



shellegram



SHELL OIL COMPANY
HOUSTON REFINERY

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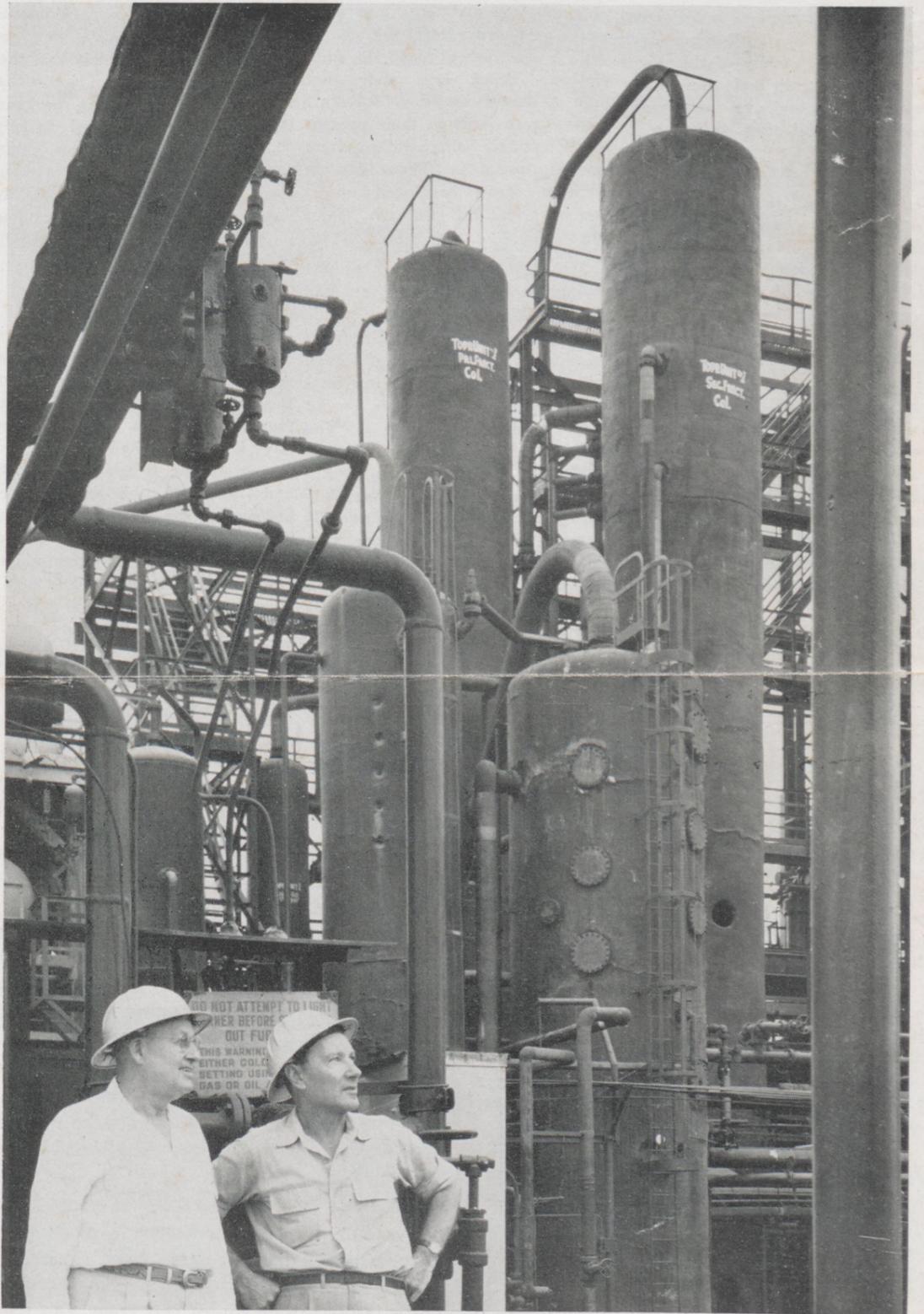
**Houston
refinery**

is

25

years

old



C. H. Webb, retiree, left, and Norman Thew, Assistant Manager of the Gas Department, were the Stillman and Fireman respectively of Badger Unit (now Topping) No. 1 when Houston Refinery went on stream during the evening of August 8, 1929. (See story on Page Three).

