



Volume 15

Number 6

November – December 2003

PREZ SEZ

Hi, everyone. I hope this time around finds you doing well or better. It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another year already with the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons just around the corner. We have just returned from a visit to the Chicago area. The trees are already changing colors there, and I feel I had one Fall season already, but I'm ready for one of our own.

Of course, the coming of Fall means one of my favorite meetings, the November meeting, is near. Specifically, the November meeting will take place as you will read in the article that follows mine. Officers, board members and committee chairpersons will have a short meeting the same day (November 12) and same place (see below) from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. Everyone please note that the meeting is on a **Wednesday** rather than our usual Monday. Dora has a good meal planned and Jay has lined us up a good speaker. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our meeting.

Warren Glover

The only thing a dollar buys today that it bought 25 years ago is 10 dimes or 20 nickels.

SCS AND SNC RETIREES ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

This year's luncheon will be held as shown in the particulars below.

The Day: Wednesday, November 12, 2003

The Time: 11:30 a.m.

The Place: Vestavia Hills Country Club
400 Beaumont Drive
Vestavia Hills, AL

The Menu: Pecan crusted breast of chicken sautéed with honey Dijon sauce; chef's choice of starch and vegetable; tea, coffee or water; chef's choice of dessert

The Price: \$15 per person, \$30 per couple

The order of events is as follows: The general membership will gather, sign in and enjoy a social hour from 11:30 until 11:55. Lunch will be served at 12 Noon. Our speaker, Ken Jackson, will be introduced at approximately 12:40. Following his presentation, we will hear the nominating committee's report and elect officers for the year 2004. Adjournment will come after the drawing for door prizes.

Reservations must be received by **November 5**. Mail checks to Dora Brandt, 1616 Heritage Place, Irondale, AL 35210. **Cancellations** can be accepted through **November 7**. The only exception is a case of family emergency. *Please note that this is a **firm** reservation. If you do not show up, you are still responsible for paying.*

Dora Brandt

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM PROMISES SMILES

Since 1979, Ken Jackson has been president of Dudley C. Jackson, Inc., a company that was founded by his father who died August 30, 2003, at the age of 91. We extend our sympathy to Mr. Jackson. His company is a multimillion dollar specialized industrial

SCS OUTSIDE

November - December 2003

distributor that designs, sells and services pumping and paint spraying equipment serving manufacturers located primarily in the southeastern United States. Recognized by Birmingham Family Times magazine as one of "Birmingham's Best Companies for Working Parents" and named one of three "Best Distributors to Work For" in the U. S. and Canada by Industrial Distribution magazine. This is truly a great company.

Jackson is a UAB graduate having earned a BS and a MBA. He is a member of numerous boards including: Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce and UAB School of Business Board of Advisors. He is a graduate of Leadership Birmingham and of Shelby County. He was named Outstanding Civic Leader for 2002 by the AFP - Alabama Chapter, UAB School of Business 2002 Outstanding Alumni Award, 2001 Executive of the Year by the Birmingham Business Journal and recognized as one of Birmingham's Best Bosses in 2000 by Birmingham Magazine. He has also won several awards including the American Eagle, the Sam Walton Business Leader, J.C. Penney Golden Rule; the list goes on and on.

With credentials like these it is easy to see why our speaker has very high marks in the business world and is a much sought after speaker. We are indeed fortunate to have him and I for one cannot wait to hear what he has to say. His presentation is titled "A Word, a Smile, Hold That Thought."

Jay Dorrance

REMAINING MEETINGS

Our January 2004 meeting will be held in Inverness 42, room 130. This meeting is in recognition of the 100th anniversary year of man's successful flight of a heavier-than-air mechanically propelled airplane by the Wright brothers on December 17, 1903. Brother Orville was first and went 120 feet in 12 seconds. Brother Wilber was next and he went 852 feet in a flight that lasted 59 seconds. Wayne Walton will have all the facts and figures in his program "The History of Flight." Don't you dare miss it.

