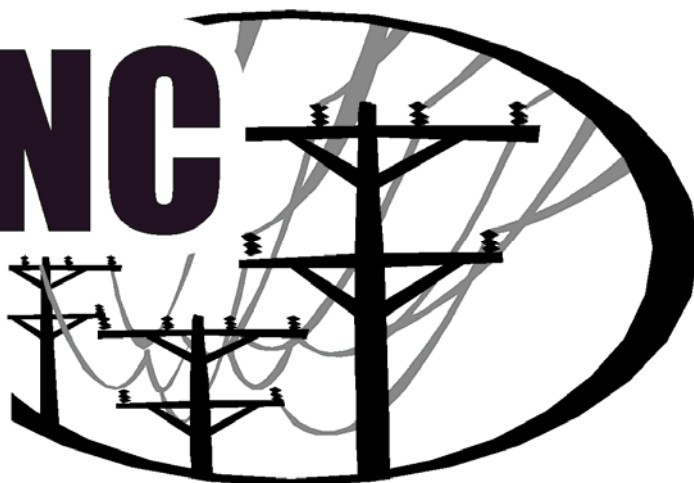


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 22

Number 4

July – August 2010

Our meeting will be held in room 130 of Inverness 42 at 1:00 p.m. We encourage you all to join us at 12:00 noon at the Inverness Cafeteria prior to the meeting. For our board members, don't forget to be there at 11:00 am.

— Charles Goodman

PREZ SEZ

I hope all of you are enjoying the warm summer. I am not complaining yet after our recent cold winter. We have successfully completed our membership drive with 274 returning or new members. Thanks to Dora Brandt for her hard work on the membership drive.

Our May luncheon seemed to be enjoyed by all. 150 members and guests attending. Jay Dorrance did a great job on making the arrangements. I also thank Chris Hobson, Southern Company's chief environmental officer, did a wonderful job of bring us up to speed on the environmental concerns of the company.

Our Nominating Committee headed by Fred Ehrensperger will begin work in July to find members to serve in various positions in our organization. I hope that if you are contacted that you will favorably consider their request to serve.

At our July 12, 2010 meeting, Dr. Charles Hickman and his daughter Charlene McNeill will present a program titled "Divine Proportion" or "Flowers by the Number." Charles assures me that this will not be too technical and there will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to participate. It should be fun.

MEMBER CARE REPORT

Congratulations to **Mary Sisk** and Tony Koski on their recent marriage!

Bill Hill is now at home continuing to recuperate after spending months in rehab for a broken arm and leg.

John Carter has received results from recent biopsies indicating cancer of the stomach with spots on his lung and liver. **Margaret** and John are still waiting for the doctors to determine his treatment.

We have not been able to get an update on **Clyde Wood** who suffered a stroke recently. If you can give me any information about Clyde, I would appreciate hearing from you.

— Liz Winter

JULY PROGRAM

Charles Hickman and his daughter Charlene McNeill have developed a program titled either "Divine Proportion" or "Flowers by the Number." The divine proportion is related to beauty and Charles will discuss several examples of adherence to this ratio; architecture, art, plants and music.

Want to keep up with what's happening? Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree Website.
<http://www.scsretirees.com>

SCS OUTSIDE

July - August 2010

Charlene, who is an occupational therapist, will illustrate, using volunteers, how the divine proportion relates to human anatomy, particularly the hands and arms. Charles will also discuss experiences related to taking pictures in a number of countries of flowers that adhere to a mathematical series (no math experience required). Plan to attend an informative and interesting meeting on July 12, 2010.

— Charles Goodman

BIRTHDAYS

JULY: 1-Frank Jones, 2-Howard Hubbard, 3-Elliene Jackson, 4-Mohinder Ghuman, Carolyn Muglach & Robert Clouse, 5-Ann Garrett, Jo Harrison, Bill Hungerford & Lilla Nesmith, 6-Dorothy Bailey, 8-Ella Burr, Robin Dyle, Jeanne Plaxco & Eukie Woodall, 9-Lee Hanbein & Jim Newton, 10-Linda Merki, 11-Elaine Chambless, 12-William Cole, 14-Sherry Runyans & George Russell, 15-Chris Anderson, Peggy Brashier & Dave Morey, 16-Jim Anchors, 18-Jack Faulkner, 19-Bill Echols, 20-Dan Wise, 21-Dennis Runyans & Rosemary Wright, 22-Jo Ann Stallings, 24-Patricia Cone, Sandra Morgan & Karen Summers, 25-Gerald Aultman, 27-Bruce Bailey & Carter Leonard, 28-Kerry Adams & Bill Hinton, 30-John Garlington & Mary Sisk Koski and 31-Mae Gates, Mary Ann Glover, Susan LeFoy, Mary Nelle Shelton & Tommy Wheelis.

