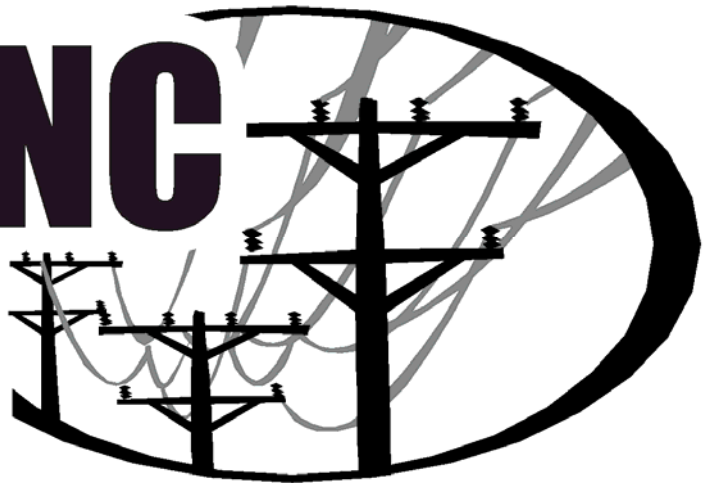


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 27

Number 1

January – February 2015

PREZ SEZ

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to **Al Nebrig, our Vice President**, for stepping in for me at the last moment and running the November meeting in my absence. After I experienced some health issues, my doctor recommended surgery without delay. Unfortunately, his one available opening landed the same day as our meeting. I am sorry to have missed our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Vestavia Country Club. I am happy to report that I am on the mend and looking forward to seeing everyone in January.

Jackie Imbusch, Program Chair, along with members **Al Nebrig and Keith Calhoun**, has scheduled Mr. Michael DeSacio of Barber Motor Sports Park for a presentation on the race course facilities and the Museum near Leeds. This will be a great opportunity to get an insight into this world class facility and hear some interesting facts about the items located in the automobile museum.

One of the highlights of the “Outside” Newsletter is the Spotlight. I continue to be amazed and impressed by the earlier retirees and their biographies. I worked with so many of the “greatest generation” for years and never knew of their individual stories as they secured the freedom for

our country. This month’s issue features **Billy J. Walker**. Please do not miss this article.

We welcome to the Board of Directors **John McCoy as incoming Vice President; Paul Brown and John Edmondson** as Board members. I wish to thank each of them for their willingness to serve SCS/SNC in such important positions. What a great job the **Nominating Committee**, Chaired by **Gray Murray**, did in putting this team together.

There are many people to thank for supporting the SCS/SNC Retirees during 2014. I especially thank our officers: **Al Nebrig (Vice President)** for his support and proactive stance in handling many business issues for our organization; **Michael Griggs (Treasurer)** for the untiring efforts in keeping our finances in order and paying our bills and **Peggy Burdeshaw (Secretary)** for the wonderful year of documentation and recording of so many important business issues for us.

I would like to express thanks to the 2014 Board of Directors for their time and input to our organization including **John Brandt, Rhonda Cook, Linda Griggs, Lou Long, Fred Ehrensperger, Gray Murray, and Keith Calhoun**.

Our 2014 Committee Chairs were instrumental in planning and implementing our meetings, developing and maintaining our website, communicating our news, and providing financial oversight: **Glenda James (Audit and Arrangements), Cary Campbell (Website), Jackie Imbusch (Programs), Dora Brandt (Membership), Patsy Evans (Member Care),**

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

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Dan and Myrna Wise (Newsletter), Mike Griggs (Finance), and Joe Leamon (Fellowship).

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President this past year. Best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year.

— H. Ray Bailey

SPOTLIGHTING OUR FOUNDERS BILLY J. WALKER

Billy J. Walker is a native of Decatur, Alabama, finished high school in 1943 and at that time he was small for his age and acquired the nickname of “termite.”

In 1944 he volunteered for the Navy, but in boot camp he was transferred to the Seabees and sent to Attu Island on the tip end of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska to work on a landing strips for B26 Bombers. He found out later that his unit was slated for the invasion of Japan, but the war ended before any troops were committed, and he was thankful. For a short period he was sent back to Kodiak before coming back to the mainland for discharge.

When Billy graduated in the Spring of 1950 from the University of Alabama School of Civil Engineering, he went to work for the L&N Railroad for 6 1/2 years and was Plant Engineer for a prestress concrete company in Atlanta.

