



Volume 15

Number 2

March – April 2003

PREZ SEZ

Hi everyone. Hope you are having a good month. Thanks to all who were at the January meeting. We had a really good group even with several of our regular attendees missing because of illness or automobile accidents or other causes that are not under our control. I hope that most of those who missed can make it back for the March meeting.

It was good to see a number of Retirees there who we haven't seen in a while and I hope we'll see them on a regular basis again.

I thought the speaker was interesting and informative and touched on things relative to the nuclear industry that are concerns to us as everyday United States citizens as well as some items that are of particular importance to us as Southern Company employees and retirees.

I have talked with Gene Kachelhofer of our membership committee and he tells me we have received membership fees from several new retirees and some who haven't participated for a while. This is very encouraging.

If you haven't sent your 2003 dues in yet, please do so as soon as possible, either by mail or personally at the March meeting.

If you haven't been to our new Website lately, you will find that since the last meeting Charles Hickman has added some updates in the Sunshine section. This was possible with input from Nell King. This is an excellent way to keep up with the status of other Retirees you might be concerned about as well as keeping informed of developments between our meetings.

This will work only if we all keep Nell informed of situations that arise. Charles has also put up some additional direct connections to other Websites in the Information Items section. He continues to request our help in identifying other Websites or interest for consideration as additions to this section in the future.

See you all in March.

— Warren Glover

MARCH PROGRAM

The program for March will consist of two parts. The first part will introduce Mr. Michael Player from Merrill Lynch to us. Mr. Player will give us some good sound financial advice in planning our expenses for the rest of the year. He will conduct a question and answer session after his presentation. Money is on everyone's mind; you won't want to miss this part of our program.

As most of you know retiree Jerry Vandegrift has just returned from a working trip to Africa. The second part of our program will be a report on what Mr. Vandegrift experienced while there.

Plan now to attend this information packed meeting on March 10, Inverness 130, 1 p.m.

— Jay Dorrance

PROGRAMS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

May 12 Pelham Civic Complex

Junior Davis - Good Old Folksy Shelby County

Humor

SCS OUTSIDE

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July 14 Inverness, Room 130, Building 42
Terry Oden - Former US Secret Service Agent

September 8 Inverness, Room 130, Building 42
W.C. Gibbson - Former Chief of Police of Irondale
November 12 (Wednesday) Vestavia Country Club
Ken Jackson - "A Word, A Smile, Hold That Thought"

BIRTHDAYS

Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty - they merely move it from their faces into their hearts.

For March 2003: 7 - Glen Jones, 9 – Gene Rollins, 16 - James Ewing, 18 - Iris Gilbert and Mary Rimel, 21 - Scott Herron and Doyle Shaw, 23 - Clyde Wood and 28 - John Windhorst.

For April: 8 - Eugene Johnston, Sarah Ann Micklewright and Jenny Ray, 11 - Henry Garrett and Susan Goertz, 13 - Rhoy Swearingen, 18 - Tom Dowdle and Jack Goertz, 29 – Bob Davis and Billie Greenhill.

Don't see your birthday here? Let us know when it is. Call Jay Dorrance at 663-2828.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Helen Brothers is continuing to do well at home. She is scheduled to go to the doctor Tuesday, February 25, for help with swallowing. Glenn is hopeful that she will eventually be able to eat in lieu of having to be fed through a tube.

Abe Lincoln told me, "Things are looking better." This is very good to hear because in the past, his outlook was not so good. He cannot drive but has someone to take him wherever he wants to go.

LeMar Russell had hip surgery the last of January and is currently at Hanover House for therapy. He is in room 33, telephone 558-3333.

Grady Smith has his arm in a removable cast for another three weeks after which he will have therapy for

four weeks. He's very happy that since February 18 he has been able to drive once again.

— Nell King

SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2003

Officers

President	Warren Glover 822-5753
Vice President	Brooks Young 833-7310
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079

Directors

Buddy Coggin	785-5992
Don Jackson	680-9125
Elliene Jackson	680-9125
J.D.Narramore	629-7075
Sid Varagona	942-5047
Carol Williams Yeager	822-5506
Charles Hickman (ex-officio)	823-4597

Committee

Chairpersons

Arrangements	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Audit	George Burson 681-7882
Fellowship	
Finance	Tom Steele 836-1904
Membership	Gene Kachelhofer 991-8604
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Jerry Vandegrif 967-3672

Program	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Sunshine	Nell King 822-7562

held at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, February 12, 2003 at the Forest Grove Cemetery. Survivors include her husband, James Funderburg; a son, Lee Funderburg; a daughter, Carolann Funderburg; a sister, Ruby Mae Gore; and a brother, Jack Crouch.

— Jay Dorrance

OBITUARIES

Condolences

SCS Retirees wish to express their most sincere sympathy to retiree Paul Passen in the loss of his wife, Marge Passen, who died Tuesday, December 17, 2002.

