



Volume 19

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November – December 2007

PREZ SEZ

Not long ago I went to a party where I enjoyed the company, the food—everything. It went so beautifully that somebody had to have done a lot of work. Things that look effortless require work, planning and execution.

Our meetings have been interesting, informative and also seemed effortless. It is easy to forget that a program is put together by a committee that has to find a speaker or program. Someone has to arrange all the details. Other people are involved in preparations and follow-up. If it seems effortless and if we enjoy it, it was well done, but we should not forget all the work that people have done to make it happen.

Our Program Chairman, Charles Hickman, has done a lot of research and has spent a lot of time lining up programs for our enjoyment. Chances are he has enjoyed them as much if not more than the rest of us because he is so involved. Involvement gives us pleasure. Henry Garrett has been Treasurer so long, he is aware of changes in lives of the people who are members of SCS Retirees. Pat Moore has given us more time than we know as Secretary. Dora and John Brandt retrieve

information as to who is retiring as it becomes available from the Company. They also reserve the room for our meetings. Jay Dorrance and Buddy & Judy Coggin do an excellent job preparing setups, checking people in, making seating arrangements, setting up refreshments for us, and managing door prizes. Jerry Vandegrift and his committee have put together a good slate of officers. Jerry has double responsibility since he also works at getting new members to increase our membership. Joe Leamon has spent much time setting up trips for us. Liz Winter spends much of her own time keeping us informed of happenings that so affect our fellow retirees. Dan Wise and Margaret Carter have put in a lot of hours getting the OUTSIDE printed and to us. Others are also involved in ways we may not realize.

As a result of all their work, we can enjoy the company and have a good time. It takes a lot of people doing a lot of work and doing it well. We appreciate everything they have done!

— Nell Larson

Want to keep up with what's happening?

Got a computer?

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Leah Rawls Atkins will give us a presentation on her book *Developed for the Service of Alabama: The Centennial History of the Alabama Power Company*. She has traveled throughout Alabama this year giving acclaimed presentations that describe highlights of her three-year research and writing of this epic volume. Recently, Leah was named the winner of the prestigious James F. Sulzby Award, which is the highest honor given by the Alabama Historical Association. The award recognizes the book that has made the most significant contribution to greater knowledge and

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appreciation of Alabama history. She has written a number of other books, one of which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Leah, a Birmingham native, holds a doctorate in history from Auburn University and has taught history at Auburn, UAB and Samford. **Be sure to bring your copy of the book to the meeting to obtain a personal autograph.**

— Charles E. Hickman

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER: 4-Elizabeth Wintter, 7-Emma Laura Patrick & Betty Ponder, 8-Mary Betty Hendricks, 9-Grady Smith, 10-Eunice Draper & Jean Guthrie, 11-Ozen Batum, Noel Chambless, Charles Hickman & Nancy Parsons, 12-Angie Campisi, Dot Cole & Tommy Sanford, 13-George Burson, 14-Dora Brandt & Frank Brewer, 16-Sara Thompson, 18-Theresa Burns, 23-Mildred Hire Fleming, 28-Don Duckworth, 29-John Evans, James O'Brien & Charlsie Smith and 30-Mary Nunnely, Gail Pugh, Sharony Ruft & Sandra Smaha.

DECEMBER: 1-Amal Barroody, 3-Attie Fleming, Bill Holcombe & Evelyn Mansfield, 4-Lou Payne, 5-Sandra Morgan, 6-Betty Brickell, 7-Phillis Mathews, 8-Al Larson, 9-Linda Henry & Jackson Wintter, 12-Jerry Nichols, 13-Betty Allen, Jerry Sappington, Carolyn Spears & Jackie Walton, 18-James Bailey, 20-Jane Rooker, 22-Lee Nie, 23-Richard Chastain, 25-Glenda Maxwell, 26-Melanie Crane, Betty Latta, Jack Townsend & Lewis Ward, 29-John Plaxco, 30-Jack Greenhill, William Lambert & James Maughn and 31-Buddy Coggins, Jack Jones & Bill Latta.

