

# Shellegram

Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

Thursday, October 30, 1975

Vol. 40, No. 39

## BPA: AN EXPANDING OPERATION

"We're just getting so big around here, we're about to bust," says BPA shift foreman B. "Chief" Simmons.

### FIVE EXPANSIONS SINCE 1970

And Chief should know as he's seen five expansions since 1970, with bisphenol acetone (BPA) production capacity increasing from 100 MM (million pounds per year) to 150 MM.

The chemical plant started making a single grade of BPA (BPA-154) in 1953 utilizing two feeds: phenol and acetone. During the 1973 expansion a new high purity product (BPA-157) was introduced.

### BPA AND ITS USES

A flaky white substance, BPA reminds one of the old Ivory Snow soap powder. It is one of the few solid products made at the complex. "About half of the BPA we make," says David Andrews, BPA process manager, "is used inhouse as feed to the epoxy resin units, where dichlorohydrin and BPA are chemically combined to produce Shell's famous EPON resins."

The rest of our production is sold to many different customers for a wide variety of end uses. These include epoxy resin manufacture, adhesives, anti-oxidants and a number of uses in the textiles and clothing industry. BPA-157 is used in making polycarbonate plastics such as LEXAN, an unbreakable substitute for glass now being widely used as a protection against vandalism.

### ANOTHER EXPANSION UNDERWAY

Work has begun on site clearance for another major expansion, which will add 50 MM high purity bisphenol capacity. The introduction of this new unit will meet a growing and growing market.

"When this expansion is complete," says David, "Shell (continued on page 2)



Shift foreman Chief Simmons puts finishing touches on the BPA log sheets before calling it a day.

## DRILLING THE OCS: POINT, COUNTERPOINT

The debate about drilling for oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf continues - among industry experts, environmentalists and government officials.

Those opposed to the drilling often resort to argumentative cliches which have no basis in fact. Here are a few samples of some of those arguments, as well as the facts which refute them:

- "The Santa Barbara spill is still leaking oil." True, but the oil is trapped by a

metal dome which has been placed over the seepage. All of the oil is recovered.

- "If you fly over the Santa Barbara area, you'll still see streaks of crude oil on the ocean's surface." True, but this is a natural occurrence that has been going on for centuries, long before an oil industry existed. Sir Francis Drake, the first Englishman to sail around the world, reportedly noticed the same phenomenon

(continued on page 3)

### BPA: an expanding operation

will have a 350 MM capacity, maintaining our position as the world's largest producer of BPA."

#### SIGNIFICANT PROCESS CHANGE

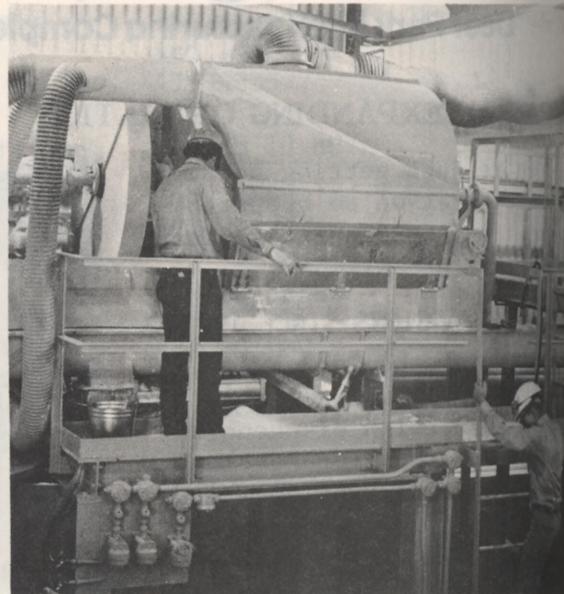
Recently a significant process change was made at BPA. Production of high purity BPA was increased 55 percent by simply rerouting several process streams in the unit. The penalty for this was a lower total BPA capacity, but this penalty fit market demands. So it didn't hurt; it helped!

David explained that the idea behind this change was about two months old when a fire damaged the BPA-157 flaker. As the new process scheme would allow making BPA-157 without using this flaker, top priority was assigned to getting the plan in the field.

"This was done almost overnight," according to David, "thanks to a first-class team effort of several men in maintenance, Job Engineering, Process Engineering and BPA Operations. The whole thing was remarkable because it enabled Shell to greatly increase production of BPA-157, in strong demand by industry, at practically no cost."



*Top left: Adjustment on a steam valve completed, operator David Owens returns to the BPA control room.*



*Top, right: Shift foreman O. B. Hicks descends BPA flaker ladder after consulting with contractor.*

*Right: Recovery operator Marcos Palacios drains water from accumulator as a routine duty.*



### CATALYTIC CONVERTERS: POTENTIAL FIRE THREAT

Sportsmen who own 1975 pickup trucks and passenger cars equipped with catalytic converters need to think

twice before driving through a pasture of dry grass during the hunting season.

Temperatures inside the converters reach 1,200 to 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit, twice the temperature of regular exhaust systems. Since converters are slow to cool, such equipped vehicles could start a grass fire - no way to treat a hunting lease.

Officials at the Parks and Wildlife Department say that vehicles under the 6,000 pounds gross vehicular weight rating (GVWR) usually have converters.

This includes most half-ton pickups, passenger cars and some popular off-road vehicles.

The U.S. Army has banned the use of converter-

equipped vehicles within 50 feet of any aircraft, fuel spill, explosive area or other potentially hazardous area.

Tests by a major oil refinery indicate that when a 1975 model vehicle runs out of fuel, the temperature increases enough to completely destroy the catalyst.

