

# SHELL e g r a m

D E E R P A R K

## Phenol

On Dec. 11, 1999, approximately 100 people, including Phenol 3 employees and their families, attended an open house. Organized to display the new plant and educate attendees on the manufacturing and safe running of the facility, the event began in the South Conference Center.



*The Champlin Family*

See Phenol 3 Open House Page 2



*Children of Phenol 3 Personnel*



*The Campbell Family*

# 3 O P E N H O U S E O P E N H O U S E



*The McCarty Family*

### C O N T E N T S

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Count on Shell





You'll happily notice a reoccurring theme in this issue of Shellegram. Because of the outstanding health and safety performances in both the chemical plant and refinery, we're spreading the good news and offering lots of kudos to all employees and contractors. We hope reading about last year's performances inspires you to keep up your health and safety efforts as we enter the new year.

As you read in the last issue of Shellegram, not only does Shell Deer Park have a proud history, but so does Shellegram. Unfortunately, it was recently discovered that some pages from 1957 issues of Shellegram are missing from the Shell Deer Park Historical Museum's collection. If you have old issues, particularly from 1957, please contact Maurine Bishop at 713-246-1195. After carefully copying the borrowed issues and completing the Museum's albums, the borrowed issues will be returned.

Gina Manlove, Managing Editor

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Continued From Cover

# Phenol 3

## OPEN HOUSE OPEN HOUSE



*The Roubion Family*

After sign-in, J.D. Johnson, plant manager of Shell Deer Park Chemical Plant, offered a general welcome. Kenney Moore, Phenol 3 safety representative, provided a review of safety requirements and regulations for the plant. Kyle Soderman, project manager for Phenol 3, provided information about the capabilities for the new facility.

Visitors were issued safety gear and transported to the control room for tours. Tours through the new control room were led by employees and

included a brief explanation of the process and a view of the computer system. Visitors also had the opportunity to tour the new plant area in small guided groups.

Shell fire trucks were staged outside the control room for older children to board and inspect. For safety reasons, children under the age of six stayed at the South Conference Center, where they were entertained by a licensed care provider.

Both the day and evening visitors were treated to refreshments and participation gifts after the tours. "All in all, everyone was quite impressed with the Phenol 3 facility," commented Cindy Carleton, Phenol 3 training coordinator.



*The Thompson Family*

# Shell Deer Park Refining Company

A Division of Shell Oil Products Company



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Stacy P. Methvin  
President and CEO

Shell Deer Park Employees,

The Shell Deer Park Refining Company faced an extremely challenging year in 1999 on many fronts: poor margins, need to gain approval of Maya II, the largest turnaround ever, the replacement of the finance systems with SAP, movement of the staff to Equiva Services and then Equilon, and Y2K. The employees faced these challenges and succeeded in all of the areas they could control. I am very proud of this workforce.

World Class performance begins with taking care of the people and the planet. In Health and Safety we had our best performance ever. The recordable rate for employees was reduced from 1.223 to 0.81. The combined contractor and employee rate was 0.9, which is outstanding. Our environmental performance was also the best ever with 47 exceedances, down from 58 the year before.

Maya II was approved in April by Shell and PMI. This expansion will increase the capacity of the refinery to 340,000 barrels per day and make us the fifth largest refinery in the U.S. The project was approved during a time that Royal Dutch/Shell was substantially reducing its investments in refining and across the portfolio. Due to the cost leadership position of this plant, its strategic location on the Gulf Coast and its partnership with Pemex, the expansion was deemed to be a worthwhile investment.

Y2K posed many challenges for us, forcing a replacement of most of our finance and HR systems and a substantial amount of work to insure that systems in the plant were compliant. While the transition to SAP has been a bumpy road, our success is due to the incredible efforts put forth to make the system work and close the books each month. Y2K came and went without any issues, a tribute to the years of work that this required.

The Big Five turnaround was a huge undertaking for the refinery. With an extra 2500 workers on sight, a budget of \$72 million and six weeks to get the work done, January and February were busy months. This work was completed with only one recordable, one exceedance and on budget. We were slightly behind schedule due to difficult start-ups; however, this turnaround received very high marks.

One of the most challenging aspects of the year was the movement of our staff to the Alliance. For long time Shell employees, this was a difficult transition and still has a lot of unknowns as the Alliance maps its strategy. For our employees, the benefits of being in a large refining network will be critical to our success. We must learn from others successful practices and implement faster and better than the competition.

