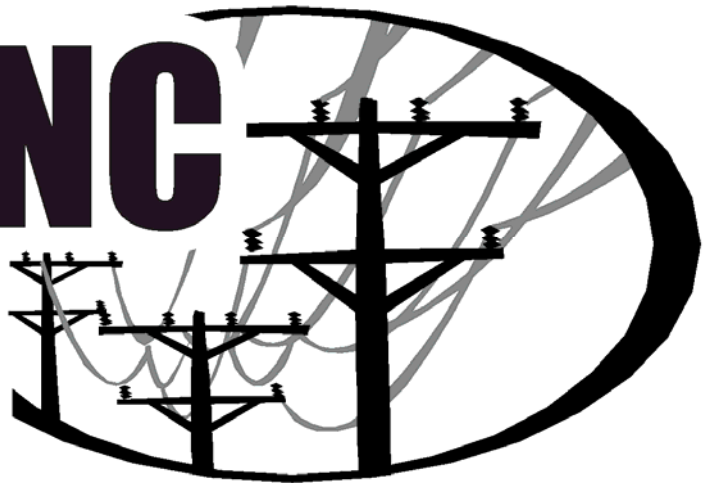


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 23

Number 2

March — April 2011

PREZ SEZ

Ladies and gentlemen of the SCS/SNC Retirees organization, we have some exciting and informative activities planned for 2011. Many thanks to the officers, directors and committee chair who have agreed to serve, as well as to the members who attend our bimonthly meetings. These individuals put forth their best efforts to make sure our organization runs smoothly.

A warm welcome is extended to our new members who are recent retirees from Southern Company Services and the Southern Nuclear Operating Company. Enjoy our programs and the association with our long-term members. We wish each of you the best in retirement.

For each meeting this year we will have a theme; a quote or a saying that each of us can relate to. Some will be from people who are well known. Others will be from people who have been known by me and very well may be known only to me and very few others. The quote for this March is from a medical missionary's experiences in Africa presented in a sermon at my church. It is as follows: "If you educate someone without giving them a basis for life, all you have succeeded in doing is creating a smarter rascal." This serious observation

will contrast very well with our lighthearted program this month.

As you read in the last issue of Outside, our March meeting deviates from the norm. And as is noted elsewhere in this issue, we will start off with the Board meeting and lunch at Bright Star historic restaurant in Bessemer. Then we will adjourn to the Bessemer Civic Center auditorium to hear Carl Hurley and Jeanne Robertson. We can thank Joe Leamon, our Fellowship chair, for making these arrangements.

The management of Bright Star send their greetings also.

Many thanks to Fred Ehrensperger and Charles Goodman for obtaining Nick Irvin as our speaker for the January meeting. Nick's presentation of the Barry Steam Plant carbon capture and sequestration project brought us up to date on activities within the Southern Company on this project.

Please contact the officers, directors and committee chairs about any concerns or comments you may have about our organization. We wish you a healthy and happy 2011.

See you March 14 at Bright Star!

— Wayne Walton

MEMBER CARE REPORT

Joyce Steele had vocal cord surgery February 17 at UAB. This is the third doctor she has seen. Her doctor expects her to have two more surgeries. She was able to speak very softly.

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

SCS OUTSIDE

March - April 2011

My surgery went well. Dr. Sherrill inserted a plate with 10 screws and 22 staples. I have to keep that arm immobilized for the present time. I had my first therapy session this afternoon.

— Liz Winter

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH: 1-James McNeely, 2-T.D. Posey, 3-David Busby & Pat Goodman, 4-Waltraud Amos & Rita Townsend, 5-Al Stallings, 6-Ken Horton, 7-Linda Katz, Kathryn Owens & Clara Posey, 9-Danny Lofton & Gene Rollins, 11-Bill Nicholson & Mary Sue Thornburgh, 12-Ron Fowler, John Troha & Sid Varagona, 15-Robert Gehri, 16-Martha Cook, James Ewing & Lewis Williams, 18-Iris Gilbert & Mary Rimel, 19-Pat Bowman & John Meier, 20-Mary Anchors & Cheryl Baker, 21-Carol Couch, Myron Fieldler, Scott Herron & Doyal Shaw, 22-Woody Woodruff, 23- John Tilton & Joe Tyner, 24-Peggy Davis, 26-April Brockson, Barbara Mitchell & Ron Tyler, 28-Bernice Hill, Richard McRee & Joe Romano, 29-Barbara Jones and 30-Marvin Watkins.

