



Volume 20

Number 2

March–April 2008

PREZ SEZ

As I begin my term as president of our organization I would like to thank all of the previous officers, directors, and committee chairs who have worked so hard to continue our tradition of useful and interesting meetings and enjoyable fellowship opportunities. Much of this work is done behind the scenes but it is all important in achieving the results that you see.

Many of the people who previously held leadership positions have graciously agreed to continue serving and there was an excellent response from others who were asked to take new responsibilities. The leadership list with phone numbers is shown on an inside page and you should feel free to contact me or any of the others that are listed if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

We got off to a good start in 2008 with a very interesting January program by Dr. Charles Amsler of UAB about research he and his wife have conducted in Antarctica. This was the final program arranged by Charles Hickman but Jack Goertz is working on future programs that I'm sure you will find interesting.

I think we are extremely fortunate that Joe Leamon has agreed to continue as Fellowship Chairman for this year. He has arranged some excellent events that that got rave reviews from participants and we can look forward to more of the same for this year.

We are trying to contact all new retirees to provide information about our organization and how to become a member but all of you can help by personally talking to anyone who is newly retired or previously retired and not a member or actively involved.

I look forward to working with you to make this a great year!

— Richard Chastain

Want to keep up with what's happening?

Got a computer?

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

MARCH PROGRAM

Weather Watches & Warnings

Come join us on March 10, 2008, for an interesting program offered by the National Weather Service. Learn the difference between a Watch, a Warning, and an Alert. Learn what goes on at the National Weather Service Office, and learn about the free classes offered by the NWS. Learn some common-sense safety tips for severe weather and lightning, and what to do when you're out in the weather, on the golf course, etcetera when bad weather strikes. You'll also hear how to receive critical weather information for free.

Note: If there is a serious threat of severe weather for March 10, this presentation will be delayed to a later date, because all hands will be needed at the NWS in the event of a serious storm/bad or threatening conditions.

Meeting will be in room 310, Inverness 42, at 1:00pm. Come early and join your friends and fellow retirees for lunch in the Lakeside Cafeteria.

— Jack Goertz

SCS OUTSIDE
March-April 2008

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH: 2-T.D Posey, 3-David Busby, 4-Rita Townsend, 5-Albert Stallings, 7-Linda Katz, Kathryn Owens & Clara Posey, 9-Danny Lofton & Gene Rollins, 11-Bill Nicholson & Mary Sue Thornburgh, 12-John Troha & Sid Varagona, 16-James Ewing & Martha Cook, 18-Iris Gilbert & Mary Rimel, 19-Pat Bowman, 20-Mary Anchors, 21-Myron Fieldler, Scotty Herron & Doyle Shaw, 22-Richard "Woody" Woodruff, 23-Clyde Wood, 24-Peggy Davis & Donald Freeman, 28-Bernice Hill, Richard "Cowboy" McRee & John Windhorst, 29-Barbara Jones and 30-Marvin Watkins.

APRIL: 1-Shirley Rutherford, 2-Lowell Brothers, 4-Vicki Garner & Frances Johnson, 5-Jean Shaw, 6-Joe Spears, 7-Jeanette Crane & Geraldine Lofton, 8-Lodema Evans, Eugene Johnston, Ken Kopecky, Sarah Ann Michlewright, Stokeln Morgan & Jerry Ray, 9-Geraldine Holmes, 11-Nancy Carr, Henry Garrett & Susan Goertz, 13-Don Jackson & Rhoy Swearingen, 15-Jerilynn Sansom & Hoy Taylor, 16-Lewis Williams, 18-Jack Goertz, 21-Judy Sanford, 22-Don Irvin & Bill Rowe, 24-Doug McCary, 25-Janet Smith, 29-Bob Davis, Billie Greenhill & Judith Heatherly and 30-Joyce Ehrensperger, Bill Garner & Hugh Turner.

— Jay Dorrance

LUNCH AND A PLAY

Another SCS Retirees Fellowship opportunity is coming soon! The Virginia Samford Theater near Caldwell Park on Highland Ave is historical jewel. The theater, built in 1927 is the oldest venue in Birmingham and predates the Alabama Theater. Originally built for live performances, many will remember it as the Clark Memorial Theater where Town and Gown operated for 45 years before the recent renovation.

SCS Retirees will attend "*Sand Mt Saturday Night*" will be performed at on Sunday, April 6, 2008 at the 2:30 Matinee.

Nell Larson has arranged for us to meet at the Vestavia Country Club at noon for a great luncheon buffet (salad bar, entrees with vegetables, great selection of desserts, including coffee and tea). Make reservations with your check, \$42.89 per person (includes performance and luncheon), by the 3/21/08 dead line.

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

Joe Leamon
404 Yorkshire Dr.
Homewood, AL 35209

MEMBER CARE REPORT

I received word today that **Mildred Hire** had to go back to the hospital in Athens, and they did put in a stent. She is now back at their home in Athens.

I have also received word from **Charlsie Smith** that her husband, Charles, had all toes on his left foot removed due to diabetes. They are hopeful this will help him.

