

# Shellegram

Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

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## Ch. 11 Interviews Swofford

Channel 11 newscaster Bob Gist interviews refinery superintendent Ron Swofford about the impact of Iranian crude reduction on DPMC operations for the March 1 five o'clock newscast.

## Blood Drive Announced

Employees recently received in the mail information about the annual Blood Drive, which will be conducted by the Blood Center of Houston during March 20 through 23 at the chemical plant and during March 27 through 30 at the refinery.

The pamphlet included with that information explains how a donor receives credit for both the processing and recruitment fee for blood or blood components used by covered dependents (your legal tax dependents or two other persons named by you) in any Gulf Coast region hospital. Non-donors

are covered for the recruitment fee only.

In order to obtain these benefits, the DPMC, along with other Shell locations in Harris County, must achieve a 25 percent participation. So, take a minute now to complete the form and return it to Employee Relations. If you have misplaced your donor registration slip, you can obtain one from Joe Craft (7308) at chemical or from Phyliss Evans or Pat Meaux (6533) at the refinery.

Donor schedules are being prepared now, so please hurry and return your donor registration slip today.

## Tax Break For Older Americans

Everybody likes to get a tax break and at age 65 that's exactly what you get.

Actually, there are several tax breaks for persons 65 and over. The first concerns the requirement to file a tax return: single people 65 and over are not required to file at all unless their income for 1978 was \$3,700 or more. For married couples filing joint returns the limit is \$6,200 if both are at least 65.

Bear in mind, though, that the only way to get a refund is by filing. So if you had any tax withheld from money you received in 1978 you should file anyway to claim your refund.

For older Americans who are required to file, there is still some good news. One is the extra \$750 exemption, over and above the regular \$750 personal exemption to which each taxpayer is entitled. A married couple filing a joint return where both spouses are 65 or over can claim four exemptions for a total of \$3,000.

Note: For federal income tax purposes, a taxpayer is 65 on the day before his or her 65th birthday. Since a person's filing status is determined by their situation on the last day of the tax year, a taxpayer whose 65th birthday falls on January 1, 1979, can file as if he or she were 65 during 1978. Obviously this does not apply to many people, but if you are one of them, it's a nice piece of information to have.)

At retirement, which often begins at 65, many people sell their house and move to something a little smaller and easier to maintain.

To ease the bite on the profit which almost always results from the sale of a home, any gain from this type of sale is tax exempt if the adjusted selling price is not more than \$35,000. When the selling price exceeds \$35,000, at least part of the gain will still be nontaxable. The

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# Tax Breaks For Older Americans...

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only conditions are that the home must have been your principal residence for at least five of the previous eight years, and you can only exclude the gain once in your life.

Another way for older Americans to reduce their taxes is the Tax Credit for the Elderly. While many persons over 65 may not consider themselves "elderly," the fact remains that the credit can reduce their income taxes by as much as \$375 for singles and \$562.50 for married couples. Because it is a credit and not a deduction, this amount is subtracted directly from the taxes owed.

To qualify for the Credit for the Elderly you need to be a U.S. citizen, and if you are 65 or over you must have taxable income. Persons under 65 can qualify if they are retired and receiving taxable retirement income, such as from the federal government or from a school system.

IRS will lend a hand in computing the credit if you give them the information they need by filing a completed Schedule R or RP with your Form 1040. You cannot use the Form 1040A to receive the credit.

Much of the income received in retirement years, including social security payments, is free of federal income tax. Railroad retirement benefits are nontaxable, as are payments from a general welfare fund, such as payments for blindness.

For retirees receiving taxable pensions, Form W-4P provides for withholding at the source of the payments. This can help the retiree avoid having to pay estimated tax payments during the year.

The IRS has a number of free publications of interest to older Americans: Publication 17, "Your Federal Income

Tax"; Publication 523, "Tax Information on Selling or Purchasing Your Home"; Publication 524, "Tax Credit for the Elderly"; and Publication 554, "Tax Benefits for Older Americans."

These and many more free publications are stocked in most IRS offices. They are also available by mail using the order form that comes in the tax instructions. In addition to the booklets and IRS help, older Americans are offered free tax help by many community organizations and national retirement organizations. A local senior citizen's center can probably direct you to several such services.

