



shellegram

SHELL OIL COMPANY
HOUSTON REFINERY

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
HOUSTON PLANT

VOL. 25, No. 3

HOUSTON, TEXAS

MARCH, 1960

Laws Attends Shell Course In New York



J. H. Laws

J. H. Laws, Assistant Superintendent - Operations at the Houston Plant, is attending the eighth Shell Management Course, held from April 3 to April 29, 1960, at the Arden House on the Harriman Campus of Columbia University, about 50 miles north of New York City.

He is among the 30 managers from all Shell Companies throughout the United States, Canada and Royal Dutch/Shell Group who are participating in the four weeks of intensive study. Instructors for the course are Shell's top executives along with outside authorities in specialized fields of management's work.

Hortense Hines Is Secretary Of Industrial Nurses

Refinery Nurse Hortense Hines recently was elected secretary of membership for the Texas Association of Industrial Nurses. Her two-year term began with the annual meeting of the Association held this past February in San Antonio.

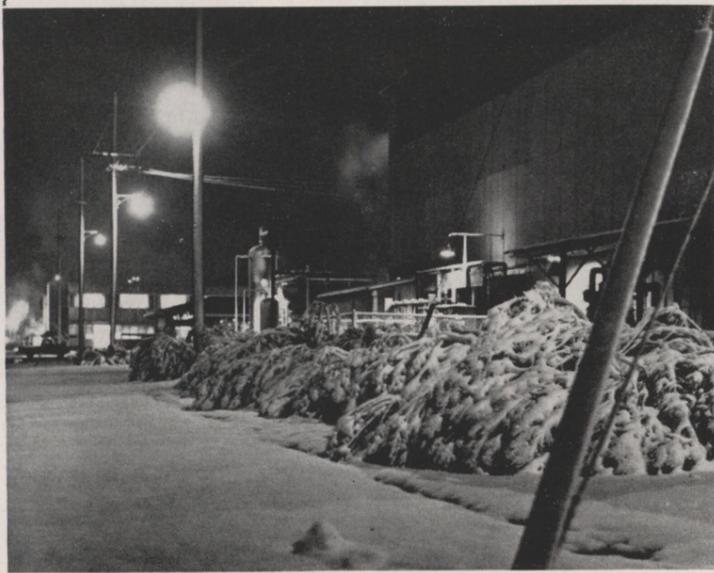
The Texas Association of Industrial Nurses is a statewide organization of registered nurses whose primary concern is directed toward industrial nursing. As one of the prerequisites for membership, a nurse must be employed full-time in this area of her profession. The Association numbers 165 members throughout the state, with 72 of this total comprising the membership of the local chapter—the Houston Area Industrial Nurses.

The Association participates in many worthwhile activities, both on a statewide and local basis. The Industrial Nurses are closely associated with the Red Cross in its disaster-aid program. Also, the nurses group sponsors a trainee through nurses' training as part of its program.

Also on the agenda of activities for Nurse Hines is a fall conference which will be held in Houston in October at the

See HINES, Page 2

REFINERY NIGHT SCENE



THIS UNUSUAL NIGHT SCENE of the Houston Refinery was taken by Photographer Al Locke during the one-day snow. More snow pictures are on Page 2.

Provident Fund To Pay 3.66% Rate For 1959 Thrift Accounts

Trustees of the Shell Provident Fund have authorized a distribution of 1959 earnings for credit to members' Thrift accounts at a rate of 3.66%.

The rate of return to Thrift account members announced for 1959 exceeds the 1958 rate of 3 3/8%, and continues the upward trend experienced in the last few years. In 1956 the interest rate was 3%, while in 1957 it was 3 1/4%.

"Ask For License," Advises Washmon Of Exterminators

If you have occasion to call for an exterminator this year, the Refinery's C. V. Washmon has some words of advice for you.

"Ask to see the operator's license before you allow him to enter your home," says Washmon, who recently was appointed to the six-member Pasadena Pest Control Commission.

"If the operator has been licensed by the Pest Control Commission, you can be sure he has been investigated," Washmon states. "Not only are his qualifications checked, but his personal background as well as that of his employees are screened before a license is issued."

A licensed operator must also carry liability insurance as a further safeguard for the customer, Washmon explained.

Another point made by Washmon concerns the Harris County Poison Center, where samples of poisons are kept

See WASHMON, Page 7

SERA Picnic Scheduled For June 4 At Shellwood

The 1960 SERA Picnic will be held June 4 at the SERA picnic grounds at Shellwood. This announcement was made following a special meeting of the SERA Board of Directors, recently.

Picnic chairman this year is Kemper Kaiser, Refinery P&IR Department. Assisting Kaiser as co-chairman is Juanita Price, Chemical Plant Treasury Department. Twice before, in 1953 and 1954, Kaiser served as the picnic chairman, so he is well prepared to lead this year's outing.

Already a number of chairmen have been named for the various activities and functions surrounding the picnic, and plans are now being formulated for a well-rounded program for the day.

Some of the chairmen already selected include W. W. Myers, Food Chairman; C. D. Fisher and J. W. Peters, Gate Chairmen; J. B. Floyd, Safety; T. K. Stewart and Dick Powell, Publicity; A. M. Yannazzo and Gloria Schamerhorn, Entertainment; J. W. Barber, Re-



Kemper Kaiser

Juanita Price

freshments and Dance; J. J. Dalehite, Finance; John Connolly, Ground Services and Facilities; Doc Coombs, a retiree will again be in charge of children's rides; and W. E. Lain will handle the police and parking.

Some of the activities planned for this year include children's rides, movies for the children, adult games, a beauty contest, and an entertainment program with a dance following it. A barbecue dinner is being planned by Food Chairman Myers.

