

Gary Huber 'manages what he understands'

by Cynthia Worsham

His hobby is amateur radio, and he continues to look for new countries to contact and new communication techniques to try. Who better then to hold the title of staff assistant in Electronic Communications Systems than **Gary Huber**, who celebrates his last day in the office Sept. 30.

Gary's guiding philosophy is "you can't manage what you don't understand." But that's no problem for Gary because he definitely understands his business.

In 1979 Gary began his State Farm career in the Administrative Services Maintenance Department. A year later he transferred to his



Gary Huber

current position in the Technical Services Unit of Administrative Services.

Gary says the biggest change he's seen in his 23 years with the

Company is in communications and computing.

"Before personal computers, desk phones were shared and there was not a terminal on every desk. E-mail was limited and done via mainframe TSO. Correspondence was mostly on paper and if you needed a quick response, you had to fax your letters."

A highlight of Gary's career was receiving one of the first five IBM personal computers delivered to State Farm in the early '80s.

The electronic communications projects Gary has helped manage include:

- installation of The "Tail End Hop Off" in the regional offices' PBX telephone systems to reduce expenses for the

ECHO agents' computer system;

- development of a PBX management tool called Trouble Tracker with Bell Labs;
- installation of standard radio systems in all regional offices;
- development of paging and cell phone applications;
- buying and installing the first privately owned iDEN radio system in the world and the corporate campus "Harmony" Wireless Communication System.

"It has been a pleasure to know and work with Gary," says Senior Vice President **Willie Brown**.

"Gary has always been a man of his word and always put the best interests of State Farm first."

"Gary's commitment to do the right thing is prevalent at work, but also carries over into his commitment to his family and community," says co-worker **Cal Gowen**.

Taking family vacations and being "house husband" until his

wife Linda retires are among Gary's immediate retirement plans. **Linda Huber** is an analyst in the Systems Department.

Their younger daughter, Lynne, is a leased employee in Technical Services at State Farm. Valerie, their older daughter, lives and works in Galesburg. Gary and Linda are the legal guardians of their two grandchildren, Michael and Jenni.

Gary also will continue his volunteer work with the Boy Scouts and help his granddaughter with Girl Scout activities. ♡

Reception

Co-workers, family and friends are invited to Gary Huber's retirement reception Sept. 30 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Room SA-440 at Corporate Headquarters.

Gene Dunham retires Sept. 30

Gene Dunham, an analyst in Systems, invites family, friends and co-workers to his retirement reception Sept. 26 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. in J-100 at Corporate South. Gene's last day in the office is Sept. 30.