



---

Volume 18

Number 2

March-April 2006

---

### **PREZ SEZ**

We had a great turnout in January with 63 people in attendance. If you were one of those 63, I really appreciate you being there. If not, I hope you will be able to attend some future meetings.

Dale Lloyd gave an informative presentation on new generation plans for Southern Company. It appears for now that any type generation is a possibility, including nuclear. Who would have thought that Southern Company would be thinking about building another nuclear plant? Why not? Look at the great operating record that our plants have. Thanks to all of you who had a part in making this a success.

Our May meeting will be held at the Pelham Civic Center on the 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the Tuesday after Memorial Day. I know that this may be inconvenient for some but it was the only day that we could confirm David Ratcliffe as our speaker. Please plan to attend and bring someone with you, as this is a great opportunity to hear The CEO of Southern Company.

I have been working with Bob Smith to arrange a regular meeting and/or a field trip to Aldridge Gardens. We now have this scheduled for our

September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bob plans to be at the March meeting to give us more information on this trip.

Wayne Walton has agreed to continue to head up the Audit committee and has in fact completed the audit for 2005. I still need someone to head up the Fellowship, Membership, Nominating and Program committees. If you would be willing to do one of these please let me know.

We continue to play Russian roulette with our meeting room so pay close attention each time to the announcement in the newsletter. This month I think we are meeting in the conference dining room adjacent to the cafeteria in building 42. Check elsewhere in the newsletter for confirmation of this. I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting.

— Kerry Adams

**Want to keep up with what's happening?**

**Got a computer?**

**Visit the SCS Retiree Website**

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

### **SUNSHINE REPORT**

Diane Adams is recuperating from knee surgery and continuing physical therapy there at the present time.

**Margaret Carter's** knee surgery is now scheduled for March 2.

We hope that any of our members who may have contracted viruses or flu have recovered and are doing well.

Please remember to call me if you know of anyone sick at home or in the hospital, or having surgery.

— Liz Winter

***We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.***

— C.S. Lewis

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP  
 FOR 2006**

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Kerry Adams 980-7185
Vice President	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
<b>Directors</b>	
Richard Chastain	822-8971
Dan Finney	995-9703
Bill Garner	967-5978
Jackie Imbush	991-8472
Nell King	822-7562
Joe Leamon	870-5637
Jack Goertz (ex-officio)	991-7766
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>	
Arrangements	Buddy & Judy Coggins 785-5992
Audit	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Fellowship	
Finance	
Membership	
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	
Program	
Sunshine	Liz Winter 822-6142

**BIRTHDAYS**

**MARCH:** 2-T.D.Posey, 4-Rita Townsend, 5-Al Stallings, 7-Clara Posey, 9-Danny Lofton & Gene Rollins, 11-Mary Sue Thornburgh, 16-James Ewing, 18-Iris Gilbert & Mary Rimel, 20-Mary Anchors & Paul Passen, 21-Dole Shaw & Scott Herron, 22-Richard "Woody" Woodruff, 23-Clyde Wood, 24-Donald Freeman, 28-Bernice Hill, Richard "Cowboy" McRee & John Windhorst and 29-Barbara Jones.

**APRIL:** 1-Shirley Rutherford, 2-Lowell Brothers, 4-Vicki Garner, 5-Jean Shaw, 6-Joe Spears, 7-Geraldine Lofton, 8-Lodema Evans, Sarah Ann Michlewright, Eugene Johnston, Stokely Morgan & Jerry Ray, 11-Henry Garrett & Susan Goertz, 12-John Farley, 13-Don Jackson & Roy Swearingen, 18-Jack Goertz, 21-Judy Sanford, 22-Bill Rowe, 24-Doug McCrary, 25-Janet Smith, 29-Bob Davis and 30-Joyce Ehrensperger, Bill Garner & Hugh Turner.  
 — Jay Dorrance

**OBITUARIES**

**In Memoriam**

**Merideth C. Sanders**, 70, of Tucker, Georgia died Wednesday, November 9, 2005. She is survived by two brothers. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 12 from Ridout's Roebuck Chapel Birmingham, Alabama.

**Sylvia Miller O'Berry Goodwin**, 65, of Bessemer, Alabama, died Monday, November 14, 2005. A member of SCS RETIREEES she retired from the Environmental Licensing Department on April 1, 2004 with 31 years of service. She is survived by two daughters, eight grandchildren, one great grandchild and two brothers. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, November 16, from Brown Service Bessemer with burial in Valhalla Cemetery.

