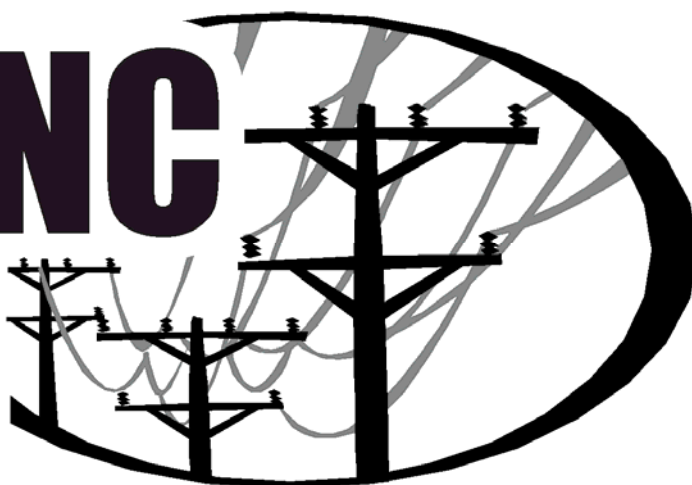


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 20

Number 5

September – October 2008

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

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

PREZ SEZ

I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. I had the opportunity to find that being the grandfather of a bride is much easier than being the father of a bride. Time is really flying by.

Some newer SCS and SNC retirees may be confused by getting a membership solicitation from Energizers, the Alabama Power retiree's organization. You are eligible to be members of both SCS/SNC Retirees and the Energizers if you wish and many of our members do this. I've been an Energizer member for several years and have enjoyed the annual luncheon that Alabama Power provides.

The nominating committee has been hard at work and will soon be presenting a slate of officers for 2009. We will elect and install the new officers at the November meeting,

Let me remind you to encourage retirees who are not members to join or at least attend one of our meetings to enjoy the fellowship.

— Richard Chastain

We all live under the same sky, but we don't have the same horizon.

— Konrad Adenauer

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

September's speaker is Dr. James Tent, a historian of Modern Germany and the Department Chair of History at UAB. Dr. Tent has focused his research on the evolution of German society and politics since 1945. His first major work, *Mission on the Rhine: Reeducation and Denazification in American-Occupied Germany* (University of Chicago Press, 1982) examined America's efforts to strengthen democratic practices and methods in postwar Germany and in the early years of the Federal Republic. Dr. Tent has done much study about Allied intelligence and combined arms efforts during World War II to secure the Normandy Invasion against German naval counter-attacks. This work represented a major new interpretation of the greatest amphibious landing in history. The book, *E-Boat Alert: Defending the Normandy Invasion Fleet*, first appeared in May 1996 with the Naval Institute Press. This book will be the basis of Dr. Tent's presentation to us at our September meeting. I know all veterans of all branches of the services and the sons and daughters of veterans will be very interested in hearing Dr. Tent's presentation.

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E-Boat Alert: Defending the Normandy Invasion Fleet

E-Boats were Germany's equivalent to our high-speed PT-Boats of WWII like PT-109 commanded by John F. Kennedy. The problem was, E-boats were far deadlier. They were bigger, faster (up to 44 knots), much more heavily armed, armored, beautifully camouflaged, longer ranged, and far more seaworthy than any Allied vessel of this class. On the night of April 26/27, 1944, a flotilla of nine E-boats intercepted an American practice amphibious exercise off the South British Coast, and in a few minutes sank two large LSTs (Landing Ships Tank), and badly damaged a third. The American forces lost 749 sailors and soldiers in just a few minutes. Furthermore, LSTs were absolutely critical to the Allies' strategy of landing on open shores at Normandy since the Allies knew they wouldn't capture a port intact (and didn't). It became obvious to the Normandy Invasion planners that German E-boats were the major German naval threat since they fought so well at night in the Channel area.

