$383 million offset rate increase filed

SoCal applied to the Public Utilities Commission earlier this month for approval to increase rates $382.7 million annually to offset purchased-gas price increases and a one-time increase required under an order by the California Supreme Court.

The additional revenues will not add to SoCal's allowed rate of return, but will only offset the cost increases.

The increase, if approved as requested, would raise the typical residential customer's winter gas bill $7.12 per month — from $30.83 to $37.95 — and the summer gas bill $3.23 per month — from $16.43 to $19.66. The increase is proposed to become effective April 1, but probably will not begin appearing on gas bills until May, at the earliest.

Of the requested $382.7 million, approximately $338.3 million is needed to cover price increases SoCal will begin paying April 1 for natural gas from its two major out-of-state suppliers, El Paso Natural Gas Co. and Transwestern Pipeline Co. Partially offsetting this would be a $77.1 million rate reduction resulting from the fact that available gas supplies have been exceeding estimates.

The application also includes a one-time increase of $121.5 million needed to refund supplier rebates from 1977 and 1978 to customers. The refunds were ordered by the state Supreme Court in August 1979.

The application asks that rates for residential, small commercial and industrial customers be increased on an average of 20 percent. This compares to an average 17 percent increase for all classes of customers.

Retirement: don't get caught with your plans down after the job

By Candace Pearson

He owns a cattle ranch near the Grapevine, which lies at the base of the San Joaquin Valley. Beef cattle graze on the close-cropped grass that is now his domain. And as he leans against a rough-hewn fence post, he's a long way from the gas company.

He's retired. But if he and other SoCal retirees are any indication, that doesn't have to mean finished.

On television, they call it the second half of life.

It can all depend on your point of view. And on how well you plan for retirement.

And the word from retirees and experts alike is: Start early.

Financial and physical planning — how much money you'll have and where you'll live — are crucial. But you also have to pay attention to the psychological, philosophical and spiritual changes that can come when your life is no longer structured 8 to 5.

Retirement planning, say the experts, begins in youth. A sound financial condition, good health and outside interests are vital keys to a happy retirement.

For most workers, there will be a period of adjustment.

Forty hours a week can be a lot to fill if work has been your entire focus. Retirement can alter personal relationships, as spouses are suddenly thrust into each other's company many more hours a day.

A questionnaire sent to all SoCal retirees last year by retirement counselor Tom Burns discovered that 72 percent of the 548 respondents had definite retirement plans. A smaller margin — 50 percent — said those plans had been realized "for the most part."

Free time headed the list of what the retirees enjoy most about retirement, with relaxation, travel and hobbies next in line.

"Being in change of my life 24 hours a day" was how one man characterized a feeling echoed by others.

Problems and concerns of the retirees fall into three major areas. Number one is having less money. Inflation takes its biggest toll on those on fixed incomes. Burns visits employees after retirement to answer any questions about pensions or savings plans.

(continued on page 5)
Management

Chuck Kirk

Ken Abernathy

Peter Domínguez

Anne Estrada

Doug Glover

Peter Hom

Hom, Estrada, Kirk, Vasquez in accounting moves

Twenty-eight employees are moving to new assignments, with 17 of these recent changes taking place at Headquarters and nine in divisions. There were two lateral transfers for management development purposes and two new employees joined the company.

After temporary assignments in accounting and finance, Headquarters, Peter Hom and Anne Estrada move into their jobs on a regular basis.

Hom is senior accountant in accounts payable, reporting to Marc Costacurta, while Estrada is senior accountant in plant accounting. She reports to Angela Bates.

Also in accounting and finance, Chuck Kirk becomes staff accountant in budgets and financial planning after a temporary assignment in that job. And Henry Vasquez is promoted to financial reports specialist in budgets and financial planning from gas margin assistant in regulatory affairs. Kirk and Vasquez report to Bob Miller.

Taking posts in industrial relations are Jim Blieser and Ron Baldwin.

Blieser becomes safety representative, reporting to Bob Rickard, after a stint as technical supervisor in distribution at Woodland Hills, San Fernando Valley.

Baldwin is promoted to management planning administrator from district distribution supervisor at Yukon base in Western. He reports to Foster Hames.

