

# nuclear news

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John Simpson: ANS president



## John Simpson: To leadership propelled

John Simpson has been at the center of things for Westinghouse over his 36-year career with the giant electrical manufacturer. And it's no wonder. His genius for leadership, bolstered by a strong technical base, has made him as indispensable a man as any to the corporation in the crucial stages of many of its most important programs, whether in Navy switchgear, nuclear-powered marine propulsion, the nuclear rocket, commercial nuclear power systems, or the breeder reactor.

Nor are his interests identified solely with those of Westinghouse, where he is president of Power Systems, one of four company-like structures within the organization; he is viewed by colleagues in the industry as one of its most eloquent statesmen, a man dedicated to the best resolution of his country's and the world's energy problems.

Such is the man who last month began his term as president of the American Nuclear Society. The 19th person to hold this office, he has every chance of proving to be one of the most effective ANS presidents because of his exceptional leadership qualities. One of Simpson's closest associates, Joseph C. Rengel, who graduated with Simpson from the Naval Academy in 1937 and came with him to Westinghouse in the same year and whose careers have run parallel ever since, rates Simpson as "one of the most dedicated, energetic, comprehensively

understanding guys I've ever known." Many would agree with Rengel's further observation that Simpson is a person who "automatically seems to gain people's confidence" because of the strength and basic honesty of his convictions.

A very active man at 58 years (among other things, he skis, plays paddle tennis, bowls, and golfs), Simpson is tall (six foot two) and lanky. He stoops somewhat, holding his head slightly forward, giving him the appearance of one eager to observe and communicate. His features are sharp and craggy, almost hawkish, but their effect is softened by his easy, jocular manner and by wrinkles about the eyes and mouth that show him to be one accustomed to smiling. His aggressive nature is further offset by a voice that still has remnants of a soft Carolinian accent—which brings us to a discussion of the heritage of this extraordinary man.

### Boyhood in the South

Simpson's father's family had lived in South Carolina for generations. His father, Richard Casper Simpson, like his seven brothers and one sister, were born in Lawrence County, South Carolina. He attended the University of South Carolina, as did his father, his grandfather, and his great grandfather—a tradition John Simpson was to break, however. When he attended the University, Simpson's father was fortunate in being able to live in the

Governor's mansion, since his uncle was Governor at that time.\*

The Simpson brothers were an enterprising lot, and sometime before the turn of the century they moved to Glenn Springs, S.C., where they owned and operated a resort hotel, a mineral spring, a bottling works from which they ran a brisk mineral water trade,\*\* a railroad running the 12-mile distance between Glenn Springs and Spartanburg, and the local telephone company, whose 10 to 15 subscribers were almost all members of the Simpson clan. With the addition of various cousins to the local population, about 10 families ultimately made up the Simpson compound. A small, one-teacher school was established solely for the use of the family.

One of the teachers to serve this community came from Staunton, Va., Mary Randolph Spotswood Berkeley. Her family were all Virginians (the Randolphs, Carters, Spotswoods, and Berkeleys). And it so happened that she and Richard Simpson, 16 years her elder, fell in love and married.

\*William D. Simpson, who had earlier served as lieutenant governor under Wade Hampton, the great hero in South Carolina in the days of the Red Shirts during Reconstruction.

\*\*The Simpsons let one golden opportunity go by when they turned down in 1900 an offer by the Coca Cola Company that would have made them sole distributor in South Carolina—this because they thought Coca Cola was bad for people.



He was then in his late 40's and essentially in early retirement as a result of falling victim to typhoid fever a few years earlier and never fully recovering his strength. They lived off the income of a small farm that someone farmed for them and from his earnings of former years in the hotel business and other affairs. Their marriage produced three children: first a daughter, Margaret†; two years later (September 25, 1914) a son, John Wistar, and about a year later, another son, Carter Berkeley.

