



A HONEY  
OF A BUSINESS

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# THE ILLUMINATOR

# THE ILLUMINATOR

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## Cover

Al Pargin, Kingsport right of way agent, is a firm believer that everyone should have a bee hive in their backyard. Al, who says he has been "in bees" all his life, has been raising bees and selling their honey on a commercial basis since 1969. See story on pages 16-17 in this issue.

## Savings plan unit values

Date	Fixed Income Fund		Equity Fund		AEP Stock Fund	
	VPU	UCPD	VPU	UCPD	VPU	UCPD
1/32/82	\$1.4280	.7003	\$1.7011	.5879	\$1.1597	.8623
2/28/82	1.4398	.6945	1.6219	.6166	1.1831	.8452
3/31/82	1.4538	.6879	1.6159	.6189	1.2016	.8322
4/30/82	1.4665	.6819	1.6827	.5943	1.2458	.8027
5/31/82	1.4799	.6757	1.6345	.6118	1.2503	.7998
6/30/82	1.4927	.6699	1.6089	.6215	1.2165	.8220

VPU — value per unit

UCPD — units credited per dollar

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

## The inside story

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To increase awareness of the new service, all Pulaski customer accounts employees are wearing buttons with the slogan "Ask Me About CPP." The idea was originated by Deborah Grubb, customer representative C.

## CPP gets good acceptance by customers

Although Appalachian Power's Checkless Payment Plan (CPP) was announced just one month ago, indications are that the new service is being well accepted by our customers.

As of July 29, some 3,297 applications for CPP had been processed. Of those, 1,614 were conversions by customers who have previously been paying their electric service bills by a sight draft plan which will be phased out.

"Convenience" is the thrust of the CPP. Customers who sign up for the CPP no longer have to write checks or pay their electric service bills by a visit to an APCo office or collection point. Appalachian notifies their financial institution how much their electric bill is, and that amount is deducted from their checking account each month. The customer still receives his bill in the normal manner. Ten days after it is mailed, the amount due is deducted from the customer's account. The date of the deduction is printed on his bill. □

## APCo participation in Bath County project unlikely

Appalachian Power Company has been informed there is "no present expectation" it could become an ownership participant in the Bath County hydroelectric project.

In letters last month to U.S. Senator John W. Warner (R.-Va.) and Representative William C. Wampler (R.-Va.), the utility said that assessment was reached after conversations with the two participants in the project, Virginia Electric & Power Company and Allegheny Power System Inc.

W.S. White, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer of American Electric Power Company, Inc., of which Appalachian is a subsidiary, wrote to Senator Warner and Representative Wampler in response to their request of February 12 that Appalachian explore the possibility of becoming a participant in the project. White had earlier responded on March 16, promising to undertake such an effort.

In the letter to Senator Warner and Representative Wampler, White wrote that discussions had been conducted "by senior representatives of the three companies." He stated that "they fully explored the possibility of Appalachian Power becoming a participant in the project," and added:

"During the course of these discussions the representatives of Vepco and Allegheny described their contractual arrangements for the Bath County project and indicated that while several provisions of the contract are not to be implemented until a later time, they fully expect the full output of the Bath County project will be used to meet their own systems' requirements. In view of this, they stated, they had no present expectation that Appalachian could become a participant in this project."

White wrote the lawmakers that "we accept their judgment on this matter. In view of their assessment, we plan to continue to explore the other op-

tions available to us in order that we can ensure that our customers have a reliable and adequate supply of electricity in the future." □

## Kingsport Power seeks \$3.5 million increase in rates

Kingsport Power Company on June 29 filed a petition with the Tennessee Public Service Commission requesting an increase in electric power rates of about \$3.5 million annually, or an average of 7 percent based on 1981 billings. About \$3 million was requested to cover increased local operating costs and about \$500,000 to offset a proposed increase in purchased power cost.

Kingsport Power Company President John Faust said increases in operating cost due to record high levels of inflation and interest costs over the past two years made the rate increase request necessary. Kingsport Power reported a net loss of over \$430,000 in 1981 and a continuing loss of over \$255,000 for the first five months of 1982.

Faust also said new rates have been designed to comply with the cost of service standard of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) which was adopted by the Public Service Commission in the last rate proceeding. As a result, the increase for each class of customers will reflect the cost of providing service to that customer class. If the total increase requested is granted, the average residential customer using 1500 kilowatt-hours per month will pay about \$7.00 more based on June billings. Faust said that, even with this increase, Kingsport residential rates will continue to be among the lowest in the nation.

It is expected that the Public Service Commission will schedule a public hearing on the rate increase request and reach a decision within the next six months. □

## Second quarter earnings down

American Electric Power Company, Inc., reported second quarter earnings of \$65,650,000 or 40 cents per share, compared with \$73,147,000 or 47 cents per share for the same period in 1981. Average shares outstanding rose to 163,285,000 from 156,108,000 between the two periods.

For the 12 months ended June 30, AEP reported earnings of \$383,316,000 or \$2.38 per share, compared with restated earnings of \$341,594,000 or \$2.30 per share for the same period a year ago. The per-share figures are based on 160,971,000 average shares outstanding during the most recent 12 months and 148,590,000 shares the year earlier.

W.S. White, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer, said the major factors for the year-to-year earnings decline in the second quarter were the continued depressed economic activity and extraordinarily mild weather. He also noted that 1981 earnings were also aided by exceptionally high levels of sales to other utilities during the coal miners' strike.

AEP reported its operating revenues decreased 5.9 percent in the second quarter and increased by 3.8 percent over the full 12 months, compared with the same period the year earlier. Second-quarter revenues were \$0.99 billion in 1982, against \$1.05 billion in 1981. Revenues for the 12 months ended June 30 were \$4.22 billion, compared with \$4.07 billion a year ago. □

## AEP is charter member of trust

American Electric Power Company is one of 20 electric utilities selected as "charter members" of a utility trust fund, Hutton Utility Trust, recently set up by the brokerage house of E.F. Hutton & Co.

Goal of the fund, according to the trust prospectus, is current income,

and dividends and length of trading were two criteria used by Hutton in setting up the portfolio. The trust was started with a target of \$15 million of participation, but brokers were able to sell \$21 million, prompting Hutton to plan a second such fund.

The fund's portfolio has 1,226,750 shares of electric utility common stocks, including 75,000 shares of AEP. □

## Alexich elected assistant vp - nuclear eng.

Admiral Milton P. Alexich was elected assistant vice president - nuclear engineering, effective July 12, at the June meeting of the board of directors of the AEP Service Corporation.

Alexich, who retired from the U.S. Navy on July 1, will report to R.S. Hunter, executive vice president-construction and New York engineering. Alexich replaces Robert W. Jurgensen who is appointed consulting nuclear engineer. □

## Assante elected asst. treasurer

Leonard V. Assante has been elected an assistant treasurer of American Electric Power Company.

He is also assistant treasurer - tax accounting of the AEP Service Corporation and assistant treasurer of each of the eight operating companies of the AEP System. □

## AEP System has matching gifts program

The American Electric Power System has established a matching gifts program under which it will match employees' cash contributions to qualifying colleges and universities.

W.S. White, Jr., chairman of AEP and of Appalachian and Kingsport Power Companies, announced the program recently and said that it was part of the AEP System's continuing effort to provide financial assistance and support to institutions of higher learning. He pointed out that the matching gifts would be in addition to the System's regular corporate gifts for educational purposes, which over the past four years have averaged approximately \$235,000 annually.

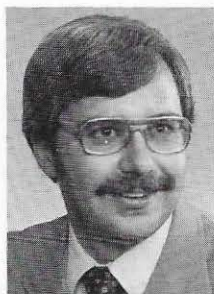
Although details are still being finalized, the program will generally match contributions of cash or marketable securities by employees or retirees of AEP System companies on a one-for-one basis to qualifying colleges and universities. Personal contributions of a minimum of \$25 up to a maximum of \$2,000 per participant per eligible institution per year will be matched by the program.

Initially, the program will cover gifts to accredited graduate and professional schools, four-year colleges and universities, approved two-year colleges, and several independent college foundations or funds.

The personnel directors will serve as coordinators of the matching gift program in their respective companies. Details on the program, which will be implemented during the last quarter of this year, will be available from them at that time.

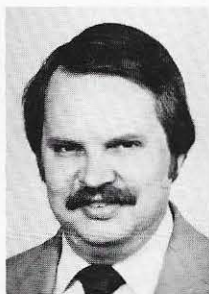
Over 900 companies in the United States have similar matching gift programs designed to increase support for education and improve the country's institutions of higher learning. □

# PROMOTIONS



Talley

**C.V. "Chuck" Talley**, Abingdon energy services engineer, was promoted to Marion area supervisor on July 1, succeeding Joseph L. Weddle, who was promoted earlier. Talley holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



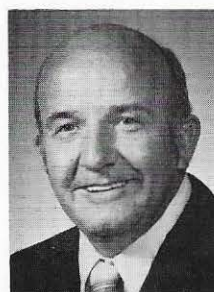
Carter

**T. Buren Carter**, general bookkeeper, was promoted to the exempt position of statistical accountant in GO Accounting, Roanoke, on August 1. He holds a bachelor of business administration degree from Roanoke College.



Williams

**Donald Williams**, engineering technician senior, was promoted to the exempt position of line construction and maintenance representative in Roanoke on June 1. He succeeds J.R. Watkins, who retired May 1.



Hudson

**Howard Hudson**, engineering technologist, was promoted to engineering technologist supervisor in Kingsport on July 1, succeeding the late Jim Arnold. Hudson holds a bachelor of science degree in business management from Steed College.



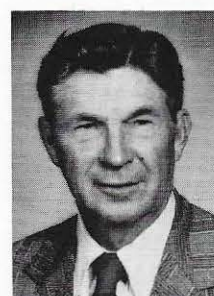
Bailey

**H.F. "Slim" Bailey**, line crew supervisor nonexempt, was promoted to line crew supervisor exempt in the Point Pleasant area of Huntington Division on July 1.



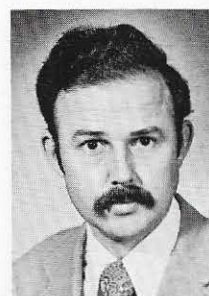
Clark

**Dorwin Clark**, unit supervisor, was promoted to assistant shift operating engineer at Philip Sporn Plant on July 1, succeeding Dana Hoffman, Jr., who elected early retirement.



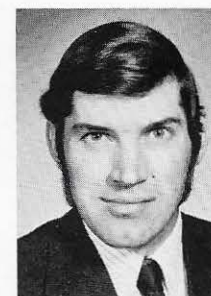
Smith

**Homer Smith**, line mechanic A, was promoted to the exempt position of service supervisor in Huntington on June 1.



Nance

**David Nance**, electrical engineer, was promoted to electrical engineer senior in Huntington on April 1.



Jarvis

**David E. Jarvis**, communications specialist, was promoted to communications supervisor in GO T&D Communications, Huntington, on August 1. He holds an associate degree in electronics from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Dan Harton claims to have discovered a sure way to relieve stress: mountain and rock climbing. Now an electrical engineer in Abingdon, Dan says this worked for him while in school. "I could go out and climb a little before tests, and it would relieve a lot of my tension."

Dan adds, "I was in the Boy Scouts for seven years, and I used to do a lot of backpacking. But it was through a close friend of mine in high school that I picked up an interest in climbing. When we went away to Tennessee Technological University, we climbed for recreation on weekends.

"It wasn't until after I had been climbing for two or three years that I actually took a class or two in climbing through the physical education department. I picked up a lot of tips through books and by talking to the people you meet while climbing in popular areas," Dan notes.

"When I was in school, we did most of our weekday climbing right around campus, which is in the Cumberland Plateau area, on little sandstone outcroppings. While there, I helped organize a climbers' club, which is recognized by the university. Although we didn't set up an alumni association, I still claim allegiance to it."

Dan continues, "I have climbed with several members of the Southeastern Climbers Association although I am not a dues-paying member. That group was organized in an attempt to open the State of North Carolina to climbing again after some tourist-related accidents caused the state to close the rocks to climbers. There are a couple of areas in North Carolina that are still closed but the organization has been successful in opening up publicly owned land."

Before Dan joined Appalachian last year, he spent two weeks climbing in New Hampshire. He has also climbed in western North Carolina, northern Virginia, West Virginia and Maine. His biggest feat occurred last winter when he climbed the 17,887-foot Popocatepetl Mountain about 40 miles southeast of Mexico City.

"One of the reasons we chose to try that particular mountain," Dan says, "is because it is easily accessible to people like myself who don't have a lot of experience climbing in high altitudes. Also, all we needed was the equipment to climb the mountain itself. There was a hut at the base of the

mountain so we didn't have to take any sleeping equipment.

He continues, "I wore insulated underwear, wool pants, wool sweater and a wind suit, which is somewhat like rain gear. We also wore crampons on our boots — 1½" steel teeth. They have ten points down and two points which stick out the front. We used an ice ax and a 75 foot 9mm perlon rope. The rope was merely to catch the balance of anyone who slipped, and it was kept taut between each member of the party. By not having anyone in front of him, the leader couldn't afford to slip. The only other things we took were water, a little bit of food and a first aid kit.

"Although there is a great deal of money involved in the equipment that is used, mountain climbing can be done relatively inexpensively. My trip to Mexico cost around \$600, and that included round trip air fare, hotel for five nights, staying at the hut for five days, taking a tour bus to the Aztec pyramids, and buying wool sweaters and a couple of blankets. Mexico is a fairly inexpensive country to visit, though. Some of my rock climbing trips around here have cost me almost that much," Dan adds.

The only injury Dan has ever had while climbing was a sprained finger. "I got my body out of position and put all my weight on the finger," he explains.

But isn't climbing dangerous? "Most people's ideas about climbing stem from what they see in the movies, and that way of pursuing the sport has been gone for 20 years. No one drives pitons in the rocks any more. An instrument called a piton was used to help climbers advance up the mountain. The piton, driven into the mountain face with a hammer, could destroy the face. These are no longer used since "clean" climbing came about in the 60s. The chocks used today are inserted into existing cracks in the face." Dan admits that some aspects of mountaineering are inherently dangerous while others have a relatively high degree of safety as long as your skill in leadership and equipment are maintained.

