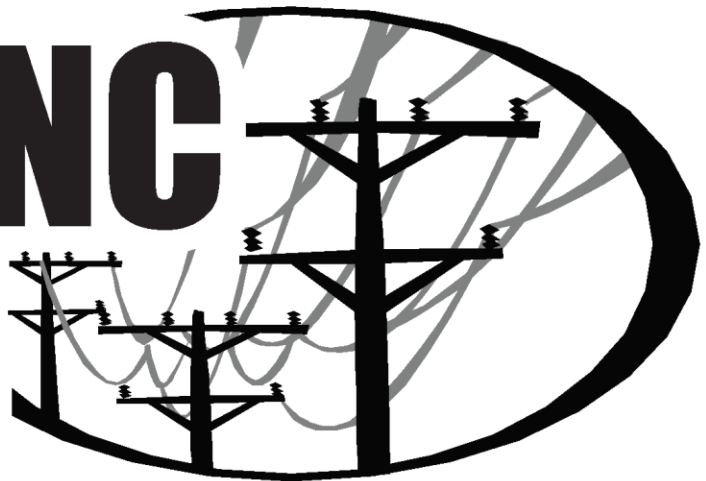


SCS/SNC OUTSIDE



Volume 28

Number 5

September - October 2016

PREZ SEZ

Greetings everyone and I hope you have been staying cool and safe during these past two months. For those who were unable to attend our July meeting, Deidra Garrett, a project manager with Southern Nuclear, shared some of the details of a large project she is currently working on. That project involves the relocation of approximately 1700 Southern Company employees to the two red-roofed buildings at the Colonnade. It includes all employees from the Inverness Complex and the Southern Power employees from the Birmingham APCO headquarters. Both buildings at the Colonnade have been unoccupied for some time and require major upgrades to each. The first moves are projected to begin June of 2017 and the final moves in the second half of 2018. At some point during the process, we expect to move the SCS Retirees regular meetings to the Colonnade, but that date is probably a year or more away.

The Nominating Committee is currently reviewing our membership list in search of potential officers, board members, and committee members for next year. I don't know how often this has occurred in the past, but this year we are planning to replace all four officers and, in addition to the three board members whose terms expire, we are looking to replace our Newsletter Committee chair. Dan

Wise has served us faithfully in this position for many years, but he feels it is now time for him to retire. I'm sure you appreciate, as I do, all the work and the time that Dan put in over the years to pull together the information and publish the newsletter. There are other committee chairs that need to be filled but this one concerns me more simply because it provides information to our retirees who don't have access to our website.

As a member of the nominating committee, I realized very quickly that there are many members that I have no knowledge as to their potential to serve the organization. But knowing that you are retirees from SCS or SNC validates your potential to succeed at a high level. I expect that there are members of our organization who, if asked, would serve the organization well, we just need to find you. If we contact you, please consider serving. And if you know someone who you feel would be a good fit as an officer, board member, or serve on one of our committees, then contact me so we can consider that person in our process.

Our September meeting will be held on September 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Horizons Conference Room, Building 42 Inverness. This will be our annual benefits presentation by Southern Company personnel. This year our speakers will be Katie Kirkland and George Marling from Health and Wellness. They will be sharing the latest information regarding our retiree benefits. Remember this is a good opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have regarding your

Want to keep up with what's happening? Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree Website

<http://www.scsretirees.com>

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benefits. I expect to see many of you at our September meeting.