John and Carter were closest of brothers and the strongest of rivals, and their relationship no doubt did much to sharpen John's aggressiveness through his formative years. While the younger brother was a natural in almost all sports, John didn't have the same fine sense of timing and coordination and thus had to work very hard for just average results. He remembers playing tennis with his brother day after day one summer at the end of their high school years when he could not win a single set against him.

In matters of scholarship, however, John was always able to outrank his brother, also an excellent student.

†Now Margaret Simpson Sackett, a resident of Alexandria, Va. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia, mother of one child, a daughter, and presently works in the offices of the National Association of Security Dealers in Washington, D.C.

Both began in elementary school together when the family moved from Glenn Springs to Spartanburg. John was eight years old and was placed in the second grade since he already had reading skills. Carter started in the first grade but by the time John reached fourth grade Carter had been progressively promoted ahead of his class to catch up with John. From that grade on in elementary school they shared the same double desk with the same set of books. John speaks of this situation as being a difficult one for him in that people might interpret him as the slower of the two students. He therefore made sure "never to let Carter get a better mark than I did in any subject, any year, any month!"

John was also a hard worker in the Boy Scouts, winding up as an Eagle Scout with bronze, gold, and silver palms and some 50 merit badges.

The Depression was in full swing during his high school years, and, like almost all other families, the Simpsons made do with very little. Most of John's entertainment then consisted of athletics and dancing. There usually was a party every weekend at some girl's house, he says, where the chief ingredients were "lemonade and a Victrola." The Simpsons lived near a girls' college where they had permission to use the tennis courts and the swimming pool. John also played a lot of basketball and baseball and participated on the high school track team as high jumper—"a very poor one," he says.

### Higher education

John and Carter wanted very much to go to college but the family had no money. John stood number two in his class and thus just missed receiving the one scholarship awarded to the class. The lack of money did not deter the Simpsons, however, as their father took the two fledgling scholars to the dean of Wofford College in Spartanburg and after what must have been a very persuasive talk the dean enrolled the young men for the coming semester with an understanding that they could ignore their tuition bills.

Meanwhile, both John and Carter sought appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy. They attended Wofford for a semester and then both enlisted on the same day in the Marine Corps. This was in 1933, just about the time Roosevelt had taken office and the bank holiday was in force. For John, the appointment to the Naval Academy was to come just as he had completed his three-month training program at Parris Island, on the eve

of the day on which he was to leave to go to sea school at Norfolk Naval Yard. The younger brother remained in the Corps but persisted in his efforts to get an appointment and finally after some two years' effort got into the Academy as one of 50 men appointed from enlisted ranks.

The years at Annapolis were good ones for John Simpson. "Making friends wherever he goes, always lending a helping hand, a better roommate cannot be found"—thus was he described in the Academy's yearbook, *The Mail Bag*. Next to the brief write-up on "his" page a picture shows Simpson suspended artfully over the sidehorse, his specialty on the gym team. Simpson comments that when he went to the Naval Academy he was determined to get a letter, "and so I looked around for a sport that nobody else knew anything about either." He became a creditable performer on the sidehorse, earning an "N" star for being on the team that beat West Point. He also won a third or fourth place medal in the Eastern Inter-Collegiate tournament against competitors from MIT, Springfield, Temple, Army, Princeton, and others.

Simpson graduated with honor from the Academy in 1937 with a BS in engineering. He did not receive a commission, however, because in the final year at the Academy he developed near-sightedness and could not pass the eye examination for a commission. He first failed the physical in the mid-winter and was told that he could take the exam again in April. He went to a specialist in New York, did eye exercises, and even memorized the eye charts in an effort to pass the exam the second time. He also rested his eyes during this period by prevailing upon his roommate to read his lessons to him. But when he went to take the test again, the examiners had cut several random holes in a sheet of paper and placed this over the eye chart, thus foiling his strategy for reading the chart by memory. The failure to obtain a commission came as a bitter disappointment to Simpson—particularly in view of the fact that he had a brother and three cousins at the Academy at that time.

