

# Tales Of A Caravan

Four DPMC couples formed a caravan to Big Bend State Park, located in the southern most part of the State of Texas along the Rio Grande. The caravan consisted of Joyce and Walter Fortune, supervisor, Scheduling-Chemical; Etta and D. D. "Deacon" Jones, shift foreman, Pyrolysis; Eugenia and "Uncle John" Ramsey, operator No. 1, Pyrolysis; and, Doris and Joe C. Rountree, zone foreman, Maintenance South-OP-II.

Driving a motor home, a van and a pickup, the couples left the Houston area on November 11 for what turned out to be one of the most relaxing vacations of their lives.

Their first night of camping was done at Del Rio, so they could shop in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, that afternoon. Shopping sprees were a rarity for this group, as they were bent primarily on spending their time taking in the natural wonders awaiting them in Big Bend.

After shopping and a night of rest, the refreshed band of travelers made their way to the Rio Grande Campground located within Big Bend State Park, where they spent the next three nights and days.

It was here that Joyce fell and cut her knee, which required nine stitches. The trip to the doctor involved traveling six miles to the road, five miles up the road to the ranger station, an additional 15 miles up the road to the van, then another 120 miles to the nearest hospital in Alpine. The speeding Walter was stopped along the way by the Highway Patrol, who, after hearing of his wife's injury, urged him on his way without a ticket.

"Boy," exclaims Walter about his wife's frantic trip to the hospital, "did she get teased!"

Not only was Joyce teased by her fellow travelers, but she was also subjected to a loud, religious musical rendition on a stereo belonging to a neighboring camper, who felt Joyce's accident was due to intoxication. Luckily, she survived both the fall and the musical reprimand.

After participating in most of the experiences available to tourists in the Rio Grande Campground area, the little caravan journeyed some 70 miles to the southwest side of the park where they could ride their motorcycles on the park's trails.

Upon their arrival, they stayed at the recently completed Big Bend Travel Park in Terlingua. Being a new park, it posed some problems for both its owners and its guests. The hot water heater didn't work. And while the owner had received the malfunctioning parts, he didn't know how to replace

them. It was Joe Rountree to the rescue. Joe volunteered his services; and, within a short period of time, he, along with his three conscripted helpers, not only had the hot water heater working but had hooked up the washer and dryer as well.

This act of generosity, along with the group's offer to buy groceries for the couple while in Alpine to have Joyce's knee checked by the doctor, won the campground owner's gratitude. He invited them over for a catfish fry, complete with all of the trimmings. For

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## Mammoth Monster, Or . . . ?

Appearances can be deceiving. A casual glance at this picture may convince you that a monster exists, who appears to be relishing its latest victim and eyeing another unsuspecting one. A second or third glance, however, will uncover not a monster, but a well-worn work shoe that has seen better days.

## Oilman's Diet Under Attack

Oil companies pride themselves on the food which they provide for workers on offshore rigs. Steaks, scampi, smoked salmon and mountains of rich desserts are the order of the day.

On the rigs, crews may complain of noise and cramped living quarters, but no one has anything but praise for the food. However, some dietitians are beginning to question the preponderant use of rich, fatty foods in the diets of oil rig workers, many of whom have gained unneeded weight, in spite of the grueling 12-hours-on, 12-hours-off shifts.

In Norway, a catering expert has suggested that the oil companies may be overdoing things, reports the *Financial Times*. The expert feels that the oil rig workers' diet is "directly harmful," and he goes on to state that he has seen "blatant examples of people who in just a month have gained weight and become unrecognizable."

Oilmen, who recognize the problem of over eating by oil rig workers, agree that it is a problem. But, it's a problem they feel can be solved.

## Employee Tidbits

Walt Eilers, inspector, Safety, gains weight while sunning in California. Retired manager, Safety and Training, E. Willard Smith enjoyed reading article on progress of the Operator Fundamentals course, which he considers his "brainchild." During a recent visit, Billie Page, former head telephone operator, shared pictures of fish caught in Lake Livingston. Maintenance North boilermaker Cincinnattus Lamar Williams, Jr., prefers his nickname: "Chicken." Services office supervisor Helen Watson and husband spent holidays sunning in Honolulu.