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Recollections of Early Years of Shell's Houston Refinery

By MARION SMITH

Shell Houston Refinery had its inception twenty-six or so years ago over desks in the then Head Offices in St. Louis, according to Charlie Brockmeyer, one of the original draftsmen for this plant and now Construction Superintendent. The idea was afterwards tossed to Shell engineers here for completion. They drew up the master plan for the nearly 850 acres, Charlie adds, juggling the bits here and there until everything fell into its natural place.

When construction was begun, a nucleus of Shell old-timers was brought here. Many of them still answer roll call and they along with newcomers over the years have a colorful story to tell.

A Flat Plain

Randall Lee, Office Engineer, is another of the original draftsmen. His recollections are vivid about the first engineering building in 1928, a little old-time frame one-room school house located at Center Street and La Porte Road. The refinery site, he says, was a flat plain except for a beautifully wooded ravine with a boggy bayou running through it. This ravine was filled with dredgings from the slip along the channel when our first three docks were built, he says.

The mud that first winter of 1928-29 impressed everybody. Randall says that though thousands of yards of oyster shell were used in road construction, wagons hauling heavy equipment and pipe bogged down time and again. In

one bad mud hole near the present garage, mules floundered belly deep in mud and several spans hooked tandem were required to get through that area. Louis Feray, Transportation Foreman, can remember a big sign warning "Beware Bog" at this spot.

Heavy Construction

Randall says the first items on construction naturally were the storage tanks and lines, but units followed almost immediately. In 1929 the Main Office was finished and topping and cracking units were, as he says, well out of the ground and being piped to completion. Brockmeyer adds that nine of our present fourteen staff houses were built in their present location after being shifted from several other sites. From then on, additions have continued apace, according to Bill Cubrich, Chief Draftsman.

Off Shell property on the lone prairie across the road from the Main Office were two public "greasy spoon" cafes. Everyone has lurid recollections of them. One of them has since disintegrated, but the other remains on La Porte Road and is known as "The Chief." Dr. M. O. Baker, Head of Analytical Service Section at Research, says dirt and varmint were thick, but people who could stomach the food ate there anyway. Others went to buy overalls and gloves, and everybody went for the general excitement of daily free-for-alls among the sailors. Opal Hickman, clerk in Thermal Cracking, was then a switchboard

operator, and says when they stepped across the road for coffee, their party never knew what to expect.

Everybody remembers the early baseball teams. Randall Lee looks back to recall the company baseball diamond where cattle grazed in the evenings and a baseball player sometimes couldn't recognize his bases immediately. Charles Suggs, Job and Materials Expediter, recollects the comical four-legged "grass cutters" which roamed at will. Harry Kennedy, General Foreman of the Boilerhouses, says the silly billygoats were unending entertainment, and that they got so accustomed to sandwiches that they refused to eat the grass they had been imported to clip. They ran through Utilities, jumped on trucks, and clambered up steps to high platforms on the units, where Suggs adds that four or five of them got unexpectedly "barbecued" one day.

Long Work Days

Noses were on the grindstone in early days and equipment was scant. During early construction Feray says that the men worked from 7:30 a.m. to midnight seven days a week and had to have special permission to get a day off, and Dr. Baker adds there was no coffee making. Tony Del Peral, Janitor at Research, says the labor department had no mechanized equipment but only picks and shovels, and bottle washing was a once-a-month job instead of a full-time daily chore as now. Red Howell, supervisor in Distillation,

says at Topping every time it rained there was a fire, because flanges contracted and leaked. To test for an explosive mixture, the men emptied a quart bottle of water inside a vessel, took the bottle outside and dropped a lighted match in to see what happened. There were no flow controllers, so operators counted pump strokes, and calculated the throughput by backing up to a troy engine and counting the times it pecked them within thirty seconds.