Dr Tent investigated the records and found that a secret organization of the British Admiralty, its Operational Intelligence Centre, tracked the E-boats in the six months leading up to the Invasion. Interception at sea was a nonstarter. The Allies had to hit them in their ports. Using radio intercepts and the Ultra Secret, Allied intelligence detected a huge concentration of E-boats at one specific harbor on the evening of June 4, 1944. Armed with the world's first bunker buster, the "Tallboy" six-ton bomb, a squadron of RAF Bomber Command struck the E-boats at exactly the right time and the right place with incredible accuracy and destroyed the E-boat menace in the span of twenty minutes. The LSTs lumbered on, providing the sea lift for the Normandy buildup, and the Allies created their crucial Second Front to win WWII. Even so, few remember the E-boat threat and how the Allies overcame it.

— Jack Goertz

SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2008

Officers	
President	Richard Chastain 822-8971
Vice President	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
Directors	
John Brandt	956-0502
Buddy Coggin	785-5992
Charles Goodman	823-5187
Don Smaha	823-0173
Bob Smith	822-4097
Liz Winter	822-6142
Nell Larson (ex-officio)	822-7562
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Audit	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Fellowship	Joe Leamon 870-5637
Finance	Henry Garrett 823-6079
Member Care	Liz Winter 822-6142
Membership	John Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Bob Hart 8228492
Program	Jack Goertz 991-7766
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER: 1-James Welch, 2-Jane Freeman, Ron Wedge, Nell Wetzel & Bill Valekis, 3-Linda Chastain & David Walters, 4-Peter Lynch & Carol Newton, 6-Janet Usry, 8-Alfred Mikell & Jean Rayburn, 10-Ken Gillespie, Gisela Hancock, Linda Hockman & Rod Wildman, 11-Gene Kachelhofer, Bob Patrick, Bill Ponder, Ivagene Quick & Alice Smith, 12-Virginia Bidy, Fred Ehrensperger, John Hall, Sue Hassell & Richard Kaster, 13-Martha Brown, Betsy Kopecky & Carol Yeager, 15-Philip Douglas, 16-Charles Maxwell, 17-Juanita Leonard, Lanee Wildman & Mike Zyne, 19-Lois Burns, Claradel Holcombe, Lana Watts & Dewey Yeager, 21-Linda Marshall, 23-Memuna Chandiwala & Ernest Thompson, 24-Mary Varagona, 26-Liz Winter, 27-Robert Oedamer, 28-Percy Mohon & Bill Thurman, 29-Gerald Prince and 30-Martha Dorrance, Jerry Hall & Jerry Vandegrift.

OCTOBER: 1-Bill Hanks & Sandra Watkins, 2-Mary Alice Thurman, 5-Ajit Ghuman, Gerald Grainger & R.R. Herbst, 6-Glenda Beason & Joseph Farley, 7-Cynthia Schramm, 9-Faye Douglas & Ed Lawrence, 10-Dean Vandegrift, 11-Nancy Morey, 12-John Hall, Shirley Shipman & Janice Thies, 13-Gayle Price, 14-Brenda Hall, 15-Charles Smith, 16-Judy Grainger, 18-Billie Ewing, Nettie Hartin, James Ludwig & Ray Morgan, 19-Bonnie Russell, 20-Wallis Harrison, 21-Julie Troha, 22-Chuck Wuerdeman, 24-Meg Glover, 25-Raymond Gernem & Sara McCrary, 27-William Harrison & Grace Kyser Miller, 28-Monroe Smith, 29-Joseph Kwolek & Nell Mehaffey and 31-John Green.

— Jay Dorrance

MEMBER CARE REPORT

Cheryl Lowery had surgery in July to repair two aneurysms inside her head. She did very well, and is now at home recuperating. She is very appreciative of prayers and concerns for her well being.

Pat Moore also had surgery to put a stent in to relieve some heart problems. She is at home recuperating.

Our list is much shorter this time, and we hope it stays that way. Remember to contact me if you know of good news as well as illness and shut-ins.

— Liz Winter

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Bertha "Bert" Baker, 71, of Springville, Alabama, died on Monday, August 11, 2008. She retired in 2002 from the SCS Instruments and Controls Department. Bert is survived by her husband SCS Retiree Glenn E. Baker, two sons and three grandchildren. A funeral service was held for Mrs. Baker on Thursday morning, August 14 at the Jefferson Memorial Chapel followed by burial in the Jefferson Memorial Gardens East in Trussville, Alabama.

