



Volume 16

Number 3

May – June 2004

PREZ SEZ

It's time again for our annual summer meeting. This is the one meeting of the year that attracts the largest attendance. All retirees from both SCS and Southern Nuclear are invited to attend whether you are a dues-paying member of SCS Retirees Inc. or not. We extend a special invitation to our recent retirees and past retirees who haven't come in a long while. You will enjoy renewing old acquaintances and meeting friends you haven't seen for a while.

This get together is sponsored and paid for by the Southern Company for all retirees and spouses of SCS and Southern Nuclear in the Birmingham area in appreciation for your many years of service.

By the time you get this newsletter, you should have already made your reservation. If you made reservations to attend, please try to come. If you made a reservation and can't come, please call Dora Brandt by May 5. This is important because *the company has to pay for uneaten meals*.

Last year we were over budget for this affair by about 25 percent, due in part to the number of *no shows*. We had 20 who made reservations and did

not cancel. Their meals were prepared by the caterer and we were billed for them at \$20 per meal.

I feel we owe it to the company to try to keep the cost of this event within budget. I realize that some will make a reservation and last-minute unforeseen circumstances will keep them from attending, which is understandable, but please try to let us know if at all possible. We have until five days prior to the event to make changes to the number of meals the caterer prepares. We appreciate everyone's help in keeping our costs down.

We look forward to seeing all of you! It is always great to see so many of our fellow retirees, remembering old times and enjoying being together again.

— Sid Varagona

MAY SPEAKER TO BE INSPIRATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING

Our speaker for the May meeting will be Randy Overstreet, presently Senior Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church of Birmingham. Rev. Overstreet is a native of Birmingham. His 22 years in the ministry include conference speaking nationally and internationally for the Southern Baptist Convention as well as other denominations.

He has served on many Boards including Big Oak Ranch and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His association with FCA has led to his speaking to many collegiate and professional sports teams including the Atlanta Braves and the Miami Dolphins.

This program promises to be inspirational as well as entertaining.

— Fred Ehrensperger

Want to keep up with what's happening?

Got a computer?

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
 FOR 2004**

Officers	
President	Sid Varagona 942-5047
Vice President	J. D. Naramore 629-7075
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
Directors	
Buddy Coggin	785-5992
Jack Goertz	991-7766
Don Jackson	680-9125
Elliene Jackson	680-9125
Al Mikell	967-0515
Larry Wallace	491-3097
Warren Glover (ex-officio)	822-5753
Committee Chairpersons	
Arrangements	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Audit	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Fellowship	
Finance	Tom Steele 836-1904
Membership	Gene Kachelhofer 991-8604
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Charles Hickman 823-4597
Program	Fred Ehrensperger 655-2725
Sunshine	Nell King 822-7562

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

William Thomas "Tom" Dowdle, Jr., 78, of Trussville, Alabama passed away on Sunday, February 22, 2004. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Trussville, a U. S. Navy veteran of WW II, a graduate of API, now Auburn University, School of Architecture, class of 1951, and he retired from SCS in 1986 after 35 years of service.

Mr. Dowdle is survived by his wife, Lois Mertens Dowdle; one daughter Curry Jo; a son, William Thomas Dowdle, III, and his wife Nancy; three grandchildren and three nieces and their families.

Visitation was on Tuesday, February 24 with funeral services held on Wednesday, February 25 at 10 am at Jefferson Memorial in Trussville.

Claire Emile Bachofer of Hoover went home to be with the Lord on Monday, March 15, 2004 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was born in Syracuse, NY, in 1940, lived in Pennsylvania for several years where she taught ballroom dancing as a young adult, met and married her husband and moved to Birmingham over 40 years ago.

Mrs. Bachofer was a member of the Shades Mountain Independent Church, Hoover. She was a graduate of Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama, and worked at SCS for 25 years as a systems analyst. Claire was instrumental in founding of Step Forward, a Christian weight-loss program and she taught Step Forward classes at Covenant Presbyterian and Riverchase United Methodist Churches as well as in her home church over the past ten years.