In February 1958 he went to work for Paul Fischer in the concrete design section of Southern Company Services. His first assignment was to design the drainage system for the entire property at Plant Gaston in Shelby County. Most of his projects were with Georgia Power where he served as Senior Project Engineer. He also did some work at Mississippi Power and enjoyed going to Gulfport because he could get some fresh seafood.

Just before the company offered early retirement Billy supervised the engineering for the Gorgas

balanced draft addition with Alabama Power. In September 1986 SCS offered early retirement and he accepted it.

Billy married Thelma in 1956 and they had three sons. One lives on Logan Martin Lake, one in Hartselle and one in Atlanta. They have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with another on the way.

Since retirement, Billy and Thelma have done quite a bit of traveling. They have toured Europe, Australia, New Zealand, England and Ireland along with several cruises, one of which was a Mediterranean cruise before 9-11.

For the past 15 years he has been working with the seniors at the Heardmont Senior Center in North Shelby County arranging trips throughout USA and parts of Southern Canada. Some of the retirees of Southern Company have participated also.

Billy’s biggest accomplishment that he believes he has achieved in his life is when he was appointed an Elder at the Helena Church of Christ about 16 years ago. Since that time he has written many articles for the church weekly bulletin.

“It doesn’t make much sense because English had always been my worst subject in school – maybe the Lord has provided,” Billy added.

BIRTHDAYS

January 2015

1-Larry E. Dungan; 2-John S. Kersker & Mollie Midlik; 3-Charles Nuckolls; 4-Denson Burnum, Jr. & Ronald T. Price; 5-Betty Ramsey; 6-Stanley C. Bailey, Paul Evans Caldwell, Bob Haubein & Bernard Moore; 7-Elsie Graham; 8-Francis Brooks, Jr., Arthur F. Ellis & Jimmy R. Garner; 9-Doug Boylan & James Michael Vinson; 10-Carla J. Carter & Lane Garrett; 11-Paul Brashier, Rena Coleman & Gary H. Little; 13-Charles Crane, James Crane & Thomas Massengale; 14-Dwight Hostetter; 15-Barry L. Dyer; 16-Cheri Diane Collins, Edward

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Alan Knobeloch & Thelma Walker; 17-Stan Smith & Karen Sumerlin; 18-Susan Clevenger & Charlie Micklewright; 19-Don Thornburgh; 20-Reed Edwards; 24-Nelda Finney, Elizabeth Oedamer, Jimmy Pappas, Mary Rowe & Peter Webb; 25-Jane Webb; 26-David W. Morris & Reggie Stephens; 27-Charles Craig, Gray Murray, Deborah Rouse & Keka L. Spoonemore; 28-Kathy Elliott, Jackie Imbusch, Richard E. Mullins & Vernon Lee Reeves, Jr.; 30-Charles Goodman, Margaret Moreland & Johnna L. Oakes; 31-Skip Kitchens & Barbara Quinn

February 2015

1-Jack Blackwood & Dan Finney; 2-Danny Huguet, Rex Walker & Shah Khan; 3-Edna McCullers; 4-Betsy Black, James O. Chaffin, Shirley East & Larry D. McWhorter; 6-Paul Brown, Dot Kachelhofer & Jimmy Smith; 7-George Jackman; 8-Wendell Kirk & John Tackett; 9-Van McClurkin, John Quinn & Dennis Swann; 10-Judy Yance; 11-Bill Ramsey; 12-William Midlik & Donald Smaha; 13-Becky Cheatwood; 14-Mary Sue McClurkin; 15-Robert A. Kromhout & Blanche M. McIntyre; 16-George Imbusch, Charlotte Shanlever & Donna Read; 17-Sarah Raykes & Dennis S. Read; 18-Walter W. Dean, Jr.; 20-Betty Sue Prince, Frances Williamson & Myrna Wise; 21-Veva Naramore & Beatrice Ollinger; 22-Patricia K. Evans, Nora Jones, Louis Long & Judi Morris; 23-James Kenny Carr, Jr., Ghani G. Dykes & Thomas Shepherd; 24-John C. Burson & Doby Hanks; 25-Gale Dougherty & Joe Leamon; 27-Carolyn Calhoun

— Dora Brandt

OBITUARIES

Condolences

We extend our sincere sympathy to SCS Retiree **Betty Headley Latta** and her family in the death of Betty's husband Billy Joe Latta, 84, of Cropwell, Alabama, who passed away on Monday, November 17, 2014. The Latta family held a visitation at the Cropwell Baptist Church from 10 until 11 on Saturday, November 22 for Mr. Lattafollowed by a

funeral service for him with burial in the Jefferson Memorial Gardens, Trussville, Alabama.