The all-day picnic, which last year attracted over 6,000 people, is an annual highlight of the SERA, and is free to all SERA members and their families.

AND SUDDENLY IT'S SPRING



March was a month of many moods—wind, rain, cold . . . And then suddenly it was the first day of spring and with it, as if on key, came the warm sunshine. This is a season for outings, and it must be just such thoughts as these that tempt Darlene Farris of the Credit Union to take a picnic basket and enjoy the splendor that is springtime.

Grad Pictures To Be Carried In Shellegram

Once again the SHELLEGRAM will print graduation pictures of Shell sons and daughters in the June issue.

All employees at both the Refinery and Chemical Plant, who have sons and daughters who are graduating this year are invited to supply the SHELLEGRAM with a picture and biographical information about the graduate for use with our graduation round-up. If you have a son or daughter who graduates at mid-term this year or plans to graduate this spring from either high school or college, and you would like to see their picture included in our graduation group, you should send the picture to us by no later than May 15.

The picture may be of any size. Black and white glossy prints are preferred, though color pictures may be used. The graduates may be in cap and gown or in street clothes. Do not write on the photograph, include the biographical information on a separate sheet of paper.

Information submitted with the picture should include the

See GRADUATES, Page 2

SERA Quintet Finishes Season

The Shell Refinery SERA basketball team closed out the 1959-1960 season with a trophy-case full of awards.

Three trophies were won by this year's team, bringing to a conclusion a superb season which included the championship of the Pasadena Industrial League, runner-up honors in the annual Pasadena Invitational Tournament, and second-place in the TAAF state play-offs tournament held in Pasadena.

In the closing games of the Pasadena Industrial League the Shell men needed two victories over a tough Texas Butadiene team to take the league title. The locals responded with two decisive victories, the first by a 66-44 count and the finale by a score of 55-47.

As league champions, the team advanced to the regional play-offs in Pasadena where Shell won a thrilling 67-65 victory over M & H Cleaners in an overtime game. In the championship contest Shell dropped a tough 71-63 game to the Diamond Alkali team.

The top scorer for Shell throughout the season in league play and during the play-offs was L. W. Gray, who meshed 124 points. D. R. Wolf followed closely with a total of 114 points for the season. Others to score well for the year were D. L. Murphy with 73 points, C. E. Taylor with 65 points, and J. C. Nichols with 49 points.



JOHNNY AND JIMMY Atkinson, teenage step-sons of Chemical Plant's P. G. Sparr, enjoyed an old-fashioned "snow fight" at the San Jacinto Battlegrounds.

THE SNOW WHICH FELL ON THE HOUSTON area recently created a photographer's paradise. Here are a few scenes made unusual by the addition of the white blanket at the Refinery and Chemical Plant. In the second picture, bottom row, Refinery Research's Elizabeth Allen tries to catch the falling snow from the coat of Research's F. H. Lyons. In the next picture, those inevitable "footprints in the snow."

Roy D. Plaisance Is "King Bee" For Thousands Of Honey Bees

A small, but popular booth at the recent Houston Fat Stock Show was the one manned by the Harris County Beekeepers Association. Only one of three free booths released by the Stock Show for exhibits this year, the display of bees and bee hives drew the constant attention of the daily visitors to the show.

One of the men who helped with the bee exhibit was R. D. Plaisance, Refinery Engineering. Roy is the immediate past president of the Beekeepers Association and an avid beekeeper himself since he began the hobby in 1922.

The Beekeepers' exhibit included two observation hives made of safety glass, making it possible to watch the swarms of bees more closely. Roy says that most people were interested in seeing the "Queen Bee", the unquestioned supreme leader of the bee world. To help the public distinguish the "Queen",

the Beekeepers marked her with different colors. Then, Roy says, many wanted to see the "King Bee" — and they were quite surprised to learn there is no "King" in the bee kingdom, only a "Queen".

Roy says he keeps four hives in his back yard, and his yield from these hives is about 25 gallons of honey each year.

Asked the number of bees usually found in one hive, Roy said that an average hive houses around 40,000 bees, but a good strong hive might have as many as 75,000 or 80,000 bees.

With such a terrific number of bees to be concerned with, it would seem a fitting conclusion at this point to be able to report that Roy has never been stung by one of his little bees. But, quite the contrary, Roy says his bees do sting — and painfully — and he has been stung by them many, many times.

Conett Closes 23-Year Career With Retirement From Refinery

Alvin Conett closed out a 23-year Shell career March 1 with his retirement from the Refining Dispatching Department.

Though he has made no long-range plans for the lei-

sure days which lie ahead, he does plan to continue living in Houston at his 4618 Blossom address.

Hired in July 1936, Conett first worked as a laborer in the Refinery Engineering Field. In June 1937 he transferred to Loading & Unloading as a loader, and with the exception of a few months in 1938, the remainder of his Shell career was associated with the Dispatching Department.

In August 1941 Conett began working as a temporary rack foreman, and in June 1943 he became a permanent assistant rack foreman. Since September 1954 Conett worked as a rack foreman, his classification at the time of his retirement.



Alvin Conett



R. D. PLAISANCE, left, stands in the Harris County Beekeepers Association exhibition booth at the recent Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo. With him is another beekeeper, M. A. Bouknight. By displaying the bees the Beekeepers Association hoped to stimulate interest in the art of beekeeping.

Graduates —

(Continued From Page 1)

full name of the student and the parents, full information concerning school honors and activities, and information about future plans such as college preference, choice of major in college, or employment student expects to pursue.

The pictures can be delivered in person to the SHELLEGRAM office in the Central Shops at the Refinery or to the Employee Communication office in the Main Office Building at the Chemical Plant. They may also be mailed to the SHELLEGRAM, P. O. Box 2527, Houston 1, Texas.

