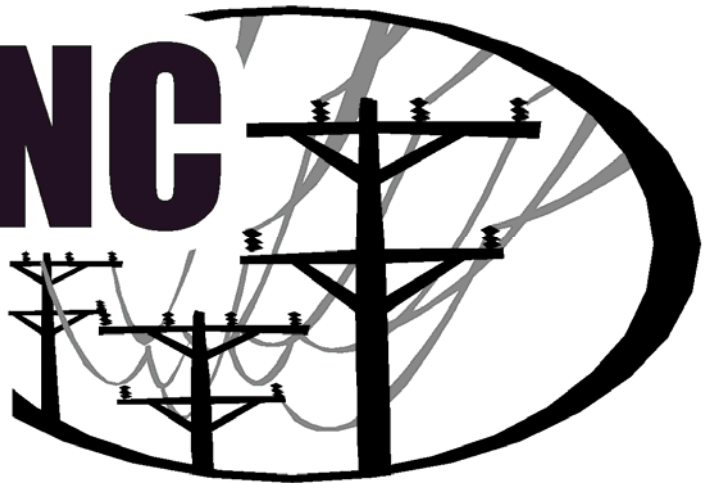


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 28

Number 3

May - June 2016

PREZ SEZ

Greetings everyone, I'd like to thank those of you who came to our March meeting. For those who missed it, Amy Aughtman from Southern Nuclear gave us an update on Vogtle 3 and 4's status. I found it to be interesting how this project has progressed and some of the issues resolved in just the last four years since I retired. Amy did an excellent job updating us on the Vogtle project.

As I was writing this article, it was one week from the deadline for filing taxes and I had just finished mine. I had been outside earlier that day preparing to plant my garden, but the rain intervened on that. So I quit procrastinating, completed my taxes and mailed Uncle Sam the remainder of what I owed. I guess it was a fitting way to spend a rainy day. It's a little like going to the dentist—don't like to do it, but it has to be done. Actually I like going to the dentist much more than doing taxes. Now I can concentrate on the things I enjoy doing.

Each of you should have received your invitation to our spring luncheon at the Pelham Civic Complex around the same time Uncle Sam was getting bombarded by last minute tax filings. Our spring luncheon is one of our two big events for the year and I know many of you have made plans to

attend. As you probably noticed in the invitation, we have a delicious meal planned for this occasion and our speaker this year will be John Trawick, Southern Company's Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations and Planning. I've had the privilege of working with John briefly in the past and I am looking forward to hearing from John as he shares with us some of the latest Southern Company business updates.

The luncheon check-in starts at 10:30, so come early to enjoy some social time with other members and their guests. Lunch should begin at 12:00 and John will speak at 12:45. And please do not forget that you will be refunded your \$5.00 registration fee at the registration desk when you check in.

Again I would like to solicit your help in coming up with some fellowship ideas for this year. If there is anything you think would be fun for our group to participate in, please contact me or one of the other leadership with your idea. Hope to see many of you May 9th in Pelham.

— John McCoy

BIRTHDAYS

May

1-Barbara Mohon; 2-Wilbur Matlock; 3-Pat Phillips & Jane Tingle; 4-Bill Burmeister Kenneth Burr. James Corbitt & Norma Young; 6-Dominick Viruleg, Sr.; 7-Jo Benson, Donald Mansfield & Cary Martin; 8-Rhonda McGill & Brenda Warren;

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

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9-John G. Adkins, Robert Walker & Dale Wyatt;
10-Wandra Wyatt & Faye Patterson; 13-D. Richard
Graham, Judy Irvin & Mary Sue Ludwig; 14-Ricky
Allen Jr.; 15-Elaine Chambers, Douglas Farris &
Dean Koch; 16- Wanda Jean Alphord & Cindy
Patton; 17-Rachel Hubbard, Margaret O'Brien &
Ed Williamson; 18-Bob Hart; 19-Linda Griggs ;21-
George Hairston III, Samuel Vaughn Morris & Roy
Shanlever; 22-Michele B. McCrory; 24-Felisa Hsu
& Pam C. McLeod; 26-Sam Bowman; 27-Helen
Robin; 28-Ted Wilson; 30-Jim Black, Marcia
Edmundson & Robin Posey