APRIL: 1-Shirley Rutherford, 2-Lowell Brothers, 3-Don Turner, Mahal Khan & Dean Koch, 4-Vicki Garner & Frances Johnson, 5-James Cofield & Jean Shaw, 6-Joe Soears, 7-Jeanette Crane & Geraldine Lofton, 8-Pauk Cone, Lodema Evans, Eugene Johnston, Ken Kopecky, Sarah Ann Michlewright, Stokely Morgan & Jerry Ray, 9-Geraldine Holmes, 10-James Legg, 11-Nancy Carr, Henry Garrett, Susan Goertz & Ron Letson, 12-Richard Rivers, 13-Don Jackson, 14-Ken Damsgard & Charles Kirk, 15-Jerilynn Sansom & Hoy Taylor, 16-Leonard Bates & Lewis Williams, 18-Jack Goertz & Patsy Schmith, 21-William Brown Judy Sanford, 22-Don Irvin, Lou Ann Kaster & Bill Rowe, 23-Don Walker, 24-Doug McCary, 25-Janet Smith, 27-Dewey Atkins & James Baldone, 28-Ken Mooney & Ritch Winkler, 29-Billie Greenhill & Judith Heatherly and 30-Joyce Ehrensperger, Bill Garner & Hugh Turner.

— Jay Dorrance

SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2011

Officers	
President	Wayne Walton 822-1875
Vice President	Patsy Evans 791-7900
Secretary	Linda Griggs 823-7950
Treasurer	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Directors	
Jim Gordy	290-2186
Joe Leamon	870-5637
John Meier	967-4498
Gray Murray	871-5194
Wandra Wyatt	587-6492
Carol Yeager	822-5506
Charles Goodman (ex-officio)	823-5187
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Jay Dorrance 663-2828
Audit	Alvin Harris 664-2886
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	Louis Long 936-6765
Program	Fred Ehrensperger 655-2725
Website	Charles Hickman 823-4597

March - April 2011

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Pat Foster, 60, of Alabaster, Alabama, passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2010. Pat was employed by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) for over 20 years. She is survived by her daughter and her mother. A funeral service was held for her on Monday, December 20 at the Currie-Jefferson Funeral Home Chapel with entombment in Jefferson Memorial Gardens, South.

John Robert Woodall, 84, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on Monday, January 24, 2011. John was employed by Southern Company Services (SCS) for 34 years, retiring in 1986 as Engineering Power Systems Analyst in the Electrical Design Department. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Eulala "Eukie" McNut Woodall and a cousin from Marietta, Georgia. A memorial service was held for Mr. Woodall at the Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 28.

John "Tim" Petty, 69, of Keener, Alabama died Friday, February 4, 2011. Tim specialized in solar energy research for the Southern Company. He is survived by his former wife, Elizabeth Frantz, of Gadsden, AL, a son, a stepson and a brother. Services were held for Mr. Petty at Ridout's Valley Chapel in Homewood, AL, Saturday, February 12.

Norma Jean Johnston, 85, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. Norma Jean was employed in the SCS Human Resources Department at her retirement in 1986 with 42 years of service which began with Commonwealth and Southern Corp. in 1944. She went on to serve through two other company name changes and as executive secretary to four company presidents. She is survived by three nieces and two nephews. Funeral services were held for Norma Jean at Ridout's Elmwood Chapel on Friday, February 18 at 11 a.m.

Condolences

We offer our sympathy to SCS Retiree **Jimmy Gordy** and his family in the death of Jimmy's father, Ernest M. Gordy, 92, of Birmingham,

Alabama, and Panama City Beach, Florida, who passed away on Monday, January 3, 2011.

Graveside services were held for Mr. Gordy on January 6 at Elmwood Cemetery.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to SCS Retiree **Patsy Evens** and her family in the death of Patsy's father, J. C. Wright, 88, of Birmingham, Alabama, who passed away on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. Funeral services were held for Mr. Wright at noon at the McElwain Baptist Church on Thursday, January 20. A graveside service followed at the New Hope Baptist Cemetery in Holly Pond, Alabama later that afternoon.

Our sympathy is also extended to SNC Retiree **Sue Brooks Hassell** in the death of Sue's husband, Kenneth Hassell, 75, of Hoover, Alabama, who passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2011. Sue was an Alabama Power Employee and retired from SNC in 1995 with 13 years service as a benefits specialist. Services were held for Mr. Hassell on Sunday afternoon, February 13 at the Green Valley Baptist Church followed by burial in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, Alabama.

