

Lynchburg GE NEWS

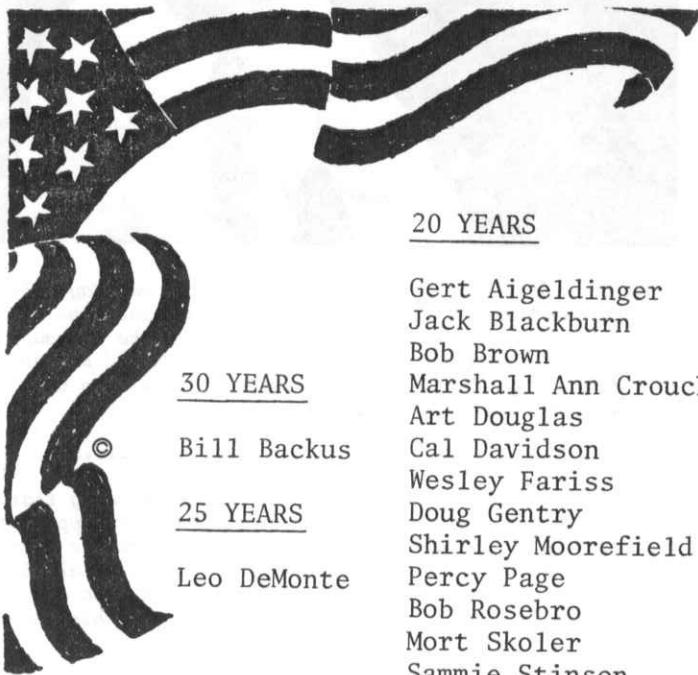
GENERAL ELECTRIC

RM. 1472, MOUNTAIN VIEW RD., LYNCHBURG, VA., 7511/7710

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 133

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1980



SALUTE TO SERVICE

for all Employees at
Lynchburg General Electric

JULY 1980

20 YEARS

Gert Aigeldinger
Jack Blackburn
Bob Brown
Marshall Ann Crouch
Art Douglas
Cal Davidson
Wesley Fariss
Doug Gentry
Shirley Moorefield
Percy Page
Bob Rosebro
Mort Skoler
Sammie Stinson
Gail Sullivan
Mildred Taylor
James Walters

30 YEARS

Bill Backus

25 YEARS

Leo DeMonte

10 YEARS

Eunice Anderson
Howard Bolden
Ron Cox
Barbara Cunningham
Yvonne Cunningham
Jean Ferguson
Leroy Franklin
Mary Hunter
Earl McFadden
Lois Musgrove
Faye Orndorff
Janice Penn

15 YEARS

Jim Bass
Anna Burrell
Marjory Campbell
June Farmer
Jerry Gowen
Dick Hill
John Lawson
Jim Markham
Sam Turner

5 YEARS

Philip Hexom
Chuck Wegner

RECOMMEND OUR RADIOS...BUT PLEASE DON'T QUOTE PRICES....

You can help our Marketing people by recommending GE Mobile Radios whenever the subject comes up....or whenever you hear of some person or organization which is in the market for two-way radio, says Jim Scott, Area Manager, B&I--Lynchburg.

BUT DON'T QUOTE PRICES, OR EVEN SUGGEST APPROXIMATE PRICES.

"Only the salesman can quote prices," says Jim. "But we do need all the help we can get to encourage people and businesses to buy GE. Without orders, we are all out of jobs."

Jim points out, however, that what radio the customer needs is a very difficult thing to determine--like making a prescription. Options, also, can affect the pricing.

The price range on a radio, for example, can vary

by many hundreds of dollars, depending on the "goodies" the customer wants added. By suggesting a price, you may be killing a sale.

Jim says employees are urged to recommend our fine products, but simply say that our prices will be "competitive" and stop right there!

THE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE HAS THE FOLLOWING OPEN POSITION:

<u>RATE</u>	<u>JOB TITLE</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>SHIFT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
LG-09	Writer-Employee Communications	M. Elcan	1	MVR

REQUIREMENTS: See posted job description.

Use FIN Report dated 6/30/80.

All forms should be in by July 11, 1980.