Research Started in '34

Research, begun in 1934, had two problems, fractionation and thermal cracking, and one pilot plant, according to Birdie Fogleman, Manager of the Catalytic Cracking Department, and he says a Ph.D. could be hired for \$125 and was glad to get it. Today Dr. William A. Bailey, Jr., Director of Research, presides over thirty-five research investigations and twenty-five pilot plant units housed in four buildings.

Utilities started out in 1929 with five 200 psig boilers and today steams away with four 450 psig and seven 650 psig boilers in addition, says Harry Kennedy.

Lucille Sudwischer, General Helper in Engineering Field, and Joan Berwick, chemist at Control Laboratory, remember during the war when women were hired in droves to work throughout the plant to take the place of men gone with Uncle Sam. A "dean of women" was imported to handle the situation, and many a colorful situation arose. These women wore cover-

alls, hairnets, and tightly wrapped Mammy-style bandanas.

Refinery employees began to look to their money in 1937, and the Credit Union was begun, says Joe Murray, treasurer of the Credit Union and Area Engineer. There were sixty original members who deposited a total of several hundred dollars. Now he adds, there are nearly 4000 subscribers and their nest egg is worth over a million and a half dollars.

Red Howell remembers a number of our men from way back when. He says Louie Miller, now Plant Superintendent of Operations, was then assistant head stillman. Bill Carpenter, Distillation Department Manager, was stillman shift breaker. Pete Keegan, Administrative Superintendent, was the entire safety department.

Deak Lucas and Alvin Eaton, now Treasury Manager and Head Manager of Stores, respectively, were timekeepers. Louie Grossheim, once a lab employee, is now Head of the Safety Department.

"Fine Place to Work"

But whoever they are and whatever their job, of them all Randall Lee has this to say: "The present good relationship of employees stems from the closely knit companionship that was prevalent in the early construction years and their method of getting a job done, and this is one reason why the Houston Refinery of Shell Oil Company has an enviable record as a fine place to work."

M. P. L. Love Salutes Good Spirit Here

"It is with mixed emotion that I take leave of Houston Refinery. While I am, of course, enthusiastically looking forward to my new assignment, I am indeed sorry to have to say good-bye to my friends here.

"During the comparatively short time I have been here, I have developed a fond affection for Houston Refinery and for the men and women who make it great.

"There is a fine spirit here at Houston Refinery: I sensed it when I first came here; I hope that I will be able to take it with me wherever I go.

"Such a spirit has enabled Houston Refinery in 25 short years to take its place alongside the petroleum giants of our nation, and to compile an enviable record in the process.

"I greatly value my many rewarding experiences at Houston Refinery.

"Certainly one of the most pleasurable experiences came for me earlier this year when I was able to announce that the men and women of Houston Refinery had worked a million man hours without a disabling injury. Your efforts to make this Refinery a safer place to work were certainly gratifying to me, and I know that you will continue to build greater safety records in the future.

"It also was a gratifying experience each time I was privileged to present a Shell service award to one of our Refinery main-stays. Their sincere loyalty to the Refinery and to the Company is an inspiration to me as I'm sure it is to all of you.

"I wish every success to your new Refinery Manager, Mr. P. E. Hurley, a fine person whom many of you already know.

"I want to thank each of you for your very splendid co-operation. It is my hope to see you again in the near future.

"May God keep you safe,"

August Issue Spotlights Houston Refinery's Silver Anniversary

This, the August issue of The Shellegram, is dedicated to Houston Refinery's Twenty-fifth Anniversary, which is being observed this month.

This is a tribute to the men and women whose efforts have enabled the Refinery to make such grand progress in the space of 25 years.

It is hoped that this issue will recall fond memories for the many long-service employees and that it will afford an insight into the Refinery's colorful history for the newcomers.

A little over 25 years ago, a peaceful prairie slumbered unaware of the plans that were to transform the location into a modern industrial center. Now, Cracking units are where campfires once crackled and silver columns and gleaming white tanks stand where tall trees and waving grass grew. And the men and women of the Refinery carry on the important task of answering man's needs for the products of petroleum.