— Jay Dorrance

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

We had 43 members and guests at the January meeting, which was rescheduled to January 31 because of snow.

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

Just a Couple of Flakes**John Kellogg vs Will Kellogg**

John Harvey Kellogg, a physician and bowel-obsessed health guru at the turn of the 20th Century, and his brother Will Keith Kellogg, an accountant, got into a sort of family feud.

While searching for a new kind of breakfast food to help his patients get "regular," Dr. Kellogg invented the recipe for bran flakes; then he invented the recipe for corn flakes. But he was an idealist: he

SCS OUTSIDE

March – April 2011

saw corn flakes as purely medicinal and began selling them under the brand name “Sanitas,” after his Seventh Day Adventist Sanitarium.

Will Kellogg was a business man—he thought that Sanitas was a stupid name for a breakfast food (it reminded him of a disinfectant), and he thought the flakes would sell better if they contained a little sugar, which his brother opposed for health reasons.

While John Kellogg was on a trip to Europe, Will formed a cereal company and launched his own brand of corn flakes to compete with Sanitas. To add insult to injury, his packaging suggested that “Kellogg’s Corn Flakes” were linked to his brother’s famous sanitarium. John was furious when he found out. He filed suit to block the corn flakes and put his brother out of business.

And the winner is: Will Kellogg. John lost his suit. Not only that, when he retaliated by introducing “Kellogg’s Sterilized Bran” to capitalize on his brother’s thriving cereal business (just as his brother had earlier cashed in on the sanitarium’s fame), Will filed suit to stop *him* from using the family name...and *won*. “The Battle of the Brans” had lasted more than a decade; by the time it was over, Dr. John Kellogg’s sanitarium had fallen on hard times, while Will Kellogg’s breakfast cereal business was booming, all thanks to an idea he’d stolen from his brother. The brothers rarely spoke to each other for the rest of their lives.

Uncle John’s All Purpose Bathroom Reader,
13th Edition, Bathroom readers’ Press,
Ashland, Oregon, 2000

Patience Is a Virtue

An anonymous bit of verse is a droll reminder of the scarcity of patience: “Patience is a virtue, possess it if you can, seldom found in woman, never found in man.” John Dewey, the American philosopher and educator of the 19th Century went further when he wrote that patience is “the most enduring virtue.” It is such an enduring virtue that Benjamin Franklin, American statesman of the Revolutionary period, is sometimes quoted as saying, “He that can have patience can have what he will.”

Yet even a cursory observation of people as they are engaged in the normal pursuit of everyday activities reveals the lack of patience on the part of many, for impatience shows in the emotional reaction of many when, for one reason or another, they are required to wait in line a few moments for something. This persistent impatience on the part of many has led to a new and interesting definition of a *split-second*: it is that tiny bit of time that elapses between the traffic light turning green and the onset of the incessant blaring of the horn of the car to the rear. A businessman, engaged in the building supply trade, expressed his frustration with this general impatience when he said, “Most of my customers are so impatient that they want today’s orders delivered yesterday.”

If we are at all observant, it does not take long to learn that life does not always come to us on our terms and within our time frame; it has its own way and time of coming to us. Therefore, learning patience is one of the better ways to face the unexpected turns of life. For centuries, the wisest and most enlightened of men have admonished us gently but firmly to “wait patiently” for the Source of Life to direct our ways and to face what comes to us with patience, perseverance, and determination, remembering at all times to be “patient with everyone.” Indeed, patience certainly is a beneficial virtue that anyone can develop.

Those seeking more light on how to live are sure to meet those who try their patience, place obstacles in their way, and seek to deter their progress. But those searching souls are encouraged to trust their guides in all situations and move forward with patience, perseverance, and determination.

W. Howard Coop,
The Scottish Rite Journal,
January/February 2008

A Fool’s Prayer

Lord, give me patience. AND I WANT IT NOW!

Come Fly with Me

It was Valentine's Day 1949. I was dating this pretty girl from North Birmingham and I wanted to impress her. Birmingham had several small airports, among them Central Park, a grassy runway with a couple of small buildings. I had learned to fly in Wilmington, NC, shooting landings on the beach north of Weightsville. I had some close calls, and I hadn't flown for a while.

But I did want to impress Anne Nall. So I took her out to Central Park Airport, and showed the manager my flying license. He asked me how long it had been since I had flown, and frowned when I told him.