— John McCoy

BIRTHDAYS

September

1-James O. Welch; 2-Judy Dewberry & Keith Tenney; 3-Linda Chastain; 4-Carol Newton; 6-Larry Weaver; 7-John L. Gwin & Lawrence Kilgore; 8-Jeane Rayburn & Karen Viruleg; 9-Rebecca Farris; 10-Gisela Hancock; 11-Gene Kachelhofer & Bill Ponder; 12-Virginia Bidby, Fred Ehrensperger, John Hall, Thomas Walton Johnson, Rick Kaster & Nancy L. Wilson; 13-Steve Dickson, Betsy Kopecky, Grady Luster, Gayle Price & Carol Yeager; 14-Fred Justice & Patricia Yessick; 15-James Douglas Maxwell & Tom Mueller; 17-Juanita Leonard & Sarah Tackett; 18-Byron Rex Yance; 20-Jim Lofe; 22-Jamie Anderson & Shandra F. Wilkinson; 24-Paula Ackley & Mary Varagona; 26-Wayne Givan & Liz Winter; 27-Robert Oedamer; 28-Kenneth Adkins, Percy Mohon & Bill Thurman; 29-Nancy Bandura & Gerald Prince; 30-Martha Dorrance, Jerry Hall & Jerry Vandegrift

October

1-Rosemary Green & Bill Hanks, Jr.; 2-Tricia Logan & Mary Alice Thurman; 3-Donald P. Moore; 4-Donald Riendeau; 5-Ajit K. Ghuman, Gerald Grainger & Patricia Hollis; 6-Glenda Beason & Bobby Goodwin; 7-Eldridge Cook & Mary Weaver; 9-Luverne Blackwood; 10-Dorothy Johnson & Dean Vandegrift; 11-Patty Vanlandingham; 12-Guy Mitchell; 14-Brenda Hall & Rhonda Talmadge; 15-Ann Huddleston & David Moman; 16-Robert Dunn, Judy Grainger, Frank Studinka & Ivette Williams; 18-Billie Ewing, Nettie Hartin & James Ludwig; 19-Bonnie Russell 20-Rhonda Cook; 21-James M. Agold, Robert E. Elliott & Dianne Murray; 22-Ernestine Craig & Jane Salter; 23-Hal Miner; 24-Don Burdeshaw & Nell Smith; 25-Raymond Garnem; 26-Bill Edmundson, Mindy Long & Ken

Turnage; 27-Pat Cofield, Robin Cox & John J. Mitchell; 29-Larry C. Dawkins; 31-Cheryl Maxwell

OBITUARIES

Linda Earnestine Glenn Headley, age 72, passed away Monday, August 8, 2016. She attended Woodlawn High School and UAB and retired from Alabama Power Company. She was an active church member her entire life. Linda was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister. She is survived by her children Ron (Angelica), Drew (Deedee) and 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren and 2 nieces. Service was held on Thursday, August 11 at Johns-Ridout's Elmwood Chapel. Burial followed in Elmwood.

Rosemary (Rosie) Weekley Wright, age 88 of Cahaba Heights, AL passed away August 8, 2016. Granny Rosie, as she was known to her family and friends, was married to William H. (Bill) Wright for 57 years when Bill died in April Dan Wise 2007. Rosemary graduated from Woodlawn High School, retired from Southern Company Services and was a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Cahaba Heights, AL for many years. The love of her life was first her Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, and then her family. She is survived by a son Terrell (Terry) S. Wright (Phyliss); a daughter-in-law, Melanie Wright; grandchildren: Leslie, Quinton (Becky), Brittany Von Kanel (Brent), Laura Wright and Benjamin Wright, two great granddaughters Lily Von Kanel and Ruby Von Kanel, two great-grandsons, Scott Von Kanel, and Maverick Wright, several cousins, nieces and nephews

Her funeral service was held at the church on Friday, August 12 with burial following in Forest Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to Philadelphia Baptist Church, 3001 Pump House Road, Vestavia Hills, AL 35243.