Also to the family of the late William D. (Buddy) Clark, a retiree from the Electrical Design Department, in the death of his widow, Anita Clark Mitchell, 70, who died Thursday, January 2, 2003.

Our sympathy also goes out to **Margaret Carter** and her family in the passing of Margaret's mother, Sarah Burgess, of Roswell, Georgia. Mrs. Burgess, who would have been 95 next month, died February 6, 2003 at the North Fulton regional Hospital in Roswell.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Perry Boyles of Birmingham, died in an Atlanta nursing facility on Sunday, February 2, 2003. Mrs. Boyles was returned to Birmingham and on Wednesday evening the family received friends at Rideout's Valley Chapel in Homewood, Alabama, where on Thursday, February 6 at 2:00 pm a funeral service was held followed by burial at Elmwood Cemetery. She was preceded in death by her husband, SCS retiree, VP and Chief Engineer K. W. Boyles, and is survived by their two sons, Karl W., Jr. (Nancy) and Walter W. Boyles (Nancy), 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. In addition she is survived by a sister-in-law, Rose Perry whose husband, Mrs. Boyles's brother, Morton Perry, died on Christmas Day 2002.

Carolyn C. Funderburg, 79, of Pleasant Grove, Alabama, passed away at a local nursing home on Monday, February 10, 2003. She was a member of Faith Free Methodist Church. Graveside services were

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to new SCS Retiree Members:

Elsie Graham, worked for SCS five years and retired from Southern Nuclear after working there seven years.

James Hartin worked in the Civil Department, officially retired in 1997, but continues to work contract for SCS.

Ruth Duncan-Tovich, associate, whose husband Fred Duncan worked in the Hydro department, close to 30 years.

Earl B. Parsons, Jr. worked for APC before transferring to Southern Generation and retiring with 38 years of service.

We now stand at 191 members, 158 associate members, 1 homebound member

— Gene Kachelhofer

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer has now (2/10/03) deposited 183 checks for a total of \$2022.00 into the SCS Retirees account at the APCO Credit Union for the year 2003. We still have several members that have not, as yet, paid their 2003 dues.

— Henry Garrett

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO BE AWARE OF

Internet Scam

The Better Business Bureau reports in their January/February 2003 newsletter that there is a scam being run by a Web-based business calling itself The Consumer Protection Agency

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(www.consumerprotectionagency.com). This company, which has no street address, post office box, or telephone number, claims that they will file complaints with the Better Business Bureau for you for a fee of \$4.95. The BBB emphasizes that there is no need for anyone to ever use a third party to file a complaint against a business or other organization with them. Complaints can be submitted online at www.bbb.org or by letter or telephone to your local bureau.

The BBB tracked down this organization and found that the Website is registered to Online Application Corporation of Forest Hills, New York, which is a subsidiary of Taxes by CPA, a firm that has been the subject of 43 complaints to the BBB over the last three years.

Credit Card Swiping

If you assume your credit card is in safe hands when you use it to pay your bill at a retail shop or restaurant, you may be in for a shock. Your card could be in the hands of a “skim artist.”

Credit card skimming has been around for a decade, but has risen in the past two years. Here’s how it works. Skim artists recruit “go-fers” who then find temporary work in various establishments. The recruits are given small, illegal electronic devices known as skimmers that capture all of the credit card or debit card details in the little time it takes to swipe the card through the legitimate credit card machine.

When unsuspecting customers go to pay their bill, their card is first swiped through the legitimate credit card machine and then is also secretly swiped through the smaller machine. The go-fers then pass the gadget to the skim artist, who pays them cash for their part in the crime.

Once the skim artist has the details, he downloads the information onto a computer and makes a fake card. The “cloned” card is embossed with the details of the victim’s credit card and passed to others, who may sell the card or use it for their own benefit.

We all need to check our monthly credit card statements carefully and report any suspicious or

unverifiable charges to the credit card company promptly.

Fraudulent Escrow Accounts

No, these are not like the escrow accounts that mortgage companies use to accumulate money to pay your insurance premiums or taxes. If you buy items at auction through eBay or other online auction services, you may have found that for expensive items (say \$1000 or more) many auctioneers and bidders use an “escrow” system. Escrow means that the winning bidder sends his cash to a neutral third party to be held, usually until the goods are shipped and the bidder is satisfied with their condition. The benefit is that the escrow company is supposed to be a neutral party to the transaction, a middleman, that protects both the auctioneer and the bidder in case something goes wrong. Of course, there is a charge for this service.

