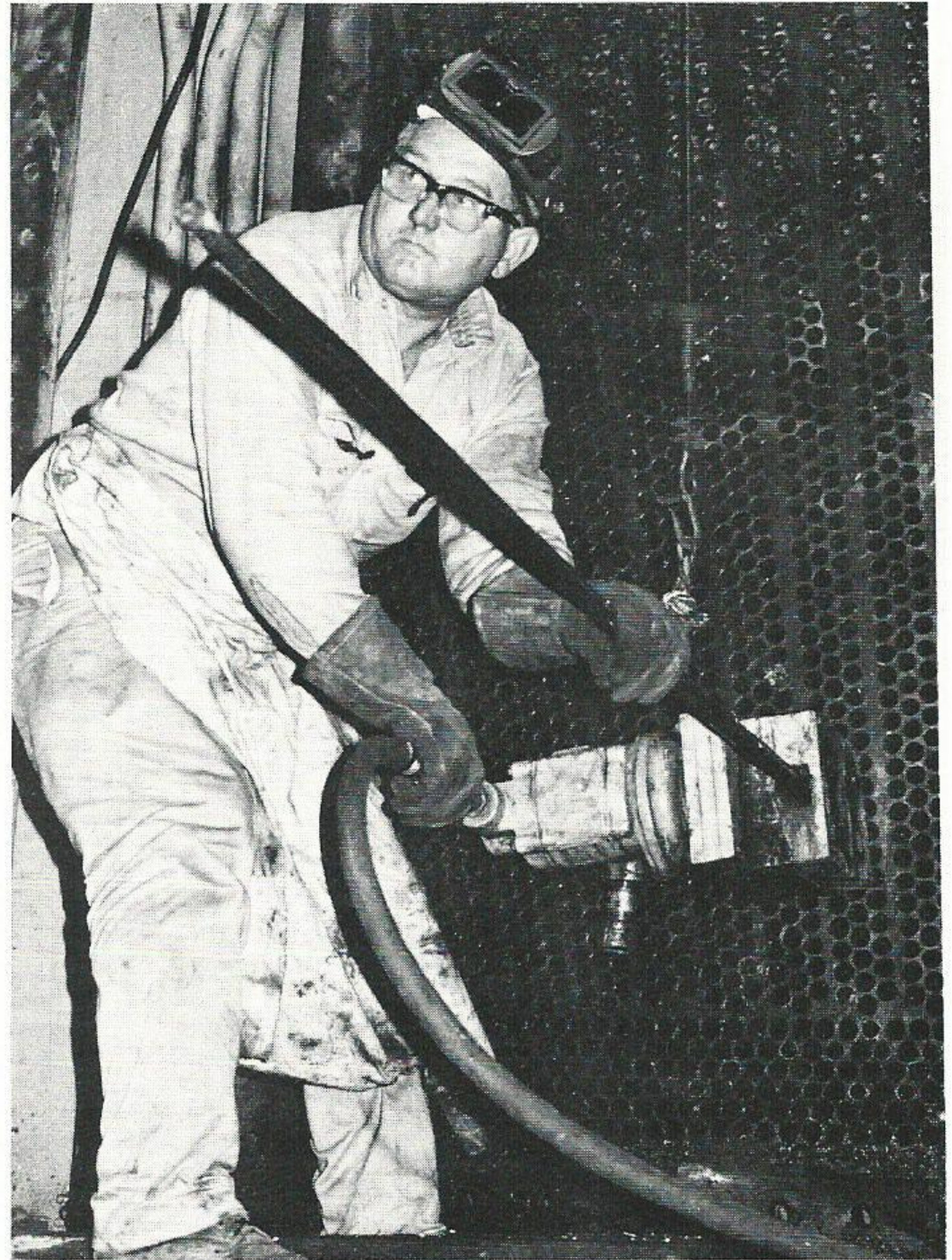
But the Unit 3 tubes were found scored at eight support points along the length of the tubes. These damaged areas would have been between supports in the smaller condensers, and it was feared the tubes might break if reused.

So the tubes were removed quickly by a machine developed by Harris & Sismore, specialty tool manufacturers from Newport, Mich. (see picture at right). The machine flattened the tubes while taking them out, as shown in the picture on page 4. The useless tubes were then sold in the largest scrap deal ever arranged by the Company (see following story).

The corrosion problem at Sabine stems from the use of untreated brine from Lake Sabine as cooling water for the units. The salty, mineral-laden water gradually corroded and eroded away the metal in the tubes, allowing brine to leak into the feedwater system. The feedwater is the water heated in the boiler to make steam to run the turbine-generator. Even slight contamination of the feedwater can cause considerable damage, since high temperatures intensify the corrosive action of the brine.

A number of stopgap measures had been used in recent years while a permanent solution was considered. Chloride monitors alerted operators to fouled feedwater, which implies a leak in the condenser. Initially, individual condenser tubes were plugged, preventing further erosion and leaking of those tubes. Later, the waterboxes, which cover the tube ends, were redesigned and replaced to try to reduce the water turbulence.

"It got to the point, however, where temporary measures were no longer effective," said Jim Moss, Sabine Station superintendent. "We'd have tubes



leaking faster than we could plug them up. Retubing was the only solution. The tubes had gotten too thin from the corrosion."

The total job of replacing all four quadrants of condenser tubes with titanium tubes will cost about \$1.2 million, Moss said. About \$560,000 will be spent this year for the first half of the job.

Titanium tubes are not cheap — the first 10,000 tubes cost more than \$441,000. Cost of the operation will be offset somewhat by the sale of the old tubes.

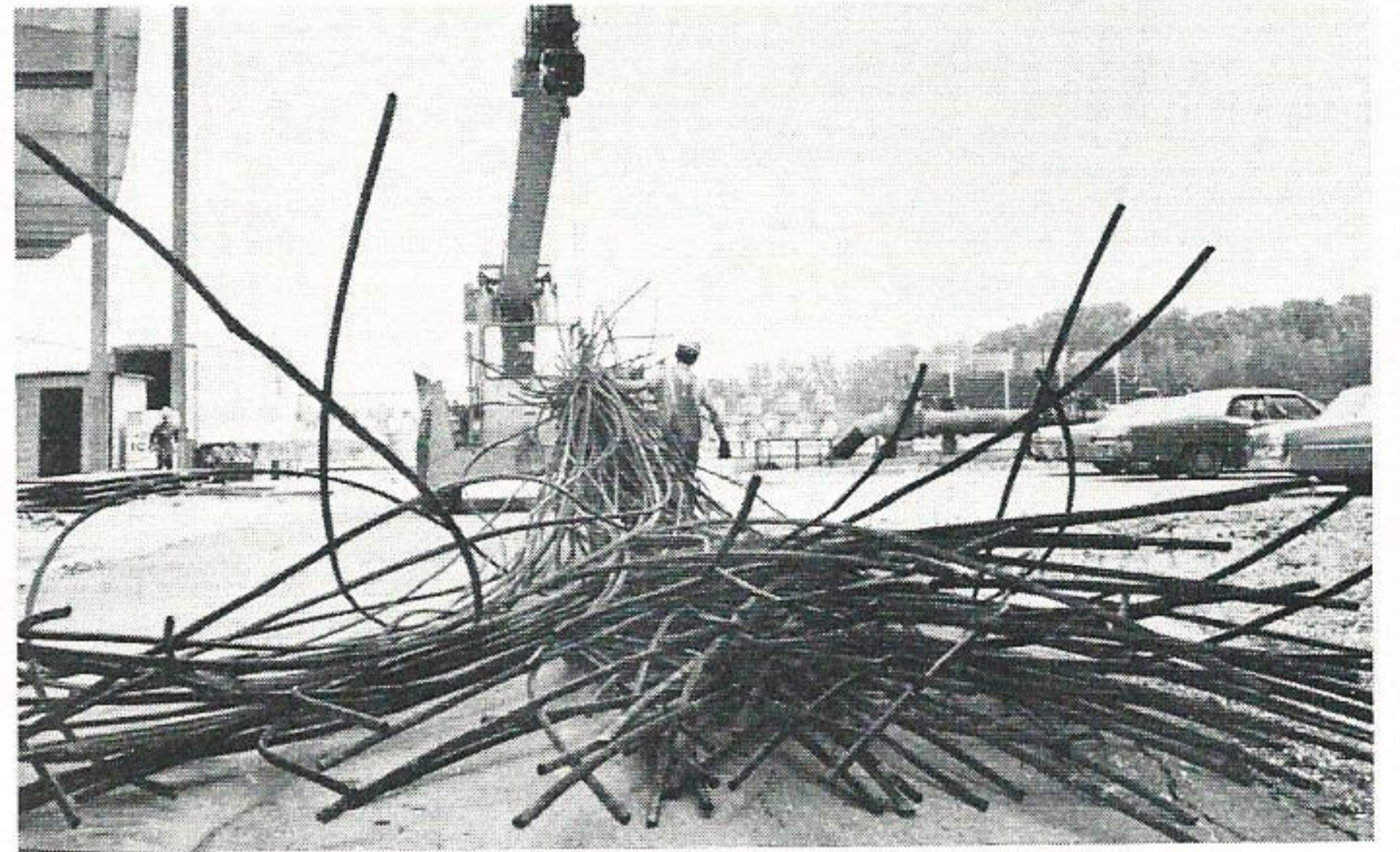
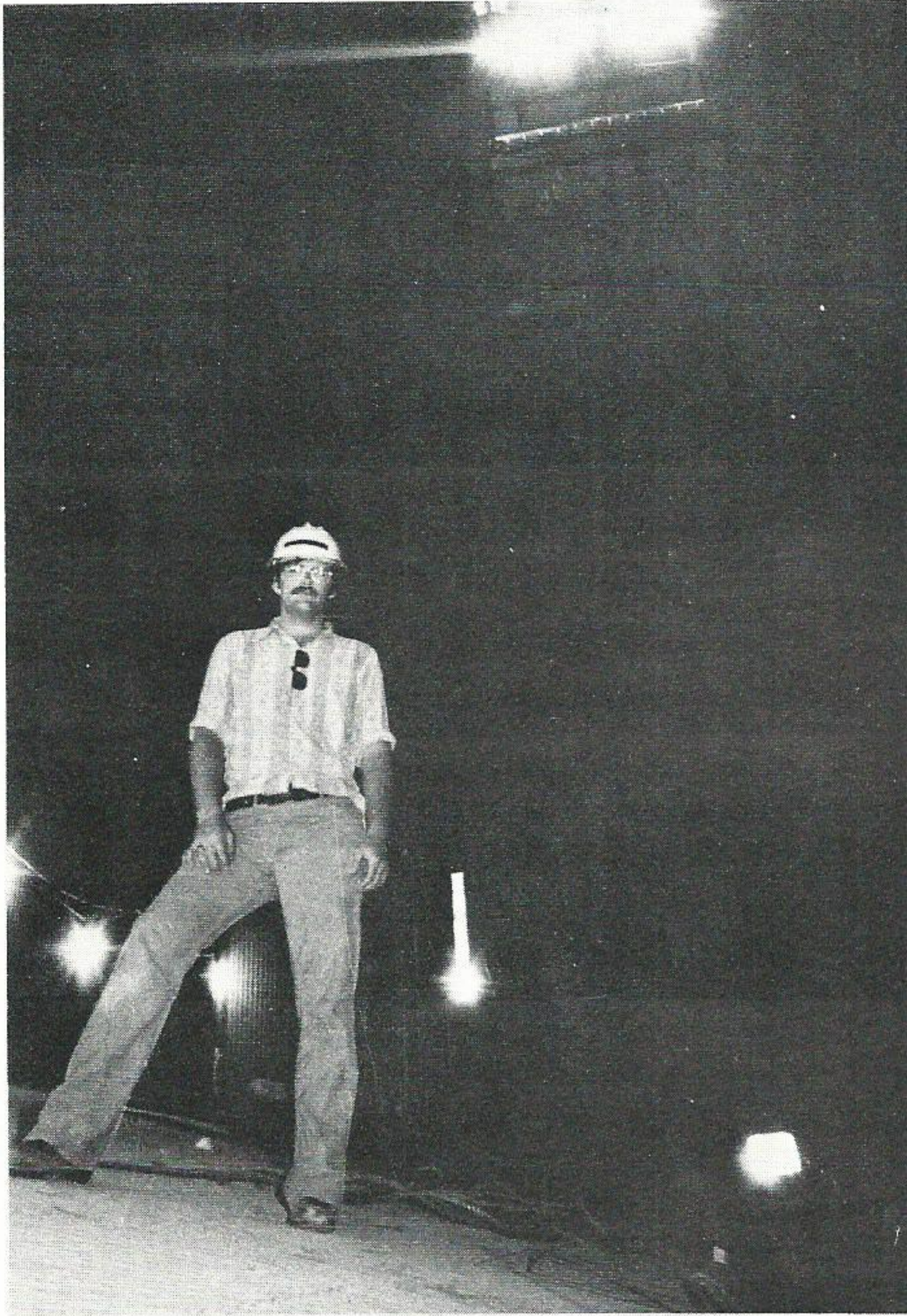
Though Unit 3 has the worst case of corrosion/erosion at the Bridge City plant, Units 1 and 2 also show signs of chemical degradation.

An epoxy coating has been applied to the condenser tube sheets and tube ends as a temporary measure to slow the thinning process there.

"That should be satisfactory for this year," Moss said. "We'll probably have to replace the condenser tubes in Units 1 and 2 next year."

Concurrent with the Unit 3 retubing, six panels of the unit's boiler waterwalls are also being replaced. This represents 17 per cent of the total waterwall area. Tubes in the damaged areas were thinned by the

loses its tubes



A contract worker (facing page) removes corroded tubes from Sabine 3 condenser with a special pulling machine. The tubes are hauled away (top right) and stored for removal. Engineer Joe Leavines (above) stands inside Unit 3's boiler as sun streams in from hole where boiler tube panels are being replaced. The tubes have been checked (middle right) for corrosion before being cut out (bottom right).

contaminated feedwater. The corrosion increased the probabilities of boiler leaks by creating hot spots in the thin areas.

Cost of the new panels is more than \$36,000. About \$260,000 in all will be spent fixing the boiler, including the labor costs.

Once the condenser leaks are stopped, it is felt that tube deterioration in the feedwater heaters and boiler will also cease.

"In the coming years, we'll still have to replace more worn boiler and heater tubes because of the previous damage and normal operating wear and tear," Moss said. "Future deterioration due to the salty intrusion, however, should be eliminated."





Scrap &

The letter "S" means a lot to Al Tarver.

Save, sell, scrimp, Sanford and Son, and Sabine Station all describe important aspects of Tarver's work as administrative accountant.

His bailiwick is scrap and salvage. Each "S" area can generate cash and savings to the Company, like putting dollar signs in the words \$crap and \$alvage.

One man's trash is another man's treasure, the saying goes. Tarver sees sizable future savings if scrap and salvage activities are pursued vigorously. He likes to say GSU stands for Good Salvageable Unit.

The scrap end of the business is typified by the recent sale of more than 210,000 pounds of copper-nickel alloy condenser tubes from Sabine Station (see preceding story). The tubes were worthless to the power plant but could be melted down in a foundry and recast into good-as-new tubes. Scrap material is cheaper than ore for the manufacturer to use.

The Company sold Beaumont Iron and Metal Corp. the tubes and two 3,000-pound tube sheets for more than \$100,000 — by far the largest scrap sale in the Company's history.

Not bad for a bunch of leaky, corroded tubes.

Next year an equal amount of tubes will be replaced at Sabine, and Tarver believes he learned enough with the recent sale to make the next one smoother and even more profitable.

"We'll have disposal methods worked out in advance so we don't have big piles of tubes around the plant (see photo above)," Tarver said. "We may use a machine that removes the tubes and cuts them into four-inch pieces at the same time, eliminating the transportation hassles the buyer has this time.

"And we might just sell the tubes directly to a mill or manufacturer of that type of tube."

While sales of the magnitude of the Sabine condenser tube sale are not everyday occurrences, Tarver feels there's money to be made — and money to be saved — by standardizing the scrap, salvage and surplus equipment operations throughout the system.

"Basically, I'm trying to learn what the people in the divisions do now and work up a system operation," Tarver said.

Sell what you can't fix

The first area to organize is the sale of scrap materials. Unrepairable items are sold to wholesale dealers who accumulate scrap for recycling.

"Many items are being sold for scrap regularly," Tarver said. "They include crossarms, poles, tires, batteries, transformers, meters and wire, to name a few."

Storerooms already accumulate and sell scrap to one degree or another. Such sales clear storage areas as well as bring in money to the Company. The high-water mark for scrap sales was in 1974, when copper prices set all-time records. The Company sold \$515,000 worth of scrap that year. Not counting the Sabine sale, \$129,000 worth of sales had been rung up through May, Tarver said.

Tarver hopes to advise divisions where additional money can be made through scrap sales.

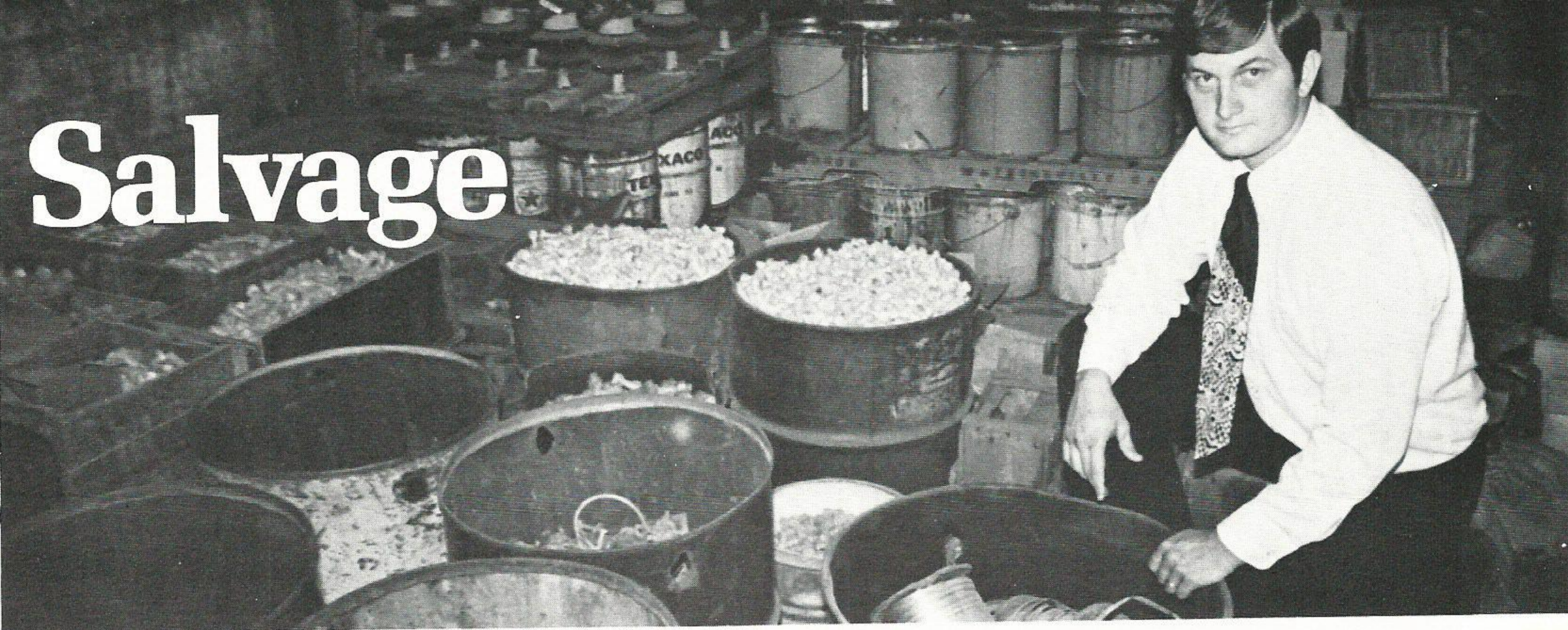
One such area is in the sale of bad transformers. Scrap dealers buy them for the copper wire in the unit's windings. The going price for transformers is about \$1 per kva, Tarver said.

"But a 25 kva transformer may contain 100 pounds of bare copper — worth more than \$50 now to a metals dealer," Tarver said. "So it's to our benefit to strip out the copper ourselves, whenever possible, and sell the copper and transformer body separately."

Bob Derby, general substation foreman in Lake Charles, has designed a machine that breaks open transformers and strips out the copper wire. When it's put together, Derby hopes to be able to strip transformers economically even though the price of copper is lower than several years ago.

The second area of Tarver's work may decrease scrap sales — by repairing equipment that would

Salvage



formerly be thrown away. Examples include repairing street light heads and aluminum poles, reconditioning wire connectors and reusing old transformer oil.

"Street light heads cost about \$25 apiece," Tarver said. "But when they fail, it's often just a bad photocell, a burned wire or something that has worked its way loose.

"If we repair the head, we don't have to buy a new one."

The Port Arthur Division repaired about 300 street light heads last year — saving \$7,500.

"I'd just go out and fix a few in my spare time," said C.L. Fruge, storeroom supervisor in Port Arthur. "I've been doing it for years. If it's repairable, we'll try to put it back in the bin, even if it takes two bad ones to make one good one."

Aluminum street light poles damaged by cars can also be repaired. Tarver located a firm in Baton Rouge that will fix poles for an average of \$190 apiece, depending on the damage. New poles cost \$490 each and take longer to order than to repair the old ones. In the past, a Beaumont firm had repaired poles for \$300 each, no matter how slight the dent. By sending all the poles in the system to Baton Rouge, the Company saves money.

"This year we have already saved \$6,000 by repairing some 19 poles in the Port Arthur Division alone."

A lot of money in connectors

Copper and brass connectors cost from 50 cents to \$6 depending on their size. Old connectors are now sold as scrap when they could easily be reconditioned on rainy or slow days in the division shops.

"It'd just be a matter of dipping the connector in a cleaning solution to get the contamination off, rinsing it first in a neutralizing solution and then in protective oil before reissuing the connector back to stock.

"We could probably reclaim \$10,000 per year in this area alone," Tarver estimated.

Transformer oil gets contaminated with water and bits of metal with age. It must be replaced before it loses its insulating properties. The oil costs anywhere from 49 cents to \$1.25 per gallon, Tarver said.

"And we now sell it for scrap at about 10 cents per gallon," Tarver said. "But we could filter out most of the impurities and reuse the oil in distribution transformers and oil circuit breakers, eliminating the need to buy as much new, expensive oil.

"It could also be burned in power plants in place of No. 2 fuel oil."

Storeroom supervisors like the idea of making something useful out of an item normally thrown away, but they realize it takes men and money to start an efficient operation.

Georgia Power Co. and Alabama Power Co. each have self-contained recycling plants, according to Kelton Whitehead, storeroom supervisor in Baton Rouge. "They even regalanize old bolts," Whitehead said.

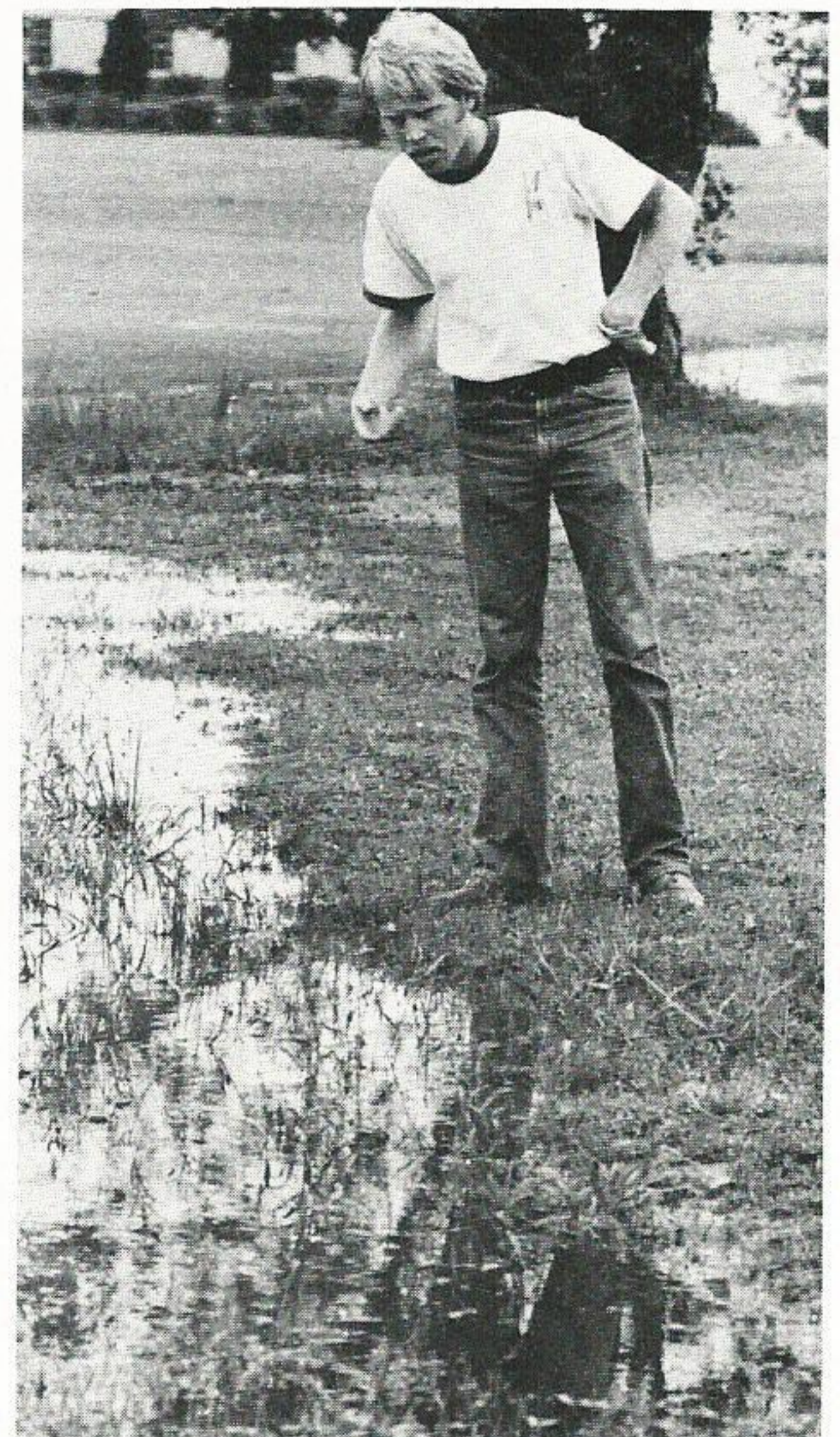
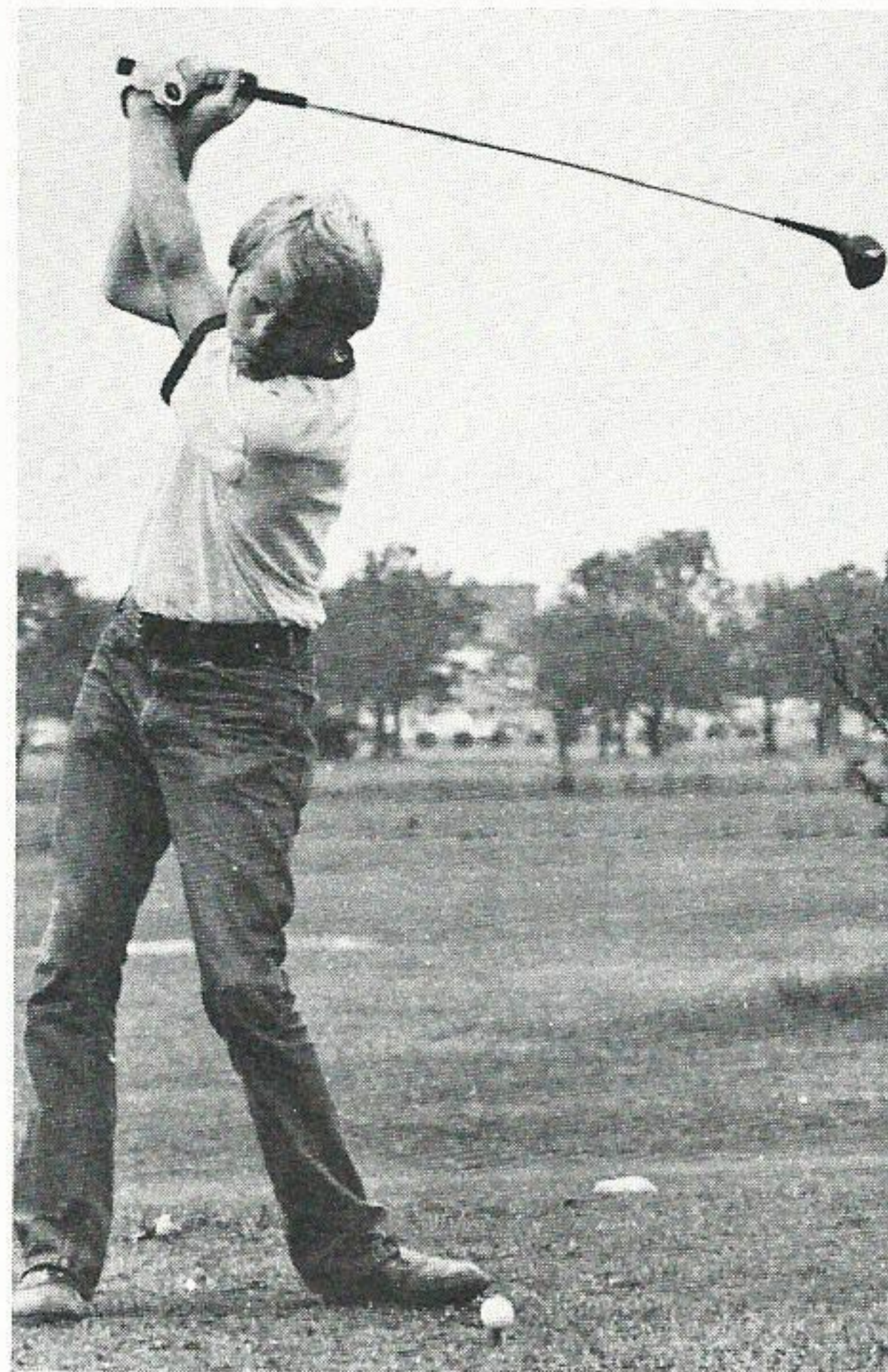
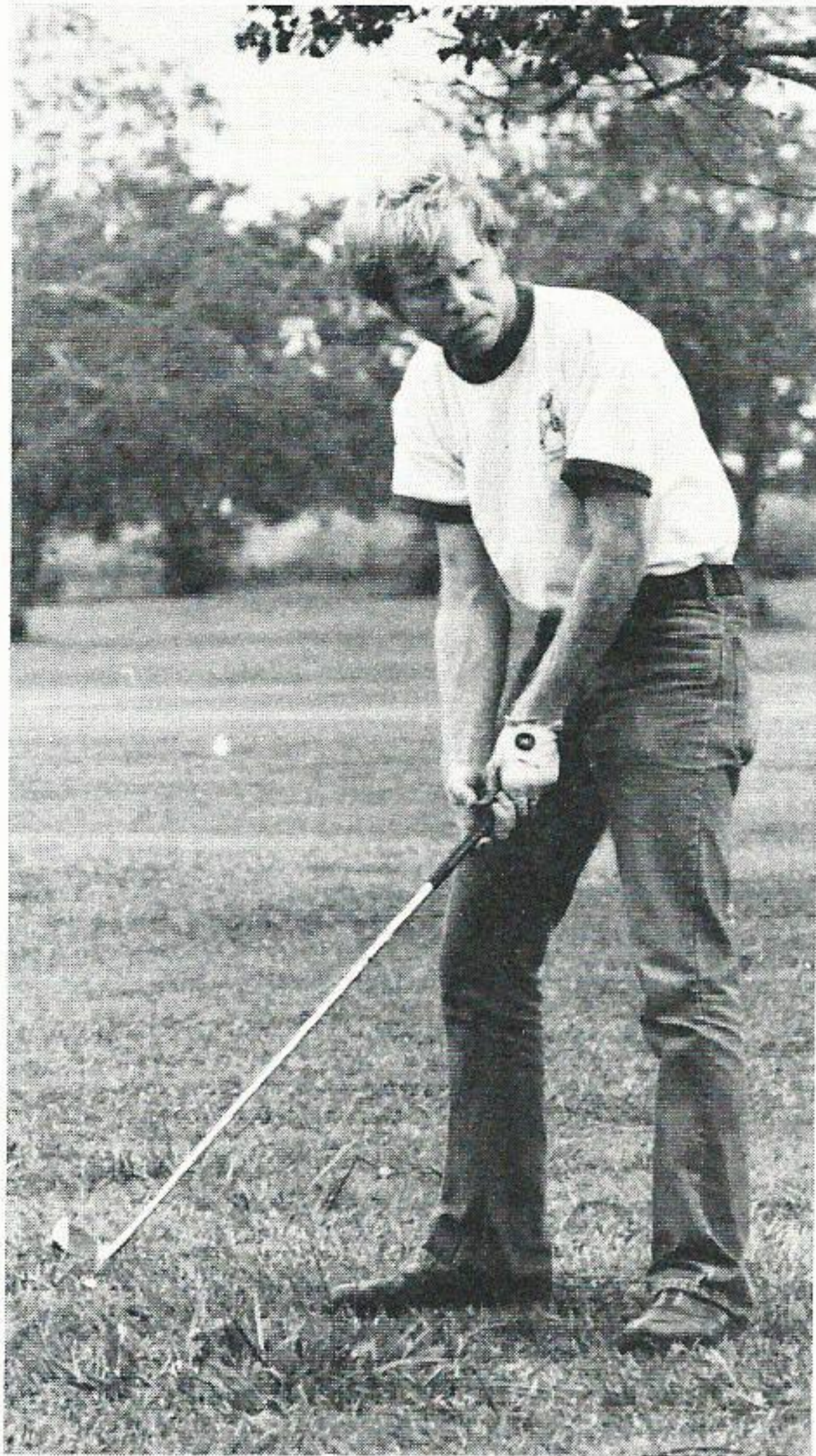
"We have to junk a lot of items that could be made useful. I think we're probably throwing a lot of money down the drain," he said. "But it's going to have to be a big operation to be worth the effort."

"Right now, we're interested in setting up surplus and salvage procedures," said Les Moor, manager of materials services. "First we have to capture the material and determine if it is usable, repairable or unrepairable economically."

Along these lines, Tarver is trying to revitalize an old idea — use of the old Tevis Street power plant building as a salvage storeroom (see photo above).

"The idea behind the salvage storeroom was to bring all salvageable material in the system together and repair it in an efficient manner," Tarver said.

Recycling is becoming more economical as the cost of new equipment increases. A conscientious and efficient operation can put the dollar signs in Tarver's \$Scrap and \$Salvage programs.



Tournament winner, Burl Daniel III, showed steely determination (left), splendid form (center) and water-induced frustration (right) en route to his victory.

Daniel wins Live Wire Golf

Touring the front nine in even par, Burl Daniel III coasted to victory in the 14th Annual Live Wires Golf Tournament.

Daniel shot a 78 on the par-71 DuPont Employees' Recreation Association (DERA) course in Orange. He also placed fifth in the first flight competition with a net 71.