Before describing John's entry into his professional career, it might be well to comment further on Carter Simpson, who had been such a strong influence in John's life. After his own years at the Naval Academy (he was in the same class as Lou Roddis, another former ANS president), Carter went on to the Fourth Regiment of Marines in Shanghai and was there when the war broke out between Japan and the United States. He was

evacuated to the Philippines, fought on Bataan with such distinction as to win the Navy Cross, was captured at Corregidor, and died from starvation and exposure on a prison ship. John has in his possession a diary that Carter kept all through his prison camp days, providing, in Simpson's words, "an excellent psychological study of the problems of command in a prison camp."

### Getting started at Westinghouse

Simpson went directly from the Naval Academy to Westinghouse Electric Corporation. He started in the Switchgear Division along with another member of his class at Annapolis, Joe Rengel. The two young men were to be close associates throughout their respective careers at Westinghouse. They began as roommates in the graduate student course that Westinghouse puts its new men through. In the Switchgear Division, Simpson worked in engineering, Rengel in marketing.

His budding career at Westinghouse was threatened momentarily in May of 1938, when the market dropped out a second time. Simpson, like many others, was laid off at Westinghouse. It was a hard time for the young engineer, for although he seemed to many prospective employers to have the right credentials, they were afraid that as soon as things picked up again at Westinghouse he would be rehired. One day he conveyed his dilemma to people he knew in the middle management at Westinghouse and evidently was quite persuasive, for he was back at work the next day.

He held various positions in the Switchgear Division between 1938 and 1949, and was instrumental in assuring that electrical switchboards and related equipment supplied by Westinghouse to the Navy survived the extreme shocks and impacts aboard Navy vessels during World War II. In recognition of this work, Simpson received the Navy Certificate of Merit.

Simpson continued his education, studying at the University of Pittsburgh at night and earning a master's degree in engineering from the University in 1941. Among other things that he studied at that time was a course in atomic physics, which later was to prove instrumental in his being selected by Westinghouse to work in the area of nuclear energy.

During the war years schedules ran very heavy for Simpson, and there was a great deal of overtime put in. When the war ended, however, the work suddenly fell off as all contracts with the Navy were cancelled. At this point Simpson received an interesting assignment. The Navy want-

ed him to go to Japan as a member of a Navy Technical Mission to investigate the electrical manufacturers who had participated in the Japanese war effort and to determine the inter-relationship between the manufacturers and the Japanese Navy Department. Simpson accepted this assignment and spent six weeks in Japan, beginning in November 1945. Working with an interpreter, he visited various factories and naval installations, some in areas where the U.S. Occupation Forces had not yet arrived. It was an interesting experience indeed.

### The Oak Ridge years

In 1946 Simpson was among a select group of men chosen by Westinghouse (others included Joe Palladino, Sidney Siegel, Bruce Ashcraft, Ernie Miller, and Phil Ross) to spend some time at Oak Ridge, Tenn., on an important government project. At the laboratory, then known as the Clinton Laboratory, Simpson was part of the team organized by C. Rogers McCullough to build the gas-cooled power reactor known as the Daniels Pile. He attended the first "Reactor Technology" school, which was under the direction of Fred Seitz. Among his other professors were Al Weinberg, L. W. Nordheim, Harry Soodak, and A. O. Allen. This was not a credit course since one of the prerequisites for being in it was a doctor's degree. Simpson was allowed into the program as an exception since he had done a good bit of graduate work. During his stay at Oak Ridge he also took graduate math courses at the University of Tennessee extension there. As a result, Simpson has the equivalent of a doctor's degree in math engineering except for a dissertation.

Although he was not a physicist, Simpson was placed in charge of reactor physics and control for the Daniels Pile project. As one of his contributions on the project, he was a co-inventor of the first analog computer for solving multi-group diffusion theory equations for reactor neutron flux. This was in 1947 before digital computers were widely used.