RETIREES AND LOVED ONES WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2014

Retirees

David Spearman, 59, June 29; 2013; Dick Volavka, 69, November 2, 2013; Jeffery Booker, 65, February 22, 2014; Bill Hungerford, 69, February 22; Jerry Maple, 69, March 7; James Ewing, 88, March 26; Steve McArdle, Jr., 86, April 10; James Rutherford, 73, June 19; Ralph Tribble, Jr., 95, August 5 and Al Brasher, 90, September 25.

Loved Ones

Barbara Ann Lyons, 69, February 16, 2014; wife of James Lyons; Don Aldred, 58, June 9, husband of Barbara Aldred; Corinne Hart, 89, August 22, wife of Bob Hart; Billy Joe Latta, 84, November 17, husband of Betty Headley Latta.

— Jay Dorrance

**HOW TO CONTACT HEWITT
When You Don't Remember
Your Password**

How does someone get to a real live person at Hewitt without knowing passwords and IDs? Here is the answer: You still must be prepared to provide the personal information necessary to identify yourself or the person you are calling for.

There are two ways.

Hewitt Direct. Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. you can call Hewitt at 1-888-435-7563. When their automated system answers, and after it asks for your ID, press *0# (star, zero, pound). Someone will answer. *From My experience you may have to repeat entering *0# a few times before you are connected to a live representative.--DW*

HR Direct. Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. call 1-888-678-6787 and select Option 3. You will get a contact person who will transfer you to the right Hewitt benefits person.

— Dora Brandt

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SCS RETIREE LEADERSHIP FOR 2015

Officers	
President Al Nebrig	hanebrig@charter.net 532-8596
Vice President John McCoy	bubbamac51@yahoo.com 631-7190
Secretary Glanda James	ghjames19@gmail.com. 240-2458
Treasurer Mike Griggs	michaelgriggs@gmail.com 823-7950
Directors	
Keith Calhoun	987-0383
Paul Brown	822-4295
John Edmundson	969-0065
Rhonda Cook	541-8905
Lou Long	936-6765
Gray Murray	381-9818
Ray Bailey (ex-officio)	988-3032
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	Faye Patterson 664-9666
Audit	OPEN
Fellowship	OPEN
Finance	Mike Griggs 823-7950
Member Care	Patsy Evans 991-7900
Membership	Dora Brandt 956-0502
Newsletter	Dan & Myrna Wise 942-2336
Nominating	OPEN
Program	Walt Dean 879-5775
Website	Cary Campbell 678-4725

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

Glenda James reports that 123 members and guests attended this annual banquet..

MEMBER CARE

Once again, Patsy Evans reports that she has had no reports of illness or other problems from any of the membership. Not has she received any reports of occasions that cause smiles or cheers.

POINT TO PONDER

John W. Gardner, founder of Common Cause, on special-interest groups:

Imagina a checkers player confronted by a bystander who puts a thumb on one checker and says, "Go ahead and play—just don't touch this one," then another bystander puts a thumb on another checker with the same warning, and then another and another. Pretty soon all thumbs and no moves.

The irony is that the owners of the thumbs—the special interests—don't want to make the game unwinnable; they just don't want you to touch their particular checker. The result is that they paralyze the policy-making process.

—*Encounter*, England

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

I've Seen the Light

For me personally, the important relationship between light and the winter holiday season was one of the first things I discovered in the early days of my life.

My family has been marrying and burying from the sanctuary of Omaha's Clifton Hill Presbyterian Church for nearly 150 years. At about age five, I auditioned for a part in the church's Sunday School

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Christmas play. I was cast as a Roman soldier. It was a non-speaking part that required me to stand there with my tin-foil-accented spear and look mean. I did it so well that I was asked to reprise the role in the Easter pageant the following year. I even considered a career in the ministry. Briefly.

But I digress.

The Christmas play was, of course, the retelling of the birth of Christ in the stable. At the center of the set was a small wooden manger filled with straw and a tiny white blanket. The role of the Baby Jesus was played to perfection by a carefully concealed 75-watt light bulb.

Ever since that event, I've known there was a direct relationship between electric lights and how we celebrate the joy of the holiday season, but sometimes I think the lights overcome the joy and significance of the season.