Carl Busceme won the first flight with a net 68.

Other flight winners were Jim Hudson, net 68; Mike Ross, net 64; and Jim Wilder, net 67.

Nig Laughlin was closest to the ninth hole, with a shot 11'9" away from the pin. Martin Busceme won the other accuracy prize with a shot 2'1" away from the 14th hole.

Daniel won the tournament on the front nine — using only 12 putts and scoring two birdies. His birdie putts were 18 feet and 30 feet long.

But the back nine was a different story.

"I double-bogeyed the 10th hole," Daniel said. "I hit my drive about 50 yards from the green, but I took three shots to get onto the green."

Daniel and Mike Chapman, defending champion, staged a plodding race for the finish on the last three holes.

Daniel bogeyed the par-5 16th hole. Playing in the next foursome and only two shots back at the time, Chapman topped his second shot on the same hole into the water and took a double-bogey seven.

Even though Daniel bogeyed the 17th hole and took a double-bogey on the 18th hole, four shots were too much for Chapman to make up. He went bogie-par on the final two holes to end up with an 81 — tied with Bob Beck for second in the gross standings.

"After I made par on 15, I was three over par and felt I could take it easy going in," Daniel said after the tournament. "But I blew the heck out of it."

A line of severe thunderstorms doused the area Friday night before the tournament, but the course's fairways drained well. Most Live Wire golfers, however, refrained from using the fairways and utilized the soggy parallel drainage ditches and rough for excursions. Electric carts saw duty as marsh buggies in the low spots.

The greens were applauded by all for being in excellent shape. They were difficult to hit in regulation, however, because they were small in size and elevated above the fairways. Both Chapman and Daniel said they only hit four greens in the proper number of strokes.

LIVE WIRE GOLF RESULTS

First Flight

Carl Busceme	82-14=68
Bob Beck	81-11=70
Nig Laughlin	83-13=70
Mike Chapman	81-10=71
Burl Daniel III	78- 7=71

Second Flight

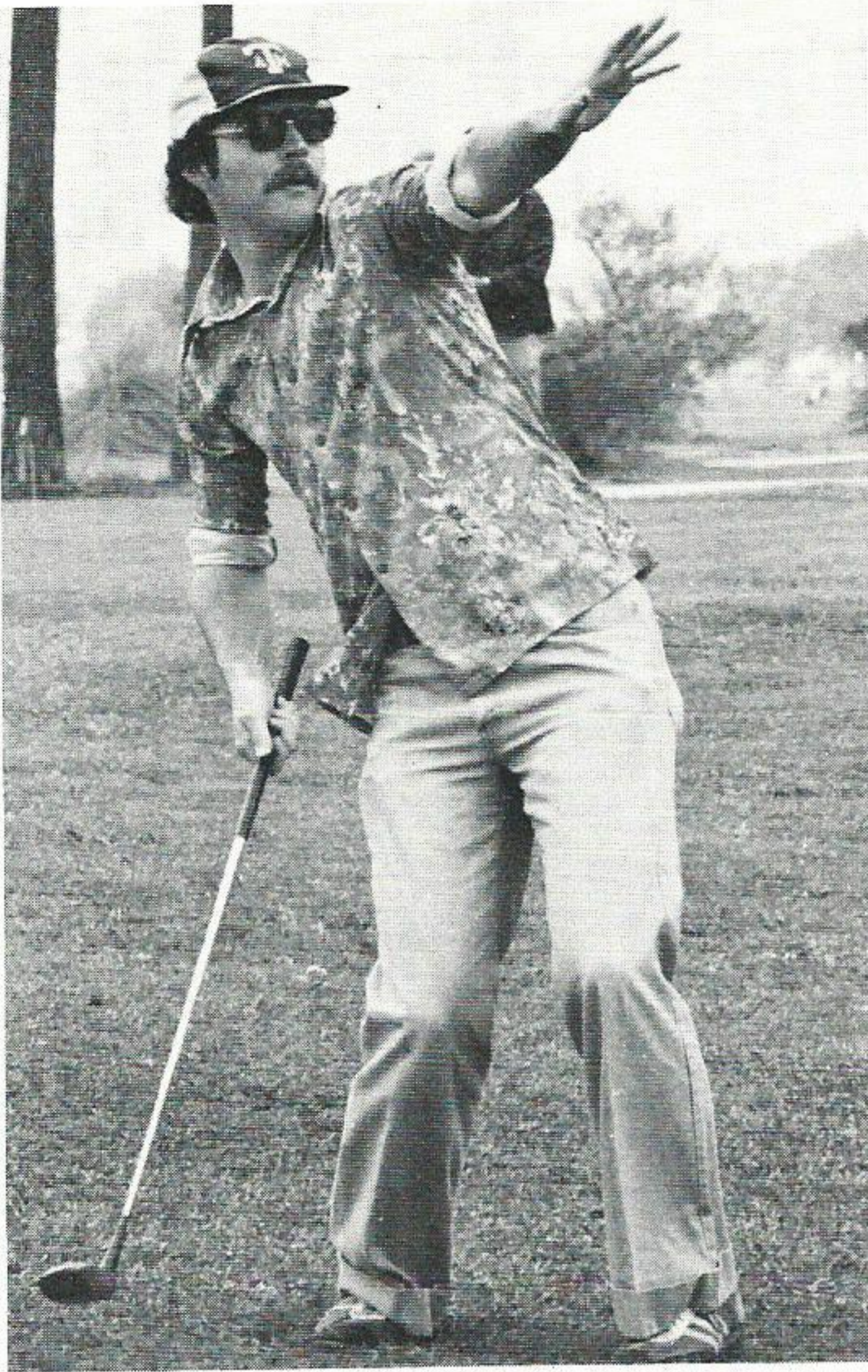
Jim Hudson	84-16=68
Gerald Bailey	96-24=72
Olice Steward	91-18=73
Stan LeBouef	93-19=74
W. L. Armstrong	91-16=75

Third Flight

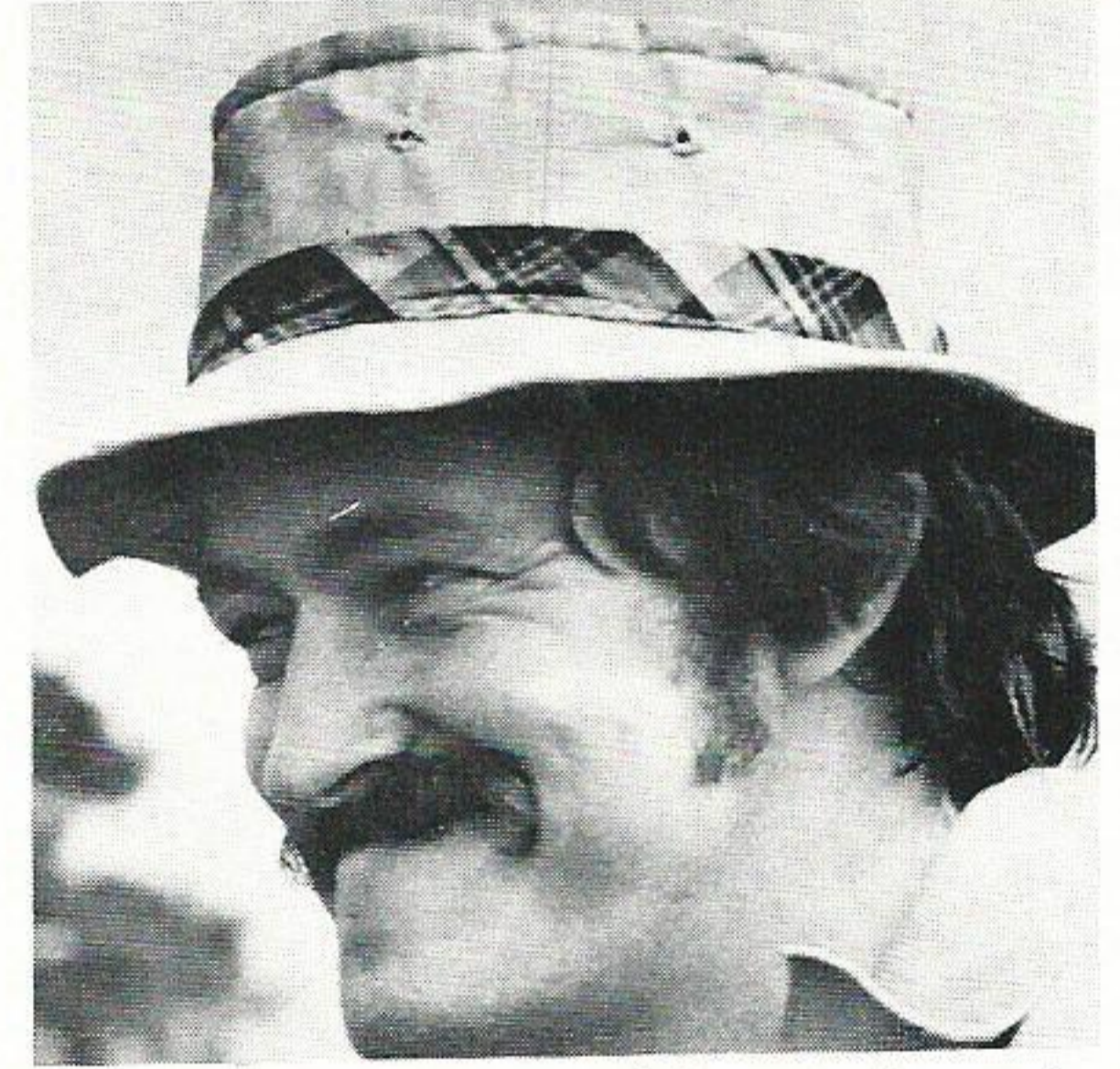
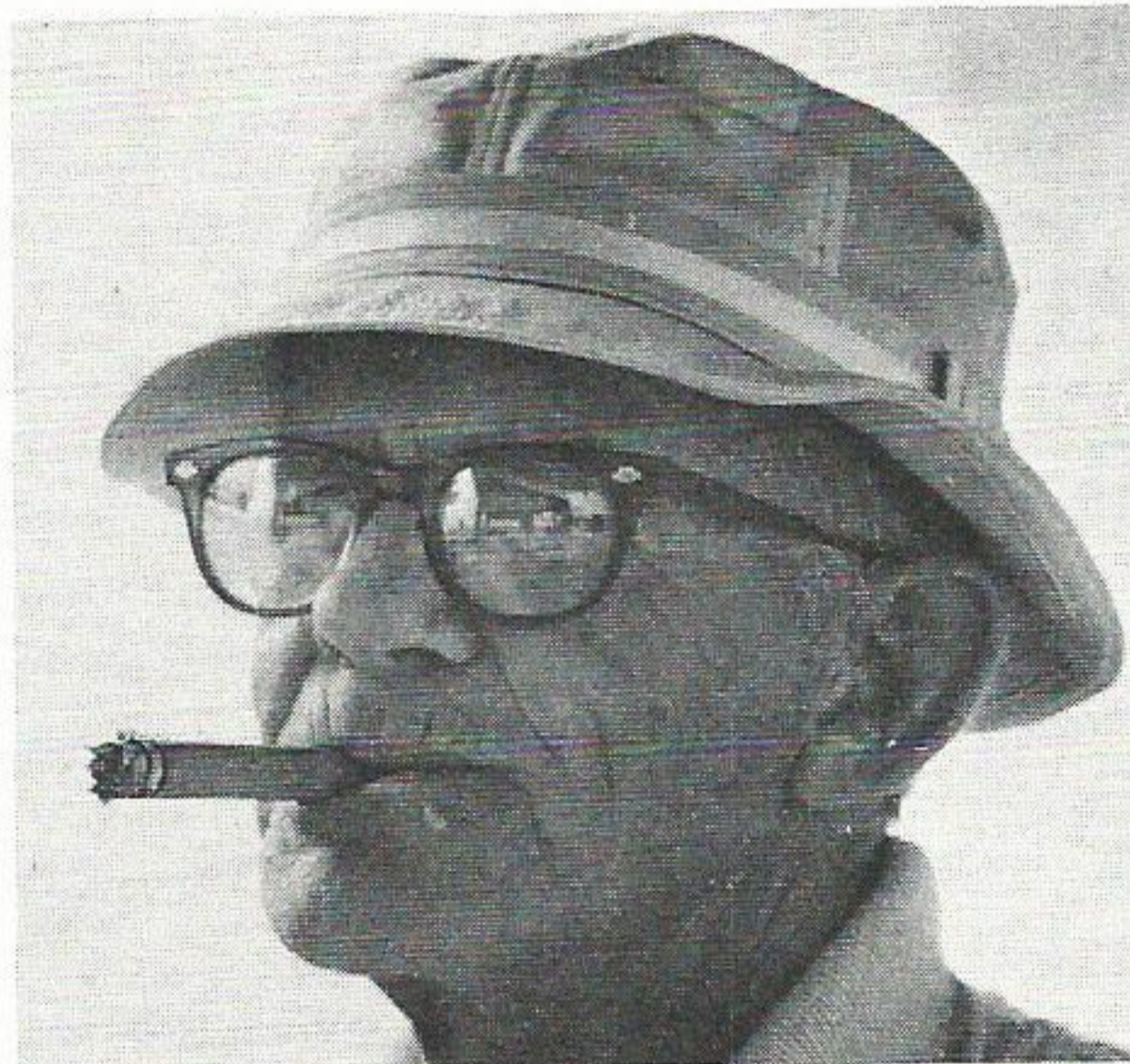
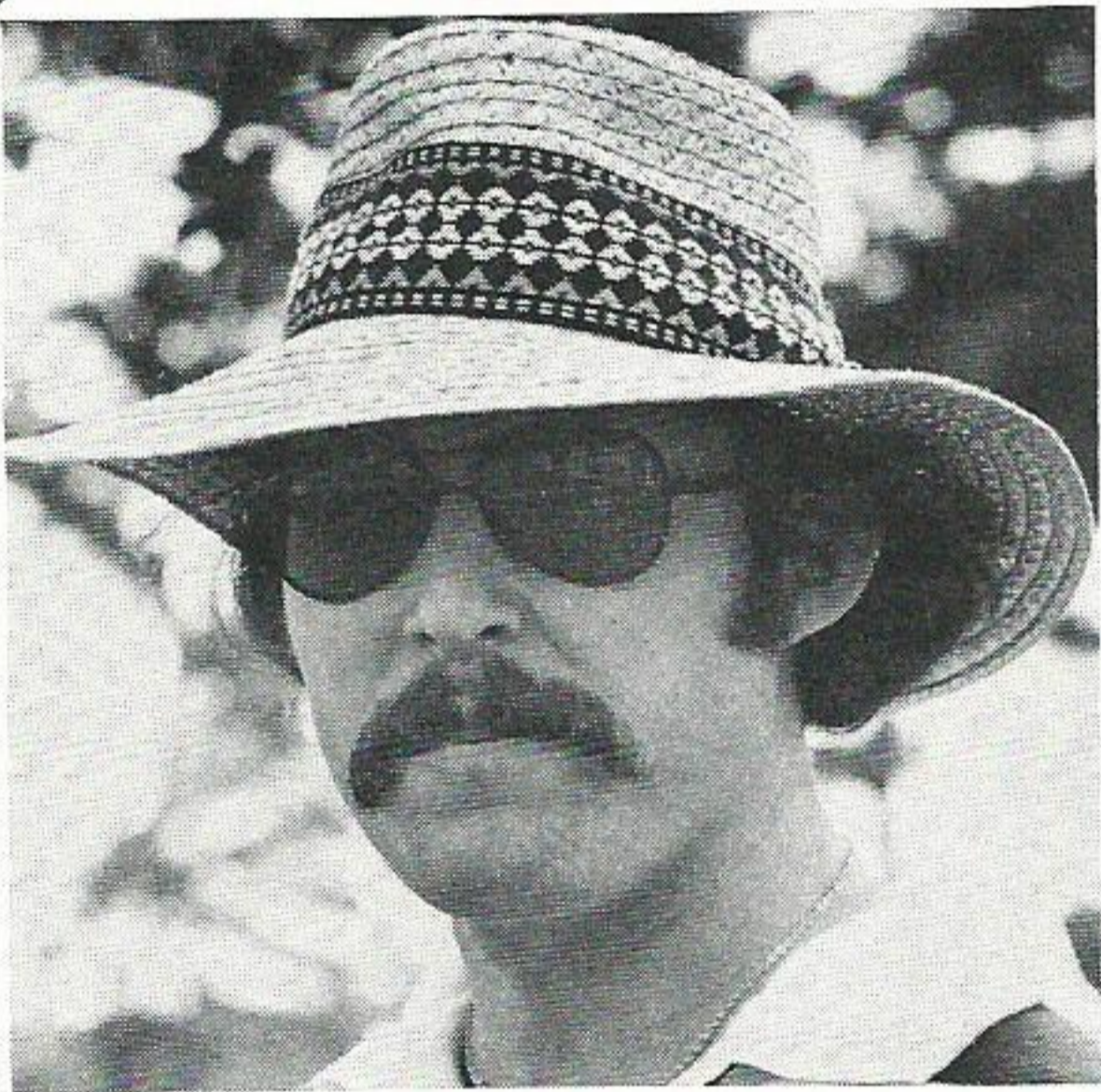
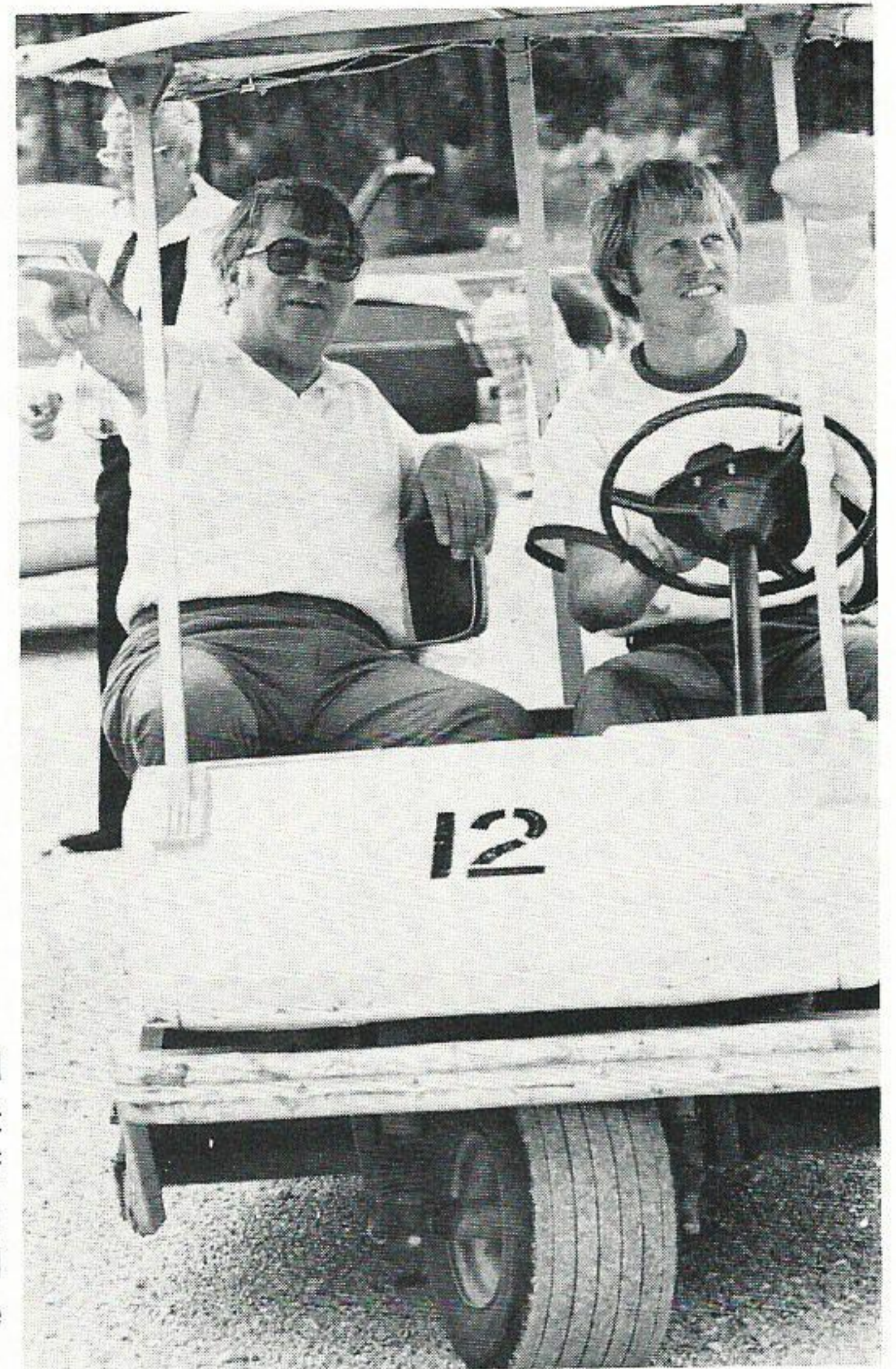
Mike Ross	90-26=64
Harry Stelly	93-29=67
Lynn Leatherwood	99-28=71
Duane Abshire	96-25=71
Gene Russell	103-26=77

Fourth Flight

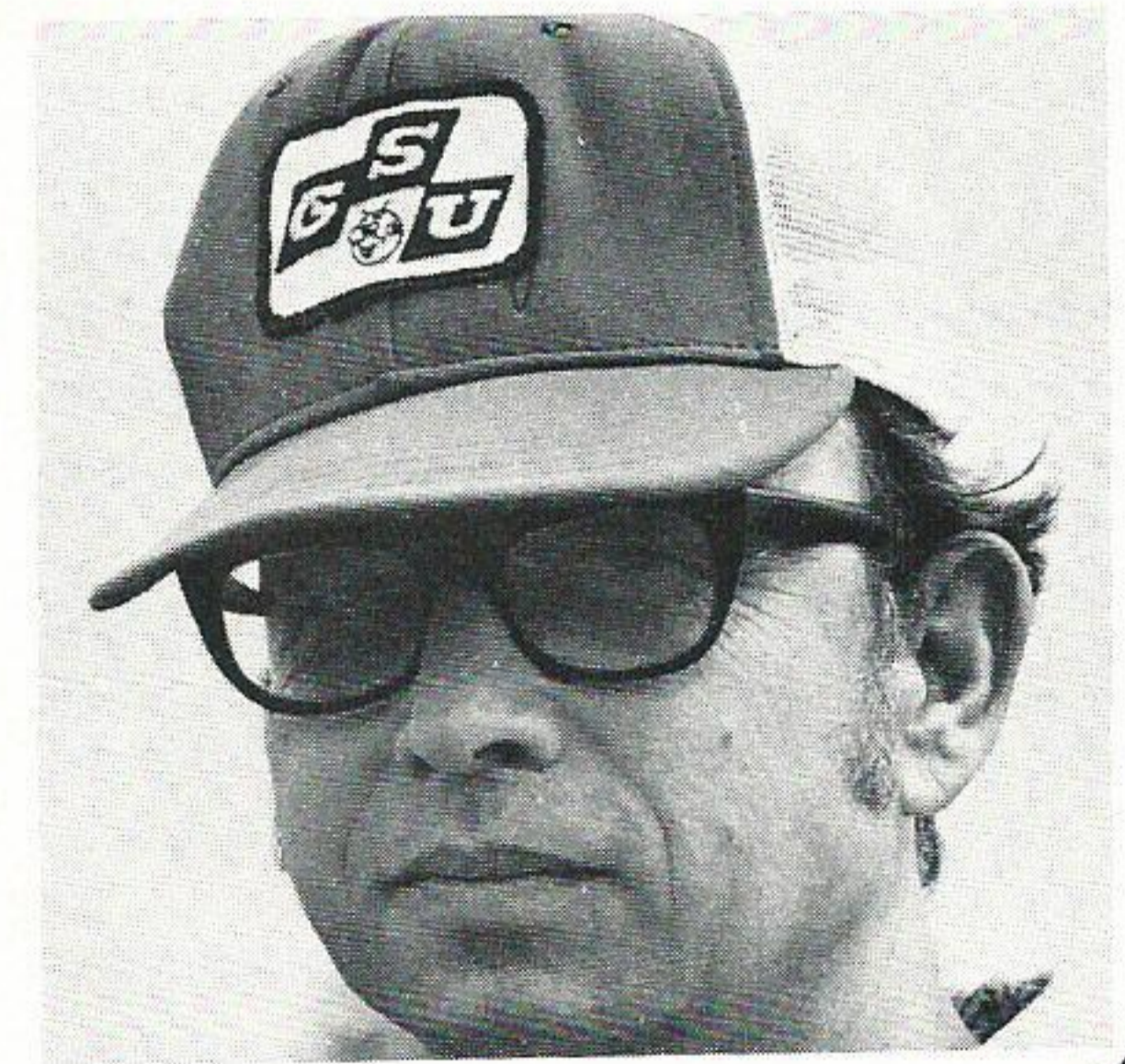
Jim Wilder	101-34=67
Ted Meinscher	108-39=69
Paul Grimes	107-34=73
Mickey Wilson	115-41=74
Ed Hutchins	117-41=76



Body English, hand waving and oral instructions are important aspects of the Joe Leavines golf ball guidance system (left). Burl Daniel's father (right) visited from Fort Worth to play in the tournament with his son.



COIFFURE COVERS — Though the sun rarely shone on the day of the Live Wire Golf Tournament, participants donned a variety of head coverings (clockwise from top left). Most flamboyant was Jim Hudson's large, colorful straw hat. Perry Blanchette and Lynn Leatherwood chose floppy cloth hats, while Ted Meinscher, Mike Yennie and Jim Wilder each wore a different style of meter reader cap.



Fishing in the dark

By Butch Suitt
Senior Engineering Assistant
Drafting

Maybe it's cooler weather, the lack of competition from water skiers, or maybe the fish bite better at night during the summer "dog" days. Whatever the reason, night fishing is increasing in popularity as evidenced by the many lanterns that dot area lakes on summer nights.

Trotliners learned long ago that setting their lines out at night can produce the best catches. But only in recent years have the bass and crappie anglers found nighttime rewards to be excellent — and sometimes spectacular — strings of fish.

For the crappie angler, the technique for night fishing is relatively simple. Suspend a lantern above the water and start fishing in the light. Soon, bugs will begin to fall in the water, attracting minnows and small bream which, in turn, attract the crappie — and an occasional bass and catfish.

For the bass angler, though, it's a whole 'nother ball game.

Although no special equipment is necessary, the techniques for nighttime bassin' are something else again.

For instance, few anglers realize how much they depend on sight to determine when they have had a strike until they have missed a few at night.

Even on a bright moonlight night, depth perception can be tricky, and if you aren't careful, you could spend half of your time unhooking your lures.

Once you've mastered the technique of nighttime bass fishing, though, it'll be hard to get you on the lakes during the daytime.

My introduction to bass fishing at night came a little over a year ago when I received an invitation to fish Toledo Bend with Guide Joe Cloud and Buddy Gough, Texas Parks & Wildlife I & E Officer.

We loaded our gear into Joe's 18 ft. bass boat and left Six Mile Marina about sundown.

It was just light enough to see without a light when Cloud slowed his outboard to an idle and began watching the flickering light of the depth finder. It read a steady 35 feet.

"We are right on the bank of the river channel," Cloud said. "It's about 30 feet over there (pointing to our left)."

"There is a ridge just ahead where the bass have been feeding each day about this time. We'll try it a while using this." He was holding a spoonbill Rebel.

The depth finder, which just moments before was reading a steady 35, began to show we were coming up on the ridge we were seeking...30...25...20...15...finally leveling off at 12 feet.

"Here it is," Cloud proclaimed. After an hour of thoroughly thrashing the ridge with the deep diving lures, however, all we had were two small bass and about a ton of weeds.

Our next choice was old faithful — the plastic worm, one of the most dependable lures ever made.

We used the "Texas" rig-slip sinker ahead of a 4/0 or 5/0 hook made weed-proof by burying the point of the hook in the worm.

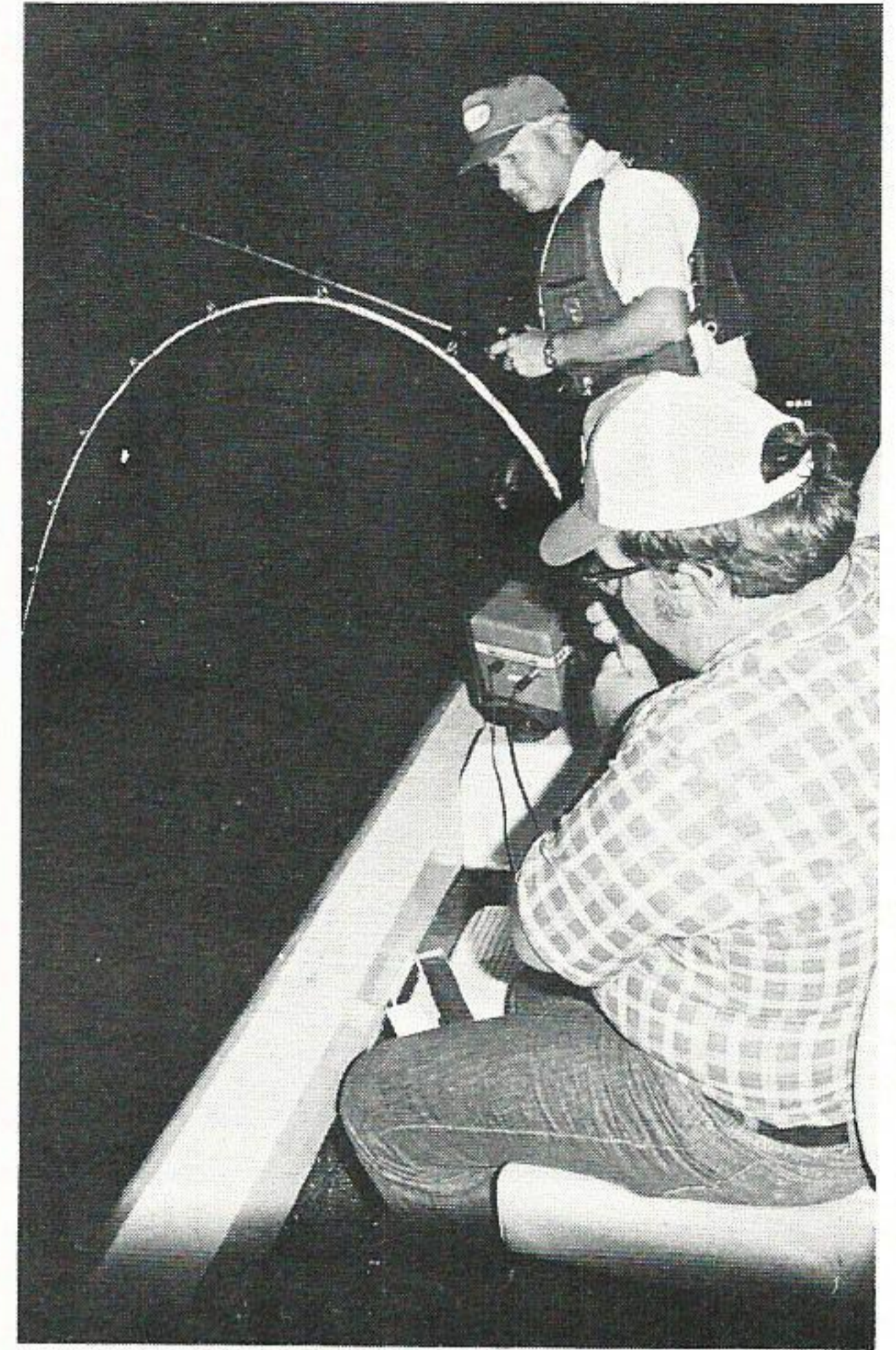
Cloud chose a purple white-tailed worm, while I rigged up using a black worm.

Many theories have come along about which color worm to use for night fishing: use black on a dark moon; use grape or purple on a full moon; or use light colored worms so the fish can see them, for example. Although bass have been caught on nearly every color at one time or another, black seems to be the most popular color for night fishing.

Black, on this particular night, seemed to be the right choice; as when daylight arrived, it had produced a very respectable string.

We fished a variety of different places that night — ridges, creek bends, points — the same kind of places an angler would fish during the daylight hours. Apparently, bass feed in the same areas night and day.

Migration routes are another good place to catch bass at night. In a recent night bass tournament, the winning team positioned their boat in an area located between the river channel and a large shallow flat where bass were known to feed at night. About every hour or so, the bass would move from the river to the flat to feed; and the anglers would catch three or four each time they moved through.



Author Suitt lands a big one.

Night fishing do's & don'ts

If you try your hand night fishing for bass, here are a few do's and don'ts that can mean the difference between a successful trip and an empty stringer.

DO plan to get plenty of rest the day before you plan to night fish so you won't tire and miss the pre-dawn fishing.

DO plan to fish the ridges, the submerged humps, the points — the same kind of places you find fish during the daylight hours. If possible, locate these places during the day and mark them with some reflective tape on a snag or buoy. Things have a way of looking much different at night.

DON'T show any light when night fishing for bass. Unlike crappie, bass are easily spooked by light at night. Equip your boat with map lights mounted below the gunwale to use for rigging up, etc.

DON'T make unnecessary noise, as this can also spook the fish, especially if you are fishing a shallow area.

Energy efficient homes to be built in Beaumont

Precedent-setting construction techniques and design will go into the building of two "totally energy efficient" residential homes in the Beaumont area to study the effect of our semi-tropical climate on energy consumption.

Construction is slated to begin immediately, with funding by Texas A&M University, Rockwool Industries, General Electric, the Builders Association of the Sabine Area, and GSU. The goal of the project is to find out how efficiently electric energy can be used in residences constructed with optimum insulation, appliances and other construction materials.

GSU, GE and Rockwool contributed \$5,500 each for a preliminary study and the preparation of the design for the homes. A&M will provide technical expertise and will guide construction specifications and installation of special energy saving devices. The Builders Association will construct the home and own it until it is sold on the open market.

"Our objective is to demonstrate the efficient use of design and construction techniques to reduce the energy requirements in a home, while maintaining the comforts that people in this area have become accustomed to," said Walt Patterson, research associate in the department of building construction within the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at A&M. "Will the increased costs of construction be offset by the savings in the energy bill?"

"We think the answer will be yes — significantly," Patterson said.

Patterson is the guiding force behind the project. He will monitor the homes in all phases of the project, paying special attention to five basic areas: thermal resistance (insulation), air leakage (infiltration), vapor barriers, high energy efficiency ratio (EER) appliances including air conditioning and heating equipment, and special plumbing. "No homes like these have ever been built in this area or climate that we know of," Patterson said, "although homes with some of these concepts have been constructed."

Some energy efficient homes have been constructed in Arkansas which have proved to be very efficient in terms of

energy use, but the climate in Arkansas is not nearly as humid as in our coastal area of the Gulf Coast.

At least one home has been constructed in Lumberton, outside Beaumont, using several energy efficiency concepts such as vapor barriers and greater insulation. This home, however, was not constructed to the optimum standards that will go into the Westhaven homes, nor did it contain complete monitoring facilities.