The Daniels Pile, as is well known, was abandoned when it became apparent that the project was a bit too ambitious in view of the limited state of the art at that time. Simpson explains, "We had no reactor physicists. The theory was that these smart guys at Argonne had it all set, and all we had to do was put together a little engineering, and we would have it done. But it didn't work out that way. I don't know how we could have been so stupid as to have thought it could. The project was abandoned

because it was obvious that sufficient basic technical information was not available for the project to be successful. We were building a 2,200-degree beryllium-oxide-moderated gas-cooled reactor. We talk about high-temperature gas-cooled reactors today! They don't even come close to 2,200 degrees. We didn't know anything about corrosion resistance of the materials. We didn't know the nuclear constants. We didn't begin to know about the cross section of the build-up of the fission products over a time. As a matter of fact, we didn't know some of those things until we went down into the '50s." Another factor, Simpson adds, that led to the decision to drop the project was that Vice Adm. Hyman Rickover was anxious to go on to something else—specifically, work on a water-cooled reactor.

About this time it was also decided that Argonne would be the seat of all reactor design for the Atomic Energy Commission, and so some of the group, including Joe Palladino, went on to Argonne, but Simpson decided to return to Westinghouse. He felt that at that time there was much indecision about which way to go with nuclear power and that he might find himself in the position of spending a lot of time on this work but not ever getting anywhere.

Besides the work experience garnered during these two years at Oak Ridge, the period was fortuitous in at least two other respects for John Simpson. For one thing, it happened that he shared quarters with Admiral Rickover. Although the two men had known each other previously—as early as 1940, when Rickover was a lieutenant commander and in charge of the electrical section of the Bureau of Ships, the major customer of Westinghouse's Switchgear Division—they became well acquainted with each other both personally and professionally at Oak Ridge.

Another personal relationship of considerably deeper moment to John Simpson began in Oak Ridge where he met Miss Esther Slattery of Middleport, N.Y. They were brought together on a blind date arranged by Comdr. Jim Dunford, a member of Rickover's staff. She had come to Oak Ridge to visit friends who were with Tennessee Eastman (Y-12). This was after she had completed 26 months of service as a nurse in the 23rd General Hospital during the war, where her duties took her from Casablanca to Anzio and then into Belgium, France, and Germany, sometimes into the very front lines of Allied invading forces. A very adventurous person, she was also licensed as a private pilot. She





Royalty at Bettis: Simpson with Rickover and visitor Queen Frederika of Greece

decided to stay in Oak Ridge and do industrial nursing there. In January 1948, some 16 months after they met, John and Esther were married.

### Back to Westinghouse

Returning to Pittsburgh with his bride of six months, Simpson reentered the Switchgear Division, but only for a period of a few months before he was called again to resume nuclear work. It seems that Westinghouse had laid its groundwork well at Oak Ridge in preparing for a nuclear future. Rickover, Dunford, and Roddis, returning to the Bureau of Ships, were actively planning for the construction of atomic-powered submarines. Phil Ross of the Oak Ridge group was sent by Westinghouse to Philadelphia and was instrumental in obtaining a contact for Westinghouse with the Bureau of Ships to do the secondary plant for a nuclear submarine. With the landing of this contract, Westinghouse instituted its Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, and John Simpson was in on the ground floor, being named assistant manager of engineering. Ross served as assistant director of research.

It was a challenging project for the Bettis group since no one had ever built a steam turbine to operate under water before. The project involved questions like what to do with the relief valves and how to build a condenser that would stand deep submergence. General Electric Company, by the way, at the same time had its Genie project, which was a sodium-cooled secondary system. GE had gotten its sodium experience in its work on an intermediate breeder. Westing-

house thus devoted its energies in the direction of a water-cooled reactor.