June

1-Diane Adams, Karen Edwards, Janice Luster &
Tony Niemzak; 3-Warren Glover, Theda Griffith,
Joyce Hickman & Steve Yang; 4-William Newman;
6-Cary Campbell, Linda Shepard & Wade Warren;
7-Alvin Joel Connor, Sam Hart & Peggy Howard;
8-John Brandt; 9-Jim Newton; 10-Gary Alan
Swatzell & Preston Willis; 11-Catherine
Heinzerling & Jerry Smith; 12-John Adrian & Mary
Dougherty; 13-Malek Barroody & Gary Crone; 14-
Bill Coughlin, Jr., Anna Garlington, William Marlar
John Thies & Bob Winter; 16-Billy Barnett & Mike
Burns; 17 Adel Alapour, Margaret Morris, Joe
Powell & Alice Wells; 20-Keith Calhoun, Diane
Cocherell, Nell Larson, Tommy Len Swift &
Wayne Walton; 21-James Hartin, John Heatherly &
Charley Long; 22-Ray Bailey, Lauren Edmundson
& Betty Jackson; 23-Jack Woodward; 25-Richard
W. Patton; 26-Nancy Adrian & Jeri Corbitt; 27-
Gary Chambers & Kate Newman; 28-Ron G.
Cocherell & Mike Griggs; 29-Judy Coggin & Janet
Thompson; 30ue Burmeister, Gayle Busby & Marty
Turnage

**At an airline ticket counter, a small boy,
with his mother, told the agent he was two
years old. The man looked at him suspiciously
and asked, "Do you know what happens to
little boys who lie?"**

"Yes. They get to fly at half price."

—Marlene Freedman, *Chevron USA*

OBITUARIES

Sandra "Sandi" Morgan went to be with the
Lord on Saturday, February 20, 2016 surrounded by
her loving family. She is preceded in death by her
parents Marco Ellis and Gladys Margaret Beck.
She is survived by her husband, Malcolm Morgan;
one daughter, Tiffany (Brandon) Wiggins; four
stepchildren, Annie Anderson, Emily Morgan, Ian
(Ali) Morgan, and Chelsea (Justin) Fortescue; three
grandchildren, Makayla, Katherine, and Cooper
Wiggins; four step grandchildren, Jacob Comesky,
Olivia Comesky, Kaitlynn Morgan, and Logan
Fortescue; one sister, Ginger (David) Parker; one
brother, Ellis (Kathy) Beck; and a host of nieces,
nephews, cousins and friends.

Sandi worked as an executive secretary for
Alabama Power in Birmingham for 20 years and
then as the Southern Company Fuel Services
department secretary for 9 years. She retired in
2004.

Visitation was Sunday, February 21, 2016 from
12:30 until 2:30 p.m. at The New Gardendale
Funeral Home The service to followed at 2:30
p.m. in the chapel. Burial wat at Moncrief
Cemetery.

Gerald, Wilson Burt of Birmingham, AL, passed
away at the age of 86. He attended Beth Hallel and
Chelsea Creek Community Church. He served our
country in the U.S. Air Force and National Guard.
He was a graduate of Ensley High School and
Jefferson State Community College and he retired
from Southern Company Services. Gerald was
preceded in death by his wife, Faye Phillips Burt;
parents, George Burt, Sr. and Mary Frances Burt;
brother, George Burt, Jr.; sisters, Ennis Burt and
Georgia Alexander. He is survived by his niece and
caregiver, Jaqueline Schillaci (Jake). A special
thanks to Magnolia Ridge Nursing Home and Saint
Vincent's Hospice for their comfort and care. His
inurnment will be at Barrancas National Cemetery
in Pensacola, FL. Memorial donations can be made

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RETIREE LEADERSHIP

For 2016

in his name to: God's Outreach Center, 4418 Highway 280, Harpersville, AL 35078.