LYNCHBURG GE RETIREE RAY WILLIAMSON SHARES FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY OF OUR BUSINESS UPON THE PASSING OF W. W. BROWN, 90-YEAR-OLD RADIO PIONEER, ON MAY 25 IN LIVERPOOL, N.Y.

William Wilbur Brown ('W. W.' to two generations of GE radio and electronics engineers) died Sunday, May 25 at his home in Liverpool, New York--a Syracuse suburb--at the age of 90.

Lynchburg GE retiree Ray Williamson remembers him from his own early days at GE, and offers the following reminiscences about this important figure in the early history of our business:

"W. W. Brown joined GE at Schenectady in 1913 on the old 'Test Course.' There he worked for about a decade with Dr. Ernst F. W. Alexanderson on the commercial realization, production and installation of the 200-KW High-Frequency Alternators--eventually becoming head of the Alexanderson Alternator Engineering Section, then a part of the General Engineering Laboratory.

"The term 'High-Frequency Alternator' meant that the generated frequency was very high for a rotating machine--in the range 15,000 to 30,000 Hertz, which is categorized properly as 'Very Low Frequency' or VLF today. It is difficult for today's engineers to realize that as recently as World War I, all trans-Atlantic radio communication was achieved with these rotating machines which fed their power into huge mile-long antennas. The output of these huge generators was telegraphically keyed with the dots and dashes of the Morse code--no mean accomplishment. At the end of World War I, President Woodrow Wilson's historic 'fourteen points' for a peaceful settlement were transmitted to Paris by such a machine.

"Of course, by the late 1920's, long-distance communication by 'short wave' superseded most of the need for the old alternators--save at times when over-active sunspots plagued short-wave transmission.

"There is a story which relates the very last one of these operating alternators to our General Electric work at Lynchburg. In the late 1950's, we had a military contract to supply a

'Tropospheric Scatter System' of radio communication to a U.S. Air Force base at Thule, far up the coast of Greenland. This 'Scatter' project might be called 'Engineering intensive,' and was carried to successful completion under the leadership of the late Clark Gunn. Long-distance radio reception in such polar regions at conventional frequencies is extremely difficult at times due to the strong interference of radio noise associated with the northern lights. In the interval before our 'Scatter' equipment could be placed in service, the Air Force urgently needed reliable communication with their Greenland base. This was provided and maintained around the clock by firing up the Alexanderson Alternator at Marion, Massachusetts; it was telegraphically keyed, not with the Morse telegraph code but with the marks and spaces of the teletype code.

"W. W. Brown was a member of the team when the old Radio Department was formed in 1920--the great granddaddy of the business Department at Lynchburg and all the 20 or 30 other General Electric electronics-oriented components in operation today. Only two or three people survive who were present at this historic event 60 years ago. Although 'W. W.' never worked on two-way mobile radio projects, he was present 14 years later when such equipment first became a GE product line. The first large order was for the Boston Police in 1934. Few now remember that the second two-way mobile order was for the Police Department at Lynchburg Virginia, May 14, 1935; the Police Department's technical representative and spec writer was Wiley E. Gilliam, now retired after many years as Chief of Lynchburg Police.

"W. W. Brown worked at various GE engineering assignments at Schenectady--and at Syracuse after 1949--until his retirement in 1957. His specialty had always been Very Low Frequency antennas and propagation, and he worked as a GE consultant on various Air Force contracts. One of these included flying over Greenland and Baffin



"ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN...ALWAYS SMILING" is the way Ray Williamson remembers W. W. Brown. This picture was published 10 years ago--when "W. W." was 80--in the Syracuse GE News. His thoughts about giving to the United Way are as timely today--in Lynchburg in 1980--as they were in Syracuse, New York, in 1970.

"THERE'S NO LIMIT to the needs of people. Giving is a freedom we're all able to enjoy. As soon as you stop giving, you stop helping someone out."

"I'M HAPPIER knowing that my contributions support the young as well as the elderly, because the potential lies with the youth, who are often in greater need than the old."

Land on site--selecting missions. He continued this work as an independent consultant after his retirement, thus making a second career. His third and final career was with the U.S.

Bureau of Standards (Department of Commerce) as a consultant on Very-Low Frequency design consideration; from this work he really retired to his home in Liverpool, New York in 1977."



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