This was strongly reinforced last night as I watched the television news. They featured local homes with their lighting displays. The particular home featured last night had enough lights to illuminate most Third World countries. And that was just on the outside. On the inside, every room was festooned with lights, electric trains, Christmas villages, tacky statuettes of small elves, and more. Much more.

Outside, plywood cutouts representing several fairy tales (although exactly what Little Red Riding Hood has to do with Christmas escapes me at the moment), fake snowmen (in desert Phoenix, no less), an old Ford pickup wound with hundreds of twinkle lights (it never looked so good), and more. Much more. The house, inside and out, was enough to bring tears of uncontrolled joy to the eyes of utility officials.

Cars filled with awestruck children and rubbernecking adults filled the street stretching in lines as far as the eye could see, blocking driveways, and jamming the street tighter than Scrooge's heart on Christmas Eve. Small groups of neighbors were standing around, obviously taking great joy from the whole event and gesturing toward the owner of this display of high tech who was being interviewed on television. I don't remember everything he said, but it was something to the

effect that he knew Jesus was glad he had done this. Personally, I'm not so sure. I mean, in my youth, Jesus appeared to be satisfied with a 75-watt blub. I know I sound like Scrooge. Bah! Humbug!

Not so.

I actually put up lights outside our home, and I have a miniature Christmas village that I've been constructing for my family for years. It has about 30 little buildings in it now.

Outside our home, I have several strands of elegant, tasteful, white lights that I string around the eaves. My lights are something of a neighborhood tradition. Every year, I stand in the front yard and untangle the light strands, punctuating my work with carefully chosen seasonal words and phrases. The neighbors, on the other hand, gather their small children and encourage them to go indoors until I have finished.

I've thought about not doing the electric light thing. The Southwestern alternative doesn't really appeal to me, however. You've seen it: people lining up brown paper lunch bags on their sidewalks, each with a candle held in place by sand. Even the occasional fire, when the candle slips too close to the paper bag, does not put off these determined individuals.

Somehow, I think it may be time to return to my childhood roots. That 75-watt bulb makes a lot of sense, especially since we also had a firm hold during my youth on the true meaning of the holiday season—its celebration of hope for world peace and goodwill toward all men.

—William Henry Boyer

Scottish Rite Journal, December 2004

Four Horsemen and a Christmas Gift

One of the most memorable Christmas photographs in our early family history when I was a boy was the one known as "The Four Horsemen."

Our Dad always had a touch for the dramatic. Just before one Christmas in the early 1930s, he arranged for a Birmingham newspaper to take a photograph of my three brothers and me wearing our cowboy suits and hats, each of us sitting on our wooden horses. The photograph appeared in the paper during the Christmas holidays with the

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caption, “The Four Horsemen,” explaining that we got the cowboy outfits and wooden horses for Christmas.

So there we were, arranged in chronological order of age, John, Bill, Lee and Jim—the Wright brothers—dressed like cowboys and seated on our wooden horses in front of our little house as 1523 north 29th Street.

The second part of this story was that Dad told us to go to the Norwood Theater near where we lived, tell the box office person we were the “Four Horsemen” and we would get in free. We did what Dad said and walked in the theater without having to pay. Kinda like the cave opening when Ali Baba said “Open Sesame” to find the treasure. Our “treasure” at the Norwood was a double feature and a “chapter picture.”

This experience made quite an impact on my vivid imagination—to believe magical things really do happen. My good wife, from time to time, accuses me of wearing rose-colored glasses. Well, maybe that comes from my experience as one of “The Four Horsemen” who go in the Norwood

Theater”free” at Christmas time a long time ago, even though, much later I learned that Dad had paid for our tickets in Advance.

—John Wright, Jr.,
Senior Living, December 2009

The Perfect Tree

Searching through row upon row of Christmas trees, my husband Norm and I picked one we liked. Then I noticed the one being held by a woman nearby—the perfect tree. I watched as she carried it around the lot and couldn’t believe my eyes when she set it aside.

I ditched ours and ran over to grab the coveted tree. “Aren’t we lucky?” I said to Norm. “I do feel a little guilty, however, for taking it before she could change her mind.”

“I wouldn’t worry”, he replied. “She just ran over and snatched ours.”

— Vicki Salvesen,
Mission Viejo, California,
December 1993

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, January 12, 2015

Where: Inverness 42, Room 130

Board meeting: 11 a.m.

Dutch Lunch: 12:00 noon

General Meeting: 1 p.m.