All photographs will be returned unharmed.

Hines —

(Continued From Page 1)

Rice Hotel. The conference, sponsored by the local chapter and will attract nurses from all parts of Texas for the two day meeting. Hortense will serve as the chairman of the promotion committee for the convention.

One other Refinery nurse, Laura Perry, is also a member of the T. A. I. N.



REFINERY NURSE Hortense Hines recently took office as secretary of membership for the T. A. I. N.



SHELL OIL COMPANY • SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
HOUSTON REFINERY • HOUSTON PLANT

T. K. STEWART, Editor

Staff Photographers: Sam Davis, Al Locke

Published monthly for employees of Shell Oil Company, Houston Refinery and Shell Chemical Company, Houston Plant. Contributions of articles and photographs are welcomed. Address all communications to EDITOR, SHELLEGRAM, Shell Oil Company, P. O. Box 2527, Houston 1, Texas.

Tomlinson Named Rack Foreman In Refinery Dispatching Dept.

U. M. Tomlinson, a veteran of almost 20 years in the Refinery Dispatching Department, has been named rack

foreman, replacing Alvin Conett who retired March 1.

Tomlinson began his Shell career in February 1941 when he was employed as a general helper in the Engineering Field. In May 1941 he transferred to the Dispatching Department as a loader.

In May 1942 he became a rackman, and in December 1942 he left the Refinery on a military leave of absence. After almost three years Tomlinson returned in October 1945. His military service was with the United States Coast Guard, where he served as a Seaman Second Class.

Since 1946 Tomlinson has worked in temporary assignments as an assistant foreman in Dispatching.



U. M. Tomlinson



HIGH in the air goes Bernean Cole (in white uniform) as the La Porte girls begin their game with Santa Fe. Linda Herrmann is the La Porte player standing nearest the camera. The referee is the Refinery's L. C. Henson.



W. O. CHILDS, who was one of the Bulldog's top scorers this year, makes a jump-shot in this game against Deer Park early in the season. These pictures were taken by J. R. Herrmann of the Refinery.

LaPorte Boys, Girls Basketball Teams Winners

The LaPorte High School basketball teams, both boys and girls, have closed out their season with winning records.

The boys finished with a final tabulation of 21 victories against only seven losses and a second-place finish in their district race. There were six Refinery sons on the boys' squad this year, including W. O. Childs, son of Engineering Field's W. O. Childs; Charles Moser, son of R. W. Moser, Lube Department; Larry Hayes, son of Engineering Field's A. J. Hayes; David Phillips, son of Thermal Cracking's J. C. Phillips; Allen Christensen, son of K. E. Christensen, Engineering Field, and Craig Dunagan, son of T. C. Dunagan, Engineering Field.

Two Refinery daughters helped the girls' team to a season record of 16 wins and 10 losses. The girls finished third in their district competition. Listed on the roster for the girls' team were Linda Herrmann, daughter of J. R. Herrmann, Engineering Services, and Bernean Cole, daughter of Engineering Field's B. R. Cole.



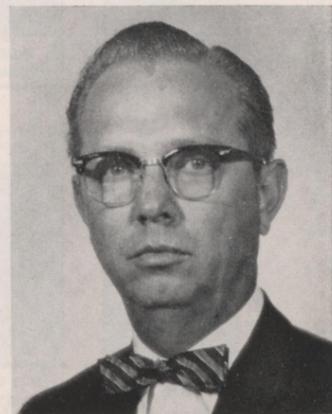
HERE is the 1959-1960 LaPorte Bulldogs, second-place finishers in their district. Front row, left to right, Larry Hayes, Johnny Gruter, Willie Owens, David Phillips, and Allen Christensen. Back row, left to right, Frank Hitchens, W. O. Childs, Wallace Gonzales, Mike Hill, and Craig Dunagon. Missing from the picture is Charles Moser.

W. L. Darby Replaces Gray As Refinery Lab Shift Foreman

W. L. Darby has been named shift foreman in the Refinery Laboratory effective March 1. He replaces H. J. Gray who retired on April 1.

Employed by Shell here at the Houston Refinery in May 1939, Darby has spent his entire career at the Laboratory. His first assignment was as a Tester No. 5. He had progressed to special tester when he was called into military service in July 1942. In October 1945 Darby returned to the Refinery and to his previous assignment in the Laboratory.

Since 1949 Darby has worked as a temporary shift foreman, and since 1952 has held the classification of tester recorder.

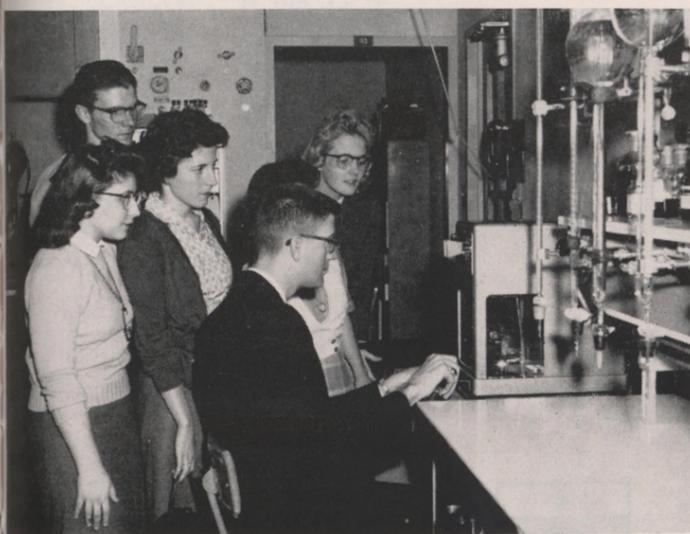


W. L. Darby

FOR SALE
1958 Ford, two-tone, two-door, standard shift, radio and heater, 11,000 miles. For further information call Refinery Extension 530.