In administrative services, Ken Abernathy is promoted to automotive instructor, Monterey Park, from pipeline assistant in North Basin transmission. And Jim Humphrey is promoted to a temporary assignment as automotive maintenance specialist from automotive mechanic in Northwest general services. Both report to Dick Reinhardt.

Promoted to project coordinator in engineering is Tom Hext, who was operations research analyst in information systems. Hext reports to Frank Whipple.

Jim Blieser is promoted from associate geologist to geologist in gas supply. He reports to Peter Seago.

Pete Domínguez is promoted to meter reading control representative in customer services, Headquarters, after a temporary assignment in this job. He reports to Carolyn Cape.

There were two moves in information systems.

Bill Park is promoted from assistant computer programmer to computer programmer, reporting to Harry Muller. Bill Jolie is promoted to a temporary assignment as mail payment supervisor, reporting to Olle Perreira. Jolie is a meter reader in Inland customer services.

Senior staff accountant Don Hodson moves from accounting and finance to the same post in LNG projects, reporting to Bob Olson.

Hugh Hedrick goes from industrial market services accounts manager to non-residential administration manager in market services. He reports to Frank Morris.

In operations support, John Reed is promoted to a temporary assignment as instructor from a temporary assignment as field instructor in Metro customer services. And Lee Denning returns to his regular position as instructor after a temporary assignment as field instructor in customer services at Metro's 36th Street base. Reed and Denning report to Gene Stacy.

In Metro Division, Gil Rodriguez moves to a temporary assignment as field instructor in customer services at Olympic base after a temporary assignment as instructor in operations support. He reports to Marv Allen. And Joe Corral moves to a temporary assignment as instructor in customer services at 36th Street base, reporting to Norm Williams, after a temporary assignment as instructor in operations support.

In Western, Doug Glover moves from construction quality representative in distribution to field distribution supervisor at Yukon base. He reports to Bill Bess.

David Luera is promoted to general services manager in Northwest from management planning administrator in industrial relations. Also in Northwest, Stan Kahan is promoted to division superintendent from staff supervisor environmental engineering in engineering services, Headquarters.

And Kahan reports to Bill Meiklejohn.

In Orange County, Bob Perry moves to local manager at Anaheim from west district field service supervisor in customer services. Perry reports to M.W. (Hutch) Hutchinson.

Promoted to replace Perry as west district field service supervisor is John Ory, who has been on temporary assignment as field instructor at Metro's 36th Street base. Ory reports to Cecil West.

Rick Phillips and George Reid take posts in North Basin transmission.

Phillips moves to a temporary assignment as pipeline planner at Newhall, reporting to Dick Wiegman, from associate engineer in system engineering, engineering services. Reid is promoted to shift supervisor at Aliso Canyon from gas storage technician in South Basin transmission. He reports to Hank Auhin.

In a lateral transfer for management development purposes, Larry Craven goes from service center supervisor to district service supervisor at Visalia north in San Joaquin Valley customer services. And Mike Malone, who was district service supervisor, takes Craven's post as service center supervisor. Both report to Jack Wheeler.

Joining the company are John Ide and Joel Ornmann. Ide is a special agent in security, administrative services, Headquarters, reporting to Bob Rock. He was with the Los Angeles Police Dept. Ornmann is associate engineer in technical services, engineering services, coming from Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego. He reports to Phil Bass.

SoCal exhausts gasoline ration, faces critical fuel shortage

SoCal is facing a serious gasoline shortage.

Chevron USA Inc., SoCal's gasoline supplier, advised the company in mid-February that it had exceeded its gasoline allocation for the month — forcing the company to "borrow" from the March allocation to continue deliveries. Even then, some bases ran out of gasoline during the month.

SoCal's application for an increase in the allocation was denied. It is appealing the decision.

In the meantime, additional measures have been taken to help conserve gasoline.

- Each division will now report, on a weekly basis, the status of its gasoline supplies. Administrative services will use the reports to direct deliveries to locations where gasoline is most needed.
  - A task force will study ways to conserve vehicle fuel and/or reduce mileage. Included are representatives of the divisions and customer services, distribution, transmission and industrial relations.

Those who operate company vehicles are being asked to follow driving practices that conserve fuel, such as observing posted speed limits and using compressed natural gas to the maximum extent practical.
Medical plan offer to include retirees

During recent Union negotiations the company offered to pay the full cost of the premium for active employees and their dependents who are members of the Lincoln National medical plan, according to Lyn Sims, supervisor of medical plan.