Carolyn Fowler Smith, 74, of Wilsonville, AL, passed away Friday evening, July 22, 2016. She was born in Cullman, AL and moved to the Cahaba Heights community of Birmingham, AL when she was 4. In 1981, she and her family moved to the Chelsea, AL area. Carolyn was a loving and deeply

RETIREE LEADERSHIP

For 2016

devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She was predeceased by her parents, Gertice M. and Hilda Fowler; one brother, Gertice Fowler, Jr.; and one grandson, Joshua Smith. Survivors include Carolyn's husband of 57 years, Jerry C. Smith; four sons, Dennis Smith (Rita), Timothy Smith (Janet), Wesley Smith (Tina), and Scott Smith; one daughter-in-law, Susan Smith; six grandchildren, Tyler, Jessica, Charley, Alex, Christian, and Jacob; and three great-grandchildren. A celebration of Carolyn's life was held. on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at Ridout's Southern Heritage Funeral Home in Pelham, AL, followed by a reception at the funeral home. Memorial gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society .

Edith Mary Walker James (97), widow of Wallace O. James, passed away on August 10, 2016. Edith and Wallace were friends from childhood. She grew up in Cullman County, Alabama; and lived near Gardendale, Alabama for the last 53 years, where she was a faithful member of Calcedonia Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her brothers Ray (Grace), Ralph (Mable), and Charles Walker; and sister Evelyn (Charles) Glover. She is survived by her children, Joyce (Stanley) Savincki, Joan (Ken-deceased) Greene, Lee (Debbie) James, Josiah (Glenda) James, Jim (Kylee) James; eight grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren. Services were held at The New Gardendale Funeral Home.. Burial was at Ebenezer Cemetery in Cullman County.

John F. "Sonny" Wyers was not a member of *Retirees*, but he was well known to so many that I thought it appropriate to add this brief note about his passing a couple of months ago.---DEW

MEMBER CARE

Patsy Evans reports that she has received no notifications of illness or other family-type news during this reporting period.. If you do have news to report, whether illness or a joyous occasion, please be sure to contact Patsy. Her telephone number is posted in the Retiree Leadership table in each newsletter.

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	OPEN
Website	Cary Campbell 678-4725

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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 o

r 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

JULY MEETING REPORT

Glenda James reports that 34 members and guests were present at the July meeting.

JOB OPENING

At the March 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 the editorship 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 meet 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 administrative board is in the table appearing in each issue.

— Dan Wise

A LITTLE OF THIS, A PINCH OF THAT

VOODOO WOMAN

It was the first period, called session room, of my first day of high school. After roll call of our bunch of 9th graders whose names began with A or B, we were allowed to talk. This was, of course, my favorite class. We had come from various grammar schools in Birmingham's western section. Immediately I became friends with the girl sitting behind me, Wil. It didn't take long to discover that she was superstitious.

Even though our schedules were different, we would meet at the back entrance after school. As we walked along outside, she spotted a black cat across the street. "Let's get out of here quick!" she was almost screaming even though we were a safe distance away from the kitty. Another time as we walked along after school, something frightened her; I didn't even know what it was. Suddenly she jerked her head to one side and spit over her shoulder three times. She explained that we would then be safe from whatever the unlucky sign had been.

The worst was one day in the back hall on first floor as we were scurrying to the lunch room. Lunch period was so short you barely had time to gulp down your spiced ham sandwich and fudge cake. We encountered a maintenance worker on a ladder propped against the wall. Wil shrieked, "Look out! Don't dare walk under that ladder!" I didn't realize I had been heading straight under it. In spite of numerous incidents, some including the tossing of salt, Wil appeared to be normal and lots of fun.

In the spring, I planned to go home with her one Friday afternoon for a sleep-over. As both sets of parents agreed, her dad picked us up at 3:10 on his way home from work. We rolled over steep hills

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and dales ‘til we reached their house in Central Park. How lucky Wil was to get a ride home every day while I trooped a couple of miles through the highlands laden with books. Wil had told me she had already learned to drive and promised to take me for a ride around the block. At 13, we were not even eligible for a permit for two more years.

I knew I was in for a great visit, since the dad was friendly and jolly. Their neighborhood was level and scattered with 1930s bungalows similar to my own house. We were greeted at the door by a pretty mom with drk curly hair. Fortunately, Wil had inherited many of her mother’s features.