MEMBERS of the Math and Science Club of Galena Park Senior High School toured the Research Lab and Tabulating Room. E. J. Basinski, Treasury Department, is shown explaining the IBM 650 to the group.



AMONG the recent visitors to the Chemical Plant were a group of outstanding chemistry students from Pasadena High School who toured the Research Laboratory. Here, Dave Dawson, R. and D., operates an analytical balance for part of the group.

Communication Centers Are Set At Refinery

Six "Communication Centers" were recently established at strategic points around the Refinery with the installation of modern and well-illuminated bulletin boards.

These centers are located at the Main Gate, Refinery Laboratory, the Research's West Building, two in the Central Shops Building, and the final center in the building housing the Utilities, Thermal Cracking, Distilling, and Treating Departments.

Each bulletin board is divided into three sections. One section carries a picture depicting news items of either local or national interest. Another section is used for safety messages.

The other section of the board is used to display local management messages as well as other information of general interest to employees.



G. L. MANNING, H. F. COWART, AND A. C. PREISS, all of the Refinery Engineering Field, check the latest news at one of the Refinery's new Communication Centers.

Service Anniversaries



30 Years

L. L. Hay
Thermal Crack. (Refy.)



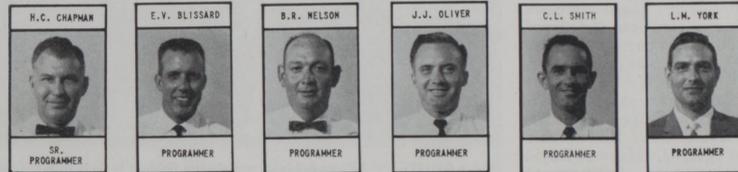
25 Years

E. D. Runnel
Aromatics (Refy.)

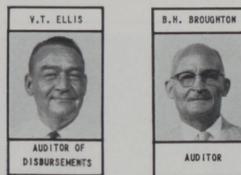
HOUSTON REFINERY



DATA PROCESSING



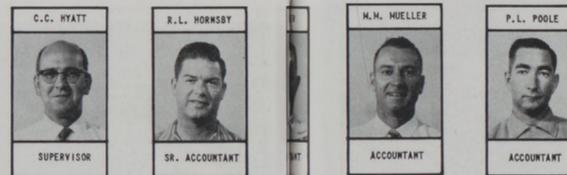
AUDITING



GENERAL COUNTING

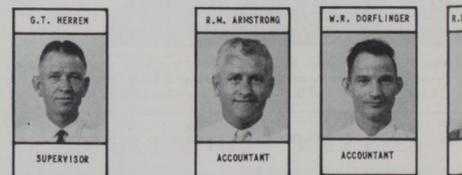


STOCK COUNTING



PAYROLLS

HOURLY



STAFF



SHNG



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

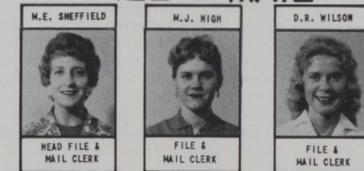
STAFF PERSONNEL

MARCH 1, 1960

UTILITY



FILE & MAIL



DUPLICATING



ADMINISTRATIVE



STENOGRAPHIC



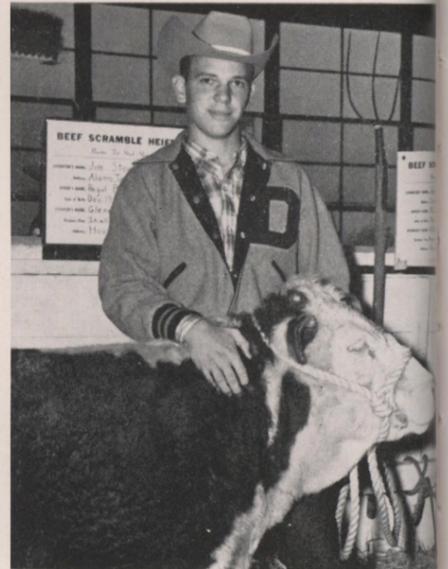


MAX WINKLER, a future farmer from Moody, Texas, was the winner of the Tench-sponsored calf in this year's calf scramble. Standing with the calf, from left to right, are Rowland Brian Tench, son of Refinery Manager John Tench; John A. Moore, Assistant County Agent in Belton; Winkler, and Mr. and Mrs. Tench.

Refinery Men Contribute To Success Of Houston Fat Stock Show, Rodeo



ALTON URBANTKE, winner of the Refinery calf in last year's scramble, brought back this fine Aberdeen Angus to enter in this year's competition. Refinery Manager John Tench was the sponsor of this fine heifer.



JIM STEELE used his 1959 beef scramble money to buy a Hereford heifer which he brought back to enter in the Houston Fat Stock Show this year.

Prized Painting Hangs In Refinery Manager's Office

There is a picture of a very early Hereford bull named Prizefighter occupying a place of prominence in the office of Refinery Manager John Tench, and the story of how Prizefighter made his way to the west wall of the Tench office makes an interesting and unusual story.

Beneath the painting is the inscription of the artist, "T. Weaver — 1801", and the date alone gives you an idea that this is no ordinary painting of an ordinary bull. Now over a century and a half old, the painting has been restored to its rich, original finish.

Prizefighter was a renowned Herefordshire bull owned by Tench's great-grandfather, Robert Tench of Bromfield, England, and is believed to be the first such animal ever entered in competition for a wager against another bull. This historic wager occurred on December 29, 1800 and matched Prizefighter against a Leicestershire bull owned by a Mr. Knowles of Nailston. The wager was for 100 guineas, and Prizefighter emerged the winner.