Condolences

Sympathy is extended family of **Gary Alan Land**, 61, of Chelsea, Alabama, who passed away on Friday, July 11, 2008. Mr. Land was employed by the Southern Company as a nuclear engineer. A memorial service was held for Gary on Tuesday afternoon July 15 at the Southern Heritage Funeral Home in Pelham, Alabama.

Sympathy is also extended to SCS RETIREE Ralph Tribble and his family at the passing of Ralph's wife, **Jimmie**, 81, of Leeds, Alabama, who died on Friday, July 18, 2008. The family received friends on Tuesday morning, July 22 at the Kilgroe Funeral Home in Leeds followed by Graveside Services for Mrs. Tribble at the Forest Crest Cemetery in Irondale, Alabama.

We express our sympathy to the family of SCS Retiree the late Lecil Cook at the passing of his widow **Norma Faye Cook**, 80, of Oakton, Virginia who died on Saturday, August 2, 2008. She is survived by two sons. A funeral service was held

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for Mrs. Cook on Saturday, August 9 with burial in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Arley, Alabama.

— Jay Dorrance

JULY ATTENDANCE

Jay Dorrance reports that 38 members and guests attended the July meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of August 14 we have received a net income of \$4428.17 and have a net outflow of \$2847.29. Our net worth is \$6642.85. This includes a total of \$2583.00 as dues from a total of 223 members and/or associate members.

THE SPOTLIGHT

Shines on

DEAN VANDEGRIFT

Dean Vandegrift was born in Tarrant, Alabama, and her career has been filled with national and international community and Christian education activities. First, she graduated from Jefferson County High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Presbyterian School of Education in Richmond, Virginia. The list of activities is long and impressive, so let us look at some highlights: served as director of Christian education in Mobile and in several churches in Birmingham; established a Partnership with two presbyteries in Congo; and managed a mission house in Ensley for six years following the 1998 tornado that hit western Jefferson County. This service included working with community programs in tutoring second graders.

As an elder in her church, Dean was the first female, the first lay person and the first Director of Christian Education to serve as moderator of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. She has been active on various committees at the synod and national level and for the past four years has served

on the Alumni Council of her alma mater, which is now the Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education. Her peers have recognized her service by honoring her with the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Life Achievement Award from her professional organization, the Association of Presbyterian Church Education.

Let us not forget about Jerry. Dean met Jerry while she was teaching a youth ministry course in Birmingham. He offered to carry her books on the final night of the class, and, according to Jerry, he has been doing it ever since. Jerry was an electrical engineer at Alabama Power Company, but he was working in Mobile at the Chickasaw and Barry steam plants. After dating throughout the summer, they were married the following March, a partnership of 54 years and counting. The marriage has truly been a partnership of volunteer service. Jerry took early retirement from Southern Company Services to do engineering work in the Congo, which involved four extended trips over the years. As noted above, Dean is involved in Congo activities and is currently on the steering committee of the Congo Network, which is a national organization of churches and presbyteries. Dean and Jerry are active members of South Highland Presbyterian Church.

Dean enjoys art and is an amateur oil painter. She plays the piano, but confesses she is out of practice. In addition, she reads, does needle work, plays bridge and works in the yard. In her "spare" time, she knits baby caps, which help save the lives of premature babies in Congo.

— Charles E. Hickman

FROM HERE AND THERE

This seemed to fit with our September program, so here it is.—Ed.

A helmet...a gas mask bag I used to carry my school books in...a box with a Purple Heart medal in it...

To a little boy, the stuff of adventure and heroism.

“Tell me about the war,” I’d plead, but he wouldn’t. There’s nothing glorious about war, my father would say, war is not a good thing.

During World War I, he’d been drafted—a kid from Moyamensing Avenue in South Philadelphia—and because the need for cannon fodder was so urgent, his unit underwent basic training on shipboard, en route to France.

During the Battle of the Argonne, he was hit by shrapnel in the thigh. Then, while recuperating from the wound, he was stricken with the Spanish influenza, which was ravaging multitudes that year all over the world. Soon afterward, the Armistice was signed.

When was on a stretcher, being carried to a field hospital, a German sniper shot the watch off his wrist.

“It was a good watch,” he lamented later. Or so I’m told. I heard all this from other sources—not from him.