Both homes will be constructed in the Westhaven Estates located in West Beaumont. They will each have approximately 1600 square feet of living space. One will utilize a heat pump heating and cooling system, and the other will use a high EER air conditioning system with resistance heat. The floor plan will vary somewhat so both homes will not be identical. After construction and initial monitoring, the homes will be sold to the public by the

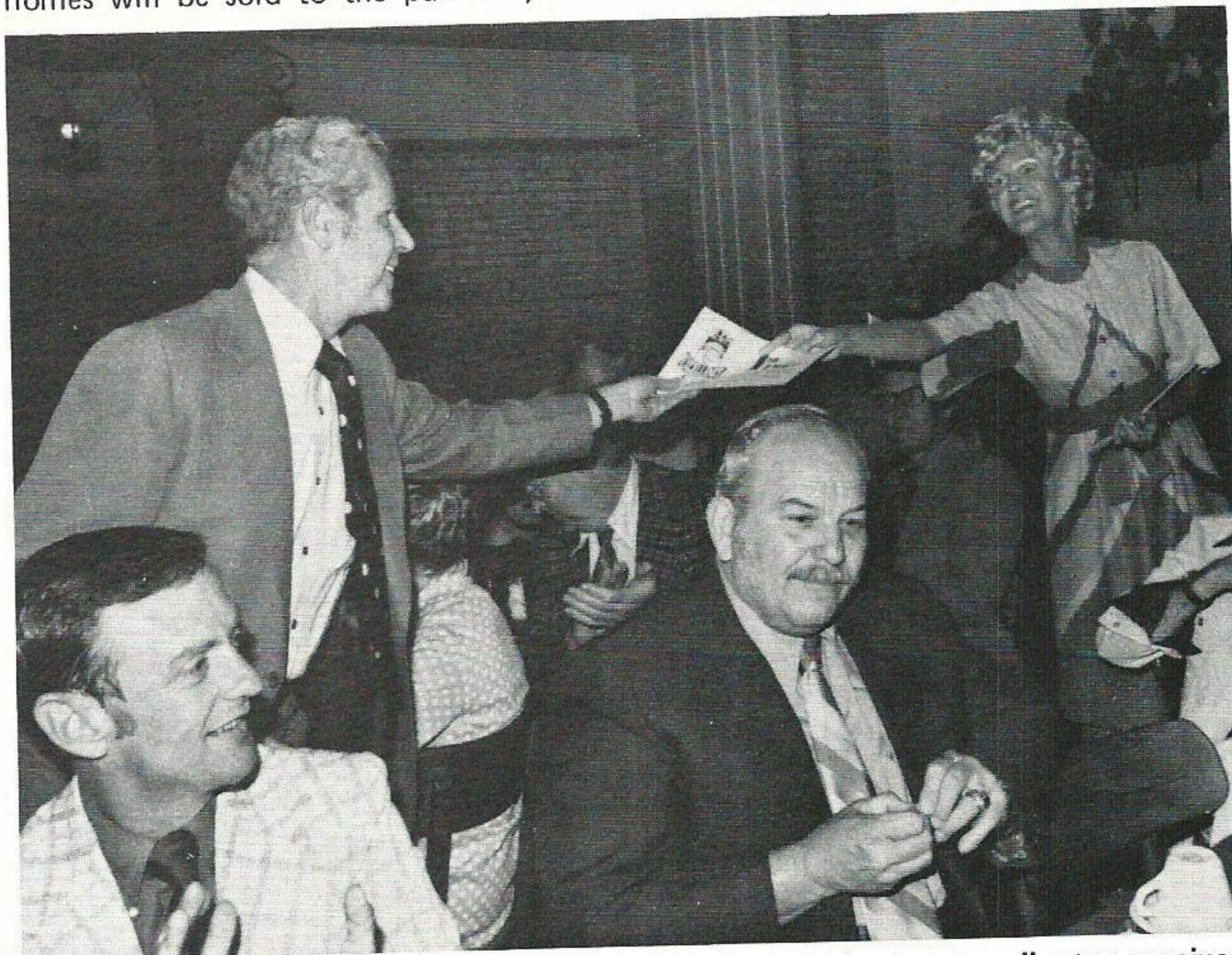
Builders Association.

Selling price of the homes is expected to be about \$30,000 to \$40,000 apiece.

Energy use by the occupying families will be monitored for about a year, Patterson said, and then compared with the energy consumption in normal existing homes in Beaumont.

"These homes will be designed to provide maximum energy conservation but will not be far-out in design," said Bob Carroll, president of the Builders Association. "We are enthusiastic and have great hopes that these two homes will be a preview of the homes of the future for the Gulf Coast."

A representative of the Builders Association said that what is learned here from these two homes will prove most valuable to other builders associations throughout the entire Gulf Coast region from Brownsville, Tex.; to Key West, Fla.



ADS WIN AWARDS — Joe DeJean, consumer communication coordinator, received six 1975 Addy Awards given by the Beaumont Advertising Club May 12. Heat pump newspaper ads won one first place and three honor awards. The television commercials received two first place prizes — one for a 30-second ad and another for a complete regional campaign. *Plain Talks* won an honor award for house magazines. Pictured in the foreground are Pat McMeel, consumer communication representative; and Ken Haynie, commercial artist.

Ward McCurtain's Speech toast of the Toastmasters

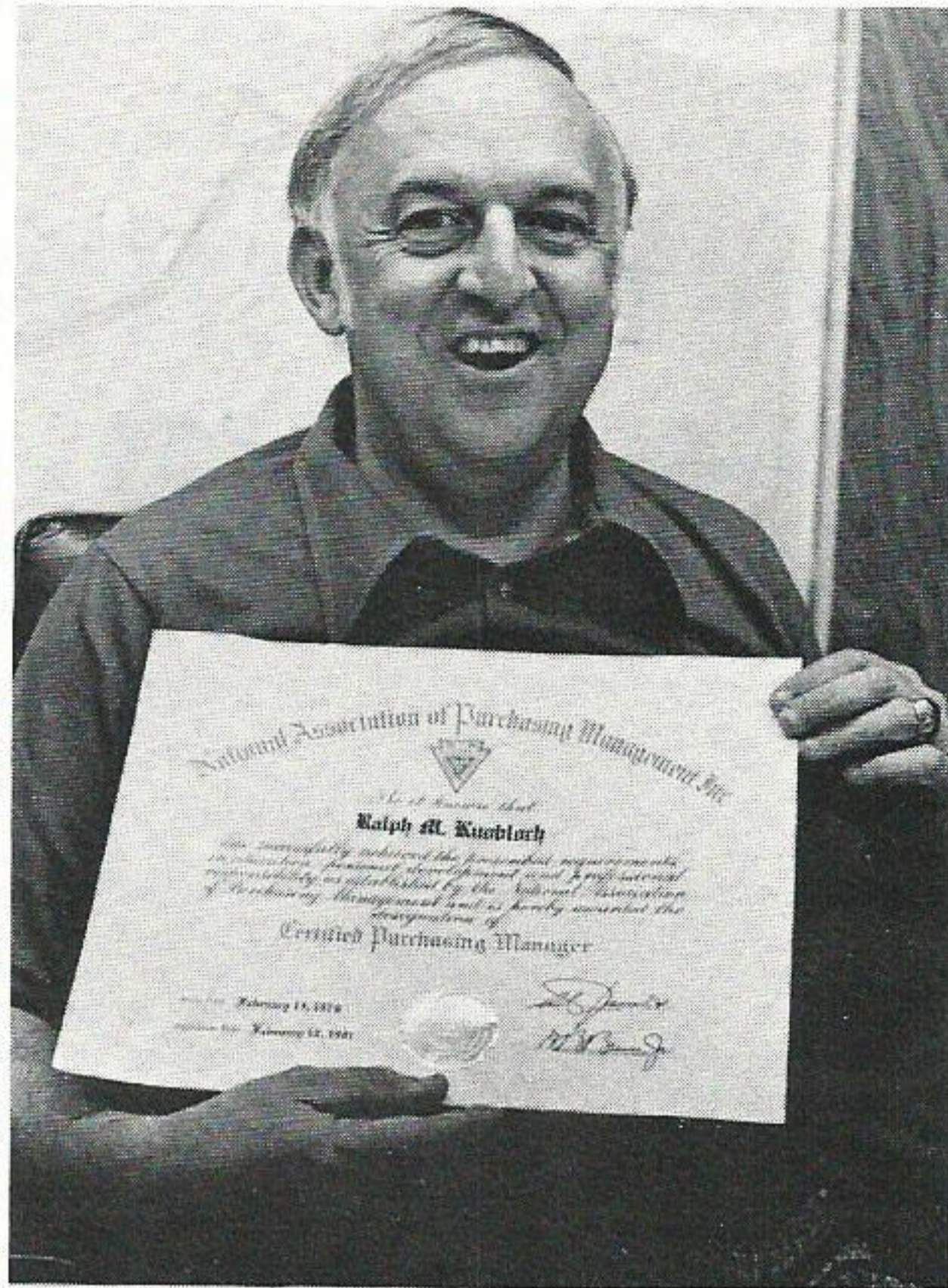
Ward McCurtain, Beaumont Division manager, won two awards in recent Toastmaster International speech contests.

He won the area competition March 13 in Lake Charles and placed third in the district contest in New Orleans May 1.

McCurtain's seven-minute talk was entitled "Happy Birthday, America." In it he holds that the country is turning away from its first love — free enterprise.

"I used the modern version of the Fable of the Little Red Hen," McCurtain said. "It's about a hen who found some grains of wheat and came up with the good idea to plant the grain, grow more wheat and bake some bread. Everybody around agreed the idea was good, but no one would help the hen — until it was time to eat the bread.

"In the traditional version of the story the hen eats the bread alone — as poetic justice to those that did not help. But in the modern version, the government steps in and forces the hen to share the fruits of her labors with those that refused to help produce the bread."



CERTIFIED PURCHASING AGENT — Ralph M. "Mickey" Knobloch, senior purchasing agent at River Bend Nuclear Station, was certified by the National Association of Purchasing Management, Inc., Feb. 13. He is the first Gulf States purchasing agent to be so honored. Certification is given after meeting experience and education criteria and passing a battery of examinations.

Harriet Babin named to head home ec group

Harriet Babin, consumer services supervisor in Baton Rouge, has been elected president of the Louisiana Home Economics Association.

The purpose of the group is to improve the quality and standards of individual and family life through education, research, cooperative programs and public information.

The Louisiana group has 1,073 adults and students as members. It is affiliated with the American Home Economics Association — one of the 20 largest professional organizations in the country — with more than 60,000 members.

Miss Babin holds a bachelor's degree in vocational home economics education and a masters' degree in home economics (family life/home management), both from Louisiana State University.

She has been a home economist with Gulf States since 1960 and supervisor since 1972.

THRIFT PLAN

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

COMMON STOCK

Shares	Date purchased	Price per share	Total cost	Commission
1,107	6 May	13	\$14,391.00	0
3,000	7 May	12 7/8	39,135.00	\$510.00
2,000	11 May	13 1/4	26,820.00	320.00
1,400	12 May	13 1/8	18,613.00	238.00
200	12 May	13 1/8	2,659.00	34.00
14	12 May	13 1/4	187.88	2.38

Total: 7,721 shares bought at an average price of \$13.185582 per share.

PREFERRED STOCK

30	6 May	52 1/2	\$ 1,603.80	\$ 28.80
1	6 May	52 5/8	\$ 53.99	1.36

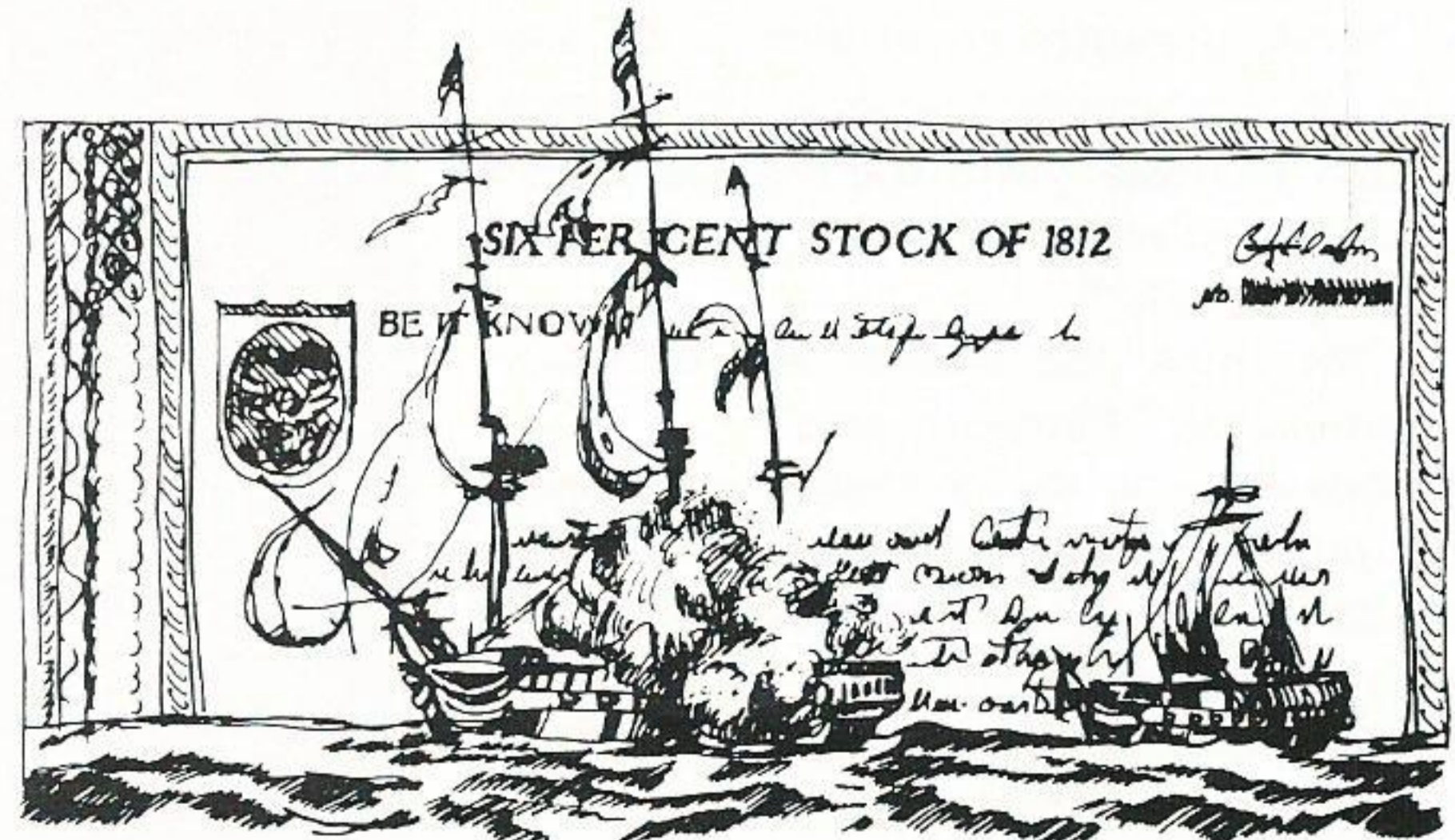
Total: 31 shares bought at an average price of \$53.47710 per share.

SAVINGS

The trustee deposited \$91,142.59 with the savings department of First Security National Bank of Beaumont.

Moving? Take along your Plain Talks

If you have moved recently and are not receiving Plain Talks, please contact Virginia Barfield in the Main Office library (ext. 447) for a change of address form. She will need the old and new addresses, complete with ZIP Codes. Pass this word on to anyone you know who has complained about not receiving the magazine.



They saved seapower for you

In 1812, America fought for freedom of the seas and became a world power. Through war and peace, good years and bad, Americans have saved the things worth keeping. But it takes will power to save. That's why 9½ million Americans buy United States Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan. With Bond power, you stay afloat. Call LaMelle Triplett (extension 3150) for details.

Varibus looking for uranium

Varibus Corp. and Felmont Oil Corp. have announced two exclusive agreements to explore for uranium.

Varibus, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Gulf States, intends to use its share of any uranium found from the venture to supplement existing contracts to fuel Gulf States nuclear reactors. The Company is planning to build two 940-megawatt nuclear-powered electrical generators at its River Bend Station site near St. Francisville, Louisiana.

The first exploration agreement, signed April 30, involves exploring for uranium on five prospects already secured by Felmont. Four locations are in Wyoming; the other is in Montana.

During the first year, Varibus will

spend about half a million dollars — including moneys for possible reclamation — for initial exploration. Should reports of those efforts be favorable, an additional \$1 million will be spent for continued exploration. If an ore body is discovered, a feasibility study will be conducted to determine if the uranium can be mined economically. Proceeds from the mining, as well as any costs greater than the initial investments, will be split 50-50 between Varibus and Felmont.

The second agreement, executed May 20, calls for a three-year exploration program at sites not yet disclosed. Several prospects have been determined, and leases and claims have been secured by Felmont on some of the prospects.

"Each year during this agreement, at least \$500,000 will be spent looking for uranium," said Ed Hodges, manager of Varibus. "As in the first agreement, revenues from any uranium mined as a result of this venture will be split 50-50 with Felmont."

The purpose in executing the Felmont contracts is to broaden the base of Gulf States' fuel supply on which Gulf States would have first call.

Gulf States already has contracted with Gulf Oil Corp. for the purchase of 5 million pounds of uranium concentrates — "yellowcake" — of sufficient quantity to provide the initial core for the two planned units at River Bend and their operation through 1985.

61 Employees Complete Correspondence Courses

A number of workers (listed below) have recently received certificates of completion for correspondence courses offered to Company employees.

Thirty-two employees completed Modern Management, a six-part course given by ICS. Topics covered by the program include: management concepts; planning, organizing and controlling; how to motivate and coordinate; employe relations; training and communications; and how to control costs and simplify work.

Twelve workers finished a second ICS course — Problem Analysis for Decision Making. This two-part course teaches persons how to analyze business problems, make decisions and avoid potential problems.

Five employes recently completed both ICS courses.

Twelve persons have completed the Public Utilities Reports (P.U.R.) Guide course on the utility industry.

Enrollment is now open for ICS courses as well as a new offering in Report Writing. The courses are eligible for the Company's financial aid for education program, by which the Company reimburses the employe for half of the education costs. The fee for Modern Management is \$50. Problem Analysis for Decision Making and the Report Writing courses cost \$20 each.

Contact Frances Englebrecht, training assistant, 853 Main Office, Beaumont, for details.

Modern Management

J. R. Havens, Dewitt Hollingsworth and Jim Richardson of Lake Charles; Sheldon Fruge, Daniel O. Gipson and Horace Taylor of Lewis Creek; Jerry Fryer, Roy M. Jordan, James D. Roberson of Conroe; B. E. Lilley of Cleveland; Harriet Babin, Victor Elmer, George Kelley of Baton Rouge; Victor Bradley Jr. of Neches Station; Walter Different, J. E. Follmer, Eldridge Matthews, Pat McMeel, Bert Rogers, Jo Ann Smith, A. G. Tullier Jr., and Mike Hillhouse of Beaumont; Mitchell Hollier of Willow Glen; Michael Petry and Ferdinand B. McGee of Nelson Station; E. C. Wilson of Woodville; Harrison Carlin of Lafayette; Carl Beaumont and Albert Richard of Port Arthur; and O. V. McNeil of Sabine Station.

Problem Analysis for Decision Making

Bobby L. Thompson, C. J. Bonura, Lyle Gerac, Ken Gerstenberg, R. T. Green and Bill Hollins of Beaumont; Wayne Hiter of Baton Rouge; Sammy McKenzie of Louisiana Station; F. H. Bush Jr. of Lake Charles; James A. Fugitt of Nelson Station; Joe K. Nettles of Huntsville; Leroy Bodemann of Conroe and Lonnie Cobb of Lewis Creek.

Both ICS courses

Lee Hammack of Beaumont and Melton Byrd, J. W. Malik and Wilmer Ledbetter of Lake Charles.

P.U.R. Guide

Joe A. Bailey of Huntsville; Ronald W. Ciesiel, Horace Taylor and Paul J. Wieting of Conroe; Billy Locke, Elizabeth C. Parrish, Sandra Lyon and Harold Seastrand of Beaumont; Paul Moseley of New Caney and Michael Petry of Nelson Station.



V.O.E. RECOGNITION — Three Gulf States supervisors were presented plaques from part-time Vocational Office Education (V.O.E.) high school students from the Beaumont Independent School District. Left to right are: Mildred Killbuck, personnel office supervisor; Carolyn Theobald, PBX and stenographic supervisor; Karlene Henderson, section head in the records department; Polly Bautista; Mary Scott and Jianna Hoy. The Company employs a total of 10 part-time high school students — seven in Beaumont and three in Baton Rouge.

Coal: An abundant resource

continued from inside front cover

Prior to closing, I would like to add a few comments on safety and the environment as they relate to coal.

Coal mining is a dangerous occupation. Industry and government, however, have made great strides in reducing fatalities and injuries in the mines. Disabling injuries and deaths from coal mining are now only small fractions of what they were in the 1920s, when statistics were first recorded.

Environmental problems associated with the mining and utilization of coal are continually being minimized. The time has passed when a mined area is left barren and lifeless. Reclamation of disturbed land is an integral part of today's total mining process.

Though the semi-arid Western coal lands — where coal production is expected to triple by 1985 — lack the abundant rainfall of their Eastern counterparts, reclamation can be successful by using many innovative rehabilitation techniques recently developed.

Another area of environmental concern is the burning of high sulfur coal. Air emission regulations, as imposed by the Clean Air Act, have clouded the future use of much of our domestic coal. Many in the coal and electric utility industries are urging a review of compliance schedules as well as a complete re-evaluation of the standards themselves.

Such a re-examination may well be in order.

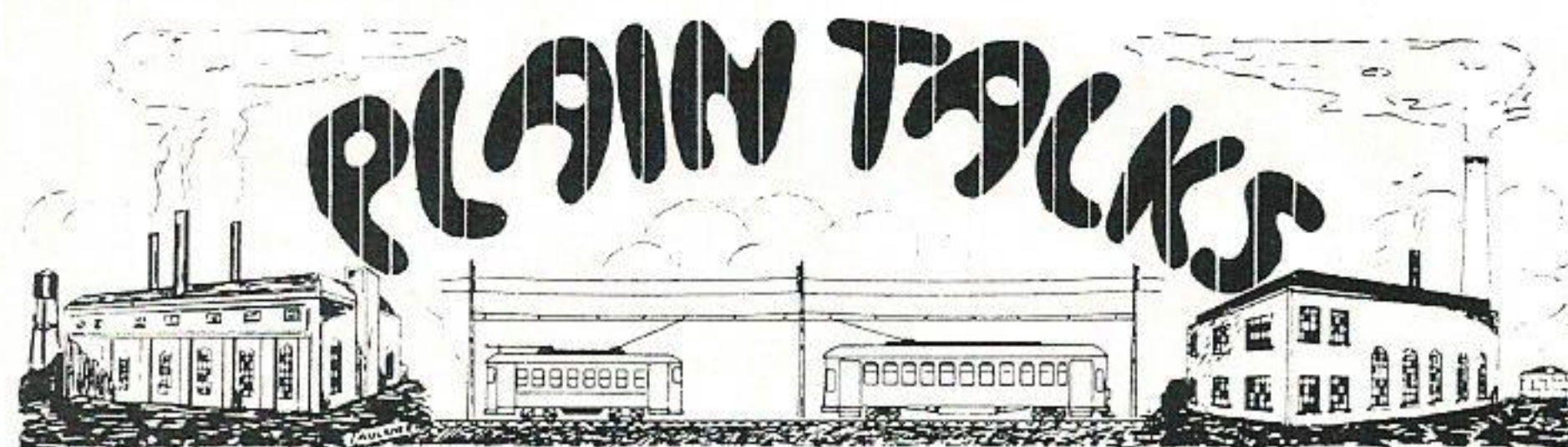
Regardless of the outcome of this controversy, however, the public will get clean air. Private industry, government and the electric utility industry are spending millions of dollars each year to find and develop ways to burn coal cleaner or to convert it into a less-polluting fuel.

Coal is no energy panacea

Although coal is a viable energy resource, it is not an energy panacea.

Many problems are associated with the use of coal — including escalating costs associated with its handling and transportation. Some of these problems could be resolved or minimized if Congress were to establish an energy policy with a strong commitment toward coal. But even if such a commitment were made, coal alone could not solve all our energy problems.

We will never be totally dependent on coal. The coal industry is just unable to expand its existing capacity to meet such demand. For many reasons, including this one, we must never lose sight that this country must depend on all of its available fuels — oil, gas, uranium and, of course, coal.



50 Years Ago

"Bigger and better than ever before, the eighth annual company picnic will be held the latter part of August!

"Not only will our Eastern Texas Electric Company family be on hand to eat and 'make sport' but our fellow employes who can get away from their jobs with the Gulf States Utilities Company and the Western Public Service Company and their families and friends will join for the first time in the festivities."

"The accounting department — well, she ain't what she used to be! To look down the aisles and to see the numerous desks unoccupied during the day, might lead one to believe the plague had hit us, but we cheerfully announce that such is not the case. Merely the Demon Vacation is in our midst. (Who was it that said: 'There are two times in a man's life when he needs a vacation. Just before he leaves for his vacation, and immediately after his return.')

Parker Allen arrived June 24 as superintendent of merchandise sales. "If he can sell merchandise as quickly and satisfactorily as he 'sells' himself he is some merchandising man."

"Some 3,000 persons visited the new Nederland building on the occasion of its formal opening the night of June 25."

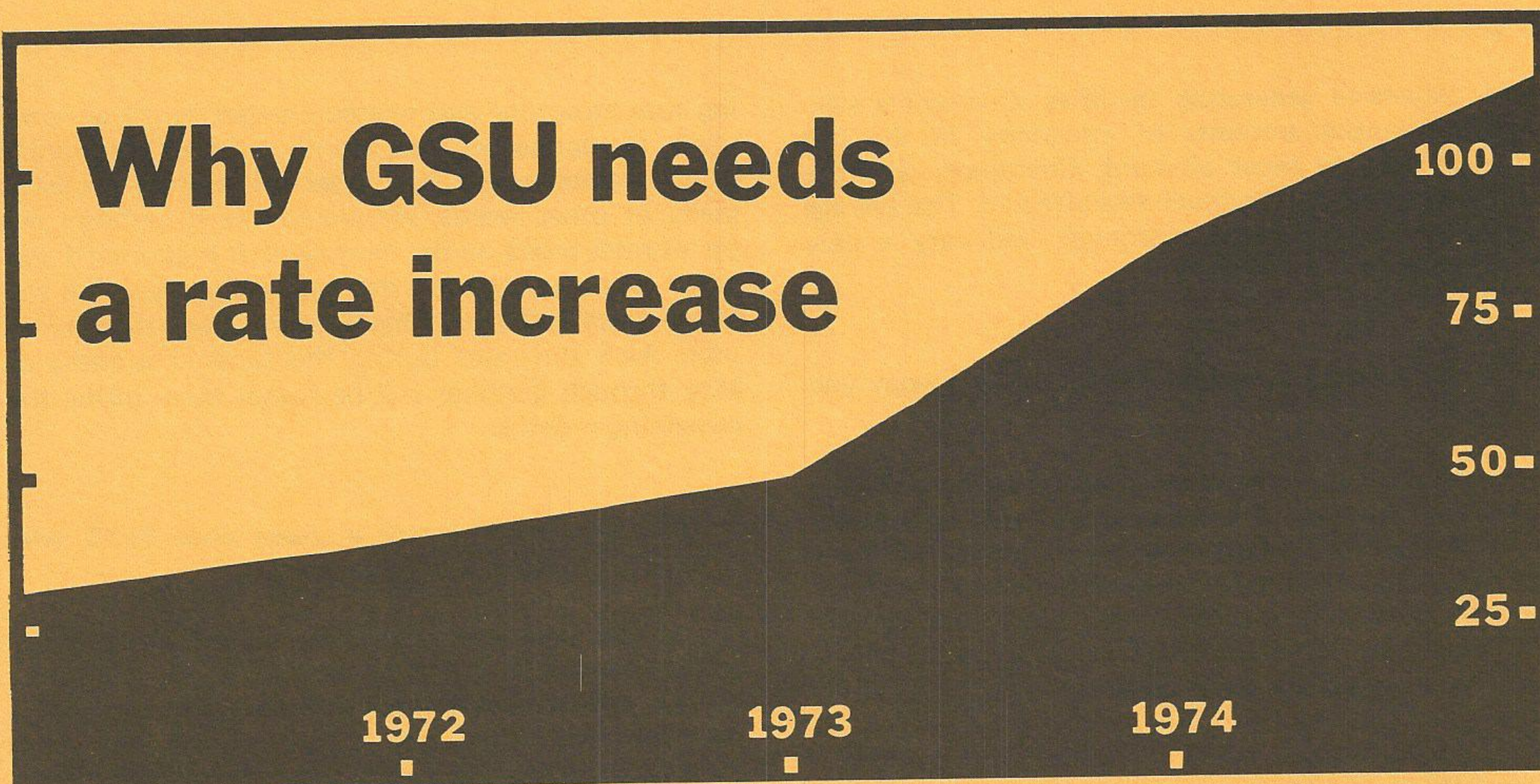
A Mr. Brady and "Robbie" Robinson told Liberty employes of a recent fishing trip, as reported by the Plain Talks correspondent. "It must have been about 8 o'clock when they returned without anything to prove they had been fishing. Of course they assumed a crestfallen air when they began the 'tale.' It was a mud-cat, weighed about fifteen pounds. Sure they caught it and staked it to the bank of the river, but when they were ready to come home, and came back for it, the fish was gone. I guess it was grazing in the woods somewhere."

The new ice plant in Groveton is in operation.

"The Office Flapper (in Orange) is slowly getting back to normalcy after a vacation spent on Cow Bayou with Girl Scouts recently. She came back abundantly supplied with sunburn but soon expects to have her school girl complexion restored."

"The office force of the Eastern Texas Electric Company entertained with a beach party June 12 in honor of the sixteenth birthday of their little coworker, Nina. Immediately after the supper, in the light of a number of automobiles, Miss Dowdy was presented with a gift which came as a surprise and proved a delight to those attending the party. . . . The gift . . . was an exquisite corsage bouquet of a cabbage head adorned with other members of the vegetable family, such as string beans, carrots, onions and one small orchid shaped piece of garlic."

Why GSU needs a rate increase



Impact of inflation on construction costs
(Source: Handy-Whitman Index — S. Central Div.)

How much increase is needed?

Approximately \$51 million annually is needed to enable GSU to remain attractive to the investing community, which is the source of about two-thirds of the capital needed. About half of the rate increase will go to various government bodies as taxes.

Hasn't GSU recently received a rate increase?

GSU's last request for an increase in the rates of all customers—residential, commercial and industrial—was granted in Texas in 1972 and in Louisiana in 1973. That request was based on figures using 1970 as the test year. In April, 1975, a rate increase for our 70 largest customers became effective. Gulf States has requested three rate increases in its 51-year history.

How do my electric bills compare with what I pay for other necessities?

Your electric service is probably one of the best bargains around. Since 1971, the cost of living has gone up 46 per cent. GSU has received only one residential rate increase in recent years, and that increase amounted to 8.5 per cent. Don't forget as a company we have to pay for increased wages, materials and supplies. We are affected as much, if not more, by inflation than you are. We are now faced with both

inflation and an unprecedented need for more generating facilities due to technological changes and the need for more energy to maintain the economy and provide jobs for people in the area. Continued prosperity can only continue if we can provide the required electric service. As with other items, the cost of electricity will have to go up. However, the cost is still a relatively small part of your household budget.

How much have GSU costs increased?

Construction costs have increased by about 60 per cent since 1971; 42 per cent since 1973. Annual payroll expense was 43 per cent higher in 1975 than in 1970, the year upon which the last increase request was based, and will increase by another 17 per cent in 1976 and by approximately 8 per cent in the year 1977. Annual interest expense has increased from \$27 million in 1971 to \$47 million in 1975, up nearly 75 per cent. Interest rates have quadrupled since the company first issued bonds in 1946 and reached an all-time high in 1975 when we paid 10.15 per cent for mortgage bond money.

How will the new rates affect home customers?

The rates are designed to encourage wise use of electricity in the hot summer months, when air conditioning load creates peak demands that cause us to

add expensive generating facilities. Customers who use substantial amounts of electricity in the hot months will be most affected. Customers who use small amounts will be much less affected. The average increase for individual customers will vary widely with usage.

Why don't you just economize to get the money you need?

We continue to economize in every way possible as long as it does not adversely affect your electric service. Efficient operation and the utilization of many money-saving technological advancements cannot offset the rapidly rising costs of doing business, primarily caused by inflation. Until recently we have been able to do this but it is no longer possible.

Can GSU increase its rates anytime it wants?

No. Unlike most other businesses, which raise prices when costs of doing business increase, GSU must petition appropriate regulatory bodies in Louisiana and Texas. In Louisiana, the Public Service Commission regulates rates; and in Texas, the cities we serve regulate rates within city limits. The Public Utility Regulatory Act of Texas became law in 1975, creating the State's first Public Utility Commission. Effective Sept. 1, 1976, this Commission will have exclusive jurisdiction over GSU rates in areas outside incorporated limits of municipalities. Until Sept. 1, 1977, municipalities retain their power to regulate the rates and services of the company. After that date, the cities may give this jurisdiction to the Commission, subject to recall.

Why haven't the proposed residential rates been published so I know how the increase will affect me?

GSU in its rate request asked for a certain amount of money from industrial, residential and commercial customers. The City of Beaumont and several other Texas communities we serve hired a nationally known C.P.A. firm to audit the request. They have presented their findings to the cities and we are studying the report. They may also have recommendations regard-

ing rate structure and related charges. Until we conclude the actual hearings, we don't know how much of the increase will be placed on residential customers. In other words, we would like to publish one set of rates based on the increase that is approved and when it is approved. At this time we can say that the larger users will pay a higher percentage than a low user. Also the rates during the summer months of May through October will be higher than during the remaining months.

If GSU hasn't had a rate increase since 1973, why have my electric bills been going up?

If you have been using the same amount of electricity as you were in 1973 a small increase in your bills may be due to the higher price the Company has had to pay for fuel. Since the supply of natural gas is diminishing, GSU has had to purchase oil which costs considerably more than the gas from suppliers we have under contract and the open market gas purchases we have been able to make. This additional cost becomes part of your total bill through the fuel clause adjustment. GSU does not profit from the adjustment as it passes on to customers only the increased cost.

What is the outlook for future increases in fuel?

The cost of fuel is expected to continue to increase. As the supply of cheap gas diminishes, the Company will have to rely on fuel oil, coal, and nuclear sources of energy. The Company is striving to obtain adequate supplies of fuel at the lowest possible price; however, the days of cheap natural gas are gone.

Why should I pay for new facilities which will benefit future customers?

Actually most of these facilities will benefit existing customers since a large portion of the Company's growth is a result of demand from existing customers. Also, as generating plants wear out, they must be replaced and this, too, benefits existing customers by providing for continuation of their present service. Also, we are adapting to numerous changes in technology brought on by the shortage of natural gas and oil

as boiler fuel, and this all costs money and benefits you the customer.

Why do industrial customers pay a lower rate than residential customers?

