



Volume 19

Number 3

May – June 2007

PREZ SEZ

Did you see the front page article in the Birmingham News Sunday, April 15, about a resurgence of interest in nuclear power in Alabama?

Those of us who have worked for the Southern Company and have been exposed to the idea of generating electricity with nuclear power sometimes find it hard to understand the fears and objections of many citizens in this country, who at the same time are often concerned about greenhouse gases and damage to the environment. Lately, however, there seems to be a growing acceptance of the connection between good environmental policy and generating electricity with nuclear power plants. I think all of us who have worked in this industry welcome the change.

Although the article dealt largely with what TVA is doing, it also mentioned increased interest by the Southern Company. Most of the plans for new nuclear plants are in the South, and the reason is attributed to fewer objections on the part of the citizens here to nuclear power plants. Could it be that there is a connection between that attitude and having a responsible industry leader in our area like

the Southern Company? I find myself feeling proud of my association with Southern Company.

I look forward to seeing you May 14 at our Annual Picnic Luncheon.

— Nell Larson

Want to keep up with what's happening?

Got a computer?

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

MAY PROGRAM

All of us remember the media headlines and the graphic pictures associated with the destruction along the Mississippi gulf coast caused by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Another compelling story is related to the impact of the storm on Mississippi Power Company and the extraordinary efforts of the company to restore power to the area. Mr. Sam Sumner, our May 14 speaker, was closely involved in this process, and he will share with us his experiences both during and after the hurricane. Sam was responsible for the restoration of plants Watson, Eaton and Sweatt after the hurricane struck. He has developed a presentation that not only will show us the stark reality of the damage but also will illustrate the positive results produced by the efforts of dedicated personnel.

Sam is now working in Birmingham as the implementation manager for the Maximo project, a program designed to replace the work management system for the generating plants. This project, to be completed in 2009, will improve productivity and efficiency throughout the Southern electric system.

— Charles E. Hickman

BIRTHDAYS

MAY: 1-Barbara Mohon, 3-Jim Rimel, 4-Kenneth Burr, Jim Corbitt & Norma Young, 6-Betty Windhorst, 7-Donald Mansfield, 9-Malcolm Morgan, William Ruff, Bob Walker & Dale Wyatt, 12-Avis

SCS OUTSIDE
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Higginbotham, 13-Judith Irvin & Mary Sue Ludwig, 15-Elaine Chambers & Dean Koch, 16-Betty Mikell & Charlotte Shanlever, 17-Rachel Hubbard, Mar-garet O'Brien & Ed Williamson, 18-Bob Heart, 19 Hugh Williamson, 20-Betty Sue Bradshaw, 21-Lorraine Messick & Roy Shanlever, 22-Corinne Hart, 23-Brick Brickell & Eugene Byars, 25-Farook Chandiwala, Don Graham & Bill Guthrie, 26-Sam Bowman & Betty Mikell, 27-Harold Jones & Helen Robin, 29-Joe Katz, 30-Larry Mathews and 31-Earl Parsons.

JUNE: 1-Diane Adams & Tony Niemzak, 3-Bill Gaskell, Warren Glover & Joyce Hickman, 4-Bill Newman, 5-Mary Morgan & Ethel Rushing, 6-Mary Ward & Betty Williamson, 7-John Davis, Arthur Draper, Peggy Howard & Angie Walker, 8-John Brandt, 9-Carol Newton, 10-Edna Wright, 11-Catherine Bailey, Jerry Smith & Fay Wood, 12-John Adrian, Mary Dougherty & Houston Welch, 13-Malek Barroody, 14-Ann Batum, Dan Coughlin, John Thies & Bob Winter, 15-Glenn Brothers, 16-Michael Burns & Peggy Hinton, 17-Clyde Howard, Mary Lou Johnston, Ron Meade & Brooke Mehaffey, 18-Pat Moore, 19-Melvin Evans, 20-Sara Jo Blackwood, Dewana Green, Nell King Larson & Wayne Walton, 21-James Hartin & John Heatherly, 22-Ray Bailey, Betty Jackson & Beverly Vincent, 23-Joyce Steele, 24-Carol Taylor, 26-Nancy Adrian, Jeri Corbitt & Glendean Swearingen, 27-Gary Chambers & Kate Newman, 29-Judy Coggin and 30-Gayle Busby & Bipin Patel.

— Jay Dorrance

The teacher in one of our local grade schools was showing a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence to her pupils. It passed from desk to desk, and finally to Luigi, a first-generation American. The boy studied the document reverently. Then, before passing it on, he gravely added his own signature.