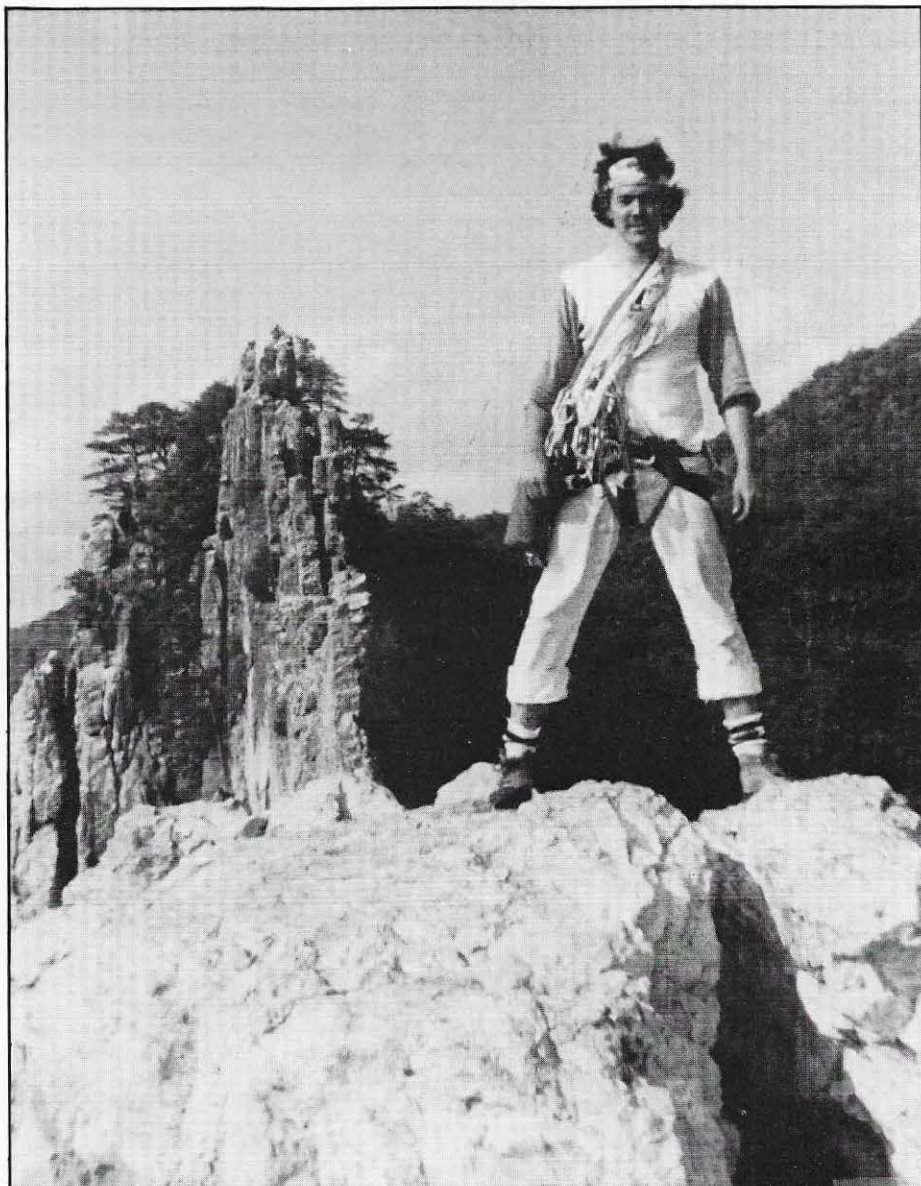
"Marriage won't make me any less interested in obtaining certain goals in the sport but it will change my consideration in accepting invitations to go with people," Dan admits. (This interview took place just days prior to his marriage on July 17.) "I don't think



One problem encountered while climbing on ice is the loss of feeling in your fingers.

Elizabeth has any reservations about my climbing. I took her out a couple of times and tried to introduce her to the sport but the exposure bothered her a little bit. She had the physical ability but she just didn't really enjoy it. We are delaying our honeymoon until August, when we will go out to the Tetons and Devil's Tower in Wyoming for some climbing."

Dan doesn't have his heart set on climbing any particular mountain, but he does plan to try some new climbing methods on the rocks he has already scaled. "It's a real personal challenge to try and do something you are not really sure you can," Dan concludes. "It bolsters my self confidence and gives me a feeling of accomplishment." □



The view is better at the top, according to Dan Harton.

# ANNUAL OUTAGE

For 11 weeks this summer, Amos Unit 1 sat silent while scores of workers poured over it from pulverizers to precipitators. The planned outage was longer than usual this year because the work included overhauling Unit 1's turbines, a job not normally done in the annual maintenance outages.

According to the outage coordinator at Amos, Duane Phlegar, about 77,000 man-hours were required to perform the required inspections and rebuilds in a major outage such as this one.

"Annual outages generally take about four weeks, and one such as this is scheduled only every seven to nine years on a unit," he explained. "We inspected and overhauled as needed, most of the unit, including the high-pressure and reheat turbines."

The planned outage also included general boiler inspection and repair and reconditioning all of the unit's coal pulverizers, Duane added, as well as inspection and repair of high-pressure turbine stop valves and control valves, electrical inspection, inspection and reconditioning of the burner assemblies, and examination and repair of most critical areas of the unit.

The shorter annual maintenance outages, he said, are not so extensive and do not involve as much turbine work.

"For the first time, we worked five-day, eight-hour shifts on the project, rather than multiple shifts and overtime," he said. "We had 51 people from the maintenance group here at Amos assigned to the project full

time. They were involved mostly in the turbine and electrical work. Of course, the number varied from day to day, depending on the needs and requirements of the Unit 1 work and performance of the other units.

"In addition to the Amos people, about 15 different outside vendors were involved. Those workers dealt with such tasks as the boiler work, insulation, some turbine work, and so forth," he said. "Also, there were 80-plus people from Centralized Plant Maintenance. They did most all the boiler work, the pulverizers, and valves. Basically, they handled a number of the items we would do ourselves during a regular maintenance outage because we were involved with so much work on the turbine floor.

"The people from Central Machine Shop also have been invaluable in repairing turbine diaphragms, non-destructive testing of shells and bolting, and doing other supportive work.

Duane explained that, as in most maintenance projects, the group found some problems they were expecting and some they were not. "In some areas, we planned on finding more erosion and seal damage," he said. "But, of course, there were trade-offs — other areas needing unexpected work.

"Once we completed the boiler repairs, we also did a boiler chemical cleaning. That took about 36 hours." The cleaning was necessary, he added, in order to remove possible contamination and scale inside the boiler tubes. Removing those impurities improves heat transfer and reduces pressure drop, making the unit more efficient and dependable.

"All in all, it has been a very complicated project," said Duane, who helped direct the effort. "We met daily to discuss schedules, progress, problems, and anything else related with the outage. There has been a lot of paper work, but that was needed simply to help us know exactly where we were and where we were going with the work. It has taken a lot of effort by all the people involved, and they've come through. Getting a unit back on line when scheduled is important to the system. It is a tribute to all the people involved in this project that we were able to do that.

"This unit ran from June 1, 1981, continuously until a turbine electronic

Dana Thompson, maintenance supervisor and day-shift turbine coordinator at Amos Unit 1, verifies a packing clearance check prior to turbine reassembly.





Utility Worker Beth Smith tackles buildup on the Unit 1 slag blowers during the maintenance outage.

control component failure tripped it out of service April 6, 1982. That's the longest continuous run for any supercritical unit at AEP — over 308 days — and just short of the U.S. record." He added that the April forced outage lasted only about four hours. Duane credited the maintenance and operations employees for helping to establish this record.

"Keeping a unit such as this one running is a combination of a lot of things — good operations, good maintenance, thorough inspection, and so forth," he said. "Lots of things can go wrong — a tube leak, lightning strike, and other things. Some we can and did prevent because the operations and maintenance people have done such a good job over the last year. Other things, such as lightning striking in the yard here, are not under our control."

Amos Plant Manager Cecil Shay agrees. "Our units have a better



Amos Unit 1 Outage Coordinator Duane Phlegar examines rollers from one of the unit's six pulverizers. In each pulverizer, three rollers crush incoming coal to a fine dust before combustion. All of the pulverizers were reconditioned during the outage this year.

record than average," he said. "That's mainly because we have a lot of good people here — people operating the equipment, planning, doing the inspections and maintenance. Anytime we have a problem, they find the causes and take care of them. Our people do a good job of spotting potential problem areas, too, and solving them before they put us out of service anywhere."

Dave Williams, senior vice president of operations at the AEP Service Corporation, explained that every plant on the system prepares a five-year

maintenance schedule to assure reliability in meeting demand.

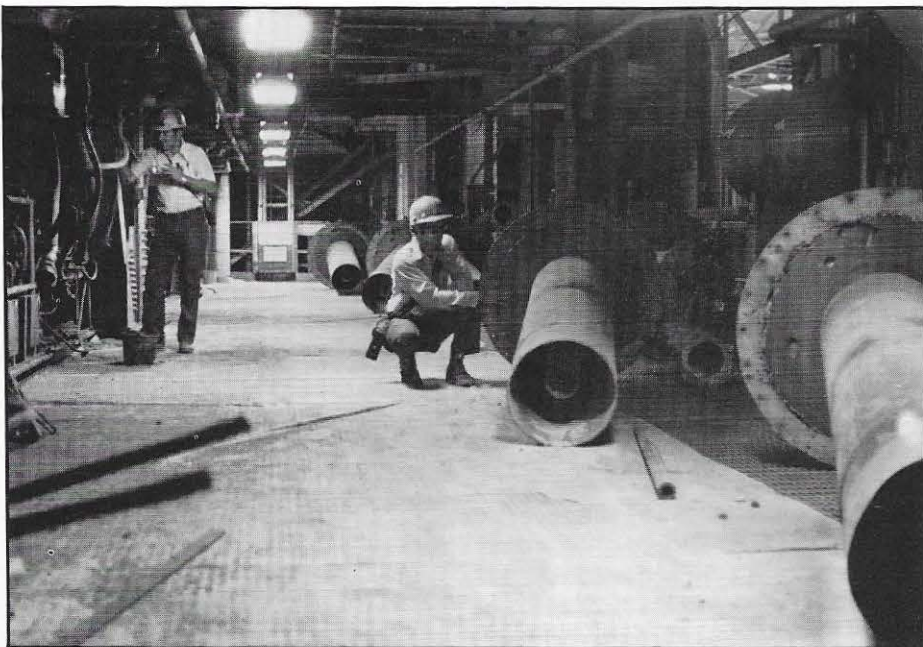
"The plans address the tasks that will need to be accomplished for proper maintenance each year for the highest degree of availability over the five-year period at each plant," Dave said. "They specify the time, manpower, and money needed to accomplish the work."

Dave added that annual plans for all plants are discussed early each year and submitted to AEP Chairman W.S. White, Jr., for approval.

"The result is the optimum maintenance program for each plant for the coming year, taking into account the work needed to be done and its cost."

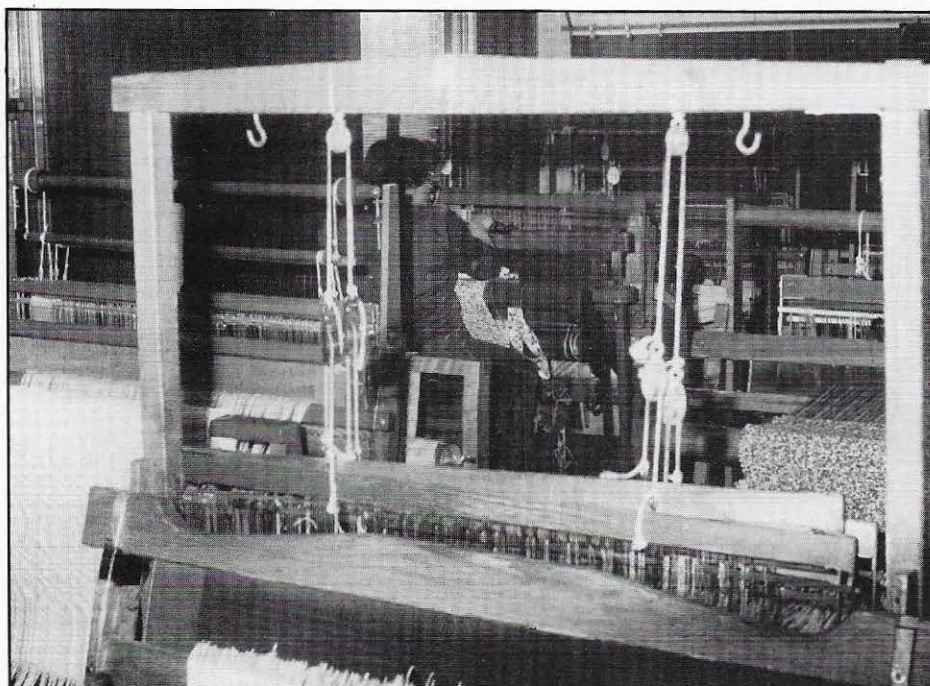
Once the outage begins and the work is under way, he said, AEP carefully monitors progress along with plant management. "In any maintenance outage — whether it be the annual one or the more involved outages such as was just completed at Amos Unit 1 — it is critical to our operations that the job be done on schedule. The unit involved must be ready to go back on line on time, because we must be able to meet our customers' demands for electricity."

Cecil Shay adds, "Our objective is to run the unit safely and efficiently and have a high degree of availability. Because of our well qualified employees and the good job they do, we've been able to meet these objectives here at Amos." □



Amos Maintenance Supervisor Gary Painter and CPM Maintenance Supervisor Roger Manuel check burner assemblies and burner penetration tubes before cleanup work began on them. All 36 assemblies were dismantled and repaired during the outage.

# The art of old fashioned weaving



Kathy Siemiaczko works in the weaving room at Summerlee School.

"When I was a little girl, I used to go down to the union hall at Longacre, West Virginia, and play around the looms while my mother weaved," recalls Kathy Siemiaczko. "But it wasn't until six years ago, when a friend of mine talked me into going with her, that I became interested and started weaving myself."

Kathy continues, "I took a weaving class at Cannelton, taught by Annie Sedlock, and I weave down there all winter. During the summer I come up here at the Summerlee School near Oak Hill and weave with Annie until she has finished her rugs for the arts and crafts fair at Cedar Lake."

She adds, "I'm getting to the point now where Annie lets me experiment a little. I'm eager to do a table cloth, which will be the first time I have ever woven with all warping. For that you use pearlized cotton because it makes the cloth look like linen."

Kathy explains that each loom is set up differently so certain items are made on certain looms. One place mat loom, for example, might have a herringbone pattern, another might have a honeysuckle pattern.

It takes Kathy about two hours to make a place mat, including at least 15 minutes to hemstitch it. A plain rag rug takes about two and a half hours. The amount of time spent on each

item depends on the complexity of the pattern. Kathy says, "You can make 15 to 18 rugs at one winding of the warp. Each time you change the pattern or the color you have to wind warp for that, but you don't have to rethread it for them. Instead, you tie the warp onto the threads that are there. If you change the pattern then you rethread all of the heddle, which takes several hours according to the number of threads."

"I made a purple rug for one of my daughter's bedroom, and it took me two days for that one," she laughs. "It actually took about five hours but I was making it between ambulance runs."

The wife of Mike Siemiaczko, maintenance superintendent at Kanawha River Plant, Kathy is a former surgical nurse at Charleston Memorial Hospital. "When we moved to Charlton Heights, the ambulance service was in need of volunteers so I took EMT training. I work all day on Friday, except when I go somewhere, and I am also on standby. Whenever I weave at Cannelton, I take the squawk box with me and weave in between calls."

Kathy has replaced the carpets in her home with rugs she has woven. "I have Early American furnishings, and the rugs compliment the decor." She

says that after she wove a rug with a checkerboard pattern, Mike's father made a set of big checkers, and now her three children play games on the rug.

She has covered a stool and made matching cushions from cloth she has woven and has also made chair covers. She made rugs and altar cloths for the Catholic Church at Boomer and gives away many items as gifts.

"Whenever somebody sees something they particularly like," Kathy says, "they will ask me to make them something similar. I have eight rag rugs to do on order, but I may wait until the fall to complete them. A lot of people come to the weaving room here at Summerlee and buy rugs on the spot. Sometimes Annie will take a few things I make to the arts and crafts show, but most of my things I sell around here."

"The only part of weaving I don't like is having to tear up rags and sew them together," Kathy admits. "My children help me with the rags and they have also wound yarn for me. In fact, my two daughters have made rugs and both of them enjoy doing that. My son made a long hearth rug for the living room."

Kathy is trying to find a loom with at least four harnesses to buy for herself. "That way I can work at home, although I would still come to class. Annie can show me more things, and she also has a lot more patterns here at school than I could ever have at home." □

Winding the warp.



# Grogan has book published, three more currently underway

When the urge to write strikes Kay Grogan, she picks up her composition book, settles down in her favorite chair and scribbles away.

The wife of Burton Grogan, line crew supervisor in the Fieldale area of Roanoke Division, Kay apparently has a way with words. If you want proof, look for her new book, 'The Teacher's Pet,' on book dealers' shelves later this month or early September under the Carlton Press label. The book will be a hard back edition.

A complex story of people's lives as they revolve around a poor orphan girl, 'The Teacher's Pet' is, according to Robert G. Martin, executive vice president of Carlton Press, Inc., "a story of human love on different levels." He further states, "Mrs. Grogan has a penetrating eye and a sharp ear that enables her to keep the reader hanging on her words."

Kaye started writing over two years ago and 'The Teacher's Pet' is her second booklength story. The first, as yet unpublished, is entitled 'Prisoner of Silence'. "I changed the title when I re-edited the book," she says.

"I liked English in high school," the newly published author says of her attraction to writing. "Also, I love to read. I read constantly and anything I can get my hands on."