The artist, Thomas Weaver, was a noted painter of animal pictures of the day, and he was commissioned to paint twelve pictures of Prizefighter.

Today, Tench can trace two of those original paintings. One, of course, hangs in Tench's office. The other hangs in the offices of the American Hereford Association in Kansas City, Missouri.

Tench says that his painting was in his family until the late 1930's when his father, Rowland Tench, gave the painting to the Hereford Herd Book Society of England. During the turbulent years of World War II the painting was stored in the basement of the Society's offices in Hereford and neglected. For many years the picture was lost.

About three years ago, Tench learned that Mr. C. H. Hayter, a former chairman of the Hereford Herd Book Society of England, was in possession of a painting of Prizefighter, and while on a visit to England last summer Tench visited Hayter.

When Hayter learned of the close association of the Tench family with the bull and the early breed of Hereford, he graciously made Tench a present of the painting.

So after a lapse of many years the painting has returned to the Tench family, and the interest Tench has for the painting, so closely associated with his family background, is understandable.



THE HEREFORD breed has undergone a great many developments in the past century and one-half, as this painting of Prizefighter, the Tench's Prize Hereford, shows.

The Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo has completed another successful engagement, and once again Shell men can be counted among those who helped make this show possible.

Sponsoring calves in the popular calf-scramble event were Refinery Manager John Tench and Chemical Plant Manager Glenn Purcell. As sponsors these men donated \$150 toward the purchase of a calf for some lucky boy.

Tench served this year as the vice-chairman of the Steer Auction Committee, and was assisted on the committee by another Refinery man, Walter Peterson. It is the job of this committee to conduct the auction of the blue ribbon steers at the Fat Stock Show.

Both Tench and Peterson are directors of the Houston Fat Stock Show.

Peterson also served as vice-chairman of the Calf Scramble Committee, and he had assistance from W. L. McCarley on this committee.

As members of this committee, these men spent many hours at the various Rodeo performances attending to the endless details connected with the event.

A strapping six-footer by the name of Max Winkler from Moody, Texas, had to apply all he had learned as a football player to grab the Tench-sponsored calf in this year's show. Max, a 15-year-old ninth grader, used tackling, blocking, and broken field running to corral the spirited young calf as his prize.

Though he lives on a farm midway between Moody and Belton in Central Texas, Max rides a bus 16 miles to school each day in Belton. This means he is away from home from early in the morning until late in the afternoon on school days, but Max is looking forward to the coming year when he will raise his calf and bring her back to Houston for showing in the 1961 show.

Last year's winner of Tench's calf is another young future farmer with hopes of someday owning his own prize herd. And from the looks of the fine Aberdeen Angus that Alton Urbantke brought to

Houston for showing this year, young Alton should prove a success as a cattleman.

With his winnings in the calf scramble event last year, Alton purchased Mesquite Blackbird, and when he brought his Angus to the Show this year the 14-month-old, 880-pound heifer was already a champion. Alton was proudly displaying a trophy his heifer had won recently at the Ballinger Livestock Show where she was judged the Champion Beef Heifer of all breeds. In the tough Houston Fat Stock competition Mesquite Blackbird was judged a respectable sixth

place in her class.

Rather than sell his prize heifer, Alton decided to take her back home to Rowena, Texas, and enter her in other livestock shows in the future.

His most recent triumph was at the San Angelo Fat Stock Show. Mesquite Blackbird finished in second place behind the champion of all breeds.

An FFA member, Alton is a tall, tenth grade student at Ballinger High School. He lives on a farm at Rowena, and though he owns other livestock this was his first experience at owning and raising a show calf.



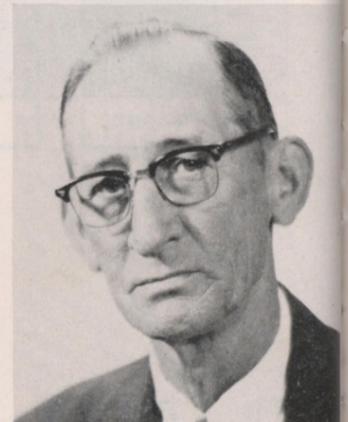
TYPICAL of the many fine breeds shown at the Stock Show this year is this Hereford shown here by Ella Jean Rusche of Llano, Texas. At the left of the picture are Refinery Manager John Tench and Refinery Dispatching's Walter Peterson.

M. L. McLaughlin Dies Following Long Illness

The friends of Maurice L. McLaughlin were saddened recently with news of his death on March 12. Death came after a long illness for the veteran 61-year-old Refinery employee.

The thoughts of everyone at Shell are with his family — Mrs. McLaughlin, and the two sons, B. L. and E. M.

Mr. McLaughlin was hired at the Refinery in September 1939 as a general helper in the Engineering Field. In August 1941 he transferred to Automotive as a truck driver, and in April 1945 he moved to the Instrument Shop. Mr. McLaughlin worked as an instrument helper before advancing to the classification of Instrument Man No. 2 in September 1957.



M. L. McLaughlin

TRADE YOUR HOME?

Have home in Pasadena that would consider trading for home in or near Bellaire area. House is 3 bedrooms, baths, den, central heat, brick veneer fenced yard, G.I. Loan. Call Jim Smith, CA 2-1181, extension 565.

To provide you with information about...

Public Issues Affecting Our Industry

Tulsa Case Points Up Misunderstandings

Misunderstanding of the oil industry's pricing methods has over the years been the biggest source of public criticism of our industry. This misunderstanding has resulted in hostile criticism, investigations and legal prosecutions of the industry. The most recent prosecution was the so-called Tulsa Case, which came to an end on February 13. The Court dismissed all charges and exonerated the 29 defendant companies, of which Shell was one.