Richard Shaul “Woody” Woodruff, age 103, passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Mr. Woodruff was a graduate of the University Of Alabama College Of Engineering, where he was a distinguished Engineering Fellow, and received the American Society of Civil Engineer Rickey Medal in 1972. He was also a member of Independent Presbyterian Church. Mr. Woodruff retired after 37 years from Alabama Power Company, where he was manager of Hydroelectric Plant Planning Section for Southern Company Services, Inc. He serviced the industry and profession as Secretary, Executive Committee, ASCE Power Division; President, Birmingham Branch ASCE; and member of the ASCE Board of Directors. He was a member of the U.C. Committee on Large Dams and was a Registered Professional Engineer. Mr. Woodruff worked as an executive engineer on hydro projects including Logan Martin, Weiss, Bouldin, Henry, Lay, Smith, Holt, Bankhead and R.L. Harris Dams. Mr. Woodruff was also able to bring an end to the years of flooding in the Village Creek area. Mr. Woodruff was preceded in death by his wife Gwendolyn Roberson and is survived by his two sons Michael and Richard. Graveside services were held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at Forest Crest Cemetery in Birmingham

James Guthrie passed away in his sleep on February 16/2016. The cause of death was congestive heart failure. We were not made aware of any other information about Jim and his family.

MEMBER CARE

Patsy Evans reports that she has received no notifications of illness or other family-type news during this reporting period..

Sign in store window: “Any faulty merchandise will be cheerfully replaced with merchandise of equal quality”.

Officers	
President John McCoy	Bubbamae51@yahoo.com 285-4843
Vice President Keith Calhoun	candecalhoun@gmail.com 987-0383
Treasurer Mike Griggs	michealgriggs@gmail.com 823-7950
Directors	
Gerald Aultman	516-1528
Paul Brown	822-4295
John Edmundson	969-0065
Jackie Imbusch	991-8472
David Strack	565-4714
Gray Murray	381-9818
Al Nebrig (ex-officio)	532-8596
Committee Chairs	
Arrangements	OPEN
Audit	Glenda James 823-6140
Charitable Giving	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 Website	OPEN Cary Campbell 678-4725

SCS OUTSIDE

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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.

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET

Call Hewitt 1-888-435-7563 - when they answer and after they ask for your ID key in *0# (star, zero, pound). Someone will answer

Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET

Call HR Direct – 1-888-678-6787 and select Option 3. You will get a contact person who will transfer you to the right Hewitt benefit person.

Getting a Retiree Badge

If you would like to obtain a Southern Company retiree badge, please contact Dan Calvert or Lorean McAdoo, Inverness Building 42, Room 150.

If you join us for our next meeting, you may find it convenient to contact them before or after the meeting.

– Dora Brandt

A NOTE FROM THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

This article was printed in the BBB Bulletin recently. I thought it might be of interest to at least some of our members. We may not be doing holiday shopping, but we're always looking for bargains on things associated with vacations and summer fun

BEWARE THE DANGERS OF ONLINE SHOPPING

The BBB estimates that 30% of us do at least some of our shopping online.. That is why they are warning us of the tell-tale signs of scams.

Shopping on line is certainly convenient, but it comes with some risks. Consumers need to take into consideration. “A study done by AARP shows that 70% of consumers failed a quiz about “scams,” says David Smitherman, President and CEO of the Better Business Bureau in Birmingham. “That study also showed that online shopping was at the top of the list of scams. As an example, shoppers worry about retailers losing their credit card information in a data breach. But a bigger concern should be about hackers using retail tools to fool them.

Scammers have a number of schemes they use to trick buyers into giving up credit card and personal information. Here are some examples.

Online Coupons- These are often too good to be true.

The scammer uses fake websites that lure their potential victims with for popular items such as a new electronic device or the hot toy of a holiday season. The website will require the buyer to provide credit card and personal information as well as their street address. With that information they can go on a buying spree of their own, racking up hundreds of dollars of purchases that will be billed to you

You can protect yourself by looking for red flags such as misspellings and multiple pop-up windows. Use only retailers you know and check out the business at www.bbb.org.