— Jay Dorrance

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of October 14th the income from dues is \$2,790.00 and income from interest is \$194.96 for a total income of \$2,984.96. Expenses to date are \$568.02 giving us a balance to date of \$2,416.94. So far this year we have received and deposited a

total of 238 dues checks (and/or cash) which represents dues from 439 members and spouses.

All bills are paid.

— Henry Garrett

SUNSHINE REPORT

Bob Hart is recovering from blood clots.

Sam Bowman suffered a broken ankle and then blood clots. He is now in a walking boot and using a walker for a few more weeks. He will see the doctor again at the end of October.

Don Irvin had prostate cancer surgery the first part of September. He is now at home.

Bill Gaskell has been taking chemo treatments for 20 weeks for pancreatic cancer. He is now resting at home. He will see the doctor again in two weeks.

Vicki Imbusch, daughter-in-law of **Jackie Imbusch**, has been to Emory in Atlanta for a series of treatments for her cancer recurrence. She is at home now, will see her doctor here, and possibly return to Emory for further treatments.

Jack Wintter is now under the care of Hospice seven days per week. Elizabeth appreciates your concern.

Howard Hubbard had knee replacement surgery October 16 at Brookwood Medical Center.

Please call or e-mail Liz Winter if you need addresses to send cards to any of these listed. They all will appreciate your prayers.

— Liz Winter

My home is here. I feel just as at home overseas, but I think my roots are here and my language is here and my rage is here and my hope is here. You know where your home is because you've been there long enough. You know all the peculiarities of the people around you, because you are one of them. And naturally, memories are the most important. Your home is where your favorite memories are.

— Pieter-Dirk Uys

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2007**

FLU SHOTS

Dora Brandt reminds us that free flu shots are being offered at the Alabama Power Annex on 7th Ave N. on November 8 from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and also at Inverness Building 42 on November 8th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP RETURNS

Another SCS Retirees Fellowship opportunity is coming soon!

On the 24th of August in 79 AD, the volcano Vesuvius roared violently to life, spewing ash and lighting the unnatural midday darkness with flames and flashes of lightning. The ground groaned and shook with earthquakes, the air was thick with the smell of sulfur. The sea churned, receding and advancing again. All who lived in the shadow of Vesuvius searched for a route of escape from the mountain that had, for so many centuries, loomed peacefully above them. As the eruption intensified, the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were engulfed as wave after wave of superheated ash and gas raced down the sides of the volcano. By later the next day, August 25th, over 300 square miles were covered in a rain of ash, volcanic stone, and the pyroclastic surges that would harden to a concrete-like consistency. Pompeii and Herculaneum were no more. Many residents fled, but all who were unable to escape perished—the cataclysmic event obliterated all signs of life from the area. This exhibit, “Pompeii: Tales from an Eruption,” tells the stories of people caught in their last moments, struggling in vain to save themselves and the things they cherished most.

The “Pompeii: Tales from an Eruption” is the largest collection of artifacts from the ancient Italian city to ever leave Italy. The exhibit will be displayed in Birmingham at the Museum of Art. The only other cities where the Exhibit will go are Chicago and Houston.

SCS Retirees will tour the exhibit on Thursday, January 10, following lunch together in the Terrace Café at the Museum.

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
Richard Chastain	822-8971
Jackie Imbush	991-8472
Joe Leamon	870-5637
Bob Smith	822-4097
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 Vandegrift 967-3672
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	
Program	Charles Hickman 823-4597
Sunshine	Liz Winter 822-6142

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Make reservations with your check, \$31.00 per person (includes exhibit with audio headphones and lunch), by the Nov 30 dead line.

Lunch will include Kathy-G's rosemary chicken over placenta with greens beans, tea, rolls and dessert.

