



# shelletter

## HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 38

Wednesday, November 7, 1962

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

Quite a few people called the last few days asking how the length of the present strike compares with the ones in the past. First off, there's lots of ways you can figure the length of the strike ... but for the sake of this comparison, let's use the popularly accepted figures of the past. In 1937, the strike lasted approximately 34 days; in 1947, approximately 62 days; in 1952 the time was approximately 72 days ... and this week we reach the 80th day in our current strike.

### OPERATIONS

The books have been balanced for October's business ... and here is the O-F-F-I-C-I-A-L average barrel per day intake for last month - 130,338. We're up above that average somewhat right now - in the range of 135,000 to 140,000 barrels per day ... and the reason for the increase should make music in the stockholders' hearts ... "increased market demand" ... in this case the increase is for distillate fuels ... cold weather up Nawth, you know!

### NEWS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS

Wood River: Refinery Administrative Superintendent Aaron Martin met with employees Friday night to bring everyone up to date on the negotiating meetings of the past week. Quoted below is Mr. Martin's report as carried in Wood River's INSIDE NEWS: "...Aaron reported that a friendly atmosphere prevailed as we met with the five-man union committee to discuss the various issues. Union demands now appear to be the following: 1 - Wages; 2 - Term of contract; 3 - Contract work; 4 - Severance pay revisions. Of course, there are other problems arising from the strike that also must be settled before a return to work. The principal progress that has been made lies in the fact that it is much easier to talk things over with a five-man committee than with a large group of union representatives, which has numbered as many as 30 or 40 during some of the past sessions. The meeting was adjourned Friday with the understanding that the various proposals and suggestions would be taken under advisement until after the election, after which time negotiations may be resumed if requested by either Shell or the unions."

Norco: Representatives of the Norco Refinery and the union are scheduled for further meetings later this week.

California Refineries and Anacortes: Working under extensions of existing contracts.

### NEWS FROM OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR

Our friends at the Chemical Plant stepped back and took a long look at their October operations the other day ... and came up with all sorts of records. For instance, all-time monthly production records were set for the following products: Ethyl Chloride, Finished MIBK, Crude and Finished MEK, Total Crude Ketone (Acetone plus MEK), BPA (for single unit operation), and Liquid EPON Resins. And add to this the fact that more solid EPON resins were produced in October than at any time except when the units were manned by twice as many people as currently.... Well, we can't add anything to this - those fine records tell the story ... But "nice goin'", just the same.

(over)

SAFETY

Louie looked around and guess what he saw? A clean, spic and span Refinery. "Housekeeping was never better," says Louie, with an appreciative sparkle in his voice. And just why should a safety man be so concerned about a subject like "housekeeping"? "Elementary," explains Louie, "'cause housekeeping is the first order of a successful safety program. Show me a clean, well-kept work place and I'll show you a safe place to work." So Louie got his pitch in about safety after all, and he's mighty pleased with the way people are keeping their areas clean - in operations, in the shops - in fact, everywhere he looks!

TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRES

We're happy to report no unreasonable delays at the gate in the last few days - so we've received no Traffic Questionnaires from employees. This is just a reminder, though, that the forms are still available, at the Main Gate and at the Receptionist Desk in the Main Office Building, and if you have need to complete one of the forms, please do so and turn it in at either of the above locations.

TECHNOLOGISTS TAKE NOTE!

Some of the technologists on plant duty have pointed out the difficulty of keeping up with current technological problems or new developments while assigned to shift work. Since it appears impractical to circulate the several monthly technical reports or newsletters published by ourselves and others to all those interested, a reading file has been established in the Tech. Conference Room. Those who wish, may stop by for a few minutes after the 8-4 shift or before the 4-12 shift to catch up on such matters.

ODDS & ENDS

ANOTHER SIGN OF THE TIMES: A neat, business-like sign on the wall that separates the steno's office from the library in the East Research Building, warns the passerby NOT to use this entry as a thorough-fare. Recently, another sign, not quite so business-like, appeared below the original, so that now the complete message reads:

"PLEASE DO NOT USE AS PASSAGEWAY"

"EXCEPT DURING STRIKES!"

A BRANCH, no less! There are those who claim publicity, whether good or bad - or accurate, beats no publicity at all. This subject came up the other day when Wood River Refinery's INSIDE NEWS, in referring to activities elsewhere, listed the Houston Refinery under the heading of BRANCH REFINERY NEWS. Of course, a Texan's pride is only somewhat smaller than his brag . . . but just how big do you have to be these days to earn status as a full-fledged refinery?

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