

Power Plant Upkeep Is A Demanding Job

By Dick Byrd
 These men who practice preventive medicine and cure the ills of a million worth of generators for Carolina Power & Light Company.

Their patients are located over a 36,000-square-mile, two-state area, from remote mountain valleys to vistas by the sea, robust youngsters less than a year old and oldtimers of 45 years and more.

The code of the engineers and technicians who watch over them is simple: keep them always able to deliver, on call, a million and a half kilowatts and more to serve 450,000 homes, factories and business places in the Carolinas.

Maintenance of these plants, heart of the CP&L power operation, is a program that grows each year. M. H. Long, CP&L maintenance engineer, compares the work to the practice of a good health program by the average family.

CP&L's family of generators has grown from 13 to 22 in the past 10 years. The 23rd (near Asheville) will be added in 1964; another (near Roxboro) in 1966.

Like people, their personalities and performance vary with age. CP&L's oldest is the Blewett Falls hydroelectric plant on the Pee Dee River near Rockingham. Its 33,500-horsepower generators have operated continuously, except for an occasional stoppage due to floods, since June, 1912. For its age, it is hale and hearty.

The company's oldest steam-electric plant is at Elk Mountain near Asheville. Its 16,000-horsepower generators went into service in 1916, just in time to supply power to Asheville after the big 1916 flood.

The newest is a gleaming 340,000-horsepower turbine-generator at the Harry Fitzhugh Lee plant near Goldsboro, making history last year as the world's first coal-fired unit designed for computer operation.

The new Lee unit is more complex and more costly than its predecessors. By the same token, it is more efficient and bigger.

Paul S. Colby, manager of CP&L's operating and engineering department, points out: "To us, efficiency means producing the maximum kilowatts with minimum use of fuel. We try to wring every kilowatt-hour possible from the more than 4 1/2 billion pounds of coal we will use in the current year to serve a power load that doubles every 8 1/2 years."

He credits improved plant technology and careful operation and maintenance with ever increasing efficiencies that have brought lower power costs to the CP&L customer. For instance, 1925, the year after the first two units were com-

pleted at the Cape Fear steam-electric plant near Monroeville, CP&L's average residential rate was 2.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. Today it is 1.85 cents.

CP&L schedules its plant maintenance carefully, always with the principle in mind that units which are not running must stand in reserve to supply the load when others are down for repair.

Such planning prevented trouble last October. The H. B. Robinson plant at Hartsville, S. C., second largest unit on the system, was down for check up. Trouble developed at Lee Unit 3 at Goldsboro, N. C., and it too was closed down. To carry the load, all six units of the Cape Fear plant at Monroeville were placed in operation. In three days this one plant produced 52,500,000 kilowatt-hours of energy—enough to supply 9,000 average homes for an entire year.

Two of the Cape Fear units are 39 years old; yet, maintenance had kept them capable of producing power on quick notice.

The low point of "valley" in demand for power occurs between seasons, March through May and September through November. Major maintenance jobs are carried out during these periods.

Turbine-generators, the machines driven by water or steam to generate electricity, normally operate five years without major repairs. Myriad instruments and performance records detect any flaw that might prompt earlier examination. Most operate around the clock, day in and day out, 365 days a year.

Boilers, furnaces and allied equipment are inspected annually and more often if instruments so indicate. These elements must perform the critical stage of power generation, when powder-fine coal burns to create heat at temperatures up to 2,000 degrees, converting water to steam to drive the turbines.

Long computer plants to people. Active plants, like active hillside, and usually the more efficient ones. The older ones have productive capacity that has weathered the years but are not as efficient as the younger ones. As a result, some of the older plants are held in reserve, to form a second team to assure sufficient plantpower whenever needed.

"Doctors" of the company's plant maintenance force are at work full-time seeing that old and new alike are kept in peak condition.



THE LONG RIDE—These two mechanics stand in the ash hopper of CP&L's L. V. Sutton steam-electric plant at Wilmington. Joseph Fips (right) straps himself into harness for a ride to the top of the 150-foot boiler to sandblast boiler tubing. L. B. Smith gives telephone directions to the winch operator. When the plant is in operation, this area is filled with water to carry off fly ash from the combustion chamber above the furnace throat (opening at top).