Malicious Links- Using fake e-mails.

Because many legitimate retailers send deals directly to your inbox, scammers will send fake e-mails also, promising incredible deals and savings. The e-mails will ask you to click on a link, or open an attachment that could load tracking software onto your computer allowing the scammers to search for and find personal and credit card information.

You can protect yourself by never clicking on a link in an e-mail from someone you do not know. Check with the retailer directly. Delete all suspicious e-mails.

Gift Cards- More for your money deals.

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You may get an e-mail or a text message that offers a \$50 gift card for half price. Or it states you have won a \$100 gift card. If you have to provide credit card information immediately to redeem, it's a scam.

You can protect yourself by looking for information about the deal on the store's website. If the e-mail is from a person, contact them directly. A real gift card will have a code that you put in at the end of checkout to claim the money. It will not ask you for personal information to download an attachment or take you to a third-party site.

MARCH MEETING REPORT

Glenda James reports that 41 members and guests were present at the March presentation on nuclear plant progress

JOB OPENING

At the last meeting of the Retirees board of directors, I informed them of my intention to step back from editing and producing this newsletter. I will remain through the end of the current calendar year.

If you are interested in stepping in to assume control of this publication, please make yourself known to our president, John McCoy, or any other member of the board. And if you would like to step in to see what is involved, I'd be happy to talk to you and walk you through the process. Contact information for all of the organization administrators is in the table appearing in each issue.

— Dan Wise

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

The Poet

My freshman literature professor announced in class one day that a famous American poet was on tour and would visit the downtown library. She wanted us to attend even though we were in the

midst of Byron, Shelley, and Keats. I had heard of Carl Sandburg in high school when Mrs Shackelford had surprised us by bringing her guitar to school one day to sing a few of the 280 folk songs he had collected and included in his *The American Songbook* in 1927. She strummed and sang as her prematurely gray locks hung loosely down the back of her Sloppy Joe sweater. Some teachers are delightfully different and she was one of those.

There I was, four years later, ambling through the college campus to downtown to hear America's most famous 20th Century poet perform. His appealing appearance featured a shock of wheat-colored hair, trimmed in bangs, touching his eyebrows. After a few words of introduction, his soft melodious voice chanted selections of his free verse poems. Later, picking up his guitar, he sang some of his favorite songs: *She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain* and *Hallelujah, I'm a Bum*. He talked a bit about his childhood, carving a willow whistle, making a kazoo from a comb and a banjo from a cigar box. It turned out to be an evening I relished and tucked away in an unforgettable corner of my memory. Little did I dream that many years later I would visit Sandburg's beautiful pastoral home, *Connemara*, in the rolling hills of North Carolina in the autumn of 2012.

After a smooth-as-silk flight from Birmingham to Charlotte, my travel buddy and I met up with other members of our travel club, *Friendship Force, International*, and were shuttled by van 40 miles west toward Shelby. Our driver pointed out interesting sights along the way as we viewed groves of hardwoods decked out in their autumn colors. Arriving in Shelby, we met our friendly hostess, Joan, with whom we would live for a week. Each morning she would drive us to our meeting point to join with other group members for a daily adventure.

Early in the week we drove to *Connemara*, the Sandburg family home from 1945 until his death in 1967, which is now a National Historic Site. I found myself trekking up a steep rocky path to the summit of a knoll where a lovely old white columned farmhouse was perched. Goats bleated at us as they contentedly grazed on the grassy slope.

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Climbing Connemara's front steps led across a wide porch into a large room where we viewed an informative video filled with words and images of Sandburg. I remembered those blond bangs I had seen many years before and the music his words made as he recited his free verse poetry in person. His varied life experiences discussed in the film revealed an abundance of interests and adventures about which he wrote.

Sandburg fell in love and married Lillian Paula Steichen at age 30. The couple shared Social Democratic Party ideas as Paula supported her husband, acting as his secretary and manager. As a journalist for a newspaper, he often wrote stories about politics, crime, and injustice. Three daughters were born, and he longed to move his family from the Lake Michigan dunes to a warmer climate.