Beyond the livingroom I spied what I thought was a statue. I heard deep, throaty, soft mumbling sounds, strange and scary. From the statue, small, bent over, dark and scowling, came invisible darts from piercing eyes, directed straight toward me. Wil quietly giggled, “Oops, she doesn’t like you.” A shiver rippled through me. We had to pass this grumbling figure to get to Wil’s room. I silvered by her staying as far away as possible. Wil soon explained that I had just encountered Leila, the live-in helper, greatly prized by all family members. Leila had come from Louisiana, bringing long her savory recipes and mysterious ways. I was warned to be very careful in her presence or she would put a hex on me. I didn’t know exactly what a hex was, but I didn’t like the sound of it. Heaven help me!

On Friday night Wil’s two older siblings with their spouses came for supper, making nine, since a cousin also lived there. Dinner went well as Leila served a fabulous meal without a single look at me. The food was different from my mom’s, but I liked it. Later, as the radio entertained us in Wil’s room, I had trouble falling asleep. Feelings of dangerous vibes from Leila were drifting over me like at evil fog, even though her room was in the back.

At breakfast I mustered enough courage to peek at Leila as she laid the biscuits on the table. She ignored me. I began to breathe easy.

Fully fed, I did get my ride around the block with Wil at the wheel and her Dad at her side. I was tense, but fortunately no black cats crossed our path. Then her Dad drove us to the local movie theatre for a double feature; a western plus a scary mystery.

That tale of horror flashing across the screen was nothing to compare with that Louisiana woman who had recently terrorized me. I now understood that Wil had learned her superstitious ways from Leila.

That night, safely in my own bed, I thanked my lucky stars that I had survived my encounter with that voodoo woman.

— Betty Batson
Senior Living, April 2012

PET LOVER’S TEA PARTY

Need an idea for a different kind of party for kids? Give this one a shot.—Ed.

If you’re a dog lover, “puppy love” takes on new meaning—especially if you can play with ten puppies at once. That’s what my grandkids experienced when they visited my niece, whose English shepherd had given birth to this large litter.

My grandkids love for these cute creatures inspired me to plan a pet-lover’s tea party. Since we’re in the dog days of summer, I’ve gone to the dogs and offer these fun ideas for you and your furry friends. Cat lovers can adapt them for a purrrfect party for friends with felines.

First you have to decide where you’ll host the party—your own backyard? A pet-friendly park? Although I hosted mine at my niede’s home, it’s not ruff, ruff to transport a simple menu to a park. And summer, with its relaxed pace, makes the perfect time for casual picnics with or without canine friends.

With the dog theme in mind, I prepared mini crescent dogs, puppy chow (for people) and watermelon slices shaped like dog bones. I added sun chips, mini cupcakes and bottled tea and water—all easy to serve at home or transport elsewhere.

Mini crescent dogs are simple to make with crescent rolls and cocktail weenies. Cut each crescent roll in thirds with a sharp knife or pizza cutter and rolleach piece around a cocktail dog. Bake at 350°F for 9 to 12 minutes or until the rolls are done. Seve with your favorite condiments or whip up a dipping sauce such as this one containing ¼ cup sour cream, ¼ cup mayonnaise, and a tablespoon of Dijon mustard.

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Use dog-bone-shaped cookie cutters to cut sliced watermelon, scones or cookies into dog bones. For pets, you could make or buy dog bones, which our furry friends will gladly consume. (But check with the dog owners before giving any food to their dogs.)

Decorate the cupcakes with cute picks or stick a lollipop into each cupcake for a double sweet treat. Or you can make “cupcakes” by gluing small pictures of dogs onto toothpicks and sticking them into the cupcakes.

Another fun idea: Make “chew sticks” by tying together colorful fruit-flavored twists (e.g., Twizzlers) with raffia.

Puppy Chow (think Chex Mix recipe) makes a delicious snack for guests to nibble.

If guests plan to bring pets, ask them to supply their own bow-wow chow bowls and water dishes.