This offer also applies to retirees under age 65 and their eligible dependents currently enrolled in the Lincoln National plan. This proposal would become effective July 1.

In effect, the company would increase its subsidy of the Lincoln National medical plan premium from 80 percent to 100 percent. Retirees and their spouses age 65 and older who are enrolled in the Lincoln National Medicare Supplemental Plan already have their entire medical plan premium paid for by the company.

Since the company subsidizes the premium costs of employees and retirees and their dependents who are members of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in the same dollar amount as the Lincoln National medical plan, members of the company's HMO plans would also stand to benefit by the company's offer.

Under the company's offer, those now enrolled in the Lincoln National medical plan would have their premiums reduced to "zero" and active employees and retirees under age 65 who are enrolled in any of the company's HMO plans would have their monthly premiums reduced by $5.11 for the employee, $11.10 for the employee and one dependent under 65, and $14.97 for the employee and two or more dependents under age 65. Employees and their spouses who have Medicare Supplemental coverage provided by one of the company's HMO plans will have their premiums reduced by $4 per month each.

HELPFUL HINT NO. 63

Utilize small scraps of time to manage small tasks

In these inflationary times, everyone seems to be trying to get the most of everything — maximum miles per gallon, maximum value per dollar, maximum enjoyment out of life. But are you getting maximum effectiveness from your time?

If you have "too many irons in the fire" or you need to be "everywhere at the same time," you may not be managing your time well.

As opposed to efficiency ("doing the job right"), effectiveness means "doing the right job right."

Small scraps of time — those periods before going to a meeting, waiting for an overdue visitor, or idling in freeway traffic — are an invaluable resource.

The primary principle to remember is to use short times for short tasks. The road to frustration is paved with tasks that have been barely started before other tasks pop up.

For effective time management:

- Use a daily notebook (of comfortable size to carry) to record appointments, "must" activities and expenses.
- Put items that you always misplace — such as keys, pens and glasses — in a special place. You won't waste time rummaging around.
- Always carry change so you have a nickel for the parking meter, a dime for that phone call and a quarter for the newspaper.
- Call to confirm schedules. You'll save time with appointments and avoid waiting.
- Spend five minutes here and there to keep an expense account, a calendar or even a checkbook up-to-date. It'll save hours later.
- Go through mail immediately. Learn to toss junk mail immediately and categorize other items in stacks for later filing or routing. At home, keep a special place where family members know to look for important information.
- Combine mindless tasks with other tasks whenever possible. While talking to a friend on the phone, wash the dishes. If you've been put on "hold," sort through mail or read.
- Reduce the time it takes to get things done. A one hour meeting often accomplishes just as much as one that lasts twice as long. Monitor the time you spend on the phone.
- Reduce the number of routine tasks you do. If it takes two hours to clean the house every day, try doing it only three times a week. At work, those weekly Monday meetings might be better scheduled once every other week to save valuable time, a move that may even enhance the effectiveness of such meetings.
- Learn "negative efficiency." The extra time spent doing a job "super efficiently" could be ill spent compared to taking advantage of some other opportunity.
- Use travel time. If you bus or carpool, read as you ride. If you drive, mentally plan your day or use a tape recorder to learn a foreign language or review class lectures.
- Make appointments with yourself to plan or work on special projects. Honor them as you would any appointment.
- Sometimes the most effective use of a scrap of time in the midst of a frantic day is to do nothing. Recharge your energies so you can go on working effectively.

Q&A

Many companies in the central Los Angeles city area, such as ARCO, have active van pooling programs and provide subsidies to employees who utilize such pooling. Why doesn't this company have a similar program to encourage conservation and minimize air pollution?

The company supports the use of car pools, van pools and public transportation, and is doing a number of things to encourage such use. Subsidies have not been granted in the past because of the inequities they would create among employees. The company's view is that employee benefits should benefit all employees and not just a relative few. However, this doesn't mean that future circumstances and conditions couldn't change that position. The company is a part of the overall effort in the downtown business community to reduce automobile traffic and improve air quality, and is committed to that end.

Crime is on the increase. What is the company doing to protect its night field employees?

Safety of employees during working hours (night and day) is a major company concern.

