



shelletter

HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 29

Friday, October 19, 1962

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

The final Staff Employees Dinner Meeting of this series was held last evening in the Hash House, and it was a sizzlin' success. The talks were brief and informative; the question-and-answer session saw lots of participation by the group -- and then out came the steaks. The timing was perfect - the steaks were "just right" according to 75 satisfied diners. Harry Walker discussed operations both here and at the other struck Shell locations. At Norco, Harry said, operations came up quickly soon after the strike started, with production now at a record level of about 120,000 barrels-a-day. At Wood River, the throughput is in the 125,000 barrels-a-day range. We're very much in the chemical business, too, according to Harry. Our Southern neighbors next door are running just about all their units, with record levels at some of them. Norco's Chemical Plant is also purring along with a balanced offering of products. Jack Kelbaugh's talk centered around negotiations, both here and at the other locations. Included in his remarks was a report of the most recent meeting with the Union, called by the Conciliator this past Wednesday, October 17. It was apparent from his report that little or no progress was made at this meeting. Regarding negotiations with the Unions at the other Shell locations, Kelbaugh said numerous meetings had been held by groups at each location. But once again, little or no headway had been made toward resolving the issues separating the parties.

It is with regret we report the death of an employee, Robert Byron Wimberly. Mr. Wimberly, who worked as a Dockman No.1 in the Refinery Dispatching Department, died suddenly Thursday afternoon, October 18. Funeral Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, October 20, at the First Baptist Church in Deer Park.

LABOR RELATIONS

A letter is in the mail today to all supervisors, outlining in detail the results of the meeting Wednesday, October 17, between the Company and the Union. The letter also lists the Union issues as of that date, as well as an excerpt from the Companies' counterproposal dated August 18, 1962.

OPERATIONS

It's OFFICIAL - LVI unit in Lube Oils Department is up and sending stock to storage. And over in the Aromatics Department, the Toluene Section of the ACU unit is up, and Lambin's Legion is sending forth super-distilled, tri-pure toluene. And with these two systems "A-OK", that just about makes a full orbit for every unit in the plant, big and small. In fact, our men in white suits have the boss scratching his head, now, trying to figure out if there isn't some other little something or other he can start up.

NEWS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS

Most of you have either read or heard of the dynamite incident Wednesday night at the Wood River Refinery, which caused damage to the high voltage cables feeding the crude tank farm and crude booster pumps. The cables have been repaired and both crude units were back on stream by the day shift yesterday (Thursday) morning.

(over)

SAFETY

Jack Kelbaugh covered the topic in the meeting last night, but it's worth repeating again right here ... And it's just what we've said many times before... OBSERVE CARE, and COURTESY when driving past the pickets. There's a STOP sign for all to see when leaving the Refinery ... and it's a good idea to put up a mental STOP sign in front of you when you enter the Refinery, just before passing the picket line.

ANOTHER MOTTO WINNER

Meeting in super-secrecy ... sworn to dedication upon the oath of the golden pecten ... and judging the entries with only one eye open to assure maximum security, our SPECIAL BONUS SHELLETTER MOTTO EXPERTS have made their decision. A small bonfire in one of the furnaces (we can't even say which one) - and a few ashes are all that remain to give mute evidence of what was judged. To the winner - a glorious prize, and the deep, personal satisfaction that except for the presence of libel laws - he too may have been the "king of the mountain" in the big motto contest. And who was the winner? We probably should keep this a secret, but the SHELLETTER is dedicated to reporting all the news we can. So J. R. Jones -- step forward and claim your prize. It's a prize you'll cherish - and probably keep for a long, long time. The prize is a down payment on a pair of box seats to the very first World Series to be played by the Houston Colts in the new, yet-to-be-built DOMED STADIUM. So, rain, snow, cold, heat -- it matters not ... when that day arrives our winner should be there. And invested at a modest annual rate of return, the down payment he now has will probably grow to an amount large enough to cover the cost of the entire series by the time that magic day arrives. By now you've probably guessed it .. NEVER EVER will we publish the SPECIAL BONUS MOTTO. The boss shuddered at the thought; our SHELLETTER production staff blushed at its mere mention; and the editor grabbed the nearest copy of the "help wanted" ads at the suggestion of printing such a thing. No, never in the SHELLETTER, please.

CAFETERIA

Still missing: silverware from the Hash House ... and they need it in their business. Seen any spare knives, forks, or spoons, lately? If so, how about turning in the loose hardware to the Hash House folks.

ODDS & ENDS

Lack of activity on the switchboard late at night and on week ends brings about another change. Here it is: The special night "hook-up", (no real, live operator) will be used from 5 p.m. Saturday until 8 a.m. Monday morning, beginning next week end, Oct. 27-29. Then, during the week nights, Monday through Friday, the night hook-up goes into effect at 9 p.m.

George Nuss, grand and glorious master-planner for all doormen at the Alley Theatre and Theatre, Inc., has posted his master schedule for the next Alley play on the Employee News Center bulletin board in the Hash House. George asks that you check your assignments, and follow the crystal-clear directions he has written on the schedule ... He's even supplied a pencil for his patrons.

Out of the hospital and back home (and happy to be there) is J. D. Cornell. We are happy to report he continues to show steady improvement, and hopes to be back with us before too long.

This morning's staff meeting was a bit unusual -- a member of the family was not in his accustomed seat when it started. Earle Reiley's story -- "I thought it was Thursday" -- (he wondered where everyone was around 10 a.m.) -- Kelbaugh's reply: "You might as well have thought it was Sunday -- then you could have stayed home."