Jay Dorrance

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	823-4597
(ex-officio)	

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 Vandegrift 967-3672
Program	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Sunshine	Nell King 822-7562

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bruce Bailey has had a heart procedure. I have no further information regarding his condition, but will continue trying.

Helen Brothers is scheduled to go to Houston, TX, October 26, to be evaluated for therapy. She took a trip to the emergency room October 15, with blood pressure going down and inability to keep her eyes open. Some days are good for her and some not so good. Glen is a loving husband and takes extremely good care of her.

Jackie Imbusch's husband, George, fell off a ladder and broke his leg at the knee. He is in a removable cast, walking with a walker. He must stay off his feet another five weeks.

Roy Swearingen left the hospital October 10, after spending three weeks there with a kidney infection and dehydration. He was not getting enough oxygen so is wearing a pronged device in his nose to breath oxygen. He is currently in Fairhaven Nursing Home where he is receiving therapy, hoping to go home soon.

Liz Winter's husband, Bob, continues to do well following his knee replacement surgery September 15. He is taking therapy every two days and looking forward to getting out and doing all the things he's always done once again.

Nell King

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Philip Madison Shepard, age 66, of Hoover, died Thursday, August 28, 2003. He was a 1961 Auburn graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked in the Mechanical Design Department - Special Projects. He retired from SCS in July 1994. Mr. Shepard was a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

Survivors: wife, Alice; two daughters Amanda Shepard and April Shepard Morris, her husband Matthew Morris and a son Philip Shepard II; his mother and two sisters.

A visitation was held Sunday, August 31, at 1 p.m. at Ridout's Southern Heritage Chapel followed by a funeral service at 3 p.m. with burial in the Southern Heritage Cemetery.

Neil B. Fredrick of Birmingham died Wednesday, October 1, 2003. He was 67. Mr. Fredrick was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran having served in the Korean War. He retired from SCS in 1994 as an engineer in the Instruments and Controls Department - Vogtle On-Site. He was a house bound member of SCS RETIREES.

Survivors include one niece, Valerie Haywood, and husband; two great nephews, Cory Haywood and Coleman Haywood, all from Hayden, Alabama.

A memorial Service was held Monday, October 6, at 11 a.m. at John Ridout's Southside Chapel.

Condolences

Our most sincere sympathy is extended at this time of grief by active and retired employees of Southern Company Services to **M. C. Brickell** and his family in the death of his wife Elvada.

Elvada Willcutt Brickell died Sunday, September 14, 2003, after a brief but gallant battle with cancer. She was born in Fayette County, Alabama, on April 23, 1922, though much of her childhood was spent in Walker County. During WWII she served as a nurse's aide at the Northington Military Hospital in Tuscaloosa. It was there that she met and took care of a wounded soldier. As it turned out she made it her life's work. Elvada and Brick were married two months after they met. Anyone who knows Brick knows him to know a good thing when he sees it and he did not waste any time making this red head his bride. This was a marriage that was to last 58 years.

Mrs. Brickell was a long time member of the East Lake United Methodist Church. She was also involved in many worthwhile organizations which included the Cahaba Girl Scout Council and the Alabama Federated Women's Club.

She is survived by her husband M. C. "Brick" Brickell, two daughters, Dr. Sandy Ness and Nancy Padgett and their husbands Dave Ness, Mercer Island, Washington, and Jody Padgett, Fletcher, North Carolina, and a son, Dennis, and his wife Sarah of

SCS OUTSIDE

November - December 2003

Cullman, Alabama; two brothers and a sister, five grandsons, three great granddaughters and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Tuesday evening, September 16, at Ridout's Roebuck Chapel. Funeral services were held at the East Lake United Methodist Church Wednesday, September 17, at 2 p.m. with private interment at Jefferson Memorial Gardens.