The decision as to whether it is safe to enter any given area or premise rests with the employee responding to the call. Company procedure 860.21 states employees are "to decline entrance to a customer's premises (property and/or building) under any condition involving a threat of personal violence or when entrance is barred by an unwieldy dog."

Customers respond to safety notice

In response to a safety notice sent to SoCal's customers with February bills, the company received nearly 12,000 requests to inspect appliance connectors for possible failure.

The notice, requested by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, advised customers that certain flexible corrugated metal appliance connectors, manufactured between 1955 and 1966, have been found to fail with age. The bill enclosure included a reply form, which could be mailed with the gas bill payment, for requesting an inspection if a customer believed he might have one of these connectors.

As of March 7, a total of 11,915 inspection requests had been received, the majority of which were by mail, and nearly half of these had been inspected by SoCal customer service representatives. Division customer services people report having no great difficulty handling the increased workload.

Of those inspected, 1,450 of the residences had already been inspected and connections tagged by a SoCal appliance service representative during a previous call. Of the other 3,924 inspections, less than five percent were found to have suspect connectors.

The connectors in question have end fittings that are brazed or welded to the corrugated flexible tubing. Some have deteriorated with age and resulted in gas leakage.

Gas News Page 3
Wendling, McQuigg: a tale of two retirements

“I’m staying here as long as I’m happy...”

“I do things when I want to do them,” she says, a touch of pride in her voice, her silky terrier at her side in the well-lit living room. “I let myself get up in the morning and feel glad to be alive.”

Gerry Wendling smiles. “It may be her naturally cheerful disposition. Then again, it could be because she does what she pleases when she pleases. She has no bosses but herself.

That theme comes through repeatedly when you talk to those SoCal retirees who enjoy their time off the job. For while Webster’s defines retire as “1: secluded 2: withdrawn from one’s position or occupation,” many retirees would never use such inexact words.

Is there life after retirement? Yes, says Gerry Wendling, now 70, who went on special retirement in 1972 after 30 years with the company.

She lives in the same warmly furnished, split-level house in Highland Park she and her husband bought in 1943. Behind a latticed patio, the backyard echoes with many happy memories for her.

“All those years I worked I never knew my neighbors,” says Wendling, who retired as a secretary in administrative services. “And while I kept up my home, I never could enjoy it.”

Now she has the time.

Someone once tried to convince her to move to an apartment or someplace where there’d be people to take care of her. But she would never hear of it. “I’m staying here as long as I’m happy.”

When she’s not playing with Timmy, her 11-year-old silky, or visiting friends (“I used to have to wait for weekends,” she says), Wendling likes to sew, knit, crochet and create objects that strike her fancy. An organ against one wall of the front room signifies her musical hobby.

Wendling also attends meetings of SoCal’s Los Angeles-area retirees.

“At first I wondered how I’d feel about being alone in a big house,” says Wendling, as sunlight streams through the window. She had to adjust her life when her husband of almost 40 years died 11 years ago. She kept on working at that time.

She advises people to plan early in life for their future security — not just in terms of finances, but in developing outside interests as well.

ENJOYING LIFE after retirement isn’t difficult for Gerry Wendling, who runs her own business.

“You have to expand. Don’t be narrow...”

Howard McQuigg got “tired of holding down two jobs,” so after almost 36 years with the gas company he retired at age 60 to operate his piano-tuning service full-time.

Four years later, he’s still “working full tilt” — sometimes 12 hours a day, six days a week — and his wife sees less of him than when he was a senior clerk in distribution at Pasadena.

Most of all, he’s enjoying life.

The main point about retirement, says McQuigg, whose business is located in Monrovia, is to “look forward to it — but never do it.”

He looks at retirement as simply “a change of occupation: from doing what you’ve done to doing what you damn please.”

What pleases McQuigg, in addition to his successful business, includes checking on his ranch in Montana and having visited an Alaskan Eskimo village a year ago.

Although he’s been tuning pianos as a hobby and a profession for 20 years — and plans to turn the business over to his daughter, Jean, who works with him — McQuigg doesn’t play the ivory keys.

“Tuning is based on sound, applied physics,” says McQuigg, who started with SoCal in 1940. “But I’ve been singing since I was three years old, so I know music pretty well.”