She wrote her first book in about six months. "I didn't work on it all the time, just when I felt like it, mostly on weekends," she says.

'The Teacher's Pet' was started three or four months after 'Prisoner of Silence' and was completed in six months.

Kaye says she creates her story as she goes, rather than starting out with a complete story idea. She bases her stories on real life incidents and people, taking bits and pieces as needed to weave a believable event or incident.

"The hardest part of writing," she says, "is trying to express what I feel inside in a way that other people can understand and where it will be interesting to them." As to the story line itself, "it's not too hard to come up

with one if you have a good imagination," she reports.

Kaye is halfway toward completion of a children's book entitled, 'Clubhouse on the Hill', and is already thinking about a fourth book, possibly a mystery entitled, 'Don't Blame the Butler'. But she is still trying to fully comprehend her latest accomplishment. "I keep asking myself if it's really real," she says.

But it is real. As Robert Martin put it, Kaye has a "knack of writing wholesome fiction in which likeable characters come to grips with life's problems. Speaking of 'The Teacher's

Pet', he stated, "there is a gentility and inspiring quality here. Mrs. Grogan has woven these memorable characters into a loom of plot with such skill that the resulting tapestry of events, people and circumstances unite to produce a story of suspense, love, hate, jealousy and intrigue that is hypnotic in effect. 'The Teacher's Pet' is a highly recommended work that will provide hours of satisfying entertainment for even the most discriminating literary palate'." □



Seated in her favorite chair, Kaye Grogan scribbles away on her next book.

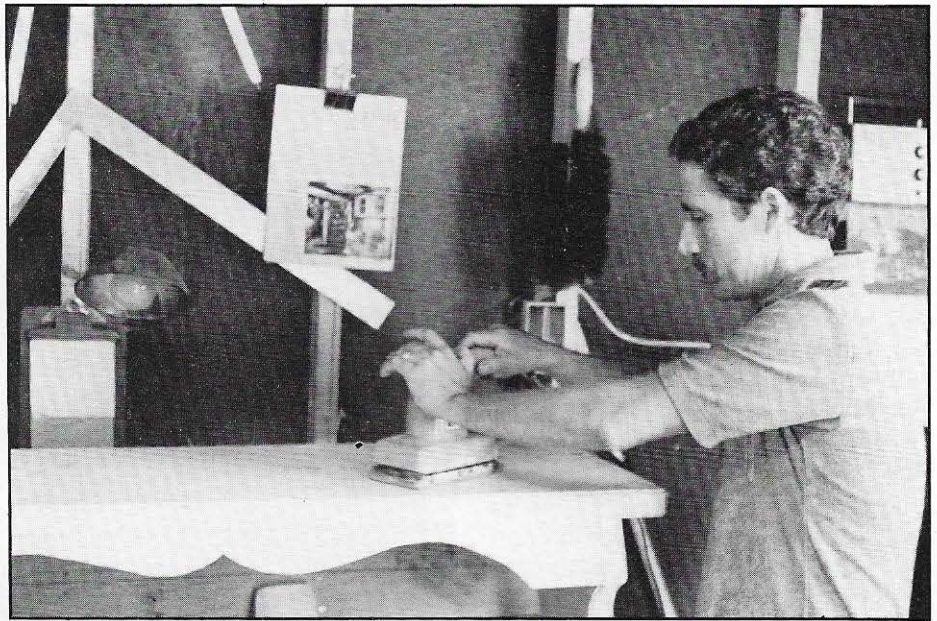
# Handcrafted by Willie O'Neil

"My wife and I had bought a few magazines at the drugstore, and I was looking through one of them and saw a picture of a long, narrow table that goes behind a couch. I said 'that's just as interesting as it can be. I believe I'll make that'," recalls Willie O'Neil.

A few years and 50 pieces of furniture later, Willie's talent for working with his hands has grown into a money-making hobby which takes up nearly all his spare time when he's off duty from his job as a maintenance mechanic A at Mountaineer Plant.

"I don't want to call it a business," Willie says. "It's just a hobby. I have to charge for what I make because of the expense involved, but my way of making a living is at the power plant. It just takes so long to make a piece of furniture that I couldn't make a living at it."

Two years ago Willie had a small building constructed in the backyard of his home, which he uses as his workshop. "I was going to panel the inside of the building and fix it up my-



Willie O'Neil works on a deacon's bench ordered by a co-worker at Mountaineer.

self, but I've never had a chance to touch the building," he notes. "I've just been too busy filling orders. When I have a long break, I set one day aside and don't do anything. The rest of the days I work here in the shop.

"My wife comes out here and sees all this furniture she likes, but it's going to be somebody else," Willie says with a laugh. "It is expensive to buy the lumber, so unless I have a place for the furniture to go to get the money back, I just don't make it." Several pieces of his furniture are scattered throughout his home, however.

Willie made his wood lathe, but he bought a saw, band saw and planer from the father of another Mountaineer employee. "His dad had stopped using this equipment, and I had the chance to get it. It's the best money I ever spent," he adds.

"I have never tried to work off a set of plans," Willie admits. "I work off of pictures and make changes to suit myself. For instance, one of the fellows I work with at the plant asked me to make a deacon's bench, and he wanted it built a little bit heavier than ordinary because of the place he was going to put it in his home. The design I came up with will be durable from now on.

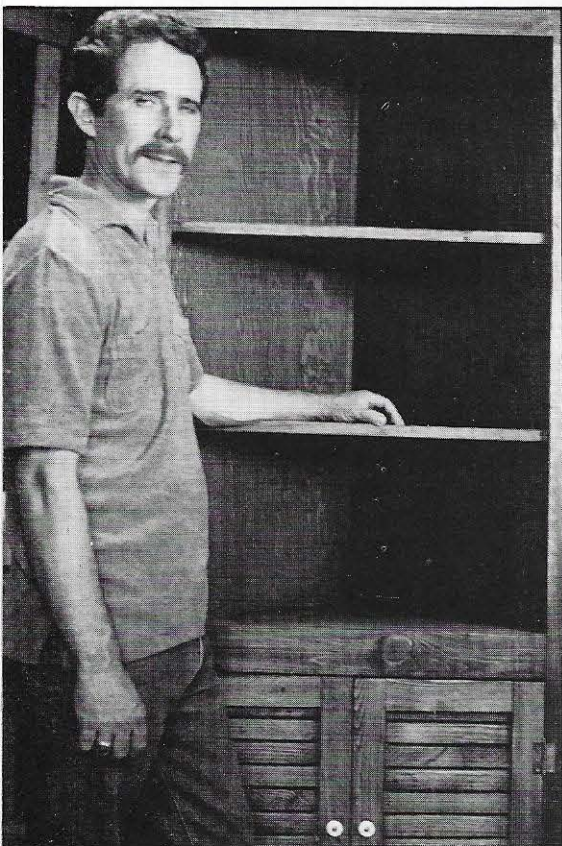
"I try to be honest with the people who buy from me. The furniture I

make is solid wood and it will last. Take this cupboard, for instance," he said, pointing to one area of the shop. "If you went downtown and bought it, the back would probably be made out of masonite or pressed board.

"I use pine wood because it is the easiest wood to work with. It is more accessible, cheaper, and finishes out good. Oak wood is so expensive that people couldn't afford to buy the furniture. You know," Willie confides, "I can go to a lumber yard and enjoy walking around in it like my wife does a department store.

"If you get to looking at furniture and studying how it is made it can be very interesting. I think there are so many things that can be learned from older people, who were really true craftsmen. As far as I am concerned, the furniture made by the early New Englanders is **the** furniture. I have tried to duplicate some of the things they did. Also, the plain people of the Shaker religion made some of the most beautiful furniture I have ever seen in my life. There was nothing fancy to it at all, but one piece served several purposes.

"I've gone to people's homes and seen the furniture I made for them and it makes me feel pretty good," Willie says. "I hope the furniture business lasts. I think it will." □



This corner cupboard is built of solid wood, as is all the furniture Willie makes.

Dave Williams has his hands full these days. Full of puppies, that is. But it won't be that way for long. Once he advertises the puppies, they're usually sold right away. "The longest it has ever taken me to sell a litter has been ten days," he notes.

An associate systems analyst in GO Accounting, Roanoke, Dave has been breeding basset hounds for five years. "I have always liked bassets and after we bought a house I got a male basset. Two months later I bought a female so that I could try breeding them." He has since added another female and may keep one from the two litters he has now.

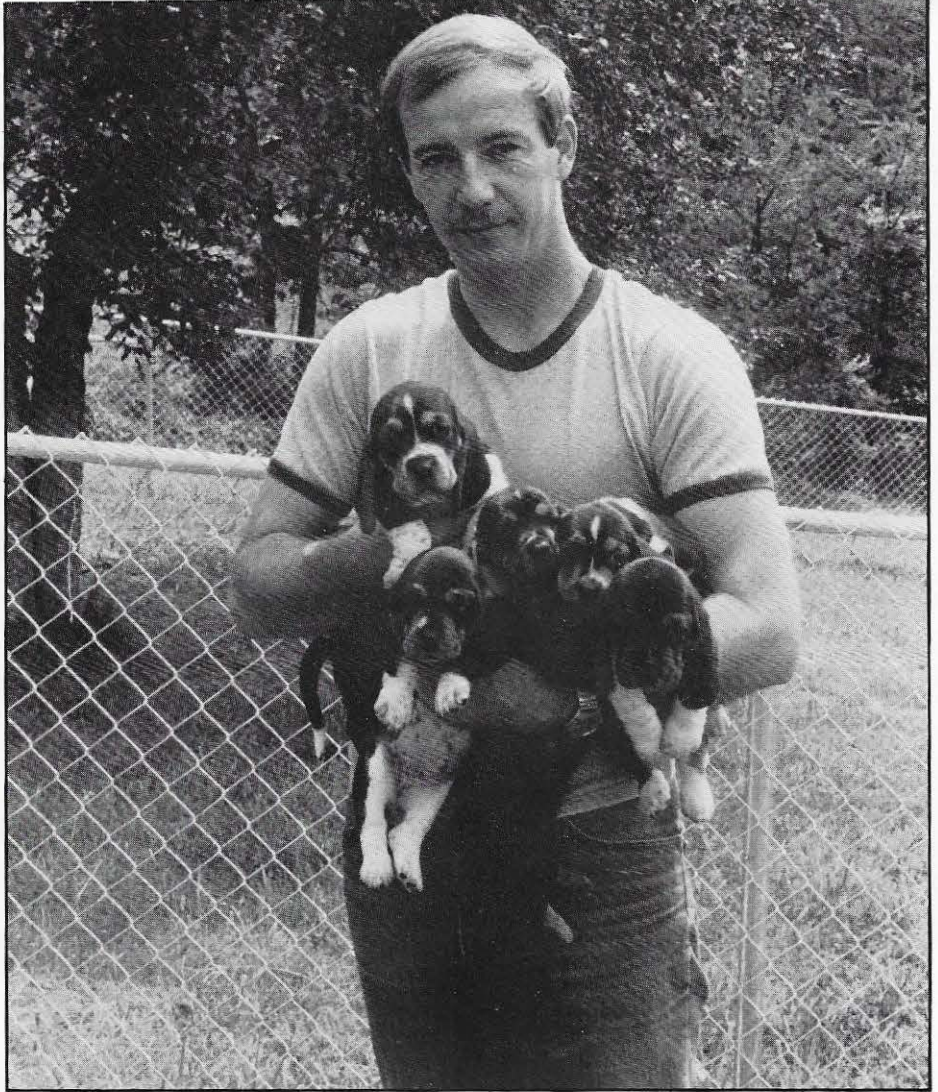
"I didn't really get into it for the money but more or less a hobby. In the long run it's really not that profitable. You do have expenses — vet bills from time to time and dogs can consume quite a bit of food over a month. I have a friend who is a butcher, and he gives me a lot of meat scraps. The dogs really like that."

Dave sells the puppies for \$100 each, a real bargain when you consider that a local pet store prices them at three times that much. Although Dave's puppies are registered with the American Kennel Club, he doesn't go to the expense of giving them shots or having them dewormed. "Most people prefer taking the puppies to their own vet anyway," he says, "and they don't mind driving a couple hundred miles to get a puppy at a bargain price."

When the puppies are ready for sale, he puts one ad in the Roanoke paper. From that one ad, he has gotten customers from Richmond, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Pulaski and Bluefield. "I have even had calls from North Carolina," he adds.

"I never promise a dog to anyone. I always say 'first come, first served' because I have gotten stuck once or twice by holding a dog. The dogs do their own selling. I've only had one person who came to look and didn't buy a dog. He was looking for a red one, and mine are black."

Dave continues, "Some people will drive in and make up their minds in five minutes. Then I've had people spend as much as two hours looking over the dogs before they finally pick one. I've had people come in a beatup car, with six or seven kids who barely have shoes on, but they will shell out that \$100 for a dog."



Dave Williams holds a few of the puppies he has for sale.

## Basset puppies are hard to resist

"One time a man wanted to buy one of my dogs, and he only had \$50. He told me he would be back the following week with the rest of the money, so I gave him the dog and held the papers. My wife was sure he wouldn't come back, but he did. I told her that a man may lie to his wife or about other things, but he won't lie about a dog."

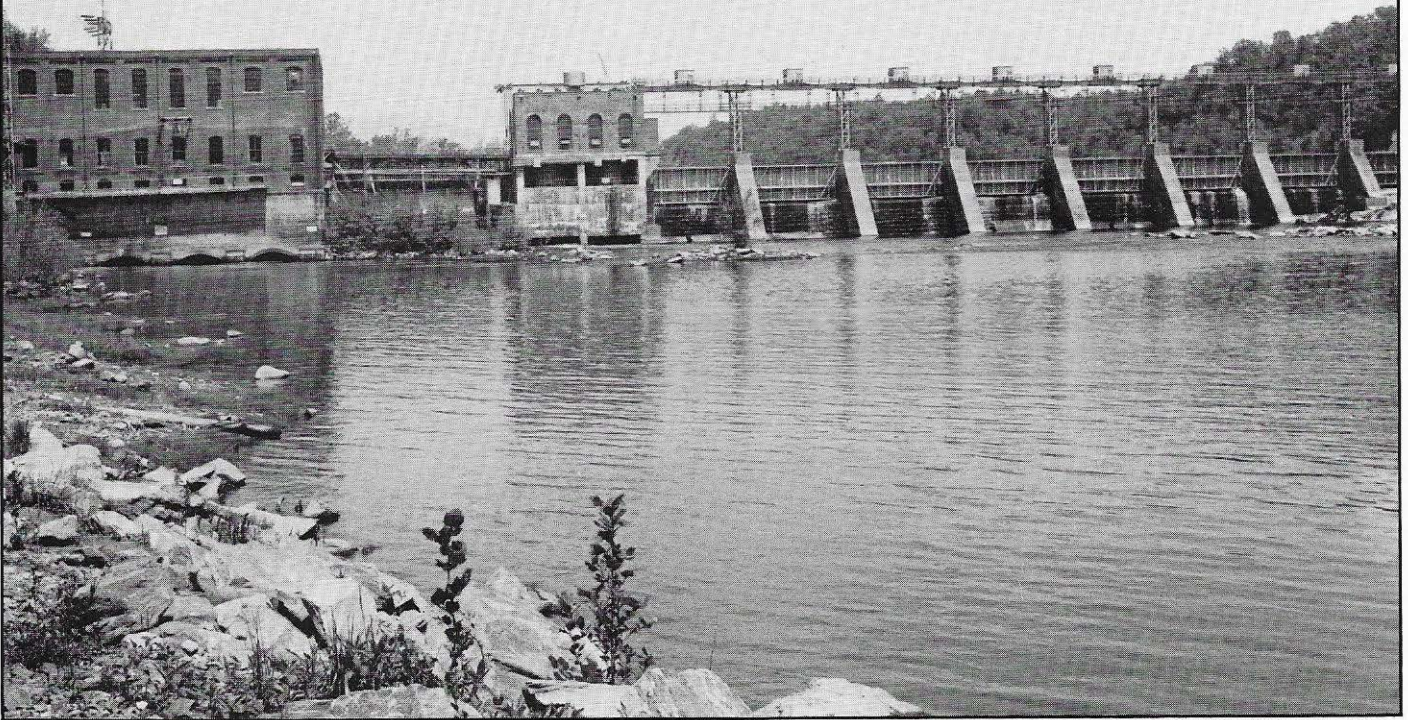
"Then there was one lady from Pulaski, whose husband had told her she could only get a male dog. The only one I had left was a female, and it had the saddest eyes you ever saw. I talked to that lady almost an hour. She was about ready to leave, when I said 'look behind you'. There sat that dog with those sad eyes, and she just couldn't resist. She said 'I'll take her. I'll worry about my husband later'."