We also offer our sincere sympathy to **Myrna Wise** in the death of her brother, Donald A. Hoppe, of Rochester, New York. He died as a result of a sailing accident on Lake Ontario on August 28, 2003. His body was recovered the following day. The family received visitors at the funeral home in Rochester on September 3. Mr. Hoppe was cremated and his ashes were interred in the cemetery of the Chili United Methodist Church in Rochester on September 4. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth; three daughters, Cynthia Kondratieff of San Francisco, Deborah Burleigh of Crystal Lake, Illinois, and Carol Bloechl of Rochester; one son, David Hoppe of Rochester; and eight grandchildren.

Jay Dorrance

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at the September 8 meeting was 49 members and guests.

Dora Brandt

BIRTHDAYS

You never grow too old to learn, so quit putting it off.

For November: 4 - Elizabeth Wintter, 8 - Mary Hendricks, 9 - Grady Smith, 10 - Jean Guthrie, 13 - George Burson, 14 - Frank Brewer, 23 - Mildred Fleming. **For December:** 3 - Attie Fleming & Bill Hocombe, 9 - Jackson Wintter, 13 - Betty Allen, 18 - Mac Pate, 26 - Jack Townsend, 29 - John Plaxco, 30 - Jack Greenhill, Jr, 31 - Buddy Coggin.

Where does time go? I can't be the parent of four middle aged children. Relax, enjoy and have a Happy Birthday.

Jay Dorrance

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our dues income remains the same; however, we had an interest payment from the Credit Union of \$40.53, so our total income for the year is now \$2,274.00 for dues and interest of \$128.14 plus a donation some time ago of \$18.00 from a new member for a total of \$2,420.54.

We have now paid the \$750.00 to United Appeal that was budgeted for this year and have paid for the arrangements for the August meeting of \$59.44. This will bring our total expenses now to \$1,383.07. Our net balance for the year stands at \$1,037.47.

Henry Garrett

IN THE SPOTLIGHT WILLARD PAYNE

Willard Payne's biography includes not only a long-term association with Southern Company Services (SCS) but also a long-term career in politics. When you include his activities in law enforcement, you find a person who has experienced an interesting life.

Willard was born in Shelby County, but the family moved to Birmingham, and he graduated from Woodlawn High School. He took law enforcement courses at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and was active in forming an auxiliary police force in Birmingham that consisted of up to 100 reserve police officers.

After his move to Pelham, the wife of the police chief, Margarite Watson, convinced him to run for a seat on the city council in 1976. He won and is now serving in his seventh consecutive term, which makes him the senior council member. By mayoral assignment, he also serves as the Public Safety

Commissioner. One of his responsibilities is representing Pelham at the National League of Cities and Alabama League of Municipalities meetings. Mayor Bobby Hayes noted that “Willard is a dedicated public servant, a progressive thinker and a friend with whom he can discuss issues and expect to get a straight answer (even if it is not what he wanted to hear).”

Willard began his SCS career in 1971. When an automated drafting program was initiated in 1975, he was asked to lead this effort. The main focus of this group was to produce drawings for power plants and substations. Starting such an endeavor in the early 70s was indeed a challenge because the number of applicable computer software packages was quite limited. In the following years, the pool of employees expanded from three operators on a single shift to about 50 operators using 18 drafting terminals on a three-shift schedule. In 1989, SCS management decided to disperse that group of employees into the various engineering disciplines. Willard decided to take early retirement; a retirement that lasted all of eight days. From 1989 to 2000, he worked as a contractor for SCS. During this time, his major efforts were to implement engineering designs in power plants. For example, he worked at Plant Hatch for three years and at Plant Farley for another three years.

Willard and his wife Lou have three sons and six grandchildren. The whole clan lives in the Pelham area, and many of them participate in numerous city and school activities. As is the case with many of us retirees, Willard and Lou enjoy the time they get to spend with their grandchildren.