"You'd better take me around once before you take her up," he said, which was a nice way of saying: "I'm not sure about you. Show me if you can fly an airplane, and I'll rent you one."

To be frank with you, I was glad he insisted on riding with me. I wasn't sure I remembered all the little things you were supposed to do.

So, with him sitting beside me, I took the plane down the grassy runway and lifted off, flying over some trees at the end of the runway.

And I did all the right things—the downwind leg, turn on the heat, throttle back, and glide in on the landing, no power. You turn on the heat when you throttle back and glide with no power. The heat keeps the engine warm so it can roar back into action if you need to run the throttle. But with the heat on, most of the power of the engine is lost.

Pull back on the stick just as she is stalling, and the wheels touched down lightly on the grass. I was proud of my no-bounce landing. So the manager climbed out, and Anne crawled into the cockpit. I shoved the throttle forward, and we started down the runway. But something seemed to be wrong. The engine seemed to have lost power. We rolled and rolled down the runway for a small eternity. I fiddled with the throttle trying to get more power, but nothing happened. We were rolling toward the line of trees at the end of the runway.

I was desparate now, knowing I could never clear those trees, and I was coming to the point

where I couldn't stop the plane before it plowed into a fence.

Then suddenly I remembered. THE HEAT.

I had left the heat on, and this robbed the engine of its power. I slammed it off and felt the airplane surge ahead. It picked up speed and, finally, I lifted it off the ground. But the trees were coming closer and closer.

We cleared those trees by less than six feet, with me clasping the stick back into my lap. It scared the hell out of me, but Anne thought it merely routine that we should come so close to the trees. I don't think I told her about my mistake on the heat until after we were married in 1955.

I had some close calls in North Carolina learning to fly, but this one taught me the final lesson: Hey, pal, give it up. You are not careful enough to fly airplanes. And if you keep flying, you will die. It was the last flight I ever made. Give me a little credit for brains. And for marrying Anne Nall who turned out to be my lifelong sweetheart.

I took her dancing that night at the Mountain Brook Lodge, and she wore the red rose I gave her tucked behind her ear.

Clarke Stallworth,
Senior Living.
February 2009

On the Street Where We Live

It was the Saturday before the Fourth of July a few years ago. Becky Parham had called earlier in the week to invite Marvin and me to a meal she and Mickey and Susan and Ralph Doughton were hosting at the Doughtons' home across the street. I accepted the invitation for both of us, knowing my husband would be happy to attend.

With slow, deliberate steps we proceeded down our driveway. Our pace after more than fifty years on our hill lacks the buoyancy we enjoyed when we built the house. The climb down demands less heart pumping than the climb up. Nevertheless, descending requires caution, which we were observing.

SCS OUTSIDE

March – April 2011

This evening we gathered in the spacious kitchen-dining area, one of the changes Susan and Ralph made to accommodate the needs of their hospitable family. A smiling Susan greeted us at the door and invited us into the kitchen

Although Susan and Ralph have tastefully furnished and decorated their home throughout, the paper on their kitchen wall is significantly more than decoration. On a white background, colorful blooms grow on vines that flow gracefully in numerous directions. It's an inviting and giving picture, appropriate for this house where heads of two families were this evening sharing generously with their neighbors.

When the last two guests arrived, co-hostess Becky brought forth baked beans and salads to accompany the meat. Susan placed a platter of warm buns near the barbeque, and we were ready for the blessing by Ralph.

I reminded Marvin afterward that everyone present was of our children's generation. One of the

guests had lived a few blocks away and had moved back into the neighborhood with his wife and two young sons. The house they live in now once belonged to the family of my youngest son's best friend. One of our hostesses had grown up in the neighborhood and was a good friend of my second son's high school sweetheart.

Yes, we were out of our age group at the party, but years are irrelevant among friends. I recall the line of a song by Mr. Rogers of children's television, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood." But the next line, "It's a beautiful day for a neighbor," reminds me that our most treasured blessings on the street where we live are the people. I appreciate the architecture and the well-groomed lawns. The families who live in the houses, however, are the real beauty of the neighborhood.

Lora Perry
Senior Living,
February 2009

SCS RETIREES
P.O. BOX 2625
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, March 14, 2011

Where: BRIGHT STAR in Bessemer

Board meets at 11 a.m.

Lunch (order from menu) at 12 Noon

***Program at Bessemer Civic Center (for
those who made reservations)***