Simpson says of the work at Bettis that he and his boss, Bob Bowman, now a vice president of Bechtel Corporation, "sort of divided things up," with Simpson handling the nuclear work and the planning, while Bowman handled the thermal and condenser design. Then they brought in another man to replace Bowman, Simpson explains, and the new man and the Admiral did not get along, and so he had to leave. He was followed by another man who also did not get along with the Admiral. Meanwhile, Simpson was taking responsibility for setting up a system to make sure that everything was being designed in due course and that the development work was going forward on schedule. When officials would come from headquarters, it was Simpson, even though only in the capacity of assistant engineering manager, who explained to them the progress being made at the Laboratory. The situation became quite sticky and led to Simpson's appointment as assistant manager of the Laboratory in 1952.

In this position Simpson had staff responsibility but not line responsibility. Admiral Rickover, however, let Simpson know that he held him responsible for the technical operations. To compensate for his lack of line responsibility, Simpson had chairmanship over a technical committee as well as approval power over the budgets at Bettis, thus essentially giving him line responsibility. After a year or so he was formally given line responsibility.

### Problems and solutions

Work on the Mark I prototype of the Nautilus progressed, but not without problems. Simpson explains, "Along about March of 1953 things really had just gone to hell in our communications with the test site [at the National Reactor Testing Station near Idaho Falls]. We had gone critical but we had so many things to get done. . . . The Navy Department was getting unhappy, and a lot of guys in the Defense Department were getting unhappy, and so was the Admiral. Any time the reactor scrambled or anything went wrong, we had to have a big to-do to settle things." At this time Rickover set up a three-man group, consisting of Simpson, Bob Panoff in Washington, and Bill Turnbaugh, who was Rickover's man at Bettis. If anything didn't go exactly according to plan at Idaho, the three-man group would have to agree on the next step to be taken. "And things did happen in the middle of the night," Simpson says. "I was on the phone half the night most nights. It just turned out we were making no progress under that system."

Simpson finally decided that the only way to handle the situation was to go to the test site and stay there for a while. He took with him several very able men so that they could make decisions on the spot. Among these were Sid Krasik (physicist), Paul Cohen (chemist), Dick Cunningham (electrical), and Berny Langer (mechanical). The Westinghouse contingent stayed there for some three months, until the Mark I was brought up to power.

"Of course, a million incidents happened during that time," Simpson explains, "some that can be repeated and some that can't." He says that they would never have been able to build the reactor if any regulatory body or reactor safeguards group were operating back at that time. For one thing, they ran critical with the head off. On the day he decided to go to power, when the Admiral walked in to the laboratory, Simpson told him, "We're taking it up." The Admiral said, "Do you think you are ready?" Simpson: "Sure." So the Admiral said, "Okay, let's go." So they pulled the rods and, as Simpson recalls, "Of course, we scrambled." He adds, "But after a while we didn't scram anymore. It would be impossible to describe how we kept from scrambling, but we made sure it didn't scram."

Initially Simpson's team and the Navy team decided to run 48 hours at full power. It was during this test at power that Simpson got a call from his wife, who was shortly expecting their third child. She said, "Guess where I am?" John didn't have to guess too long. He knew she was in the hospital, a week ahead of schedule. He was not directly involved in the Mark I power demonstration at that point and so flew immediately back to Pittsburgh. No sooner had he arrived, however, than he got a call from Rickover, who said, "Things are in terrible shape. We've just got to make a demonstration that really means something. A run at 100 hours—that would really have appeal."

It must be explained that back in those days money was quite tight and there were many strong people in the Navy who did not believe in the idea of the Nautilus ("a nice toy but it will never be practical"). Simpson agreed with the desirability of the 100-hour run.

