



Volume 16

Number 4

July - August 2004

PREZ SEZ

We had a great crowd at our summer “picnic.” I hope everyone enjoyed the meal and visiting with fellow retirees as much as I did. It is such pleasure to visit and see old friends we haven’t seen in a while. Thanks to **Dora Brandt** for taking care of the accommodations and the meal selection. Thanks to **Fred Ehrensperger** for his selection of a speaker, who was very entertaining and inspiring. We also appreciate Lynn Williams of SCS Corporate Communications for taking care of obtaining approval and making sure the bill for this picnic is paid. We are thankful to our company and its management for sponsoring this picnic for us every year.

This was our opportunity to get together and visit and talk with old friends we spent our working life with. It is disappointing to me that more of our retirees don’t avail themselves of this opportunity. We sent out over 700 invitations this year and only about 200 attended.

It was encouraging to see a good number of recent retirees as well as older retirees who haven’t attended for a while at the picnic this year. We welcome them and invite them to join us at our regular bimonthly meetings during the year. We know you will enjoy

the programs and the camaraderie. Our next meeting is on July 10, the Monday after Independence Day. You can read more about the meeting particulars and the scheduled program elsewhere in this issue.

Reflecting on Independence Day this month and Memorial Day in May, I can’t help but think of the many who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our independence and freedom. The events of 9-11 have made us more aware than ever of how vulnerable we are and how much our freedom and independence are being jeopardized by terrorism around the world. I think also about the men and women of our Armed Forces around the world who are currently putting themselves in harm’s way to protect our freedom. They need our support and prayers. More than ever before, we are confronted by those who would like nothing more than to destroy this country and all that it stands for.

I hope that all of you have a healthy, happy and safe summer as my family and I prepare for our 43rd annual vacation trip to Panama City Beach, Florida.

— Sid Varagona

JULY MEETING

When: July 12 , 1 p.m.

Where: Inverness 42, Room 130

Board meets at 11 a.m. You are invited to join us for lunch at 12 noon in the Inverness Cafeteria.

— Dora Brandt

JULY PROGRAM A REPORT ON SOUTHERN COMPANY NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Many of our retirees worked on The Southern Company nuclear units during their working careers. I, for one, often wonder what is going on in the “nuclear world,” both on our System presently and the prospects for the future. The current terrorist threat also raises the question of that aspect of nuclear plant safety.

The program at our July meeting will be a report on the status of The Southern Company nuclear program by Louis Long. Lou is currently Vice President-Technical Support in Southern Nuclear

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Operating Company and is responsible for providing specialized services to the six Southern electric system operating nuclear units.

Long joined Southern Company Services as a Licensing Engineer in 1970 and served in various engineering, supervisory and project team positions concerned with nuclear licensing and engineering.

Long received a BS in Physics in 1966 and a Masters in Nuclear Engineering in 1968, both from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Additionally, he received a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1979. He attended the International Advanced Management Program at Harvard in 1995. He serves on the EPRI Nuclear Power Council and Executive Committee, the NEI Task Force on New Nuclear Plants, the NEI Spent Nuclear Fuel Working Group and is chairman of the EPRI Advanced Nuclear Plant Steering Committee.

This should be a very timely and informative program.

— Fred Ehrensperger

EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION
July Program Bonus

H.D. and Bobbie Cambron, travel directors for the APCo Energizers Retirees, will be visiting with us in our July 12 meeting. They will give a short outline of the many opportunities available for traveling the World and the USA with the Energizers. After the meeting, they will be at the rear of the room with brochures and sign up sheets and can answer any questions you may have relating to current trips and those planned for the future.

Several SCS Retirees have traveled with the Energizers and find that they are a great bunch to travel with (many of them you may know from past working relationships with APCo).

— J. D. Naramore

One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it.

— Knute Rockne

SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2004

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Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Charles Hickman 823-4597
Program	Fred Ehrensperger 655-2725
Sunshine	Nell King 822-7562

SUNSHINE REPORT

No report was received from the Sunshine Committee for this issue.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY: 2 - Howard Hubbard, 3 - Elliene Jackson, 5 - Ann Garrett, 14 - George Russell, 16 - Jim Anchors & Ken Hassell, 19 - Bill Echols, 20 - Dan Wise, 21 - Rosemary Wright, 23 - Ken Rieck, 28 - Kerry Adams and 30 - Mary Sisk.

AUGUST: 12 - Jim Rooker, 15 - Martha McMillan, 16 - Margaret Carter, 17 - John Naramore, 18 - Martha Burson, 27 - John Carter & Jay Dorrance and 31 - Roy Messick.