"The main thing about the bassets is

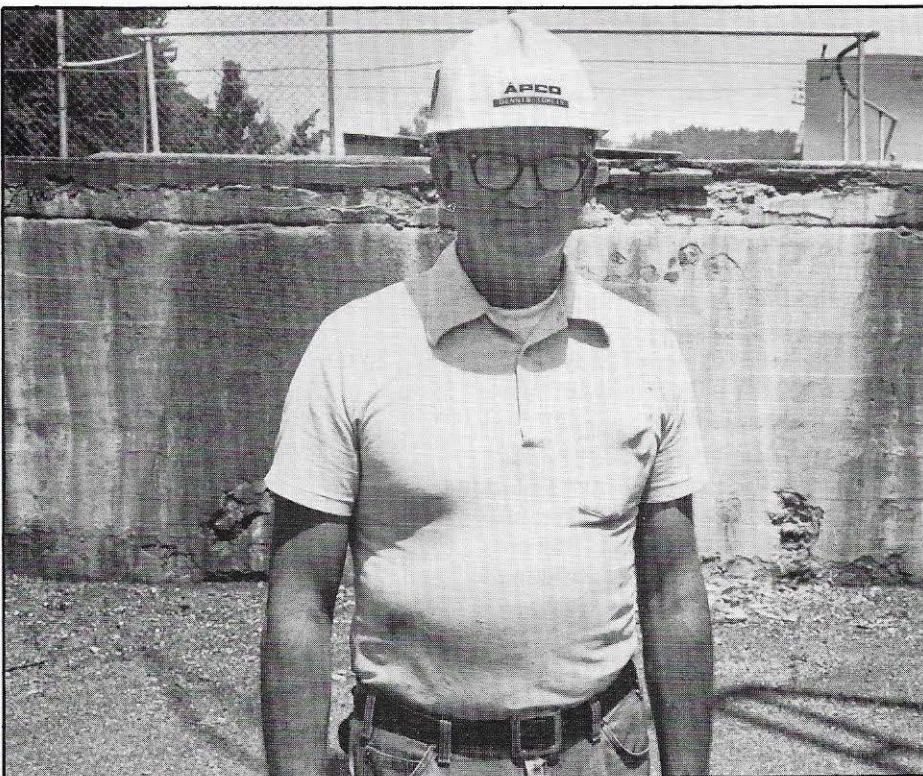
that they are such good pets, even with small children. And they make good watch dogs. Nothing comes around my house, including the road in front, that I don't know about. I've had maybe two customers who bought them for rabbit hunting or for breeding with beagles to make rabbit dogs, but most of them are sold for pets."

Is it hard to part with the dogs when they are old enough to sell? Dave admits that he does, indeed, become attached to them. "But I've told my wife and daughter that no matter how attached we are, the puppies are going. Each dog has its own personality. There are never two exactly alike. Out of every litter I always have one that is just a little bit different in color or unusual in some way." □

# If dams had service pins



Reusens Hydro on the James River in Lynchburg.



In the background, behind Lynchburg Station Crew Supervisor Dennis Tomlin, can be seen the sides of the original lock at Judith Dam.

(Third in a series)

In the early years of the 20th century, many towns seeking to enter the electric era looked to the energy in flowing water to generate electricity. Such was the case in Lynchburg and Roanoke, Virginia.

The stone structure supporting Reusens dam and hydro on the James River at Lynchburg dates from the 19th century era when East Coast cities vied for commercial links with the area west of the Appalachians.

In the third decade of the 1800s, Richmond was in competition with Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York for commerce.

As a result, the James River and Kanawha Company undertook a vast plan to join the James and Ohio Rivers in a great commercial artery consisting of canals, locks, dams, roads and railroads.

Judith Dam — Reusens' predecessor — was built prior to 1850 as part of the 200-mile-long system of naviga-

tion improvements between Richmond and Buchanan.

The system was never extended to Covington as planned, and the venture as a whole was never very successful. The Civil War dealt the final blow to the canal system, though rail competition would have done the same eventually.

Electricity gave new life to the Judith Dam when the Lynchburg Traction and Light Company started installing hydroelectric facilities (two 750-kw rope-driven generators) in 1903.

In 1913 a 1000-kw generator directly connected to a horizontal water wheel was added.

Twelve years later, two additional 1000-kw units were added in a second power house.

After Appalachian Electric Power Company acquired the Lynchburg Electric Company, Reusens was completely rebuilt and modernized. This project, completed in 1931, involved removing the top five feet of the original stone dam and adding flood gates. The result was that the dam's lake level was raised 10 feet.

The five 2500 kw generators installed in 1931 are still in service. And the remains of the old canal system are still evident in the caverns beneath the plant's parking lot.

"In a good hour we can generate 12 kw," said Dennis Tomlin, station crew supervisor. "Now, we are generating from about 7:30 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m." Routine maintenance at the plant is performed by the Lynchburg Station Section.

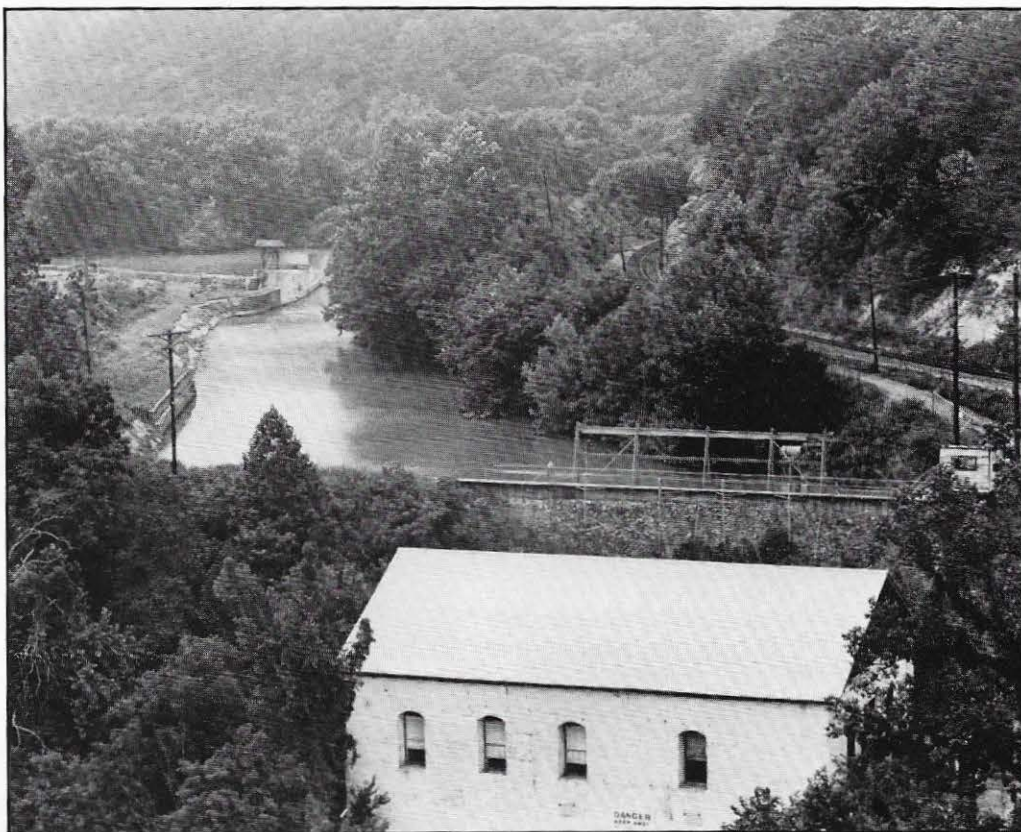
While the Judith Dam arose from commercial interests, the Niagara hydro on the Roanoke River just east of Roanoke grew out of competition in the early electric business.

Roanoke Water Power Company built Niagara in 1906, the same year that the older Roanoke Railway and Electric Company built the Walnut Avenue Steam Plant.

The original Niagara power house consisted of four units with a combined capacity of 2,500 horsepower. Power was generated at 11 kv and transmitted without transformers to Roanoke.

In 1923 the dam was raised four feet. A 600-foot-long canal or "race" channels water to the power house.

The generating equipment itself was essentially unchanged until 1954. At



The power house for the Niagara dam is in the foreground, while the dam itself is barely visible at far left.

that time more modern equipment consisting of two 1500 kw generators was installed.

Isolation is an appropriate word to describe Niagara's setting. It sits at the end of a long road that winds through the woods south of Vinton. Houses for employees who operated the hydro years ago have been gone for years.

Niagara is maintained by personnel in the Roanoke Division Station Section. Dennis Brumfield, station mechanic A, has been going to Niagara for quite a few years. He transferred from the old Logan Plant in 1961.

Brumfield recalls one experience that attests to the remoteness of the site. "One year when it snowed, the drifts were three feet deep. The coordinator told us the machines were kicking on and off, so we had to go down there. The problem was that we couldn't get through on the road. We ended up arranging a ride with the N&W. They took us on an engine and caboose. We called it the Hydro Special," he said.

Jesse Aird, Roanoke Division station supervisor, credits Brumfield with many of the improvements at Niagara. "Dennis has improved the

operating characteristics tremendously. We get maximum output from the units. Hydros require considerable mechanical ability, which Dennis has, as well as a genuine interest in the plant."

Niagara's two units require close attention, according to Brumfield. "They rotate at 277 rpm, which is real fast. That's the reason they have to be balanced so well," he said.

In the mid 1970s both units were re-wound and upgraded. Since then, the road has been improved, a new log boom has been installed, the power house has been painted and a lot of maintenance has been performed.

"We have upgraded Niagara to the point that it is not so labor-intensive anymore," Aird said.

Not only is Niagara unique for its size (at 3 mw it's APCo's smallest) but also for the fact that it is not operated by GO Operations like the other hydros. Instead, the units are automatically started and stopped by a float device in the small lake. □

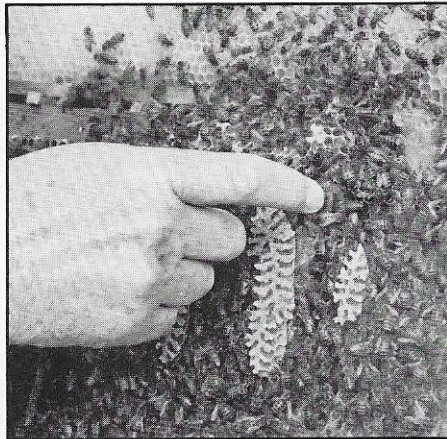
# A Honey Of A Business

"Everybody should have a hive of bees in their back yard," says Kingsport Right of Way Agent Al Pairgin. "Especially people with allergies. If they had a hive of bees, they wouldn't have allergies." Al speaks from experience, claiming to have "cured" many a child with a mixture of honey, pollen and propolis (bee glue)."

The facts concerning honey's medicinal qualities have been handed down from generation to generation, Al notes. "When you go to meetings of the beekeepers association, people come from all over the country and you learn different things."

Al has been "in bees all my life, but I started raising bees commercially in 1969. A man who lived out of state owned several hundred acres of apple orchards in the Shady Valley area of Tennessee. He didn't have any bees and needed some to pollinate his apple trees. The Tri-City Bee Association set out some hives in his apple orchard, and that's when I decided to go commercial. I could see the need and an opportunity for a good business."

Although Al claims not to know how many hives of bees he now has, his



Al points to a queen cell. The queen is the only perfect female in the colony and the true mother of it.

business has grown to the point where he requires one fulltime and several parttime employees. "It depends on the honey flow and how many people I need to move the trailers with the hives," he adds.

"A lot of people are scared of bees, but they shouldn't be. They are the only insects that have been domesticated. Why, if it weren't for the honey bees, we couldn't live because everything has to be pollinated."

Al buys his bees from a supplier in

Louisiana. "I buy them in five pound packages with a queen. There are hundreds of different kinds of bees, but I prefer Caucasians (gray) and Italians (yellow). These are the better working bees. I'm quite sure that in my time I have had one hive of killer bees. Ordinarily bees don't bother me, but the bees in this particular hive would come to meet me when I came in the bee yard. I usually don't even wear a veil when I'm working the bees, but with those I put on as much covering as I could.

"The strength of the hive is the queen," Al says. "During the first 10 to 20 days of her life, the queen mates on the wing. After the mating process is over, the drone dies. She can mate with from five to 15 drones on one, two or three separate flights. Within a few days the queen starts egg laying and from then on is very carefully looked after by the worker bees."

Al says that a hive at full strength contains approximately 280,000 bees. The average life of a queen is three to four years; for a drone, 22 days. In the summer, the average life of a worker is 38 days and in the winter, six months.

The worker bees are undeveloped females, and they do all the work that is done in the hive. They secrete the wax, build the comb, ventilate the hive, gather pollen for the young and honey for all, feed and rear the brood, and fight all the battles necessary to defend the colony. The male bees, or drones, are nothing but free loaders. They are fed by the nurse bees. "Commercial people have to go in and take the shell out," Al says, "because the nurse bees can feed a lot of honey to the drones.

"We get our bees in the spring of the year and try to get all of our hives at full strength. Each hive has to be worked every month to see if it has a productive queen. When the eggs are pearly white, we know she is a good, productive queen. If the bees get crowded, they swarm and that is something we don't like. We lose our field bees when they swarm. In order to keep the queen at home, we clip her right wing. Every month when we



Al Pairgin (left) and one of his employees inspecting some of the frames of bees.

check the hive, we look for that clipped queen. If the queen's production has fallen during that month, the bees may have killed her and made a new one. If so, then we have to clip the new queen's wing.

"In this part of the country, the nectar starts in May. If it is a good year in nectar, a bee will put in an average of 12 pounds of nectar (honey) per day. When they put the nectar in, it is 96 percent water. They cool and work it until it gets down to 22 percent water

"The first nectar we get is white dutch clover honey. Then we move the hives, which are on trailers, into tulip poplar country. After about three weeks, we move them to sourwood and linden tree country.

"Each kind of honey has a different flavor," Al says. "The sourwood and linden is the best flavor. It is low in dexter, and even diabetics who are not allowed sugar can eat this honey.

"People are always asking me when I rob the hives. As a matter of fact, you never rob the hives. The honey in the hive itself must remain there for the bees to use through the winter. Beekeepers place small structures known as 'supers' on the tops of the hives, and collect the honey which the bees manufacture on them."