At my niece’s home, eight of us (four adults and four children) filled up on tea and treats, but my grandkids can never get their fill of playing with puppies. Although they already have their own puppy from a previous litter, they would gladly adopt another from this one.

If you don’t have a passel of puppies to play with like we did, consider some of these ideas for your party.

- ◆ Greet guests with a trail of paw prints done in chalk on the sidewalk.
- ◆ Encourage guests to share stories about their own pets.
- ◆ For young children, read a story aloud, such as *The Poky Little Puppy* or *Clifford the Big Red Dog*.
- ◆ Play games such as pin the tail on the “dog”, musical chairs using large construction paper paws instead of chairs, or other games you know.
- ◆ Watch a dog-themed video or cartoons.

However, if dogs are invited to the party, playing and romping with them may be all the entertainment our kids will need.

Dogs may be man’s best friend, but women and children sure love them too. Recalling the smiles and laughter we shared at my party, I’m ready to celebrate the joy of another pet party on a sizzling summer day. Won’t you join me?

— Lydia E. Harris,

The Country Register,
Bar Lo Media, Phoenix, AZ

CRICKET STRIKES AGAIN!!!!

The telephone had rung several times before I could make my way to answer it. I was moving very slowly. I said “Hello,” and a cheerful voice began to sing “Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday, Old Girl.” I recognized the voice of my dear friend, Evelyn, with whom I had shared many happy times. She had just turned ninety in December and my birthday was in January.

Evelyn and I could talk about anything; the weather, our aching joints, and, like most older folks, we talked about the “good old days” and some of our friends who were now in assisted living. Evelyn asked, “Have I ever told you about something that happened when I was a young nurse? I was going to be another Florence Nightingale, but it didn’t turn out that way. My first job out of training was at the County Home. Now remember, this was in the fifties. Most of the residents were older and their families could not care for them.” I was getting anxious, so I said, “Evelyn, for goodness sakes, tell me the story.”

Evelyn continued. “I showed up for the night shift in my freshly starched uniform wearing an impressive nametag which read Night Supervisor. I went from room to room, wanting to get to know each patient. I knew God had called me to be a nurse, and I wanted to be one of the best. I know that gray hairs began to appear in my coal black hair when I met Miss Margaret. She felt that the rules were made for everyone but her. She could scamper around and get into more trouble than a two year old, so the huses called her Cricket. I had only been on duty for a few nights when one of the young nurses came to me and said, “Look out for Miss Margaret. It’s about time for her to have a big night.” I couldn’t imagine Miss Margaret getting into any trouble, as she was so sweet.

“When one of the young nurses came to me and said that Miss Margaret wasn’t in her room, we began to look for her. We found her in a vacant room, curled up on the bed, fast asleep. We decided to let her sleep because she looked so peaceful.

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ON THE HAUNTED HIGHWAY

Santa Fe, New Mexico

“The Inn at the End of the Santa Fe Trail” means just that. The original adobe hotel occupied the corner of the Santa Fe Trail and San Francisco Street, where the trail ends at the town’s central plaza. Since 1610, there has been an inn or “fonda” at this site to accommodate travelers.

The history of La Fonda is as interesting as the ghosts that roam that old historic adobe building. Through the centuries the hotel had been the destination of trappers, traders, merchants, politicians and all others who made their way along the Santa Fe Trail. After the 1828 discovery of gold in the mountains south of town, the hotel’s business prospered as well as its saloon and casino.

In 1884 the inn was purchased by an American couple who changed its name to the U. S. Hotel. Like so many other establishments in that period of time, the U. S. Hotel had its share of violence. One guest lost his life when a lynch mob hung the patron in the hotel’s back yard in 1857. In 1867 the Honorable John P. Slough, Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, was shot to death in the hotel lobby.

The hotel was once again sold and renamed The Exchange Hotel, a name it would keep for the next 60 years. When Mrs. D. B. Davis, the last great hostess of The Exchange, gave up her lease, the elaborate hotel began to deteriorate. The Exchange struggled and became a boarding house in 1907, before being demolished in 1919.