Electric rates are based on cost to serve each class of customer. The investment in the electric plant, transmission lines and distribution facilities is allocated to each class of customer. Industrial customers are not charged for distribution facilities since they are furnished electricity from transmission lines. Therefore, the cost to serve residential customers is higher due in part to all the distribution poles, lines, and transformers needed to serve them. Another factor is that large industrial customers often spend millions of dollars to install facilities needed to supply their electric needs. The average residential customer does not pay for any investment needed to serve him. GSU does not earn any more profit from a residential customer than it does from an industrial customer. The residential customer does, however, impose substantial added costs upon the Company to deliver electric power to each individual home. It is also more expensive to maintain service to residential customers.

Why don't you postpone building new power plants that require most of the money you have to borrow?

Public utilities are obliged to serve the needs of their residential and commercial customers to the best of their ability. We must anticipate the customers' needs for service and be ready when they require it, or blackouts or power rationing would result. This would not be in the public interest.

What are GSU's construction plans?

We continuously monitor our load growth trends so that we can accurately forecast when new generating capacity will be needed and our plans have considerable flexibility. Our forecasts indicate that our peak load reached in the summer of 1975 will increase by 24 per cent by 1980. We must construct expensive new facilities to serve that load. Our con-

struction budget for 1976 is \$221 million, the largest in our history, and will be even larger beyond that.

Who will need this additional power?

About 60 per cent of the electricity we generate goes to industrial customers, which provide a lot of jobs in our area. Residential customers use about 23 per cent and commercial establishments most of the rest, with wholesale and other customers utilizing small percentages. Of about 3,000 homes built in our area in 1975, 40 per cent are all-electric; and of about 1,600 new apartments, 81 per cent are all-electric. The trend is definitely toward an electric economy.

How will you meet this demand?

Here are our present construction plans. Notice that we are moving from a fuel base of natural gas and oil, which are becoming scarce, to one based on nuclear and coal.

Year	Fuel	Generating Capability in Kilowatts
1976	Oil-Gas	580,000
1979	Oil-Gas	480,000
1981	Nuclear	940,000
1983	Nuclear	940,000
1985	Coal	540,000

What would happen if GSU does not get the rate increase?

Our industrial society depends upon electricity for its continued well-being. But, with rampaging inflation and escalating fuel costs, the cost of producing electricity has increased rapidly. Keeping your lights on depends upon adequate rates based on today's cost of doing business. Higher rates are unpopular, but necessary. Public understanding of basic economics is essential. The message is simple: without adequate earnings, the ability of GSU to raise capital will be difficult, costly and could even become impossible. Without capital, we cannot build. Without additional facilities, there will be serious energy shortages in the near future, shortages that will lead to economic stagnation, massive unemployment and living standards Americans consider unacceptable.

THE INDUSTRY

A team of **German scientists** is looking into the possibility of extracting uranium from sea water with a special strain of algae.

Hans-Wolfgang Nuernberg, head of the group, said a strain of algae has been bred that can absorb uranium to concentrations 50,000 times that of sea water. The result is vegetable matter with a uranium content — 150 parts per million — close to that of low-grade ores being mined in some parts of the world, Nuernberg said.

Oceans contain an estimated 4 billion metric tons of dissolved uranium — though it is dispersed throughout a very large volume of water.

Nuernberg does not expect his process to be economically feasible until a way can be devised to expose the algae to a large amount of sea water in a controlled fashion, such as a mesh immersed in strong currents.

The algae may also be decomposed — releasing potentially burnable fumes — in silos on shore before the uranium is extracted, Nuernberg said.

Two hundred Appalachian Power Co. customers in Virginia and West Virginia will participate in a load research program designed to determine how much electricity they are using at different times of day.

As part of a \$1 million program of the parent **American Electric Power System**, the meters will be equipped with a special recording device which will tape record the use of electricity. These meters will not use electricity.

Apco employees will collect the tapes each month for a year and they will be analyzed by computer.

Participants will be asked to list the number of family members, appliances and their use, and other information as a basis for the studies. (*Roanoke Times*, Feb. 5, 1976)

Union Electric Co. in St. Louis, Mo., April 9 received a construction permit for the Company's first two nuclear-powered generating units — Callaway 1 and 2.

Carolina Power & Light Co. was granted a 22 per cent electric rate increase that will produce \$81.8 million in additional annual revenue. The increase is the full amount requested by the firm. (*Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 23, 1976)

Plans to build Alabama's third nuclear power electric generating plant were shelved by **Alabama Power Co.** officials who blamed the postponement on inflation and increased production costs.

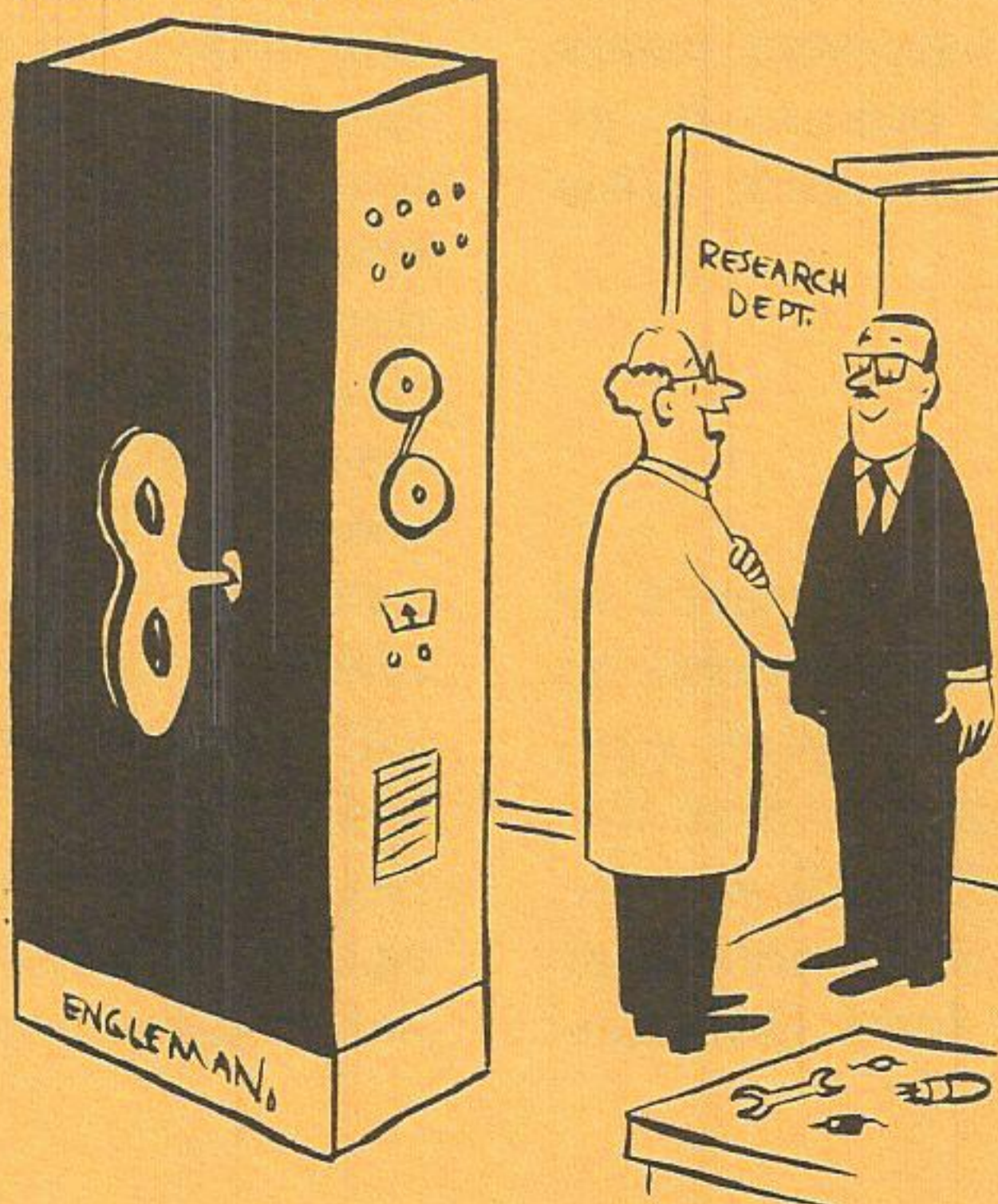
Alabama Power Co. President Joseph M. Farley said the utility was halting construction of the first two units of the planned four-unit \$2.9 billion Alan R. Barton Nuclear Plant near Clanton, Al. on the Coosa River.

Federal officials say a pilot "energy home" building program in Arkansas may be expanded to other states if it continues to produce a 60 percent to 65 percent savings in residential energy consumption.

Arkansas Power & Light Co. say data from the fewer than 200 homes built under the pilot program thus far have shown the high percentage of energy savings. And it says utility bills for residents of the energy homes are about half the amount of bills received by residents of conventionally built houses.

The pilot program homes use twice as much insulation as in conventional homes, have substantially reduced window space and restricted areas for the use of heat producing appliances.

The program was established in 1973. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development granted a local exception in building standards to permit construction of the energy homes with federally insured loans. (*Beaumont Enterprise*, Feb. 9, 1976)



"I've developed an energy-saving computer!"

The Tennessee Valley Authority reported the 60,000 homes in its service area that use an electric heat pump saved an estimated 420 million kilowatt hours of electricity and \$7 million in electric bills this past winter. Because the device is 200 per cent efficient in the heating cycle, TVS said its consumers with heat pumps halve their heating electric bills.

The **Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA)** is seeking proposals for the nation's first solar thermal electric pilot plant. The plant will have a capacity of 10 megawatts. Sun-tracking mirrors atop a boiler will concentrate the sun's rays to heat water to steam.

General Atomic Co. has received a \$150,000 contract to complete preliminary work on a solar-powered "total energy" facility for the Sandia Laboratories of the Energy Research and Development Administration. A fixed-mirror solar concentrator will be used to provide about 120 kilowatts of peak thermal power to help meet the heating, cooling and electric power needs of the Sandia building in Albuquerque, N.M. The fixed-mirror concept minimizes a costly problem with solar devices — focusing the mirror to the path of the sun across the sky. The General Atomic long, narrow, curved mirrors direct the sunlight onto a moveable heat collection pipe. (*Weekly Energy Report*, April 26, 1976)

Delmarva Power & Light Co. said that effective Feb. 16, it will increase electric rates in Delaware 6.2% boosting revenue \$9.9 million annually.

The company said this increase is the second step in a two-phase rate increase announced last July. In the first stage, which was effective in September, the company increased Delaware rates 6.9%, raising annual revenue \$10.4 million. (*Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 11, 1976)

Arkansas Power & Light has sold its transportation fleet and office-related real estate properties to raise money to finance its construction program. The fleet and offices are leased back from the purchaser. The Middle South Utilities Co. unit gained \$6 million from the fleet sale and expected more than \$20 million from the sale of the real estate. (*The Exciter*, Feb. 15, 1976)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Malcolm Percle

Malcolm Percle, formerly line foreman in Baton Rouge, has been promoted to assistant supervisor of contract crews.

Percle will coordinate and supervise the work of tree trimming and underground contract crews working in the Baton Rouge Division.

Percle is a Baton Rouge native with more than 30 years' experience in the Baton Rouge line and service departments. He is a graduate of Baton Rouge High School and World War II veteran of the U.S. Navy.

He joined Gulf States in 1946 as a helper in the line department. He held many positions in the line and service departments before being named utility foreman in 1966. Percle was promoted to line foreman in 1971.

He is married to the former Effie Castilaw of Beaumont. The couple has two sons.

Huey Stafford, formerly serviceman first class in Denham Springs, has been promoted to utility foreman in the line department in the same town.

Stafford is a native of Doyle, La., and a graduate of high school there. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force - including one year in Korea - before joining Gulf States in 1959 as a helper in the Baton Rouge line department.

He transferred to Denham Springs in 1962, where he progressed to lineman first class in 1967. He was named serviceman first class in 1969 and trained in Baton Rouge as a lineman first class for seven months before returning to Denham Springs in 1974 as serviceman first class.

Stafford is married to the former Ida May Hutchinson of Albany, La. The cou-



Huey Stafford

ple has two sons. Stafford is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Northside Baptist Church in Denham Springs.

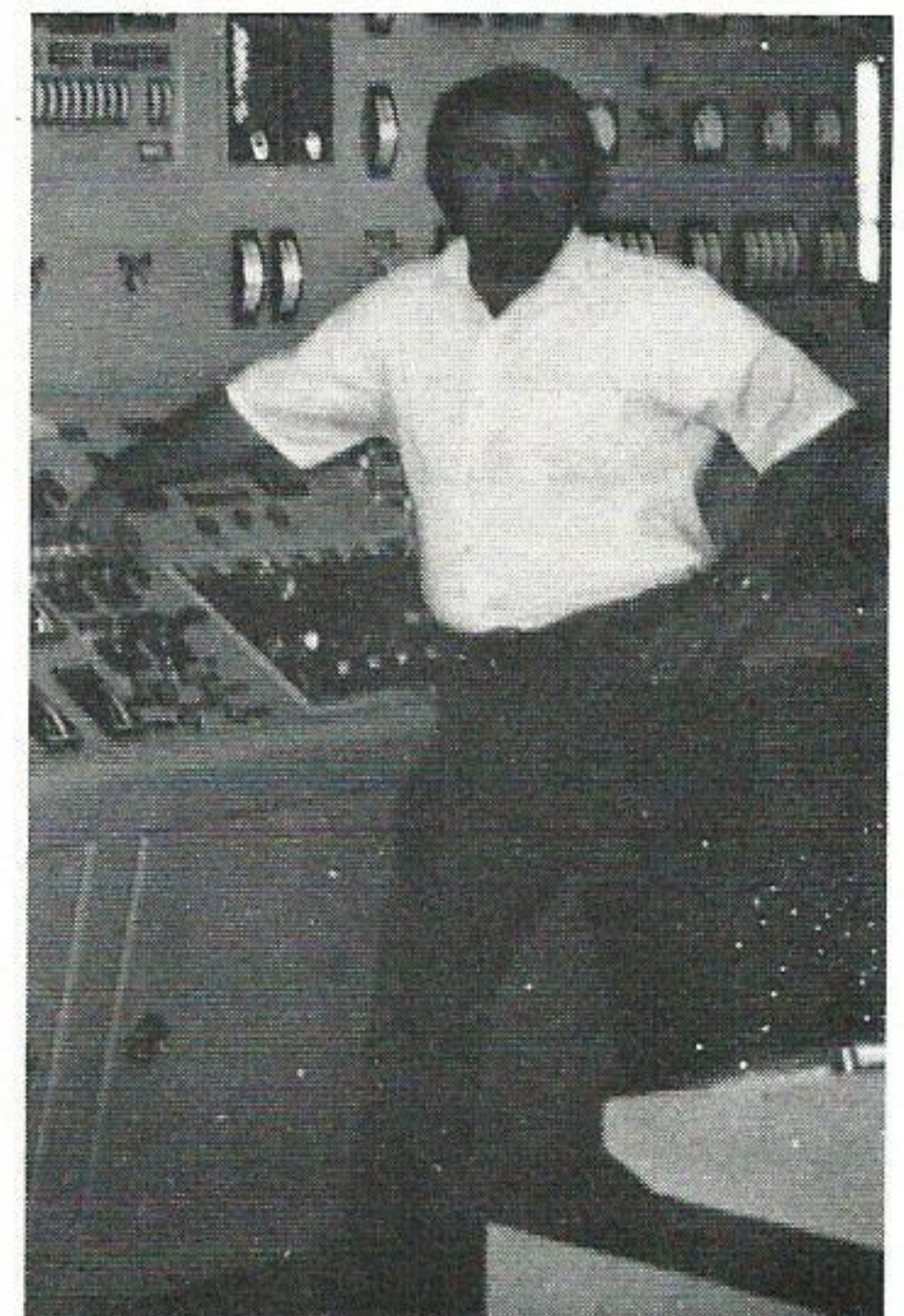
Ralph Gremillion Jr. and **J. Wayne Blanchard Jr.**, both formerly turbine engineers at Louisiana Station, have been promoted to control operations foremen at Willow Glen Station.

Gremillion is a native of Plaquemine, La., where he was graduated from high school.

He joined Gulf States in 1968 as an operator's helper at Louisiana Station and progressed to auxiliary operator in 1970 and to turbine water plant operator, second fireman and turbine engineer in succeeding years



Ralph Gremillion Jr.



J. Wayne Blanchard Jr.

He is married to the former Kathleen Mayeux of Plaquemine. The couple has three children.

Blanchard is a native of Baton Rouge and a 1962 graduate of Istrouma High School there. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force before joining Gulf States as an operator's helper at Louisiana Station in 1968.

He progressed to auxiliary operator in 1970; turbine water plant operator in 1971; second fireman in Jan., 1973; and turbine engineer in July, 1973.

He is married to the former Deborah McBride of Baton Rouge. The couple has one son.

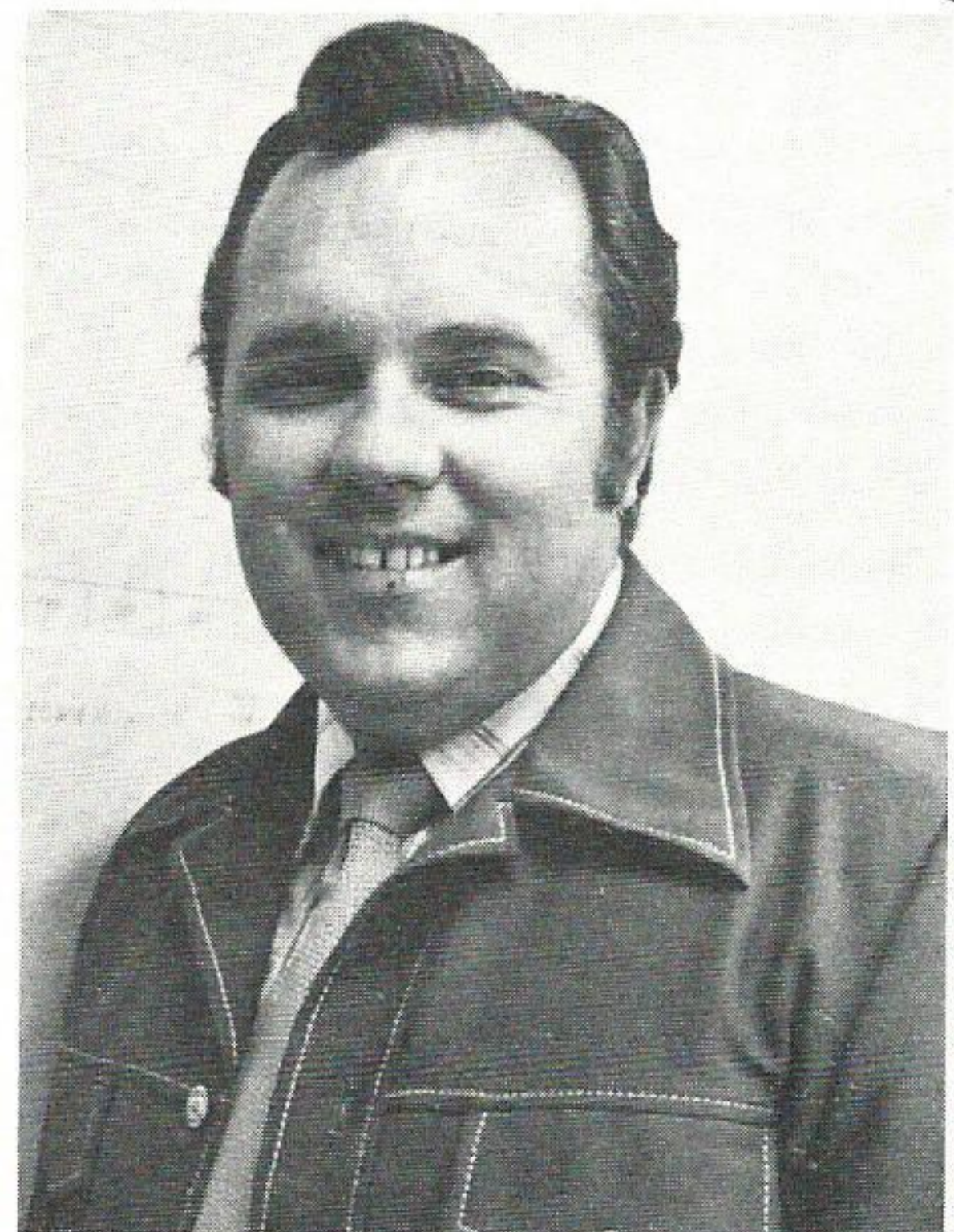
Bill Harrington, formerly senior consumer services representative in Lake Charles, has been transferred to Varibus Corp. in Beaumont and promoted to fuels coordinator.

Harrington will initially learn about the natural gas industry and help Consultant Andy Anderson purchase gas for Varibus.

Harrington is a native of West Scranton, Pa. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force after high school - including 30 months at Chenault Air Force Base in Lake Charles.

He joined Gulf States in 1965 as a helper in the Lake Charles substation department. He transferred to the line department a year later and rose to engineering assistant. He transferred to division marketing in 1970.

He earned a management degree from McNeese State University in 1975. He is also an avid duck hunter.



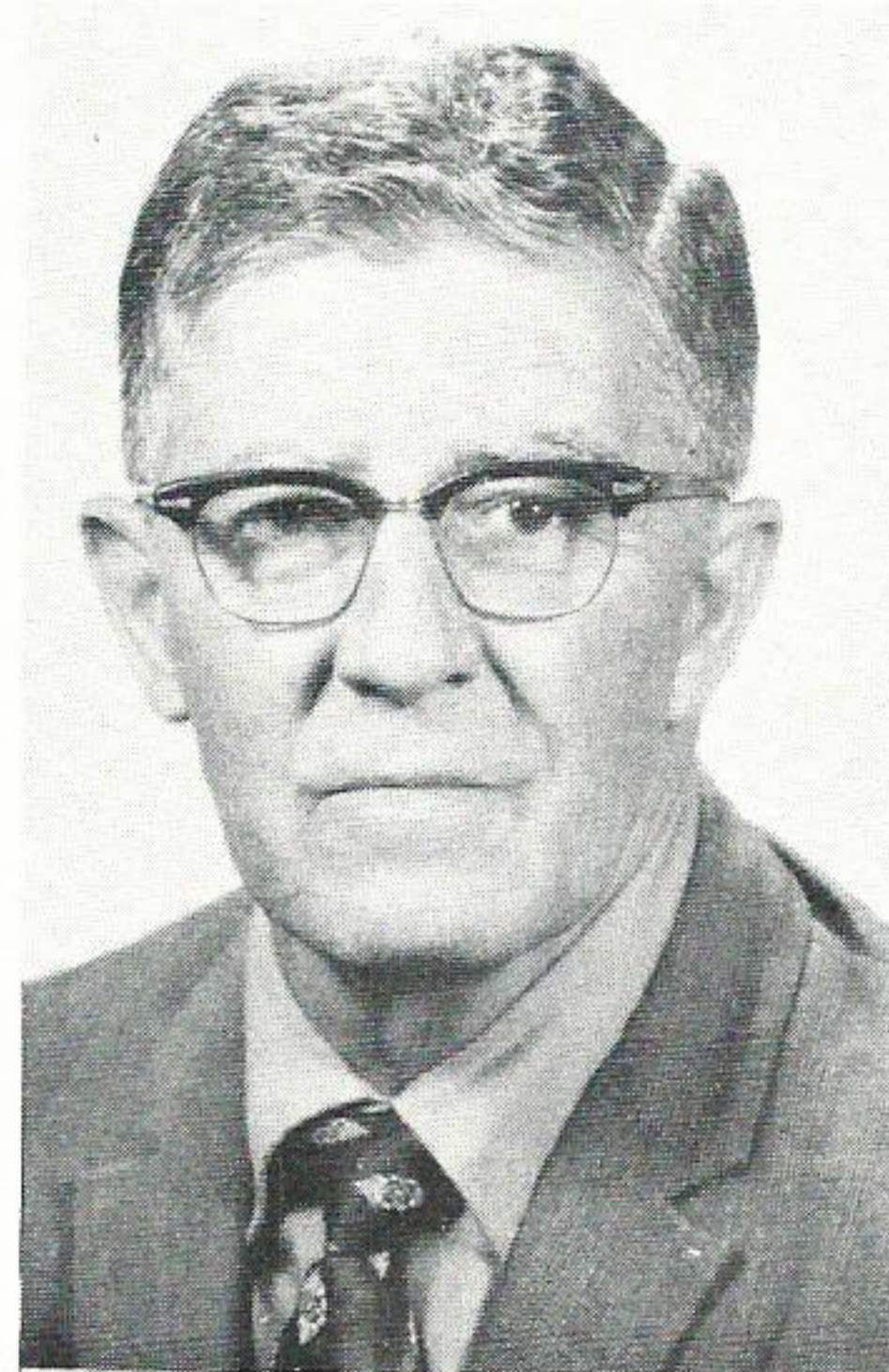
Bill Harrington

Harrington is married to the former Brenda Theall of Lake Charles. The couple has two sons.

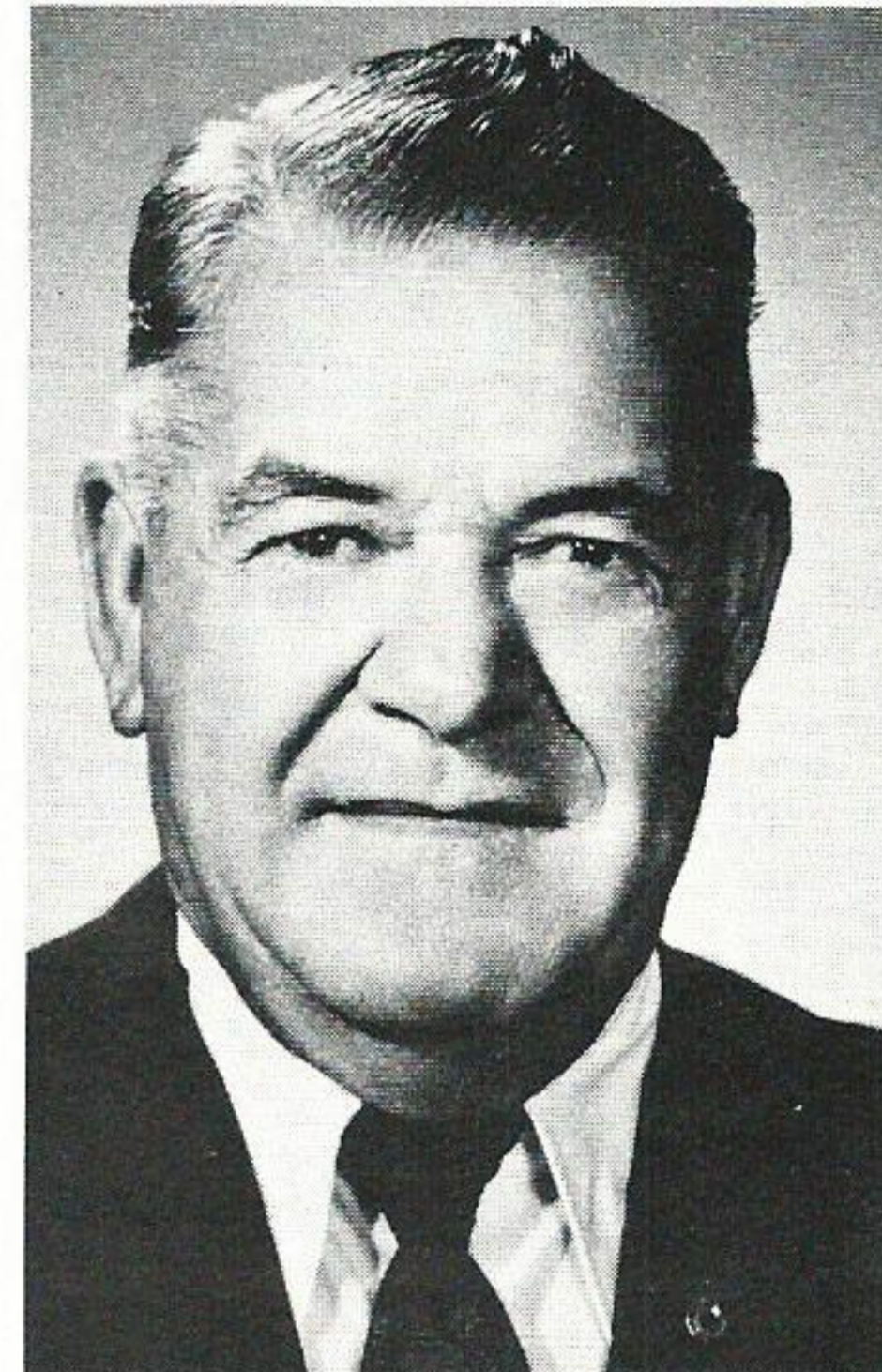
RETIREMENTS



Asa O. Barrow



Alfred M. Melancon



Vernon J. Braud



J. Bruce Guillory

Asa O. Barrow, party chief in Lake Charles T&D engineering, retired May 1.

A native of Anahuac, Barrow is a graduate of Anahuac High School and a veteran of World War II. He joined Gulf States in 1950 as a rod and chainman in system engineering. He became an engineering helper 10 months later and was named draftsman another seven months later.

Barrow progressed to senior draftsman in 1955 and became a party chief in 1957. He transferred to Lake Charles in 1966.

Barrow is a registered land surveyor in both Louisiana and Texas. He is a Master Mason in the Tolerance Lodge 1165 in Beaumont.

He is married to the former Hazel Tywater of Daisetta, Tex. The couple has twin sons, both students at McNeese State University.

Barrow has served as scoutmaster and Little League manager.

Alfred M. Melancon, standards supervisor, retired June 1 after more than 37 years as a Gulf States engineer.

A native of Plattenville, La., on Bayou Lafourche, Melancon was educated in Baton Rouge high schools and received an electrical engineering degree from L.S.U. in 1935. He later received a degree in industrial engineering from Lamar in 1954 and attended the University of Michigan training course for utility executives.

Melancon joined Gulf States in 1939 as an instrument man in Baton Rouge T&D. He was named engineer in 1941 and moved to Beaumont nine years later

as senior engineer in system engineering.

Melancon was named engineer specialist in 1954 and standards supervisor in 1956. He became project engineering supervisor in 1962 and standards supervisor again in 1965.

Melancon is a member of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society.

He is married to the former Laura Landry of St. Gabriel, La. The couple has three married daughters.

Fishing, camping and gardening are high on Melancon's retirement agenda.

Vernon J. Braud, consumer service representative in Port Allen, retired April 1.

A native of Gonzales, La., Braud attended Calabasse School and Gonzales High School. He joined Gulf States in 1943 as a helper in the Baton Rouge T&D department. A year later he became an apprentice in Denham Springs and in 1945 was named district serviceman third

class in New Roads. He was promoted to district serviceman first class in 1947 and transferred to sales representative in Port Allen in 1965.

Braud is married to the former Odessa Peterson of Patterson, La. The couple has two children and also raised a niece from infancy.

His most memorable experience with Gulf States was a storm that hit the Baton Rouge division in 1947. About 50 transmission poles and hundreds of distribution poles were blown down in the False River, New Roads and Morganza areas, where Braud was serviceman.

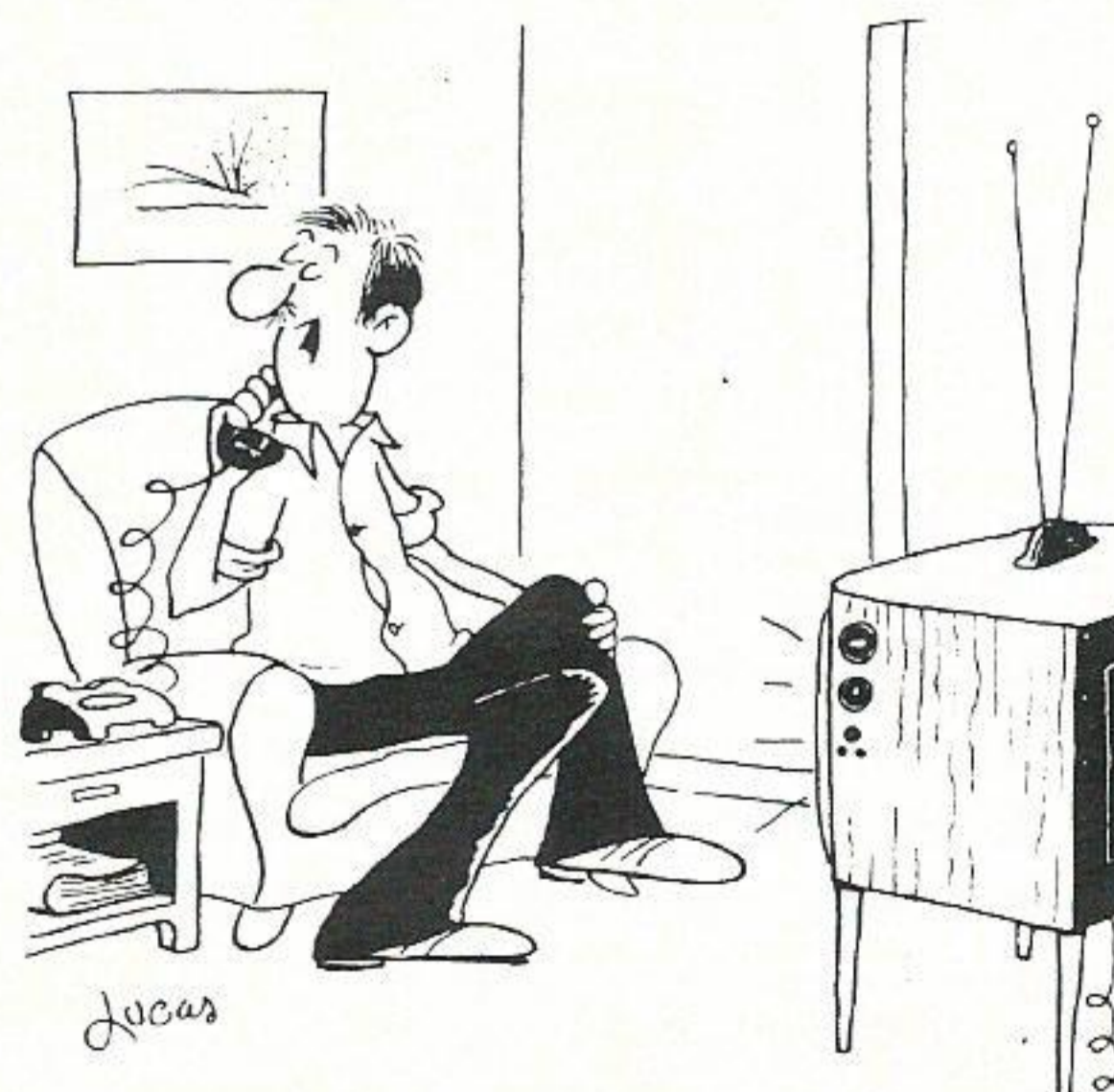
"It took 10 GSU crews from Baton Rouge, Lake Charles and Beaumont divisions from Friday at 8:30 a.m. to Wednesday at 9 p.m. to get all service completely restored," Braud remembered.

Braud plans to fish, garden and travel whenever possible during his retirement.

J. Bruce Guillory, electrician second class at Nelson Station, retired June 1 with more than 28 years in Lake Charles power plants.