So while seeing his wife through her travail, he was also repeatedly on the phone seeing the Mark I crew through its travail. At about 60 hours a representative of Rickover's crew told him, "We've got leaks, we think we're cutting through the condenser. We've got steam generator leaks, and we're getting radioactivity in the condenser." Simpson refused to be alarmed, however, and got on the phone with Krasik and Cunningham, who said something to the effect that "these guys are just scared, there is nothing wrong. We can keep going." So Simpson told the other men, "I think we had better keep going." The next day Simpson received another call from Rickover's people, who said that they would make a formal protest unless the reactor was shut down immediately. Simpson

said, "Well, why don't you talk to the Admiral?" Simpson says they did, and the Admiral told them, "John's running it." And so the 100-hour run was completed and proved to be the kind of demonstration that was necessary to prove the concept and to insure the development of nuclear propulsion on a timely basis.

The Bettis Laboratory went on to design and build nuclear propulsion plants for the *Nautilus*, the *USS George Washington*, the first Polaris-carrying nuclear submarine, and the *USS Longbeach* and *Enterprise*, the first nuclear surface ships.

In 1953, Westinghouse received a contract from the AEC for the Shippingport nuclear reactor project, replacing the cancelled aircraft carrier project. By 1954, Simpson had working for him over 1,000 engineers and scientists, and it was decided that the operation would be more effective if it were reorganized along project lines. As manager of the Shippingport project, he was given complete charge of the R&D and design. In 1955, when the Shippingport project was well under way he was named general manager of the Bettis Laboratory, and Rengel was named as his successor as project manager for Shippingport. Three years later, in 1958, Simpson was elected a vice president of Westinghouse.

### Rockets and fireworks

One of the most exciting—and controversial—stages of Simpson's career came in 1959 when he organized the company's Astronuclear Laboratory. Initially suggested as an operation for Bettis, the idea of going into the rocket business was turned down by Admiral Rickover. Simpson had convinced the top management, headed by Mark Cresap, president of Westinghouse, to go ahead with a nuclear rocket program, however, and they asked him if he would be willing to leave Bettis and take over the program. He said he would if he could take with him five key people, Krasik, Cunningham, Frank Cotter, Walt Esselman, and Lloyd Kramer. Approval was given, and the Astronuclear Laboratory was born.

Rickover hit the ceiling over Simpson's departure. He threatened to take the issue to the National Security Council. A big submarine contract was removed from Bettis and given to GE. Mark Cresap spent every day for two weeks in Washington visiting Senators and Congressmen and others in an effort to hold the lid on. As a crowning blow, Rickover is said to have persuaded John McCone to write Cresap a letter saying that he just wanted to

let him know that he thought it was only fair when they were starting this new venture to say that there was no place in the AEC's future plans for an operation such as the one they were forming. "Which says your only customer wishes you would dry up and go away," Simpson muses.

In spite of this inherent obstacle, Simpson built up the Astronuclear group, got good people, and "worked like hell and put on a real good technical presentation." In the end both the AEC and NASA were convinced that Westinghouse had the superior program, and the contract for the NERVA rocket went to Astronuclear. The contract was awarded in 1961. The Laboratory ultimately was built up to 1,800 people, and although the NERVA program has been put on the back burner at a very low budget, the Laboratory still is in operation seeking terrestrial application for the high-specific-power reactor.

Concurrent with his direction of the Astronuclear Laboratory, Simpson was appointed general manager of Westinghouse's newly formed Atomic Power Divisions, which were in the throes of developing the company's then-modest commercial nuclear power plant market. By 1962, when the commercial nuclear power activities and the space reactor programs were proceeding smoothly, Simpson was promoted to vice president for engineering and research for the corporation as a whole. This brought him to the headquarters offices at Gateway. In this position, he had staff responsibility for all the engineering in the corporation, including consumer products and everything else. He also had line responsibility for Westinghouse's Central Research Laboratory. At that time he sat on the Advisory Committee and the Capital Expenditure Committee and served as an adviser to the president on things the corporation should be doing in the future in the technical area.