— Jay Dorrance

OBITUARIES

Robert E. Gilbert, 81, of Bluff Park died Tuesday, April 27, 2004. He was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church and a University of Alabama graduate, retiring from the Structural Design Department of SCS in March 1985 after 28 years of service.

Mr. Gilbert is survived by his wife, Iris; three sons, Jack, John and Douglas; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. A visitation was held at 2 p.m. on April 29 followed by his funeral at 3 p.m.

Donald T. Ogles, 69, of Woodstock passed away on Tuesday, April 27, 2004. He was a member of the New Life Assembly of God and he retired from SCS in July 1994 with 27 years of service.

Mr. Ogles' survivors include his wife of 48 years, Patricia; two daughters, Patricia Irene and Deniese; a brother, James; four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday April 29 at 10 a.m. at Bessemer Brown Service Chapel with burial in Forest Hills Cemetery.

Helen Stevenson Brothers, 65, of Hoover, went to be with her Lord on Tuesday, June 1, 2004. She

was a member of Briarwood Presbyterian Church. She retired from SCS Risk Management Department as a Senior Secretary in October 1994 with 17 years of service.

Survivors include her husband of 46 years, Glenn W. Brothers; two daughters, Angela and Lea; five grandchildren; her mother, Lillian Stevenson; a brother, Boyd Stevenson; and a sister, Marlene Stevenson Thomas.

Funeral services were held Friday, June 4 at 11 a.m. at Briarwood Presbyterian Church with burial in Bethlehem Cemetery, Gallant, Alabama.

— Jay Dorrance

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of June 14 we had received and deposited a total of 208 checks from our members and associate members.

Our income for this year includes \$2,382.00 from dues and \$44.47 from interest.

Expenses to date consist of \$160.07 for meeting arrangements, \$25.86 for postage (which doesn't include expenses for preparing, printing and mailing the Outside), \$129.97 for the program committee, \$9.70 for secretarial expenses and \$75.00 for the Sunshine committee.

Net gain for this year (income less expenses) now stands at \$2,025.07.

— Henry Garrett

IN THE SPOTLIGHT FRED H. EHRENSPERGER

Fred was born and reared in Birmingham, growing up in West End. He played clarinet in the West End High School band and orchestra and was on the tennis team during his senior year. After graduation, Fred went to the Georgia Institute of Technology and received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1954. Shortly after graduation he was called to active duty in the Air Force. His two-year assignment took him to Keesler AFB in Biloxi,

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Mississippi and to Andrews AFB near Washington, DC, where he was a communications officer in a field maintenance squadron. After separation from the Air Force, Fred returned to work at Lockheed Aircraft in Marietta, Georgia as an engineer on the C-130 project. He also returned to Georgia Tech and received a Master of Science degree in nuclear engineering in 1960.

Southern Services, under the direction of Ruble Thomas, began expanding a nuclear group in the early 1960s. Fred, through a contact from his brother, an employee of Georgia Power Company, reported to work in Birmingham in August 1960 as one of the first two people hired by Ruble. As the Southern Company strived to be totally prepared for its first nuclear plant, Fred and others studied every aspect of nuclear power. Fred was responsible for specification, bid evaluation and purchase of the nuclear steam supply systems for Hatch, Farley, Vogtle and Barton (later cancelled) nuclear plants. He was also the point of contact with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As a result of a reorganization in 1976, Fred transferred to the steam project planning department as a section manager. He was promoted later to department manager and was responsible for purchasing fossil plant equipment for major retrofits. Prior to his early retirement in 1989, Fred conducted studies for SEI on plants such as combined cycle gas turbines, fluidized bed boilers, and plants fueled by various fuels like old tires and municipal garbage.

Since retirement, Fred has been active in SCS Retirees, serving as president, vice president, secretary, director and chair of the nominating and program committees. He has a long list of other activities including serving as choir director (43 years) and treasurer (31 years) at Faith Lutheran Church, participating in several 5K races each year and returning to the 10K Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta for the 10th time this year. Fred also believes in life long learning; he obtained an associate in applied science degree in computer programming from Jefferson State in May 2004.

He met his wife Joyce on a blind date, and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2003. They have two children and four

grandchildren, all of whom live close by in Springville, Alabama. After living in the same house for 41 years, Fred and Joyce moved to a garden home in Trussville in 2002. Fred is an avid Georgia Tech fan and buys season tickets for football and basketball games. He is active in the Birmingham Georgia Tech Club and has held numerous offices, including serving as president for four years. He is truly a yellow jacket through and through.

