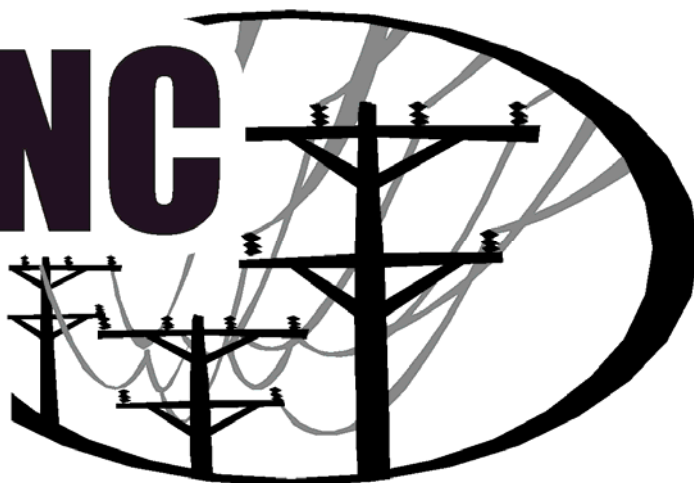


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 22

Number 6

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MEMBER CARE REPORT

Jim Coleman broke his ankle and had surgery recently. He will be recuperating with no weight bearing on his ankle for about six weeks.

Doctors have stopped all treatments for John Carter.

Joyce Steele had one-day throat surgery this past week.

Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

— Liz Winter

PREZ SEZ

Our upcoming retirees meeting on Wednesday, November 3, is a major event of the year—the Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting. We will elect our new officers at the meeting. See the note from Fred Ehrensperger, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, later in this issue.

Our entertainment will be provided by Bobby Horton from Three on a String. He has a solo act related to Civil War music. I have been told by several of our members that he is an exceptional entertainer.

The meeting will be at the Vestavia Hills Country Club, beginning at 11 a.m., with registration and Social Hour, followed by lunch at noon. **Reservations must be received not later than October 27.** Reservation information is discussed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our January meeting will be on Monday, January 10, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at Inverness Building 42, Room 130. We are still working on a program so if any of you have recommendation please contact me.

I look forward to seeing you at the November 3 meeting.

— Charles Goodman

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

A note from your editor. As Charles noted in his Prez Sez column, Bobby Horton, who is extremely knowledgeable concerning Civil War era music, will be our program for the November luncheon. If you remember the Ken Burns Civil War special that was broadcast by APTN, you should know that Horton was the music consultant Burns chose to select the music he used, as well as to perform some of it.

Myrna and I have also been privileged to hear Three on a String present a program of patriotic and religious music at our church each 4th of July for the last four years. As part of that program, Horton has gathered the children of the congregation around him and talked about Civil War music, playing examples to make his points.

I doubt you will be disappointed with the program he puts on for us in November.

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

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SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2010

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 (ex-officio)	956-0502
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

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER: 2-William Kline, 4-Edison Carmack, Robert Orr & Elizabeth Wintter, 5-Jackson Eastis, 7-Emma Patrick & Betty Ponder, 8-Betty Hendricks, 9-Ronnie Green & Grady Smith, 10-Arthur Draper & Jean Guthrie, 11-Ozen Batum, Charles Hickman, Nancy Parsons & Margaret Williams, 12-Angie Campisi, Dot Cole & Tommy Sanford, 13-George Burson, 14-Dora Brandt & Frank Brewer, 16-Dilip Ray & Sara Thompson, 18-Theresa Burns & Rosemary Tenney, 19-Calvin Banks & B. J. Walker, 22-Robert Akridge, Ernestine Craig & Sharon Stephens, 23-Mildred Hire-Fleming, 24-S. N. Strowd, 26-Robert Quarles, 27-Jerry Fields, 28-Noel Chambless, Don Duckworth & Dot Legg, 29-John Evans, James O'Brien, Charlsie Smith & Boyd Vanlandingham and 30-Gail Pugh & Sandra Smaha.