Inside each hive are frames for the



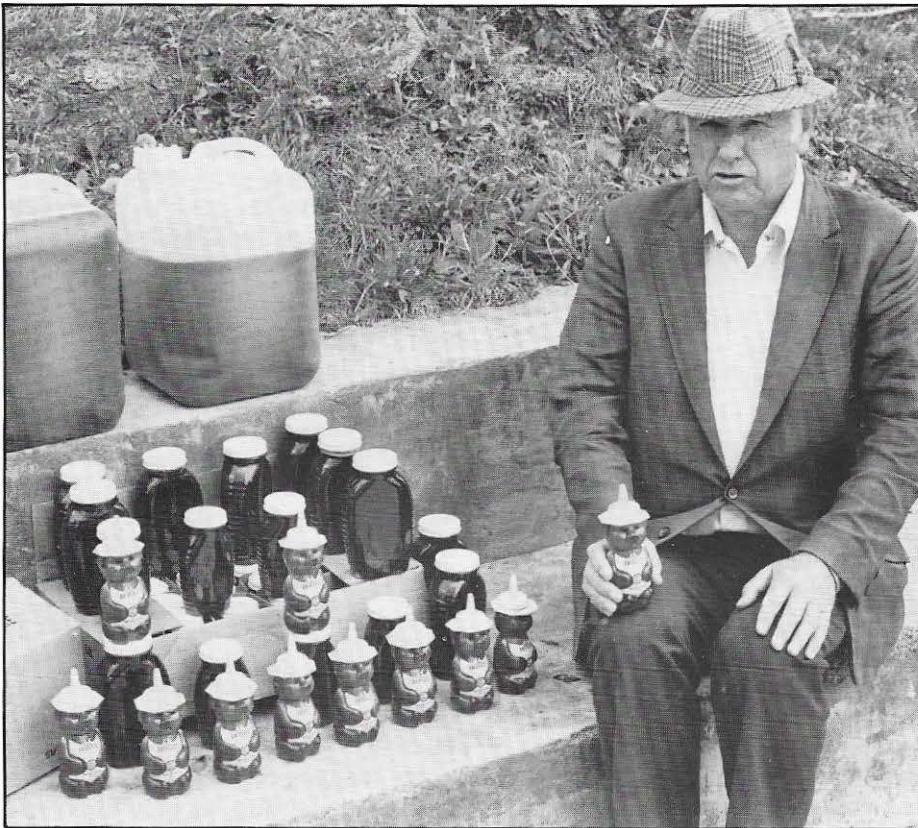
Al moves his bee hives from one location to another on working trailers such as this one.

bees to use in raising new bees and for forming the honey. The foundations of the frames are made of beeswax that has been molded, or indented, into cells which are the right size for young worker bees. The foundations are also wired to provide proper support for the honey which is formed.

Each super also has frames, but the bees rarely use supers to raise their young.

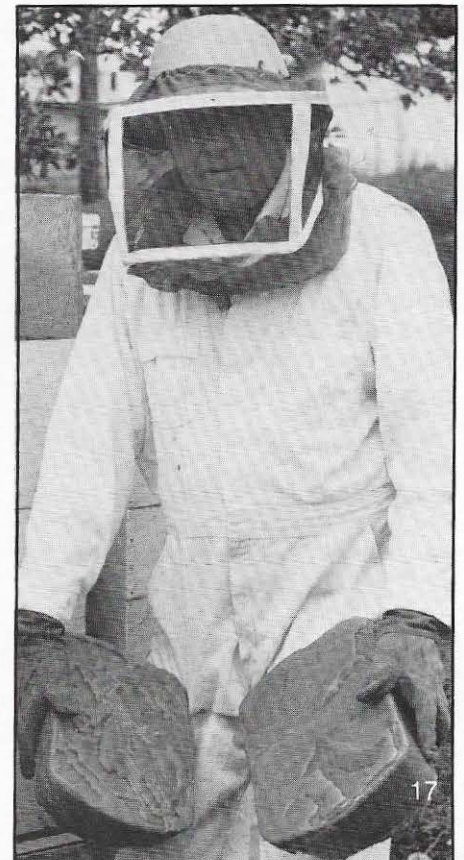
After the super of honey has been lifted from the hive, Al uses an electric knife to decap the combs on both sides and then places them in a 64-frame extractor.

"One year we produced more than 5,000 pounds of honey," Al says. "And we can sell all we get. Our tulip poplar honey is sold to food manufacturers under the label "Honey from the Cherokee National Forest." □



Al's honey is sold under the label "Honey from the Cherokee National Forest."

The molded beeswax shown here will be sent off to a manufacturer for producing readymade combs for use by the bees.



## Ted Abolin, vp-operations, ends career



Abolin

A 42-year AEP career containing "a lot of varied experiences" came to an end on August 1, when Theodore W. "Ted" Abolin retired as Appalachian's vice president of operations.

Admitting with a smile that those experiences included "some good, some not so good," Ted recounted the highlights of a career that began on August 19, 1940. Fresh from Purdue University at West Lafayette, Indiana, with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, Ted joined Indiana & Michigan Electric as an electrician B at the Twin Branch Plant.

"When I went to work, they were in

the process of bringing unit 3 into service," he relates. "I was involved in some of the relay checkout and general electrician work."

Ted's AEP service was temporarily interrupted by World War II while he served in the U.S. Navy. He summarizes his naval career with, "I went into the Navy as an ensign in 1942 and was released as a lieutenant when the war was over 39 months later."

Returning to Twin Branch as an electrical engineer, Ted worked in electrical maintenance until he transferred to Appalachian Power's Logan Plant on January 1, 1948, as a results engineer.

In October 1952, Ted moved to a new Appalachian assignment, one that he calls "among the most exciting periods in my career."

This assignment, as operations superintendent at the Kanawha River Plant, began during the construction of that plant. "I was involved in the start up of unit one which occurred in June 1953, and unit two which started up at the end of that year," Ted says. "It was very exciting to be involved in putting it all together, in checking out and making kilowatts. Starting up a unit is a real learning experience. In a six month period you get about five years' experience."

On April 1, 1959, Ted moved to the Glen Lyn Plant as plant manager and on January 1, 1962, he transferred to Central Operating Company's Philip Sporn Plant in the same capacity.

Ted's third plant manager assignment began on July 1, 1967, when he moved to the Clinch River Plant.

"In my career, I have been at two of the country's most efficient plants," Ted reports. "When I was at Kanawha River Plant in its early years, it was among the top plants in the country in terms of heat rate. Clinch River has over the years maintained a high standing among the nation's most efficient power plants."

"There are several reasons for Clinch's sustained record, I believe. It has the benefit of being the last of seven similar units to be put into service and, for the most part, it burns a pretty good quality of coal. But I think

there's another even more important reason," Ted explains.

"That reason is the interest that has been shown over the years by everyone at the plant, not just management, in maintaining equipment and in seeking ways to prevent deterioration of the heat rate. It seems to be passed along from person to person that the low heat rate is one of the reasons for our existence, that you not only make kilowatts as well as you can, but you make them as economically as you can," Ted says.

On April 1, 1981, Ted was promoted to the company's top operations position replacing retiring vice president Jack Kepner. Of his tenure as a vice president, Ted says, "the past 16 months in Roanoke have been like all the previous years — a learning experience. It was one I really didn't expect, but it has been great. I think that I've gained a great deal in the short time I've been here and I have a great deal of respect for the abilities and dedication of people in the general office."

When asked what he enjoyed most about his Appalachian career, Ted responds quickly, "my association with Appalachian people. Not only power plant people, but those in T&D, in the divisions, in GO and in AEP. For the most part they have all been knowledgeable and all pulling for the same goal — providing customers with reliable and economical energy."

When asked to what he owes his professional success, Ted laughs, "hard work and dedication." Turning serious, he says, "I think I owe a great deal to having taken advantage of the opportunities offered to me along the way. I think you grow as you move from job to job, acquiring more knowledge at each step. The opportunities are still here for those who want to take advantage of them."

Ted and his wife, Claire, will return to their home in Lebanon, Virginia, where he stays he's "going to relax, take it easy for awhile, and catch up on some work around the place."

Long range, however, Ted says he doesn't "intend to sit around on my duff." Among his plans during the

next couple of years is a slow journey to the western United States. "We've been around quite a bit, but we want to see what our own country looks like before we go exploring others." He admits that some traveling will be devoted to visits with his five children and two granddaughters.

"I plan to get active again with civic and service organizations," Ted says. He is a past president of the Lebanon Lions Club and a past zone chairman for the Lions Club in southwestern Virginia. Other past civic associations include the presidency of the Russell County Chamber of Commerce and treasurer of Southwestern Virginia Community College Board at Richlands. He has also served as president of the board of directors of the Russell County Medical Center.

But, proving his statement about not sitting around, Ted says he has still other plans. Among them is some backyard gardening, using some woodworking tools that have been gathering dust, finishing a television set he put together as part of his electronics hobby and, he says with his jaw firmly set, "improving my golf game, coming back to Roanoke and beating my 'friends.'" □

## Homer served customers as r/w agent, vet

Few folks at Appalachian are as well known in the areas they serve as Homer Bunn is known to hundreds of people who live in the Huntington Division.

Homer, who retired July 1, has been a right-of-way agent in that area for all of his 37 years at Appalachian. To the customers, however, he's been more than that. In the course of his duties with the company, Homer has provided veterinarian services to quite a few horses and cows owned by customers, helped wire the home of a customer who'd never seen an electric light before, and even helped to

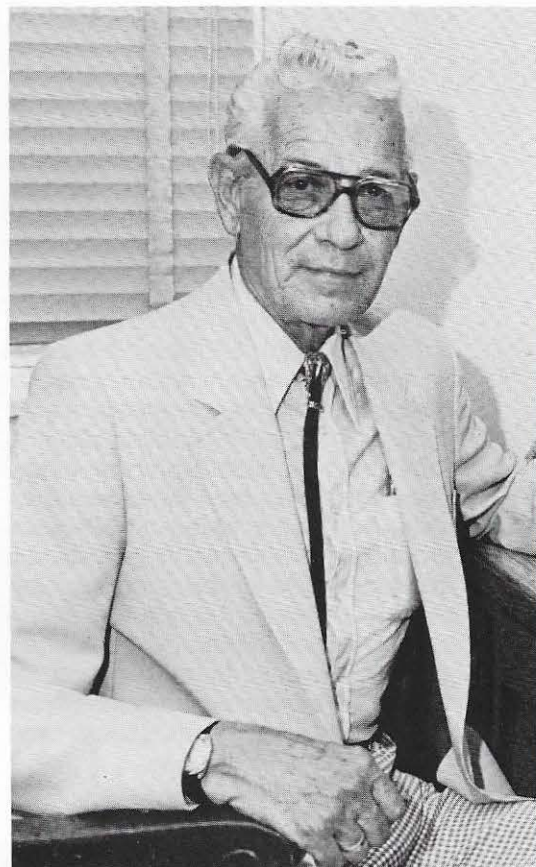
deliver a baby — which, incidently, the grateful customer named after him.

As right-of-way agent, Homer has dealt with thousands of landowners in the Huntington Division over the years, securing rights of way for transmission lines, stations and power plants. Before the company's reorganization, which drew the present division boundaries, Homer's duties also included the Logan-Williamson area and Kentucky Power's operating area.

One time, he and a co-worker volunteered to wire a customer's home. "It took me three weeks to convince them that the wires weren't artificial lightning and wouldn't harm them," he said, adding that two elderly brothers lived in the home. "But once they were convinced, they bought the materials and we wired the house up and brought a tie line into them. We put lights in the house, on the back porch and one on the swinging bridge, so they could come and go at night."

No one can converse with Homer for more than two or three minutes without recognizing his love for animals. "I guess you could call me a 'quack' veterinarian," he laughs. "I've doctored horses, cows, deer — all kinds of animals." There have been many occasions when Homer has treated a rural customer's farm animal when there wasn't time — or money — to call the veterinarian. "What do you do when a family's milk cow is dying giving birth and the people can't afford to call the vet? You roll up your sleeves and save it, that's what."

He was always busy when the circus came to town, too. "A lot of vets don't like to treat some of those bigger, more dangerous animals. They'd call me, give me the medicine, and I'd go." He was using penicillin to treat animals 20 years before it was available for humans, he says. One such occasion, Homer received a lion cub in payment for his services at a circus. He raised the cub until it reached 300 pounds and then gave it to Camden Park in Huntington for the little zoo there. He also captured deer and other native animals for the zoo.



Bunn

Hunters in the Wayne County area owe Homer and other Appalachian employees a debt of gratitude, too. In 1948, he and other members of the Appalachian Rod & Gun Club obtained a permit from the state to capture several deer at the French Creek game farm and release them in the Wayne County area. No deer had populated the area for 75 years. Today, thousands roam the hills. That organization and another conservation club in Wayne County also had a lot to do with setting hunting seasons and stocking fish.

Homer's biggest project for the company was purchasing the land for the Mountaineer plant. "We had to move 36 graves, and that involved contacting more than 300 next-of-kin," he explained. "Mr. Cook (Donald C. Cook, former AEP chairman) said that we should not only do it in a legal way but also in a manner in which I'd want my parents' graves moved if I were the one being contacted. He told us to spend what we had to spend, save what we could, but do it right so no

one would have any regrets." Homer and fellow agent Bob Wade donned black suits and personally visited all 300. Visiting one family took Bob to California, and Homer had to go to Florida to see another. When each grave was moved, one of them attended the reburial — "with flowers and a preacher," Homer added.

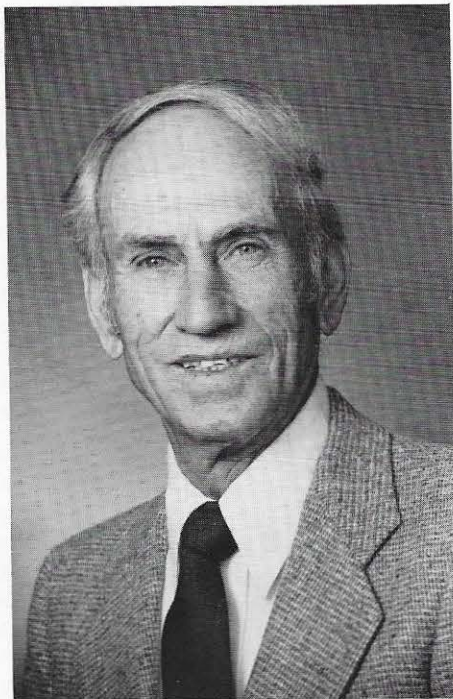
Homer's retirement plans are well suited for someone who has enjoyed his job so much and who is such an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. He and his wife, Mary, own a home in Minnesota on a 2,000-acre lake teeming with big walleye and pike. They've moved there for retirement, and Homer plans to work occasionally as a fisherman's guide and a taxidermist. He will be using a freeze-drying process to preserve the animals before mounting, he explained, and has made arrangements to test freeze-drying equipment produced by a local manufacturer with the animals he preserves.

And what will he do in his spare time? "I've made arrangements to do consulting work in real estate and right-of-way matters for Crow Wing Light and Power, the local electricity cooperative," he explains. It's the ideal retirement for someone who's been doing what he likes to do for all this time.

"You know," he adds almost as an afterthought, "Appalachian has been a good company. I've never missed a payday and never worried about unemployment. I think we're better off than most people who work somewhere else. The people in the public have been good to work with. I don't know of one person I've dealt with who would hesitate to deal with me again. And the people here? All I can say is that I've been with them longer than I was with my brothers and sisters at home, and that makes it hard to leave."

"It's kind of funny. A guy works almost 40 years toward retirement, and then when the time comes it's hard to leave." □

## Bud trades APCo job for life on farm



Ryan

"In 45 years you meet a lot of fine people — not only your fellow employees but your customers, too," says C.R. "Bud" Ryan. Although Bud joined the company as a groundman in Pulaski, most of his career was spent working directly with customers.

"My first job in 1937 was working with the extra line gangs as a groundman. We would go into all the areas of the old Pulaski District, working a week in Galax, a week in Christiansburg, and so on." He was made a rural solicitor in 1941, and worked at rural line expansion until called into military service in late 1942. "Fortunately, I was able to remain in the rural department when I returned from service (he spent three years in the Army Air Corps, mostly in the European Theatre)."

"I look on my years in the Rural Department as a most pleasant time with the company, I guess for the simple reason we were doing something for a lot of people by building lines to bring

electricity to their homes. After the lines were built, we loaded them up during the sales period that followed."

In later years, as Bluefield Division service coordinator, Bud helped solve customers' heat pump problems. In 1980 he was named customer services representative senior, the position from which he retired on August 1.

Bud's wife Elizabeth is a former employee in the Wytheville office and their family consists of two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren. He says, "We are going back to Wythe County with plans to upgrade our farmstead. We just recently put in a fishpond and it is well stocked. We want to travel a bit and play some golf, too, if I find the time."

Bud concludes, "I suppose you are advised by a lot of people to prepare yourself for retirement, but that you never do. I'm going to miss the daily contact with fellow employees."