## Campsite Brochure Available

Anyone interested in camping within the State of Texas should find the recently updated brochure put out by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department a valuable asset. The brochure is available to the public free upon request.

Entitled **Texas State Park Information**, brochure No. 4000-102, it lists each

park with address, telephone number and type of facilities available. Information also is given on fees and how to make campsite reservations.

To obtain a copy, write to: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Information-Education Division, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.



### Machinists Consult On Job

Machinists (1-r) Alvin Auzenne, Lloyd Smith, Tom Dickey and T.R. Bradley consult about what needs to be done to the connecting rod for a piston in one of "A" Department's compressors.

The compressor, originally installed in 1951, has been kept running by T.R. who has been assigned to "A" Department as its "machinist in residence."

### Architect Addresses Shell Wives' Club

Peter G. Papademetriou, a Houston architect, designer, editor, and author, will be the guest speaker at the Shell Wives' Luncheon Club's final meeting of the current season on Wednesday, April 4. His topic will be: "Houston Architecture, Past and Today."

Papademetriou is an associate professor of architecture at Rice University and president of Rice Design Alliance. He also is associated with Tall Architects. His presentation is expected to include a forecast of the future direction of the City of Houston.

The meeting will be held at The Houston Racquet Club, 10709 Memorial Drive (one block east of Voss) on April 4. A cash bar will open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon. The fee for the luncheon and lecture is \$8.50. Coordinators are Kay Thomas (467-2939) and Lily Smith (467-3530).

Reservations — and checks payable to Shell Wives' Luncheon Club — are being accepted by Carolyn Zentner, 12222 Broken Bough, Houston, Texas 77024.

## Tilting Toward Windmills

If young American adults could have their way in solving the nation's energy problem, the United States would become a land of windmills.

In an energy attitudes survey issued in December by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 66.4 percent of the young adults between 26 and 35 surveyed favored windmills over any other kind of energy producer to be located within 25 miles of their homes. After windmills, 59.3 percent preferred safe and nonpolluting large solar energy collectors, and 33.9 percent liked hydroelectric plants.

The survey was conducted in mid-1977 and involved 1,300 of the population born between 1941 and 1950. Participants were paid \$5 for filling out a booklet full of questions. Each also was interviewed in his or her home. The study was sponsored by NAEP as a project of the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Generally, those polled believe energy problems are very serious, but when asked to consider trade-offs between energy development and risks to the environment, they appeared to lean toward environmental protection.

Other findings included:

- Only 14 percent of the adults know that the largest portion of U.S. electrical energy is produced from coal.
- 30 percent mistakenly believe falling water is the principal electrical source.
- Only 16 percent know that coal, as well as crude oil, can be converted into gasoline.
- Less than half (49 percent) know that coal is the

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# Employee Tidbits

Maintenance South pipefitter **Sam West** says "Old Notch" won't let the turkeys get him down. Services specialty typist **Sandy Womack** recounts early marriage cooking experiences with pinto beans. Maintenance North carpenters **Tim Lively**, **Mike Whitaker** and **Robert Montez** scurry out of van that lost its drive shaft.

**Rich Higgins**, engineer, Resins, seeks missing three-bolt flange. Former DPMC employee **Margaret Netherland** heads up Geismar Plant's correspondence center. Purchasing assistant **Jane Dickerson** moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Maintenance North engineering foreman **H. W. "Duke" Ellington** celebrates 50th birthday by giving a gift instead of getting one.

Process manager, Specialities, **Gene**

**Eggers** reveals philosophic bent. Retired technologist **Marx Isaacs** quoted in Lynn Ashby's *Houston Post* column as being in Berlin when the wall went up in August 1961. **Hodge Raburn**, senior engineer, Process Control-Electrical, interviewed by *Chemical Processing* magazine. Benefits personnel supervisor **Frank Thompson** says things are bound to get better. Head stenographer **Ruth Close** hears from friend and former co-worker. Maintenance South carpenter **H.L. "Rod" Herrod** says if it will get a laugh, print it. **Bill Mabry**, senior E-R assistant, Scheduling, shares Brown Turkey starts.

Maintenance supervisor **Dale Williams** pleased with completion of "G" maintenance building. **Bink Lang**, manager, Services, introduces new boss, **Doug Meaden**.