Check should be payable to SCS Retirees (NO refunds please) and mailed to:

Joe Leamon
404 Yorkshire Dr.
Homewood, AL 35209

— Joe Leamon

Editor's Note: Myrna and I were privileged to spend a few hours walking the streets of Pompeii a couple of years ago and seeing some of the same things you will be able to see in this exhibit. For us, it was both educational and awe inspiring. If all you have ever seen are photographs, we urge you to go see this exhibit.

— Dan and Myrna Wise

Baptist Church followed by burial in the New Prospect Cemetery in Jasper, Alabama.

Condolences

Sympathy is extended to the family of SCS and Alabama Power Company employee Gary Paul Fennel, 58, of Prattville and formerly of Pelham who died on Tuesday, August 21, 2007. He had 30 years of service with affiliated Southern Company companies.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of insurance executive and Southern Company Board of Directors member Louis Willie, 84, who died in Birmingham on Sunday, September 16, 2007.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to SCS RETIREE **Jerry Vandegrift** and his wife Dean in the death of their son, John Vandegrift, 42, a resident of Jefferson County who died in St. Vincent's Hospital on Saturday, September 29, 2007 from complications of lung cancer.

— Jay Dorrance

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

LeMar Russell, 76, of Birmingham died Monday, August 20, 2007. He was a Chemical Engineer and retired from SCS PIM department in 1989. Mr. Russell was an Honorary (Home Bound) Member of SCS RETIREES. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Shannon A. Russell. He was a Naval Officer in the Korean War. Funeral services were held for LeMar on Wednesday morning August 22 at Ridout's Elmwood Chapel in Birmingham.

Ovelene Parrish, 75, of Wilsonville died Friday, September 7, 2007. She was a 1988 retiree from the SCS Engineering Records and Reprographics (Reproduction) Department with 11 years of service. Mrs. Parrish was preceded in death by her son SCS Retiree Donald Parrish and is survived by her husband SCS Retiree **Dorris "Pete" Parrish** and a son, SCS employee from the Research and Environmental Department, Gary R. Parrish. A funeral service was held for Ovelene on Tuesday morning September 11 at the Wilsonville First

THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES

ON

BIPIN K. PATEL

Bipin Patel was born in Bombay, India, attended high school in his home town and received a BSEE degree from the University of Maharaja Sayaji Rao (named after a provincial king who founded the university). He came to the United States as a student in 1969 and received his MSEE degree from Tuskegee Institute with a major in power.

After working in India for a couple of years, he returned to the United States and was employed by Federal Electric Corporation, an aerospace company in Huntsville, for two years before joining Southern Company Services (SCS) in 1973. Among others, he was interviewed for his job by Allen Franklin, also a former Federal Electric Corporation employee. Bipin provided a long list of distinguished SCS employees with whom he interacted during his 30 years at SCS.

During his first 15 years he progressed from assistant engineer to supervising engineer and

worked in areas such as power plant equipment applications related to coordinating plant electrical distribution systems, equipment specifications and surveillance at suppliers' facilities. For the last 15 years he served as a principal engineer in substation/transmission equipment engineering. His expertise was sought throughout the Southern Company for major projects such as the Daniel-McKnight 500 kV project, development of various computer programs, application of unique phase shifting transformers, major equipment specification standardization within the Southern Company, and development of loading guides for transformers and regulators. Bipin was active in numerous IEEE and EPRI utility industry committees.

Bipin is married to Indu and they have one son, Sachin, and a grandson, Rishi. The family travels to India at least once a year to participate in religious services and to visit friends. He is also active in the Hindu Temple in Pelham. His hobbies include singing and playing cricket (perhaps he can explain the rules and set up a tournament for us). Bipin is involved in community services such as the March of Dimes and United Way, but his major service is associated with the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). NCCJ sponsors the *Walk As One* walk-a-thon to raise funds for youth and community leadership programs to promote understanding and respect among all people. The world would be a much better place to live if all of us were more involved in learning about other cultures.