— *Reader's Digest*
 November 1965

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
 FOR 2007**

Officers	
President	Nell Larson 822-7562
Vice President	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
Directors	
John Brandt	956-0502
Dan Finney	995-9703
Jackie Imbush	991-8472
Joe Leamon	870-5637
Bob Smith	
Liz Winter	822-6142
Kerry Adams (ex-officio)	980-7185
Committee Chairpersons	
Arrangements	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Audit	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Fellowship	Joe Leamon 870-5637
Finance	
Membership	Jerry Vendegrift 967-3672
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	
Program	Charles Hickman 823-4597
Sunshine	Liz Winter 822-6142

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Michael Lee, 56, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Wednesday, February 14, 2007. He retired after 25 years as a drafter with SCS. Mr. Lee is survived by his wife, Mattie; 2 daughters, Tracey and Tawanna; 2 sons, Marquis and Trent; 9 grandchildren, 5 sisters and 4 brothers. A funeral service was held for Michael at the Graymont First Baptist Church at noon on Wednesday, February 21 with burial in Zion Memorial Gardens.

Herman G. Lord, Jr., 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Wednesday, March 7, 2007. Herman had been in declining health for some time and was cared for at home by his wife for as long as she was able. Mr. Lord served in the Coast Guard during WWII and afterwards was employed as a drafter at American Bridge for a number of years before coming to SCS where he worked in the Architectural Design Department. He retired as a senior designer in 1986 with 15 years of service. Herman is survived by his wife of 65 years, Audrie, 1 daughter, Pamela; 2 sons, Gary & Stephen; a sister; 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Visitation for Mr. Lord was held at the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home on Sunday afternoon, March 11 followed by graveside services at Jefferson Memorial Gardens, Trussville, Alabama.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Southern Nuclear employee John Aufdenkampe in the death of his daughter Sarah Marie Aufdenkampe, 18, of Vestavia Hills, who died Saturday, February 24, 2007, the result of a tragic automobile accident. She was a freshman at Auburn University and is survived by her parents, several brothers and sisters as well as other family members.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of SCS employee James Arthur Moore, 52, of Bessemer, Alabama who passed away on Monday, March 5, 2007. James is survived by his wife, Judy, his parents and other family members.

— Jay Dorrance

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have now received, and deposited, a total of \$2,502.00 from 2007 dues, representing 211 members and associates. This is not only a larger amount than was received last year but it has come in earlier and from a good many new members. There are still a few that we need to hear from, however, and if anyone is unsure about his/her payment of 2007 dues, please give me a call at 853-6079.

As of this writing we have received a total income of \$2,561.63 and our expenses amount to \$235.44 with all bills paid.

Our total net worth at this time is \$6388.54.

— Henry Garrett

MARCH MEETING

There were 54 members and guests attending the March 2007 meeting.

— Jay Dorrance

MAY MEETING PARTICULARS

ANNUAL PICNIC LUNCHEON AT THE PELHAM CIVIC COMPLEX **MAY 14.**

IT IS FREE TO RETIREES AND THEIR SPOUSE AND/OR GUEST.

YOU MUST MAKE A RESERVATION BY **MAY 4** TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

AFTER YOU HAVE MADE A RESERVATION, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU CANNOT COME FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER PLEASE CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION BY **MAY 8.**

SCS OR THE SOUTHERN COMPANY HAS TO PAY FOR ALL RESERVATIONS MADE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT USED.

YOU CAN MAKE OR CANCEL A RESERVATION BY CALLING

JAY DORRANCE AT (205) 663-2828.

COME OUT TO PELHAM AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.

— Arrangements Committee

SUNSHINE REPORT

Joyce Steele is recovering very well from her surgery.

Bob Winter will have his last chemo treatment on Tuesday, April 24.

Please contact me if any of you know of others we should report.

— Liz Winter

THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON DORA AND JOHN BRANDT

Dora and John Brandt are the epitome of one of those great love stories we enjoy reading. Dora was born in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, graduated from high school and became a bilingual secretary before coming to the United States in 1965. In the Spring of 1966, John, a struggling Auburn student, attended the engagement party for a friend of a roommate. Little did he know that he would meet an “intriguing Latin girl” who would steal his heart and lead to a successful marriage that has lasted over 40 years.

Dora earned her PHT degree (Put Hubby Through) by working at Diversified Products in Opelika, and John received an aviation management degree from Auburn in December 1968.

John says he was a Navy brat who lived in many places including Naples, Italy. However, his service was in the Army beginning as a signal corps second lieutenant. His assignments included serving in Vietnam, flying helicopters and becoming an avionics research and development test pilot. Dora recalls the time that John was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany as a communications center company commander. She became a mentor to the wives of eight junior officers and a “mother hen” to 250 enlisted men and women in his co-ed company. John retired from military service in 1975, but continued his service as a reserve officer.

John began his Southern Company Services employment in January 1976 as a telecommunications analyst in the telecommunications department, working with John Myers as his

manager. His strong suit was writing computer programs, and he wrote the first automated telephone book program for SCS. His ingenuity was essential in getting the book printed using various computers and printers. A major accomplishment for John was leading an engineering group that installed the first internet connection and firewall. He retired in 2006 after 30 years as a senior data network analyst responsible for the wide area network and wireless LAN designs.