This position was to last for less than one year. When Mark Cresap died in 1963, D. C. Burnam succeeded him as president of Westinghouse and named Simpson group vice president of the Electric Utility Group. In 1969 the corporation was reorganized into four company-like structures, one of which is the Power Systems Company, over which Simpson was appointed as president. This is his present position. Among those reporting to Simpson are Joe Rengel, executive vice president in charge of Nuclear Energy Systems; G. C. Hurlbert, executive vice president of Power Generation; and M. J. McDonough, executive vice president of Transmission &



Portraits of a family: The Simpson children (l. to r.), Carter and John, Barbara and Patricia; Esther; Dad and his girls

Distribution. All in all, there are some 21 organizational units that make up the Power Systems Company, which has worldwide manufacturing and marketing responsibilities. Simpson also serves as a member of the board of directors of Westinghouse.

Simpson brings to his wide range of duties and responsibilities—embracing such areas as gas turbines, heat transfer equipment, cooling towers, 1,100-kV transformers, capacitors, and nuclear—the skilled attention of a man who remains an engineer, a technical man. He has enough knowledge in each of the fields he's responsible for to be able to give any of the technical people involved a complete grilling so that he is sure that they are sure of their own ground.

He is credited with much of the success that Westinghouse has enjoyed in the light-water reactor business of the past few years and for the extension of Westinghouse's operations abroad. He was personally involved in bringing off the agreement between Westinghouse and the French Schneider and Creusot-Loire groups for the establishment of a newly organized version of the French company Fram-

atome, as well as the establishment in France of a nuclear fuel manufacturing company, Eurofuel. Simpson proved to be a skillful negotiator in this activity, meeting on several occasions with members of the French companies involved, officials of Electricité de France, and members of the French Ministry of Industry.

Simpson played a key role, too, in one of the great successes of the past year for Westinghouse: being named lead manufacturer for the first U.S. LMFBR demonstration plant. The contract for this project is still being eagerly awaited, but Simpson feels that an agreement is soon to be reached.

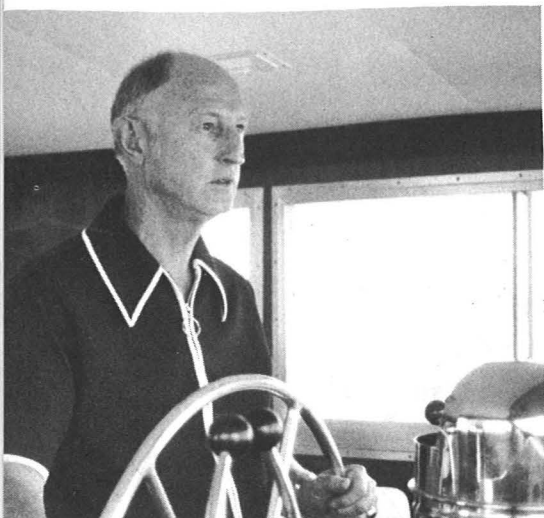
Concerning his own plans for the future, Simpson is intent on maintaining a relationship with the energy field and the nuclear business beyond October 1, 1974, when, under the terms of a newly instituted policy at Westinghouse, the members of the corporation's top management must step down at the age of 60 and either go into retirement or serve the corporation in an advisory role. Simpson says he intends to participate on advisory committees, such as those of the Academy of Engineering, and to work on

government committees where his assistance might be solicited. He will also continue to maintain contact with Westinghouse's foreign affiliates, where he will remain on some of their boards. Other activities will include work as an officer or committee member for various technical societies to which he belongs.

#### Family life and other interests

The Simpsons live in Upper St. Clair, Pa., an attractive suburb of Pittsburgh. Their four children range in age from 12 to 24. The eldest, John W., Jr., is a graduate of Point Park College and is currently working in a group of which he is part owner that leases duplicating machines and copy machines in Oakland, Pa., near Pittsburgh. A second son, Carter, 22, has graduated from Princeton with a degree in electrical engineering, and has just started at the University of Michigan Law School. Patricia Ann, 19, has now finished her sophomore year at Denison College in Ohio, where she is studying languages. She will take her third year in Paris at an extension of Hamilton College of New York. The youngest of the family is Barbara





Simpson at the helm of his cruiser and with his crew (l. to r.): Esther, John, Carter, Patricia, and Barbara



Joan, 12, about to enter eighth grade and, as her father is proud to point out, a fine catcher on a girls' softball team in the community.

