



Shell

THE INSIDE STORY



Shell

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Braus assumes new GM duties

J.M. (Jim) Braus, formerly general manager for Research & Development Products at the Houston Head Office, assumed his new duties as general manager of the Deer Park Manufacturing Complex on Feb. 1.

No newcomer to the complex, Braus is beginning his third assignment here and replaces R. G. (Gary) Dillard, who has headed Deer Park operations since June 1974.

Dillard stepped down as general manager of the complex after being named general manager, Logistics-Oil



Dillard



Braus

in Head Office's Products organization, replacing George Holtzman, who has retired.

Braus, a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a B.S. Degree in chemical engineering, joined Shell Oil Company in June 1958, at the Wood River (Ill.) Refinery Experimental Laboratory. In 1964, he moved to Manufacturing-Technical in the New York Head Office as a senior engineer.

Three years later, he came to the Houston Refinery for the first time as a group leader in the Technological Department.

In 1970, he transferred to the Houston Head Office as manager, Process Planning, Manufacturing Technological. A year later, he was promoted to refinery superintendent,

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Dock operations resume

Although DPMC's crude dock was out of service for more than four months as the result of the Sept. 1 Chevron Hawaii fire, the dock is back to normal now.

The crude dock was turned into a fiery inferno when a powerful lightning bolt knifed through dark low-hanging clouds and struck the 810-foot crude oil tanker moored at the dock, with half of its load of heavy oil remaining unloaded in the hold. The charge from the electrical arc triggered a massive blast that ripped the tanker apart.

The blast then caused a secondary explosion onshore when a piece of bulkhead pierced a storage tank 800 feet away. The deaths of three non-Shell employees, numerous injuries — most of which were minor — and millions of dollars of damage to the ship and dock facilities were logged in the aftermath.

"The blast knocked out the main

crude oil dock, number one dock and the acid dock," explained John Gray, a senior engineer in Project Engineering. "In addition, the sunken ship blocked the entrance to the remaining berths in the slip."

During the first week of December, Fred Devine Salvaging from Portland, Ore., under contract by Chevron, floated the 400-foot stern of the ship from its 40-foot temporary watery grave.

"In order to float her," Gray said, "Divers had to seal off the mid-section end of the stern as well as cut the remains of the mid-section into workable 12-ton pieces."

On Dec. 21, the salvageable stern was towed a mile down the Houston Ship Channel to the Imbessa Steel Corp. slip which is under construction.

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On Dec. 21 the 400-foot stern section of the Chevron Hawaii was moved away from DPMC's main crude dock and guided down the Houston Ship Channel to a vacant slip for further salvage.

DPMC Docks...

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But the dock resumed operations on Jan. 18, with the arrival of the Liberian ship Mary Ann which discharged 400,000 barrels of Mexican crude. It took just a few hours before the Mary Ann arrived to completely remove the Chevron Hawaii, dredge the area and repair damage to the crude dock.

Dock No. 1 is slated to be completely replaced and the acid dock is being rebuilt to serve only barges.

But although the two docks are still not operational, it's business as usual at the docking facilities. Don Lanning, process manager for the Dispatching Docks, said 18 tankers have been unloaded since the crude dock was returned to service last month, with the level of activity keeping pace with the average for the last five years. Barge activity is running 7 percent higher than the five-year average, with 218 barges being handled since the strike began.



The DPMC dock resumed operations on Jan. 18 with the arrival of the Mary Ann, a Liberian ship which delivered 400,000 barrels of Mexican crude.



Stanley



Marr

Several workers retire

E.D. (Ed) Stanley, a zone foreman in Special Projects with more than 38 years of company service, was one of several employees to retire Feb. 1. He and his wife, Norma, live at 3108 Edmonton, Pasadena.

James A. Marr, 65, retired as a shift maintenance foreman at Maintenance South after 32 years of service. He and his wife, Lillian, live at 4905 Ivy, Pasadena.

R.L. Brittain, 61, retired as a shift foreman in "G" Department with 33 years of service. He and his wife, Louise, live outside Fredericksburg.

O.G. Clark, 53, retired as welder No. 1 in Maintenance South with 28 years of service. The Clarks reside at 243

Princess in Houston.

Henry A. Wigley Jr., 53, retired as an operator with 31 years of service. He and his wife, Betty Jean, live at 1002 Pennsylvania, Friendswood.

Charles E. Reedy Jr., 61, retired as a senior operations specialist in process engineering with 40 years of service. He and his wife, Geraldine, live at 206 Temperance, Deer Park.

Retiree dies

Henry W. Richardson died Dec. 19. Funeral services were held at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and interment at Restlawn Cemeteries on Dec. 22. At the time of his retirement he was with Engineering Field.

OTU establishes non-stop record

Operator Training Unit No. 1 completed its fastest training ever during the last month, with OTU personnel working 33 days nonstop to prepare 18 employees to assume duties as operators.

"It's the most rapid training we've ever done," Jack Werner, manager of training, Employee Relations, reports. "It took a lot of hard work, long hours and dedication, which is commendable. But there are a lot of other people out there who put in a lot of long, hard hours too. It's just something we had to do."

To accomplish this task, the OTU teaching schedule of five eight-hour days was condensed into three 12-hour

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Employees taught fire-fighting skills

The orange ball of flame stood directly in front of us, with ugly black columns of smoke rising into the sky.

But we were ready—all 13 of us—to face this blazing monster as part of a rigorous two-day DPMC fire and safety training program.

There was not a single professional firefighter in the class—just ordinary guys from DPMC North and DPMC South, the Head Office and Westhollow. But thanks to coaching from professionals—who had already given fire training to more than 400 other people in the last month—we knew what we were doing as we confronted the flaming diesel and gasoline engulfing a

maze of pipes near the ship channel.