FRED WICHLEP, Editor

JO KELLEY, Associate Editor



Published monthly for employees of Shell Oil Company, Houston Refinery, and Shell Chemical Corporation, Houston Plant. Contributions of articles and photographs are welcomed. Address all communications to EDITOR, SHELEGRAM, Shell Oil Company, P. O. Box 2527, Houston 1, Texas.

P. E. Hurley Commends Refinery's Employees

"I am genuinely pleased to return to Houston Refinery and to the many friends I left some nine years ago.

"Since leaving here, I have been, as many of you know, at nearby Norco Refinery; near enough, it would seem, to be able to follow the progress of Houston Refinery. Yet, upon returning, I marveled at the many improvements that have been made.

"I am especially pleased to be here during the Refinery's Silver Anniversary month, enabling me to take part in that observance and to extend my heartiest of congratulations to you men and women who have played such vital roles in the Refinery's 25-year record of growth and progress.

"With you, I join in bidding farewell and good luck to Mr. Love. Under his fine leadership and pleasing personality, Houston Refinery made many strides forward, and we shall miss him.

"With your continued fine co-operation, we can be sure that Houston Refinery's second 25 years will be as fruitful as the first."

Oil Industry Celebrates, Too

Besides being the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Houston Refinery, August is also the Ninety-fifth Birthday of the Oil Industry.

On August 27, 1859, a former conductor for the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad made a discovery that changed the course of civilization. The man in question was "Colonel" Edwin L. Drake, and his discovery was oil—not just oil itself, but proof that it could be obtained in abundant quantities by drilling for it.

The place where this historic discovery was made is the little town of Titusville, in sparsely-settled northwestern Pennsylvania.

Houston Refinery "On Stream" 25 Years Ago This Month

Veterans Recall Lighting of Badger Unit No. 1 Furnace August 8, 1929

At 6 o'clock in the evening of August 8, 1929, the word was passed from Stillman C. H. Webb to Fireman Norman Thew to light the furnace of Badger (now Topping) Unit No. 1.

The Fireman thrust a burning torch into the mouth of the furnace, and in an instant, a fire roared from within.

Thus, Houston Refinery began operations 25 years ago this month. True, the fractionating columns had yet to reach the proper temperatures to begin distilling the crude, but with the lighting of the furnace, the first step had been taken.



The Fireman who lit that first fire, Norman Thew, is now Assistant Manager of the Gas Department, and the Stillman, C. H. (Harry) Webb, is retired on pension.

Mr. Webb, who retired in 1946 after 24 years of Shell service, recently paid a visit to the Refinery to talk over old times with his friends here. For four years prior to his retirement, he served as Assistant Manager of Distilling.

W. A. Carpenter, veteran manager of the Distilling Department; A. D. (Archie) Richards, Assistant Department Manager of Distilling, and R. B. (Red) Howell, a shift foreman in Distilling—all of whom figured in putting Topping Unit No. 1 into operation—and others joined with "Fireman" Thew and "Stillman" Webb in an informal reunion.

Mr. Thew, who was first employed as a Rodman and was next assigned to survey the Staff houses, recalled that he was excited over the task of lighting the furnace, although no ceremony was held to mark that particular occasion.

There had been a celebration in May of 1929 when the first shipment of crude oil was received into the storage tanks.

Fate, however, seemed unwilling to let the lighting of the furnace go by without providing a dramatic touch. Norman Thew, who simply by chance happened to be the Fireman on the 4-12 shift that was selected to put Topping Unit No. 1 into operation, was born in India, educated in England and came to Houston Refinery from Florida.

From Muddy Prairie to Modern Plant! That's the Saga of Houston Refinery

Stacks of lumber, iron and steel strung across the prairie . . . construction shacks, large and small, here and there . . . mules transporting equipment while trucks and tractors flounder helplessly in a sea of mud . . . men from all over the country, and from other countries, too, working night and day . . .