Being in good health is important when you retire, he advises.

His other advice to those planning to retire: “You have to expand. Don’t be narrow.” And while he advocates early retirement for people like himself, McQuigg adds, “If you have nothing to retire to, work as long as you can.”

Late bloomers find success is sweet

Mozart may have been fiddling around at three and Orson Welles may have completed his film masterpiece Citizen Kane at 25, but youth is not the only age for major achievement.

“I’ve known some 17 year-old antiques and some 70 year-olds who are young,” says Frank Sinatra, 64, has said.

Many famous (and not so famous) people fall in the category of “late bloomers.” Success may even be sweeter when it comes late.

At 80, George Burns won an Academy Award for his role in The Sunshine Boys. “There isn’t a thing I can’t do now that I couldn’t do at 18,” he said recently, “which gives you an idea of how pathetic I was at 18.”

Other late bloomers include Winston Churchill, who at 78 again became prime minister of Great Britain, and Colonel Harlan Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame. A former gas station operator and restaurateur, Sanders was penniless when he retired at 65 and by 73 had made his first million.

After Murder By Death was released, Estelle Winwood, 94, was annoyed when asked if her role in the movie was exhausting. “No,” she said. “Actresses never get tired of work — only looking for it.”

“Retire means go to bed, doesn’t it?” asked Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Grey Panthers, senior citizens lobbying group. “That’s what they made me do when I was six, but I’m sure not going to let them do it to me at 66!”

And, striking a blow for late bloomers everywhere, philanthropist Bernard Baruch once observed, “Old age is always 15 years older than I am.”

Gas News Page 4
SoCal employees stay with national statistics in opting for early retirements

By the year 2030, one person in five will be over 65. That equals about 52 million people, or 17 percent of the population. Right now there are about 24 million people over the age of 65 in the United States.

Thanks to better health care, Americans are living longer. And, despite inflation, the majority of workers are still choosing to take early retirement.

The abolition of mandatory retirement at the age of 65, which went into effect last year, has brought no sign of a reversal of this trend. Two thirds of all Americans retiring on Social Security already leave their jobs before they are 65, and in companies with high early retirement pensions, the retirement age drops below 60. (This compares to only 12 percent of workers who retired early in 1960.)

At SoCal, where there are about 2,000 retirees, optional early retirements have doubled since 1978 and tripled since 1977.

The average age of SoCal employees who retired in 1979 was 63 years, one month. With inflation nipping at their heels, some older Americans may elect to remain in their jobs past 65. (Federal law now sets 70 as the mandatory retirement age, but California law states that there is no mandatory age for retirement. SoCal's industrial relations department now refers to age 65 as the "normal retirement date").

By the first of this year, only 14 out of a possible 109 SoCal retirees in 1979 elected to continue in their jobs past 65. Of those 14, six retired later in 1979. Still working past age 65: eight employees.

An overwhelming majority of SoCal employees — 91 percent in 1979 — retire between the years of 60 and 65. About 46 percent still leave early — before 65. Following is a breakdown for 1979:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>% Retired</th>
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<tr>
<td>55-59</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>60-62</td>
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<td>65-plus</td>
<td>4</td>
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Over the past four years, 670 employees have retired. Of these, 148 were in 1976, 175, 1977, 158, 1978; and 189, 1979. The increase last year was caused mainly by improvements in the company's pension plan, Herb Stewart, supervisor of employee benefits, said.

With more than 1,500 employees approaching traditional retirement age in the next 10 years, preretirement counseling becomes increasingly important.

Beginning this year, Ben Wilson, SoCal's retirement benefits counselor, contacts potential retirees at age 54 or older to explain the company's pension plan and benefits, including Social Security and medical coverage. This meeting formerly took place at age 60.

Then Wilson meets with each employee six months before he or she turns 65 or before retirement. If the employee is married, Wilson meets with the spouse as well, to go over retirement benefits in more detail.

Employees have to let the company know 90 days ahead of the time they want to retire. However, if an employee elects to stay on after age 65, he or she fills out a "notice of continuation" and returns it to the company 60 days ahead of the normal retirement date.

Current law provides that an employee can continue to work if he or she is capable of performing the job duties satisfactorily.