The margins in 1999 proved to be our biggest threat. As OPEC controlled crude output, the price of heavy sour crudes soared. High gasoline and distillate inventories did not allow us to push these costs through the system and our margins were squeezed to the lowest levels in a decade. Recent reductions of inventories on the product side due to refinery capacity being off line and cold temperatures up north, have substantially improved margins. The year 2000 should be an exciting one with the continued construction of Maya II and improved reliability of our units. If we continue to build on the foundation of strong Health, Safety, and Environmental performance in 1999, we will be able to continue on our path to become the Premier Refiner of Heavy Sour Crude!

Stacy Methvin  
President and CEO of Shell Deer Park Refining Company

# SDP celebrates health and safety achievements

## safety achievements

"The year was full of formidable tasks, including the Big 5 Turnaround and Maya II Project. Every SDPRC employee helped the company meet the challenges, while maintaining an outstanding safety performance!"

— Stacy Methvin,  
President and CEO of SDPRC

Through the combined efforts and commitment of Shell Deer Park employees, contractors and other interested parties and groups, significant improvements in the health and safety performances were achieved during 1999. It should come as no surprise that with controls in place and safety as our first priority, fewer people are getting hurt.

Representatives from both the chemical plant and refinery credited the outstanding performance on the shared vision of an injury-free workplace and a common goal of getting everyone involved in and thinking about safety. "Establishing this shared value of people and a sincere interest in keeping them free from harm has allowed barriers between Company and Union members to be eliminated," commented Lynne Tackett, manager of the health and safety department at Shell Deer Park Chemical Plant. Randy Burow, Health & Safety Group Leader at Shell Deer Park Refinery Company, echoed Tackett's views when he said, "We're proud of our safety achievements. With safety as the priority for both the refinery and PACE, and the strategies we've developed for continuous improvement, we expect to keep up the good work."

Health and safety programs in the chemical plant and refinery include: employee involvement in statistical analysis of injury and illness data, analysis of injury incident investigations for common causes, survey of employee perceptions and development of measures to access effectiveness of processes.

In an open letter to all Deer Park Chemical Plant employees, Roger Fowler, vice president of operational excellence for Shell Chemical, wrote, "I would like to express my thanks and congratulate all of you on these significant accomplishments. You have faced many challenges during 1999, including the construction and start-up of Phenol 3 and the uncertainties associated with the divestment of Resins and BPA. Throughout these changes, you have remained focused and committed to health and safety."

*Congratulations to you all on your outstanding achievements. Take pride in what you have accomplished and keep up your focus on health and safety.*

Speaking about the achievements of the refinery, Stacy Methvin, president and CEO of SDPRC, said, "The year was full of formidable tasks, including the Big 5 Turnaround and Maya II Project. Every SDPRC employee helped the company meet the challenges, while maintaining an outstanding safety performance!"

Year	OSHA Recordable Rates		Number of Injuries	
	Chemical	Refinery	Chemical	Refinery
1995	1.1	2.08	12	22
1996	1.1	1.12	12	12
1997	1.6	1.04	17	11
1998	0.8	1.44	8	15
1999	0.4	0.88	4	9



Left to right, Mickey Walton, Bill Baker, and Ron Martin

# Celebrating Safety

## PERFORMANCE



Left to right, Steve Reynolds, Bubba Grant, and Richard Latbrop

The three Central Maintenance Department Health and Safety Teams commemorated their safety performance during a "Safety Revival" on Nov. 9 in the Refinery Main Shop. The purpose of the event was to celebrate and increase safety awareness for all Central Maintenance employees.

The planning team, consisting of representatives from Automotive, TR/P and Instrument, Electrical & Machinists, organized "Fallfest 1999" because of the impressive strides in safety performance by all three safe work groups. Noted speaker, Austin Davis, talked about driving safely for the holidays as everyone enjoyed hamburgers and sausage prepared by the Central Maintenance Departmental Health and Safety Teams.

Earlier in the fall, the Departmental Health and Safety Teams were treated to an Astros game as a way of saying thank you for their efforts in making Shell a safer place to work.



# 1999 Champions of Excellence winners announced

"This was a great team effort that showcased the collective energies of Deer Park's head office as well as overseas operations."

—James Rhame

Shell Chemicals Americas recently announced the Champions of Excellence for 1999, which included recognition for three Deer Park teams. Receiving recognitions from the Chemical Plant were the Feed Import, Diversity Council and OL-III TLX Fouling teams.