Apparently misfiring associated with low fuel allows large amounts of unburned fuel to enter the converter, causing higher temperatures.

Dealers have replaced converters which have literally melted due to extreme temperatures approaching 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Other 1975 models have had their carpeting and floor mats scorched or burned by heat from the converters.

### SCORA CHRISTMAS DANCE PLANNED FOR DEC. 5

Friday, December 5, is the date set for the SCORA Christmas Dance at the Shamrock, Emerald Room.

Dancing will be to the tune of Tiny Skaggs and his 10-piece orchestra from 9:30 pm - 1:30 am. From 8 pm - 9:30 pm, the music will be that of a three-piece combo.

Cost for members will be \$10 per couple and for non-members it will be \$15. This will include setups and treats. BYOB, says board member, Robert L. Taylor.

### Drilling the OCS: point, counterpoint

off the California coast in the late 1500s.

- "If OCS leasing is permitted off the Atlantic Coast, our horizon will be cluttered with oil platforms." False. Due to the curvature of the earth, a 200-foot-high platform is not visible at a distance of 22 miles or more. Since none will be placed less than 30 miles from shore, no platforms will be visible from any point along the coast.

- "Under the present bonus bidding system of leasing federal areas, the government, and thus the public, isn't getting its fair share." That statement simply is not true. A recent study of the split of revenue from OCS lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico for a ten-year period shows that the government received - in the form of lease bonuses, rentals, royalties and taxes - almost three times as much

as all the companies in the entire oil industry combined. Yet taxpayers put up no money and took no risks. Furthermore, the government received much of its share immediately in bonuses, whereas industry waits years to begin recovering its investment.

**MONDAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ADS.**



## CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Two F-60 and two G-60 Trans Am Delta tires on U.S. Indy slotted aluminum wheels. Balanced with inside weights. \$50 each.  
499-1173

1962 Buick Special 6 cylinder, radio, heater, good tires. \$100.  
734-4159 after 5:30 pm  
493-7701

Amati trumpet (Bruno) and case. 1974 purchase used 5 months. \$115.  
771-9886

Brand new HR 78-15 steel belted radial tire. \$50.  
487-1468

1968 Olds Cutlass, full power, good condition, original owner. \$695.  
481-4352

Two lots (99x107.5) corner of Arno and Westside Drive. Two lots (99x107.5) Arno Street (behind Handy Dan on Spencer). \$30,000.  
472-8931 after 5 pm

**OLD CUSTOM IS FUN FOR ALL**

This is an old custom that has been practiced for years. It's fun and interesting to watch a coal flower grow - provided you can find some coal.

Place a lump of coal in quart size fish bowl, pour one fourth cup ordinary table salt over coal and add about one fourth cup water, being careful not to wash salt off the coal. Add three drops each of red, yellow, blue and green food coloring on top of salt.

When the salt begins to "grow," the colors blend together, making a colorful water garden. Add a tablespoon of water each day to this - carefully avoid washing away the salt formation.

Kids especially enjoy the thrill of growing a coal glower garden, but many adults also enjoy watching the lump of coal grow.

1969 El Camino, automatic, 350 motor, power steering, good tires, clean, good condition. \$1,095.  
473-1274

1968 Ford SW, air, power, good tires, no rust, very good condition. \$650.  
472-4203

1974 Chevrolet pickup, radio, heater, air, white walls, 4-speed. \$2,500.  
649-6797

1967 Winnebago, 18', A/C, ref., AC, heater, good condition. \$4,900.  
487-4744 after 5 pm

18 acre farm with 2-story house and 3-car garage, good barn, well, Courtney, Texas.  
487-4744 after 5 pm

Federal Director electronic siren, Model PA-15 with new mike, wail, yelp, alert, manual, P.A. and radio. Federal TS24-A2 speaker, two 7½" red grill lights, two 4½" blue grill lights, lite-up dash switch. Cost \$273; sell \$150.  
477-6028 after 5 pm

1973 Yamaha Enduro 125, 2,500 miles, electric start, never raced. \$450.  
479-1168

John Deere tractor, rebuilt engine, 3-point power lift, new rear tires. \$2,250.  
493-7701 or 734-4159

1971 Motorcycle CL350 Honda, orange, needs battery. \$275.  
471-3383

1974 Montego MX Sport Coupe, 351-V8, auto transmission, A/C, tinted glass, disc brakes, power steering vinyl interior and roof, opera windows, AM radio, 28,000 miles. \$3,400.  
473-8044

WANTED TO BUY

Wooden nail kegs.  
487-3649 after 5 pm

Small air compressor with tank; 30-30 rifle, 30-06 or Br.303, need not be sporterized, must be reasonable.  
453-0231

FOUND

Key #17W near room 113 in the Main Office Annex (hospital) on October 23. Claim at SHELLEGRAM office.

PERSONALS

I wish to express my family's deep appreciation for the beautiful spray of flowers sent to our mother's funeral.

- Welton T. Mehrkam

I want to thank all of my friends of the Shell Refinery for the wonderful retirement party and gifts. I will always treasure the plaque with all of your names on it. The welding machines will really come in handy. I have been very busy building a roof over our mobile home and getting the land ready for pastures, but things are shaping up. Agnes joins me in inviting each of you to drive to Wheelock to see us.  
- Charles T. "Abie" Blasberg

**SHELLEGRAM**

Published by Shell Oil Company for its Deer Park Manufacturing Complex employees at Deer Park, Texas.

**Mrs. Dotti West - Editor**

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