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**RETIREMENT PLANS...**

(continued from page 1)

A second major concern is health. Problems with health can decrease a retiree's mobility just when he or she has more time to do things. A third problem, say the retirees, is boredom, inactivity or loneliness. But that doesn't apply to everyone.

"I'm in good health," one retiree wrote. "I've seen about 45 states. I was 82 in February and I go dancing every Friday and Saturday night."

Is the typical retiree that swinging resident of a senior citizens' village, hurrying from bridge club to jacuzzi to dinners on-the-town? Or is he a forgotten man, slumped in an overstuffed chair in front of a TV set?

The extremes exist, but the truth for most lies in between.

Some chose second careers.

One SoCal retiree is a professional beekeeper. Others run a toy factory, piano-tuning service, fix it shops, business consulting firms; raise cattle; or work as hotel receptionists and volunteer teachers.

Educational interests, hobbies or travel are other choices. One SoCal retiree has started recording her own songs. Others study sculpture, play golf, cultivate backyard orchards or volunteer for charities.

Higher management people and workaholics sometimes have the hardest time adjusting, says Ben Wilson, a SoCal retirement benefits counselor. "They had people who did things for them, they had status and responsibility. Or maybe they were just wedded to the job," he says. "All of a sudden, they're ordinary citizens."

Wilson advises that by 55, you should:

- Forecast your expenses at retirement.
- Calculate your income at retirement from pension, savings and assets.
- Make sure you'll have adequate finances.
- Start cutting expenses to prepare for having less income.
- Do any necessary estate planning (such as making a will). And,
- Decide whether you're going to relocate at retirement.

"Sometimes it's a disadvantage to sell your property and move to some dream retirement home," says Wilson. "If you do think you want to move, spend a few vacations — in at least two different seasons — in that area."

Wilson believes most SoCal retirees are happy. "They start out fearing having all this time on their hands and find out there aren't enough hours to do what they want."
Education Assistance Program helps 11 earn degrees in 1979

During 1979, 11 SoCal employees received bachelor’s or master’s degrees with the help of the company’s Educational Assistance Program.

Four received their degrees from Pepperdine University School of Business and Management. Masters of business administration were awarded to Sylvia Baughman, commercial field supervisor in market services, and Helene Kanter, material services representative in administrative services.

Taking their bachelor’s degrees in business administration were Patricia Pascal, special assistant, accounting clerk in accounting and finance, and Jeanine Vander Bruggen, benefits analysis specialist in industrial relations. University of Redlands bestowed degrees on six employees.

Phil Bernal obtained a B.A. in management. He is an instructor-welder in support operations.

Five employees earned B.A. degrees in public service management. They are Sylvia Gregory, collection clerk, Eastern division; Mall Jenkins, supervisor of market services control; Headquarters; Barry Moyer, service center supervisor, Inland; Bob Salmon, personnel assistant, industrial relations; Headquarters, and Camerino Sanchez, warehousekeeper, administrative services, Inland.

Hyung Kim was awarded a master’s in taxation by Northrop University. Kim is supervisor of internal controls, accounting and finance.
Check those energy conservation devices

Energy conservation devices not only can save money on utility bills, but they also qualify for income tax credits.

Homeowners and renters can claim a tax credit of up to $300 for energy conservation devices installed in a principal residence (not a summer or vacation home) prior to Dec. 31, 1985. Items that qualify include insulation, storm or thermal windows and doors, energy-efficient furnace replacement burners, weather stripping and caulking.

Also eligible are flue-opening modifications to improve heating systems, an electrical or mechanical furnace ignition system that replaces a gas pilot light, and clock thermostats and meters that display the cost of energy usage.

Another energy credit—up to a maximum of $2,200—is available if you install renewable energy-source property, such as solar, geothermal or wind energy equipment to heat or cool residences or to heat water for homes.

Tax credits cannot be more than the individual's tax liability. If a portion of an energy credit cannot be used in the appropriate year because of an insufficient tax liability, that year's unused credit can be carried over to a subsequent year's return.

Energy credits are entered on line 45 of Form 1040. Although you do not have to itemize deductions to take advantage of the benefit, you must compute the credit on Form 5695, "Energy Credits," and attach it to Form 1040.

Obituaries

Charles Holbrook, 72, died Jan. 31. Mr. Holbrook was employed with SoCal for 42 years prior to his retirement in 1972 as lead order dispatcher in customer services of San Fernando Valley.