The Tulsa Case had its origin in the general increases in the price of crude oil and finished products early in 1957. These general price increases, long over-due, came at a time when emotions were running high over the emergency supply of crude oil to Europe during the Suez crisis. Both houses of Congress launched investigations into charges that the oil industry was failing in an hour of need to meet its responsibilities. These investigations effectively disproved the charges and showed that the nation's oil companies had acquitted themselves very creditably.

At about the same time (March 1957), the Department of Justice impaneled a special grand jury at Alexandria, Virginia, and launched a general investigation into the subject of oil-industry pricing practices. For the first year of the investigation, the grand jury examined witnesses and documents on the general subject of gasoline pricing. Then, in the last two remaining months of the grand jury's life, the inquiry suddenly shifted to the general price increases of January 1957, with emphasis on crude oil. In late May 1958, a criminal indictment was obtained by the government lawyers alleging that 29 oil companies "beginning at some time in 1956 and continuing through January 1957... engaged in an unlawful combination and conspiracy to raise, fix and stabilize prices of crude oil and automotive gasoline" by means of "an agreement, understanding and concert of action" with each company allegedly agreeing to raise its posted prices of crude oil and its price of automotive gasoline throughout its marketing area.

The government contention that oil companies raised first the price of crude and then the price of products revealed a fundamental misunderstanding of oil pricing. The government attorneys were obviously assuming that, as in the case of gasoline, the seller of crude oil names the price. The reverse is, of course, true; a large refining company like Shell names the price it will pay for crude. In its January 1957 crude oil price increase, Shell was offering to pay crude producers 25¢ to 40¢ more a barrel for their oil.

The economic pressure for the 1957 crude oil price increase had been building up for nearly three years. The last previous general price increase had taken place in June 1953. In the ensuing period, the crude oil producer had absorbed four rounds of increases in basic steel prices and there had been three general wage increases throughout the oil industry.

At the time of this indictment, Shell President H. S. M. Burns pointed out to employees and shareholders that there was "not the

slightest shred of evidence that your Company was a party to any agreement, combination, or conspiracy with its competitors in 1956, 1957, or any other time."

Following the indictment at Alexandria, the case was moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the trial finally started after months of preparation on February 3, 1960. The government attorneys undertook to prove two major contentions: (1) that the price increases of January 1957 were not dictated by traditional considerations of supply and demand because there were surpluses at the time and (2) that there had been an undue amount of communication between executives of competing oil companies. Both these factors, the government contended, pointed to collusion behind these price increases. As the government lawyers began introduction of actual evidence, it soon became apparent that they were basing their case for surpluses on statements taken out of context. The full texts, when introduced, often exhibited the contrary. The "evidence" for collusive communication among competitors consisted of telephone-company toll-call records, showing merely that one man had called another. The government attorneys admitted they had no knowledge of the nature of these conversations. Several executives were put on the stand and queried; the conversations turned out to be about normal business matters.

The trial judge properly disallowed these attempts to base a case for conspiracy solely on inferences that the government wished to draw. With his dismissal of the government's main contentions, the case collapsed and the complaint against the 29 companies was dismissed on February 13 without the defendants even being required to present a defense. In his opinion, Presiding Judge Royce H. Savage said, "The evidence in the case doesn't rise above the level of suspicion... I have an absolute conviction personally that the defendants are not guilty of the charge made in this case."

What is to be learned from this case which, while a complete vindication of the oil companies, cost so much in wasted man-hours and unfavorable publicity? Simply this: that many people, including intelligent attorneys and grand jurors, do not understand the oil industry's pricing methods well enough to distinguish between collusion and keen competition. Such a widespread lack of understanding certainly points up the need for constant explanation of the oil industry's pricing practices.

Mr. Burns, in his statement on the case in 1958, made some important points which Shell people would do well to keep in mind in their conversations with friends and neighbors:

"Sharp competition tends to bring identity, or near-identity, of prices. The oil business witnesses the keenest kind of market-place competition with each company keeping an anxious eye upon its competitors' prices for crude oil and products—not only from day to day, but from hour to hour. Charges of 'conspiracy' reflect a failure to understand this important fact."

J. C. Chambers Is New Shift Foreman At Chemical Plant

J. C. Chambers, Operator No. 1, has been named shift foreman in G Department. He will replace R. C. Evans, Shift Foreman, G Department, who will be reassigned to Special Products, Plastics and Resins Division, as replacement for H. W. Fisher.

Chambers, a native of Port

Neches, joined Shell in August 1945 as a general helper at the Houston Refinery. In February 1946, he was transferred to the Chemical Plant as an operator helper. He became Operator No. 1 in July 1947, a position he held until his new assignment.



J. C. Chambers



CHEMICAL PLANT Manager Glenn Purcell congratulates Harry Thompson, the winner of the Purcell-sponsored calf in the calf scramble event this year.

Glenn Purcell Is Calf Scramble Sponsor At Houston Stock Show

For fifty weeks of the year, Houston maintains an atmosphere of a large, modern city. Then during the last two weeks in February, an air of the old West covers the city. "Howdy Podnah!" and western clothing become the style. It is Fat Stock Show and Rodeo time in Houston!

On Sunday of the first week of this period, the Salt Grass Trail riders leave Brenham for the trip to Houston and the big parade on Wednesday, which officially opens the show. Once again several Shell Chemical employees braved the elements to make the trip. It was cold, rainy, and windy for the second year in a row. The Engineering Field Department was represented by C. Kendrick, L. D. Ressler, and W. H. Norman, who served as a scout. Another hardy soul was Miss G. A. Schamerhorn, Engineering, who has made the ride for the past two years.