The award, which recognizes outstanding examples of individual and team achievement and performance in demonstrating leadership, teamwork, operating and quality principles, is now celebrating its 12th year. Speaking on behalf of the Feed Import team, James Rhame stated, "This was a great team effort that showcased the collective energies of Deer Park's head office as well as overseas operations." Rhames went on to state that the importance of operators who ran the units, and ran them well, shouldn't be overlooked in acknowledging the results achieved by the team.

Jonathan Rhodes, who was part of the OL-III TLX Fouling team, commented, "It was neat working with a team to establish guidelines that give long-term benefits around operating perimeters on different feed choices for OP3."

The 1999 Champions of Excellence program, which included nine nominees encompassing the contributions of 90 individuals, will recognize award recipients in March at a celebration in Orlando, FL.

## Feed Import Team

Larry Culbertson	Operations Foreman
Robert Fortman	E & S Representative
Don Foulk	Staff Engineer
Eric Imhoff	Production Engineer
Mike Leaverton	Supply Manager
Thomas Mennicken	EUAF Supply Manager
Ray Pozzie	Operations Foreman
Teresa Simon	Sr. Supply Analyst
Ed Simpsons	Business Development
Hans Willemsen	Global Feedstock Integrator

## Diversity Council Team

Kenneth Carter	Operator/Solvents, Union Committeeman
Sam Darden	Boilermaker/Solvents Maint. Craft, Union Member
Berniece Davis	Operator/BPA, Union Member
Ruben Enriques	Planner/Scheduler, Staff
Sharon Feuge	Operator/Solvent/BA, Union member
Gina Gray	Administrative Associate, Engineering Support
Gary Harrison-Ducros	IR Lead/Human Resources, Staff
Bobby Laird	Pipefitter/Utilities, Union Committeeman
Vickie McClanahan	Quality Assurance Supervisor/Phenol Lab, Staff
Steve Rockey	Site Manager, Resins/BPA, Staff
Shari Ruelas	Contract Services Engineer/Resins, Staff
Joe Silva	Machinist/Resins Maint.
Michael Redding	L & D Rep/Learning and Development, Facilitator

## OL-III TLX Fouling Team

Jeff Daniels	DP Olefins E & S Lead
Charles Dodson	DP Olefins Furnace UTL
Danny Ngan	WTC Olefins Engineer
Steve Norlin	DP Process Chemist
Jonathan Rhodes	DP Process Engineer
Richard Rodriguez	DP Olefins Process Specialist
Jesse Silvas	DP Olefins Reliability Focal Pt
Tommy Weatherly	DP Reliability Specialist
Jeff Klump	DP Olefins Furnace Production Eng.

## LOCAL CRITTERS

find comfortable home

Have you noticed the black birds that seasonally perch in trees and line the parking lot surfaces at Shell Deer Park? A petrochemical plant might seem an unlikely place for the flocks to call home, yet they have returned year after year.

According to Jim Callan, who supports permitting for the Phenol 3 project, "The water from the outfall and warm temperature brings the birds, while the food and attention offered by employees encourage them to stay." Known as black skimmers, because they skim the water and drop their lower jaws to catch fish, these birds come in March and stay until August or September. However, when the birds flew south this year, one of the flock was left behind.

Noticing that the bird appeared to have a slightly deformed or twisted wing, Callan caught it and took it to a wildlife rehabilitation center for care. After about 10 days of tube feeding and wing rest, the bird started eating on its own. And after its strength returned, the black skimmer was released in the Angleton area where other skimmer flocks were still nesting.

In appreciation for their help with this and other efforts, Shell Deer Park made a donation to the wild life rehab.