— Liz Winter

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

James F. Nesmith, 66, of Odenville, Alabama, died on Sunday, January 20, 2008. Jim retired from the SCS (Hatch) Civil/Structural Department on August 31, 1996 with 34 years of service. He was a member of SCS RETIREES. Funeral services were held for Mr. Nesmith on Wednesday afternoon, January 23 at Ridout's Trussville (Alabama) Chapel. He is survived by his wife Lilla, a step-son, a brother AP Company and former SCS employee, Ed Nesmith, a sister and several nieces and nephews.

Dan A. Riley, 81, of Crestwood (B'ham), Alabama, died on Friday, February 15, 2008. Dan was the Manager of Administrative - Operating Services when he retired on September 1, 1986 with 40 years of service. He was a member of SCS RETIREES and also a member of the Board of

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2008**

Directors of APCO Credit Union for over 38 years. A funeral service was held for Mr. Riley at the First Baptist Church of Birmingham on Tuesday afternoon, February 19 followed by burial in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie Jean, he is survived by a son and a daughter, two grandchildren and a sister.

Condolences

Sympathy is extended to the family of Joseph S. Kight, 26, of Birmingham, Alabama who was a former employee of the Southern Company as an Environmental Specialist. Funeral services were held for Mr. Kight at the Sixth Ave. Baptist Church at noon on Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of SCS retiree Tom Crutchfield, Jr. in the death of Tom's stepson and former SCS employee, Leonard Michael Welbourne, 52, of Birmingham, Alabama. A funeral service for Mike was held at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery with full military honors on Friday, February 1, 2008.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to SCS retiree **Peggy Sheffield Howard** and her husband Clyde of Riverchase (Hoover), Alabama in the death of Peggy's sister Elsie Holsombeck Langer, 84, of Birmingham, Alabama who died February 9, 2008. Elsie's husband Bob Langer preceded her in death as did a sister and two brothers. She is survived by, in addition to Peggy, another sister and two more brothers. A graveside service was held at Jefferson Memorial Gardens East, Trussville, Alabama on Monday morning February 11.

You can keep a dog; but it is the cat who keeps people because cats can find humans useful domestic animals. A dog will falter you but you have to flatter a cat. A dog is an employee; the cat is a freelance.

— George Mikes
How to be Decadent

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Vice President	Dora Brandt 956-0502
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Liz Winter	822-6142
Nell Larson (ex-officio)	822-7562
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Nominating	Bob Hart 8228492
Program	Jack Goertz 991-7766
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES
on
MONROE C. SMITH

Monroe C. Smith, the third of six children, was reared in East Lake and attended Robinson Grammar School and Woodlawn High School. All of his brothers and sisters were successful in a variety of professional areas. Since his family did not have an automobile, Monroe used the street car or his bicycle for transportation. While in high school, he delivered telegrams for Western Union on his bicycle, which he still owns. He also played violin and sang in the boys' choir at the Church of the Advent.

After one year in college, Monroe joined the Navy in 1942 to become a Navy pilot. His Navy service took him around the country. From the University of South Carolina he was transferred to Austin Peay University in Clarksville, Tennessee, which at that time was a college for women only. The college women and the Navy men shared a dormitory on campus, and the men continued their flight training. Monroe enjoyed flying a high wing plane, particularly doing spins and loops. Physical training and bookwork at the University of Georgia was followed by a transfer to Dallas to continue flight training. Monroe flew a two wing plane that was a great aerobatic plane. During these years, his father died and Monroe suffered a hernia problem that required extensive hospital and rehabilitation time.

When the Navy decided it had too many pilots, Monroe survived an interesting Navy selection process—put names on pieces of paper, throw them down a set of stairs and retain the pilots whose piece of paper landed on a “certain” step. His next major assignment included taking off and landing on a small aircraft carrier and testing torpedoes during night flight operations in the Bahama Islands area. He then flew several types of aircraft in an experimental squadron and ended his Navy career on a large aircraft carrier, the Franklin D. Roosevelt.

When he was discharged from the Navy, Monroe returned to Alabama and enrolled at Auburn Uni-

versity in the College of Architecture. After graduating with a bachelor degree, he was employed in the architectural department at Alabama Power Company under Don Simmons. After ten years at Alabama Power designing small office and crew headquarters buildings, he transferred to Paul Fischer's group at Southern Services. Primary architectural assignments included Plant Vogtle and Plant Farley under Tom Dowdle.

After a long battle with Parkinson's disease, Betty, his wife of 46 years, passed away in 2005. Their daughter and son-in-law have produced two “super” grandsons for Monroe to spoil. Monroe is 84 years old, plays golf twice a week and works as a starter four days a week at Vestavia Country Club.

— Charles E. Hickman

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

Jay Dorrance reports that 55 members and guests attended the annual meeting luncheon.

ORGANIZED GOLF CANCELLED

Wayne Walton reports that the last day for SCS Retirees organized golf play was Tuesday, February 26. Organized golf was discontinued because of insufficient participation.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Scott Anthony Gomez, Jr. filed a lawsuit in January against jail officials in Pueblo County, Colorado, claiming among other things that they failed to take security precautions to prevent him from escaping. He seriously injured himself last year when he fell 40 feet while scaling a wall in his second escape attempt. After his first attempt, he said he told them how lax security was, but that no improvements had been made.

— News of the Weird
Birmingham Weekly