DECEMBER: 1-Amal Barroody & Jimmy Ellison, 3-Attie Fleming, Bill Holcombe, Oliver Kingsley & Evelyn Mansfield, 4-David Copeland & Lou Payne, 5-Harold Brown & Susan Morgan, 7-Phyllis Mathews, 8-Scotty Jordan & Al Larson, 9-Jacob Champion, Linda Henry & Jo Pigford, 11-Terry Leach, 12-Jerry Nichols, 13-Betty Jo Allen, Jerry Sappington, Carolyn Spears & Jackie Walton, 15-Mike Schultz, 16-Robert Emerson, 18-James Bailey, William Buie & Glenda Massengale, 19-Patsy Evans, 20-Jane Rooker, 22-Joan Brooks, Doug Shelton & Lee Niemzak, 23-Richard Chastain & Malcomb Garner, 25-Tallulah DeMarco & Glenda Maxwell, 26-Peggy Byars, Melanie Crane, Betty Latta, Dean Shelton & Jack Townsend, 27-Jerry Fields, Sandra McDonald & Joseph Price, 28-Deborah Hostetter, 29-Arthur Johnson & John Plaxco, 30-Jack Greenhill, William Lambert & James Maughn and 31-Buddy Coggin, Eleanor Connor, Sonia Garnem, Jack Jones & Bill Latta.

— Jay Dorrance

If youth only knew; if age only could.

— Henry Estienne

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers for 2011 for election at the Annual Holiday Luncheon on November 3: President - Wayne Walton; Vice president - Patsy Evans; Secretary - Linda Griggs; Treasurer - Mike Griggs; Directors (2-year terms) - Jim Gordy, John Meier & Wandra Wyatt; Director (1-year term) - Joe Leamon. The other members of the committee were John Brandt, Don Irvin, Gray Murray & Liz Winter.

— Fred Ehrensperger

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

W. Frank Fenn, Jr., 84, of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Saturday, September 11, 2010. Frank worked for Alabama Power Company and Southern Company Services, retiring from SCS Operating Services - Power Supply in 1986 with a total of 37 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, three children, eight grand-children and six great grandchildren. Funeral services were held for Mr. Fenn on Tuesday, September 14 in the chapel of the Southern Heritage Funeral Home followed by burial in the Southern Heritage Cemetery, Pelham, Alabama.

James L. Hurley, 56, of Alliance, Alabama died Tuesday, September 14, 2010. James worked for The Southern Company retiring from SNC Nuclear Plant Support - Hatch. He is survived by his wife, Susan, a daughter and a son. A funeral service was held for Mr. Hurley on Friday, September 17 at the Oak Grove First Baptist Church.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of SCS Retiree **Jim Lofe** in the death of his father, James H Lofe, who died on Thursday, September 2, 2010. A memorial service was held for Jim's father in Douglassville, Georgia, on September 18.

Sympathy is also extended to retiree **Jean Quick** and her family in the death Jean's husband, James

Harold Quick, 90, of Pell City, Alabama, who passed away Monday, September 20, 2010. Graveside services were held for Mr. Quick on Wednesday, September 22 at Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama

We offer our sympathy to the family of SCS retiree **Stephen A. McArdle** whose brother James J. McArdle, 80, of Panama City Beach, Florida, died Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at the Bay Medical Center in Panama City, FL. Funeral services for Steve's brother were held on Monday, October 4 at Elmwood Chapel, Birmingham, Alabama

— Jay Dorrance

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

We had 44 members and guests at the September meeting.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT REGISTRATION

Your attendance at membership meetings and support of SCS/SNC Retirees programs is important to the success of our organization. It tells the leadership that you, the member, appreciate their efforts to bring to you interesting and informative as well as entertaining programs for our meetings.

The Annual Meeting at the Vestavia Hills CC is coming up November 3. We will have a good meal and the program will provide you with an interesting, informative and entertaining couple of hours. Bobby Horton, one of the guys from Three on a String. will be bringing us music from the Civil War era.