## Chester joins father as an APCo retiree

When Chester L. Robison, Jr., joined the rank of Appalachian retirees on August 1, he followed in the footsteps of his dad — just as he had 42 years ago when he was first employed. Chester, Jr., retired as supervising circuit breaker engineer in GO T&D Engineering, Roanoke. Chester, Sr., was tax and statistical supervisor in System Accounting, Roanoke, when he left in 1964.

Chester recalls, "This company was drilled into me from the time I was a toddler. It was always my desire to work for Appalachian, and I went to school with that in mind. After two years of pre-engineering at Roanoke College, I hired in with the original System Operating Department headquartered in Charleston, West Virginia. Gould Ellis and Mac McCormick were the superintendent and assistant, respectively, at that time. Gould

handled the physical or station part while Mac concerned himself with the operations part.

"I hired in with the original transformer maintenance crew, and my first job was at the Reusens Hydro in Lynchburg. I stayed there for about three weeks, then spent the rest of the summer at Beaver Creek, Kentucky, and at the Glen Lyn Plant, overhauling 138 kv power transformers. In late summer I experienced my first flood work. The lower levels of the old Walnut Avenue Steam Plant in Roanoke were filled with water. After it receded, we were sent in to dry out the equipment. Some equipment we cleaned and dried in place; other pieces were dismantled and taken to the Roanoke 138 kv station for drying. Some parts, like breaker bushings, I had to take to Turner Station in West Virginia, where there was a drying oven large enough to handle bushings. Little did I know that a month or so later I would be transferred out of the transformer crew to Turner Station as a hydro operator by supervisory control for Winfield Hydro.

"In the months I was on the supervisory control, I visited Winfield once and actually saw what I had been doing for so long by pushing buttons to control the generators and the river flow for the locks in the dam.

"I met my future wife while I was working at Turner Station. Two weeks before we were to be married, I was transferred to the traveling circuit breaker crew under Jim Hastie. He became my guide, trainer and good friend. As a three-man crew, Jim, Ben Hoffman and I covered a lot of territory in a Chevrolet sedan loaded with tools and test equipment. It was an experience just to pack and unpack the trunk of the car on every job.

"I was exempted for serving in the war for a long time due to my work, but in 1946 I was inducted into the Navy Reserve and served almost two years both at home and in the Atlantic. I was fortunate to be able to go to service school in Gulfport, Mississippi, before I was eventually attached to a submarine chaser on the Eastern Sea Frontier. That was an experience worth a million dollars, and I still think



Robison

the military is the best way for a man to mature. The Navy could have been a career for me, but I had a wife and two children so I decided coming back to Uncle App was the thing to do. Needless to say, coming back was the right choice. Uncle App has taken care of me all the way.

"I spent 19 years working in and out of Charleston before I was made supervising circuit breaker engineer in 1958 and moved to Roanoke. My job has always required a certain amount of traveling. That helped me to meet and make friends with a lot of other system employees. You would never want to meet a finer group of people to work with in all kinds of circumstances and under all kinds of conditions. In addition, my work involved me with other associated contractors, manufacturers and power companies."

Chester continues, "In the earlier history of circuit breakers, we had all oil breakers and most of ours were

made or purchased from General Electric. Now we have oil, gas, air and vacuum breakers purchased from a number of manufacturers, both domestic and foreign. We have progressed from 138 kv to 345 kv and 765 kv breakers just in my working span. The sizes and work involved almost blow your imagination. Some of the legal technical problems also create responsibilities that have to be resolved or made workable.

"I participated in one that even required an exemption to the state pressure vessel act. With others working at the legislative level, we were able to have an amendment to the act passed, that permitted us to exempt our circuit breakers with pressure vessels located in substations. That was my high spot while I was here because it saved the company thousands and thousands of dollars. We represented all the utilities in the state when this came about.

"With all of the miles traveled over the years, I am very proud of the fact that I never had an automobile accident while I was driving. I was with others who were not quite so fortunate. Also, I never had a disabling injury although I had some close calls."

Chester says he will "miss the people and the atmosphere of my work. However, I plan to become involved in hospital volunteer work, play more golf, and spend some time in Florida during the winters. My wife of 41 years is not ready to retire, she says, so I'll have to keep out of her way. I'm in good health and that is one of the reasons for my early retirement — so I can adapt to something different and, hopefully, fulfilling."

Chester has been a member of the Appalachian Chorus for eight years and plans to continue with this activity. At Highland Park United Methodist Church, he is a Chancel Choir member, on the board of trustees, and a Sunday school teacher. He and his wife have three children and 11 grandchildren. □

## Kirby took pride in his work



Kirby

Whether it was scrubbing and waxing floors or checking supplies in the first aid room, Philip Sporn's Lenford Russell Kirby took his work seriously. "I've always said that if I can't do the job right, I'm not going to do it at all," Kirby confides.

"When I was hired, I had a choice of working in the coal sampling room or as a janitor." He hasn't regretted his decision. "I have really enjoyed the work, and I like all the people who work here," he says.

Prior to his employment at Sporn in 1969, Kirby worked 23 years for the West Virginia State Highway Department and four years as a mechanic for Rawlings Motor Company in Middleport, Ohio. The latter occupation is one he plans to pursue following his August 1 retirement. "I built a garage at home where I can tinker on vehicles," Kirby says.

He doesn't plan to let his mechanic work tie him down, however. "My wife Anna Mae and I enjoy going traveling. Whenever I was off on a long break, we would always go somewhere. And we expect to do even more running when I retire. My wife was born in Illinois, and she would like to go back out there again. We also have relatives in Ohio and Michigan to visit."

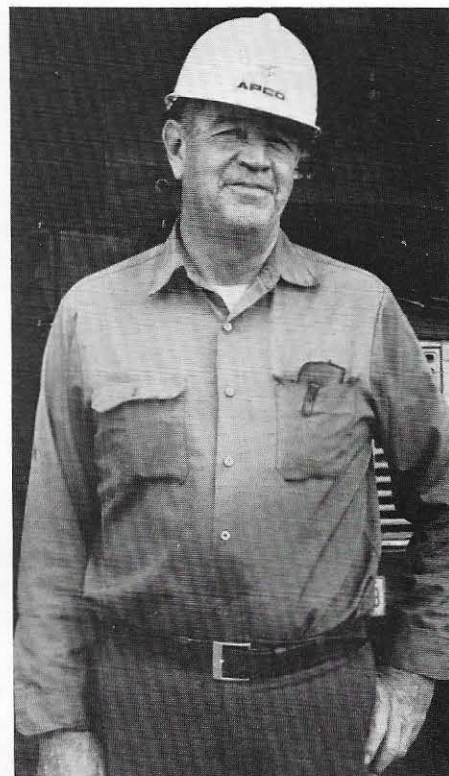
Kirby plans to continue living in New Haven, West Virginia, close by his daughter, son-in-law and grandchild. □

## Jack looks forward to leisurely life

Roanoke Line Crew Supervisor Jack Adams looks forward to a life of leisure following his early retirement August 1. "I plan on doing nothing," he says with a laugh. As an apartment dweller, he won't have to worry about home maintenance, but "my two girls have some jobs lined up for me. One of them lives here in Roanoke and the other one in Winchester, Va. I guess I'll be just like an old fire horse. If somebody rings the bell, I'll be ready to go."

Jack recalls that he "nearly worried Bob Hurt (former personnel supervisor) and Paul Bailey (former line supervisor) to death about coming to work for Appalachian. I had worked a few odd jobs after returning from three year's service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and I was looking for steady employment."

He continues, "Back then you had two options — come in as a laborer or groundman. I hired in as a laborer in March of '47. In those days we dug holes and set poles by hand so I've had my share of the hard labor. The most outstanding thing that has happened is the change in work methods. We went from doing everything by hand to where now the biggest part of the work is done by machinery. Today a three-man crew can work faster and



Adams

safer than a six-man crew could in the old days."

Jack is proud of the fact that during his more than 35 years with the company he never had a lost time accident. He adds, "We have a good bunch of men, and I know I will miss the men I worked with. But I won't miss the work, that's for sure."

This fall Jack and his wife Mary hope to head south to spend some time in Florida. □

# No compromise in safety at Zimmer

"There will be no compromise in safety" at the William H. Zimmer Nuclear Plant," the president of The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last month.

William H. Dickhoner, CG&E president, said the company is dedicated to building a safe nuclear power plant. "We owe that to the citizens of the communities we serve, the shareholders and employees of the three companies who own Zimmer, as well as the nuclear community at large." Mr. Dickhoner told the commissioners.

The 800,000-kilowatt plant, construction of which is now about 95 percent completed, is owned jointly by three Ohio utilities: CG&E - 40 percent, The Dayton Power and Light Company - 31.5 percent, and the AEP System's Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company - 28.5 percent.

The meeting with the NRC had been requested by CG&E. "We are pleased to have this opportunity to relate to the commission the positive steps CG&E has taken over the past year to improve its quality assurance program," Dickhoner said, "and to confirm the quality of the construction that has been previously performed. The top management of the company is directly involved with quality matters and is directly overseeing the many improvements and corrective actions that I will discuss."

He outlined steps that CG&E has taken to improve quality assurance at the plant. "A quality confirmation program was designed to systematically assess those aspects of construction which (NRC) Region III believed to be susceptible to deviations from quality requirements as a result of the weaknesses identified in the quality system prior to April 1981," he said.

"The NRC staff concurred in the approach and content of our program and is closely reviewing its results with the company's personnel," Dickhoner noted. The program addresses all 11 areas of concern over past quality assurance activities which were identified by the NRC, he said. The entire confirmation program effort is currently 66% complete, he reported.

Dickhoner emphasized his belief that

a third party audit of the quality assurance program is unnecessary. "Region III is sufficiently aware of the particular aspects requiring in-depth review that another independent audit would be superfluous at best," he said. "Another audit would be non-productive, time consuming, and would add to the cost of the project without providing any additional assurance of the quality of the plant's construction."

"We fully recognize that in the past there have been inadequacies in the quality control and inspection pro-

grams," he concluded. "We firmly believe these problems are behind us. We have committed to a comprehensive confirmatory program which will assure that the quality of workmanship already completed meets the high standards required of a nuclear plant."

"You have my personal assurance, as president of CG&E, that the company will continue to cooperate with the NRC in present and any future corrective programs to provide complete confidence to the public as to the safety of Zimmer." □

## Analysis of NRC opinion

On June 21, the Atomic Safety & Licensing Board of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a 97-page opinion dealing with a series of contentions and allegations involving the Zimmer Plant.

Most news accounts interpreted the opinion as a denial of an operating license for the plant. Here is what an analysis of the 97 pages shows:

The Board dismissed all of the contentions raised by intervenors except those dealing with emergency planning issues. The Board found in favor of the plant owner on the doubts raised by Edwin Hofstadter about cable tray welds and welder qualifications, and by former millwright Thomas Martin on control rod blades and seals. The Board also dismissed concerns about fire insulation materials for electrical cables.

On emergency planning issues, the Board was satisfied with the monitoring of farm products, the evacuation time study, and the use of standard operating procedures in case of an emergency by Kentucky and Campbell County officials. It notes that the plant's operators have little if any direct control over emergency plans, and places most of the blame for shortcomings in satisfying the Board on emergency planning contentions on the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Administration.

Because Cincinnati Gas & Electric and NRC witnesses were not in a position to address many of the issues in detail, the Board said it relied on state and local officials and intervenor witnesses in coming to its decision. FEMA, the Board points out, has not done its final findings on the emergency plan contentions.

The emergency planning matters on which CG&E must satisfy the NRC staff before receiving a license to operate at more than 5% of full power are conducting a survey of volunteers in the area; maintaining lists and conducting surveys of transportation-dependent disabled individuals in Clermont County; providing a repeater station and three radio stations in Clermont County; revising the "Circle of Safety" booklet to include services available at relocation centers; and adding additional evacuation routes to the evacuation route maps.

Finally, before an operating license is granted, the Board insists that FEMA complete its findings on contentions about the emergency plans and the NRC staff must file a supplement to the Safety Evaluation Report regarding those findings. Then all parties must have a chance to assess the impact of the findings on the contentions and the initial decision. □

# WHO'S NEWS

## Beckley



**Latonya**, daughter of Vern Wooten, stores attendant senior, was one of 13 Raleigh County High School juniors selected to attend Rhododendron Girls' State. She is also president of the Youth

Society of Beckley Masonic Lodge #27.

**Cheryl**, daughter of Larry Lilly, station mechanic A, was selected as a varsity cheerleader at Shady Spring Junior High.

**Julie**, daughter of Sandy Palen, customer services representative, was selected as a varsity cheerleader at Park Junior High.

**Tom Rotenberry**, division manager, was appointed vice chairman of the new Raleigh County Recreation Authority.

**Ed Steffy**, parttime meter reader and Beckley city fireman, was named to the administrative board of the West Virginia Professional Firefighters Association.

**Jeff**, son of Ray Vest, administrative assistant, was awarded the scholastic trophy for maintaining a 4.0 grade average throughout the seventh grade at Shady Spring Junior High. □

## Bluefield

**John Vermillion**, retired meter superintendent, was installed as worthy patron of the Bluefield Chapter 66, Order of the Eastern Star.

**Hank Goforth**, right of way agent senior, was installed as second vice president of the Bluefield Lions Club.

**Bob Edwards**, engineering technician, was elected senior deacon of the Princeton Masonic Lodge 134 A. F. & A. M.

**Donna DeBellis** and **Floris Houston** were installed as internal vice president and director, respectively, of the Greater Bluefield Jaycee-ettes. Don-

na is the wife of Fran DeBellis, electrical engineer senior, and Floris is the wife of Larry Houston, GO T&D communications technologist. **Fran DeBellis** was installed as a director of the Greater Bluefield Jaycees.

**Nancy**, wife of Basil Vassar, customer services representative senior, was installed as secretary of the North Tazewell Lioness Club.

**Lois Rounion**, retired secretary-stenographer, was installed as parliamentary advisor of the Bluefield Chapter, Professional Secretaries International.

**Hazel**, wife of Okey Glover, retired station mechanic A, was installed as senior regent of Princeton Chapter 355, Women of the Moose. □

## Lynchburg

**Glenn**, son of Retired Collector George Gillette, was part of a youth mission team from the Church of God of Prophecy which spent two weeks in Antigua this summer.

**J. Robert Davenport**, division manager, was appointed by the Lynchburg City Council to serve on the board of the Lynchburg Industrial Development Authority for a four-year term. □

## Central Machine Shop

**Misty**, daughter of Irma Tinsley, junior clerk, was awarded perfect attendance, writing, spelling, mathematics and reading certificates. She will be a third grader at Mary Ingles School this fall.

Winners of the children's coloring contest at the annual employees picnic were: **Brian**, son of Marvin Pence, machinist 1st class, ages 10-12; **Vicki**, daughter of Loren Price, semi-tractor trailer driver, ages 7-9; **Mandy**, daughter of Dwight Martin, machinist 2nd class, ages 4-6; and **Cassie**, daughter of Tom Waldorf, stores/transportation supervisor, ages 0-3. Each winner received a \$5.00 cash prize. □



The Screwballs won first place in the Huntington Division Bowling League. Showing off their trophies are team members (l. to r.) Robert Morrison, engineering technician senior; Retiree Joseph Kovich; Flo, wife of Homer Smith; Homer Smith, service supervisor and team captain; and Chapman Rutledge, line mechanic A. Not pictured is team member Charles Botts, head T&D clerk. The Raiders captured second place in the league.

## Charleston

Amy Perry won first place in the arts and crafts division of the Church of the Nazarene annual talent show for her display of Noah's Ark. Yvonne Perry was elected 1982 spring festival queen of the Elk Valley Christian High School. They are the daughters of James Perry, line mechanic A. Cal Carlini, division manager, was elected a director on the West Virginia State College Foundation Board. The Foundation is responsible for developing programs and raising scholarship funds for deserving students.

Donald Griffith scored 4 out of a possible 5 points to capture the \$300 first prize in the first McRoberts-Hopson Memorial Chess Tournament held at Virginia Western Community College. Two chess masters and eight experts competed in the event. Donald is the son of Bob Griffith, division superintendent.