A native of St. Landry Parish, Guillory joined Gulf States in 1948 as a laborer in Riverside Station. He transferred to Nelson Station in 1959 and was promoted to mechanic helper in 1972. He was promoted again to electrician second class in 1974.

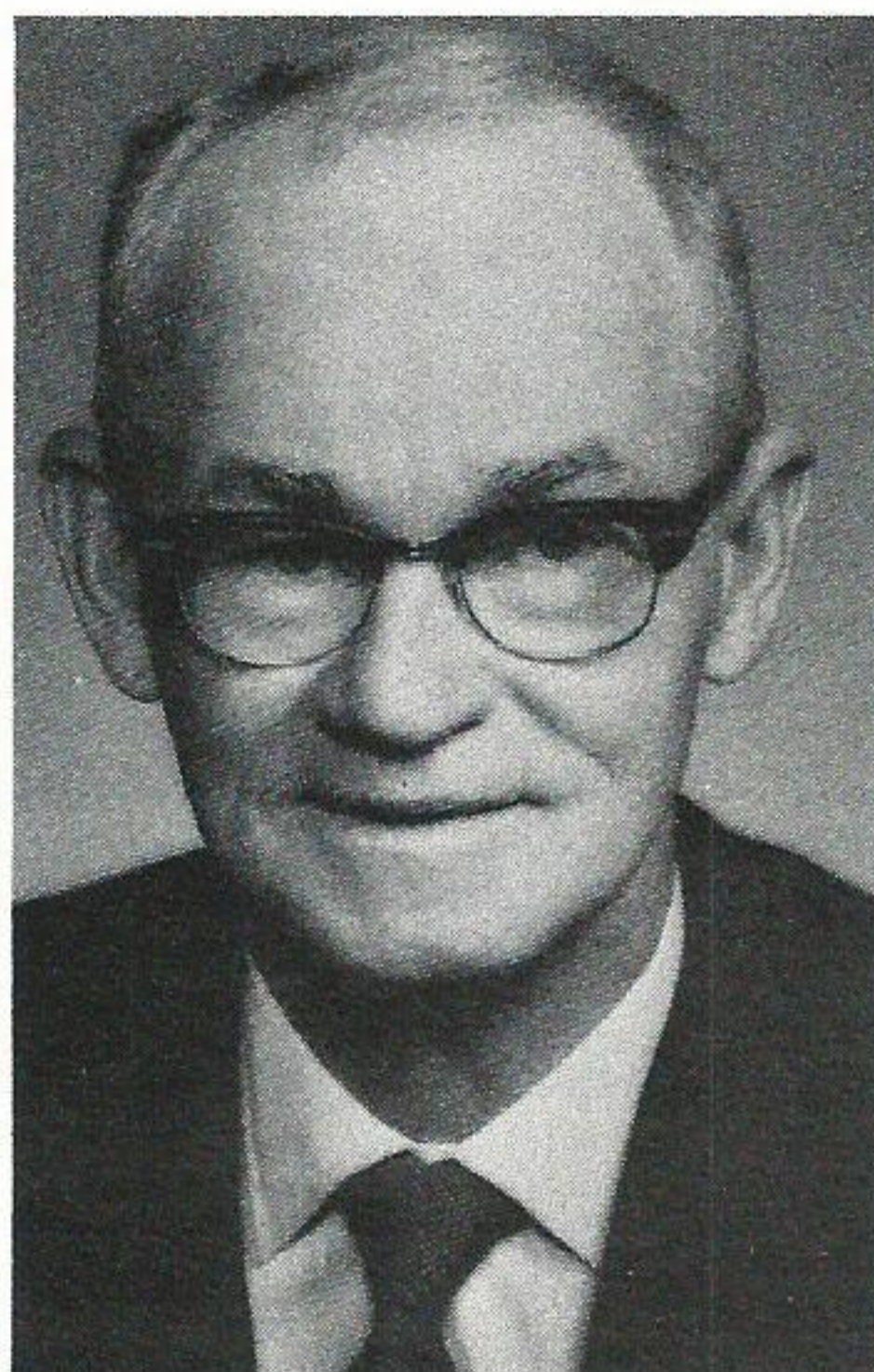
Guillory has studied auto mechanics and owns and operates an auto service business. He also holds a welder's certificate earned during military service in World War II. He has earned a General Equivalency Diploma, comparable to a



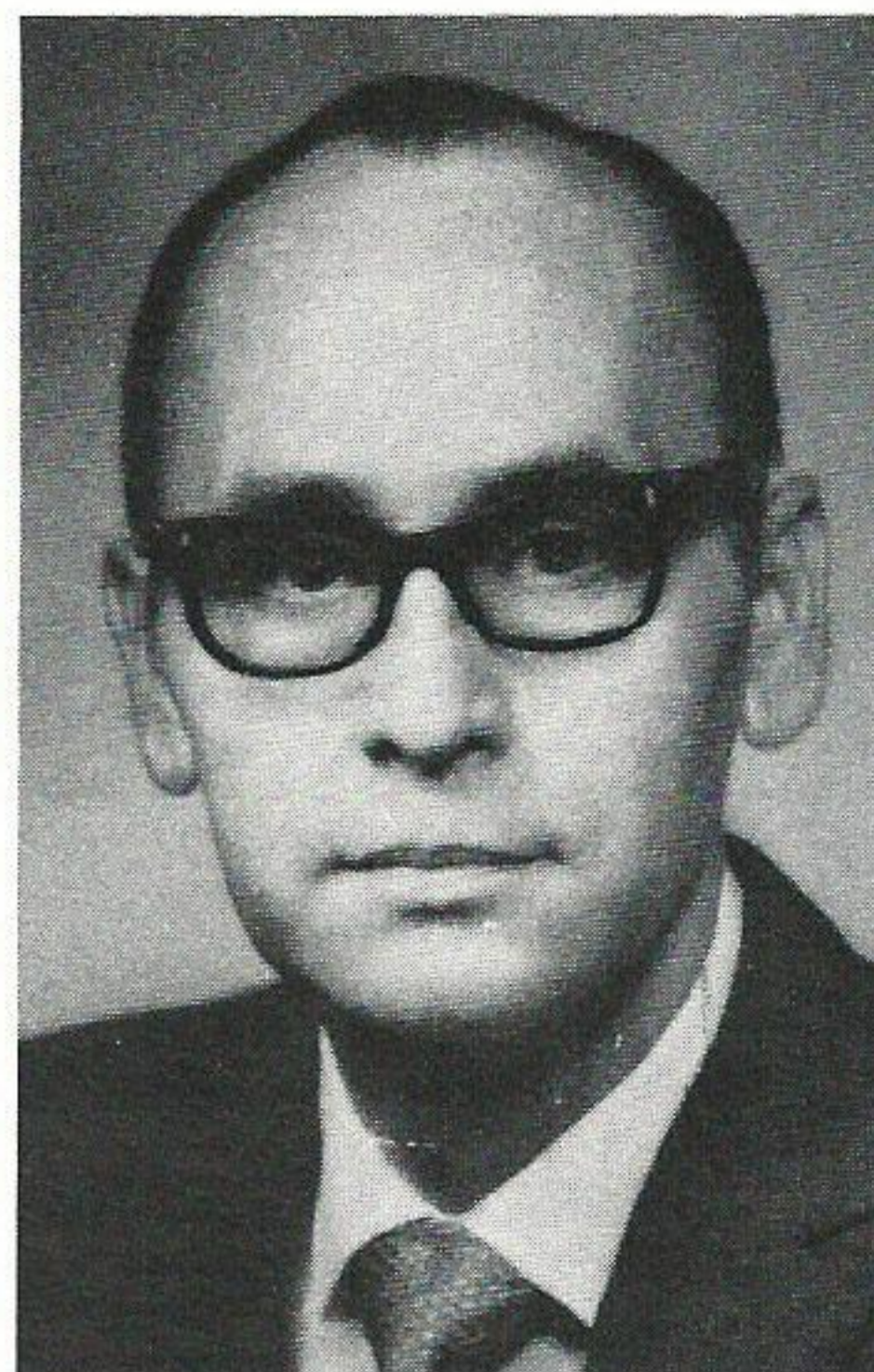
"Oh, nothing much. Just sitting around here having my intelligence insulted."



Donald S. Boring



Vernon Lee Holland



Bennie F. Lott



Francis L. Amedee

high school diploma.

He is married to the former Marie Armelda Jean of Lawtell, La. The couple has four children. Each was graduated from high school and attended McNeese State University. The Guillorys have three grandchildren.

Guillory plans to fish during his retirement, as well as enjoy his home and family.

Donald S. Boring, senior engineering assistant in the Port Arthur T&D department, will retire Aug. 1 with nearly 39 years' service to Gulf States.

A native of Breaux Bridge, La., Boring was graduated from Port Arthur (Tex.) High School and Lamar Junior College.

He joined Gulf States in 1937 as a groundman in the Port Arthur T&D department. He became meterman in 1939, engineering helper in 1941, engineering assistant five months later and senior engineering assistant in 1949.

Vernon Lee Holland, mechanical maintenance foreman at Neches Station, will retire July 1 after 38 years with the Company.

A native of St. Francois County, Mo., Holland joined Gulf States in 1938 as a repairman helper in Neches Station. He progressed to repairman in 1961.

Two years later he was named mechanical maintenance foreman.

Bennie F. Lott, electronic data processing (EDP) consultant in the information and data services (IDS) department in the Main Office, will retire July 1 with 26 years' service to Gulf States.

A native of Collins, Miss., Lott attend-

ed high school in Port Neches, Tex., and was a 1950 graduate of Baylor University in accounting. He has served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

Lott joined Gulf States in 1950 as an accounting clerk in general accounting in Beaumont. He became an administrative assistant in the statistical department in 1953 and in general accounting a year later. Late in 1954 Lott was made general accountant (supervisory) and in 1956 supervisor of general accounting.

He became an administrative assistant in IDS systems and procedures in 1957, its supervisor in 1961 and its director in 1963.

Lott was named director of EDP systems support services in 1967 and EDP consultant in 1971.

Forest F. "Buck" Elkins, senior consumer service representative in Port Arthur, will retire Aug. 1 after more than 42 years with the Company.

Elkins was born in East Prarie, Mo., was graduated from Port Arthur (Tex.) High School and attended classes at Lamar University.

He began his career with Gulf States in 1934 as a bill deliverer in Port Arthur. He became a floor salesman in 1936 and a district representative in 1938. Elkins was named merchandise storekeeper and clerk in 1939 and served as storekeeper in the sales department in 1941 and later in the accounting department from 1942 until 1949.

Elkins was named senior residential sales representative in 1949 and senior commercial sales representative in 1954.

His present title is the result of a change in the contract classification.

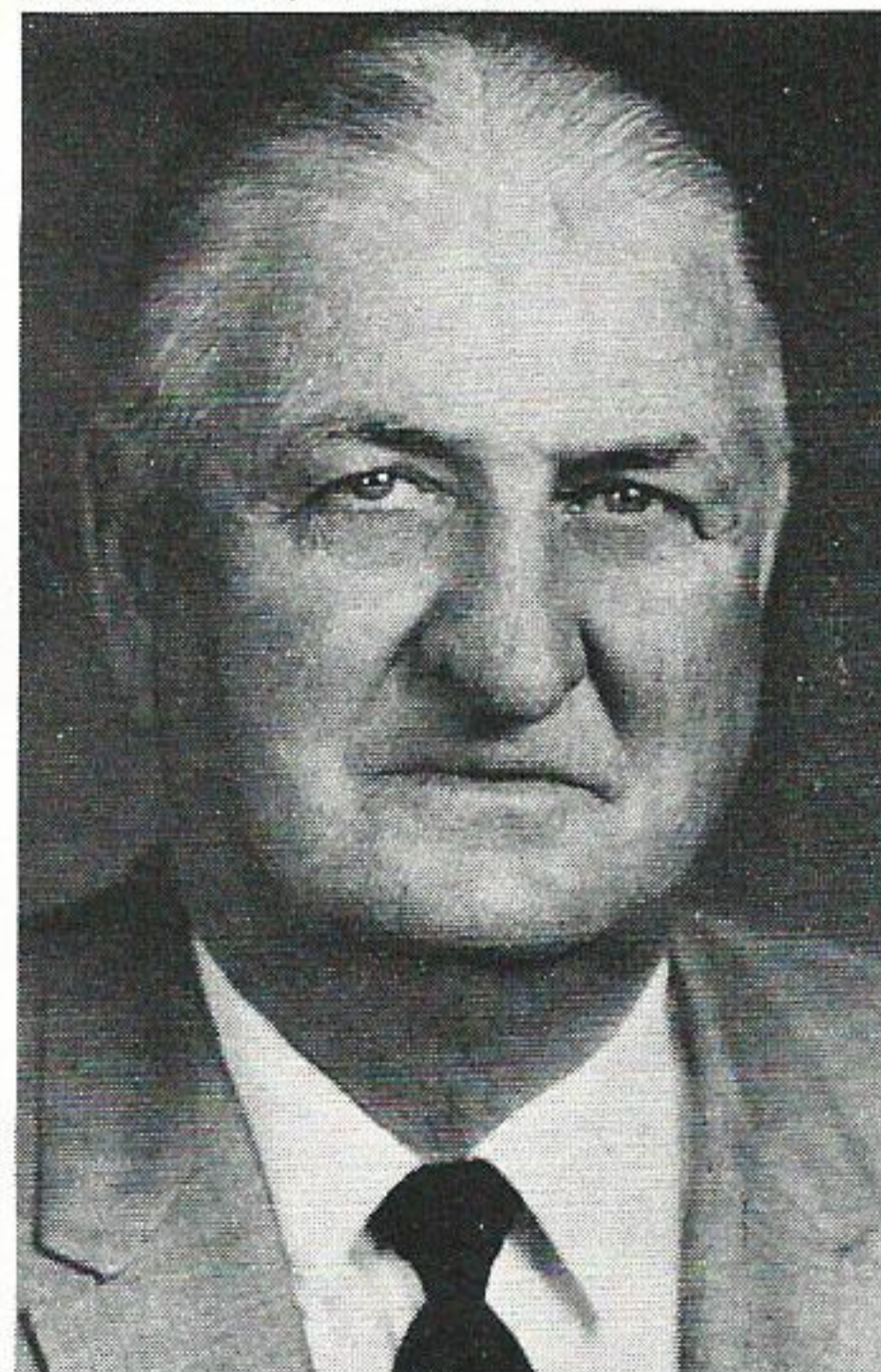
Elkins served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Francis L. Amedee, laboratory assistant in Louisiana Station, will retire July 1 after more than 39 years with Gulf States.

A native of Vacherie, La., Amedee was graduated from Istrouma High School in Baton Rouge.

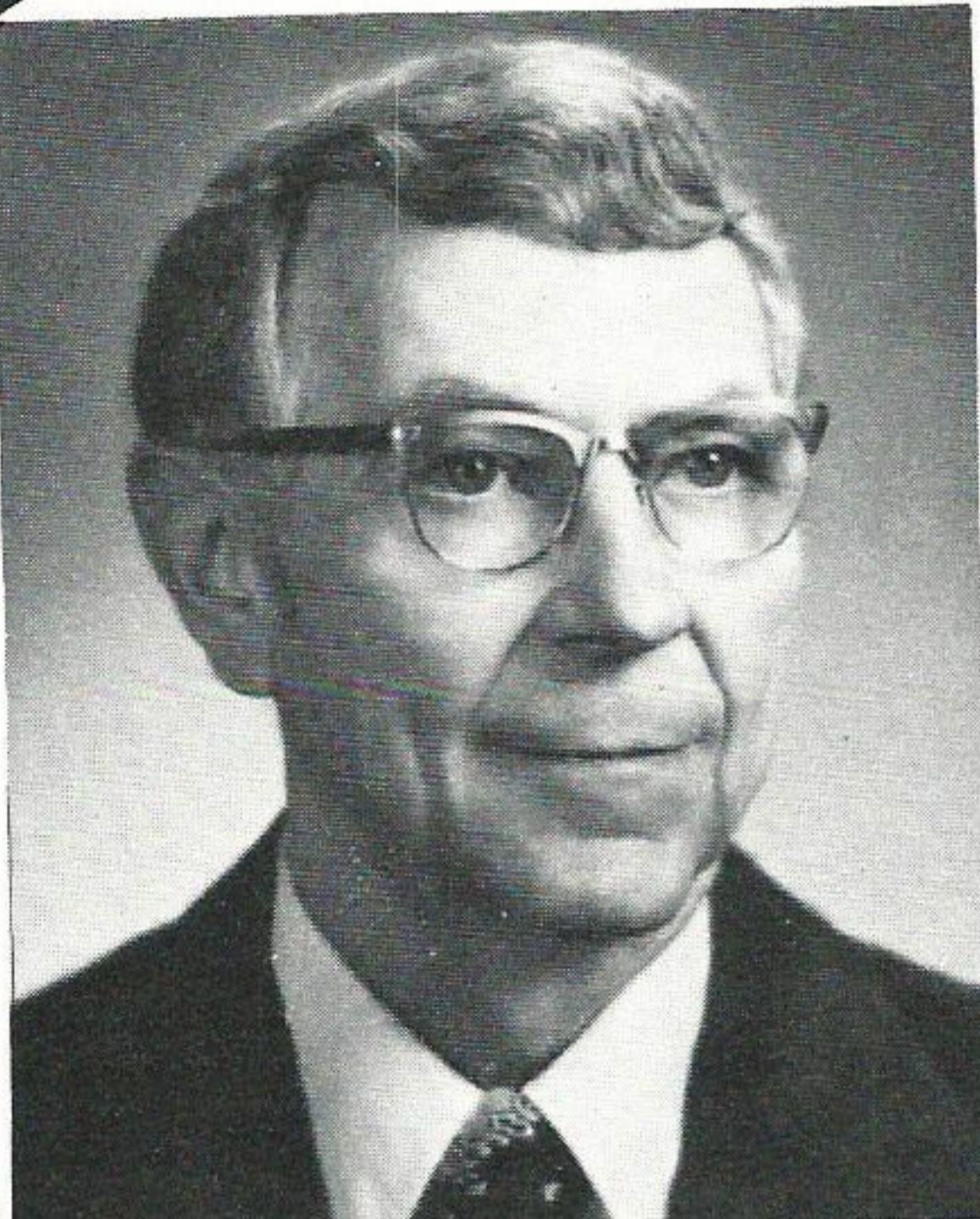
He joined the Company in 1937 as a fuel operator in Louisiana Station. He progressed to assistant fireman in 1939, to auxiliary operator in 1941 and to water plant operator a year later.

Amedee was named laboratory assistant in 1943 and test technician first class in 1950. Three months later he became laboratory assistant.



Forest F. "Buck" Elkins

SERVICE AWARDS

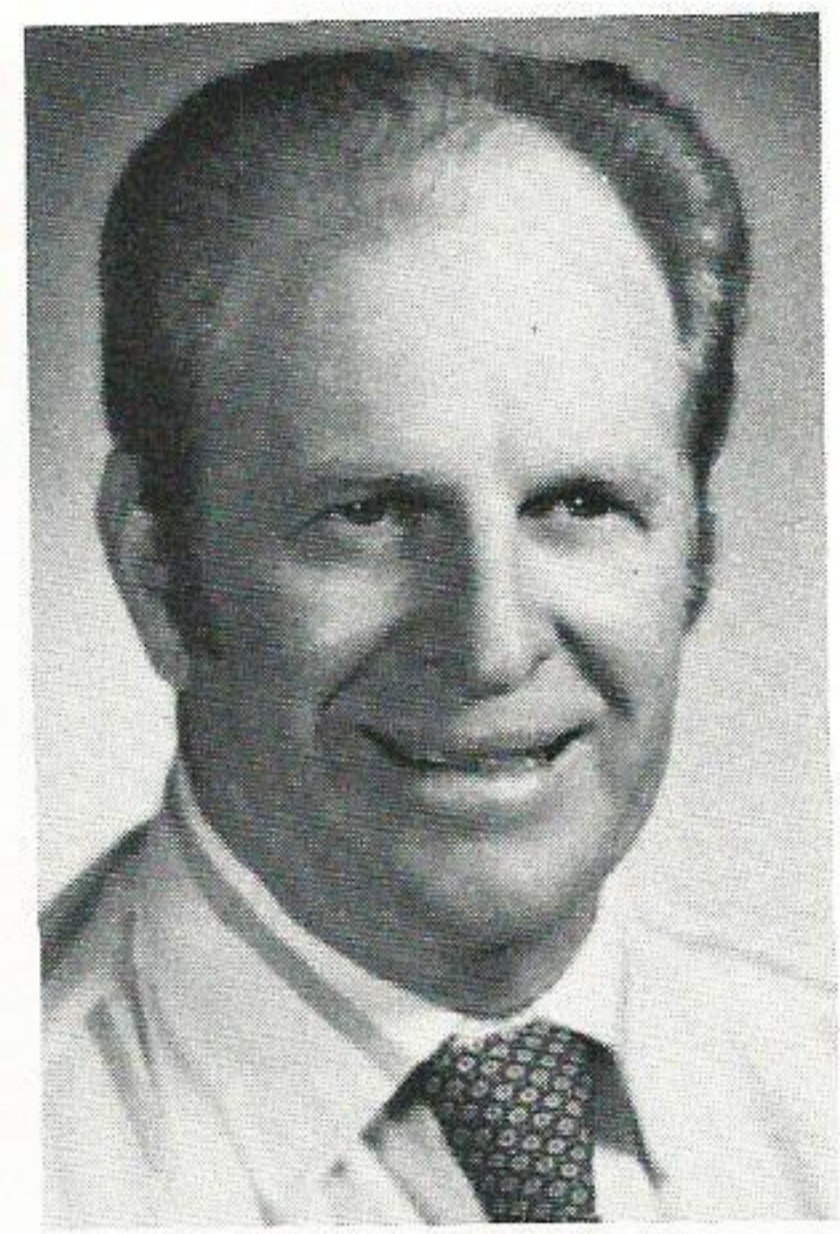


**40
Years**

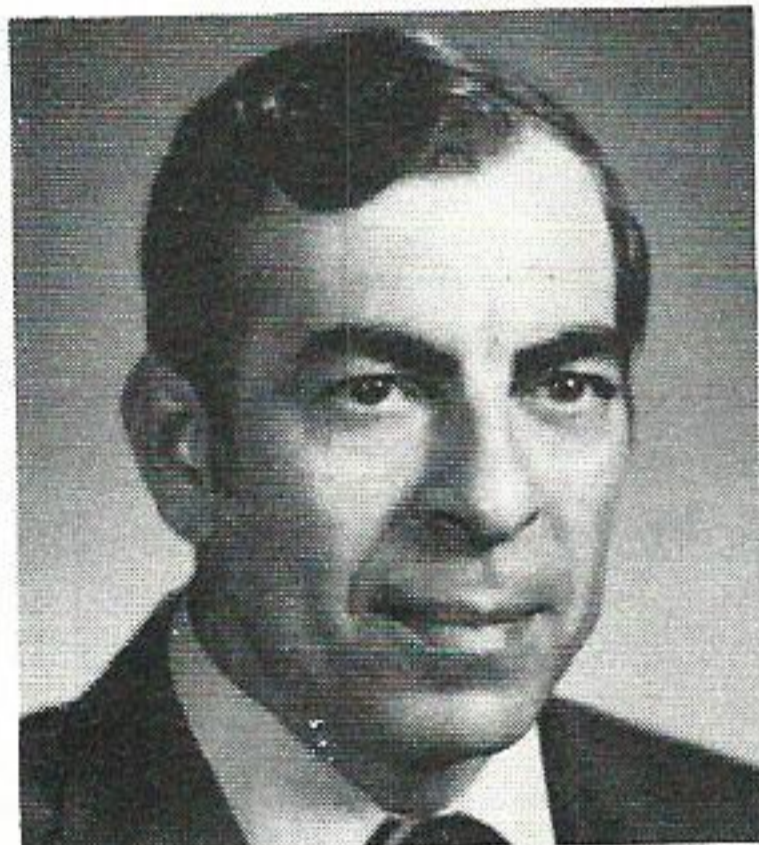
Ray S. Pace
Contract Services
Beaumont



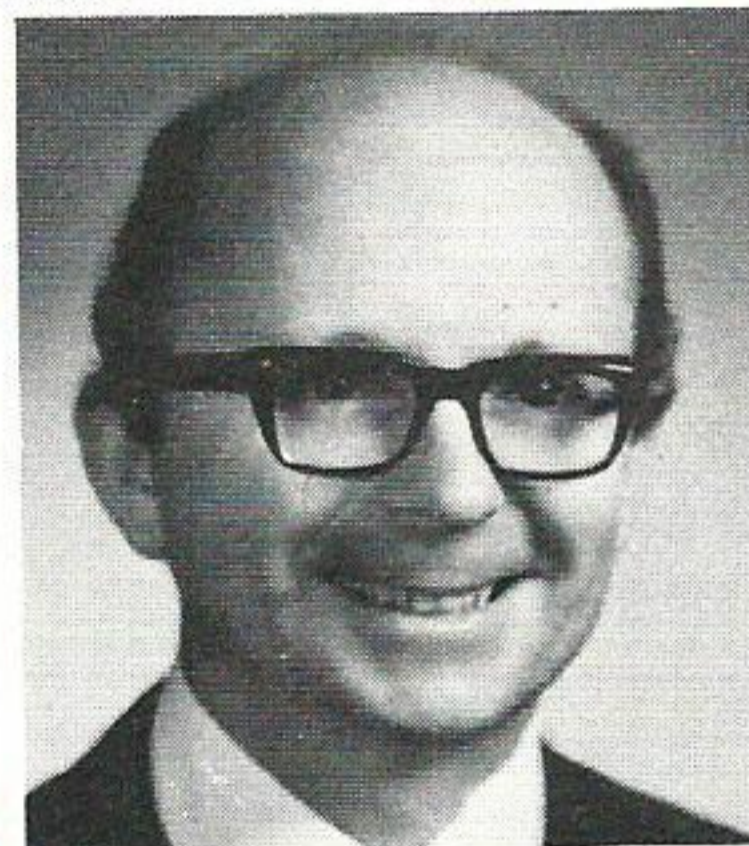
C. A. Estes
Electric T&D
Conroe



Drexel E. Ridley
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Francis B. Larriviere
Engineering Design
Beaumont



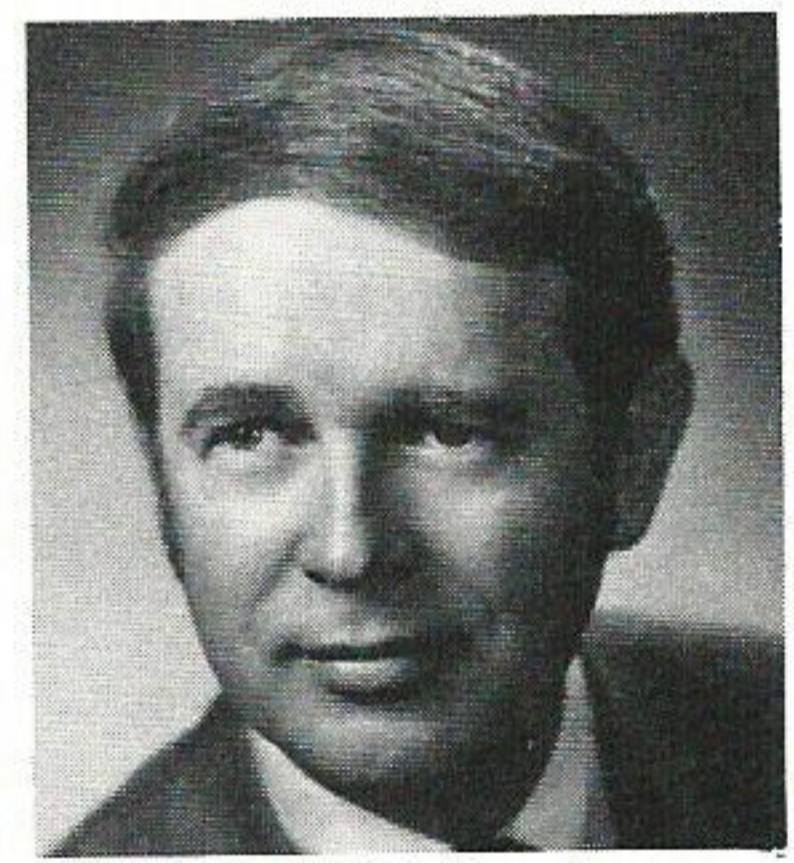
Rudolph J. Stout Jr.
Engineering Planning
Beaumont



Hansford R. Rouse
Tax Services
Beaumont



Carter G. Davis
Information & Data Services
Beaumont

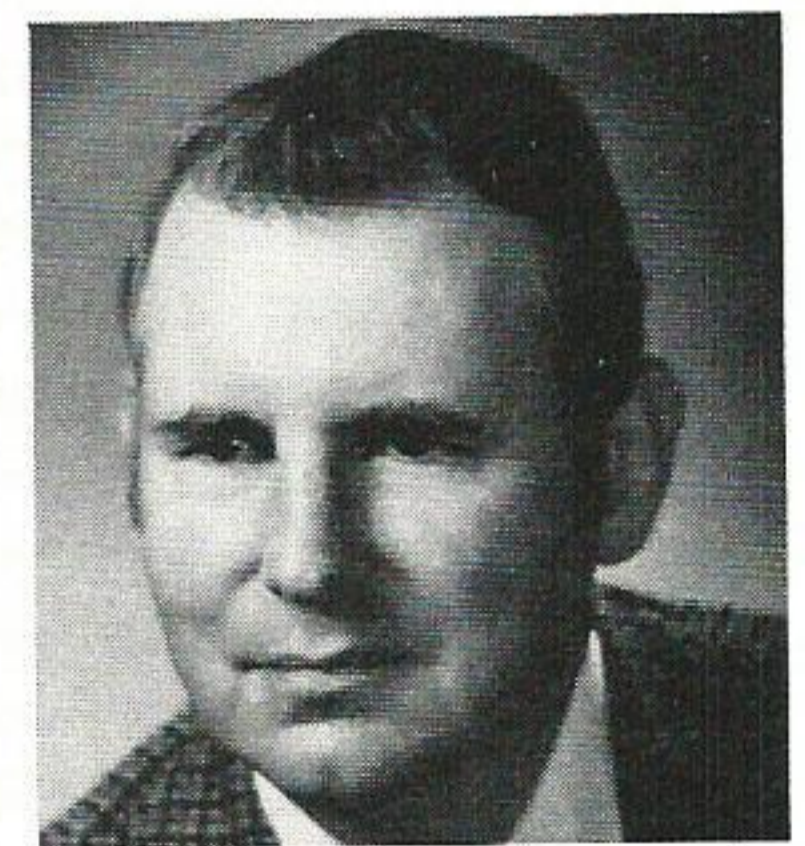


James E. Booker
Power Plant Eng. & Design
Beaumont

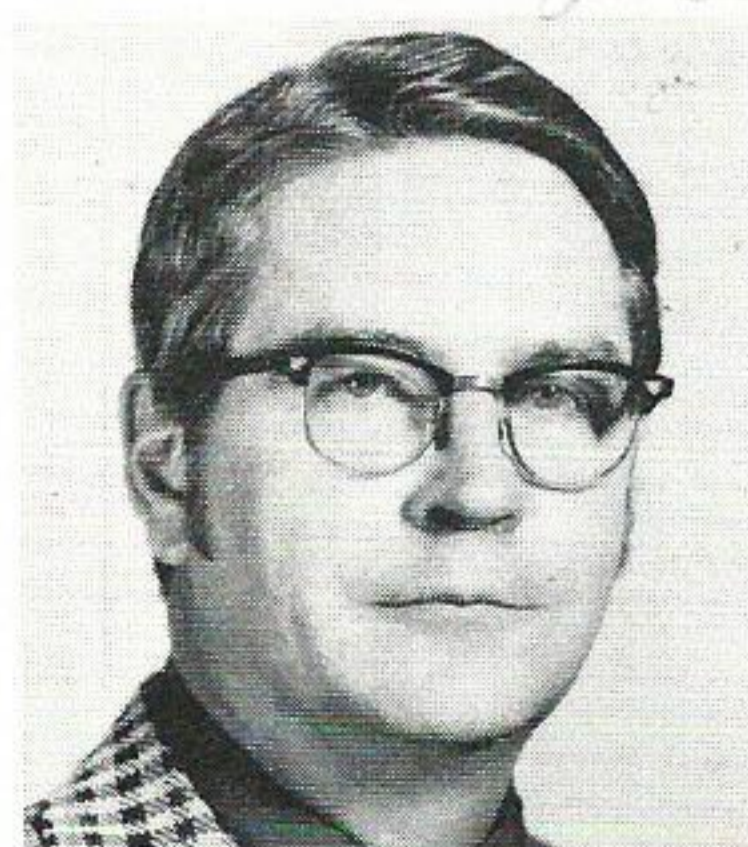


Lannis L. Tynes
Engineering Design
Beaumont

20 Years

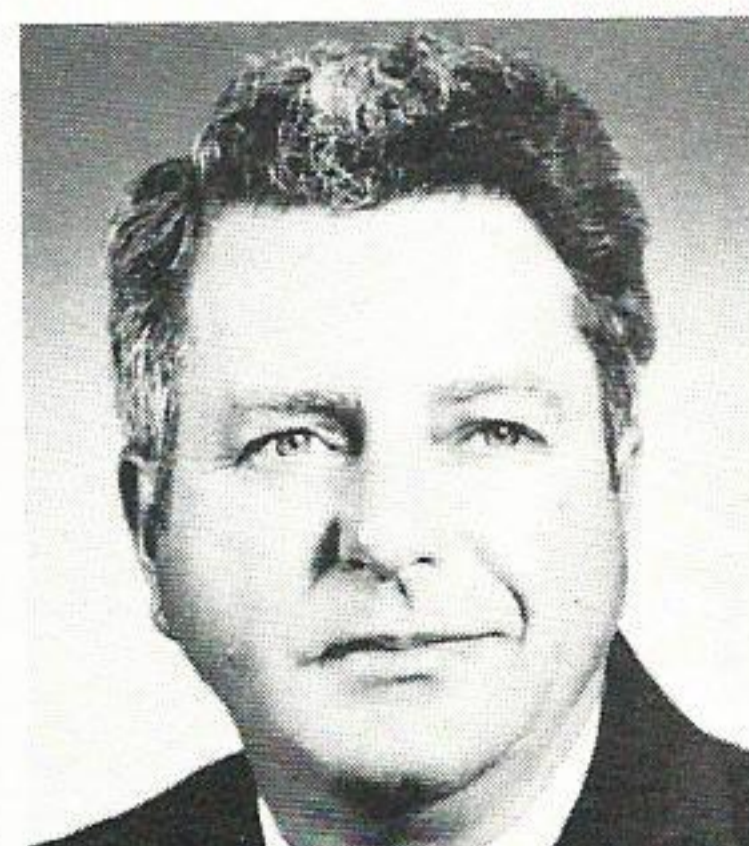


Raymond D. Broussard
System Production
Beaumont

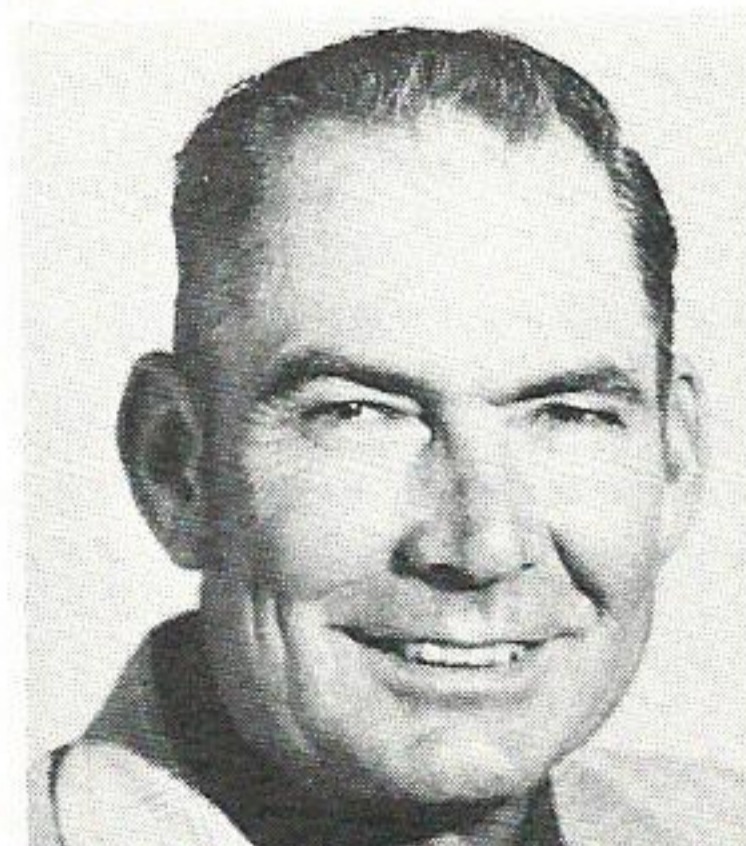


William B. Reynolds
Division Accounting
Conroe

20



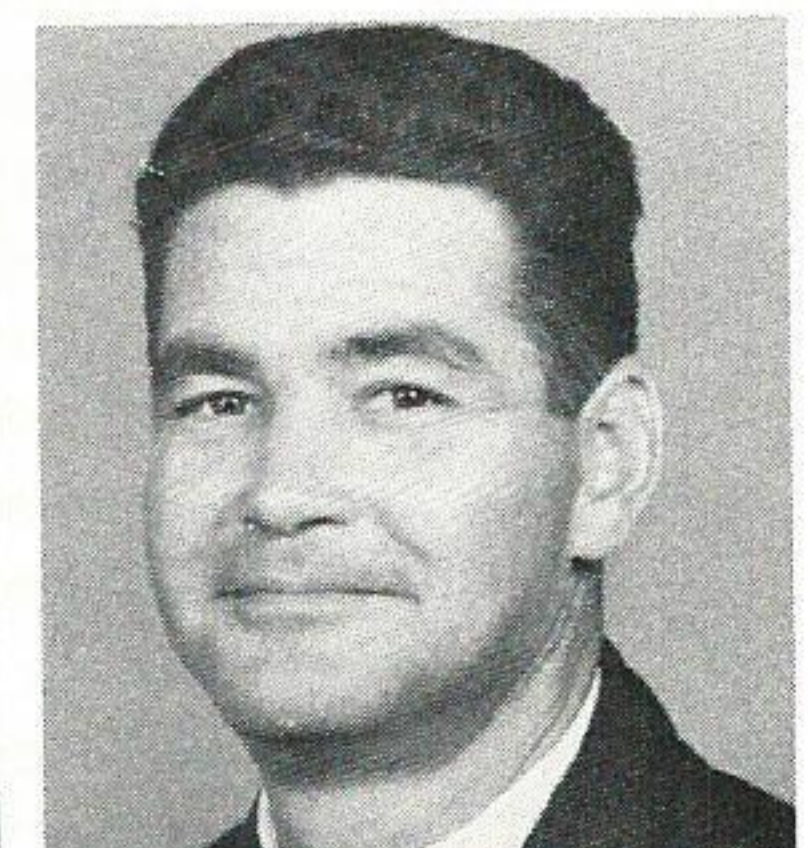
James E. Taylor
System Operations
Baton Rouge