Mrs. Bachofer is survived by her husband of 42 years, Dr. Edward V. Bachofer; two daughters, Cheri Claire Bachofer and Candi Bachofer Scott and her husband Jay; two sons, John Edward Bachofer and wife Jennie and Dr. David Edward Bachofer; six grandchildren; a sister in-law and two nephews.

Visitation was on Thursday, March 18 and the funeral on Friday, March 19 at 11 am, both held at the Shades Mountain Independent Church.

Southern Company Services and Southern Nuclear retirees wish to express their heartfelt sympathy to the families of Tom Dowdle and Claire Bacher.

— Jay Dorrance

SUNSHINE REPORT

Glen Brothers took **Helen** to the Ocean Hyperbaric Center in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida, to have a spec scan to check the brain activity and blood circulation. With the oxygen therapy, Helen was to breathe 100% oxygen under pressure. We are anxious to get a report from them upon their return.

Bob Ellenburg tripped over an extension cord four weeks ago and fractured his leg. He has been wearing a hip-to-ankle brace but is now walking with a walker. He has two more weeks before he can give up the walker.

Jim Ewing had complications after an appendectomy February 12, but is doing much better now.

Ann Garrett fell while replacing a light bulb and fractured her pelvis. She is recuperating at home and will be on crutches for a while.

Bob Gilbert has been in St. Vincent's Hospital but I have not been able to get information about his present condition.

Jean Guthrie has returned to the golf course. She has not yet played because of her eyesight, but she expects that to correct itself and hopes to join in the play soon.

Lillie Hargett fell at her daughter's house in Huntsville and broke her knee and a rib. She is having therapy and recuperating at home.

Mildred Hire had breast surgery March 19. Her reports have been good. She is recuperating at home and slowly regaining her strength.

Monroe Smith's wife, Bettie, has Parkinson's disease. She has good days and bad days but sounds great. We wish the very best for Bettie.

Jack Wintter had knee surgery April 5, and has been fighting a staph infection. He is presently using a walker and is planning to attend the Retiree Picnic in May.

We wish a speedy recovery to all those who are ill and hope they will be back in the mainstream very soon. I'm sure there are others who are ill that we don't know about, so please keep the lines of communication open so that we can keep our members informed...call me at 822-7562.

— Nell King

BIRTHDAYS

MAY: 3 - James Rimel, 4 - Kate Self and Norma Young, 5 - Ed Williamson, 6 - Evelyn Creamer and Betty Windhorst, 7 - Donald Mansfield, 16 - Betty Mikell, 17 - Rachel Hubbard, 18 - Bob Hart, 19 - Hugh Williamson, 23 - M. C. "Brick" Brickell, 25 - Bill Guthrie and 26 - Sam Bowman.

JUNE: 3 - Bill Gaskell and Warren Glover, 5 - Ethel Rushing, 6 - Betty Williamson, 10 - Edna Wright, 12 - Huston Welch and Mary Dougherty, 14 - John Thies, Ann Batum and Bob Winter, 18 - Pat Moore, 20 - Wayne Walton, 22 - Beverly Vincent, 23 - Joyce Steele, 24 - Leon Anderson, 26 - Glendean Swearingen and 29 - Judy Coggin.

— Jay Dorrance

TREASURER'S REPORT

So far this year we have received and deposited 193 checks from SCS Retiree members and associate members. Our income for this year has been \$2202.00 from dues and \$0.40 from interest (the APCO CU statement for March is not in yet). Expenses for the arrangements committee has been \$120.14 for the January and March meetings, \$25.86 for newsletter/postage, \$29.97 for program committee and \$50.00 for the sunshine committee

for memorials. Total expenses for the year are \$225.97 leaving a net income of \$1,976.43. There are still a few checks dribbling in so this not in any sense a final income report. We will see all of you and many (hopefully) of our nonmember retirees at the picnic meeting on May 10th.