MAZE OF PIPES—A maze of pipes dwarfs Alex Cooke at CP&L's L. V. Sutton plant at Wilmington. Workmen flush these pipes with hydrochloric acid to clean them.

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ROBERT B. BLANCHARD
 REESE AFB, Tex. - Second Lieutenant Robert B. Blanchard of Wallace, N. C., was awarded the silver wings of a United States Air Force

pilot upon his recent graduation from pilot training here.

Lieutenant Blanchard flew the newest Air Force jet trainer aircraft and received academic and military training during the year-long course. He is being assigned to Perrin AFB, Tex., to fly F-102 aircraft.

The lieutenant, who received his B. S. degree from North Carolina State College, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar C. Blanchard Sr. of Wallace. He is a member of Sigma Nu.

OBED E. CAVENAUGH

U. S. FORCES, OKINAWA - Army Pfc. Obed E. Cavenaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. James S. Cavenaugh, Route 2, Wallace, N. C., qualified as expert in firing the M-1 rifle on Okinawa, late in June.

Cavenaugh, a switchboard operator in Battery, D of the 5th Artillery's 1st Missile Battalion at Okinawa, entered the Army in October 1961 and completed basic combat

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Mrs. Ormand Drew Grice Vows Grice-Pope Exchange Nuptial Vows In Magnolia Methodist Church Sat.

In Magnolia Methodist Church rites at 7:30 p. m., Miss Anne Gertrude Pope became the bride of Mr. Ormand Drew Grice. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Clarence Hatcher Pope of Magnolia and the late Mr. Pope. The bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ormand Larkins Grice of Warsaw.

The Reverend J. P. Pegg, pastor of the bride and the Reverend D. E. Parkerson, pastor of the groom, officiated at the double-ring ceremony. Mrs. W. G. Middleton, Jr., of Warsaw, organist and Miss Arin Drucilla Barnhardt of Concord, soloist, presented the wedding music which included, "O Perfect Love", "The Sweetest Story", "Whither Thou Goest", and "The Wedding Prayer".

Clarence Hatcher Pope, Jr. gave his sister in marriage. She wore a gown of silk beads de soire and sat with alienon lace trim. She had a scooped neckline applied in lace, and a full skirt with a chapel train. Her bouffant veil was of silk illusion, attached to a swiss crown of pearls; and she carried a traditional cascade of bridal pom-poms and double-faced satin showings centered with a white orchid.

Miss Mary Lou Davis of Sanford was maid of honor and Mrs. Jerry Sandlin Smith of Magnolia was matron of honor. They wore dresses of aqua satrapeau fashioned with a cow neck line, short sleeves and bell skirt draped in front. Their hat hats were of circular design and they carried a cascade of Rulerun lilies.

Bridemaids were Mrs. Jimmy Allen Scott of Asheboro, Mrs. Robert Gene Bizzell of Raleigh, Miss Nancy Katherine Jones of Pink Hill, Miss Helen Ann Straghan, Mar-Grice of Warsaw. The bridesmaids the Joyce Potter and Linda Ann wore dresses and hats like those of the honor attendants.

Mr. Ormand Harkins Grice was his sons best man. Ushers were Bobby Bizzell of Raleigh, Ken Mayhew of Winston-Salem, Reg Pinson of Lenoir, Doug Gordon of Matthews, Max Grice of Warsaw and Bill Grice of Warsaw. Miss Brenda Frances Bunn of Beaufort, Miss Harriet Ann Rivers of Wadesboro, Miss Mary Catherine Bass, Mrs. Abbie Smith, Miss Sherry Powell all of Magnolia and Miss Johnnie Gaye Williams of Beaufort were honorary bridesmaids.

Mr. her daughters Wedding, Mrs. Pope chose a dress of pink lace with matching accessories and wore a pink corsage. Mrs. Grice, the bridegroom's mother chose a dress of aqua silk with matching accessories. She also wore an orchid corsage.

After a wedding trip to Western Carolina the couple will reside in Warsaw until September at which time they will move to 56 Hamilton Road in Chapel Hill.