One event that has become very popular at the Fat Stock Show is the Calf Scramble. As you know, this is an event in which twenty boys are placed at one end of the Coliseum with ten calves placed at the other end. The animals are sponsored by local industry and individuals. A signal is given and the idea is for a boy to catch and halter one of the calves and lead it across the finish line.

The boy does not keep the calf, but rather is given money to buy one of his own choosing. He is required to bring it back to the Fat Stock Show one year later to have it judged against the animals of the same breed of other scramble winners. Glenn Purcell, Chemical Plant Manager, has sponsored a calf every year since 1957.

This year's winner was Harry Thompson, a FFA member,

from Wolfforth, Texas. He is 15 years old and a sophomore in high school. Upon graduation he plans to attend Texas Tech and major in agriculture.

Harry plans to take the \$150 he won for catching a calf and purchase a Hereford calf which he will raise and bring back to be judged in the 1961 Fat Stock Show.

Last year's winner, Jim Steele, from Hidalgo County, returned with his Hereford heifer, Regal Princess. She was entered in competition with others of her breed that were raised by last year's scramble winners and placed twenty-first. Jim felt that she would be a valuable addition to his herd of Herefords, so he did not sell her at auction.

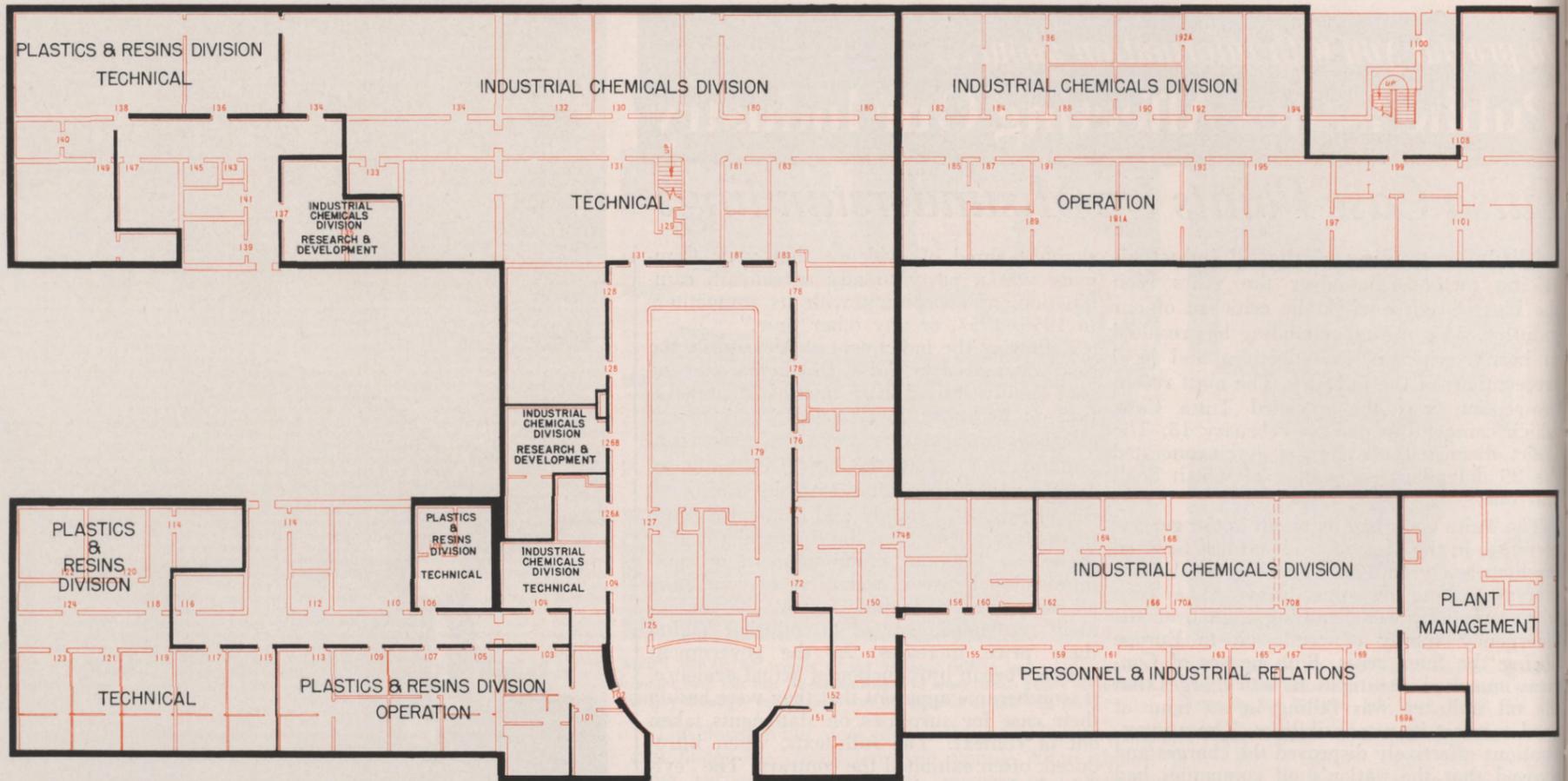
The Fat Stock Show and Rodeo not only provides entertainment but also gives many young men an opportunity to win a purebred calf which they may keep as part of a herd or sell for funds for a college education. Purcell and the other sponsors of a calf are assisting the youth of Texas to assume responsibility and to learn to plan for the future.

Washmon —

(Continued From Page 1)

and records maintained. All licensed exterminators must send a sample of their poisons to the Center, so that if the occasion ever arises where a human accidentally comes in contact with the poison a quick check with the Center will reveal the type of poison the person has been exposed.