In 1920, investors bought stock to finance the present-day La Fonda, building the hotel on the same site, the southeast corner of the plaza. In 1925 the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad rescued the hotel when that business venture failed. The railroad then leased it to Fred Harvey. From 1926 to 1969, La Fonda was one of the Harvey Houses, a renowned chain of hotels.

Today, La Fonda’s Spanish pueblo architecture blends with Santa Fe’s rich cultural heritage. Situated in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Southwestern hotel has attracted celebrities from Kit Carson to John F. Kennedy to Doc Severinson.

“The next encounter wasn’t so funny. I knew why the nurses called her Cricket. One minute she would be in one spot, and just as quickly, she was gone. I began to wonder how anyone who could smile so sweetly could still get into so much trouble.

“On one particular night all of the nurses had been told to look in on Miss Margaret regularly because we felt she was up to something. At shift change all the doors were locked and all the rooms checked. Miss Margaret was not in her room or any other patient’s room. The nurses were wondering what to do when they heard giggling coming from the broom closet. When they opened the door, they found Miss Margaret sitting on top of a mop bucket, just as happy as she could be. She just smiled, threw everyone a kiss, and followed nurse Jane down the hall. She wasn’t aware that she had caused some anxious moments for everyone.

“For two months Miss Margaret was as good as could be, and then the night came when she decided to “go on the prowl” again. You could never imagine what happened. Sometime between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. the Cricket moved quickly and quietly from room to room collecting dentures.”

I asked, “Evelyn, did you say false teeth?”

“Yep! She collected every set of teeth on the floor. No one knows how she got into the kitchen, but she did. She washed all the top teeth and put them on one shelf. Then she washed the bottom teeth and put them on another shelf. I don’t have to tell you that panic broke out. No one could eat their breakfast. We called in outside help, but I’m not sure that we ever got the teeth back to their rightful owners. I hope today that they put a code on the dentures.”

“Evelyn, you have made my day. I think I’ll have my lunch now and take a rest. Keeping up with Miss Margaret has been tiring.”

— Adapted from an article
Written by Marcella P. Reeves
For Senior Living, April 2012

We need to learn to set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship——Omar Bradley

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Guests dining in the enclosed sky-lit courtyard restaurant may experience more than a good meal. More than 100 years ago, a man who gambled away his company's money committed suicide by jumping down a well. The well was located outside The Exchange The La Plazuela restaurant was built directly over the well and more than a few people have seen a man walk to the center of the room and jump, as if into an unseen hole, and then vanish.

Another ghost, a female, would appear on the second floor until the new ballroom was built in the 1990s. speculation is that it's the spirit of a bride who, spending her wedding night at the hotel in the 1920s, was murdered by her former boyfriend.

Other reports of paranormal activity include sounds of children playing in the hallway, as well as babies crying, and doors that open and shut on their own. Diners have described a woman dressed in red walking by their table saying, "help me, help me." One employee reported that something was breathing down his neck while he was in the lounge.

A variety of ghosts to be sure, but they all have one thing in common—they're in no hurry to leave "The Inn at the End of the Santa Fe Trail."

—Ellen Robinson and Dianne Freeman,
Haunted Highway;
The spirits of Route 66,
American Traveler Press,
Phoenix, AZ

PROCRASTINATION

A painfully shy man fell in love with a young woman. He sensed that she felt the same way, but he couldn't find the courage to ask her out.

Finally he decided he would mail her a love letter every day for one year, and then ask her for a date.

Faithfully, he followed his plan, and at year's end he was courageous enough to call her—only to discover she's married the letter carrier.

— Ken Dooley, Ed., Good Stuff,
Progressive Business Publications

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

MEETING DETAILS:

When: Monday, September 12, 2016

Where: Room 130, Inverness 42

Board Meeting: 11 a.m.

***Dutch Lunch: Noon in the Building 42
cafeteria***

General Meeting Presentation: 1 p.m.