AUGUST: 1-Ruth Shepherd, 2-Bob Jackson, Hubert Pair & Mona Rollins, 3-Jim Coleman, Lawton Grimes III, Barbara Harris & Ron Mitchell, 4-Eddie Champan, Willard Payne & Jerry Wilson, 6-Robert Beason, 8-Donald East & Tom Harris, 10-Gisela Hancock & Jean Horton, 11-David McCoy, 12-Jim Rooker, 13-Phillis Lawrence, 14-Lynne Dickerson, Edward Muglach & Annette Todd, 15-Martha McMillan, 16-Margaret Carter, 17-John Naramore, John Woodall & Jane Wuerdeman, 18-Martha Burson, 19-Nancy Moore & Robert Schamp, 20-Mary Anchors, Peggy Case & Rodney Rogers, 21-Stephen Chesnut & Jackie Jackson, 24-Carole McIntyre, Phyllis Mead & Stephen Sisson,

25-Shirley Harrison & Lee Rayburn, 26-LaMar Sumerlin, 27-Johnny Carter, Jay Dorrance & H. Sumner, 28-Tom Dickerson, 29-Barbara Maluff, Charles Pugh & Ty Robin, 30-James Allison & Mary Romano and 31-Charles Bidy, Patricia Ogles & Lee Wetzel.

— Jay Dorrance

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Benny C. Freeman, 63, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Saturday morning, May 8, 2010. He was employed by the Southern Company and worked as an Electrical Engineer with the Southern Nuclear Operating Company in Birmingham. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Thalia, a son and a daughter, two brothers, a sister and two grandchildren. A memorial service For Mr. Freeman was held Monday morning, May 10 at the Hunter Street Baptist Church in Hoover, Alabama.

Joseph M. Farley, 82, of Birmingham, Alabama passed away peacefully on Monday, May 24, 2010. He joined the Alabama Power Company in 1965 and became its president in 1969. He left that position in 1989 after 20 years to become the first CEO of the Southern Nuclear Operating Company a position he held until his retirement in 1992. He was predeceased in death by his wife, Sheila.* He is survived by two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

After visitation on Wednesday evening, May 26 at the Ridout's Valley Chapel in Homewood, a funeral service for Mr. Farley was held on Thursday at 11 a.m., May 27 at the Cathedral Church of the Advent followed by a graveside service in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

***Note:** Mrs. Sheila S. Farley died in 1978 at the age of 48.

Tommy P. Schillaci, 56, of Hoover, Alabama died Saturday, June 12, 2010. He was employed by Southern Company Services and Southern Nuclear Operating Company for 28 years of combined service. He is survived by his wife Debbie, two sons and two daughters, a granddaughter, his father, a

**SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP
FOR 2010**

brother and a sister. Visitation was held for Tommy at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church on Tuesday, June 15, with a funeral service the next day Wednesday, June 16 at the church with burial at Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Ala.

Condolences

Sympathy is extended to the family of SCS Retiree **Boddie Seay** in the death of his wife Frances Seay, 83, of Hickory Flat, Georgia who passed away on Thursday, June 10, 2010. Memorial services were held for Mrs. Seay on Friday, June 11, at the Hickory Flat United Methodist Church with the South Canton (GA) Funeral Home and Chapel in charge of arrangements.

— Jay Dorrance

ATTENDANCE

Jay Dorrance reports that the attendance at the May open meeting was 150 members and guests.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Henry Garrett reports that SCS/SNC Retirees had \$8391.90 in the bank as of June 15.

**MARK SEPTEMBER 13 ON YOUR
CALENDARS**

Mark your calendar for this one. The program will be given by Mr. Don Seibert on his visit with his son in Uganda, where he, the son, a former co-op with SNC, had gone after graduation to construct a water pipe line from a spring to a children's home. What you will hear is funny and sad, but very entertaining as well as informative.

Please support the Retiree programs. They are designed with you, the member, in mind.

