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Volume 18

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May-June 2006

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### PREZ SEZ

As I sit here on this beautiful Sunday afternoon in April trying to compose an article for our newsletter, I am reminded of how wonderful springtime is with all its beauty. I just finished removing the last of the fallen leaves from my yard a few days ago and I swore that I didn't want to see another leaf. Yet as I sit here I can't help but think how beautiful nature really is. We are fortunate to live in an area where we have four distinct seasons, all bringing changes and playing an important role in our lives. So it is with people. We are all different and we all bring a different viewpoint to the table. Thanks to all of you who have helped to make our organization what it is today.

At the end of our March meeting, Jerry Vandegrift agreed to be the Chairman of our Nominating committee. He and the other committee members will be working hard to put together a great slate of officers and directors for 2007. Please give them your full support and say yes if you are asked to fill one of these positions. Remember you can make a difference only if you get involved. My thanks go out to Jerry for agreeing to take on this important role.

Don't forget our next meeting coming up on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May at the Pelham Civic Center. We are very fortunate to have David Ratcliffe, CEO of Southern Company, as our speaker. Many of you may remember David from his days at SCS. Please come and show your support and hear firsthand what David has to say about the company. Since this meeting is open to all retirees, please invite someone to come with you and encourage them to join our organization.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

— Kerry Adams

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

**Got a computer?**

**Visit the SCS Retiree Website**

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

### BIRTHDAYS

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

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

— Jay Dorrance

### OBITUARIES

#### In Memoriam

**Bob Usry**, 77, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away at his home on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. He was a native of Wadley, Georgia, and was raised in Augusta. He was a co-op student while attending Georgia Tech, graduating in 1950 with highest

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honors. Mr. Usry was employed by the Southern Company for 46 years both in Atlanta and Birmingham, retiring from SCS in 1992 as Senior Vice President in charge of Power System Operations and Planning. He was active in the SCS RETIREES.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Janet, a daughter Debra Turner and two grandsons. His family received friends on Friday, March 31 at Southern Heritage Chapel in Pelham. Graveside services were held the next day at 3 p.m. in the Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery in Augusta, Georgia.

**John G Farley, Jr.**, 81, of Birmingham, Alabama died Friday, March 31, 2006. He retired from SCS in 1986 as Environmental Licensing Manager with 28 years of service which included time with the Alabama Power Company before coming to SCS. Mr. Farley was preceded in death by his wife Dixie and is survived by his two daughters Janie Behr and Martha Walker, a step daughter Linda Stanford, five grandchildren and a brother Joseph M. Farley. A funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 3 at Ridout's Elmwood Chapel with burial in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham.

### Condolences

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of 1987 Alabama Power retiree Claude C. Swindle, Jr. of Birmingham, Alabama who passed away on Monday, February 20, 2006. He was the brother of SCS RETIREE the late C.V. Swindle.

Our heartfelt sympathy is also extended to SCS RETIREE Jerry Sappington and his family in the death of Jerry's wife of 50 years, Nelle Sappington, 72, who passed away on Tuesday, February 28, 2006. Funeral services were held for Mrs. Sappington on Thursday, March 2 at Ridout's Elmwood Chapel at 1 p.m.

-Jay Dorrance

*Pessimism never won any battle.*

*- Dwight D. Eisenhower*

## SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2006

### Officers

President	Kerry Adams 980-7185
Vice President	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079

### Directors

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	991-7766

(ex-officio)

### Committee

#### Chairpersons

Arrangements	Buddy & Judy Coggin 785-5992
Audit	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Fellowship	
Finance	
Membership	
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Jerry Sappington
Program	
Sunshine	Liz Winter 822-6142

THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON  
**WILLIAM (BILL) F. GARNER**