## Partial Eclipse

**Emery Lindsey**, sergeant, Security, held a piece of welder's glass over the *Sellegram* editor's camera lens and this was the result of the partial solar eclipse the morning of February 26.

## CPS Celebrates Safety Record

CPS employees and their guests enjoyed the festivities at their recent safety party. Among those attending were **Wayne and Ladelle Callaway**, **Ann and Buddy Law**, **Martin and Patti Reim**, **Rosemary and Duane Marshall**.

# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

100cc Honda engine. \$50. 479-6082

Set of 12"x18" shrimp boards with stainless steel runners. \$15. 472-3018

Acre in San Jacinto County between Conroe and Cleveland, backs National Forest, high ground, lots of trees. \$2,495. 471-7098

Hawthorn 2-wheel fold-out camper, good tent, extends approx. 18'. \$400. 645-6540

1973 Malibu HT 2-door, air, P-S-B, one owner, no rust, 63,000 miles. \$1,600. 479-7573 after 5 p.m.

One-day garage sale, bedroom suite, couch, misc., Saturday, March 17. 1018 S. Johnson. 472-6979

3-2-2 brick home in Deer Park school district, new carpet, Beauty Pleat drapes throughout, corner lot, 107'x109'. Equity. 479-3961 after 5 p.m.

15x20x4 above ground swimming pool, sand filter, deck, all accessories. \$175. 479-0229

Ping Pong table with net and paddles. \$20. 15'x4' Muskin above ground pool, 1/2 hp 120V filter, all hoses and hardware, new heavy duty ladder, used one month. \$210. 479-4525

Year old green, male parakeet, new cage. \$10. 473-8720

Sears belt vibrator. \$25. 487-0278

1965 Oldsmobile F-85, not running, good car to work on, no parts missing, tires worth price asked. \$75. 946-6945

1974 Ford 1/2 ton F100, clean, camper cover, PS-B, auto, air. \$2,895. Classic 1933 Austin Salon coupe, right hand steering, restored, runs perfect, excellent condition, repair manual included. \$3,995. 1972 Cadillac coupe, clean, loaded, AM-FM cassette, 61,000 miles. \$1,695. 479-6957

1972 Ford Torino, P-S-B, air, V8. Make offer. 475-1569 after 5 p.m.

Bee Hive radio, excellent shape. Ladies drop front desk. Marble top washstand. 472-3048

1976 Brougham motor home, 360 CIN Dodge, cruise control, 19,000 miles, dash and roof air, power plant, AM-FM stereo, CB hookup, rear air shocks, rear and top luggage racks, split shower and stool, trailer hitch, awning. \$10,700. 487-3322 or 487-2607

1953 Chevy pickup, completely stock. \$1,500. 476-5560

9 1/2' Tejas cabover camper, 3 years old, self-contained. \$2,300. 487-2996

1973 CB 175 Honda, good condition, 2 helmets, luggage rack. \$350. 471-0174 after 5:30 p.m.

Mens 10-speed bike. \$40. Ladies 3-speed bike. \$25. Child's seat. \$5. 479-0229

C-6 transmission. \$85. 471-3008 after 4

Large handlebar wire basket for bicycle. \$5. Rear wheel wire saddle baskets for bicycle. \$5 for both. 471-5365 after 4 p.m.

## FOUND

Opal set in a heart necklace with gold chain on Resins walkway and a set of keys with yellow tag. Claim in room 151 of refinery administration building.

## PERSONALS

I would like to thank all my Shell friends for the nice retirement party and gifts. I will always treasure the beautiful plaque. The tractor-planter will be very useful. Please come by and visit us at our Waller farm.

- Welton and Earline Mehrkam

Have enjoyed working with you all, both at the Treaters and the Lube Plant. Thanks for the scroll, the rifle and scope. Thanks for the memories.

- J. W. "Moose" Mitchell

Thanks for everything. The retirement party was fun. Hope to see you as time permits.

- Harold Clore

The kindness shown me on my retirement was very much appreciated and will long be remembered. The chain saw and other tools will be put to good use at our future home in Union Ridge Community at Gilmer, Texas. The welcome mat will be out to you all.

- Don Kramer

# Windmills

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largest fossil fuel reserve in the country.

One irony in the findings is that although 95 percent of the adults know automobile emissions contribute heavily to air pollution, more than half report they would use a car to travel one-half mile or less.



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**Dotti West - Editor**