Hershel L. Stagner
Electric T&D
Orange

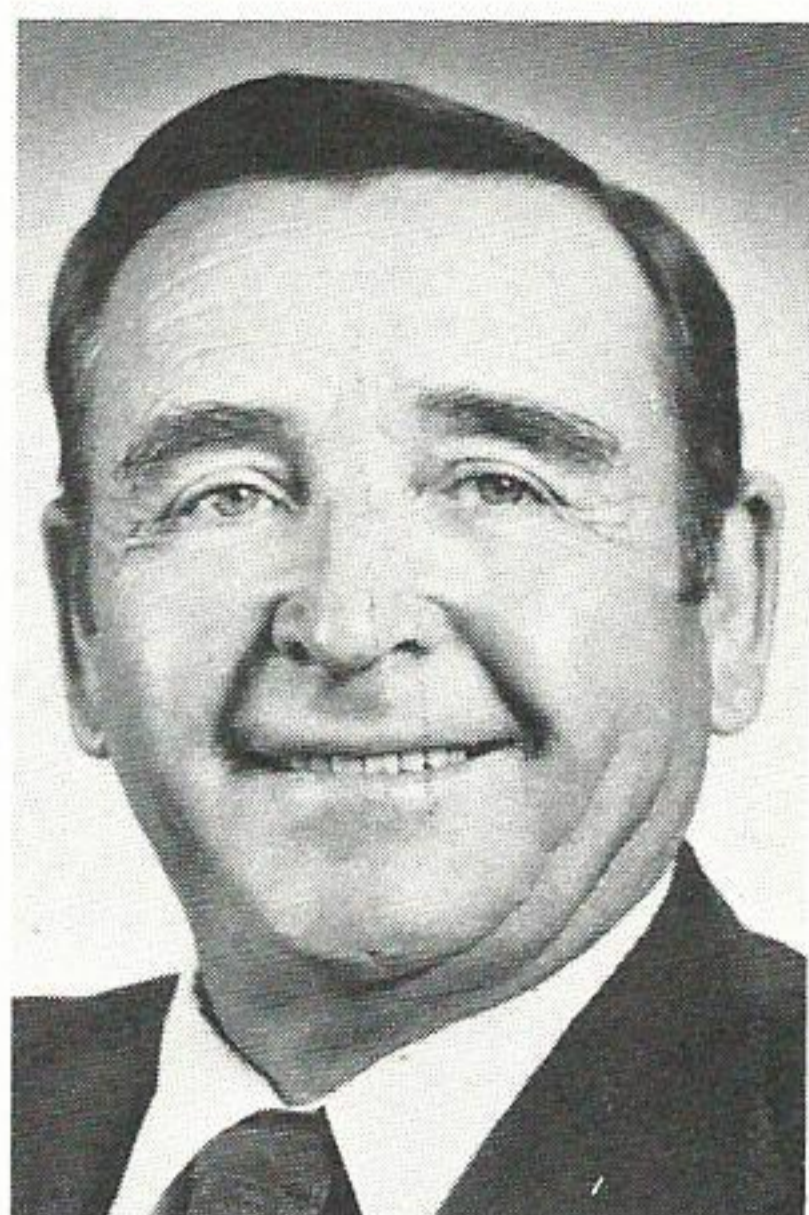


Charles B. Kelly
Gas
Baton Rouge

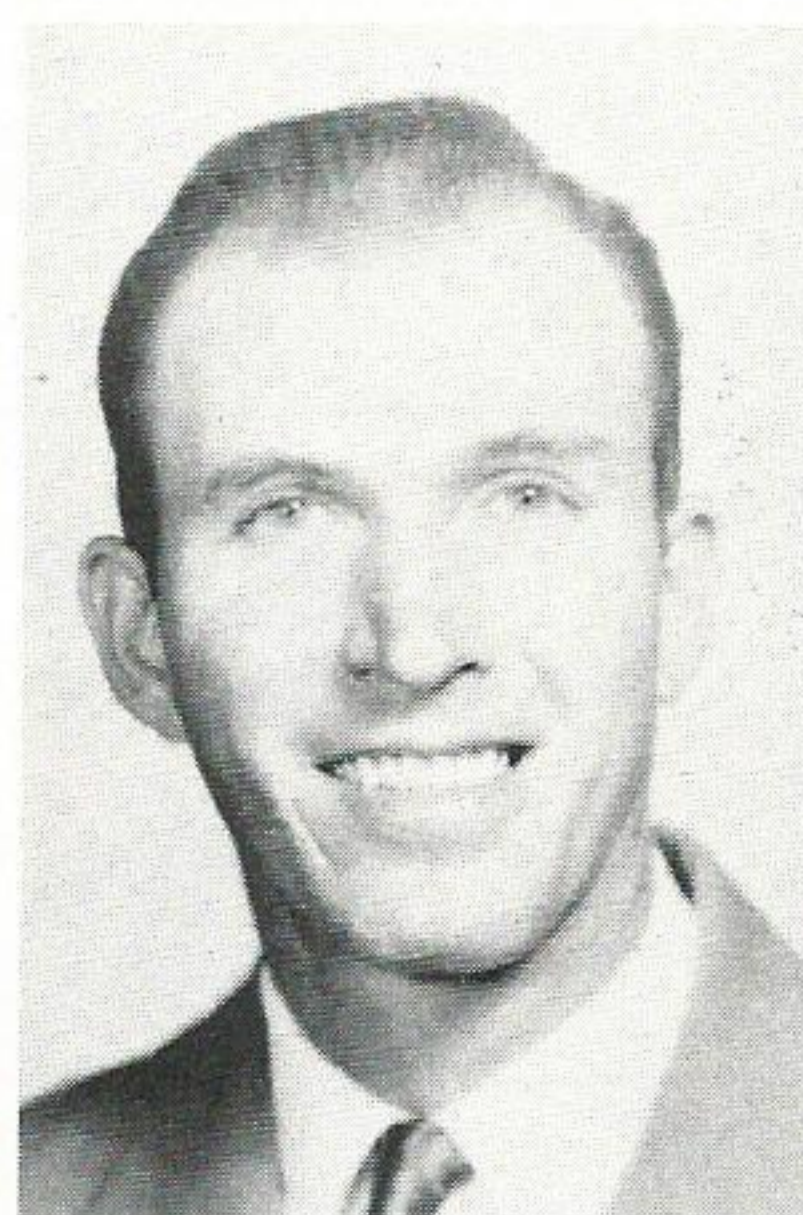


Harry O'Quinn
Electric T&D
Lake Charles

30 Years



Darrell G. Clement
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



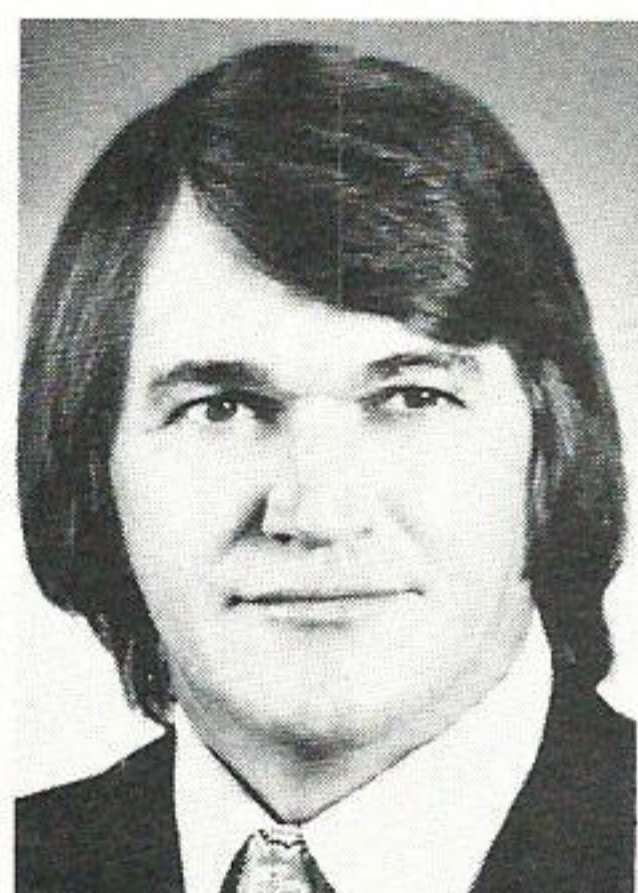
Feland H. Bush Jr.
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



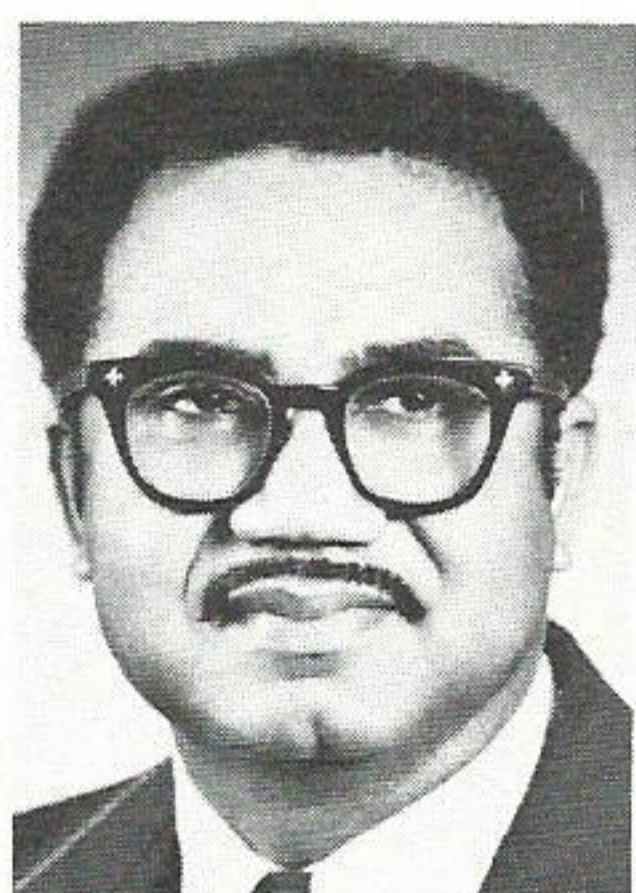
Jerome C. Valenta
Division Treasury
Beaumont



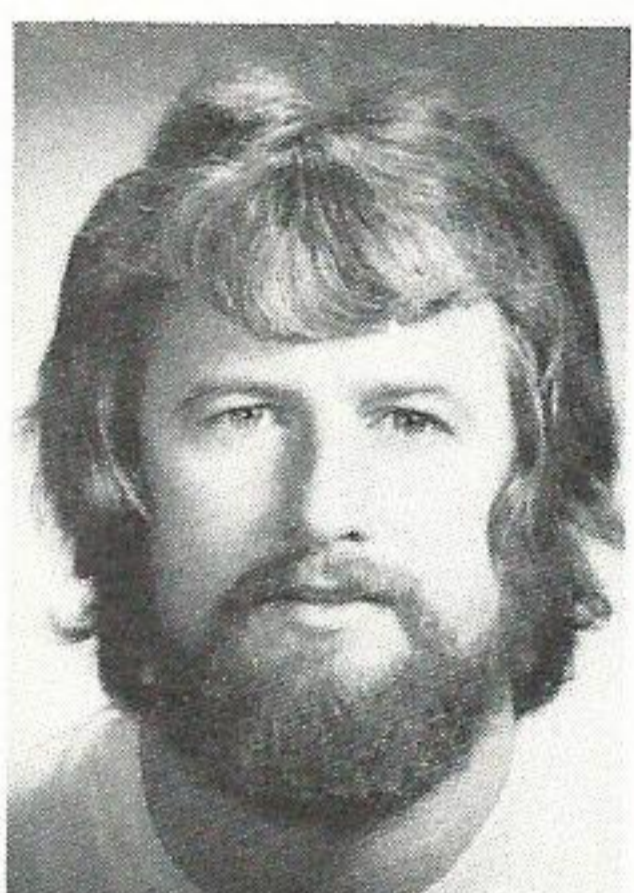
Bobby L. Clay
Division Production
Conroe



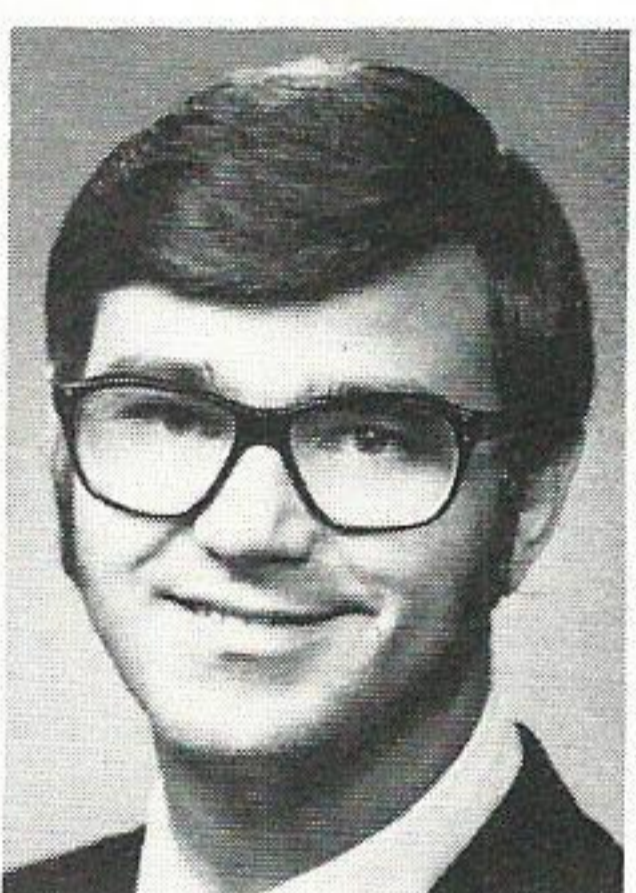
Morris Humphrey
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Roosevelt Norris Jr.
Division Production
Baton Rouge



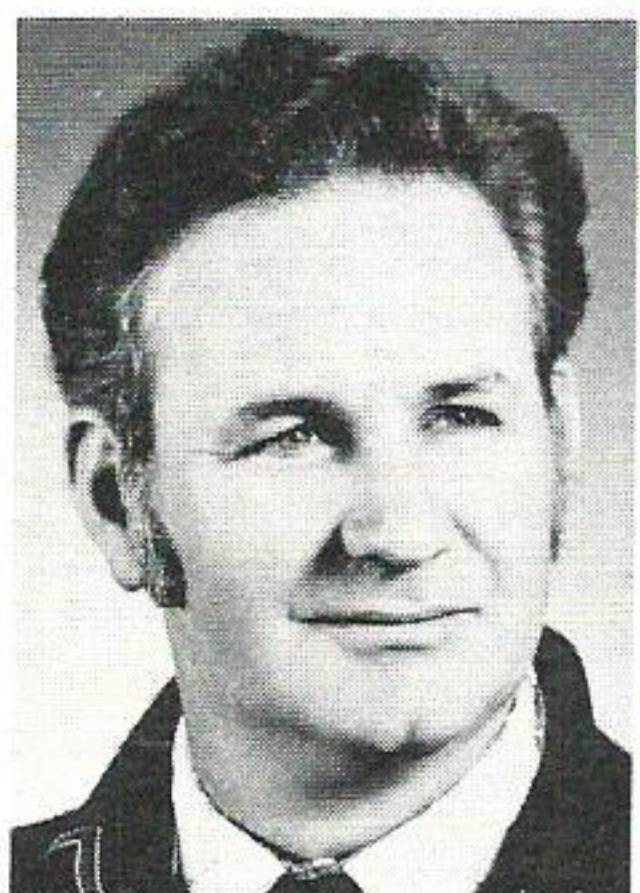
John A. McGowan Jr.
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Michael C. Wilson
Internal Audits
Beaumont



Robert W. Gajeske
Electric T&D
Navasota

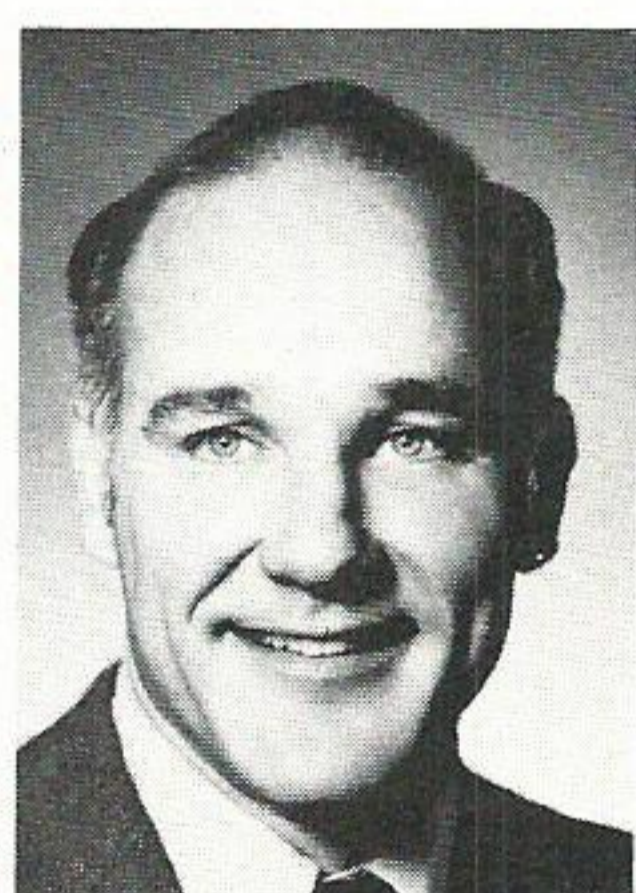


Milton L. Ballard
Division Production
Beaumont

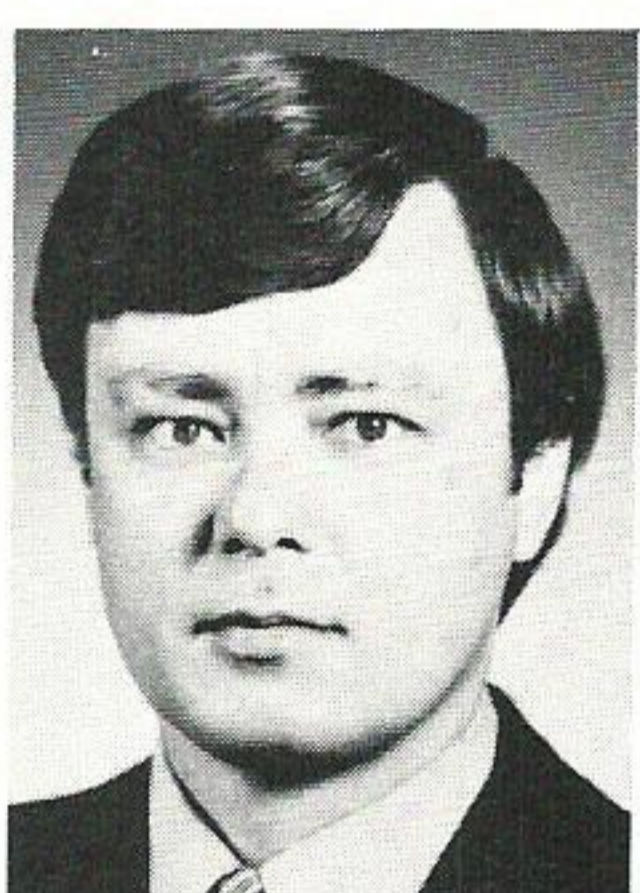


Sidney J. Sparks Jr.
Division Treasury
Baton Rouge

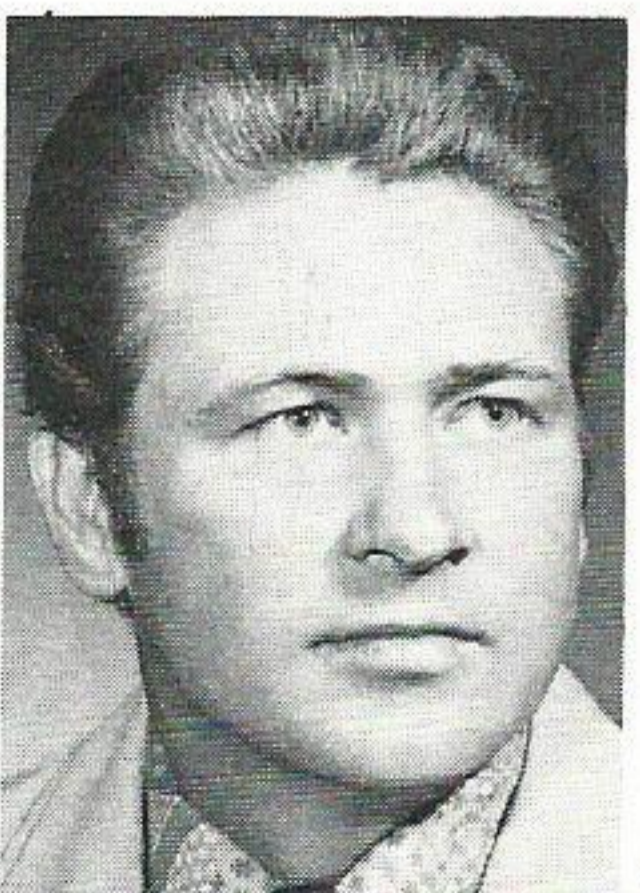
10 Years



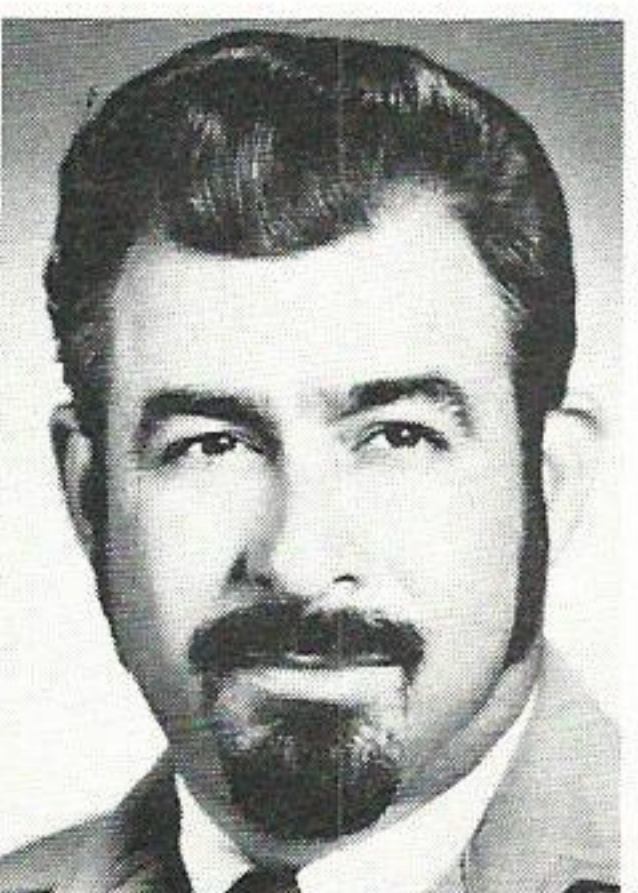
Jerold E. Cahal
Division Marketing
Baton Rouge



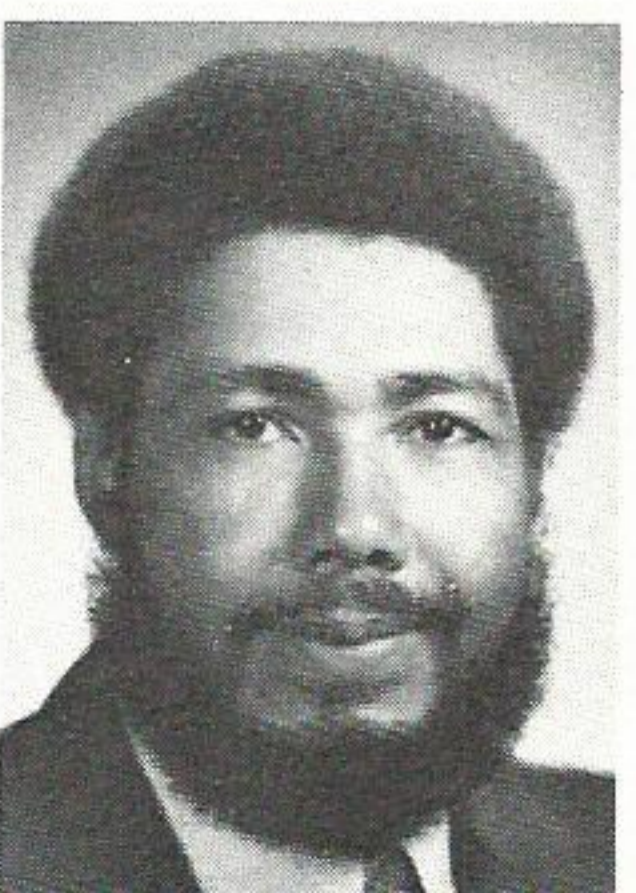
David L. Corbitt
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



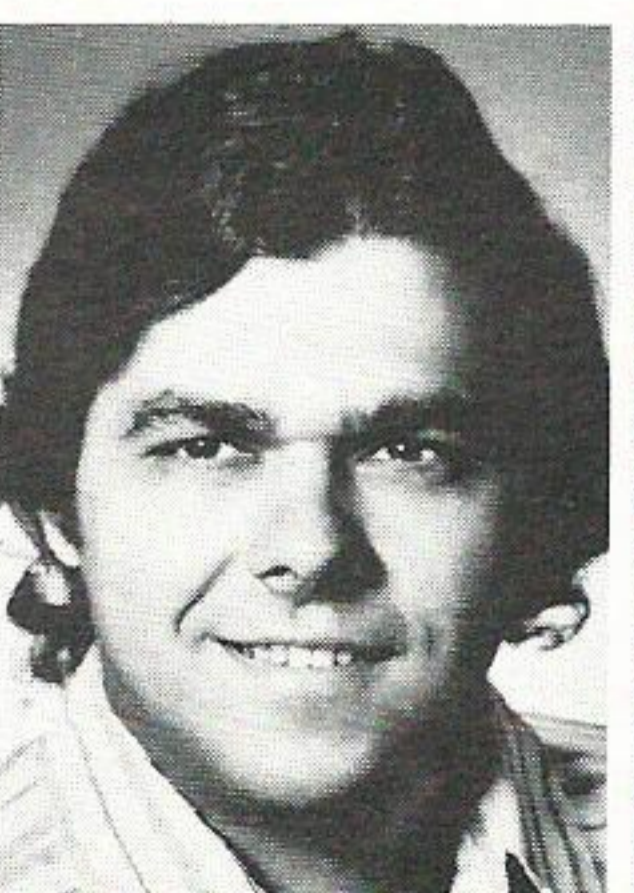
Kenneth A. Enloe
Electric T&D
Cleveland



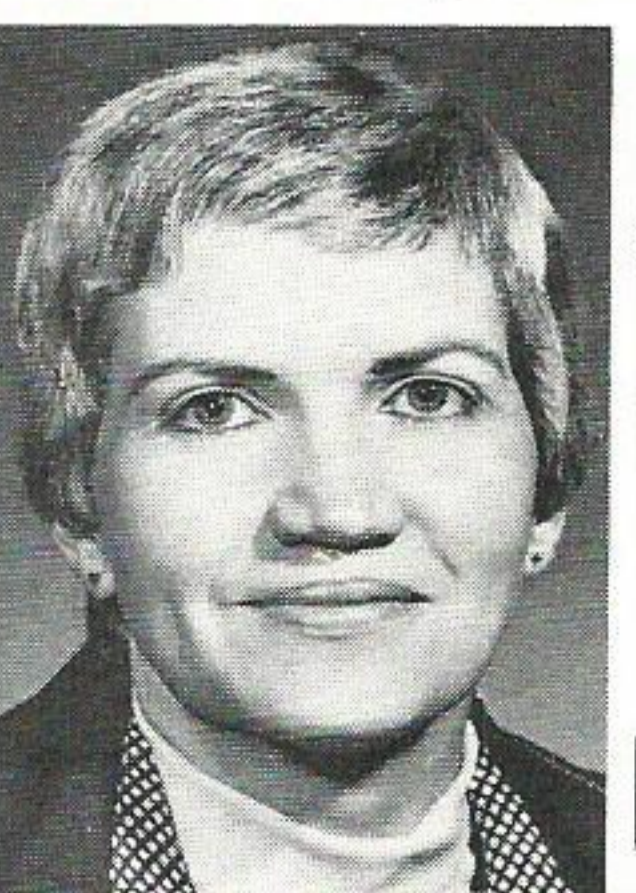
Joseph Schittone
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



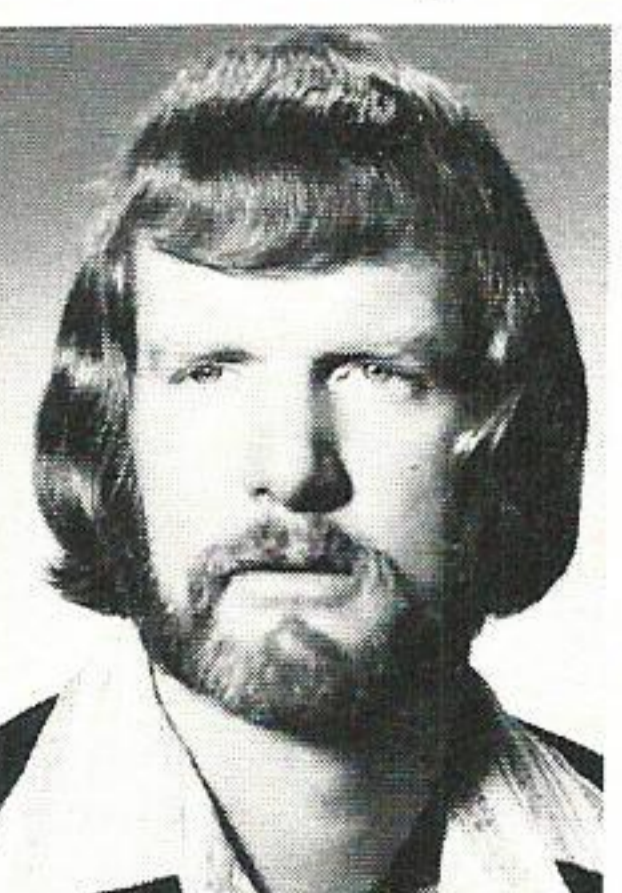
Isiah Harmon
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Thad R. Smith
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