— Charles Hickman

A CLARION CALL TO REMEMBER

The Fourth of July ought to be a great day for all Americans. We call it Independence Day, for it is the anniversary of an epochal event in our nation's history. On this date 226 years ago, our courageous forefathers—with a firm reliance on the protection of Providence and a mutual pledge to each other of their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor—signed the Declaration of Independence. That act shed all allegiance to the British crown and created a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all persons are created equal with certain inalienable rights.

Since that day, this nation has neither found it necessary to build strong walls nor to erect impenetrable curtains to keep its citizens from fleeing its borders. Rather, it has been a beacon of hope among the nations of the world to which millions have cast wistful eyes and have been willing to risk their lives to reach. From every nation on the face of the earth, the economically oppressed and politically persecuted have sought the security that is found within our borders. From every land, they have come here for an opportunity to fulfill their dreams, hoping their aspirations will flower into reality. Let us pray that it may ever be so!

This most significant of days calls for more than frivolity and firecrackers. It is a clarion call to remember the precious heritage that is ours and to pledge anew our lives, fortunes and sacred honor to

the perpetuation of the basic principles upon which it rests its greatness today—freedom and justice for all. This great heritage is our bridge, substantial and strong, to the 21st Century and beyond.

— W. Edward Coop
Scottish Rite Journal
July 2002

IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

When something good happens to a person, often he will ask, “Is this a great country, or what”? Every time I hear those words, they evoke a mental image of Kate Smith singing “God Bless America” and of the “Stars and Stripes” fluttering in the breeze.

- I envision lofty snow-capped mountains, rich green valleys and mile after mile of fields of wheat swaying in the wind.
- I think of bustling cities and tranquil countrysides. I see church steeples and baseball stadiums.
- I see Fourth of July parades with floats and high school bands strutting to “Stars and Stripes Forever.”
- I hear the words of Patrick Henry: “Give me liberty or give me death” and of Dr. Martin Luther King proclaiming “Free at last, free at last.”
- I see the Washington monument, the White House, the Liberty Bell and the Constitution.
- I see the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima and our military forces going ashore on the beaches of Normandy.
- I see Air Force One soaring majestically through billowing clouds and the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Harry S Truman* slicing through the water.

- I hear the Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine hymns all blended into one magnificent crescendo that raises chill bumps on the back of my neck.

“Is this a great country, or what?” is just a phrase, a mere seven words, more of a statement than a question. Yet, it always reminds me of what a great country America is and what a privilege it is to be an American. When I hear it, my chest swells with pride, and I emphatically reply: **“You better believe it is!”**

— From the Internet

MORE THAN YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE NUMBER 13

Do you suffer from triskaidekaphobia? That’s the fear of the number 13—literally “the fear of 3 plus 10.” Millions of people suffer from it. According to experts, it costs America over a billion dollars a year in absenteeism, train and plane cancellations, and reduced commerce on the 13th of every month. In recognition of the 13th of August falling on Friday, I thought you might like to know some of the facts, legends and lore surrounding the number 13.

☞ At religious feasts in ancient Babylon, 13 people were selected to represent the gods. At the end of the ceremony, the 13th “god” was put to death.

☹ The Romans associated the number 13 with death and misfortune. There were 12 months in a year and 12 hours in a day (according to the Roman clock), so 13 was seen as a violation of the natural cycle.

☞ For ancient Egyptians, 13 represented the final rung of the ladder by which the soul reached eternity.

☠ The Turks hated the number 13 so much that it was almost expunged from their vocabulary.

✝ In Christian tradition, there were 13 present at The Last Supper, the 13th being Judas, Jesus’ betrayer.

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☞ In Norse mythology, Aegir summoned 12 gods to a banquet in Valhalla honoring the memory of Baldur, god of beauty and good in the world. Guest number 13 showed up uninvited—Loki, god of evil. The legend of Loki is too long to tell here, but in it, he murders Baldur. He is captured and imprisoned beneath the earth in chains where he rages and shakes the earth, which is the Norse explanation of earthquakes.

☞ Thirteen is the number of witches in a coven.

☞ The 13th card in the Tarot deck is the skeleton—Death.

☞ According to *The Encyclopedia of Superstitions*, if 13 people gather in a room, one will die within a year. In 1798, Gentleman's Magazine explained the

superstition by saying, “It seems to be founded on calculations adhered to by insurance offices.”

☞ And in our own lifetimes, consider the ill-fated Apollo 13 lunar mission, which left the launch pad at 13:13 hours on April 13—and then exploded, almost killing the entire crew.

— *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader*,
13th edition, 2000

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<http://www.scsretirees.com>

SCS RETIREES

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