— Henry Garrett

MEETING ATTENDANCE

We had 55 members attending our January 12 meeting and we had 81 members attending our March 8 meeting.

— Dora Brandt

THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON KERRY E. ADAMS

In 1962, as a helper in the Chattahoochee Hydro Group at Bartletts Ferry, Kerry Adams began his long and successful career in the Southern Company system. However, work as a mechanic soon con-vinced him that a college education was essential. Kerry became a co-op student in the Columbus Division while he pursued a mechanical engineering degree at Auburn University, which he earned in 1970. After graduation he became assistant test engineer at Plant McDonough/Atkinson. He later served as test engineer and results engineer at Plant McDonough/Atkinson followed by a general office assignment in Atlanta as assistant production engineer working for Jack Causey.

Kerry served as assistant plant manager at Plant Hammond working with Preston Nix, Plant Wansley with Harry Patrick and Plant Scherer with Charlie Hodges. He was a member of the startup team for units 1 and 2 at Plant Scherer with Wayne Dahlke. Kerry was promoted to plant manager at Plant Scherer in 1982. He returned to the Atlanta general office in 1984, again working with Jack Causey, and advanced through the ranks from manager to vice president of hydro and power generation services. He was then promoted to senior

vice president of fossil and hydro. In June 1994, Kerry was named executive vice president of engineering at Southern Company Services in Birmingham. In that position he interacted with other executives such as Bill Dahlberg, Bill Guthrie and Charles McCrary until his retirement in January 2001.

Kerry is married to Diane, and they have a daughter and two sons. Amy is a medical doctor who is currently a third year pathology resident at UAB. Brent works in hospital sales for Johnson and Johnson. Clay, in addition to working with CitiBank in New York City, is an actor who occasionally appears in the soap operas *One Life to Live* and *As the World Turns*.

Kerry and Diane enjoy traveling, as well as relaxing at their lake home at Bartletts Ferry. Kerry enjoys playing golf and woodworking. They are both active members at Asbury United Methodist Church and enjoy their civic organization activities. Diane is an active member of Assistance League of Birmingham, which serves senior citizens, underprivileged children and the illiterate. Kerry is very supportive of this organization and helps with various projects. Kerry also serves on the Junior Achievement Board of Directors. Once again we are spotlighting an SCS retiree who continues to serve his community.

— Charles E. Hickman

THE GREATEST GENERATION

One of the advantages of growing old is that our experiences of the past come together like chapters in a book, and the relationship of those experiences becomes clearer. As we review our accomplishments, we are sometimes surprised with the results. Activities that seemed inconsequential at the time gain new meaning in retrospect. With the passing of the last century, those of us who can remember the Great Depression, who fought in World War II, and who came home to make a life for ourselves are honored as “The Greatest Generation.” We view such honor with pride, but sometimes question whether what we did was really outstanding when

compared with those who went before us. Those who fought the Revolutionary War and established our republic might well be considered the "Greatest." They had the vision to do what was necessary to provide independence and the wisdom to provide a new form of government that has endured to this day.

Those who fought the Civil War rescued our country from what might have been a fatal division and built a shaky but enduring union. For that they could have been considered the "Greatest."

We must not disregard those from our country who joined the Allies to win World War I. Although there were fatal mistakes in the settlement that followed, few of us can imagine what life would have been like if they had not won. For that they, too, must be honored and considered for the title of "Greatest."

In defense of "The Greatest Generation" assumption, we must admit that there has never been a war so vast as World War II that involved the entire world, East and West. By comparison, World War I was a misnomer. American ingenuity brought the greatest expansion of industrial production known to mankind, and, though a by-product of the war, the American creativity revived the economy that was still suffering from the Great Depression.

That same ingenuity provided advanced weapons of war and improved methods of production. It carried over to the battlefield where individuals implemented original ideas, seized upon opportunities and took over to replace fallen leaders. We did it without recognizing at the time what we had done. General Eisenhower, on visiting the Normandy beaches some years after the war, said: "It was a wonderful thing to remember what those fellows were fighting for and sacrificing for, what they did to preserve our way of life. Not to conquer any territory, not for any ambitions of our own, but to make sure that Hitler could not destroy freedom in the world."

