



September 25. Like many of you, I have paid into Social Security for a long time and it is a great feeling to finally see some of it coming back.

— Kerry Adams

**Want to keep up with what's happening?
Got a computer?**

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

Volume 18

Number 6

November-December 2006

PREZ SEZ

At our last meeting we had 49 people come out to enjoy a beautiful day at Aldridge gardens. Thanks to Kay and Eddie Aldridge for making their former home available to the public and to Bob Smith for arranging our meeting. If you were not able to attend, hopefully you will get an opportunity to tour the gardens at another time.

Our annual Holiday meeting is coming up on November 13th. We will be meeting at Ross Bridge Conference Center again this year. It is a beautiful setting and a great way to jump-start the holidays. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

In addition to the holiday meeting, we will also be electing and installing officers for the upcoming year. Our nominating committee has put together a great slate of officers for your approval. My thanks go out to the Nominating Committee, to those who have agreed to serve, and to each of you for your support of them. *See Nominating Committee report later in this newsletter.*

As I reflect back on 2006, I realize that I have reached several milestones and two of them are very memorable. The most memorable is the birth of my granddaughter on August 12 and the second was the deposit of my first Social Security check on

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income from Dues remains the same at \$2166.00 and income from interest now stands at \$132.98. We have now paid our budgeted pledge to United Way, so our expenses to date (10/9/06) are \$1,214.47, leaving our net gain for the year at \$1,084.51.

We still have one major bill to pay: the amount of the subsidy that the group will provide over the cost of the meal at Ross Bridge for the November mtg.

Our membership remains at 180 paid in members and 158 associate members

— Henry Garrett

BIRTHDAYS

November: 4-Elizabeth Wintter, 7-Emma Patrick & Betty Ponder, 8-Betty Hendricks, 9-Grady Smith, 10-Arthur Draper & Jean Guthrie, 11-Ozen Batum, Noel Chambers, Charles Hickman & Nancy Parsons, 12-Angie Campisi & Tommy Sanford, 13-George Burson, 14-Dora Brandt & Frank Brewer, 23-Mildred Flemming, 29-John Evans & James O'Brien and 30-Gail Pugh.

December: 3-Attie Fleming, Bill Holcombe & Evelyn Mansfield, 4-Lou Payne, 9-Linda Henry & Jackson Wintter, 12-Jerry Nichols, 13-Betty Allen, Jerry Sappington, Carolyn Spears & Jackie Walton, 18-Mac Pate, 20-Linda Rooker, 22-Lee Niemzak, 23-Richard Chastain, 26-Melanie Crane, Betty Headley-

SCS OUTSIDE

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Latta & Jack Townsend, 29-John Plaxco, 30-Jack Greenhill, William Lambert & James Maughn and 31-Buddy Coggin, Billy Latta & Jack Jones.

— Jay Dorrance

Cemetery. The family received friends prior to the service. Mr. Self died in February, 2005.

— Jay Dorrance

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Paul C. Passen, 80, of Hoover, Alabama, died on Saturday, September 2, 2006. Mr. Passen was a native of Indiana and most recently a resident of The Park at Riverchase. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during WWII and was a SCS employee in electrical design-admin. & procurement, retiring in 1989 with 15 years service.

Mr. Passen was predeceased by Marjorie, his wife of 53 years who died in December of 2002. He is survived by three sons, Tom, Steve and Dan Passen and their wives, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, September 6 at the Southern Heritage Funeral Home in Pelham, Alabama.

Bobby Nell Linton, 75, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on Sunday, October 15, 2006. She retired from SCS information services 1988 with 32 years of service.