Bill Garner was born in Corbin, Kentucky, but was reared in Lipscomb, Alabama, where he grew up enjoying backyard sports such as baseball and football and other outdoor activities such as camping, hiking and bicycling, which he still enjoys. As a Boy Scout, he attained the rank of Eagle and earned over 50 merit badges. Bill worked his way through high school and college at Winn-Dixie, and he received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1970 from the University of Alabama. Later he received a master's degree with a major in power systems from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Bill joined Southern Company Services (SCS) in 1970 as an engineer in the electrical department working on the design of Plant Hatch. His career at SCS involved several plants throughout the Southern electric system: electrical design at Barton, Vogtle and Miller; and retrofit design activities at Alabama, Gulf and Mississippi plants. In 1977, he transferred to the production services department where he was the liaison engineer between Plant Farley and the engineering disciplines. From 1981 to 1992, Bill was the engineering manager for nuclear plant support—Plant Hatch. In succeeding years, his management activities were broadened to include areas such as construction, startup, and quality assurance for fossil and hydro. In 2002, his career came full circle when he was named manager of the engineering project for Plant Hatch, and he feels honored to have had such a wide variety of opportunities and responsibilities at SCS. After 33 years, Bill retired in 2003. SCS seems to have a family connection; his brother, Sonny, is retired from SCS, and another brother, Jim, is still active there.

Although Bill was a student at the University of Alabama and Vicki was a student at Toccoa Falls Bible College in Georgia, fate, in the form of an engagement party for another couple, brought them together during Christmas season in 1968. They were married in September 1969. Both of their daughters, Tracy and Tanya, graduated from the

University of Alabama with high honors. Tracy portrayed Snow White, Cinderella, and other Disney stars for eight years at Disney World. She is currently a student at Virginia College. After an initial career as a vice-president at United Way of Jackson, Mississippi, Tanya is now a mother and homemaker. Hannah Grace is the first grandchild for Bill and Vicki.

Hurricanes seem to follow the Garners. They were visited by Charley, Frances and Jeanne in Kissimmee, and Ivan and Dennis in Pensacola Beach. They used to love to visit the beach, but now are considering purchasing property with a cave in the Smoky Mountains, far away from hurricanes.

Since retirement, Bill has enjoyed spending more time with his family, particularly with his granddaughter. He still enjoys planning and executing projects, such as renovations at their Birmingham home, villa in Kissimmee and condo in Pensacola Beach. Regardless of the next challenge, Bill noted that retirement is great and he recommends it to everyone.

— Charles E. Hickman

**MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at the March 13 meeting was 51 members and guests.

— Buddy Coggin

**SUNSHINE REPORT**

**Pat Moore** is home following angioplasty on an artery. She will go back in 2 or 3 weeks for the repair of an abdominal aneurysm, and probably be there at that time for about 5 days.

**Tom Steele** is now at his daughter's home (321 Belvedere Circle, Birmingham 35242). They have called in Hospice. Brenda said that Tom would appreciate cards from any of his friends.

Please keep these two in your prayers.

— Liz Winter

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**NOTE FROM THE BETTER BUSINESS  
BUREAU**

The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers about a deceptive mailing that has been received locally. The mailing, from a Las Vegas company affiliated with U.S. Sweepstakes Advisors, says that the recipient is being notified that more than \$3.7 million has been documented in his or her name. But the note claims the money will be given to someone else if the recipient doesn't submit the appropriate entry paperwork. The mailing instructs the recipient to return the form with a \$20 document fee in a prepaid envelope. In small print, the mailing states that by sending a check, the recipient authorizes the payee to make a one-time electronic debit from his or her bank account. The company does not sponsor or administer any sweepstakes and is not affiliated with any sweepstakes administration, the BBB reported. Subscribers who pay the \$20 fee receive a newsletter containing information about sweepstakes they may be eligible to enter.

— BBB Bulletin,  
Mar/Apr2006

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

*Our next meeting will be the annual picnic on May 30 at the Pelham Civic Center.*

*Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.*

*Dining room seating starts at 11:50 a.m.*

*Board meeting will be at 10 a.m.*

**THE FACTS OF LIFE**

*We've all heard of Murphy's Law: "If something can go wrong, it will." Here are a few more you may not have heard of.*

**Green's Law of Debate:** Anything is possible if you don't know what you're talking about.

**Kirby's Law of Committees:** A committee is the only life form on Earth with 12 stomachs and no brain.

**Todd's Two Political Principles:** 1. No matter what they tell you, it is not the whole truth. 2. No matter what they're talking about, they're talking about money.

**Zappa's Law:** There are two things on Earth that are universal: hydrogen and stupidity.

**4<sup>th</sup> Corollary to Murphy's Law:** Smile. Tomorrow will be worse.

— *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader*,  
13<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2000