American men and women went to war to stop the spread of dictatorships throughout the world. All of them had seen the "Why We Fight" movies, and all knew about peace and freedom, but in the heat of battle, the primary concern was to defeat the

enemy. We all knew we had won decisively, but the true reality is much clearer after all these many years.

On one of my visits to Europe two years ago, I met the mayor of a small German town. His words moved me almost to tears when he said: "In Western Europe we have had a long time of peace since 1945. For this good time we have to say thanks to the soldiers coming in 1944 to free us from Nazi dictatorship." Then a former German soldier stood before the graves of some of his fallen comrades and said: "The American soldiers of World War II deserve highest recognition and honor. They have saved Europe and the world from injustice and slavery."

If my generation has accomplished anything as civilians since that war, part of our success must be due to our recognition that we were spared and we were motivated by the memory of those we left behind in the stormy seas, in the broken wreckage of aircraft or on the field of battle. This memory encouraged each of us to do the best we know how. Now, those peacetime achievements are, for the most part, done. Our numbers are fading fast, and we are continually searching for confirmation that we have lived up to the reputation as "The Greatest Generation." This theme is evident in the motion picture *saving Private Ryan* when Ryan returns to the grave of the captain who gave his life in the process. Ryan says: "Tell me I have led a good life. Tell me I'm a good man."

We began our conquest as an effort to stop Hitler and Tojo. We had no thought that our accomplishments in battle and endeavors since might be labeled as "The Greatest." Even now, we are inclined to ask ourselves "Could that be me? Did we really do that?"

— Donald E. Lavender
Scottish Rite Journal
July 2002

We should be too big to take offense and too noble to give it.

— Abraham Lincoln

IS IT A STROKE?

This was published in a monthly newsletter where a friend of mine lives and he sent it on. I had never heard this advice before and hadn't a clue.

Perhaps you hadn't either and would like to file it away in the back of your head.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say any bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. ask the individual to smile.
2. ask him or her to raise both arms.
3. ask the person to speak a simple sentence.

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of nonmedical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

— private communication

THE SYMBOLIC ROSE

The rose has a long and rich history. Roses were first cultivated in China about 4000 years ago. The early Egyptians grew roses and shipped them from the port of Alexandria throughout the ancient world. In 1187, Saladin defeated the Crusaders in Jerusalem, and after his victory, he ordered that 500 camel loads of roses be brought to cleanse the mosque of Omar. In the Middle Ages, several varieties of roses survived only by the efforts of monks who cultivated rose gardens at their

monasteries for both decorative and medicinal purposes.

Everyone has heard the nursery rhyme "Ring around the rosy, pocket full of posies, ashes, ashes, we all fall down." This rhyme was written during the Black Plague, when bubonic plague spread throughout Europe, killing a quarter of the population. The "rosy" and "posy" refer to the practice of carrying flowers, which because of their fragrance, were thought to ward off the plague. The "rosy" also referred to the skin lesions of the plague, which were reddish pink, like a rose.

The famous War of the Roses, the British Civil War, was fought between the house of Lancaster, whose symbol is a red rose, and the house of York, whose symbol is a white rose. After the War, in 1485, Henry Tudor married Elizabeth Plantagenet, a member of the York house. Since then a white rose superimposed on a red rose has been the symbol of the monarchy in Great Britain symbolizing the uniting of these two families.

In France Napoleon's wife, Empress Josephine, loved roses and created what was at the time the largest rose garden in the world at their palace at Malmaison. It is said that there were over 250 varieties in Josephine's rose garden.

The rose has a particular historic significance in America. According to tradition, On October 11, 1492, while sailing on the Sargasso Sea, a crewman saw a rose branch floating on the water. This rose renewed the explorer's hope of finding land, and the seafarers continued on, soon finding the New World. The oldest fossilized imprint of a rose is on a 35-million-year-old slate deposit in Florissant, Colorado.