**Michael Griffith**, 56, of Birmingham, Alabama died Sunday, December 18, 2005 at a local hospital. He retired from SCS in 2003 with 32 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Theda, one daughter, two brothers, a sister and several nieces

and nephews. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 21 from Southern Heritage Chapel in Pelham, Alabama. Burial was the next day in the Sections, Alabama United Methodist Church Cemetery.

**James "Jim" Laird**, 89, of Pensacola, Florida died on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 after a lengthy illness. He retired from SCS as Fuel Manager. His wife Ernestine preceded him in death. He is survived by one son, a brother, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. A funeral service was held on Friday, February 10 at Elmwood Chapel in Birmingham, Alabama.

### Condolences

Sincere sympathy is extended to SCS RETIREE **Monroe Smith** and his family in the death of Monroe's wife Betty P. Smith, 69, of Cahaba Heights, who passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2005. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, one daughter, two grandsons and two sisters. A memorial service was held on Thursday, October 27 at the Southern Heritage Funeral Home in Pelham, Alabama.

Sincere sympathy is also extended to SCS RETIREE **Patricia Moore** and her family in the death of Pat's husband Cecil Moore, 79 of Hoover, Alabama who passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2005. He is survived by his wife of 58 1/2 years, one daughter, a granddaughter and one sister. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. in Helena, Alabama on December 27 at The Grace Christian Church, the church where he was a founding member. Burial followed in Ridout's Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Thelma Davis Garner, 81 of Pelham, Alabama who died Tuesday, February 7, 2006. She was the mother of SCS RETIREES **Malcolm Garner** and **William "Bill" Garner** and SCS employee **Jim Garner**. Mrs. Garner is survived by, in addition to her three sons, four grandchildren, a great grandchild and one brother. Graveside services were held on Friday, February 10 at Highland Memorial Gardens in Bessemer, Alabama.

Expressions of deepest sympathy are extended to SCS RETIREE **Mildred Ray Fleming** and her family for the loss of Mildred's brother, Owen Edward Ray, 78, of Hackleburg, Alabama who died on Friday, February 10, 2006 in a Russellville, Alabama hospital. Survivors include his wife, Flety Ray, two sons, five grandchildren, four brothers, three sisters, several nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held at the First Baptist Church of Hackleburg on Monday, February 13 followed by burial in the Cedar Tree Cemetery in Hackleburg, Alabama.

— Jay Dorrance

### THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON JAMES (JIM) W. COLEMAN

To paraphrase Andy Warhol, “everyone will be famous for 15 minutes.” On your next trip to the French Quarter in New Orleans, you can see for yourself the statue that provided Jim Coleman with his 15 minutes of fame. In 1952, a renowned sculptress, Ms. Angela Gregory, asked Jim to model for a Bienville (founder of New Orleans) monument, which would consist of a Frenchman (Bienville), an Indian and a monk. Jim was the model for the body of all three persons, but a “real” Frenchman posed for Bienville’s face. Ms. Gregory received assistance from French dignitaries to develop her sculpture into a bronze statue. A picture of the statue is included on the next page.

The July 1983 issue of the Alabama Power Company magazine *Powergrams* includes an article about the Coleman family titled “the family that graduates together...” Within a few months of each other, Jim received a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), his wife Rena and their daughter Rhonda each received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Samford University, and their daughter Gale graduated from Berry High School. Of course, a few years later Gale graduated from Samford with a degree in nutrition. It should be noted that Jim had already received three other

**SCS OUTSIDE**  
*March – April 2006*

degrees dating back to 1955 in an effort to “quench his thirst for knowledge.”



After graduating from Tulane University in 1955 with a business degree, Jim entered the Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The best thing that happened to him there was meeting Rena Ashworth, who became his wife in 1957. After his discharge from the Army, they moved to

Atlanta, Georgia, where Jim was employed by Texaco. During this employment, he attended the Atlanta Law School and obtained a law degree in 1961. His next employment was with Carolina Power and Light Company in Raleigh, North Carolina as a residential sales representative.