Edwin Hansen died Feb. 5 at the age of 76. He started with the company in 1927 as a meter reader and retired from disability in 1971 as a gas dispatcher at Headquarters.

Charles Briscoe, 97, died Feb. 7. Mr. Briscoe began with the company in 1923 and retired in April 1947 as a carpenter shop foreman in special services, Headquarters.

James Moore, 70, died Feb. 16. The former fitter in distribution, Southern division, joined the company in 1935 and retired from disability in 1974.

Jack Williams died Feb. 25 at the age of 68. He started with SoCal in 1937 and retired in 1976 as district service supervisor in customer services, Northern.

Kenneth Miller, 74, died Feb. 26. Mr. Miller began with the company in 1945 and retired in 1970 as supervisor of gas operations in transmission, Headquarters.

Roland Wallis died Feb. 28 at the age of 74. In 1954 Mr. Wallis began with the company as a laborer and in 1971 retired as a leadman in distribution, Southern.

Helen Dougherty, 61, died Feb. 28. The former customer service representative in Santa Monica Bay division, Southern Counties, joined the company in 1946 and was on disability since 1965.

Howard Steimer, 80, died March 2. Mr. Steimer began with the company in 1926 and retired in 1965 as austengren painter in special services, Headquarters.

Harvey Taylor died March 2 at the age of 71. He started with the company in 1946 and retired in 1973 as distribution foreman in San Fernando Valley.

Ferdinand Brinkman, 86, died March 3. Mr. Brinkman began with the company in 1924 and retired in 1961 as automotive foreman in special services, Eastern.

George Jurebie died on March 3 at the age of 33. He began with the company on Nov. 9, 1971, and was employed as meter reader in customer services, San Gabriel Valley.

Donald Steele, 71, died March 6. In 1936 Mr. Steele began with SoCal as a helper and in 1970 retired as leadman in distribution, Northwest.

Division News

The recent storms created havoc at Monterey Park and in Eastern division with power going out for five-and-a-half hours at Monterey Park due to a rain-related short in main feeder lines. Doc Whittington reports that lightning struck Eastern division's radio repeater site on Toro Peak — twice — virtually destroying the building and all of the equipment. General services manager Joe Patella says arrangements were made to share facilities temporarily with another company with equipment on the peak and the division was back on line in three days. In Southern division, district service supervisor Jack Turner and district distribution supervisor Larry Krause moved their field employees into the new commuter base that adjoins the new division headquarters there.

Lloyd Reid, district distribution supervisor at Hemet in Eastern division, recalls a hairy animal story that happened to one of his people not so long ago. Field planner Rick Harold left his truck to talk to a customer in a housing development. When he returned, he found a snarling badger baring its fangs and blocking his entrance to the cab. A crowd gathered and it was a standoff until another resident darted up and asked, "Has anyone seen my pet badger?" When the Native Date Festival was held in Indian recently, SoCal's customer contact representatives continued the tradition they started three years ago by dressing up in full Arabian costumes, complete with baubles, bangles and beads. But Mary Lou Cedeno, Olaya Padilla and Margaret Clark couldn't convince local manager Sid Branson to put on his sultan's attire, Chuck Smith reports.

Los Angeles Area Retiree Club members elected new officers for the year. They are Jack Cortelyou, president; Joe Twedt, vice president; Ann Heller, secretary; and Lenore Kopp, treasurer. Carlos Serna, local manager at El Centro, was named the new president of the United Way of Imperial County. Bill Kenneally of engineering and Mariann Vancura of industrial relations were chosen as this year's King and Queen of the Mardi Gras by their Travel-Photography Club peers. Del Barnes of the service bureau in San Gabriel Valley division has issued a call for bowlers who would be interested in joining the SGV East summer league, starting in late April at the Covina Bowl. Barnes can be reached on ext. 125-2284 or ML 241. GasCo Rod & Gun Club president Phil Lewis told us about a brand new event coming up for members, families and guests on Sunday, March 30 — a Ham Shoot at Indian Canyon. For more info on winning a ham for Easter and on membership, employees may contact club treasurer Albert Ciubal at ML 641.
16 utility clerks among 74 who change positions

Crew Leader
William Comstock ................. Southeast
James Cox ....................... Southern
Jimmie McGuire .................... SFV