George Washington, our first President, was the first recorded American rose breeder and had a large rose garden at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, estate. Congress passed a law, signed by President Reagan on November 20, 1986, establishing the rose as the National Flower of the United States. Today, the rose is the most popular cut flower in our country. There are over 1000 acres of greenhouse area dedicated to the production of roses in America, about 60% of them in California. In 2000, over 1.2 billion cut roses were purchased

by Americans. This is a pre capita rate of 4.67 roses per person.

In Greek mythology, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, is said to have created the rose from her tears and the blood of her son, Adonis, who had been attacked by a wild boar. In Roman mythology, the rose was the symbol of Venus, goddess of love. Cupid is said to have offered a rose to Harpocrates, the Roman god of silence, to keep secret the various love affairs of Venus. Harpocrates was usually depicted holding a rose in one hand, with a finger of the other hand at his lips, in a sign of silence. This established the rose as a symbol of secrecy. To this day, the term *sub rosa*, meaning "under the rose, means confidentiality or secrecy.

For some, the rose has religious significance. There are references to roses in both Confucian and Buddhist religious literature. Christians have seen the rose as an important symbol of their faith. Early Roman Catholics strung rose buds together, using them in prayer, establishing what is now known as the rosary. The red rose has been taken by some Christians as a symbol of Mary, mother of Christ, and by others as a symbol of Christ himself: "I am the rose of Sharon" (The Song of Solomon 2:1).

The rose has long been used for medicinal purposes. The Persians used rose oil for the treatment of various ailments. The Greeks used rose-scented oils for perfumes, both for the sick as well as for anointing the dead. The apothecary rose (*Rosa gallica officinalis*) became the foundation of a large industry in France in the Middle Ages because of its reputed medicinal value. Because of the rose's long use as a medicinal, it became a symbol of pharmacology which is still used today.

Today, roses of various colors are symbolic of certain virtues or sentiments. Red roses are symbolic of love, affection, friendship and respect. White roses symbolize reverence, purity, secrecy and humility. Yellow roses represent joy and gladness. The pink rose is a symbol of grace, gratitude or sympathy. So, even though roses are ancient symbols, we still find meaning in their beauty and their fragrance today.

Most of the year, the rose bush is simply a collection of green, scraggly stems covered by

thorns. Most of the time, the rose bush is neither beautiful nor fragrant, and to touch its thorns will cause pain. But with patience, careful cultivation and proper watering, the ugly, thorny bush becomes filled with beautiful blossoms that captivate the senses and fill the soul with joy.

— C. James Graham
Scottish Rite Journal
January-February 2004

HOW TO GET INTO HEAVEN

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?" I asked the children in my Sunday School class. "NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into heaven?" Again the answer was, "NO!"

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children and loved my wife, would that get me into heaven?" I asked them again. Once more they all answered, "NO!"

"Well," I continued, thinking they were a good bit more theologically sophisticated than I had given them credit for, "then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!."

— From the Internet

At bottom, a man is what his thinking is, thoughts being the artists who give color to our days. Optimists and pessimists live in the same world, walk under the same sky, and observe the same facts. Skeptics and believers look up at the same great stars. Clearly, the difference between them is the difference not of facts, but of faith, of insight, of outlook and point of view, a difference of inner attitude and habit of thought with regard to the worth and use of life.

— Joseph Fort Newton
The Builders, 1916

SCS AND SOUTHERN NUCLEAR RETIREES ANNUAL PICNIC LUNCHEON

Monday, May 10, 2004

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pelham Civic Complex

10 a.m. – SCS Retirees Board of Directors meets in the dining room

10:30 a.m. – Members and guests register and socialize

11:50 a.m. – Seating begins in the main dining room

12 noon – Lunch! Lots of great food!

12:45 p.m. – Program speaker (see details elsewhere in this issue)

Register by May 3. Call Dora Brandt 956-0502 or mail the form you received earlier.

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