Mrs. Linton was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil Linton. Survivors include her three daughters, Michelle, Lisa and Cecilia; a son Cecil, Jr.; four grandchildren and a sister. A time of remembrance was hosted by the family at the Life Church on Thursday evening October 19.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of SCS RETIREE the late Carl Self in the death of his widow, Kate Ellen Self, who passed away on Thursday, October 19, 2006 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She was 84. She is survived by her son, Steve Self, a daughter, Deidre Landis, 4 grandchildren and a sister.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon, October 25 at Ridout's Valley Chapel in Homewood, Alabama. Burial followed in Elmwood

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Six at One Time

For some time I have been contributing to a group of six charities on the Internet. I can afford to do this because all it costs me is a couple of minutes of my time each day. Yes, each individual contribution is small, but the cumulative amount contributed each day can be quite large if everyone joins hands to support these charities. All you have to do is open your Web browser and key in www.thehungersite.com. You will get a screen that has a large button below a photograph. Click your mouse on the button and you will have contributed a half liter of food to help stave off world hunger, and you will get a new screen. Scroll down this new screen until you see a row of five additional buttons across your screen. Click on the first one and you will have the opportunity to contribute to free mammograms. Now do the same with the remaining buttons and you will have contributed to children's health care, free books for young needy children, preservation of the rain forest and the feeding of animals in shelters.

And all it cost you was the couple of minutes you spent clicking those buttons. I urge you to support these charities each day if you have a computer and access to the Web.

And One More

Yes, another opportunity to make a "contribution" that costs you nothing but a minute of your time. Each Fall, Campbell Soups sponsors a charity competition among the fans of NFL football teams. Each fan can vote once per day for their favorite NFL team, and for each vote, Campbells contributes one can of soup to a soup kitchen or feeding charity in that team's town.

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2006**

And each year the teams in Southern cities fare very badly. For example, right now the three leading teams have over 100,000 votes each. New Orleans has a little over 12,000 and the Atlanta Falcons have just over 1200. But you can make a difference. Get on your computer, open your browser and key in www.chunky.com. Follow the voting procedure on the screen to help feed the needy in a Southern city. Vote each day, starting tomorrow. The contest ends when the total votes for all teams add up to the number of cans Campbells has set aside for this generous contribution.

— Dan Wise

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jerry Vandegrift reported the following nominations at the September meeting:

President—Nell King
Vice President—Dora Brandt
Secretary—Pat Moore
Treasurer—Henry Garrett
Directors—John Brandt, Bob Smith, Liz Winter

Nominations will be taken from the floor and the slate will be voted on at the November meeting.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Jim Rimel's health has greatly improved. He was able to attend church last Sunday. Mary said they are planning a trip with their son in March.

Bruce Bailey has finished therapy for a fracture he suffered in August. Gladys said Bruce is also much improved, and was out checking his garden.

Janet Usry, widow of **Bob Usry**, has had a knee replacement, and is doing very well.

Howard Hubbard is now at home after being the hospital 22 days with pneumonia and a staph infection in his lungs.

Carol Yeager is scheduled for bypass surgery on November 27. She has been unable to return calls because of shortness of breath.

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 (ex-officio) | 991-7766 |
| Committee Chairpersons | |
| Arrangements | Buddy & Judy Coggin 785-5992 |
| Audit | Wayne Walton 822-1875 |
| Fellowship | |
| Finance | |
| Membership | |
| Newsletter | Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336 |
| Nominating | Jerry Vandegrift |
| Program | |
| Sunshine | Liz Winter 822-6142 |

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Bill Guthrie finished his radiation treatments about 2 weeks ago. He will be reevaluated around Thanksgiving.

— Liz Winter

THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON JAMES (JIM) W. NEWTON

James (Jim) Newton was born in upstate New York. After graduating from high school, he joined the United States Air Force (USAF), where he spent 24 years and retired in 1982. Some of the challenging opportunities he had during these years were traveling throughout the world as a leadership and management consultant to commanders. Jim concluded his service as director of curriculum at a senior air force education center. He earned an undergraduate degree from Park University in Kansas City and a masters degree from Webster University in St. Louis.

After leaving the USAF, Jim joined the Alabama Power Company corporate training department, where he advanced to the position of supervisor of management and professional training. In 1989, he transferred to Southern Nuclear as supervisor of employee development. In the early 1990s, Southern Company College was formed and given the responsibility of consolidating all of the employee development training for The Southern Company into one organization. Jim joined the College in 1991 as program manager of supervisory programs. In this position, he was responsible for programs such as Empowered Leadership, The Management Grid and the Public Utility Economics Course. Jim retired from The Southern Company in January 2001.