Discovering Connemara in 1950, the group moved there, animals and all. Paula raised prize herds of goats, each kid having a name such as Bluebell, Dewrose, and Cloverleaf. It's said that she fell in love with goat milk when as a child she tasted her first sip of the warm, foamy white stuff. Cheese making was being taught the day I visited Connemara, so I got a taste.

The inside of the rambling house, simple in furnishings, was cozy and comfortable. Hundreds of books lined Sandburg's workroom-bedroom where his old Underwood typewriter sat on a little table as if ready to be pecked on. His guitar was propped nearby. In that room, about a third of his writings were completed, including his 7 biographical volumes about his idol, Abraham Lincoln.

As his daughters grew up, they were often entertained at the dinner table listening to their father's made up American folk tales and free verse poems. Their dad often wrote all night, sleeping until noon or later. His breakfast tray, consisting of rye bread, cheese, and honey, was left by his closed bedroom door. With his daughters, trails were hiked, horses ridden, and gardens tended, while Paula managed the working farm and raised her expensive prize goats.

During Sandburg's childhood, the son of poor Swedish immigrants, he was lucky one Christmas to

receive one fresh orange, which he ate, peel and all, not wasting a shred.

Leaving school at 13 to work, he delivered milk, along with other odd jobs, to help support the struggling family of 7. Yearning to see the West, he jumped the speeding freight trains passing through his hometown of Galesburg, Illinois, and became a hobo. Earning his way by working on the railroad, harvesting wheat, chopping wood, and shining shoes, he gained the experience that made him a good newspaper reporter. Even with his limited formal education, his love of words, both Swedish and English, was put together throughout his life of 89 years into pleasing free verse combinations about real life struggles, heartbreaks, and joys. With his creative gift and industrious personality characteristics, he is remembered as one of the most famous Americans of the 20th Century.

— Betty Batson,
Senior Living, May 2013

When the Black Blizzard Hit the Panhandle

April 14, 1935. The Texas panhandle. Having suffered dozens of recent dust storms, panhandle residents finally enjoy a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

At 4 p.m. birds suddenly fill the air, the temperature drops and the sky turns black. Some wonder if it's the end of the world.

It's a black bizzard, a massive dust storm traveling 60 miles an hour and blocking out the sun. The dust causes crop failures and illness across the region.

Forever known as Black Sunday, it's the worst dust storm in Texas history. The Black Sunday dust storm occurred 81 years ago this month in Texas history.

—Seniorific News, April 2014

And I will add a bit of dust storm lore told to me by my father. In Fort Wayne, Indiana, the dust in the air was usually thick enough to prompt the city to turn on the street lights during the day. And he swore that one day a real storm came up and the rain cleared the dust from the air. He said mud

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balls as large as nickels splattered down as the rain started. —DEW

GHOSTS ALONG THE HIGHWAY

The Nat

At the edge of a mile-long, trendy antique district in Amarillo, Texas, sits a strange, almost castle-like building simply called “the Nat.” Shortened from natatorium, an old-fashioned term for an indoor swimming pool, the structure was built in 1922. The pool, one of only three in the country at the time, was covered in 1923 so it could be utilized year round.

Three years later, J. D. Tucker purchased the building. The enterprising new owner made some big changes. He put a floor over the swimming pool and converted the building into a ballroom, calling it the Nat Dine and Dance Palace.

During the crash of 1929, when money became scarce, he used different promotions to entice guests to come to the nightclub. New cars furnished by the local dealers, Navajo blankets, Chinese slippers, records,, cash in balloons, and even hosiery (a highly sought item in those days) were given away to boost attendance.

The Nat Café was added to the North elevation in 1935, providing an entrance for its patrons driving on Route 66. The fortress-like façade was a prime example of some of the whimsical roadway architecture that was so popular in the thirties.