The Commission was set up with the objective of controlling and policing the pest control trade as protection for the general public, and at the same time to raise the standards of the exterminating trade.



AS PART of the reorganization of the Shell Chemical Company into integrated product divisions, the Houston Plant has been undergoing a consolidation of personnel of the various divisions and departments into specific areas in the Main Office Building. Shown above is the first floor with the department boundaries indicated in color. The plan for the second floor will appear next month.

The SERA Story

By-Laws Stress Leadership By Employees

In the last two issues of the SHELEGRAM, a series of articles have appeared which traced the progress and history of the SERA since its founding in the early 1930's.

"The SERA Story" began with a handful of employees in the early 1930's who wanted to form a club for the promotion of recreation and athletics among employees in their leisure hours. After a promising beginning, interest lagged in the club and it was not until the mid 1940's that a really determined effort was made to revive the group. And from the nucleus of this group came the organization as it is recognized today.

This seems a good place in our story to stop and examine the by-laws of the organization to see the framework around which the SERA is able to function and take action.

The by-laws set out the objectives and purpose of the SERA quite clearly — to oper-

ate the organization as a social club, exclusively for pleasure, recreation and other non-profit purposes. With this goal in mind, the remaining sections of the by-laws describe the organization and procedures to be followed in realizing this ambition.

There are four classes of memberships described in the by-laws, namely regular, retired, associate, and ex-employees. By far the most prominent of this group is the regular member. This is the Shell Refinery or Chemical Plant employee whose annual membership dues entitle him to all the privileges of the club including the right to vote and to hold office on the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors Lead SERA

The management of the SERA is vested in a Board of Directors, which consists of eleven members. These directors are elected by popular vote of the membership of the club,

and are elected for a two-year term. The eleventh director is the immediate past-president and holds office for one year.

Membership on the Board of Directors is divided proportionately between the Refinery and the Chemical Plant, with six members elected from the Refinery and the remaining four from the Chemical Plant. Equal representation between staff and hourly groups is also stressed, and it is mandatory that half the board positions be filled from the ranks of the hourly employees, with the other half coming from the ranks of the staff employees.

Each year five positions on the Board come up for election. This assures the Board of having five experienced board members to serve with the five new members every year.

Directors Elect Own Officers

The Board of Directors chooses its officers immediately following the election. Top officer of the Board is the president who presides over all meetings of the Board and all meetings of the members. Other officers selected by the Board include a vice-president and a secretary-treasurer.

A key post in the SERA structure is the business manager. In recent years this position has been held by Fay Hilliard. Appointed by the Board of Directors, the business manager has many areas of responsibility in the life of the club.

Included among his duties is the recommendation to the Board of a proposed schedule of activities for the calendar year, which is presented to the Board at or before their first regular monthly meeting. Also, the business manager is entrusted to carry out the policies of the Board with regard to activities and the development and operation of the club's land and facilities. He also appoints, with the approval of the Board, a standing committee chairman for each

of the club's activities, such as bowling, dances, softball and others suggested by the Board. The business manager also serves as a member of the important Finance Committee which prepares the annual budget to be submitted to the Board for approval.

Sources of Income

A prime source of income for the club is the membership dues collected each year. The present dues rate amounts to \$5.00 per year per member. The Companies contribute another \$5.00 per member to the SERA each year, making a total of \$10.00 per member available to the SERA in the budgeting of its program of activities each year.

Besides the \$5.00 per employee contribution made by the Company, Shell also donates the proceeds received from the various vending machines located at the Refinery and Chemical Plant.

The highlight of the SERA social calendar is the picnic, held last year at Shellwood. Last year a turnout of more than 6,000 people gathered for a day of barbecue and fellowship. This all comes free to the SERA member and his family, and so it is understandable that the annual picnic occupies a prominent place in the budget.

Within the framework of its by-laws the SERA has been able to grow and prosper, culminating in the acquisition of Shellwood. These by-laws

are a set of rules which emphasize leadership by the employees, and it is only through this type of leadership and the continued interest on the part of the members that the SERA will continue to thrive.

15 Years Service

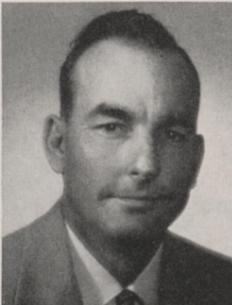
- C. E. Bautsch
Operations (Chem.)
- C. Daugherty
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)
- E. Duke
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)
- J. Goodnight
Aromatics (Refy.)
- A. W. Gore
Gas (Refy.)
- J. C. Gray
Dispatch. (Refy.)
- O. S. Jenkins
Aromatics (Refy.)
- N. G. Parten
Eng. Fld. (Chem.)
- J. W. Pearson
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)
- E. D. Seaton
Aromatics (Refy.)
- J. L. Turner
Operations (Chem.)

20 Years Service

M. B. Butler
Eng. Fld. (Chem.)



C. W. Eddleman
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)



T. C. Huffman
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)



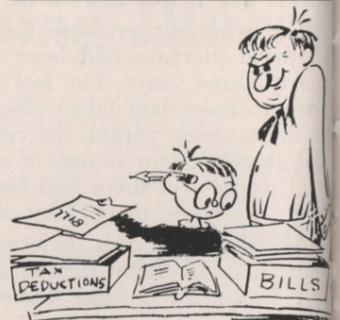
F. G. Remkes
Lube (Refy.)



C. W. Sparks
Aromatics (Refy.)



R. C. Whitley
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)



Filed your income tax return, yet

SHELL OIL COMPANY
P. O. Box 2527
Houston 1, Texas
Return Postage Guaranteed

Sec. 34.66 P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Deer Park, Texas
Permit No. 1