Word pictures drawn by Refinery old-timers describe the carnival atmosphere that prevailed during construction days.

Much To Be Done

Keep in mind that an entire Refinery was being built, and small though it was compared to now, there was much to be done before it could go on stream.

Surely the Badger (now Topping) and Treating units had to be built, for they are directly concerned with the transforming of crude oil into motor gasoline. But there were also the Docks, the Warehouse, the Boilerhouse, the Main Office Building, the Loading Racks, Car Shop and storage tanks. They all had to be built, and inasmuch as the Ship Channel did not provide curb service, a slip to the channel had to be dredged.

So the deafening symphony of construction roared. It has rarely ceased.

30,000 Barrels At First

At the time the Refinery went on stream, the only units operating were the Topping and Treating units. The Refinery was then processing 30,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

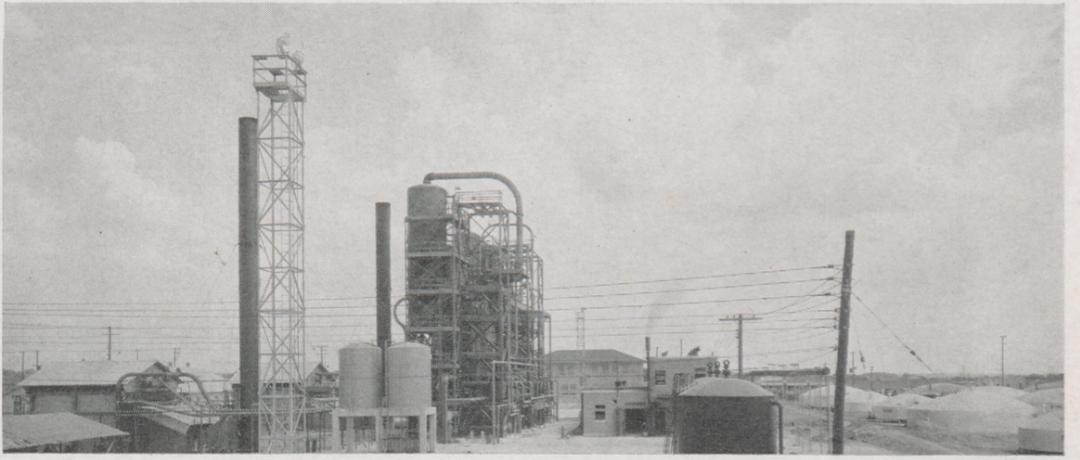
Since then, the facilities of Houston Refinery have grown steadily and rapidly. The daily crude oil throughput has reached 125,000 barrels. This produces 2,261,875 gallons of gasoline daily—enough to run an automobile 940 times around the world.

Following completion of the original units, a steady expansion program began in the early thirties and continued without pause until World War II.

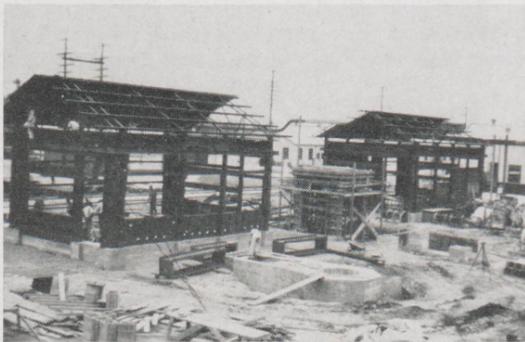
Expansion Program Begins

Construction on Dubbs No. 7, 8 and 9 began in 1932, followed by the Iso-Octane, Alkylation, Polymerization and Toluene Plants and a large, modern Cafeteria. The original Chemical Plant was completed in 1941.