From the twenties, through the forties, customers were entertained by big band sounds. The Dorsey Brothers, Duke Ellington, and Guy Lombardo were just a few of the big bands that performed at this popular nightspot. When the “rock era” hit the nation, a younger crowd was drawn in to hear Little Richard, Buddy Holly and the Crickets, and Roy Orbison.

Soon after purchasing the Nat, Mike Baker, one of the owners, noticed he was chilled every time he went upstairs. It didn’t take long before he realized he was never alone in the newly-remodeled antique store. Not only was he hearing strange noises, but when he’d arrive at work in the morning he’d find

that someone had rearranged the furniture during the night—while the building was locked.

Bubbles, a psychic, is a member of a band that performs at the Nat. She claims that the upstairs area, where the diningroom and lounge were located, has quite a bit of supernatural activity. Gambling used to take place on this floor, which may be why some of the spirits are reluctant to leave. That is also where Bubbles encountered a female apparition. The ghost wears a white dress with a red stain on the bodice. Bubbles learned that this woman spent many a rowdy evening gambling upstairs with some of the town’s most prominent citizens. On one occasion, one of them poured a glass of red wine down her dress.

The ballroom floor is quite popular with the various ghosts, as well. When the band performs, Bubbles can see couples gliding on the dance floor. In October of 1996, the Nat had an all-night ghost hunt, setting up tape recorders and video cameras. The cameras kept shutting off, but the sponsors were successful in getting an audio recording of a woman singing and a drum solo playing in the background.

Bubbles has also seen several ghosts of children. She was perplexed as to why they would be hanging around what used to be a dance palace, but then she learned that a previous owner had allowed kids to rollerskate on the ballroom floor after school.

With all the spirits at the Net, there is only one area where the psychic and the owners all feel a sense of evil. That is a room toward the back of the store. During the days of the Nat Dine & Dance Palace, this was the coat check room. It was here that an employee was viciously raped long ago.

If you don’t mind climbing down a ladder to the basement, Mike will show you an unusual painting. A beautiful young woman with bobbed hair, dressed in 1920s clothing, was painted right on the wall. But be extra careful climbing down. Mike and ladders don’t seem to go together. While he was using a ladder in a storage room, it began to shake uncontrollably. Mike climbed off and released it, but it continued swobbling.

When you leave the Nat, be sure to observe the outside of the building. “Monty McGee and his

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Orchestra” was painted on the walls in 1942, but every time it’s painted over, the words bleed through—another reminder that these spirits don’t want to be forgotten.

The Nat is located at 2705 West 6th Street, Amarillo, Texas. You can call them at (806) 371-8685 or you can drop by Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. or Sunday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. If you’re driving, on I-40, take the Georgia Street exit and continue on Georgia Street to 6th Street (about 8 blocks). Turn left and continue on to the Nat.

–Robinson, Ellen, and Dianne Freeman,
Haunted Highway: The Spirits of Route 66,
American Traveler Press, 1999

ODDS AND ENDS

Fore!

Mack the Slice, a notorious duffer, unwound on the first tee and sent a high drive far to the right.

SCS RETIREES

P.O. BOX 2625

BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202

SPECIAL MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, May 9, 2016

Where: Pelham Civic Center, 600

Ampitheater Road

Check In: 10:30 a.m.

Board meeting: 11 a.m.

Lunch Served: 12 noon

On the eighth hole, a police officer walked up to Mack and asked, “Did you hit a ball through that window?”

“Yes, I did.”

The ball sailed through an open window. Figuring that was the end of it, Mack played on.

“Well, it knocked a lamp over, scaring the dog, which raced out of the house onto the highway. A driver rammed into a brick wall to avoid the dog, sending three people to the hospital. And all because you sliced the ball.”

“I’m so sorry,” moaned Mack. “Is there anything I can do?”

Well,” the cop replied, “try keeping your head down and close up your stance a little bit.

–Bill Majeski in *Catholic Digest*

On Growing Older

“The best thing about getting older is that you gain sincerity,” says Tommy Smothers. “Once you learn to fake that there’s nothing you can’t do.