— Jay Dorrance

Officers	
President	Charles Goodman 823-5187
Vice President	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Secretary	Linda Griggs 823-7950
Treasurer	Henry Garrett 853-6079
Directors	
Jim Coleman	991-7403
Mike Griggs	823-7950
Don Irvin	491-3841
Gray Murray	871-5194
Jim Rooker	287-3210
Carol Yeager	822-5506
John Brandt	956-0502
	(ex-officio)
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Audit	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Fellowship	Joe Leamon 870-5637
Finance	Henry Garrett 823-6079
Member Care	Liz Winter 822-6142
Membership	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	Fred Ehrensperger 655-2725
Program	Open
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

SCS OUTSIDE

July – August 2010

MORE ON RICHARD WOODRUFF

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the March 31, 2010 West News section of the The Birmingham News. It was written by Anne Ruisi, a News Staff Writer.

While most people his age are long retired, civil engineer Richard S. Woodruff, 97, is still at work, trying to end flooding on Birmingham's Village Creek.

"If it wasn't fun, I wouldn't do it," said Woodruff, a longtime Mountain Brook resident who is technical director of the Village Creek Society.

He's a Binghampton, NY native who's never lived along the 44-mile waterway that stretches from its source near Huffman High School westward to the Black Warrior River. Yet his part-time volunteer work with the society is a job that has Woodruff's full commitment.

"He's tenacious," said Mable B. Anderson, the society's executive director. "He wakes up thinking about Village Creek and gets it done."

"He's very amazing," said John Meehan, the society's field director. "He keeps us going."

Flooding along the creek has for decades vexed residents threatened by the rising waters that followed heavy rain. Hundreds of families and some businesses in a flood-prone section of the creek from Ensley to near Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport have been relocated since the 1980s.

Woodruff said he's been reading about flooding on Village Creek for the past 50 years.

"I wondered why in the world Village Creek made news and they did nothing about it," he said.

His curiosity, and his background with Alabama Power Company in hydrology—the studying of water and its movement—led to his eventual involvement with the Village Creek Society, Woodruff said.

"I felt I wanted to help the city do something about the flooding," he said.

In his years of studying its waters, Woodruff said he's traveled its length and crossed over every bridge over the creek.

Three measures would prevent flooding in Ensley, he said: replacing the Avenue F bridge over Village Creek, relocating under the creek a 3-foot round sewer pipe that runs alongside the bridge and building a Gabion retaining wall along both sides of the creek between Avenue F and Avenue W.

The Avenue F bridge sits on piers and those piers trap trees, tree limbs and litter, as does the sewer pipe, Woodruff said. As trash and debris collect and the water gets high, flow is impeded, which causes flooding. A single-span bridge without piers and an underground sewer pipe would alleviate flooding.

The Gabion wall, which Woodruff drew plans for, would improve the stability of the creek banks and stabilize water flow in that area, he said.

The society has applied for \$3.5 million in federal stimulus funds to pay for a new bridge and the Gabion wall, Anderson said. It's also applied for \$4.8 million in federal funding to relocate the sewer pipe.

Woodruff has also worked with Birmingham city and Alabama Department of Transportation officials on plans for a greenway along the creek between Avenue F and Avenue W. These plans also call for a park in Ensley with an outdoor classroom and other amenities, such as a picnic area. It would be built on 75 acres cleared of houses due to the Village Creek relocation.

Woodruff's 73-year career in civil engineering is the fulfillment of a childhood dream. He said he always wanted to be a civil engineer and hoped to study civil engineering at Cornell University.

After graduating from high school in 1931, he didn't have the money for Cornell, which charged \$400 a semester. So he joined other recent high school graduates who took an extra year of classes at the high school, such as advanced math.

One of his friends passed around a college catalog from the University of Alabama. Three things caught his eye: the civil engineering courses were very similar to Cornell University's, the dean of engineering was a Cornell civil engineering graduate and tuition was about \$88 a semester for out-of-state students.

“I thought, ‘That sounds good to me,’ “ Woodruff said.

He and three Binghampton friends also accepted at Alabama arrived at the Capstone in the fall of 1932 following a three-day trip in a Ford Roadster. His education at Alabama led to a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in 1937 and two weeks after graduation, a job with Alabama Power.

He worked for the power company for a total of 36 years, with a two year break during World War II when he worked on modifying B-24 bombers for Bechtel McComb Aircraft Corp. in Birmingham. He’d tried to join the Navy but was rejected because at about 135 pounds, he was underweight by 20 pounds.

“They told me to eat bananas and chocolate milkshakes,” he said. I knew there was no way I was going to gain 20 pounds.”