Charles Hickman

NOTES FROM THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Tips on Avoiding Identity Theft

Identity theft is as close as your mailbox, so pay a visit to the Post Office instead of just putting outgoing letters in your box for the letter carrier to pick up. Each payment envelope you send from your mailbox is a sitting duck for an identity thief. We

often forget how much sensitive information is contained in just one statement stub, whether it is your electricity, water or credit card bill. Don't let it sit there for the taking. By dropping your mail in a USPS collection box, you can dramatically reduce your risk of identity theft.

You can also increase your security by making a monthly ritual out of checking your credit card statements in detail. Each month you receive a credit card statement with a list of charges. Each month you should carefully check each statement for charges you *didn't* make. Call your credit card company immediately to report any suspicious charges. For those who infrequently pay with credit, this may be the first sign that your credit card has been stolen.

Spam Is Exploding

Perhaps at one point unsolicited commercial e-mail was nothing more than an annoying nuisance. No longer. According to a recent article in the Washington Post, spam will soon account for more than half of all the U.S. e-mail traffic. One current estimate is that between 30 and 40 percent of all e-mail traffic in the U.S. is spam—and that figure has exploded from an estimated 8 percent in late 2001—nearly doubling in the past six months alone.

*NOTE: One spammer in New Zealand who was recently publicly identified admitted he was sending out **100 million** spam messages per day. Public reaction included flooding his e-mail servers with trash, flooding his personal e-mail box with unsolicited material, and personal threats against both him and his family by telephone.—Editor.*

Costs Are Mounting

If the only undesirable effects of unsolicited e-mail were clogged e-mail accounts, a slower internet and mounting costs in time and money for businesses and consumers, those would be significant. But the costs are mounting. A greater and greater amount of all unsolicited e-mail is deceptive or patently offensive, at best, and fraudulent or illegal, at worst. Certainly not all spam is fraudulent, but fraud operators have seized on the internet's capacity to reach literally millions of consumers quickly and at a low cost through spam.

Whether it is some variation of the Nigerian business scam, advance fee loan scams or scam artists preying on consumers' very genuine security fears by offering a host of products and services of dubious or no value, more and more e-mail is from sources that are less and less trustworthy. Further, in an effort to avoid software packages designed to weed out spam, more and more spammers have taken to using a host of tricks to conceal the real subject of the e-mail, making the chances greater that children will be exposed to a variety of "adult" messages—in spite of parents' and ISPs' increasing efforts to block these.

COMPASSION

Compassion, in action, would transform our nation and the world

Adapted from an article in Scottish Rite Journal, June 2002 edition

As early as 520 BCE the Old Testament prophet Zechariah criticized people who observe religious formalities and prescribed rituals but are not truly religious because they fail to exercise compassion. In a telling verse (7:9), Zechariah writes, "Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassion, every man to his brother."

Have we changed much in the millennia since Zechariah? One could argue that the majority of people today still formally observe their faith tradition, but do not live in its true spirit of love and compassion. Witness the recent terrorist attacks on America and the ongoing crises of the Middle East. The English word *compassion* is derived from Latin and means "with suffering." Yet few today truly feel the suffering of others, help share their burdens, and love each other as brothers.

Compassion leads us out of our shell of self-complacency and into the harsh reality of everyday life to stand beside another person who hurts. It makes us vulnerable by forcing us out of our comfortable worship centers, where most religion seems confined, and into the real world where we can offer a cup of water to those who thirst, bind up the wounds of the injured, bring love and kindness in a hostile

environment, and reflect the grace of God to everyone we encounter.

Compassion, as the Bible consistently teaches, is at the heart of true religion. Thankfully, however, there are many people who still care, who do have compassion, and who often volunteer their time, energy, and resources to help others. Can we say with appropriate pride that we are such a person? The religious tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth urge us to care and to express the divine within us through compassion for all humankind. This genuine compassion requires us to do more than merely feel another's pain; it requires our assistance, our helping those in need. Compassion can be best taught by example. And if compassion became the norm in our new 21st century, today's rampant violence, so often based on prejudice and aimed toward those who differ from us, would become a phenomenon of the past. Compassion, in action, would transform our nation and the world. Together, we can "show mercy and compassion every man to his brother" and make ourselves a partner in that epic transformation.