We divided into four groups, each equipped with a high-pressure hose, as instructors barked orders. "Attack with a power cone," they'd say. "Go to full fog. Back out with a power cone."

The main objectives of the exercise were to first isolate the valve allowing fuel to flow into the fire and then put it out. This we did—with a little help from the wind, which was pushing the flames away from us.

The helmet and bunker coat felt like they weighed a ton as we strained to keep a tight grip on the hose. The lead man had his hands full just adjusting the nozzle to meet changing situations

as the fire roared and danced around, then flickered and died.

Layers of sweat accumulated under the heavy coats—but one shot at firefighting wasn't enough as the instructors wanted everyone to have a turn at the hose's nozzle, with everyone else supporting the hose.

Three times we advanced on separate fires—and three times we put them out.

We also took turns using dry chemical extinguishers to put out other fires, which looked every bit as menacing as those we attacked with hoses.

Actually, the fire-fighting exercise
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OTU training record...

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days, with as many as 16 students being enrolled in classes most of the time. Those students then received one day of regular classroom instruction and two days at the OTU.

Instructors worked both inside and outside the unit with students, teaching them tasks that included lighting furnaces to bring up the unit, running it and shutting it down.

Werner credited his three OTU instructors, A.P. (Augie) Augustine, M.F. (Pete) Fletcher and C. E. (Hap) Henderson, with making it possible to train such a large number of students in such a short time. He said, "They're real knowledgeable people. They know

operations and they work together."

He pointed out the OTU is similar to larger production facilities at the DPMC since it contains such standard features as a control room, furnace, heat exchangers, pumps and storage tanks. But he concedes the unit is much more simplified than other units—"to an experienced operator, it's very unsophisticated."

Like other units, the OTU also features a distillation tower. Although the tower is 85 feet tall, Werner pointed out "it's small compared to most of them."

He noted some persons taking operators' training balked at first at having to climb the tower to read a

gauge as they might have to do on a larger tower. However, he pointed out most everyone later looked forward to climbing the tower with enthusiasm because many of their friends had done so, earning an "I did" tag for their hard hats by completing the task.

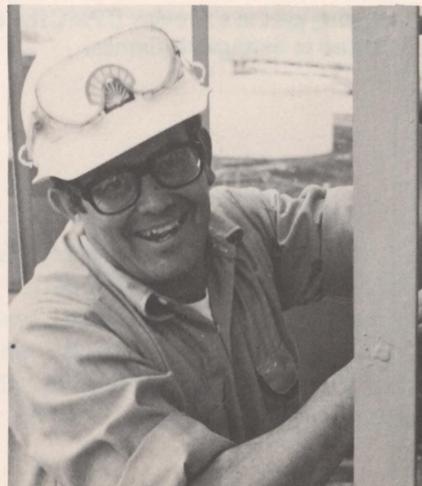
Recently, the training pace has slowed down. "The only training we're doing is a few replacements coming in. We're over the hump."

As a result, OTU classes in the near future will probably have only six to 10 students—although the three-day teaching schedule is expected to be retained.

But Werner said, "We will see to it that everyone gets the training they need."



Like many other DPMC employees, these three earned the right to wear "I did" tags by climbing the 85-foot OTU distillation tower. They are Jean Conway, left, of Project



Engineering; Ray Rescon of Westhollow, who is now working at Distilling; and Sharon Guidry of Medical.





Brause assumes GM duties ...

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Martinez (Calif.) Refinery. In 1974, he returned to the Houston Refinery for the second time as superintendent, Major Projects.

In 1977, Braus returned to Head Office as manager, Staff Development-Products, and was appointed general manager for Research & Development Products in 1978.

Dillard, a native Texan, attended the

University of Texas at Austin and the University of California at Los Angeles, earning a B.S. Degree in chemistry.

He joined Shell Oil Company as a chemist in 1956 at the Deer Park Chemical Plant. Later assignments included quality control, analytical development, process development, process design and process operation.

In 1963, Dillard moved into management in manufacturing

operations at Deer Park. He later held positions of increasing management responsibility at Martinez and Shell Point, Calif.; Deer Park and Geismar, La. In 1971, he returned to the Houston Head Office as manager, Staff Administration, for Shell Chemical Company.

In 1974, he was named manager, DPMC, and two years later became the facility's first general manager.

Fire-fighting skills taught...

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was only a small part of training, which was preceded by several hours of classroom instruction.

In addition, we were introduced to "the smokehouse." Located behind the firehouse at DPMC South, the dark, smoke-filled structure proved to be a good place to become acquainted with a Scott Air Pak.

When you can't see anything in front of you and you're groping for a way out, you really appreciate knowing you can rely on the life-sustaining air in the tanks you carry on your back.

Like our group's fire-fighting exercise, the training session in the "smokehouse" was also conducted under the watchful eyes of instructors.

Stressing the importance of the fire-related training, R.P. (Dick) Frutiger, superintendent, Safety and Industrial Hygiene, told us, "We hope you don't have to use it. But we want you to be prepared if something happens."

Also, R.J. (Ron) Swofford, superintendent, Operations North, said,

We're not going to expect you to be on a fire crew. But the actions you take in the very early stages—until the fire crew arrives—can make a big dif-

ference in equipment damage and subsequent personnel exposure. It's that initial volley of fire suppression that we're looking for you to do."



Taking part in a two-day DPMC fire training session, students pour on the water to extinguish flames.



The Inside Story

Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

This issue of the Inside Story is the first in a series of special four-page newsletters, which will be published periodically to provide news, features and items of special interest.
Les Cole — Editor