Well, some folks are taking advantage of this system to bilk bidders out of thousands of dollars. It’s scarily simple: the scammers, working in cahoots with the auctioneer, set up a phony escrow company, complete with its own Website. When you place the money “in escrow,” you’re just sending it to the scammers, who then use stalling tactics to explain why the auction hasn’t cleared escrow. Eventually they fold their tents and flee, and you’re left thousands of dollars poorer with no recourse. To be safe, use an escrow service recommended by the online auction site. For example, eBay recommends Escrow.com.

Scammers Posing as “Do Not Call” lists

Scam artists capitalizing on the popularity of existing state “do not call” lists and the proposed Federal Trade Commission (FTC) “do not call” registry have devised yet another method to trick consumers into giving up personal information such as their Social Security number, bank account number, credit card number or telephone calling card number.

Here’s how the scam works. Someone calls you claiming to represent a “do not call” registry or the FTC. The phony registry “official” asks for your

personal information, supposedly to verify that you are on the “do not call” list.

The caller than could use your personal information to run up debts in your name or otherwise steal your identity.

Once a consumer signs up with a state’s actual “do not call” registry, there is no need to confirm personal information. The FTC advises everyone to never share personal information with anyone not known to that person and, in fact, don’t even stay on the line.

Editor’s Note: One method I have found effective in dealing with tricksters of this kind is to tell them you can’t give them the information right then because you are in the middle of entertaining company or are late for a doctor’s appointment. Ask for the exact company name, the name of the caller, and a number where they can be reached with a call-back. After you hang up, call the BBB or contact the appropriate state agency to verify that this company is legitimate. Chances are that the caller will give you a runaround. That is a very good clue that this caller is not legitimate and your best reason to hang up.

SCS RETIREES WEB SITE

This article is an invitation to visit the SCS Retirees web site at <http://www.scsretirees.com>. The purposes of this web site are to provide access to current information about our activities, to maintain information related to the operations of the organization, and to obtain contacts and articles about issues of interest to our members. The links on the site allow you to have access to the leadership of the organization each year, i.e., names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. The newsletter, SCS Outside, will be posted, and up to date information from the Sunshine and Program Committees will be available. Direct links to organizations such as The Southern Company and the Social Security Administration are provided.

It is my hope that the web site will become a source of valuable information for all SCS retirees. However,

to ensure that the web site is useful to you requires that you visit the site and send me your ideas about topics you wish to have covered. I look forward to serving as a webmaster this year and invite your feedback.

Contact me by telephone at 205-823-4597 or email at hickmanc@bellsouth.net.

— Charles E. Hickman

SPOTLIGHT ON CLYDE AND PEGGY HOWARD

Once again the spotlight shines on two people rather than one, Clyde and Peggy Howard. Peggy began her Southern Company Services employment in 1964 in the Specifications and Procurement Department working for Sal Chambliss. After a transfer to the Civil and Architectural Department she worked for Paul Fischer and then Joe Thornton until his retirement. She retired from the Hydro Department in 1989. Peggy is an active volunteer in the Hoover New Horizons programs and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Clyde has led an interesting life, beginning as an identical twin born in 1932 in Ash Flat, Arkansas. His family lived and worked in New Mexico and California, but returned to Arkansas after World War II. He and his twin, Clark, were named the outstanding students at their graduation from Mountain Home High School. Both were multi-sport athletes. Clyde and Clark played semi-pro baseball for two summers in Anchorage, Alaska. Clyde also was a football and basketball referee for 22 years. Clyde graduated with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Central Arkansas and began his professional career at Arkla Chemical Company in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. After eight years, he moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to work for Union Carbide in the area of graphite sales. Other employment included Sepco and SGL Carbon. His primary interaction with SCS engineers was during the installation of graphite packing products at the Farley Nuclear Plant. He and Archie Sheffield combined work with leisure by playing golf together at Riverchase Country Club.

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Peggy and Clyde renewed acquaintances at a Grief Support Group after the death of their long-time spouses. The two couples, Peggy and Archie Sheffield and Peggy and Clyde Howard, had been friends for many years. Peggy and Clyde observed their fifth wedding anniversary in February 2003. Two of their favorite pastimes are traveling and dining together. Their travels are too extensive to list, but destinations include Tahiti, the Panama Canal and numerous European countries. Clyde is a gourmet chef who learned a lot of his skills in Baton Rouge. Cajun food anyone?

— Charles E. Hickman

LESSONS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE - "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside - I just finished cleaning!"

My mother taught me RELIGION - "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL: "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT - "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS - "Shut your mouth and eat your supper!"

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM - "Will you 'look' at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about STAMINA - "You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished."

My mother taught me about WEATHER - "It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

My mother taught me how to solve PHYSICS PROBLEMS - "If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you; would you listen then?"

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY - "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times - Don't exaggerate!!!"

My mother taught me THE CIRCLE OF LIFE - "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION - "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY - "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!"

Thanks, Mom!

— From the internet, author unknown

SCS RETIREES

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