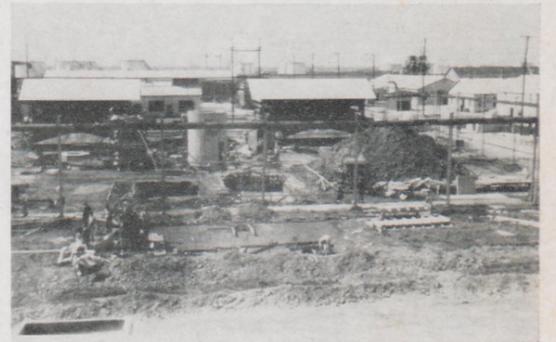
Following World War II, construction started up once again with the addition of the Cat Cracker, the Laboratories, Lube Plants, Central Shops and the Platformer and Aromatics recovery units.



Badger Unit (now Topping) No. 1 as it looked in 1929. Main Office building in background.



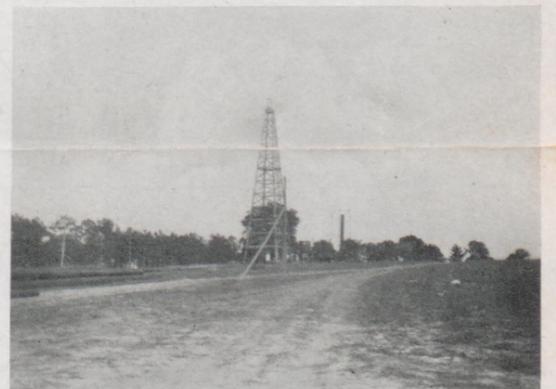
Dubbs No. 7 furnaces, above, undergoing construction in 1931. Between the furnaces are concrete supports for No. 7 Reaction Chamber built by Shell Refinery.



Another view of these same furnaces, looking south from the present C. P. Stabilizer area. Thanks to Charlie Brockmeyer for most of photos on this page.



The dirt that accumulated while dredging the slip to the channel was used to fill in the above drainage ditch which runs across Refinery Tank Farm area.



No. 2 Water Well, in foreground, as it looked upon completion in 1929. In background is a pile-driving rig used in setting the piling for Docks 1, 2, 3.



Supervisors (L to R) Ted Touchstone (deceased), Bill Cowgill, C. D. Warren, Buddy Felton (latter two retired) meet to map construction plans in early '40's.



In the distant background, Houston Refinery's first railroad tracks were being laid. Warehouse No. 1 is in the foreground of this January, 1929, photo.

Refinery's Beauty Draws Many Compliments

There appeared in the March, 1931, issue of the National Petroleum News an article which complimented Houston Refinery for its "good housekeeping." The article read, in part, as follows:

"In a refinery as in any army, the 'esprit de corps' of the organization and its personnel may be judged fairly accurately by the state of cleanliness in which equip-



J. L. Miller

ment and grounds are kept, by the thoroughness with which the refinery is 'policed up.'"

As it was in 1931, so it is today.

Rarely does a visitor to Houston Refinery fail to compliment the refinery on its cleanliness and neat appearance.

The man who has been chiefly responsible for the appearance of the Refinery since 1937 is J. L. Miller, Superintendent of Operations. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Mr. Miller, Houston Refinery is considered one of the most beautiful plants in the United States. A veteran of 24 years of Shell service, Mr. Miller spent four years in the Pacific Area in World War II as a Lieutenant Colonel, expediting petroleum products to the battle areas.

Refinery Plays Large Role In Houston Area's Growth

The coming of Mr. Million to Houston during the year in which Houston Refinery celebrates its Silver Anniversary points up the important role the Refinery has played in the growth of Metropolitan Houston.

In close parallel run the growth of the Greater Houston Area and of Houston Refinery.

A year after the Refinery went on stream—in 1930—the population of Harris County was 359,328 while the permanent force at the Refinery at that time was about 600. In contrast, today there are more than a million people living in Harris County and over 4,000 employed by Houston Refinery and Chemical Plant.

It's also appropriate that the majority of Refinery and Chemical Plant employees—over 3,000—live in two of Metropolitan Houston's fastest-growing areas: the southeast part of Houston and Pasadena.