## Chemical Entrances

For November

**Ricardo Castro**  
Repr Sr Fincl  
BPA Manufacturing

**M.D. Cayton**  
Operator 1st-Rate  
Solvents-BA-Operator #1

**Brenda Orozco**  
Lab Assistant  
Technical-Qual  
Assur-Olefins

**Randall Williams**  
Repr Sr Fincl  
Business Services-Oprns  
Business Sup

**Michael Woolley**  
Inspector Sr  
Tech-Engg Support-  
Electrical-Olefins

**Dale Wunder**  
Mgr Human Resources  
Human Resources

\*Retirees

## Chemical Exits

For November

**John Harrison**  
Operator-1st Rate  
Phenol Acetone Operator #1  
\*Retired 11-30-99

## Refinery Entrances

For November

**EC. Planka**  
Senior Financial Analyst  
Business Services Financial Analysis

## M I L E S T O N E S

## Chemical Entrances

For December

**Brook McClain**  
Inspector Sr  
BPA Manufacturing

**Jannice Sumrok**  
Engineer Assc  
Major Resins

## Refinery Entrances

For December

**John Fett**  
Senior Inspector  
Tech Assure-Control Systems

**Jim Miller**  
Financial Analyst  
Business Services-Financial Analysis

**Diana Tittle**  
Operator-1st Rate  
Lubricants-Lube Manufacturing

## Refinery Exits

For December

**S.Y. Juarez Sr.**  
Control Systems Technician  
Eng/Mnt East Control Systems Technicians  
\*Retired 12-20-99

\*Retirees

## Chemical Exits

For December

**B.D. Brupbacher**  
Engineer Staff  
Tech-Engg Support-  
Mechanical Equip-Central  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**William Burrell**  
Inspector Sr  
Tech-Engg Support-  
Pressure Equip-Resins  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**Glen Conrad**  
Foreman Opers  
Distribution-Railroad  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**M.L. Creel**  
Inspector Sr  
Tech-Engg Support-  
Pressure Equip-Resins  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**Robert Fortman**  
Repr Econ & SC  
Business Integration  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**A.T. Miranda**  
TBO coach  
Learning and  
Development-Coaches  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**Micheal Patterson**  
Drafts Sr Design  
Tech-Engg Support-  
Drafting/Record Mgmt  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**R.D. Soots**  
Foreman Engrg  
Make Change  
\*Retired 12-31-99

**R.T. Stricker**  
Foreman Engrg  
Tech-Engg Support-  
Pressure Equip-Olefins  
\*Retired 12-31-99

## United Way campaign results

As a result of generous donations from Shell Deer Park employees, a combined total of \$154,569.64 was raised and contributed to the United Way from Deer Park. Chemical employees donated \$69,410.00, and Refinery employees (both Shell and Equilon) donated \$85,159.64. Both groups reported around 60% participation in the annual fund raising event.

Shell Oil Company presented a \$4.5 million check to the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast during a ceremony in Shell's downtown Houston Shell Museum. For the third year in a row, Shell Oil

Company has made the largest corporate donation in Texas. The Alliance which includes Equilon, Motiva and Equiva presented a check to United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast for \$676,146.00.

Commenting on the campaigns, Janice Wendall (Chemical Plant) and Marilyn Bonham (Refining Company), stated that the generosity of the contributors reflects highly on the individual caring of employees, as well as Shell Deer Park's role as a corporate citizen.



*Strategies for Today's  
Environmental Partnership*

Editor's Note: Shell Deer Park supports these initiatives: Responsible Care, through the Chemical Manufacturer's Association, is a continuing effort to improve the industry's responsible management of chemicals; STEP, through the American Petroleum Institute, addresses public concerns by improving our industry's environmental health and safety performance.



**Responsible Care**  
A Public Commitment

## Zero Recordables

Departments that achieved at least one year without OSHA recordables were recognized and presented with awards during the Supervisor's Safety Meeting on Nov. 10. Congratulations to employees with each of the following departments on their achievements and continuing efforts in providing a safe work environment.

Department	Years	Department	Years
Pressure Equipment	9	Project Engineering	2
Control Systems	6	Cat Cracking/Gas Operations	1
Project Engineering	6	Environmental & Compliance Assurance	1
Health & Safety	5	Human Resources	1
Business Management	3	Hydro/Sulfur Operations	1
Business Services	2	West Operations	1

## Walk-A-Thon

Shell Deer Park employees, lead by team captains Ron Coverson, Maxine Jones, Verna Carter and Charity Wilcox helped raise \$19,936.00 in Shell donations for United Negro College Funds Walk-A-Thon on Sept. 25, 1999. Some 35 walkers contributed \$7,061.00 in cash and \$10,875.00 in matching gifts to the organization. Shell Deer Park sponsored \$1,000 tables at both the Black Tie Gala and the Evening of Stars Celebration.

Walkers met at 7:30 a.m. in Sam Houston Park for the 10K event. Olympic champion, Carl Lewis, lead all participants in a warmup session prior to the walk, which traveled down Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive back to Sam Houston Park. Tents staffed with Shell and Alliance employees provided fruit and drinks to walkers.

Coverson, who is a control systems technician in the east operations area of the refinery, initiated Shell Deer Park's involvement with this walk 10 years ago. He commented, "Team captains would like to thank all employees for their contributions and continued support."



**Count on Shell**

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