— Charles E. Hickman

A VIEWER'S GUIDE TO RAINBOWS

Did you know there is a science of rainbow watching? This article from the [Christian Science Monitor](#) was based on a discussion with Raymond Lee, author of *The Rainbow Bridge*.

The Right Light

When it stops raining and the sun comes out, stand outside with your back to the sun. If

conditions are just right, you'll see a rainbow, but the vision will last only 30 minutes or so. As you gaze at the rainbow, here are some things you might observe.

- Notice that the sky *inside* the rainbow is brighter than the sky outside it. That's because water droplets inside the rainbow reflect and refract sunlight straight back to you. Raindrops above the rainbow send light away from you.
- See the base of the rainbow, where it appears to meet the ground? The rainbow is brighter there because sunlight reflects off large and small raindrops at the base. Only small raindrops are at the top, and they reflect less light. This explains the legend of the "pot o' gold." When people saw the bright ends of the rainbow, they imagined that the glimmer had a magical explanation.

The Colors

The order of the colors of the rainbow is always the same. Have you ever heard of Roy G. Biv? That's the standard mnemonic device for remembering the proper order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. That's always the order—except when it's reversed, which is what happens in a secondary rainbow. For that you need to remember Vib G. Yor. Here's what to look for.

Look slightly above the rainbow. Do you see a second, faint rainbow above? It's a double rainbow, and if you see it, notice the dark band of sky between the primary and secondary rainbows. This is called "Alexander's Band." It's named after Alexander of Aphrodisias. Also notice the order of the colors in the secondary rainbow is the reverse of the colors in the main rainbow. The second rainbow is created when light rays are reflected twice inside the raindrop. A triple rainbow is possible, too, but very difficult to see. Meteorologist Raymond Lee claims to have found three reliable accounts of triple rainbow sightings. The third rainbow is difficult to see because it's very near the bright sun.

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The Whole Thing

Primary rainbows always appear 42 degrees above the top of the shadow cast by your head. That is the simplest way to describe what scientists call the “antisolar point,” the point directly opposite the sun. The antisolar point is usually below the horizon. But if you get up high enough and conditions are right, you might see a rainbow as a circle, rather than as an arc. People in tall buildings, airplanes and on mountains have seen circular rainbows.

Often you see only part of a rainbow. This is because the conditions that create the rainbow don’t extend all the way across the sky. Where water or sunlight are absent, so is the rainbow.

Taking a picture of a complete rainbow can be frustrating, whether it’s swooping across the sky or dancing across a spray of water from a hose. Here’s why. Most 35 mm cameras have a field of view of 40 degrees (out of 360). A rainbow takes up more than 40 degrees of sky. And because it’s an image, not an object, you can’t back up to fit more into your picture. Use a wide-angle lens.

The Rainbow You See Is Your Own

There isn’t one rainbow—there’s one for each viewer. Everyone sees his own personal rainbow.

Here’s how it works. Picture a huge cone. It’s on the ground, flat side down. Picture yourself standing at the point of the cone. The raindrops that are bending and reflecting the sunlight that reaches your eye as a rainbow are located on the surface of that cone. But someone standing right next to you is seeing a rainbow generated by a completely different set of raindrops along the surface of a different imaginary cone.

So next time you see a rainbow, remember—it’s not in the sky, it’s in your eyes. And you’re the only one who can see it.

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

PROVERBS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Remember to dig the well long before you get thirsty.—Chinese

If you cannot catch a fish, do not blame the sea.—Greek

It is not for the blind to give an opinion on colors.—Italian

Trust in God, but tie your camel.—Persian

He that blows into the fire must expect sparks in his eyes.—German

A lovesick person looks in vain for a doctor.—West African

The longer the explanation, the bigger the lie.—Chinese

A good archer is known not by his arrows but by his aim.—English

He who cannot dance claims the floor is uneven.—Hindustan

Six feet of earth makes all of us one size.—Italian

When one has no needle, thread is of little use.—Japanese

When the fox preaches, look to your geese.—German

To lose a friend, make him a loan.—Greek