At first, Dora stayed home with their son Johnny until he began first grade. She began her SCS employment on a temporary basis in the public relations department. They loved her and the rest of that story is history. She looked forward to early retirement in 2001 as a time for rest and recreation. However, with two wonderful grandchildren living in the area, she and John are probably busier than ever. Dora and John enjoy traveling, mainly cruising around the Caribbean Sea. They are looking forward to a summer trip to Alaska. Also, they enjoy gardening and working in the yard at their retirement home in Irondale.

— Charles E. Hickman

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

How we arrived at putting “In God We Trust” on our money? Well, whether you have or not, here is the story. —Ed.

In 1861, a Pennsylvania preacher named M. R. Watkinson wrote to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase expressing his fear that future generations looking back on the Civil War (*also known as the War Between the States to some*) era might see it as an unholy period in American history. “Would not,” Watkinson asked, “the antiquaries of succeeding generations rightly reason from our past that we were a heathen nation?” Watkinson came up with a strange solution: For some strange reason he felt the problem could be solved by invoking the name of the Almighty on U.S. coins.

Secretary Chase, a pious man who reportedly liked to sit in his bath and read the Bible, thought it

was a great idea—and took it upon himself to make it happen. “The trust of our people in God shall be declared in our national coins,” he wrote to James Pollock, Director of the U.S. Mint. “You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.”

Pollock suggested “One Country, Our God,” but Chase preferred “Our God and Our Country,” and “In God Is Our Trust” (a popular Civil War battle cry inspired by the phrase “in God is our trust,” from the fourth verse of the “Star Spangled Banner”). Chase ordered that one proposed new coin use the first slogan and another use the second. The first coin was never minted, but the second one (the 1864 two-cent piece) was—and by the turn of the century, “In God We Trust” was a standard feature on American coins. But the slogan wasn’t mandated by law.

In 1907, President Roosevelt felt concerns about linking God and money. So he had the phrase removed from the new \$10 and \$20 gold pieces being designed, which ignited a huge public controversy. Congress promptly passed a law *requiring* that “In God We Trust” be restored to all coins. Today U.S. law requires that three inscriptions—“Liberty,” “E Pluribus Unum,” and “In God We Trust”—appear on every coin.

— *Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader*
13th Edition, 2000

IN PURSUIT OF TRIVIA

A Caffeine Quiz

This bit of trivial information also comes to us courtesy of Uncle John and his informative (and sometimes amusing) Bathroom Reader. —Ed.

How much do you really know about caffeine? See how many of these questions you answer correctly. The answers are at the end of the article.

1. You’re an average American coffee drinker. That means you consume how many cups per day.
 - a. 1
 - b. 2

- c. 3
2. True or false: If coffee says “decaffeinated” on the label you can assume there’s no caffeine in it.
 3. How long does it take to get the peak caffeine rush from a cup of coffee?
 - a. 5 minutes
 - b. 15 minutes
 - c. 30 minutes
 4. True or false: You get more caffeine in a cup of espresso than in a mug of coffee.
 5. True or false? The way you can tell how much caffeine is in coffee is how dark or light the beans are.
 6. Do people get more or less sensitive to caffeine as they get older?
 7. True or false: Coffee is the world’s second most popular drink.
 8. On average, how long will it take your body to get rid of the first half of the caffeine you’ve drunk?
 - a. 2 to 3 hours
 - b. 3 to 6 hours
 - c. 6 to 8 hours
 9. Roughly what percentage of the world’s adults drink coffee every day?
 10. Who rids their bodies of caffeine quicker, men or women?
 11. True or false: Drinking moderate amounts of coffee can reduce your chance of getting colon cancer by as much as 30%?
 12. Where does most of the caffeine used in soft drinks come from?

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- a. The kola nuts used in flavoring
- b. Decaffeinated coffee
- c. A lab in Omaha, Nebraska

13. Why is caffeine put in soft drinks?

14. True or false: Drinks containing caffeine make you urinate more.

And here are the answers.

1-**b**; 2-**False**, only those labeled “caffeine-free” are truly caffeine free.; 3-**c**; 4-**False**, ounce for ounce there is more caffeine in espresso, but you drink far less, so you get less caffeine; 5-**False**, the darkness has to do with how the beans are roasted, not how much caffeine is in them; 6-**More sensitive**; 7-**True**, tea is first; 8-**b**; 9-**about 50%**; 10- Generally speaking, **men**, and smokers get rid of it faster than non-smokers; 11-**True**, As of 2000, when this was written, no studies had linked caffeine with

increased risks of cancer or heart disease. In fact, some studies suggest coffee and tea may help protect us from these diseases; 12-**b**, only 5 to 10% is from kola nuts; 13-caffeine was originally added to colas to **add extra kick**, but more recently it has been suggested that caffeine is being added to addict drinkers; 14-**True**, caffeine is a diuretic.

NOW THAT IS LAZY-1983

My fellow construction workers were discussing the TV programs they watched the previous night. One man mentioned his remote control, which he used to change channels from his easy chair.

“That is one luxury I can get along without,” said another. “It’s a sad day when I get so lazy I can’t tell my wife or daughter to get up and change the channel.”

— *Reader’s Digest*
August 1983

SCS RETIREES
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MEETING DETAILS: SEE page 3