Jim joined Alabama Power Company in 1968 in the general office marketing department. The objective of his liaison with the residential, commercial and industrial market areas was to determine existing market penetrations of electrical loads and the market potential of each market. This information would allow management to develop programs to maximize the market potential to meet the needs of Alabama Power customers. Would you believe that during this time, Jim attended the Birmingham Law School at night and received a Juris Doctorate degree in 1972?

In 1990, Jim transferred to the Southern Company Services (SCS) energy services department in Atlanta, but maintained residence in Birmingham. He retired from SCS on July 1, 1993. Jim and Rena live in northern Shelby County and enjoy traveling, landscaping and growing blueberries, muscadines, scuppernongs, fruit trees and herbs. They also enjoy time spent with their five grandchildren, all of whom seem destined to earn one or more college degrees.

— Charles E. Hickman

**THE SPOTLIGHT ALSO SHINES ON  
WAYNE P. WALTON**

As is common for many SCS Retirees born during the 1930s depression, we were poor but did not let that keep us from setting goals that seemed unachievable, but then achieving them. Wayne Walton epitomizes this situation. He was born at the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company in 1934 and lived in Ensley until his father lost his job at the coal company. For 16 months, Wayne and his family lived with his grandmother on a farm where they grew corn, oats, vegetables and some fruit. As World War II approached, steel mills began to operate and Wayne's father returned to work in

Fairfield. He worked hard to support the war effort and saved money to buy a house in Central Park. Wayne worked odd jobs to allow him to buy a motor scooter, a small motorcycle and finally a 1948 Chevrolet!

Wayne recalled two teachers who made a significant impression on him academically. Mrs. Culp taught geometry and observed that “brain work is the hardest work of all, which is why so many people do so little of it.” Mrs. Bohemer taught chemistry in such a rigorous manner that students were well prepared for organic chemistry classes in college (Wayne made an A in these classes). However, he noted that he struggled at Alabama Polytechnic Institute both academically and financially. Support from his father and income from various jobs, including about \$1.00 a day while in advanced ROTC, enabled Wayne to graduate in mechanical engineering and to become a second lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps.

His two years of active duty were highlighted by the launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union and the frenzied response by the United States. Wayne’s job at the Army Pictorial Center on Long Island allowed him to develop and review the films of the Vanguard failures and successes before they were released to other government sources or the general public. Another task was to transfer World War II combat films to an acetate base for historical preservation.

In January 1959, Wayne returned to Birmingham and was employed by Southern Services, Incorporated to work with Jim Hire on Crist steam plant unit 5. After about two years, Wayne began to work with Howard Hubbard in Instruments and Control and remained in that area until retirement. Dramatic increases in air conditioning in the South led to significant amounts of design work related to the construction of new power plants. For many years, the annual rate of increase in electrical load was a straight line. However, when this trend began to flatten, utilities began to reduce work forces by early buy-outs. Wayne took advantage of the third buy-out to retire.

Wayne has always been interested in aviation, and he presented a program to us in January 2004 in

recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wright brothers’ flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Wayne has visited several air shows and museums and can relate many interesting facts during a conversation. Try him! During retirement Wayne spends time with his wife, Jackie, and their grandchildren. He has participated in building and maintaining homes for the less fortunate, primarily through Habitat for Humanity and a Methodist Center in South Carolina. As you can see, his humble beginnings are now a major force in his activities.

— Charles E. Hickman

### **CAN YOU PASS A CITIZENSHIP TEST?**

*Here are 30 questions that are typical of those immigrants must answer to qualify for citizenship. Twenty-five is the minimum passing score. See how well you do. Answers are on page 7.*

#### **What is the title of the National Anthem?**

- A. Oh, Say Can You See
- B. God Bless America
- C. America the Beautiful
- D. The Star Spangled Banner

#### **Which of the following rights is guaranteed by the first amendment?**

- A. Right to bear arms
- B. Right to vote
- C. Freedom of religion
- D. All of the above

#### **What is the title of a head of city government?**

- A. Mayor
- B. Governor
- C. Chancellor
- D. Chairman of the Board

#### **Who has the ability to declare war?**

- A. The President
- B. The secretary of defense
- C. The joint chiefs
- D. The congress

## **SCS OUTSIDE**

*March - April 2006*

**How many full terms may a senator serve?**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. No limit

**How many full terms can a President serve?**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. No limit

**How many years is a full term for a Representative?**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

**Which amendment sets the minimum voting age to 18?**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup>
- B. 19<sup>th</sup>
- C. 26<sup>th</sup>
- D. 18<sup>th</sup>

**Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?**

- A. The Speaker of the House
- B. The Secretary of Defense
- C. The Chief Justice
- D. The First Lady

**On July 4, 1776 we declared independence from whom?**

- A. Germany
- B. Great Britain
- C. Spain
- D. Rome

**How many branches of government do we have?**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. Zero

**Which is part of the Judicial branch at the federal level?**

- A. The Supreme Court
- B. The Electoral College
- C. The Senate
- D. The State Governors

**How many states are there?**

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 50
- D. 100

**How many stripes are there on the American flag?**

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 50
- D. 100

**Who was President during the civil war?**

- A. Abraham Lincoln
- B. George Washington
- C. Ulysses S. Grant
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson

**Who is the current President of the United States?**

- A. Bill Clinton
- B. George W. Bush
- C. Colin Powell
- D. Dick Cheney

**Who is the current Vice President of the United States?**

- A. Bill Clinton
- B. George W. Bush
- C. Colin Powell
- D. Dick Cheney

**Why did the Pilgrims come to America?**

- A. to establish a trade route to India
- B. to set up fur trade with the Natives
- C. to establish a new nation
- D. to find religious freedom

**How many total Senators are there?**

- A. 10
- B. 13
- C. 50
- D. 100

**The Constitution has how many amendments?**

- A. 23
- B. 27
- C. 31
- D. 33

**How many amendments have been proposed officially by Congress but never ratified?**

- A. None
- B. 1
- C. 6
- D. 12

**Which of these amendments is a ratified and current amendment?**

- A. declaring it illegal to desecrate the American flag
- B. equality of rights regardless of gender
- C. restricting marriage in all states to be between a man and a woman
- D. prohibiting the importing of liquor into States where it is illegal

**In what year was the last amendment ratified?**

- A. 1868
- B. 1920
- C. 1961
- D. 1992

**What is the official language of the United States?**

- A. None
- B. Latin
- C. English
- D. Esperanto

**Who was the first Vice President of the United States?**

- A. George Washington
- B. John Adams

- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Andrew Jackson

**Who said "Give me liberty or give me death?"**

- A. Nathan Hale
- B. Patrick Henry
- C. John Wilkes Booth
- D. Thomas Paine

**How many Presidents were assassinated while in office?**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 6

**Which of these Presidents was born in Texas?**

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. Richard Nixon
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. George W. Bush

**How many Presidents have been impeached?**

- A. None
- B. 1
- C. 2
- D. 4

## **QUIZ ANSWERS**

1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D, 5-D, 6-B, 7-B, 8-C, 9-A, 10-B, 11-C, 12-A, 13-B, 14-C, 15-B, 16-A, 17-B, 18-D, 19-D, 20-D, 21-B, 22-C, 23-D, 24-D, 25-A, 26-B, 27-B, 28-C, 29-A, 30-C. *Note that 51% of Senior Citizens who took this test failed it.*

### **JUST LIKE A MAN**

I had spent the late winter months waiting impatiently for signs of spring. When the first warm, sunny Saturday arrived, I eagerly unlocked the storm door and stepped onto our patio deck. I was pleased by the sight of green sprouts and the sounds of singing birds. More than anything else, I delighted in the sweet aroma of the spring air.

Knocking on the kitchen window, I beckoned to my wife to join me in enjoying the pleasures of the season. She quietly brought me back to earth when she reminded me that I was standing over the dryer vent, inhaling the scent of fabric softener.

— George G. Busher  
*Reader's Digest, May 1995*

### **IT'S A GENERATIONAL THING**

High-school sweethearts, my wife and I were soon married and spent the next 27 years raising a

Family. After our grown children moved out of the house, we experienced an unaccustomed freedom. One morning, when we came home at four, I asked Shirley, "Do you remember the last time we stayed out this late?"

"I think so," she said. "We both got grounded for a month.

— Peter Schumacher  
*Reader's Digest, January 1994*

### **WHICH ARE YOU?**

*An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run.*

— Sydney J. Harris

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

*Our next meeting will be Monday,  
March 13 at 1 p.m.*

*Conference Dining Room, Building 42*

*Board meeting will be at 11 a.m.*

*Members and guests are invited to join  
us for lunch in the Inverness Cafeteria.*