We will also elect and install our leadership for 2011. Don't miss this important meeting. This meeting is open to members and their guests only and cost is \$20.00 each. ***You must sign up by Oct. 27.***

— Jay Dorrance

The sky is the daily bread of the eyes.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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THANKS FOR THANKSGIVING

Early on a cold Thursday morning, Grandpa walked over to his nephew Willy's place to get a turkey. He killed and cleaned it, and it hung in the smokehouse till morning. Then Grandma stuffed it with her favorite stuffing and put it in the oven of the wood-burning stove.

This was at the old home place in the Ozark hills of Missouri. It was 1944. There was no electricity or running water.

Early in the morning, a great-uncle and aunt and cousin walked in from their home a couple of miles away. By mid-morning there were several cars in the front drive, mostly 1930s Model A Fords and Chevrolets. Gas and tires were rationed, but this was a special occasion.

It was a subdued Thanksgiving, but we all gathered to give thanks. One uncle was in the Army Air Force somewhere in the Pacific. Another was in Patton's Army in Europe. A couple of cousins were in Army hospitals in England. A girl cousin's fiancé had been killed in France or Germany. Other members of the family were working in defense plants in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Long Beach.

The family members who came this day brought platters and bowls and pans of food to go with the turkey roasting in the oven. There was even a platter of fried squirrel. My grandfather's prayer was still a prayer of praise and petition, and above all, Thanksgiving.

As the years passed, Thanksgiving has evolved in some ways, but for many of us in this great nation, the original intent is still the same. The scenes change, yet continue to be the same.

Talking to other seniors, we think of the days when we went to Grandpa and Grandma's with our parents and all the uncles and aunts and cousins.

As we grew, we became involved in the loneliness and grief of the Korean War. Those of us who returned from that action had our own families, and our parents became grandparents, and we had to decide which set of grandparents we would visit. Maybe all the grandparents and all the children would get together in one place.

Then the horrors of Vietnam intruded and once again there were empty places and fear and grief. Suddenly we were the grandparents, and we tried to continue the old traditions. But times have changed.

We no longer kill the turkey ourselves. In fact, we might not even cook it ourselves. We may order the Thanksgiving meal from a caterer. We might even go to a restaurant. We do know, wherever possible, our troops overseas are going to get a good meal.

Traditions developed over the years, in addition to the great meals. There is a televised football game for Thanksgiving Day. At our church in Albuquerque the younger crowd, including my youngest son, has a serious tag football game on Thursday morning. We had a traditional jackrabbit hunt as my uncle's ranch in eastern Colorado. This was the uncle who had fought in the Pacific that long-ago Thanksgiving and had come home safely. My sister and brother-in-law and their family usually walk after dinner, on one of the railroad trails along the Missouri River at Columbia, Missouri.

One thing seems not to change, though we hope it will, and that is the grim specter of war. As we go to our traditional Thanksgiving dinner this month, many families across America will be worried and lonely over the empty place at the table, or will be grieving by the graveside of a loved one fallen in battle.

Let's remember them. Because of the sacrifice of men and women over the decades we are still free to give thanks as we choose. Let's also remember those who are alone because of age or illness.

Thanksgiving is an American tradition and let's keep it viable and meaningful for our present generation and those to come. Let's keep our culture, which traditionally is for individual and collective freedom, and allows us to be thankful to God as we strive to preserve that freedom.

— Jim Hickman
Senior Living,
November 2007

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WHAT ONE MAN CAN DO

Joel R. Poinsett was an extraordinary man who made an unforgettable contribution to the development of the United States and its neighbors.

In 1810, Poinsett was appointed as the first American diplomat to Argentina and Chile, at a time when South American countries were struggling to gain their independence from Spain. Chile was being governed by a revolutionary junta headed by José Miguel Carrera. The Chileans were divided, some of them—the Spanish-born wealthy land owners—wanted to remain under Spanish rule, while most of those born in Chile thought otherwise. Poinsett arrived in November 1811 during a critical time in the struggle for independence.

Although Chileans had declared their independence in September of the previous year, Spanish soldiers still occupied the far south, and in Peru, the viceroy for Spain was preparing to send an expeditionary force to regain control of the country.

Poinsett became the friend and adviser to Carrera. He was invited to join an important project toward independence: writing a constitution for the new republic. Poinsett used the recently enacted U.S. Constitution as his model. In addition, he proposed the cultivation of cotton and other crops that could be valuable for international trade.

