

PG&E - Marketing & Communications | Billy Atkins' Historic 70 Years of Service

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I got out of the service in July the 20th of 1952. 10 days later, I'm working for PG&E. That was a big day.

I came to work here because of the career. That's what you wanted. Technicians are vital to this company. When we started out, we didn't have the big fancy equipment you have. We had a carbon pile, an amp meter, and a timer.

Well, what's kept me here, I like to work and I like the challenges. And I like to be taught. And I like to teach. I would still go back to work for PG&E.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Doing a video today?

Something like that.

I'm on it, right on.

There you go. See, this is my little domain right here.

Let's see it, OK. How long has this been your domain?

Oh, probably, I would say probably 15 years.

That's amazing.

Yeah.

Oh wow, tell me about this.

This is my first piece of test equipment that I learned to learn to work with right here.

All right.

And all that thing was--

Yeah, what is this? This is what they call a carbon pile. And this was what a technician had. You did primary relays with this. You tested relays with a load and transformer and all that stuff. So you can see how far they've come. Now they've got little push buttons, you don't have to know anything.

These things here, those are the GE relays right here that we have beaucoups of. And we're getting new ones like 451s and things like that. The modern version is the stuff we got over here now.

Over here?

Those doubles, and you've got a three-face double over there too. It can tell you everything you want to know.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I enjoy my career. I think working with all the people I work with and actually learning from the younger people now that have more knowledge on the latest stuff, helps me along. And then I help them along with the old stuff. Things are coming along. I'm getting older, I'm getting slower. But these other guys pick up the slack.

You sure don't seem that slow to me, Billy.

Well, yeah, sometimes I have to slow myself down. That's what they tell me. But I like the work. I enjoy it.

I really enjoy working with people. That's a very important thing with me. Because this is what makes the company. And then the company is the people here that make the company.

Amen. I heard I had a boss who used to say, every utility has pipes and wires. The difference between utilities is the people.

That's true. That's very true. Well, I tell you-- I've been here a long time. But I've met some awful quality people and worked with a lot of good people. So I don't attribute all my being here without help from others and giving help.

I mean, he reminds me of my father. I've learned a lot today on many fronts. But Billy, you might have to stand up for this part.

OK, I'll do it.

OK, sorry.

I'll stand up.

I want to make I got this.

It's not a booby trap, is it?

No sir, no sir. Billy, 70 years of service, we're so grateful for you, so grateful for your dedication and your straight talk and your smarts. And I hope that you and Rose Marie have many, many more beautiful years together.

Thank you for all you do for the company. I'm glad you're sticking around a little longer too. Congratulations.

Thank you very much.

Please, will you open that? I think the guys will like seeing it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Whoa! Oh boy, that's pretty.

What's it say?

It says, "William 'Billy' Atkins Jr. Techshop Atkins, they call me.

Techshop Atkins!

That's what they call me.

That's nice. That's nice.

Thank you so much.

"With appreciation for a historic 70 years of service, thank you for your dedicated leadership and unwavering commitment to the company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, August 2022."

Thank you.

Thank you, Billy. Thank you so much.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]