## New Tax Bill And The Taxpayer

Unfortunately, the individual taxpayer is once again caught in the middle of Congress' tax cuts. Although banner headlines salute the tax cut, actual reductions are nonexistent for most people.

There were two relief elements in the bill: personal exemptions were raised from \$750 per person to \$1,000, and the tax on capital gains (profit accrued from the sale of stock, real estate and other capital assets) was reduced from 49 to 28 percent. However, the hike in the Social Security tax and the rise in income brackets due to inflation more than offset these two cuts.

Despite the bill's name, an average family of four making more than \$8,000 next year will experience a net tax boost because of these offsetting factors.

The *Wall Street Journal* projects this total boost to be a net increase of more than \$3.3 billion (this figure is based on an annual inflation rate of six percent). According to one source, American working men and women will be con-

fronted with a \$16.8 billion inflation caused tax increase, not including the estimated \$12.5 billion increase in Social Security and energy taxes. That means they will still be paying \$16.6 billion more after the bill's \$12.7 billion individual tax break.

Those figures are based on an annual inflation rate of 7.5 percent. If inflation remains at the present rate of nine percent, the tax increase will be even higher.

## Deaths



Hutchings



Read

Retiree Richard H. Hutchings, 67, died January 3.

At the time of his retirement in August 1961, Richard was a shift foreman in Distilling with 29 years of company service.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, who resides at 312 South 6th Street in La Porte.

Retiree W. B. "Bill" Read, 64, died January 6, 1979.

At the time of his retirement in April 1976, Bill was a craft supervisor in Maintenance South with 39 years of company service.

Bill resided at 620 Edgewood in Houston.

## Welcome To The Complex



Sandy Bryant  
Senior Clerk  
Services



Darryl Hartley  
Auditor  
Auditing



Bruce Krewinghaus  
Staff Engineer  
Process Engrg.-East



H. T. Sealy  
General Helper  
Maintenance North



Janet Stanford  
Junior Clerk  
Maintenance North



Lamar Stokes  
General Helper  
Maintenance North



Joe Trevino  
General Helper  
Maintenance North



Bob Whyte  
General Helper  
Maintenance North

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dessert, he offered them carte blanche use of his 3,500 acres of ranch land. This offer afforded the group its greatest opportunity to explore the terrain, uninhibited by having to stay on the trails. "We were going to stay one day," said Walter, "instead, we stayed five days."

Then the owners shared their knowledge of the local history with their guests and an explanation on how to find fossils, agate and petrified wood.

While on one of their motorcycle treks, they found a horse tied to a tree and not a soul in sight. The landowner was notified; and, he, in turn, checked with all of the local ranchers to see if the horse belonged to them. The horse, however, disappeared during the night and nothing was seen or heard of it again.

Every expedition of any caliber has its own entertainment. Some planned; some spontaneous. This group provided both on several occasions. One such occasion was when Joe Rountree demonstrated his motorcycle skills on a hill as his wife, Doris, watched him with a pair of field glasses. Up the hill Joe went on his Suzuki 125. Down the hill Joe came on top of his head. Doris feared he'd killed himself, but all the spill did was give Joe an acute case of embarrassment.

A consistent source of amusement

was Deacon Jones' habit of wearing bright red jogging shorts to breakfast in spite of the chilly morning air, while everyone else wore longjohns. Needless to say, Deacon's warm blooded nature was the source of a great deal of entertainment every morning of the trip. Then, at a rest stop on the last day of their trip, Deacon managed to outdo his past performances by popping out of his motor home with his red jogging shorts conspicuously worn over his white longjohns. To complement his attire, he wore a hat and carried a drink. Now,

that was a sight to send any weary tourist searching for his glasses.

No caravan is complete without a trail boss. This honor was bestowed upon Doris but somehow ended up with Etta after the first day. Walter swears he can't remember why, and so far no one else has offered an explanation.

These four couples had such an enjoyable trip that plans already are being formulated for another trip during the first two weeks in November of this year.