Lloyd Pomykata, customer services manager, was elected to the board of directors of the Junior Achievement of Kanawha Valley. □

## Roanoke

Connie, wife of George Bronson, engineering technologist supervisor, was elected "mother of the year" in the under 50 category at the Williamson Road Church of God. She is also president of the Ladies Auxiliary. George was elected by his denomination as Sunday School superintendent of the year for the Virginia Churches of God.

KiKi and Hugo, daughter and son of Nell Hughes, Fieldale customer accounts representative C, won several athletic honors recently. In the Ridgeway Lions Club Field Day, KiKi won first place in standing broad jump and second place in running broad jump. Hugo won first place in soccer kick, second place in running broad jump and 50-yard dash, and third place in softball throw. At the South Martinsville Elementary School's Field Day, KiKi won second place in the three-legged race and Hugo won first place in the sack race.

A.R. Casey, Rocky Mount meter service mechanic A, bowled on team 8 which won first prize of \$1,000 in Roanoke Valley's Vinton Classic League. His daughter Jamilia won the basketball championship for the Franklin County Recreation Department.

Dreama, daughter of Silas Plybon, Rocky Mount line mechanic A, was one of 30 Wheaton College students selected to serve on a short term mission this summer with the college's student missionary project. She will work with missionaries of the Asia Theological Association in Taiwan. □

## Kingsport

Misty, daughter of Billy Pyle, line mechanic A, was presented the girls' citizenship award by her first grade class at Gravelly Elementary School. She also won first place in the girls' 50-yard dash and second place in the rope jumping competition during field day.

Angie, daughter of Leta Dingus, customer accounts clerk B, received certificates for having an overall "B" average during the past school year and for participating in basketball, track and the softball "accuracy throw." She is a student at Ketron Middle School. □

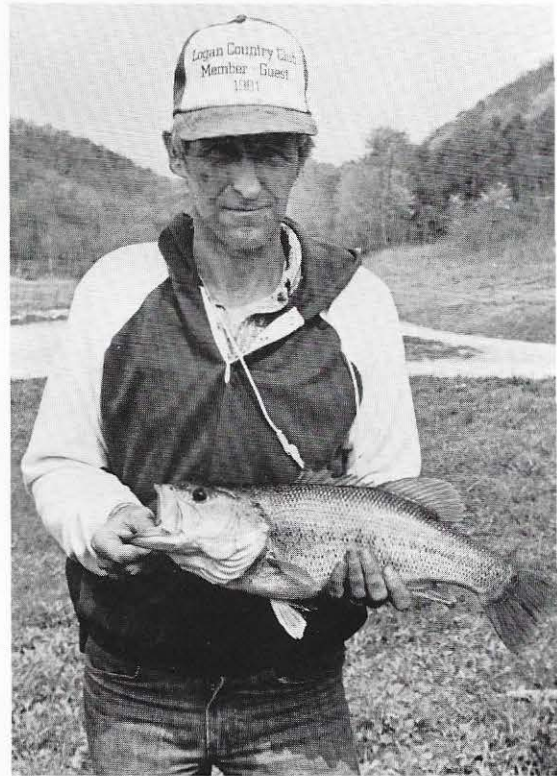
## Huntington

Wimpy Wickline, Point Pleasant customer service representative, was re-elected finance officer of American Legion Post 23.

Several employees were recognized at the Huntington Jaycees awards banquet. Joe Haynes, administrative assistant, was presented the William J. Healy, Jr., memorial award as the most outstanding Jaycee. Elvin Epting, electrical engineer senior, and Jeff Weddle, power engineer, received outstanding Jaycee awards.

Two employees' children appeared in "Finian's Rainbow," the first play in Huntington's River Cities Summer Series in Ritter Park Amphitheatre. Stephen, 7-year-old son of Ed Hornbuckle, line mechanic A, appeared as

Henry. Christina, 19-year-old daughter of Clarence Brown, automotive mechanic A, portrayed the sharecropper. □



Power Engineer Mark Lynch won the third annual Huntington Division Bass Fishing Tournament with this 4½ lb. catch. Claude Woods, engineering technician, reeled in a 42-inch muskie for the largest game fish. Gary Holbrook, garage supervisor, caught the most panfish (crappie). There were 22 participants in the tournament, held this year at Cave Run Lake in Morehead, Kentucky.

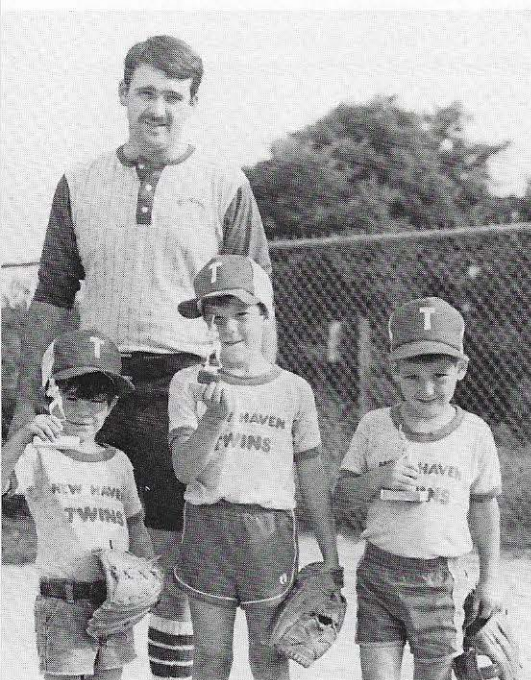
## Pulaski

Larrie Bucklen, Wytheville customer services representative senior, was appointed chairman of the Wytheville Rotary Club's vocational services committee and 4-way test committee.

Louise, wife of Retiree Charlie Settle, was named to the Governor's Advisory Board on Aging.

Stephen Mark, son of S.R. Collins, Hillsville meter reader, graduated from Carroll County High School.

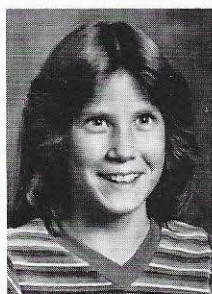
Annette, daughter of Mickey Gibson, Wytheville line mechanic A, was co-recipient of the Wytheville Community College outstanding student of the year award. □



Children of three Mountaineer employees placed second in the New Haven Tee Ball Tournament. They are (l. to r.) Michael, son of Bruce Adams, stores attendant; Phillip, son of Charlie Williams, performance supervising engineer; and Joey, son of Carl Scaggs, assistant yard superintendent. Carl Scaggs (standing) was coach of the New Haven Twins team.

## General Office

Harriet Pearson received several awards as a first grade student at Westside Elementary in Roanoke: merit award as classroom champion in the math facts contest; certificate of achievement in basic math facts and certificate of merit in handwriting. She is the daughter of Damon Pearson, express driver, GO General Services, Roanoke.



Cindy, daughter of Evelyn Scott, personnel clerk C, GO Personnel, Roanoke, has been named a 1982 United States National Award winner in science. She is a

student at William Byrd Intermediate School.

Bess, wife of Butch Rhodes, assistant personnel director, GO Personnel,

Roanoke, was elected president of the Shenandoah Chapter of the American Business Women's Association for 1982-83.

Lorena Terry, personnel assistant senior; Kathleen Martin, junior stenographer; and Rhonda Carter, personnel clerk A, all of GO Personnel, Roanoke, worked in the 1982 Miss Virginia Pageant held last month in Roanoke. They worked as backstage hostesses, helping the contestants prepare for each event.

Larry Gearhart, administrative assistant, GO Executive, Roanoke, coached the East Salem Little League tee-ball team to the league championship with an 18-1 record. He also coached the winning team in the all-star game. Larry's son Chad played on both winning teams. □

## Epting earns PE status



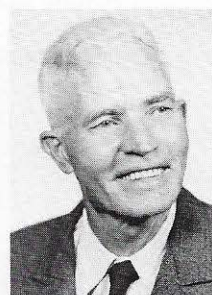
Elvin Epting, Huntington electrical engineer senior, has been certified as a registered professional engineer in the State of West Virginia.

Epting, who holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Penn State, began his career with Appalachian in 1976 as an electrical engineer. □

## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS



Richardson



Buckland



Henderson

Curtis Eugene "Rich" Richardson, 68, retired Roanoke engineer B, died June 25. A native of Appomattox County, Virginia, he was employed in 1941 as a draftsman and elected early retirement October 1, 1976. Richardson is survived by his widow Gertrude, Route 1, Box 86, Pamplin, Va.

Neal A. Buckland, 87, retired Glen Lyn Plant auxiliary equipment operator, died July 19. A native of Peters-town, West Virginia, he was employed in 1935 as a laborer and retired November 1, 1959. Buckland is survived by three sons, three daughters, two half-brothers, four half-sisters, 18 grandchildren and 22 great grand-

children. One son, Donald "Corky" Buckland, is a maintenance supervisor at Glen Lyn.

Ira William Henderson, 79, retired Bluefield administrative assistant, died June 30. A native of Burkes Garden, Virginia, he was employed in 1936 as a rural service salesman and retired February 1, 1968. Henderson was preceded in death by his wife. □

# WEDDINGS



Gruver-Delgado



Grubb-Webb



Wiele-Anderson



Brookshier-Dunham



Chandler-Hicks



Chafin-Carr

Andrea Delgado to **Robert Gruver**, Bluefield division stores assistant, July 17.

Janet Kay Webb to **Dennis Grubb, Jr.**, July 17. Dennis is the son of Barbara Grubb, Pulaski telephone operator.

Janis Anderson to **Randall Wiele**, June 5. Janis is the daughter of James Anderson, Jr., engineering superintendent, GO T&D Engineering, Roanoke.

Debra Dunham to **Randal Brookshier**, June 5. Debra is the daughter of James A. Dunham, energy services manager, GO Customer Services, Roanoke.

Susan Hicks to **Johnny Chandler**, Kingsport line mechanic B, June 19.

Lora Lee Carr to **Augustus Chafin, Jr.**, April 30. Lora Lee is the daughter of Edward Carr, Clinch River Plant maintenance supervisor.

Alice Mosby to **Thomas Johnson**, maintenance mechanic B, John Amos Plant, June 26.

Mona Sue McGhan to **Bill Smith**, regional dispatcher, GO Operations, Turner, June 16.

Jean Sturm, Charleston supervising clerk, to **Robert Lowther**, senior meter engineer, GO T&D Meter, Charleston, June 11.

Deborah Carol Christian to **Stephen David Drake**, engineering technician, GO T&D Station, Huntington, June 26.

Rita Simmons to **Steven Morris**, June 5. Steven is the son of Doug Morris, line crew supervisor nonexempt in the Fieldale area of Roanoke Division. □

# BIRTHS

## Abingdon

Diane Rena and Amanda Caye, twin daughters of **Alan Keith Blankenship**, line mechanic D, July 2.

## John Amos

Melissa Renee, daughter of **Patrick Farry**, utility worker, June 8.

## Beckley

Delbert, Jr., son of **Delbert Cordle**, Oak Hill meter reader, June 15.

## Central Machine Shop

Robert James, son of **Robert Neel, Jr.**, winder 2nd class, June 6.

## Charleston

Cynthia Ann, daughter of **Jerry Garretson**, Montgomery meter reader, June 4.

## Clinch River

Corey Maxwell, son of **Danny Belcher**, equipment operator, June 30.

## General Office

Gary Michael, II, son of **Karen Brogan**, r/e & r/w clerk C, GO T&D R/e & R/w, Roanoke, July 9.

Ashley Nicole, daughter of **Paulette Custer**, general records clerk A, GO Accounting,

Roanoke, June 5.

Clay Stephen, son of **Darrell Beck**, load research coordinator, GO Rates and Contracts, Roanoke, June 10.

William Berkley, III, son of **W.B. Amos, Jr.**, station operator, GO Operations, Roanoke Dispatch, May 15.

Jason Thomas, son of **Thomas Schmaltz**, environmental engineer, GO Environmental Affairs, Roanoke, July 20.

## Huntington

Nicholas Steven, son of **Ken Wood**, biologist, AEP Lab, July 8.

## Lynchburg

Courtney Nathaniel, son of **George Jackson**, line mechanic A, July 10.

## Roanoke

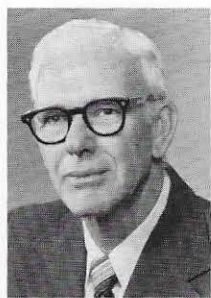
Adam Gardner, son of **Joy Gailey**, customer accounts representative C, May 13.

Ike, son of **Ike Spangler**, line mechanic C, June 27.

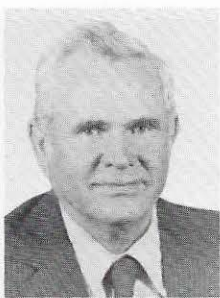
Adam, son of **Isaac Webb, III**, electrical engineer, June 26.

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# SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



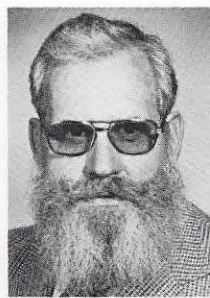
**Dorus Campbell**  
shift op. eng.  
Clinch River  
40 years



**Joseph Claytor**  
line crew supv. E  
Bluefield  
35 years



**John Bartholomew**  
general servicer  
Huntington  
35 years



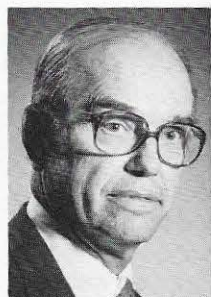
**Ed Berry**  
line crew supv.  
Huntington  
35 years



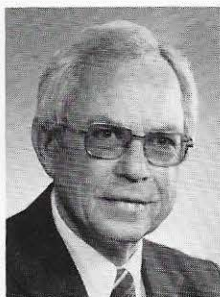
**Jim Marshall**  
power engineer  
Pulaski  
35 years



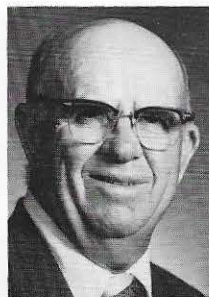
**Toby Slaydon**  
line. con. & maint. rep.  
Roanoke  
35 years



**Marvin Simpson**  
executive asst.  
Kingsport  
35 years



**Dave Taylor**  
cust. serv. mgr.  
Abingdon  
35 years



**Garlin Hill, Jr.**  
sta. crew supv. NE  
Bluefield  
35 years



**Bill Holley**  
eng. tech. sr.  
Huntington  
35 years



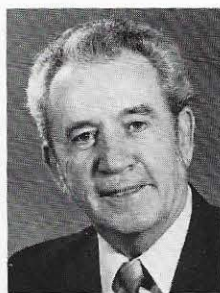
**Harold Ball**  
fuel rec. acct.  
GO-Roanoke  
30 years



**George Wright**  
maintenance supv.  
John Amos  
30 years



**Jack Jarrett**  
hydro plant supv.  
Kan. Val. Pwr.  
30 years



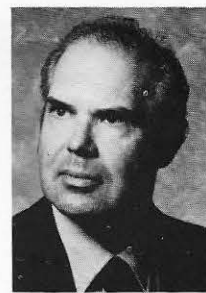
**Walter Gilmore**  
shift op. eng.  
Clinch River  
30 years



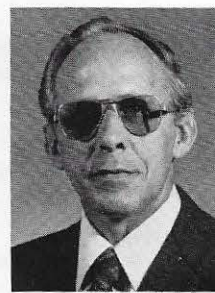
**John Danley**  
line con. & maint. supv.  
Bluefield  
25 years



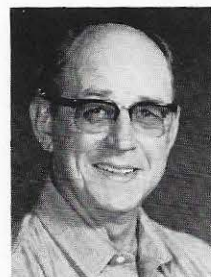
**James Bebbler, Jr.**  
trans. mech. A  
GO-Abingdon  
25 years



**Ray Parcel**  
station mech. A  
Roanoke  
25 years



**Jack Blankenship**  
stores supervisor  
Clinch River  
25 years



**Gordon Woody**  
maint. mechanic C  
Kanawha River  
25 years



**Velma Jo Scott**  
gen. rec. clk. A  
GO-Roanoke  
25 years



**Kenneth Winger**  
meter serv. mech. A  
Roanoke  
25 years



**Margie Cahill**  
cust. serv. assoc.  
GO-Roanoke  
20 years



**Martha Worrell**  
secretary  
GO-Roanoke  
20 years



**Pete Montague**  
division supt.  
Abingdon  
20 years

## Abingdon

25 years: Mac McClellan, T&D clerk A, Clintwood. 15 years: Calvin Matney, automotive mechanic A.