— Don Harrison
Milestones
June 2008

OUR LITTLE OLD SMOKEHOLE

This is taken from Clarke Stallworth’s last column for the Birmingham monthly Senior Living. It appeared in the July 2008 issue. Mr. Stallworth was a good old down home front porch storyteller. He passed from this life in June 2008, shortly after this column was written.—Ed.

It was dusk, and we were driving into Birmingham as the summer light faded. Coming along 280, when it was two lanes, past the reflected sunset of the waterworks, and the shadowy hills loomed up on both sides.

We had been exiled to Columbus, Ga., which may be the flattest place on the globe, and those looming hills meant one thing to Anne and me: home.

The hills tugged at us, and ultimately pulled us back to Birmingham to stay.

If I had to put it all in one word, why I love Birmingham, the word is beauty. It is a pleasure to

feast my eyes on the flowers, the trees, the hills, the homes, the streets of downtown.

Birmingham is a sleeper. Not many know its beauty, or its people, and frankly, I hope they don’t find out. If they do, we may have to suffer progress, as in: “Cut down the trees and build another mall.”

People complain that Atlanta beat us out, got the big airport, and forged ahead of us to become a Southern megalopolis, while Birmingham remained a backwater.

Cancer is uncontrolled growth, and I understand they are considering changing Atlanta’s name to Carcinomaville.

I went to Atlanta right out of a small Alabama Black Belt town, to a Navy officer’s training program at Emory during World War II, and Atlanta also was a beautiful place, laid back, the Atlanta of “Driving Miss Daisy.” Riding the streetcar out Ponce De Leon to Emory was an odyssey, and drinking a Tom Collins on the hotel balcony overlooking Peachtree was pure adventure.

That Atlanta is gone. Now the interstates circle the city like Sherman’s army, and everybody there is in a hurry. I wouldn’t go near downtown Atlanta on a bet. To me now, Atlanta is which exit I get off.

And Birmingham. Every time Birmingham comes into the news, about anything, they trot out the clips of the dogs and the hoses. Never mind that this was over 40 years ago, and we have changed. Never mind that we have had a black mayor for over 30 years. I guess they will use those clips until they wear out.

And maybe that’s a good thing. If people knew what a good place this is, how beautiful it is, how nice the people are, they would flood into town like water from a broken dam. And all of Birmingham would be like 280 at rush hour.

I once coined a motto for a college, but it also goes for Birmingham. The slogan: Big enough for choices, small enough to care.

We are big enough for choices—a great collection of restaurants, theater groups, a ballet company, a symphony orchestra, a world-class art museum, the McWane Center downtown. There’s plenty to do, and we are not New York South. Now and then you CAN find a parking place.

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We have problems, sure. If a community is to be successful, most of the people have to be going in the same direction. If you look back at Birmingham in the early sixties, you saw a place in the process of exploding, going in all directions. Birmingham and Jefferson County were in the process of fragmenting, coming apart.

White people ran for the suburbs, where they formed new cities and set up their own segregated school systems. And the core city was becoming increasingly black. The lines were drawn, and the community was breaking into pieces.

This substantially destroyed the public transit system, and turned our city over to the automobile. If you don't have a car, you can't get around very well in Birmingham.

We're still fragmented, which plays havoc with any planning, and we grow like Topsy.

gether on a board and looked at. But this isn't likely to happen, so we do the best we can. And sometimes, the glory is in the struggle. If we had it handed to us on a platter, it wouldn't be worth much.

After we came back from Columbus, we shopped again at the most wondrous grocery store in all creation—Park Lane Grocery in English Village. At Park Lane, we talked with the beautiful checkout lady, Mrs. Anne Butera, who had a sweet word for everybody.

When we told her we had come back from Georgia to stay, she smiled and said, "You just can't stay away from our little old smokehole, can you?" She was making a joke, she was saying that even if we did have a lot of smoke, that Birmingham was a lovely place.

— Clarke Stallworth

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, September 8

***Where: Inverness 42, conference room
310***

Board meeting at 11 a.m.

General Meeting at 1 p.m.

***Everyone is invited to join us for lunch
on your own in the Cafeteria.***