After Poinsett's return to the United States in January 1816, he entered South Carolina politics, being elected to the state legislature for two terms, where he sponsored a bill to limit the importation of slaves into the state. In 1821, his political life took a dramatic turn. That year he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he took a place on the Foreign Affairs Committee. In March 1825, Poinsett resigned from Congress to accept appointment as the first American ambassador to Mexico. His instructions were to acquire Texas and convince the Mexicans to redraw the borderline farther south.

In Mexico, Poinsett met the new president, Manuel Felix Fernández, better known as Guadalupe Victoria. The vice-president was the conservative Nicolás Bravo, who had been elected

in a futile move designed to bring peace between both camps. Soon after his arrival, Poinsett was approached by members of newly formed Masonic lodges. These included politicians and military men who wanted to get rid of the conservative faction in order to establish a firm republican form of government. Poinsett, a Mason himself, deviated from his role as diplomat by helping the Mexican lodges form their own Grand Lodge, which became the center of the opposition political force.

Although later Poinsett would claim that he did not expect the Masons to act beyond their legitimate functions of benevolence and charity, he could not have ignored the intense political forces that were behind the creation of the competing Masonic Body.

As Guadalupe Victoria's presidential term came to its close in 1828, the conservative vice-president, Nicolás Bravo, a centrist, rebelled and issued a proclamation, known as the Montano Plan, which, among other rulings, prohibited all "secret" societies. Poinsett had overstayed his welcome by becoming too involved in Mexican political life. Plus, he was neither able to acquire Texas nor redraw the border. He returned to Charleston and became an active defender of the Union when the nullification dispute developed in South Carolina. Poinsett became the leader of those defending the authority of the federation. In the end, South Carolina remained in the Union.

Poinsett was always interested in the progress of science and art. He was actively involved in the creation of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, the forerunner of the Smithsonian Institution, and became its first president. Also, on his return from Mexico, Poinsett brought back plants of a bright red flower known in Mexico as the *Nochebuena*, the flower of Christmas Eve. We now know it as the *poinsettia*, named in honor of the man who brought it to America.

Joel Poinsett gives us an example of how a man, dedicated to giving others the benefits he himself enjoys at home, goes out of his way to put into practice the principles he professes to uphold. Poinsett believed that freedom must be defended and despotism fought. He risked his career and his

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own life to give testimony that his ideals were not abstract philosophy, but vital rules of conduct.

— Leon Zeldis
Scottish Rite Journal,
November/December 2004

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

In the Dustbin of History

A Forgotten Figure: John Billington, “a foul-mouthed miscreant” who came to America in 1620 on the *Mayflower*.

Claim to Fame: Billington, his wife, and their two sons were among the 67 non-Pilgrim passengers on the ship. The Billingtons were, Governor William Bradford later wrote, “. . . one of the profanes families aboard the ship.” They made enemies of just about everybody during the 66-day voyage and things did not improve on land.

In the summer of 1630, Billington shot a man, John Newcomen, in the woods near Plymouth Colony. Apparently he thought he’d finished him off, but he was wrong. When Billington returned to the colony he learned that Newcomen was still alive and had identified him as the assailant. Newcomen died a few days later and Billington was charged with murder—the first ever in the colonies. Tried and convicted, Billington was hanged in September 1630.

Into the Dustbin: Amazingly, writes Peter Stevens in *The Mayflower Murderer and Other Forgotten Firsts in American History*, “Some Americans tracing their bloodlines back to the *Mayflower* proclaim proudly their kinship to the lout. And on the *Mayflower* Compact, the hallowed names of Brewster, Mullins, Alden, Bradford, and Standish abide for posterity with the scrawl of America’s first convicted murderer: big, bad John Billington.”

Uncle John’s all-Purpose Bathroom Reader,
13th Edition, Bathroom Readers’ Press,
Ashland, Oregon, 2000

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: WEDNESDAY, November 3, 2010

Where: Vestavia Hills Country Club

Registration begins at 11 a.m.

Lunch served at 12 Noon

***Program and election of officers
to follow***