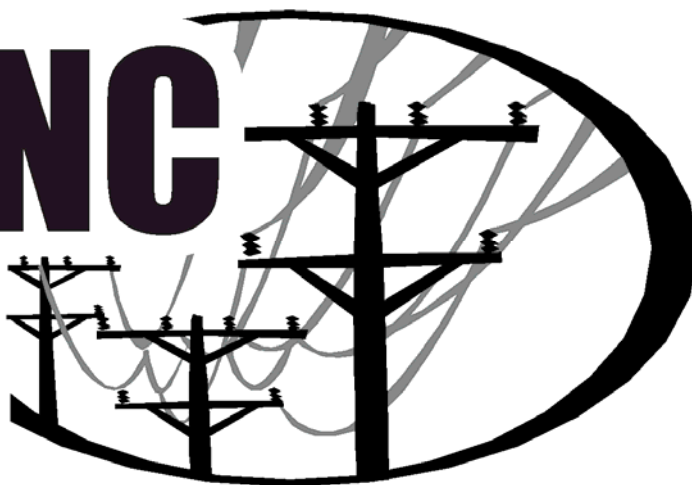


# SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 20

Number 6

November–December 2008

## PREZ SEZ

Our upcoming retirees meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> is one of the major events of our year—the Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting. We will elect our new officers at the meeting and have an entertaining program planned. The meeting will be at the Vestavia Country Club with the social hour beginning at 11 a.m. More information is given later in the newsletter. We have held this meeting for several years at this location and they always provide excellent facilities and great meals. Reservations must be sent by November 5<sup>th</sup> so do it now while you're thinking about it. This is also a good opportunity for prospective members to get acquainted with our organization so pass on the information to other retirees that should be involved.

The social hour provides an excellent opportunity to catch up with what's been going on with your colleagues so I urge you to take advantage of it.

— Richard Chastain

Want to keep up with what's happening?

Got a computer?

Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

**Susan Murphy, noted local author and humorist**

Our November speaker will Susan Murphy. Susan is a regular columnist for the Over the Mountain Journal and the Birmingham News. Her columns always "tell it like it is" in real life. When reading them, you feel like Susan is across the table from you, talking to you like an old friend. She writes about everyday things that happen to her and her family. Her husband, Harold, often plays a role in her columns.

Susan's writings have won numerous awards in contests throughout the South. She's been a featured speaker at the Alabama Writers Conclave, the oldest writers' organization in continuous existence in the US.

Come to our November meeting, and listen to Susan talk to us about life, and how it can only get better!

— Jack Goertz

**The point of living, and of being an optimist, is to be foolish enough to believe the best is yet to come.**

— Peter Ustinov

**AN OPTIMIST IS A PERSON WHO STARTS A NEW DIET ON THANKSGIVING DAY.**

— IRV KUPCINET

## SCS OUTSIDE

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### SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2008

<b>Officers</b>	
President	Richard Chastain 822-8971
Vice President	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Secretary	Pat Moore 979-3353
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
<b>Directors</b>	
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
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
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

**NOVEMBER:** 2-William Kline, 4-Elizabeth Wintter, 5-Jackson Eastis, 7-Emma Patrick & Betty Ponder, 8-Carol Devore & Betty Hendricks, 9-Ronnie Green & Grady Smith, 10-Arthur Draper & Jean Guthrie, 11-Ozen Batum, Noel Chambless, Charles Hickman & Nancy Parson, 12-Angie Campisi, Dot Cole & Tommy Sanford, 13-George Burson & Norman McNeill, 14-Dora Brandt & Frank Brewer, 16-Sara Thompson & Larry Wallace, 18-Theresa Burns, 19-B. J. Walker & Margaret Williams, 20-Rodney Shu, 21-Dale Fulmer, 22-Robert Alridge & Ernestine Craig, 23-Mildred Hire Fleming, 27-Jerry Fields, 28-Don Duckworth & Dot Legg, 29-John Evans, James O'Brien & Charlsie Smith and 30-Mary Nunnely, Gail Pugh, Sharony Ruff & Sandra Smaha.

**DECEMBER:** 1-Amal Barroody, 3-Attie Fleming, Bill Holcombe, Evelyn Mansfield & Robert Preston, 4-Lou Payne, 5-Sandra Morgan, 6-Bettie Brickell, 7-Phyllis Mathews, 8-Al Larson, 9-Linda Henry, 12-Jerry Nichols, 13-Betty Allen, Jerry Sappington, Carolyn Spears & Jackie Walton, 14-William Drinker, 18-James Bailey & Glenda Massengale, 20-Jane Rooker, 22-Lee Nie & Doug Shelton, 23-Richard Chastain & Malcomb Garner, 24-Bobby Rouse, 25-Glenda Maxwell, 26-Melanie Crane, Betty Latta, Jack Townsend & Lewis Ward, 27-Ed Price, 29-Arthur Johnson & John Plaxco, 30-James Greenhill, William Lambert & James Maughn and 31-Buddy Coggin, Eleanor Connor, Sonia Garnem, Jack Jones & Bill Latta.