## John Amos

10 years: Robert Pyles, maintenance mechanic A. Robert Thompson, engineering technologist. James Cottrill, Jr., production superintendent. Robert Peet, Sr., stores attendant. Charles Morgan, stores attendant. 5 years: Richard Lutz, performance engineer senior.

## Bluefield

25 years: Bernard French, station mechanic A (LTD). 15 years: Thomas Martin, stores attendant.

## Central Machine Shop

10 years: Art Reedy, production supervisor.

## Charleston

5 years: Jerry Garretson, meter reader.

## Clinch River

10 years: Jevene Bowling, performance engineer. Scott Campbell, Jr., instrument mechanic C. 5 years: Charles Helton, chemist assistant.

## General Office

35 years: Betty Goode, secretary, GO T&D Administrative, Roanoke. 15 years: Jimmie Surface, relay specialist, GO T&D Station, Bluefield. Loraine Sadler, stores attendant, GO T&D Stores, Roanoke. 10 years: Janet Maxwell, personnel clerk B, GO Personnel, Roanoke. Carol Mowry, stenographer, GO T&D Administrative, Roanoke. Evelyn Scott, personnel clerk C, GO Personnel, Roanoke. Carolyn Poff, secretary, GO Purchasing, Roanoke. Melroy Brown, payroll clerk B, GO Accounting, Roanoke. 5 years: Glenn Brown, custodian, GO General Services, Roanoke. Ron Allen, operations engineer senior, GO Operations, Roanoke.

## BIRTHS

(continued from page 27)

## Philip Sporn

Stephen Jason, son of Stephen Fraley, unit supervisor, April 4.

Jennifer, daughter of Douglas Bryant, maintenance mechanic B, May 15.

Amber Renea, daughter of David Eades, maintenance mechanic B, May 22.

Laurena Marie, daughter of Roger Sharp, maintenance mechanic B, June 6.

Scott Michael, son of David Johnson, maintenance mechanic B, June 10.

Stephanie Nicole, daughter of Anthony Kopec, performance engineer senior, June 30. □

## Glen Lyn

15 years: Richard Work, maintenance superintendent.

## Huntington

10 years: Dave Straley, meter electrician A. Jim Linthicum, meter electrician A. 5 years: Marjorie Arnold, T&D clerk C. Andy Jackson, line mechanic C.

## Kanawha Valley Power

35 years: Guy Kelly, hydro maintenance mechanic A.

## Kingsport

5 years: Rick Tunnell, drafter B.

## Mountaineer

10 years: Warren Ashton, production superintendent. 5 years: Pat Simpkins, maintenance mechanic A. Pat Hale, plant engineer.

## Pulaski

15 years: Dick Street, electrical engineer senior. 5 years: Brenda Cregger, stenographer.

## Roanoke

15 years: Wayne English, line mechanic A. 10 years: Donald Janney, meter reader. Donald Hall, automotive mechanic A. Howard Manns, line mechanic A.

## Philip Sporn

30 years: Don Kennedy, maintenance mechanic A. 10 years: Dale Willis, maintenance mechanic B. 5 years: Robert Workman, plant performance engineer. Gregory Hines, performance engineer senior. William Shuler, equipment operator. Jeffrey Hubbard, equipment operator. Steve Dill, maintenance mechanic C. □

## NEWCOMERS

## Bluefield

Scotty Christian and Daniel Fair, line mechanics D, Tazewell. Douglas Hoosier, tracer. James Snead, electrical engineer.

## Charleston

Dallas Dunn, custodian. Jeffrey Teuscher, electrical engineer.

## General Office

Kevin Dooley, transmission mechanic D, GO T&D Transmission, Roanoke. Richard Lawrence, Jr., and Dwight Bues, communications engineer, GO T&D Communications, Roanoke. Linda Anderson, electrical engineer, GO T&D Engineering, Roanoke. Roy Feltis, station mechanic D, GO T&D Station, Roanoke. Tony Parks and Charles Daher, transmission mechanics D, GO T&D Transmission, Bluefield. John Thomas, Jr., engineering technician, GO T&D Communications, Roanoke. James

Showalter, Jr., transmission engineer, GO T&D Transmission, Bluefield.

## Glen Lyn

Edward Furrow, performance engineer.

## Huntington

Patricia Sweitzer, electrical engineer. Maxine Rickard, junior clerk, Point Pleasant.

## Pulaski

Steve Burlison and Mike Wilson, electrical engineers. Vanessa Black, telephone operator.

## Roanoke

Deborah Riquey, cook-parttime

## Philip Sporn

Brian Taylor and James Belmonte, performance engineers. □

# A man's best friend is his...rabbit?

Although most people consider a dog as man's best friend, Logan Energy Services Engineer David Stillwell has another idea. His favorite pet is a ten-pound rabbit named Hoppy.

While it is not unusual to have a pet rabbit, it is unusual for the rabbit to

have the run of the house as Hoppy does. David explains how this came about. "Someone let several baby rabbits out in the neighborhood where our housekeeper lives. When the man next door said he was going to kill the rabbits, she had some of the neighbor

boys catch one. She gave the rabbit to me because she knew I liked them. I raised two in cages when I was a student at West Virginia Tech.

"My grandmother took to the rabbit right away, but she didn't like the idea of my keeping it downstairs in a cage. I figured it was up to her to decide whether she wanted it to run loose or not. Since I'm away at work all day, she is the one who has to spend time with it. The housekeeper had the rabbit housebroken within three weeks.

"The rabbit was just a few weeks old when we got it, and we've had him a little over a year I guess. He eats just about anything we eat, including meat and french fries. He likes crackers and especially popcorn. We give him carrots, celery, lettuce and cabbage. Sometimes, as a treat, we bring in grass and clover for him. It's too dangerous to let him out in the yard with the dogs next door."

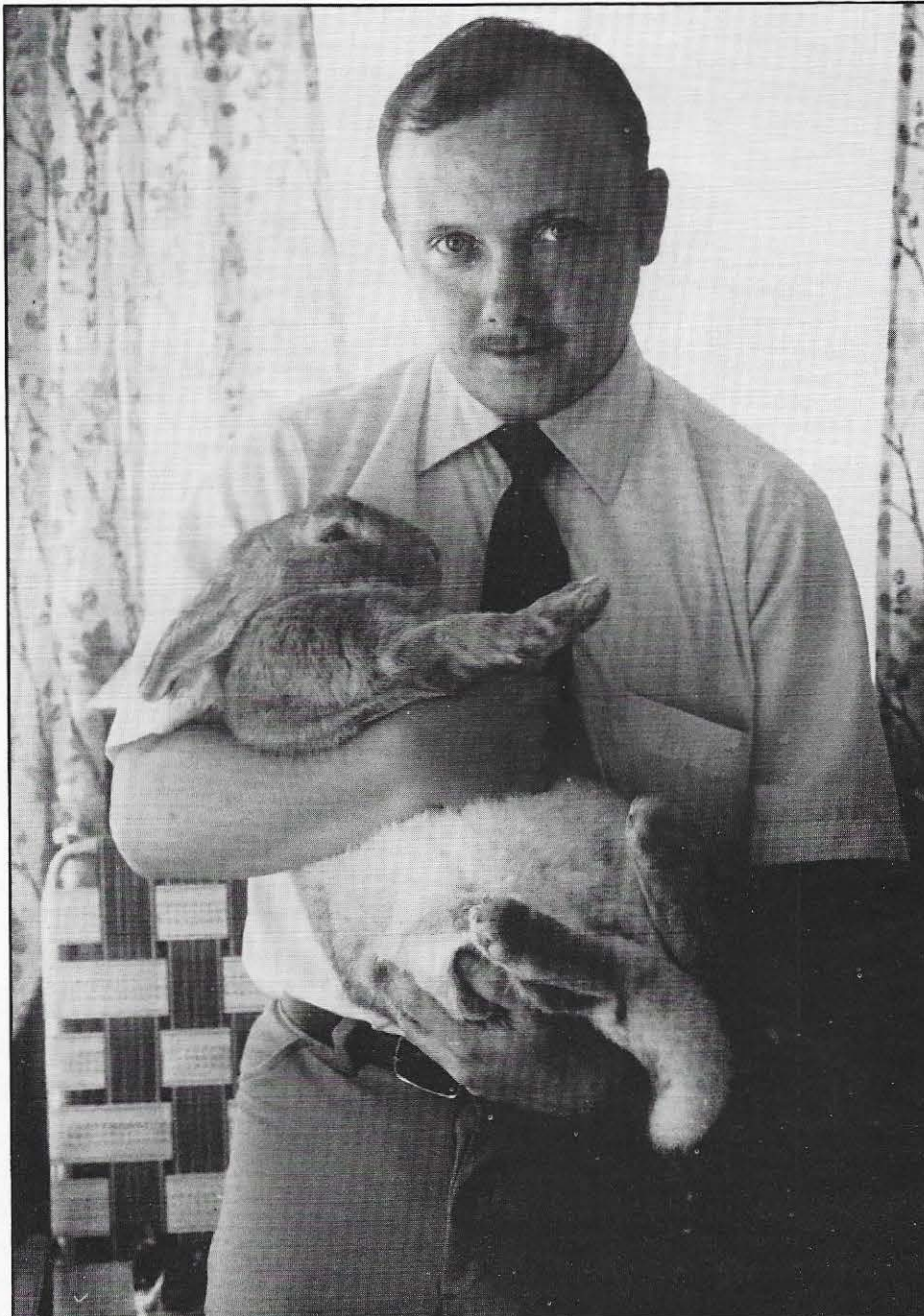
While David's at work, Hoppy amuses himself by playing with two kittens, also in the household. "Nearly every day he sits up in the glass door on the sun porch or in one of the windows," David says, "because I've had people tell me they have seen him there."

David doesn't have to worry about keeping the rabbit clean. "Hoppy lets the kittens give him a bath. When I had my other rabbits, I would let them run around in a fenced-in yard and spray them with a hose. But they don't like water."

David adds that "my grandmother has spoiled Hoppy one way and I have spoiled him another. If I don't come looking for him when I get home, he will come looking for me. Usually I find him in a corner of the sun porch or under the bed."

According to David, Hoppy is extremely playful. "He will hop clear across the room, jump in your lap and jump off. If he senses I am getting ready to leave, he will run around and jump in between my legs."

The only problem David has encountered with his furry friend is that Hoppy likes to chew. "We leave out some styrofoam for him to chew on, but he especially likes cords. It's a wonder he hasn't killed himself. I had to get a new HBO cable because he chewed the insulation off of the old one. I have to accept a little bit of expense from time to time, but he's worth it," David concludes. □



David Stillwell and Hoppy

# Artist At Work

Until after he retired 12 years ago, Charleston's John Kaufman had never cut a piece of glass. Today, about 200 stained glass lamps he has made are in homes from Florida to California.

For John, making stained glass pieces isn't work. "I've always tried to keep it a hobby," he says. "I've sold a little — in fact, the first lamp I sold went to Florida — but that kind of takes it out of the hobby class. So most of the 200 or so lamps I've made I've given away to relatives and friends."

John says that he is frequently approached to make pieces for commercial orders. "I have a friend right now who's been wanting me to make 20 mirrors for her to sell, and I keep saying no. I just guess I want to make what I choose to make when I choose to make it and to be able to give most of the things as gifts."

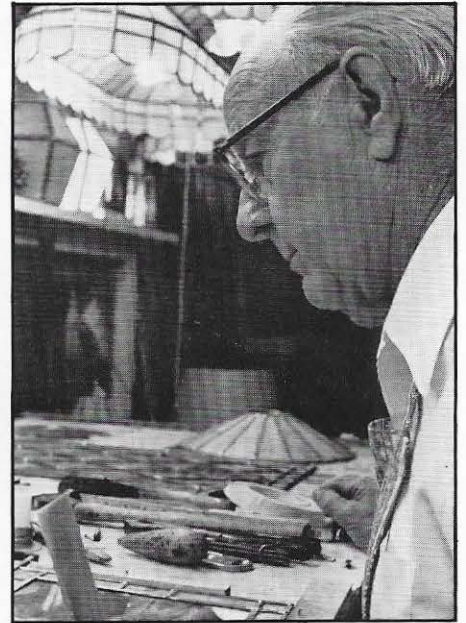
In addition to his lamps, John has made other stained glass items, including several suncatchers in his windows. "We used to have the win-

dow filled with them — about 75 in the front window alone," he says. In addition, the three small windows in his front door are stained glass, and one of the designs incorporates a small "peep hole" so he can see who's at the door.

But it hasn't all been hobby and gift work for John. He crafted two windows for a Huntington church and two transoms for a church in the Kanawha City section of Charleston, where he lives. And when the stained glass face of the clock at City Hall in Charleston was broken, the city called on John to rebuild it.

"Actually, it's not too difficult a craft," he explains, "but you have to take the time to learn the basics. The hardest part is simply learning how to cut the glass right — and that takes a lot of practice."

John says the beginning stained glass student shouldn't even try to cut the expensive colored glass at first. "There's an awful lot of waste while you're learning to cut. It's a lot cheaper to cut window glass while



John Kaufman

you're learning than it is to practice on the real thing and have to throw most of it away."

John also says it is important to have a good work area. "You need lots of room," he explains, pointing to the spacious studio he built. "Actually," he confides, "I call it a workshop when no one's around. But when people are here, it's a studio." John's studio features adequate glass storage and a large, flat work surface.

To get his glass, John travels to Columbus, Ohio, periodically, where his major supplier is located. "Most people buy the glass in these small one-square-foot sheets," he says, holding up a piece of glass. "But there's a lot less waste when you get the glass in these larger 32-inch sheets," he adds, pointing to a number of large sheets of stained glass stored in a slot under the workbench. "For example, it takes six of these one-square-foot pieces to make a 16-inch lamp because of the way they're cut. But I can take just 16 inches of this 32-inch wide piece here and make the same lamp with about half the glass I'd need with the smaller pieces."

John says it takes him about two days — 12 to 15 hours of work — to make a lamp.

"I guess I'll never look like a real artist, because I'm not going to grow my hair long and wear a beard," he laughs. "But," he adds more seriously, "I really like doing what I'm doing, making what I want. I never want it to be any more than that. It would spoil the fun." □



Several of the stained glass lamps John made decorate his studio.

# Broken leg didn't mar safety record

Even a plant or division that is maintaining an excellent safety record will have its share of close calls, as plant and division managers can relate.

Sporn Plant, with more than four years without a disabling injury (an AEP System record), has a story to tell that is among the more unusual.

Several months back the personnel office at Sporn was informed by a phone call that an employee operating the crane in the coal yard had fallen and broken his leg. The news quickly spread and it was assumed that the string of injury-free days had been broken and a disabling injury would be recorded.

About an hour later another phone call informed the personnel office that everything was OK — that the broken leg had been fixed and the employee was back at work.

This called for further investigation.

The "injured" employee was Don Thompson, crane operator and a



Don Thompson

33-year employee (second in tenure at the plant). His leg was indeed broken. It is a wooden artificial leg.

During the 1959 deer hunting season, Don was shot in the right leg just below the knee. He saved his own life by applying direct pressure to the wound for about 45 minutes until he reached the doctor. He struggled with the injury for about two years before it was decided that amputation was necessary.

Since then he has worn a wooden leg, using it so well that many people are not aware of it. Since the amputation, Don has not missed a day's work because of it. His supervisor, Kenny Rollins, coal yard superintendent, notes that Don can run any piece of equipment in the yard.

It was Kenny who was with Don the day of the "accident" in the coal yard. Kenny served as medic and "fixed" the broken leg by welding the broken brace and rivet back together. □



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