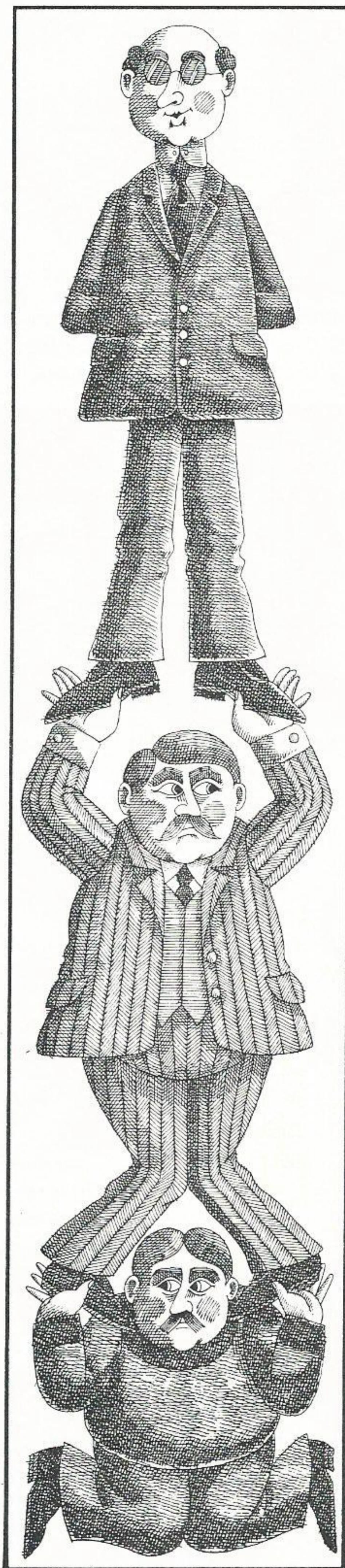
Patricia Y. Jones
Division Treasury
Cleveland



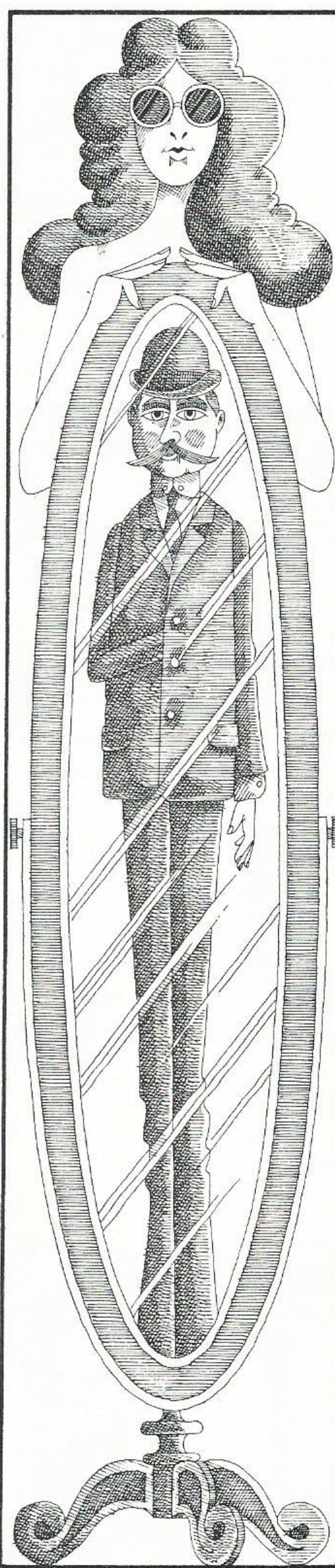
James H. Carter Jr.
Electric T&D
Denham Springs

**SEVEN
WAYS
TO
ACHIEVE
THE
HEIGHTS
AND/OR
DEPTHS
TO
WHICH
MEN
ASPIRE**

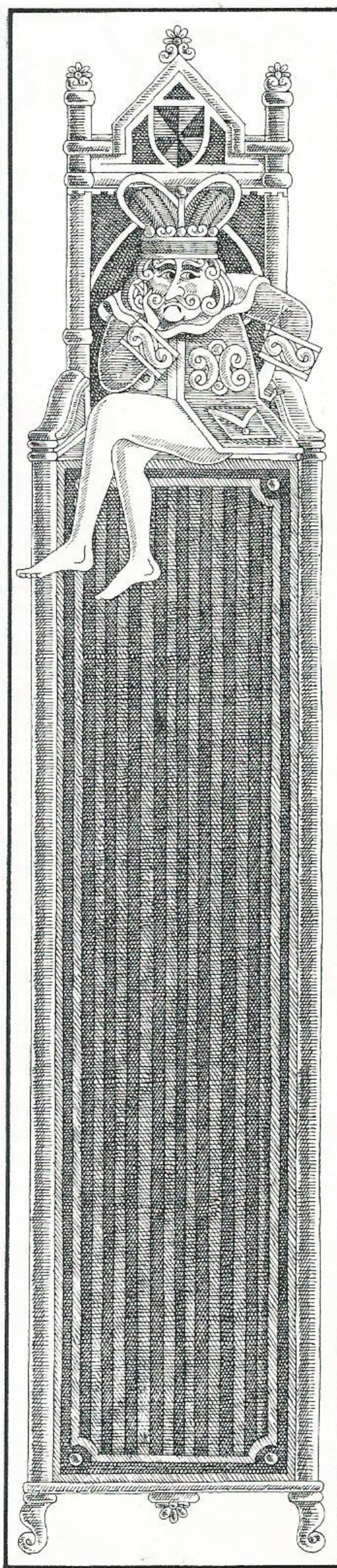
(1)
If you would go up high,
then use your own legs!
Do not get yourselves carried aloft;
do not seat yourselves on
other people's backs and heads.
NIETZSCHE



(2)
Women have served all these
centuries as looking glasses
possessing the magic and delicious
power of reflecting the figure of
a man at twice his natural size.
VIRGINIA WOOLF

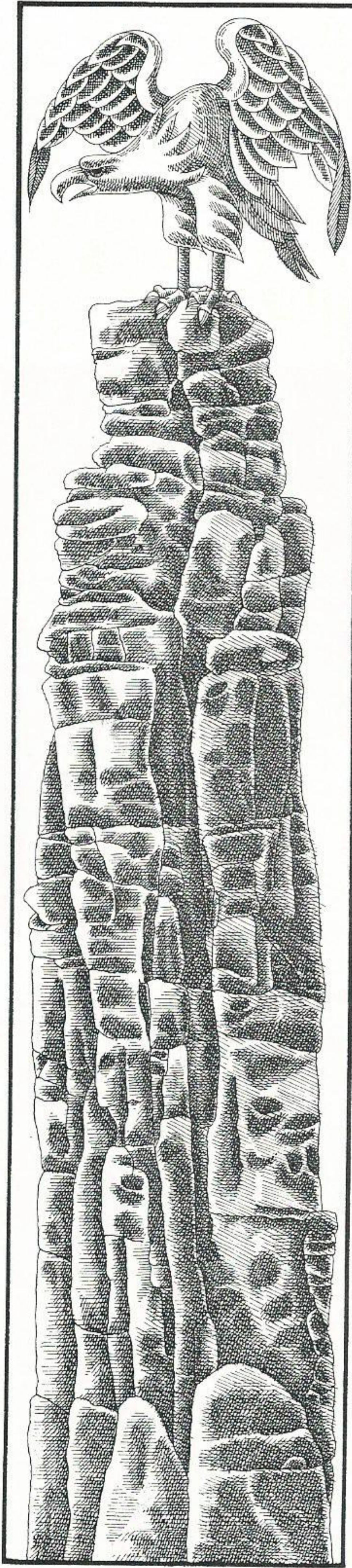


(3)
Sits he on so high a throne,
a man still sits on his bottom.
MONTAIGNE

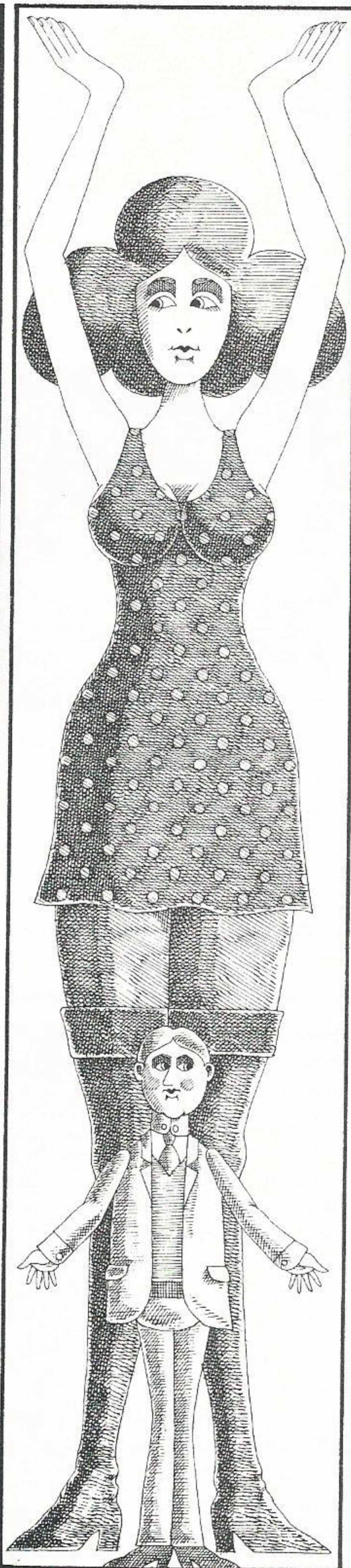


This feature re-
printed with per-
mission from U&LC.
Illustrations by
Murray Tinkelman.

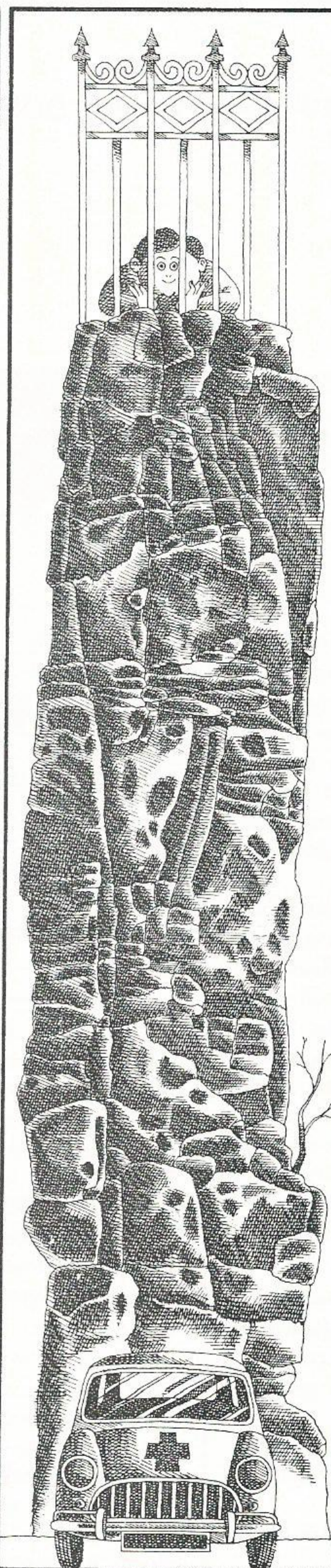
(4)
Heights were made to be looked at,
not looked from.
GILBERT CHESTERTON



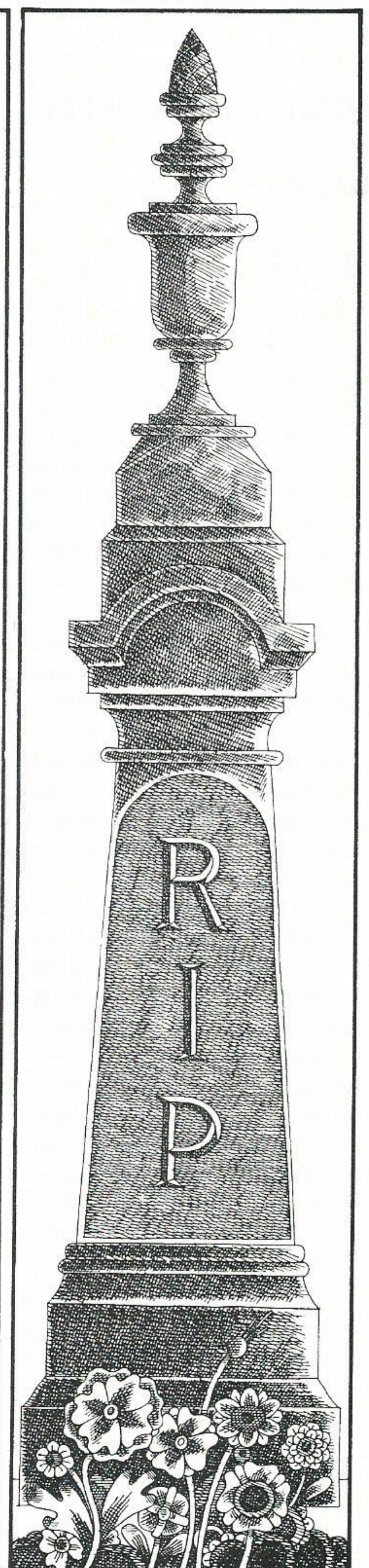
(5)
Happiness makes up in height
what it lacks in length.
ROBERT FROST



(6)
Better put a strong fence
'round the top of a cliff than an
ambulance down in the valley.
JOSEPH MALINES



(7)
Only when man is safely
ensconced under six feet of earth,
with several tons of granite
upon his chest, is he in a position
to give advice with any certainty
and then he is silent.
A. EDWARD NEWTON



COFFEE CUP

Dube's Downfall:

GSU STOCK WILL GO UP TO 20 DOLLORS PER SHARE IN NEXT 2 YEARS

WLD

DATE 12/3/73

The 'WLD' in the teletype message reprinted above is Weldon L. Dube, control operations foreman at Lewis Creek.

On Dec. 3, 1973, Dube bet Al Bowen, system operator, a dinner for them and their wives that Gulf States common stock would rise above \$20 per share in the next two years.

It did not.

The pair agreed on Hilltop Herb Farm as the site of the dinner, since the Cleveland restaurant is about halfway between Lewis Creek and Beaumont. The dinner was changed to a lunch, due in part to scheduling problems. So Bowen invited his daughter and son-in-law along, too, because the lunches were cheaper than dinners.

Fare for the meal was Tranquil Tea, Health Salad with Basil Dressing, Cold Turnip Soup, Toast with Herb Seasoned Butter, Spinach Lasagna, Broccoli with herb Sauce and Strawberry Gelatin.

The real accomplishment of the meal, according to Bowen, is that Dube made good on the bet. It seems he's earned a reputation as a man close with his money.

"They think of me as a tightwad," Dube said. When Bowen got a dinner out of me, he thought that was the ultimate.

"But I'm going to get my dinner back. I'm going after a lead pipe cinch. Bowen's a big fan of Ford Motor Co. I'm going to catch him in a weak moment and get him on that stock."

Despite the financial overtones of the meal, everyone enjoyed it, both Bowen and Dube reported.

"My wife really liked it," Dube said, "because she got to eat out."

Bowen said Mrs. Dube advised him to make more bets with her husband.



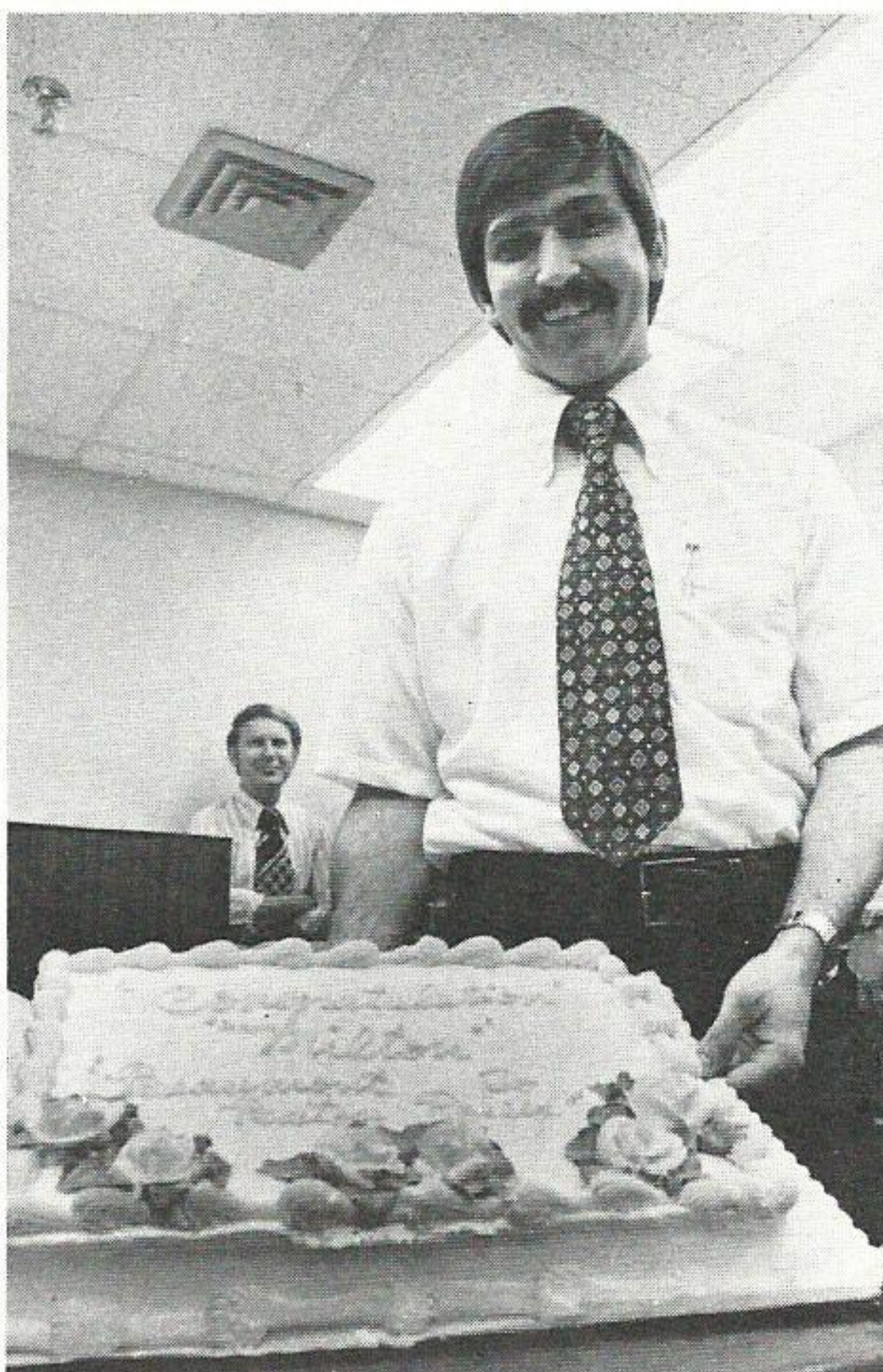
Dube, Bowen, Mrs. Dube, Bowen's daughter and son-in-law and Mrs. Bowen at the payoff dinner.

BIG-TIME OPERATOR — Maxie Parker, formerly departmental clerk in the records department, is now an equipment operator at Sabine Station. She was given a food-filled farewell luncheon by her friends in the Main Office April 30. Miss Parker received a safari-style hardhat decorated with bluebirds, flowers and "MAXIE" decals; her favorite brand of perfume, cologne and lip gloss; various toy tools; a male doll dressed in work clothes and a wig; a yellow rose; several screwdrivers; and two patches for her blue jeans — a Tweety Bird ("must be my mentality," she said) and a frothy stein of beer, acknowledging her drinking prowess. "I've already drunk a foreman and another operator under the table," Miss Parker boasted.

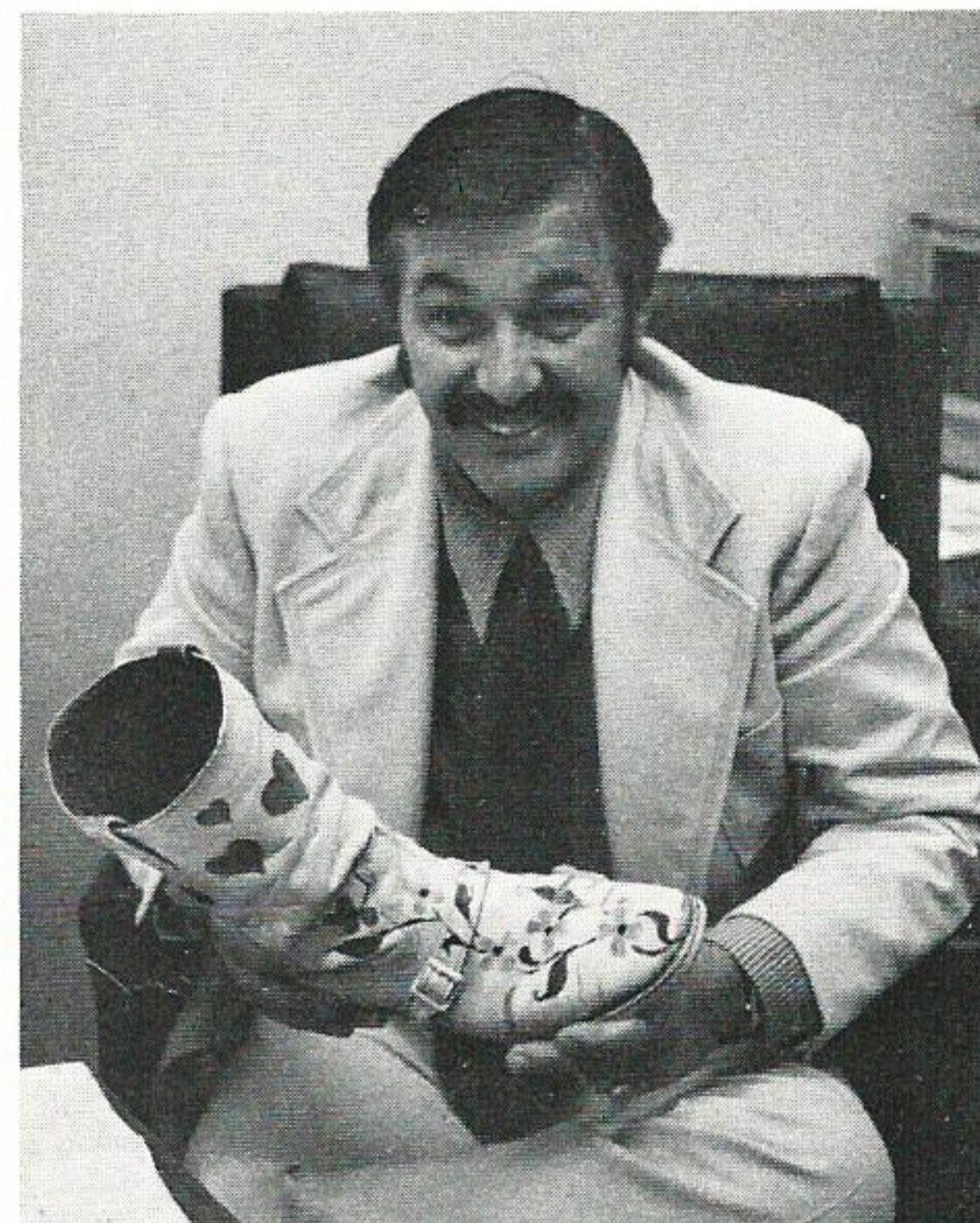




ROCKY RETIREMENT AHEAD — Sam Wells, retired collector in Cleveland, was honored by his friends and coworkers March 31, the day before his retirement. Guests enjoyed cake, sandwiches and punch. Wells was presented with a rock tumbler and accessories needed to polish rocks. Wells has a large collection of rocks collected over the years, including an abundance of petrified wood. Pictured is Wells and his wife, Doris Fay.



ROSES TO THE RED STICK — Everything was roses for Milton Graugnard at his going away party in Beaumont, prior to his promotion to technical supervisor at Willow Glen. His coworkers in power plant engineering and design served a cake decorated with roses and wishing Graugnard congratulations on his move to Baton Rouge.



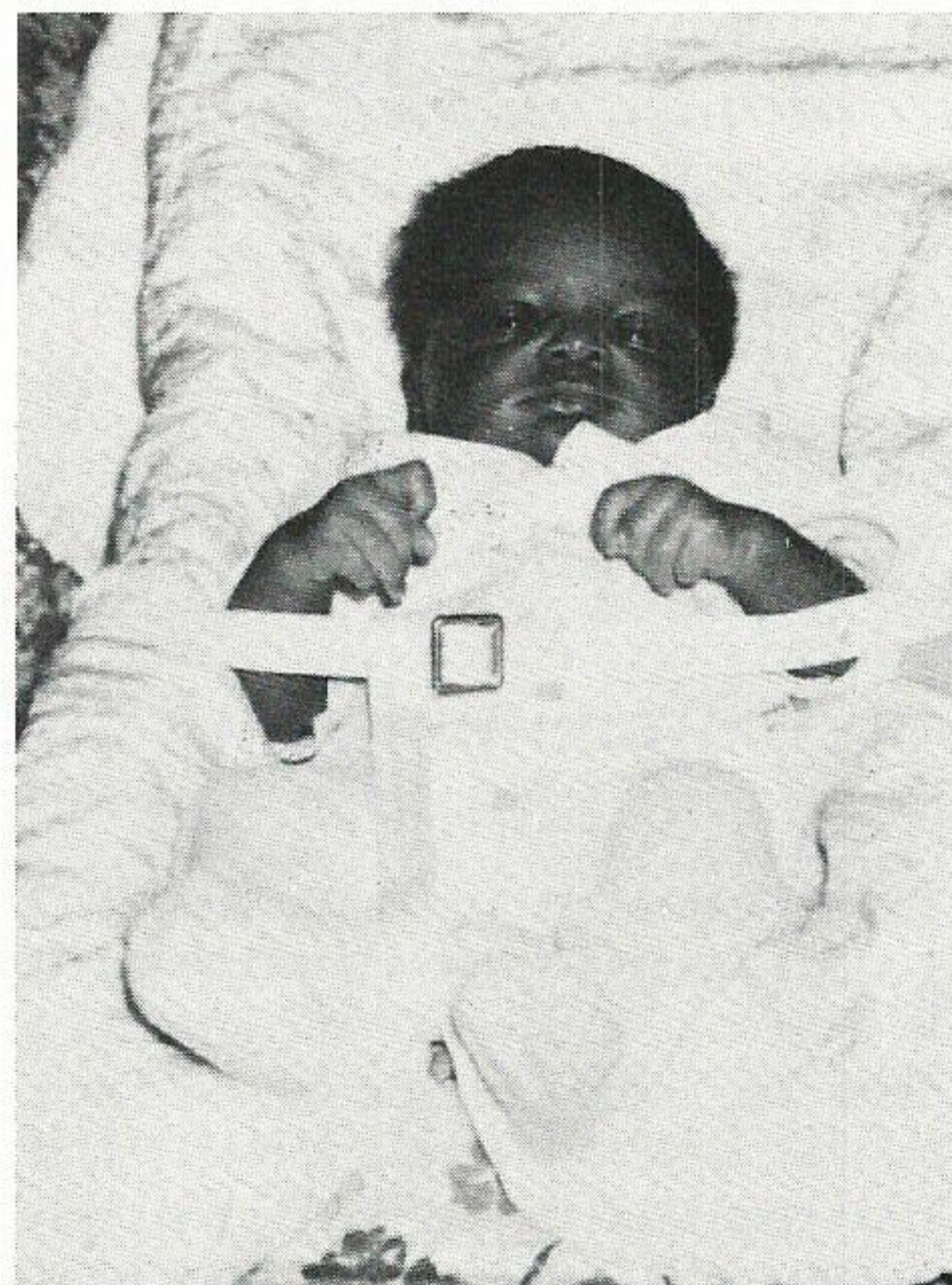
FANCY FEET — Charles Bordeman, supervisor of customer accounts is walking pretty nowadays. George Ann LaGrappe and Gina Collins abducted a pair of old boots he wore (out) during the summer and had them styled in a manner befitting his lifestyle. Orange and green flowers and red hearts were painted on the boots with a background of lively lemon yellow. "This is the Grand Gotcha," Bordeman said when presented his redecorated footwear. (A "gotcha" is a term for a practical joke played within the Beaumont customer accounting group.) "Yours will come later," he warned. Stay tuned.



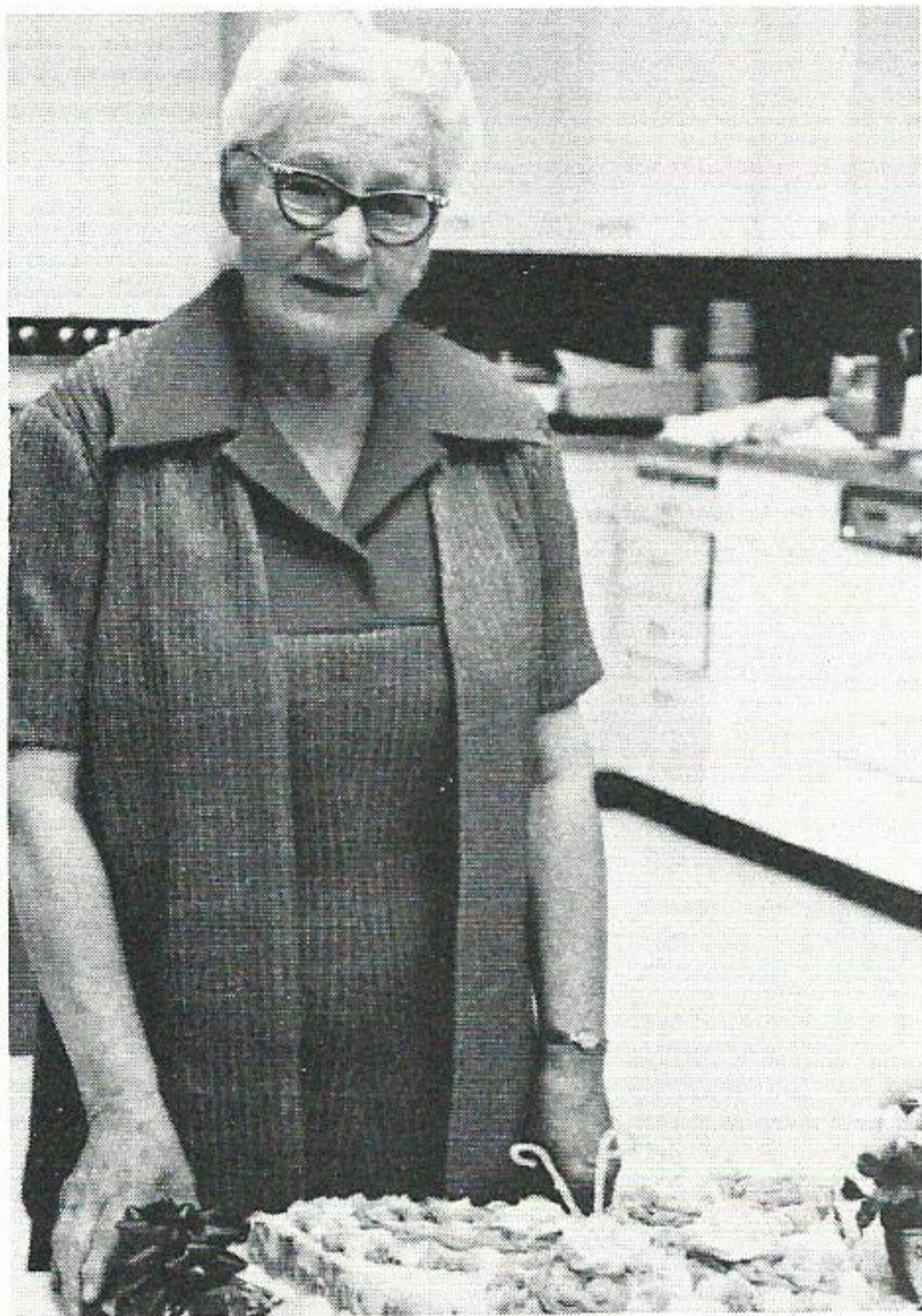
MEGASHRIMP — Glenda Andrus, departmental clerk in the engineering standards design section, and her husband caught this huge shrimp last August. The critter's body is 10 inches long and the antennae another 18 inches. It weighed in at a quarter of a pound. Officials at the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife said such large white shrimp are unusual, but not rare. "Four to a pound is about as large as we ever see white shrimp," one said. "It is a very, old shrimp." The Andrus' preserved the shrimp in alcohol.



VALENTINE A BIG PRODUCTION — The engineers in system production presented their secretaries with a really big production — a giant valentine — on Feb. 14. Receiving the honor and heart-shaped boxes of candy were Sunnye Thompson, senior stenographer, (left) and Naomi Haynes, executive secretary.



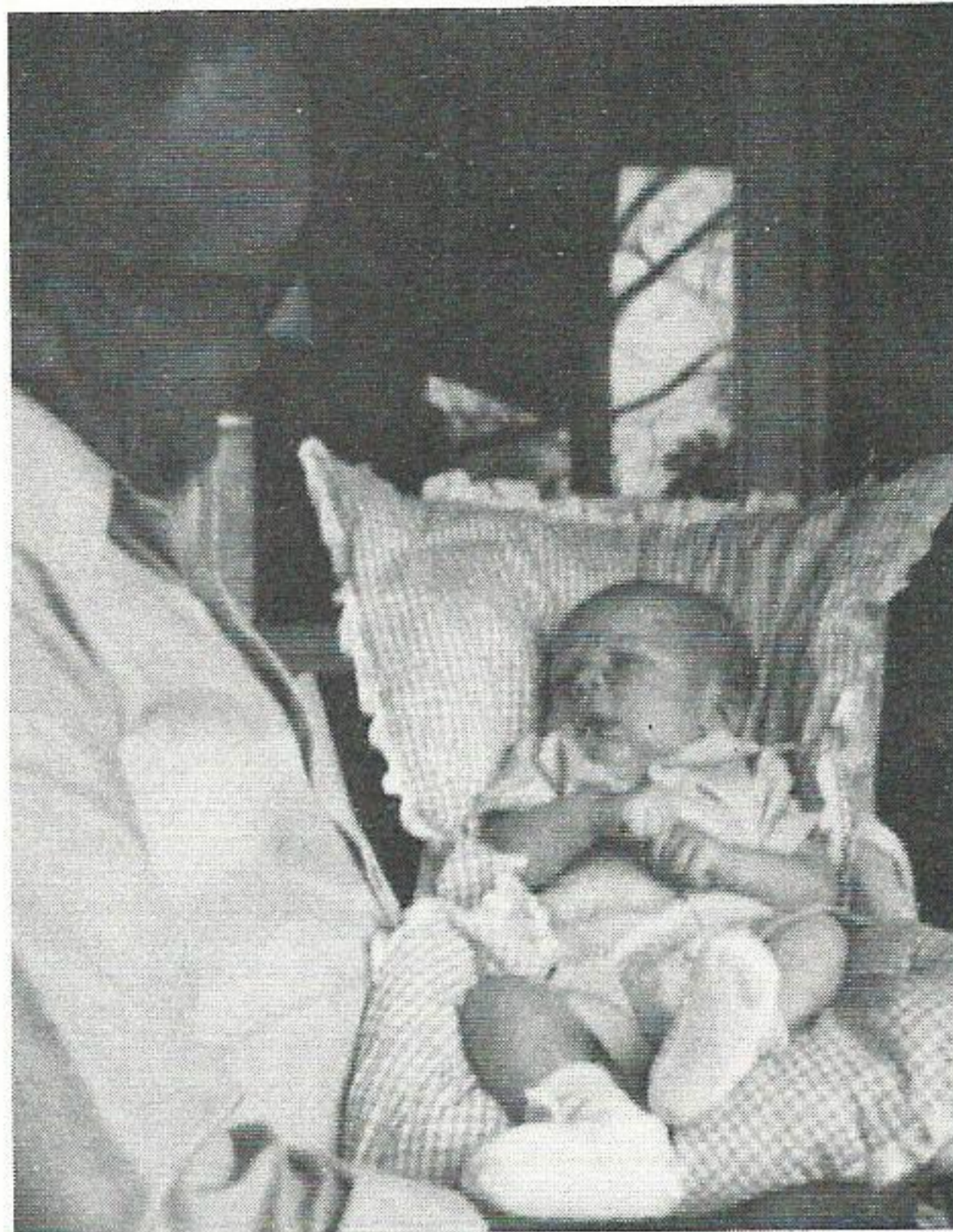
WELCOME, JUNIOR — Milford Hawkins Jr., son of the Huntsville meter reader, was born March 22. Baby sitters will be no problem. Junior has two older sisters — Donna and Rochelle. Both had earlier wanted a baby sister, but have since resigned themselves to the male presence. (from Karen Morley)



ELOUIESEE EXITS — Elouieese Akins, retired customer accounting clerk in Lake Charles, was given an imaginative retirement party by her friends and co-workers Jan. 30. Since her 65th birthday was Jan. 26, she was given 65 pennies. A cake shaped like a butterfly was made and decorated with "Butterflies are free. Retirement is the key." She also received a pin engraved with the dates of her service and a large amount of money to finance her planned post-retirement excursions. The party was highlighted by the reunion of the three infamous Barouse girls of Acadia Parish: Mrs. Akins and her sisters Mamie Simon of New Iberia and Jeanne Johnson, supervisor of customer accounts in the Company's Lake Charles office.