Mr. Grice is a graduate of James Kenan High School and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In September he will enter Medical School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Grice is a graduate of James Kenan High School and Meredith College. She will teach commercial subjects at Charles E. Jordan High School in Durham county.

RECEPTION
 Immediately following the ceremony Mrs. Clarence Hatcher Pope entertained the bridal party and Wedding guests at her home. Guests were greeted at the door by Mrs. Abbie Smith and Mrs. Bill Grice, and were introduced to the receiving line by Mrs. Richard Williams. Those in the receiving line were: Mrs. Pope, Mr. and Mrs. Ormand Grice; Mr. and Mrs. Drew Grice, Miss Mary Lou Davis, Mrs. Jerry Smith, Miss Nancy Jones, Mrs. Jimmy Scott, Mrs. Bobby Bizzell, Miss Linda Grice, Miss Arin Straghan and Miss Joyce Potter.

In the dining room guests were served punch, wedding cake, minis, Mrs. J. Edward Davis assisted by Mrs. Norma Pickett, Mrs. Alvin and Mrs. Paul Bass, and Powell, Miss Sherry Powell, Miss

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Goodbyes were said to Mrs. Paul Bass.

SHOWER
 Miss Anne Pope, bride-elect of July 13 was hostess at a miscellaneous shower on Friday night, July 5 at the home of Mrs. Jerry Smith.

The Smith home was thrown en-suite for the occasion and decorated with attractive arrangements of summer flowers.

Upon her arrival Miss Pope was presented with a yellow mum corsage, after which bridal games were enjoyed.

Individual square bridal cakes, nuts, minis and punch were served to those attending, by the hostess, assisted by Miss Sherry Powell.

Many lovely and useful gifts were received by the bride.

LUNCHEON
 Miss Mary Lou Davis of Sanford honored her Meredith roommate, Miss Anne Pope of Magnolia, bride-elect of July 13 at a luncheon at the Davis home in Sanford on June 28.

Having prepared a corsage to the bride, the hostess invited the guests into the dining room where a color scheme of pink and white

was used. The bride-elect was presented with a time garnish. Wedding bell place cards marked the seats of the other guests. Each person was favored with wedding bell statuettes.

The guests were served tomato juice, baked chicken, potatoes, string beans, congested salad, hot rolls, bread pudding and cream parfait.

The bride-elect was presented a gift of silver by Miss Davis.

Those present in addition to the hostess and Miss Pope were: Miss Nancy Jones of Pink Hill; Mrs. Jerry Smith of Magnolia; Mrs. Bessie Taylor of Fayetteville; Mrs. Jimmy Scott of Asheboro; Miss Arnette Davis; Mrs. J. Edwards Davis; Miss Nancy Ouston; Miss Carol Barrett and Miss Elaine Underwood, all of Sanford.

LUNCHEON
 Miss Anne Pope of Magnolia was honored at a bridal luncheon on Saturday, July 13, at the Goldsboro Motor Hotel by her "aunts," Mrs. Floyd Holloman of Goldsboro, Mrs. Walter Holland of Micro and Mrs. William Bostic of Bellville.

Upon her arrival at the hotel the bride-elect was presented a lovely carnation corsage. The guests were shown to the Gold Room where a color scheme of white and green was used. Each place was marked with a wedding bell place card.

Guests were served tomato juice, tossed salad, chicken à la king, asparagus potatoes, hot rolls, bread pudding and ice cream.

Miss Pope was presented a large platter in her china by the hostesses.

Those attending in addition to the hostesses and Miss Pope, were: Miss Mary Lou Davis of Sanford, Miss Harriet Rivers of Wadesboro, Miss Brenda Bunn of Beaufort, Miss Ann Barnhardt of Concord, Miss Nancy Jones of Pink Hill, Mrs. Jimmy Scott of Asheboro, Mrs. Ken Mayhew of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Perry Williams and Miss Gaye Williams of Beaufort, Mrs. Bobby Bizzell of Raleigh, Miss Ann Straghan, Miss Joyce Potter, Miss Linda Grice, and Mrs. Nell Middleton of Warsaw, Mrs. Abbie Smith, Mrs. Jerry Smith, Miss Sherry Powell and Miss Mary Catherine Bass of Magnolia.

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