— Jay Dorrance

### MEMBER CARE REPORT

**Jane and Donald Freeman**, who were involved in an automobile accident on September 22, 2008, remain in ICU at University Hospital. They need our prayers.

**Henry Garrett** is recuperating at home from foot surgery he had in September.

**Joyce Steele** is at home recovering from a broken bone in her wrist, scratches, and bruises from a recent fall. Her broken bone has healed and she will not have to undergo surgery.

**Albert Stallings** is at home doing very well after spending a week at Brookwood, and 2 ½ weeks at Lakeshore. Albert had a serious infection in his foot.

**Jackie Imbusch** reports that her daughter-in-law, Vickie, was some better in September, but was due for another scan in October.

**Louise Sensabaugh** is suffering with leg and hip problems.

I'm sure all of these people would appreciate hearing from you by phone, or a card.

If you have any information concerning any retiree that should be given to the membership, please let me know. We like to hear good news as well as those concerning health problems. Also we need the names of any retiree who might be confined at home or a nursing home. These retirees are eligible to be honorary members, and the Member Care Committee would like to keep in touch with them.

— Liz Winter

## OBITUARIES

### **In Memoriam**

**Brooks Young**, 81, of Trussville, Alabama passed away on Sunday, August 10, 2008. He retired from SCS Quality Assurance Department in 1989. Brooks was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth and is survived by one son, a sister and several grandchildren. Funeral services for Mr. Young were held on Saturday, August 16, at the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home in Trussville followed by burial in the Tuscaloosa Memorial Park Cemetery, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**M. C. "Brick" Brickell**, 87, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on Friday, August 29, 2008. He was born in Mississippi, spending his early years in Vicksburg. After being injured in New Guinea during WWII Brick was sent to Northington Army Hospital in Tuscaloosa where he met and

married his first wife of 58 years, Elvada, who preceded him in death in 2003. He is survived by his second wife of four years, Bette, two daughters, one son, a sister, five grandsons and four great grandchildren.

After graduation from the University of Alabama with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Brick went to work for Southern Services, later SCS, where he stayed until he retired in 1984 as head of his department. A funeral service was held for Mr. Brickell at the East Lake United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 31, with private internment at Jefferson Memorial Gardens in Trussville, Alabama.

### **Condolences**

Sympathy is extended to the family of SCS Retirees **Gene and Dot Kachelhofer** in the death of Gene's mother, Nell Kachelhofer, 98, of Bessemer, Alabama who passed away on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. Graveside services were held on Thursday, September 25, at Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

Sympathy is also extended to SCS Retiree **D. W. "Bill" Coughlin** and his family in the death of Bill's wife Lenore Coughlin, 80, of Birmingham, Alabama who died on Sunday, October 5, 2008. A funeral mass was held for Mrs. Coughlin at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on Wednesday, October 8. Burial took place at the New Palestine Cemetery, Picayune, Mississippi on Friday, October 10.

— Jay Dorrance

## SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

Jay Dorrance reported attendance at the September meeting was 42 retirees, spouses and guests.

### STREET SIGNS

**ELECTRIC AVENUE—NO OUTLET**

**COFFIN LANE—DEAD END**

## **SCS OUTSIDE**

*November—December 2008*

### THE SPOTLIGHT shines on **LINDA AND MIKE GRIGGS**

Welcome two new retirees, Linda and Mike Griggs, who both retired on July 11, 2008. Linda was born in Birmingham and Mike in Huntsville, and they met while employed at Alabama Power Company. Since she graduated from Auburn University and he from the University of Alabama, the marriage is truly mixed. It seems to be successful because they will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 2009. From the sports standpoint, perhaps the marriage is one of convenience with season tickets to both Auburn and Alabama football games. They have no children, but a cat named TC played a major role in the first 17 years of marriage. The cat was number one, at least according to Mike.

In addition to a bachelor's and master's degree (Industrial Engineering) from Auburn University, Linda has a master's degree in economics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her entire career was with the Southern Company beginning in 1977 at Southern Company Services in the operating services area. She transferred to the electric systems operating area at Alabama Power Company (APC) in 1982. Several years were spent in the APC Management Information Systems (MIS) department, which was consolidated into the SCS Information Technology (IT) department in 1995. Much of her work was related to information management, operating system support and product certification. Her last 15 months were spent supporting programs that control logical access to Southern Company key financial applications.

After Mike graduated from the University of Alabama in May 1974 with a degree in commerce and business administration, he began his Southern Company career at Alabama Power in the construction department to work on the Alan R. Barton nuclear plant. When that project was cancelled, he switched his construction scheduling skills to Plants Farley and Miller and to the Mitchell and Harris hydroelectric sites. Later Mike transferred into the Alabama Power MIS group and did various jobs, including handling all IT capital projects. After

consolidation of the IT groups into SCS, Mike became a budget coordinator supporting infrastructure services, client services and generation IT groups.