After he retired from Southern Company Services, he worked as a hydroelectric consultant at Hydro Engineering Associates for 20 years. He’s volunteered with the Village Creek Society for the last 10 years.

Woodruff still lives in the home where he and his late wife, Gwendolyn, raised their sons, Michael and Richard L. Woodruff. He’s an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a professional organization he joined in college. He also enjoys stamp collecting, a hobby he picked up as a teenager, and keeps a boat on Gunterville Lake, but hasn’t been aboard lately.

“He’s a great, great man,” Anderson said. “Most people age 60 or 65 are not doing what he’s doing.”

HOW THE NATIONAL SEAL CAME TO BE

Shortly after the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the Continental Congress created a committee of three—John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin—to design an official seal for the United States.

Adams wanted a picture of Hercules standing between two allegorical figures representing Virtue and Sloth; Jefferson wanted a depiction of “The Children of Israel in the Wilderness”; and Franklin

suggested a representation of Moses parting the Red Sea. They couldn’t agree, so they hired Swiss-born artist Pierre Engene du Simitiere to come up with a compromise design. Du Simitiere combined the three themes, then added his own flourishes to the goulash. They hated it.

Seal of Approval. Frustrated, they hired a Philadelphia lawyer named William Barton to come up with something better. Barton proposed *his* mishmash of symbols, including an eagle and crest on one side of the seal and an unfinished pyramid on the other. But that wasn’t right, either. Finally, Secretary of Congress Charles Thompson stripped away everything except the eagle and the pyramid, and added his own symbols, including a shield over the eagle’s chest, an olive branch in one of the eagle’s claws (symbolizing peace), and a bundle of arrows (symbolizing war) in the other. That’s the seal that was finally adopted; you can see it on the \$1 bill.

Salad Days. As it turns out, two elements of du Simitiere’s original design *did* make it into the final seal: the all-seeing eye of Providence, which was placed atop the unfinished pyramid, and the motto *e pluribus unum*: “From Many, One,” which was printed on a banner the eagle holds in its mouth. Where did du Simitiere get the motto? Believe it or not, historians speculate that he borrowed it from the masthead of *Gentleman’s Magazine*, a popular publication in the late 1700s. The editors of the magazine, in turn, took it from *color est e pluribus unus*, a line in Virgil’s poem “Moretum” that “refers to the making of a salad.”

— *Uncle John’s All-purpose Bathroom Reader*,
Volume 13, 2000,
The Bathroom Readers Institute
Ashland, Oregon

BEYOND ORDINARY CELEBRATION

On July 4, 2010, in observance of Independence Day, citizens of the United States of America, a nation known the world as the land of the free and the home of the brave, will celebrate the 234th anniversary of the unanimous adoption of the

SCS OUTSIDE

July – August 2010

Declaration of Independence by the Congress composed of the original 13 states.

That document, written by Thomas Jefferson and including changes suggested by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and other representatives of the Congress was signed by 56 stalwart colonial patriots who fully recognized the gravity of the political situation facing the American colonies. With that awareness in mind, those patriots affirmed their reliance on the protection of Divine Providence and mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Consisting of 1364 words, the Declaration of Independence is short, but it is a powerful document that has accomplished much. It irrevocably broke colonial allegiance to Great Britain and became the cornerstone of a new and great nation. That nation, founded upon the principles of political equality and individual liberty, has become a bastion of hope for all freedom-loving people around the world.

The Declaration of Independence stands as one of the greatest documents of American history. Francis Samuel Philbrick, a professor of law at the

University of Pennsylvania, called it “the best known and the noblest of American state papers.

Then, in *Adventures in American Literature*, Rewey Belle Inglis wrote, “It is the finest expression of the American ideal ever formulated.” She went on to call it “a lasting inspiration to all Americans.

Beyond fireworks, parades, picnics, and oratory with which ordinary Independence Day celebrating is associated, it would be beneficial if every citizen of the United States of America would spend a few minutes with the Declaration of Independence and come to grips with the fundamental ideals expressed in it, for these were the ideals for which colonial Americans were, and patriotic citizens of today are, willing to risk their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. These same ideals form the basis of our nation today. May they forever remain unchanged.

— W. Howard Coop,
The Scottish Rite Journal.
July – August 2004

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, July 12, 2010

Where: Inverness Building 42, Room 130

Board Meeting: 11 a.m.

Membership Meeting 1 p.m.

Lunch on your own in the company cafeteria, if you choose