Crew Assistant
Gerald Chambers .................. Inland
Deane Hawkins ................. Metro to Southeast
Alphonso Jackson ...... San Fernando Valley
John Kubasek .......... Metro to Southeast
Leonard Ochoa .......... Metro to Southeast
Gary Vock ....................... Metro to Southeast
Maurice Wiles ..................... Eastern

Field Technician
Charles Bailey ................. San Joaquin Valley

Deborah Scott

Field Mechanic
Martin Baca ................. Eastern
Jesse Parai ................. Orange County
Welder
Alan Abem ....................... Orange County
Kenneth Lee ................. Southeast
Fitter
Richard Nafzgild ................. Southeast
Technical Aide
Terric Conklin ................. Eastern

Lead Meter & Regulator Mechanic
James Mazel ....................... Southeast

Meter & Regulator Mechanic #1
Arvil Mason ....................... Southeast

Appliance Service Representative
Gerald Bandick ................ OC to Inland
John Bridgeforth ............... Northwest to Inland
Thomas Celaya ................. Northwest to SFV
Harris Hughes ................. Western to Eastern
Edward Orr ................. Western SFV
Field Service Representative
Robert Gonzalez ................. Metro to Northern
Brian Henderson ................. Western to Southeast
Rodney La Cour ................. Metro to Inland
Field Collector
Jimmy Moon ....................... Western

Meter Reader
Herbert Aparicio ................. HQ to Northwest
Barbara Edwards ................. HQ to Orange County
Duane Haller ....................... Eastern
Thomas Houllman ............... Northwest to SE
Arthur Lucero ................. Southeast
Brain Pappas ................. Metro to Northern

Gas Storage Technician
Harvey Erickson ................. South Basin
Station Engineer
James Shadrer ................. North Basin
Lee Taylor ....................... South Basin
Measurement Operator
Wayne Scott ....................... Valley
Station Operator
James Reimer ................. Coastal
Auto Mechanic
Nick Martinez ....................... Inland

Herbert Aparicio

Pablo Negrete ....................... Orange County
Kenneth Smiley ....................... Western
District Storeroom Keeper
Michael Butler ................. Orange County
Deborah Scott ....................... Eastern

Storeroom Keeper
Patricia Carratt ................. Orange County
John Richardson ............... So. Inland to Eastern
Building Mechanic
Gloria Rojas ....................... Administrative Services
Alan Johnston ................. Headquarters

Gas Supply Technician
Esther Douglas ................. Headquarters

Special Market Services Rep.
Robert Parker ................. Consumer Services
Executive Secretary
Sheri Tademy ....................... Headquarters

Gas Supply Finance
Caroline Anson ................. Headquarters

Secretary
J. Maria Contreras ............... Headquarters

Senior Clerk
Sharon Haywood ................. Eastern
Virginia Minito ................. Headquarters

Utility Clerk
Florence Alexander ............... Headquarters

Rosalind Arcelona ............... Headquarters

Loretta Barnes ................. Eastern
Estella Burrell ................. Western
Doyne Clareborne ................. Headquarters

Anita Forcema ................. HQ to Inland
Anna Guzman ................. HQ to Metro
Susan Havas ................. North Coastal
Laura Kelly ................. Headquarters

General Clerk
Alice Minniman ................. Orange County
Gwendolyn Newsome ............... Western to Metro
Delores Shafer ................. Eastern
Linda Singleton ................. Eastern
Debbie Wilkinson ............... SFV
Alice Wilson ................. SFV
Sylvia Wenzel ................. Metro to Southern

Estella Burrell

Low-setting thermostat offered to customers in mountains

Residential customers living in mountainous areas are being offered a chance to buy a low temperature thermostat that reportedly can result in a 30 percent savings in gas during a normal heating season.

The Robertshaw low-

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temperature thermostat can be ordered by mail by customers living in areas such as Big Bear and Wrightwood, said John Varga, market services assistant-residential.

Its advantage is that it can be set as low as 39 degrees, versus the typical low setting of 50 degrees on most thermostats.

Many people who own mountain homes are gone for extended periods of time, Varga explained, but still need to use some gas during those periods for "freezing protection."

The difference between 39 and 50 degrees can add up to the 30 percent savings in gas, he added.