



LYNCHBURG GE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY EMPLOYEE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS (EXT. 710) LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 182

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1969

Governor Godwin Salutes Lynchburg General Electric People For Assistance in Relief Communications in Recent Disaster



MILLS E. GODWIN, JR.
GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
RICHMOND 23219

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1969

R. P. GIFFORD

September 19, 1969

Mr. R. P. Gifford
General Manager
Communication Systems Division
General Electric Company
Mountain View Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Dear Mr. Gifford:

On Wednesday, August 20, 1969, after a night of horror the like of which is not in the memory of contemporary Virginians, the General Electric Company Mobile Radio Department, recognized that due to the events of the night that disaster relief communications in and out of the Nelson County area would be nonexistent.



GOVERNOR MILLS E. GODWIN, JR.

Reproduced above is a small portion of a very nice letter received by CSD General Manager Dick Gifford from Governor Mills E. Godwin, documenting his appreciation for the contributions of many Lynchburg General Electric people, following the "night of horror" in the Nelson County area August 20.

"The performance of the General Electric Company, during this disaster, was in keeping with its outstanding record as a fine corporate citizen of the Commonwealth," observed Governor Godwin in his letter.

Citing Bob Johnston of MRD Drafting for his leadership role in the disaster communication network--involving the

cooperation of the Lynchburg Repeater Association, many GE amateur radio operators, the C&P Telephone Company, and the Appalachian Power Co.--as well as a number of sales and service people in the Richmond Regional Offices of MRD, Governor Godwin said:

"For fear of possibly omitting someone's name who performed yeoman service, I will not attempt to list all those who did such valiant and valuable work; but to all of them, the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia are most appreciative. I can only say thanks to all for a job well done."

Thanking Governor Godwin for his letter, Mr. Gifford said:

"I think you would want to know that the response of these individuals was spontaneous on their part. Having been deeply involved in mobile communications, they were only too aware of the service it can render under such circumstances, and were very quick to become involved in any way they could help--and through them to bring in the additional resource of the amateur radio operators....I might also add that each of the men felt a great sense of fulfillment in being able to render such service with its very personal involvement under such tragic circumstances. I'm sure this same team would be ready to respond again with equal fervor upon any other emergency request from the State."

Commonwealth of Virginia

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

RICHMOND

September 19, 1969

Mr. R. P. Gifford
General Manager
Communication Systems Division
General Electric Company
Mountain View Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Dear Mr. Gifford:

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It is my understanding that at the request of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company in Lynchburg, the Appalachian Power Company was able to procure a helicopter and fly Mr. Bob Johnson into Lovington with portable equipment that would work via a repeater owned by the Lynchburg Repeater Association to another unit in the Lynchburg C & P offices and then by land line to State Civil Defense headquarters and other disaster relief organizations. The value of this link into and out of Nelson County was of inestimable value.

Our contact people in Richmond, who helped set up this system to the Virginia Civil Defense headquarters, were Mr. S. H. Gauding, Mr. Fred Christopherson, Mr. Bob Raper, and Mr. McAdoo Broington (through whose equipment we first made contact into this system).

Mr. R. P. Gifford
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On the Lynchburg end of the circuit there were involved some thirty (30) amateur radio operators, most of whom are General Electric employees as well as members of the Lynchburg Repeater Association.

Another valuable service was performed by Mr. Bill Bennett, in conjunction with Mr. George Bishop, who also provided extra portable ground to ground and ground to air search equipment which has and still is proving to be most valuable.

The performance of the General Electric Company, during this disaster, was in keeping with its outstanding record as a fine corporate citizen of the Commonwealth.

For fear of possibly omitting someone's name who performed yeoman service, I will not attempt to list all those who did such valiant and valuable work; but to all of them, the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia are most appreciative. I can only say thanks to all for a job well done.

Sincerely,

cc: Mr. J. H. Metzger, Jr.
District Plant Manager
C & P Telephone Company
Lynchburg, Virginia 24505

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Executive Vice President
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