— James C. Bryant

SAVVY SHOPPING ADVICE

From Taste of Home magazine

IF FILLING the grocery cart means emptying your wallet, try some budget-stretching strategies. Dietitian and nutrition expert Laura W. from the Dairy Council of Wisconsin shares these tips:

- Cut back on conveniences. Are some things just as easy—or almost as easy—to do yourself? Preparing muffins from a mix takes scarcely less time than combining the dry ingredients yourself.
- Weigh fresh versus processed. With today's emphasis on fresh foods, it's easy to forget some processed foods rank high on the quality scale and are cheaper. Bottled pasta sauces

and plain frozen vegetables are good examples.

- Try store brands and generics. Some items in store brands are very good and packaged by folks selling name-brand items.
- Don't shop hungry—you'll likely buy expensive packaged snacks.

SHORTCUTS WORTH SHARING

From Taste of Home On-line

To keep boiled vegetables bright-colored, add a few drops of olive oil to the water. —Ana B., Los Angeles, California

For quick-and-easy garlic breadsticks, split a hot dog bun down the middle and cut each half lengthwise. Butter each strip; sprinkle with garlic salt or powder. Place on a baking sheet and broil until toasted. —Betty P., Huntsville, Arkansas

To give gravy and stew great color and flavor, add a few teaspoons of soy sauce. —Denise J., Hines Creek, Alberta

For crispy French toast, add a touch of cornstarch to the egg mixture. —Ada D., Franklin, Ohio

Before chopping nuts in a food processor, dust them with flour. This keeps the nuts from sticking to the processor. —Gladys W., Calvert City, Kentucky

To butter many slices of bread quickly and evenly, heat the butter until soft, then "paint" it on with a flat pastry brush. —Shirley Z., Grand Island, New York

He is ill clothed who is bare of virtue.

— Benjamin Franklin

ADVICE FROM GRANDPA

Whether a man winds up with the nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earnin' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough "horse sense" to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never be an old nag.

Judgin' from the specimens they pick for husbands, it's no wonder that brides often blush.

On anniversaries the wise husband always forgets the past...but never the present.

A foolish husband remarks to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washin', ironin', cookin', and scrubbin'. No wife of mine is gonna work!"

The bonds of matrimony are a good investment only when the interest is kept up.

Many girls like to marry a military man--he can cook, sew, make bed, and is in good health...and he's already used to taking orders.

Grandpappy and his wife were discussin' their 50th wedding anniversary when she said, "Shall I kill a chicken tonight?" "Naw," said Grandpappy. "Why blame a bird for somethin' that happened 50 years ago?"

— From the Internet

The time is always right to do what is right.

Rv. Martin Luther King Jr.

SCS OUTSIDE

November - December 2003

A LITTLE HUMOR

Bachelor Cooking

Two confirmed bachelors were talking when the conversation eventually drifted from politics to cooking. The first guy said, "I got a cookbook once but I could never do anything with it."

"Too much fancy stuff in it, eh?" asked the other.

"You said it," the first guy replied. "Every one of the recipes began the same way, 'take a clean dish . '"

Great Bumper Stickers

Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear.

Give me ambiguity or give me something else.

We have enough youth, how about a fountain of SMART?

SCS RETIREES
P.O. BOX 2625
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse.

Make it idiot proof and someone will make a better idiot.

He who laughs last thinks slowest!

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

"More hay, Trigger?" "No thanks, Roy, I'm stuffed!"

Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math.

Hard work has a future payoff. Laziness pays off now.

Friends help you move. Real friends help you move bodies.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

— From the Internet