The Simpson home is an attractive, but unpretentious three-story stone structure. Much of their time during the summer is spent at the swimming pool on the property, and on many an evening they get together a number of tables for bridge at pool side.

Simpson's interest in bridge goes way back to his Annapolis days. Also, while he was at Oak Ridge he and another bachelor, GE physicist Harry Stevens, were all too successful as partners in playing duplicate bridge. They won so often that the other players in the league, husbands and wives, considered their competition unfair and told them "either bring a girl or get out." This was, of course, before Simpson met the future Mrs. Simpson.

In addition to bridge, the Simpsons had taken up skiing, paddle tennis, ice skating, and other activities—usually, John says, initiated by his wife. She is very much an outdoors person and shares her husband's interest in golf, boating, and other such activities.

The Simpsons maintain three other homes besides the one in Upper St. Clair. They have a home in Hilton Head, S.C., north of Savannah—"the finest resort on the East Coast," according to Simpson. They also have a condominium at Amelia Island just northeast of Jacksonville, Fla., and another condominium on the southeast tip of Puerto Rico. All three of these residences are right on the beach. To make the set-up complete, Simpson recently bought a boat to provide

transportation back and forth between these homes. He said he got courage to buy the boat when Westinghouse announced its "stepdown at 60" policy. The vessel is a 58-foot Hatteras triple-cabin cruiser, equipped with twin 12V71 diesel engines. It sleeps eight and is capable of 22 knots. A captain and mate are retained full time to operate the boat, which Simpson charts to help defray the expenses.

Among his other activities, Simpson is very much involved in education. He is a trustee of Seton Hill College and of Point Park College as well. He also feels much in debt to Wofford College for getting him started in college back in the '30s and intends to

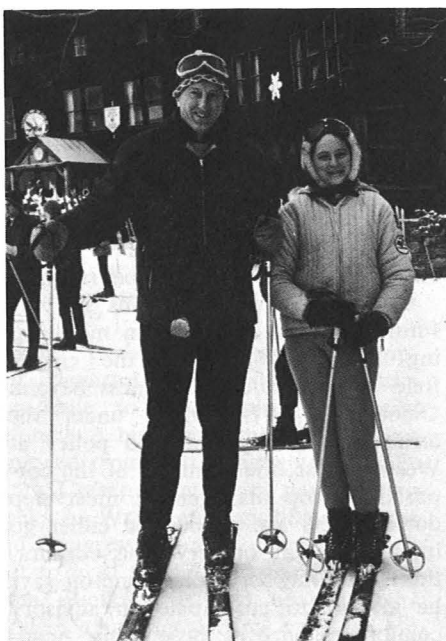
build up a scholarship fund at Wofford in honor of his brother. Simpson received an honorary doctor of science degree from Wofford last May and made the graduation speech there this year. He also holds an honorary doctor of science degree from Seton Hill College.

### Honors and awards

In January 1963 Simpson was named Pittsburgh's "Man of the Year in Engineering" by the Pittsburgh Jaycees. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in April 1966. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He is also a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineering and of the Atomic Industrial Forum. In 1971 he was awarded the Edison Medal by the IEEE. He was a member of the board of the Power Equipment Division of the National Electric Manufacturers Association.

Other honors: He gave the Second Samuel P. Langley Memorial Lecture at the University of Pittsburgh, and received Westinghouse's Order of Merit award for outstanding achievement. He has been chosen to receive the American Society for Metals' 1973 Medal for the Advancement of Research. This will be presented to him in October of this year.

All in all, John Simpson stands out as an energetic, accomplished man of a stature that will serve him well in his year as president of the American Nuclear Society.—C.F.



On the slopes with Patty