Riding a burro and leaving the walking to them are Etta Jones, Eugenia Ramsey, Deacon Jones, Uncle John Ramsey and a guide.



Believe it or not! This gruesome appearing threesome is actually a respectable trio consisting of Walter Fortune, Deacon Jones and Joe Rountree.

Boating on the Rio Grande are caravan members Eugenia Ramsey, Etta Jones, Doris Rountree, a boatman, Deacon Jones, Uncle John Ramsey and another boatman.

# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

1971 Ford stationwagon, good condition, new tires and transmission. \$1,000. Kenmore washer, needs belt. \$25. Wooden headboard, good condition. \$10. 649-1176

1975 Yamaha 650, low mileage, custom paint, Fletcher saddle seat and back rest, tour box, windshield. 644-9268 or 472-5223 after 5:30 p.m.

Hammond electric double keyboard organ, mahogany with stool and storage area, excellent condition, will help deliver. \$395. 643-9027 after 5 p.m.

1978 Ford van, 351 V8, regular gas, 30,000 miles, AM-FM 8 track, CB, curtains, like new. \$6,800. 488-7370

1978 16' Ebbtide, 70 hp Mercury, drive-on trailer, 12 gallon built-in tank, like new. \$1,000 and assume \$95 monthly notes or \$4,200 cash. 488-7370

1974 Chevy 1/2-ton pickup, 350 V8, 55,000 miles, auto, air, PS. \$2,000. 479-7145

1979 Ford custom van, 302, privacy front wrap around windshield curtains, ice chest, closet, tilt steering, recline-swivel captain chairs, tinted glass, AM-FM stereo cassette, JVC-TV (mounted), nice. \$13,000. 734-5475

Camper cover for step-side pickup, excellent condition. \$150. 448-2526

Browning 22 rifle, excellent condition. 448-2526

Bunk bed mattresses and springs. Single bed with mattress and springs. 944-5147 or 649-3987 after 6 p.m.

1975 Chevy crew-car pickup, 42,000 miles, 10 1/2' camper, air, refrigerator, stove, oven. \$4,200. 487-5256

1973 CB 450 Honda, runs good. \$425. 487-5256

16' Wellcraft Airlot, full canvas, bilge pump, ski tripod, big wheel tilt trailer, no outboard motor, rated for 125 hp. \$1,200. 334-5010

1976 Ford Granada, excellent condition, low mileage. V8, P-S-B, vinyl top, automatic, air, bench seats, AM-FM stereo, one owner. 472-8927 after 5 p.m.

## Bureaucracy Reigns Supreme

The Food and Drug Administration, after a long and controversial review process, recently took a deep breath and announced its decision to deny approval of a new low-calorie sweetener. FDA then braced itself for the inevitable protest from the Massachusetts company which had been asking for permission to market the sweetener.

What happened? The FDA discovered that the company had gone out of business back in 1975.

Here's a new addition to the ever growing list of government regulations that backfire: In compliance with federal standards, North Carolina ballots must be printed in Lumbee for members of the Lumbee Indians.

The catch? The Lumbees have

## FOUND

Black clip-on glass holder. Claim in room 151 of refinery administration.

## PERSONAL

Late but very sincere thanks for the retirement party and the Craftsman chain saw, which works great cutting wood for the King Heater in our new home. We moved in just before Thanksgiving and are settling in for a cold northeast Texas winter.

—Herman "Stony" and Louise Briggs

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

—Family of Richard Hutchings

spoken only English for the last 200 years and no longer know how to speak or read "Lumbeeanese."

In the 18th century BC, King Hammurabi had a simple building regulation: If a house collapsed and killed the occupant, the builder was executed.

"While this may be a bit harsh by today's standards, the law rightfully sets goals rather than the means of reaching them," said Willard C. Butcher, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, in remarks to the Commonwealth Club of California.

"I would like to see government adopt a Goals-oriented approach to regulation," he says. "Instead of telling us how to do things, tell us what it wants accomplished."

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Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

Published weekly by Shell's Deer Park Manufacturing Complex for its employees and pensioners. All inquiries should be addressed to **Shellegram**, Shell Oil Company, P. O. 100, Deer Park, Texas 77536.

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