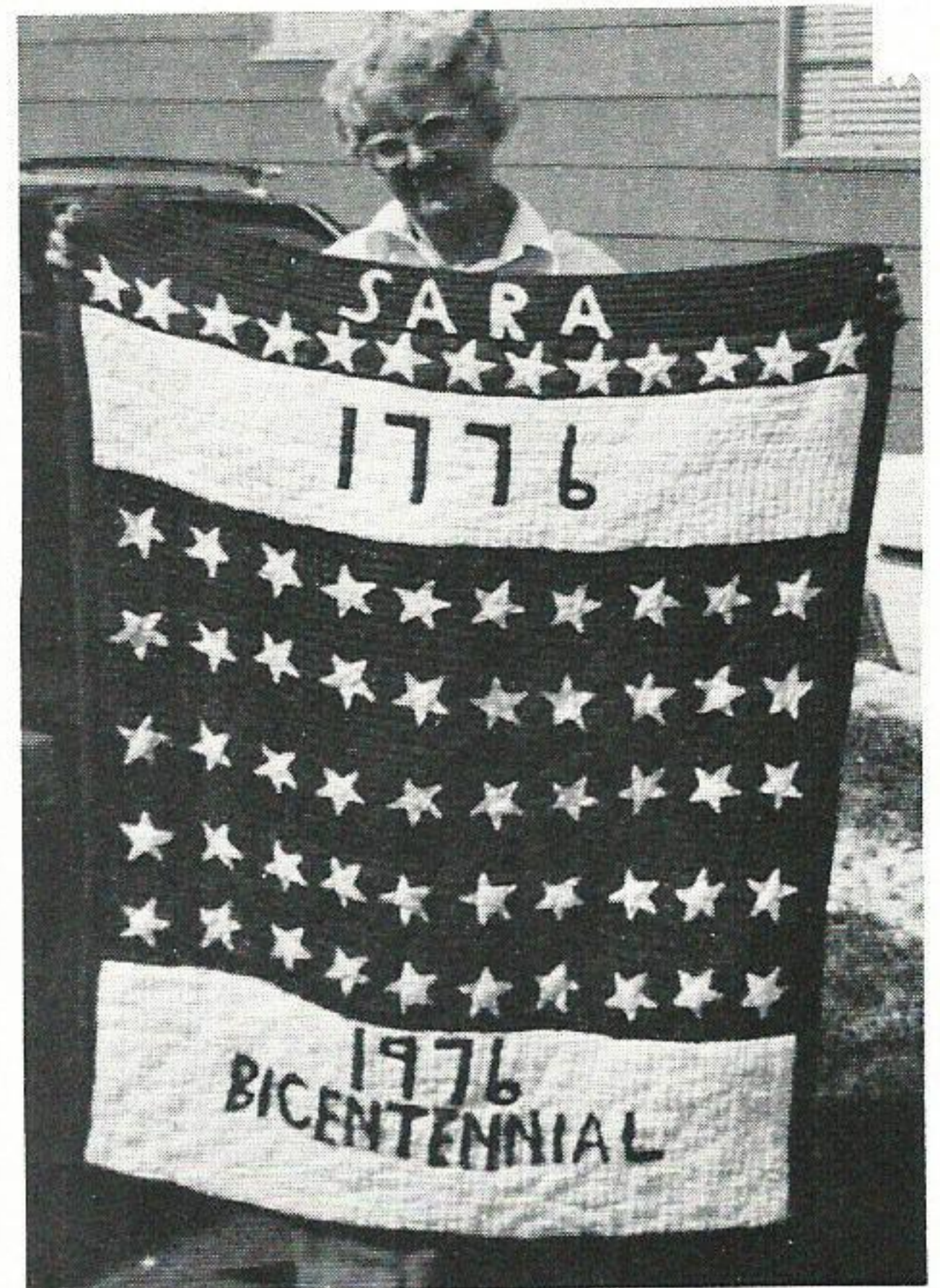
DOG DAYS — For a while recently, the Huntsville Service Center was also a Home for Lonely and Bewildered Dogs. Namely Edwina, a rare mutt/mongrel crossbreed who wandered onto the premises about 18 months ago. In March, Edwina produced a litter of five puppies. One puppy died the first night due to cold weather. The next morning, workers at the service center rigged up a box lined with rags in which Edwina could shelter her brood. All of the puppies have been given away to connoisseurs of the breed. (from Karen Morley)



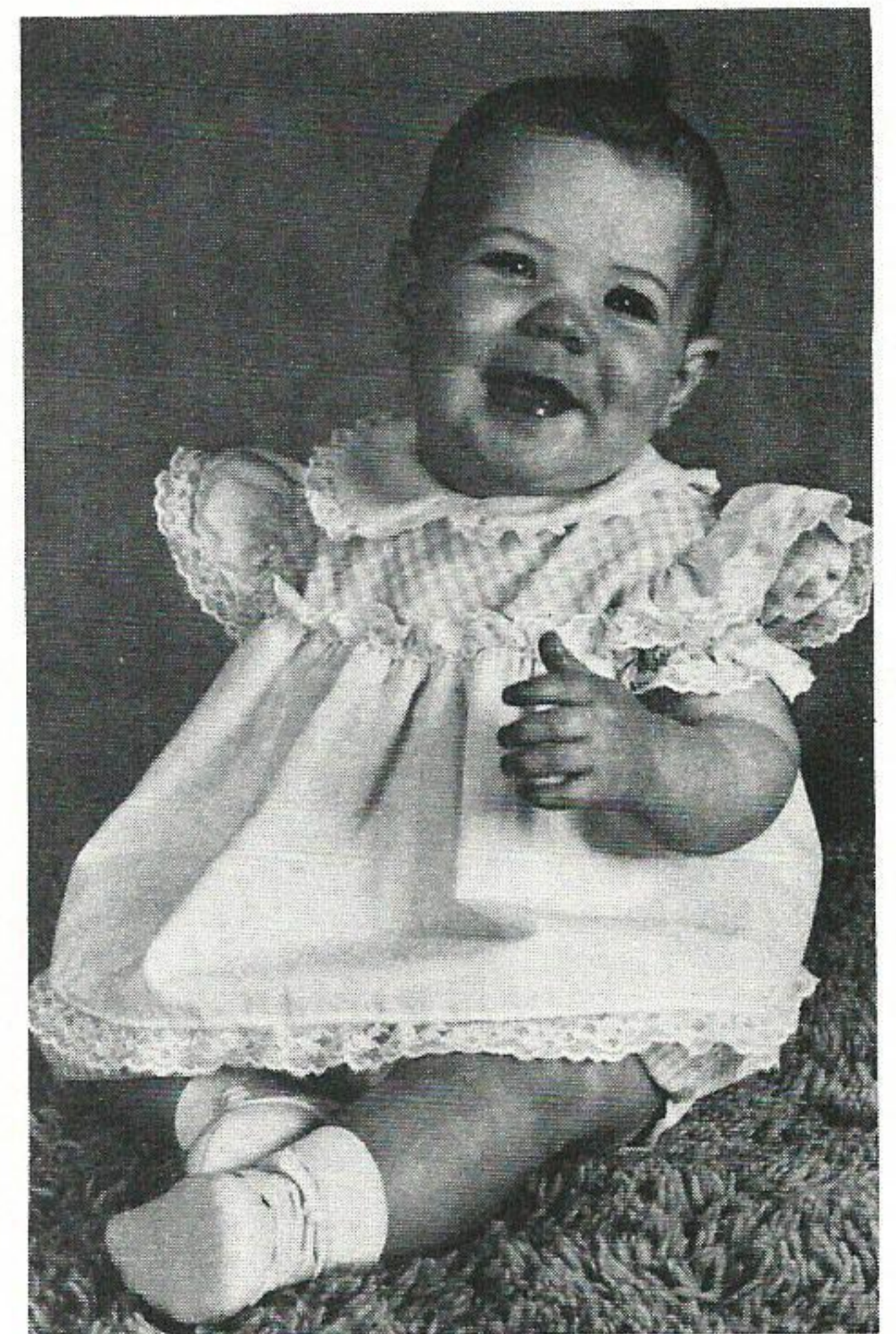
FIRST GRANDCHILD — Gilbert Lauter, utility foreman in Conroe, and his wife Ruth became grandparents Feb. 1, when Brian O'Neil Bogan was born to their daughter Judy. This picture was taken March 1. (from Bobbie Burke)



RAGIN' CAJUN BEAUTY? — Mary Hernandez, daughter of Oray Hernandez, district serviceman in Abbeville, turned "Mister" recently at the Mock Miss Universe Beauty Pageant at Henry (La.) High School. She is pictured on the left, escorting the stunning "Miss" Bobby Moss. (from Mona Burris)



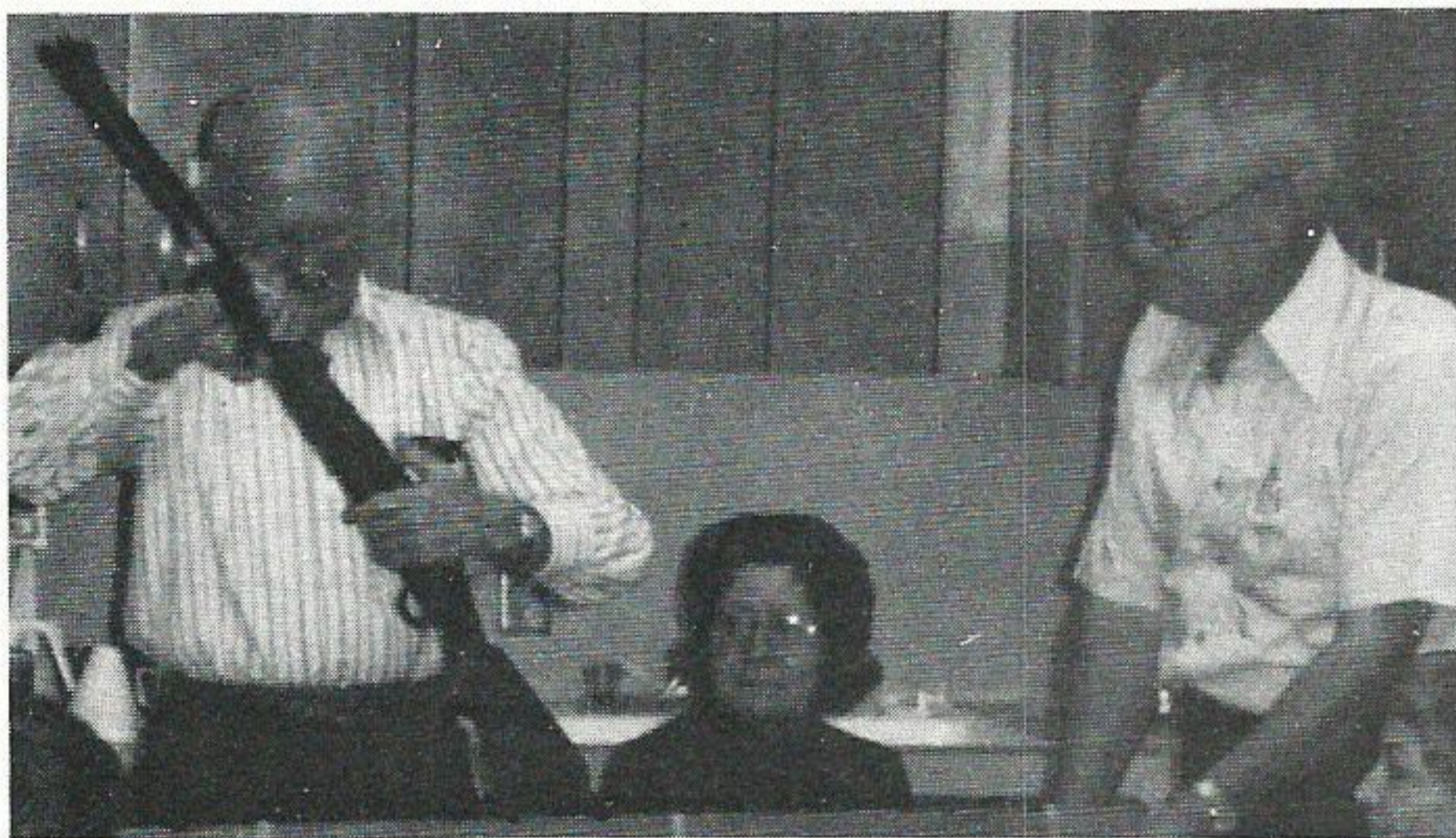
BICENTENNIAL BLANKET — Evelyn Elkins, wife of Buck Elkins, consumer service representative in Port Arthur, made this bicentennial quilt for their granddaughter born Jan. 29. Mrs. Elkins grew the cotton padding in her backyard plantation, and she and Buck ginned the cotton by hand — pulling the cotton from the seeds. The recipient, Sara McDaniels, is the daughter of the Richard McDaniels of Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. (from Sue Williams)



FIRST BIRTHDAY — Robin Renee Grosenbacher, granddaughter of Frank Robinson, district superintendent in Huntsville, celebrated her first birthday April 30. She lives in San Antonio. (from Karen Morley)



JOHN LEE RETIRES — John Lee Barrett, district serviceman in Madisonville, was feted on his retirement Jan. 19 at the Corral Cafe in Madisonville. He received a CB radio as a retirement gift, and his wife Jocie wore a rosebud corsage. (from Charles Jones)



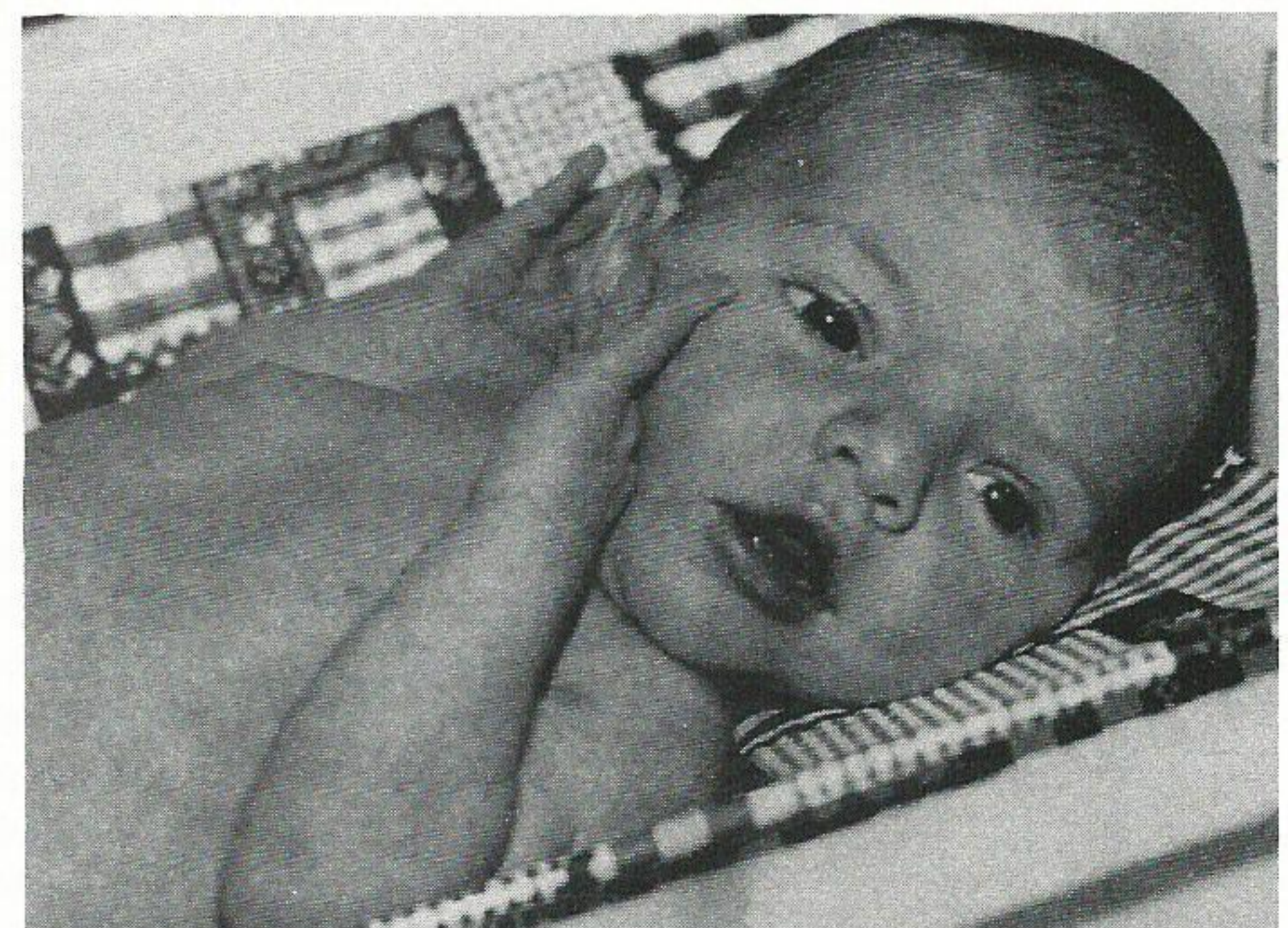
LOADING COTTON — E. E. "Cotton" Kaltwasser, serviceman in Huntsville, was feted upon his retirement by 50 co-workers, former employes and friends April 1. Everyone enjoyed an all-you-can-eat barbecue beef dinner with vegetables and desserts. Frank Robinson, district superintendent, and Jerry McHam, consumer service representative, presented Kaltwasser with a Remington 270 rifle. His wife, Elizabeth, got a crystal cake stand. Kaltwasser said he did not have any specific plans for retirement — except that he was going to wear out his new rifle during deer season. (from Karen Morley)



PACKED TOUR — Cub Scout Pack 15 from Pietzsch Elementary School took a tour of the Beaumont Service Center Feb. 4. Included in the group was David Motl, son of Carolyn Motl, departmental clerk at the center. He is pictured on the first row, fourth from the right. (from Carolyn Motl)



SMART STUDENTS — The daughter of John W. Conley, operating superintendent in Port Arthur, and the son of Helen Powell, senior stenographer and Conley's secretary, were inducted into the National Honor Society at Port Neches-Groves High School April 6. Shown in prom pictures are Cathy Jo Conley (left picture) and G. Timothy Powell. Miss Conley is a member of the Indianettes — a girls' drill team — and plans a career in art and environmental science after attending Lamar University. Powell is a junior at PN-G and a varsity basketball letterman. He is considering study in nuclear physics after high school. (from Loraine Dunham)



TOPLESS CHRISTMAS PRESENT — Randy Harless, systems analyst, received a Christmas bonus last year — the birth of his first daughter, Angela Rae. She is the first child of Harless and his wife, Ellen. It is also the first grandchild of both sets of parents. "Boy is she getting spoiled," Harless said. Curiously, the little girl was born at 12:25 p.m. on 12-25, Harless noted. She is pictured taking a bath — six days after she was born.



IS THAT ALL? — Minion O'Brien, clerk in the duplicating department, was amply showered by her coworkers March 15. Mrs. O'Brien was getting married April 15 to a Gulf Oil boilermaker. She has five children from her previous marriage. He has four children of his own, so the couple will start off with nine children and also nine grandchildren. In addition to the cake, punch and nuts, Mrs. O'Brien was feted with a large number of presents, including a plant, two sets of cooking bowls, a clock, hot pot gloves and hot pot holders, a cutting board, a serving tray, some beverage glasses, pillow cases, an electric mixer, towels and a well-packed cookie jar. "Is that all?" Mrs. O'Brien said facetiously after her frantic 10-minute effort to open the presents during a lunch break. (Minion, Mrs. O'Brien's first name, means "dear little one" in an unknown native Indian language. It is properly pronounced: MEN-you-wahn.)



"That's the same stuff I thanked God for yesterday."

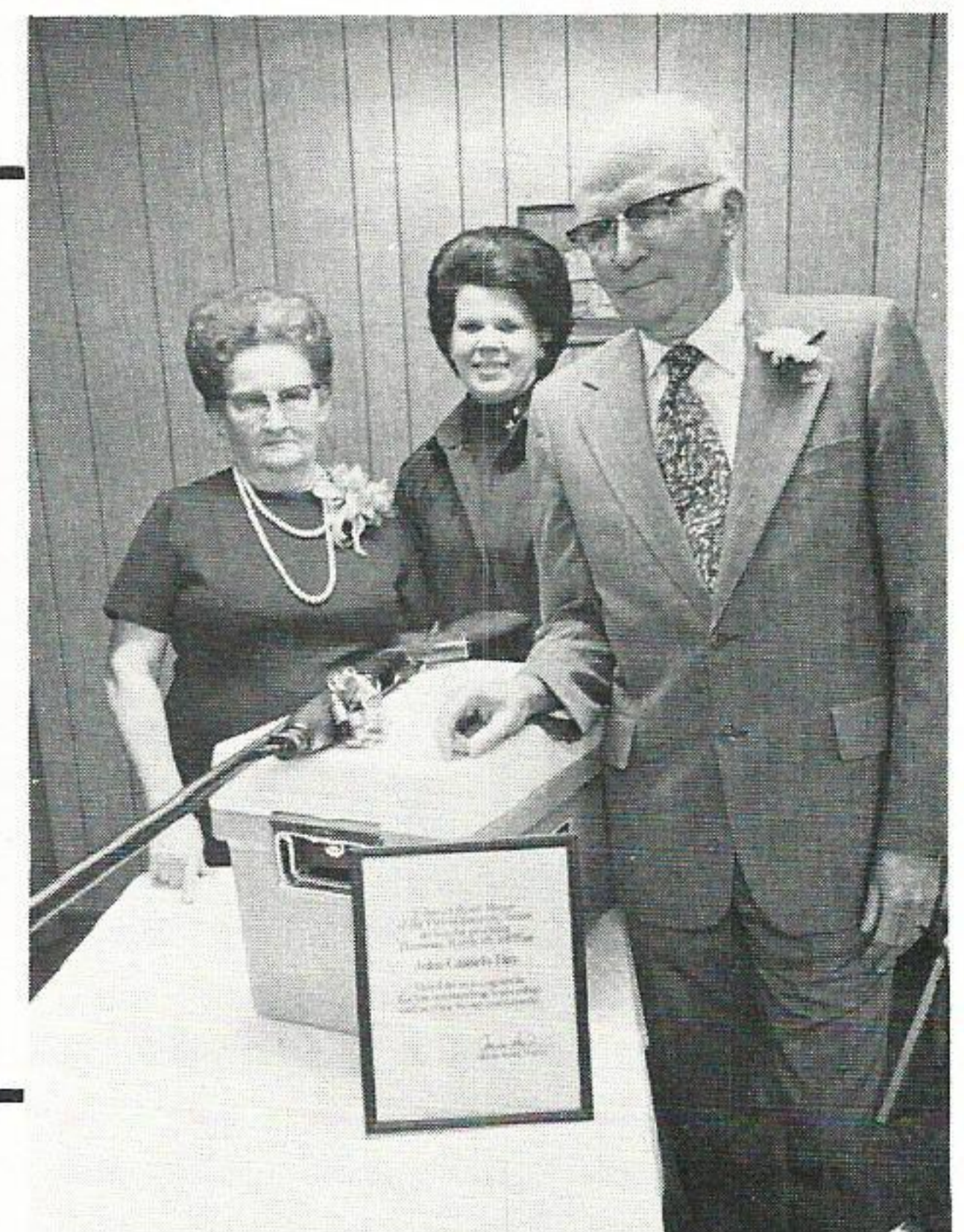


HONORED NURSE — Evelyn A. Laughlin, daughter of James R. "Nig" Laughlin, right-of-way agent in Lake Charles, was inducted April 2 into Sigma Theta Tau, the national honor society of nursing. Last May she was graduated with honors from Northwestern (La.) State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree from the College of Nursing. Miss Laughlin is a supervisor at Charity Hospital in Lake Charles. (from Johnnie Stelly)

JOHN CASSELS DAY — April 25 was John Cassels Day in Kountze. The retiring serviceman in Kountze was honored by his friends at a reception at the Heritage Inn. The mayor presented Cassels with a framed proclamation of the honor. He also received a large ice chest and a new shotgun from his coworkers. Pictured above are (left to right) Cassels' wife, Mattie; Lanita Bailey, local office clerk in Kountze; and Cassels.



ANDY'S A DANDY GRANDY — Andy Poulson, safety representative, was the honored guest at his pre-retirement party at Neches Station March 19. The crowd enjoyed barbecue, salad and beans, but Andy most enjoyed the surprise presence of his daughter, Frances Hall, of St. Louis. Mrs. Hall and her children, Anders (named for the honoree) and Amy, were delivered "Parcel Post" to the party in a box. They are pictured above with Poulson and his wife, Muriel. Summa Stelly led the acerbic roasting and counter-roasting of Poulson, during which all kinds of sleeping dogs were awakened and skeletons removed from their closets. It all had a happy ending when Poulson was given a new set of golf clubs and Muriel received two perfume bottles made of French Sabino glass — glass to which gold has been added.



RECIPES

Sweet Reba's Sweets

by Reba Willey
Orange

Southern Pecan Pie

1 c. sugar
1/2 c. corn syrup
1/4 c. melted butter or margarine
3 eggs, well beaten
1 c. pecan halves
1 unbaked pie shell

Mix sugar, syrup and butter together; add eggs and pecans. Fill unbaked pie shell with mixture. Bake for 10 minutes at 400 degrees; reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees. Bake for 30-35 minutes longer. Serve cold or hot. Top with unsweetened whipped cream if desired.

Fresh Peach-Almond Upside-Down Pie

2 tbsp. soft butter or margarine
2/3 c. toasted sliced almonds
Brown sugar
Pastry for 2-crust 9" pie
3/4 c. sugar
5 c. sliced fresh peaches
2 tbsp. tapioca
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
1/4 tsp. cinnamon

Line 9" pie pan with 12" square of foil. Let excess foil overhang edge. Spread with butter. Press almonds and 1/3 c. brown sugar into butter. Fit bottom crust into pie pan over nuts and brown sugar. Mix remaining ingredients with 1/4 c. brown sugar. Pour into pastry shell. Cover with top crust. Seal, flute, and prick with fork. Brush lightly with milk and bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 375 degrees; bake for 35 to 40 minutes longer. Cool thoroughly. Turn upside down on serving plate — remove foil.

Chocolate Bread Pudding

4 slices stale bread
1 sq. unsweetened chocolate
4 c. milk
2 eggs
1 c. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Remove crusts from bread; cut up chocolate. Break bread into small pieces; place in saucepan. Add chocolate and milk; heat to scalding, stirring occasionally. Beat eggs well. Add sugar; mix well. Pour hot mixture over eggs gradually, stirring constantly. Add vanilla; mix well. Pour into large casserole; place in pan of hot water. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Yield: 8 servings.

Pie Au Pineapple Brule

Delicious and unusual fruit pie originating from Hawaiian Islands.

4 eggs
1/2 c. sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. vanilla
1 - 20 oz. can pineapple slices
2 c. cream
1 unbaked 9" pie shell
1/2 c. flaked coconut
3 tbsp. brown sugar
1 tbsp. melted butter or margarine

Beat eggs slightly; add sugar, salt, nutmeg and vanilla, mixing until smooth. Drain pineapple, reserving 1/2 c. juice. Combine cream and reserved juice with egg mixture, blending well. Turn into pie shell. Bake on lower shelf at 425 degrees for 30 minutes or until filling is set in center. Remove pie from oven; let stand 5 to 10 minutes. Combine coconut, brown sugar, and butter. Arrange 5 pineapple slices on top of pie; sprinkle with coconut mixture. Cover crust with foil to prevent excessive browning. Place pie under broiler for 1 to 2 minutes or until topping is bubbly. Cool.

Cheesecake Pie

Two really popular favorites with the Pennsylvania Dutch are Cheese Cake and Cheese Pie, sometimes appearing in a cake/pie combination as in this recipe.

6 tbsp. butter or margarine
2 c. graham cracker crumbs
3/4 c. sugar
1 c. cottage cheese
18 oz. package cream cheese
1 c. sour cream
3 eggs
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. vanilla

Melt butter. Combine butter, graham cracker crumbs and 1/4 c. sugar. Reserve 1/4 c. mixture for topping; press remaining crumb mixture firmly against bottom and sides of a 9" pie plate. Chill for at least 2 hours. Combine cottage cheese and cream cheese; blend well, using electric mixer. Add sour cream, eggs, lemon juice, remaining sugar, and vanilla; beat with electric mixer for 10 minutes. Pour into crust. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Open oven door; let pie stand in oven for 1 hour. Sprinkle reserved crumb mixture on top; chill until ready to serve.



Reba Willey has just about come full circle in the Orange office. She started with Gulf States more than 30 years ago in the accounting department — first as a PBX operator, then bookkeeper and cashier. Then she spent 24 years on the sales floor and now is back in accounting as a customer accounting clerk.

Her easy and gracious manner with customers is a major asset in her job.

Likewise, "Sweet Reba" is noted for her simple, yet tasty desserts. The ones printed on this page are taken from the "Americana Cookery" cookbook compiled by home economics teachers around the country.

"The Southern Pecan Pie is my favorite," Mrs. Willey said. "It is a simple recipe taken from the South. The pecan is probably the favorite nut in the South. This is a really popular recipe."

"The cheesecake is scrumptious and so smooth," Mrs. Willey said. "It's also very rich."

Not so rich is the Chocolate Bread Pudding. It's not very sweet nor very heavy tasting, Mrs. Willey said.

These recipes are not low-calorie desserts, Mrs. Willey warned. "Neither my husband nor my mother seem to gain weight as easily as I do," she said. "So enjoy cooking these desserts, but I don't always get to partake of them."

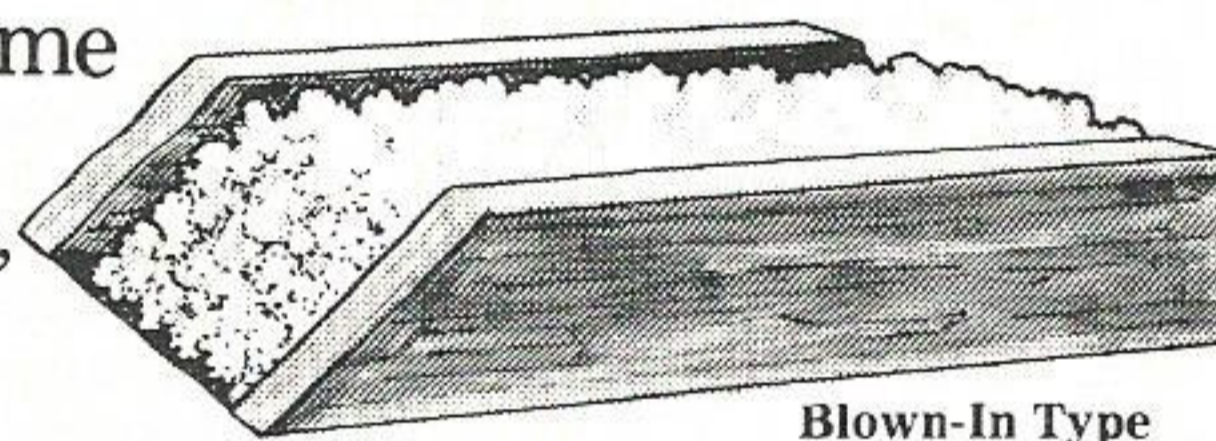
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Insulation. Too little can cost you a lot.

Think of the air you use to cool your home as dollars. Your dollars. And every time your cooling system comes on, more dollars come out. So you want your system to run as little as possible to keep you comfortable.

If your home is poorly insulated, your dollars are going to leak out. Which means your system has to put more in. Before you know it, you're paying more than you have to for cooling your home.

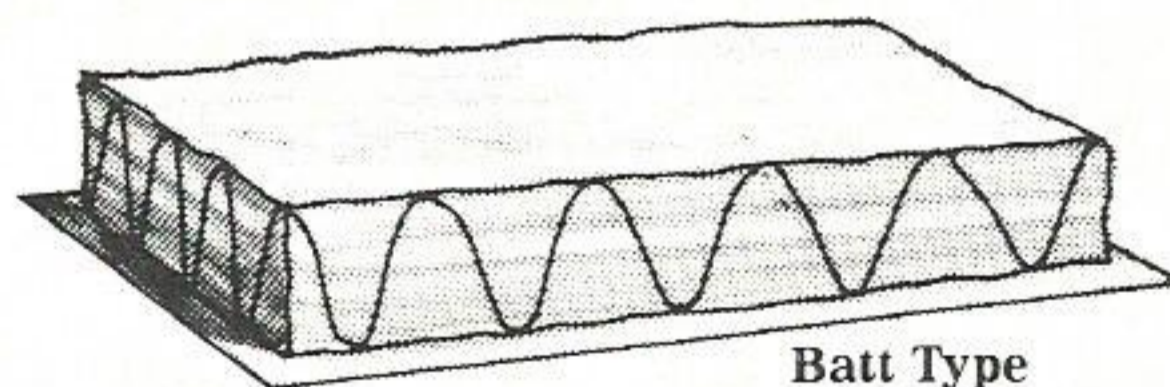
So how do you tell if your home is poorly insulated? Just use this simple two-step test. First, see whether the insulation in your attic is the blown-in type



Blown-In Type

or the batt type. (Compare with the picture if you're not familiar with the difference.) Second, measure the thickness of whichever type you have. Then call an insulation contractor or dealer in the Yellow Pages, or Gulf States. Tell them the type and thickness and that you want enough to give you an R-19 rating.

(R-19 is the minimum we recommend.)



Batt Type

They'll tell you if you have enough. Whether you want to tackle the job yourself or have a professional do it, remember this. We

recommend an R-factor of 19 in the attic, R-11 in the walls and R-13 under the floors. We can also help you finance the whole job on your monthly electric bill.

**Your electric bill.
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