Jim and his wife Carol have been married for 47 years. They have three children and nine grandchildren. As is the case for many of us, the grandchildren provide much enjoyment. After retiring, the first thing Jim and Carol did was to take two grandchildren to Alaska on a trip that lasted eight weeks and covered 17,000 miles. After returning home and tending to chores such as washing clothes and refueling, they took four more grandchildren to Canada, with stops in Niagara Falls, Cooperstown

and Gettysburg. In 2005, Jim and Carol took three grandchildren on the Lewis and Clark Trail. A grandson is planning a summer 2007 trip to Maine and Nova Scotia. Whew, just thinking about all of this travel makes me both envious and tired.

Among the many other activities for Jim and Carol are fall tailgate parties with family and friends at Auburn University football games. Jim is a volunteer at Oak Mountain Mission Ministries in Pelham. He does whatever is needed at the mission; picking up and delivering donated furniture, packing boxes with clothing to deliver to the Black Belt of Alabama, building shelves or sweeping floors. A true and dedicated volunteer!

— Charles Hickman

A WORD OF WARNING

Last week SCS Retiree Bill Thurman sent me an e-mail containing the article below. As indicated by the inclusion of the Snopes Web address, this information has been verified.

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/securityguard.asp>

You can check on this at the above website. This one is pretty slick because they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want. Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it. This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA and MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. [The original poster said] One of our employees was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "Master Card". The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No," the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?" You say "yes". The caller continues: "I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number". The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card". He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we [*the original poster*] were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

Long story - short—we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is issuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. **Don't give it to them.** Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card because they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give

the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges or purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of Master Card" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

If you need further confirmation, I sent this message to my usual Internet mailing list the same day Bill sent it to me. Out of the 15 or so people I sent it to, two sent e-mails back telling me they had received such a call within the last couple of weeks.

Thanks again to Bill Thurman for sharing this information with us.—Your editor

WORDS OF INSPIRATION

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

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

— Albert Einstein

AND NOW FOR A LITTLE HUMOR

Our daughter announced that she no longer believed in Santa Claus and flatly refused to leave milk and cookies out for him on Christmas Eve. Upset at losing a four-year tradition, our father tried bribing and cajoling her. Nothing worked.

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Later that evening, to my surprise, she walked into the living room carrying a bowl of oatmeal. Her father helped her put the bowl under the tree, next to eight others just like it. “What on earth are you doing?” I asked. “I thought she didn’t believe in Santa.”

“She doesn’t,” he said, beaming, “but the reindeer—they’re a different story!”

— Karen Dwyer, Williamsville, N.Y.
Reader’s Digest, December 1988

For our first New Year’s together as a married couple, my wife offered me a choice of pumpkin pie, cheesecake or orange-date cake. “Pumpkin pie,” I requested.

“We’ve been eating pumpkin pie ever since Thanksgiving,” Nancy protested. “Can’t you choose something else?”

“Okay,” I replied, “how about cheesecake?”

Making a face, Nancy said, “After all that rich food you ate over Christmas, surely you don’t want cheesecake.”

Recognizing my limited options, I then selected orange-date cake.

“Orange-date cake is a New Year’s tradition in our family,” Nancy informed me. “I’m so glad you chose that one.”

— Peter Hardwick, Watertown, N.Y.
Reader’s Digest, January 1992

Our daughter was chosen to play the role of Mary in a Christmas pageant. The morning of the first rehearsal we overslept and got her there late. The director wearily dismissed our apologies. “It doesn’t matter,” he said. “The shepherds have hockey practice and Joseph went ice fishing.”

— T. Bradley Hayes, Jr., Long Lake, MN
— *Reader’s Digest*, December 1985

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

Meeting will be Monday, Nov. 13

Time: 11 a.m.

Event: Annual Holiday Luncheon

***Location: Renaissance Ross Bridge
Golf Resort***