Linda is quite talented; plays the piano, accompanies choirs and soloists, sings in the adult choir and plays in the handbell choir at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church. These talents have been taken to world stages with singing in festival choirs at the Sydney Opera House and at Carnegie Hall. Another festival is scheduled for Vienna, Austria in July 2009. Not to say that Mike is less talented, but his hobbies include golf and coin collecting.

Travel is high on their list for retirement activities, but they have already been to Disney World at least a dozen times during their marriage. They are collectors of Swarovski crystal, Lladro porcelain figurines and Walt Disney collection figurines. Maybe that explains all of those trips to Disney World. They plan more volunteer activities and perhaps bird watching as another hobby.

— Charles Hickman

### **NEW MEMBER CARE CALL NETWORK FOR SCS/SNC RETIREES WHO DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL:**

The policy of SCS/SNC RETIREES has been to call members who do not have e-mail when a member or close family member of our group passes away. Beginning in January 2009, SCS/SNC RETIREES will implement a new calling system for those members who do not have e-mail. This system (Calling Post) is an automated system that dials your phone number and delivers a message from our retiree group. All phone numbers for this group of retirees will be included.

If you do not wish to be included with this system, you should contact Liz Winter between now and the end of 2008. If you choose not to be a part of Calling Post, you will receive a notice only through your OUTSIDE.

## **OUR LITTLE OLD SMOKEHOLE**

*In the last issue of Outside I used a portion of Clarke Stallworth's last column written for Senior Living. Henry Garrett was kind enough to inform me that there was a line of type missing from the article. I looked. Sure enough, there was something missing. I know it was there to start with because I typed it myself. But I turned my back for a moment and that line snuck off somewhere and hid. So, in this issue, I am completing the Stallworth article, starting with that errant line of type.*

So it's not perfect here. There are problems. The pieces of the Birmingham puzzle need to be put together on a board and looked at. But this isn't likely to happen, so we do the best we can. And some-times, 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.

Smokehole. And that's what it was, at one time, a valley filled with industrial smoke, all justified in the name of progress.

But that changed. U.S. Steel phased out most of its mills, cutting their workforce from about 25,000 to about 1,000. Federal air regulations strained the soot out of the air. And as U.S. Steel went down, UAB came up.

Dr. Joseph Volker, president of UAB and a true liberal, built UAB to a great university. And he got the money to build it from George Wallace, of all things. Volker, the race liberal, building his (our) institution with dollars and support from Wallace, the demagogue segregationist. The unlikely

Volker/Wallace team built UAB into a world-class medical institution and a great urban university.

Essentially, as U.S. Steel moved out, UAB stepped in and saved Birmingham. The city changed, from a steel town to a university town, from a blue collar town to a white collar town, from a manufacturing town to a service town. And the changes softened the edges of a raw steel town into a more cosmopolitan city.

Mrs. Butera's "little old smokehole" cleared up. The closing of the mills and federal air regulations took the soot out of the air. Now you can actually see downtown from the top of Red Mountain.

Our daughter Carole now teaches music here. She remembers our first house, on Jackson Boulevard in Crestline. She remembers the magical backyard, where she and our son Clarke would sit on a blanket and pretend it was a boat on a wide sea. She remembers our "orchard" in the backyard—we had an apple tree, a pear tree, a peach tree, a plum tree, a cherry tree, and a pecan tree. The squirrels got most of the bounty, but we saw them bloom.

She remembers the summer she learned how to ride a bicycle, and prided herself on being able to ride all the way around the circle with no hands.

Our son Clarke may have said it best. He is getting his second MFA at Ohio State, in computer animation, and he drove down to Birmingham around April 1 of this year.

When he left Columbus, he left a city wrapped in winter, bare tree limbs stark against the sky, a gloomy northern place.

As he drove south, through Kentucky and Tennessee and North Alabama, he said spring began to unfold before his very eyes. Forsythia and quince began to appear, and the trees magically sprouted green leaves.

He said he drove into Birmingham, into a full-blown early spring, and saw the azaleas in bloom, and the flowering peach trees, and flowers, flowers everywhere.

He said it was like driving into Paradise.

**SCS OUTSIDE**

November—December 2008

**SOUTHERN NUCLEAR AND SCS  
RETIREES**

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ANNUAL MEETING**

**VESTAVIA HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Meeting Agenda**

**11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.**

**Sign in / Holiday Luncheon Social Hour**

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Board of Directors meeting**

**12 Noon**

**Seated Luncheon will be served**

**SCS RETIREES**

**P.O. BOX 2625**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202**

**RESERVATION FORM**

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008  
Holiday Luncheon Annual Meeting**

**Vestavia Hills Country Club**

**PRICE: \$20 PER PERSON / \$40 PER  
COUPLE**

**Make check payable to SCS Retirees and  
mail to Henry Garrett at 948 Crown Drive,  
Birmingham, Al 35235 on or before  
November 5.**

**Cancellation no later than Nov. 6, by calling  
Dora Brandt at 956-0502.**

**After that date, no exceptions, except in  
case of family emergency.**

**Please note this is a firm reservation**