Cites Pasadena's Growth

W. T. (Bubba) Riggs, Area Supervisor with 25 years of Shell service, is in a good position to supply background information on how Houston Refinery has affected the economic life of the Greater Houston Area. A native of Houston, he moved to Deer Park when he joined Shell in 1929 as a Carpenter's Helper at the infant Refinery. In 1940, he moved to Pasadena, where he has lived ever since.

Mr. Riggs, who, like many other Refinery employees, takes an active part in Pasadena's civic life, recalls that at the time Houston Refinery went into operation, most of Pasadena's 1500 or so inhabitants were engaged in raising strawberries.

He reminisces that near the Pasadena Depot there stood a huge shed in which thousands of boxes of strawberries were stored until they could be loaded into trains for shipment.

After Pasadena's strawberry industry faded out of the picture around 1935, Houston Refinery was one of the few major industries near Pasadena until shortly before World War II.

Today, Mr. Riggs is one of the nearly 900 Refinery and Chemical Plant employees living in thriving Pasadena, which now has a population of over 36,000 and expects that figure to reach 60,000 by 1960.

Proud of Library

Like all Pasadenans, "Bubba" is proud of the Pasadena City Library, which was a gift to the city from Shell Oil Company and the Shell Chemical Corporation in 1953.

A comparative Boom Town during the lush construction days of the Refinery, Deer Park's population by 1931 had dipped back to "around 50, counting the dogs and cats," according to Gaines Y. Mason, a veteran of 25 years of Shell Service and a long-time resident of Deer Park.

A Cracking Cleanout Foreman, Mr. Mason recalls that his house was one of the five or six in Deer Park when he moved there in 1930. The many cafes which thrived during the construction days had practically disappeared by that time.

Top School System

As the Refinery grew, Deer Park began to grow. Deer Park and Deepwater consolidated into one school district early in the thirties, and shortly thereafter began a program which has resulted in that district becoming one of the finest in the state. When Mr. Mason speaks of Deer Park's school system, he speaks from first-hand knowledge, having been a member of the School Board since 1940.

Today, Deer Park's population is around 1500, and is increasing daily. Some 50-60 building permits have been issued during the past six or eight weeks, Mason reports. Recently incorporated, the town has much promise for the future. Around 200 Refinery and Chemical Plant employees make their homes in Deer Park, and many of those are active in that small but growing town's civic life.

Refinery Proud of Its Safety Records

Houston Refinery has enjoyed a number of banner Safety years. Much of the credit for the fine Safety records compiled during the early years of the Refinery belongs to Superintendent of Administration P. E. Keegan, then Safety Inspector, and his General Safety Committee. (See Committee photo elsewhere in this issue).

Struggling throughout the usual hard times encountered during construction periods, organization of new personnel, operation of untried machinery, the employees of Houston Refinery accumulated 1,208,990 man-hours without a disabling injury in 1930-1931.

Today Houston has marked 27 days, or a total of 1,075,000 man-hours without experiencing a lost time accident. Only one before, in the past has Houston had such an enviable record. In 1930 and 1931 this refinery scored 1,748,023 man-hours worked without a disabling injury. July 20, 1935, this record will have been equalled and the Houston Refinery employees can start out to set a new record.

By working the first six months of 1935 without experiencing a disabling injury, Houston Refinery

won the J. F. M. Taylor Safety Plaque, which was awarded to the Shell Refinery with the highest accident prevention record at the termination of the first six months of the year and again at the close of the year.

Also in 1935, the Shell Houston Refinery First-Aid team, under the leadership of Mr. Keegan, won the national championship. (See photo of First Aid Team elsewhere in this issue).

Houston Refinery also accumulated over a million man hours without a disabling injury in 1939-1940; 1946; 1946-1947, and 1953-1954.

L. J. Grossheim, Shell veteran of 34 years service, has been manager of the Fire and Safety Department since it became a separate department in 1949.



The figure at the extreme left of the 1929 photo is Tony Blanyer, checking a stack of pipe while the other members of the stringing crew pause somewhere between Pasadena and Deer Park.

Many a Call for Tony

Early Pipe Liners Beat Mud With Mules

The story of the stringing of from various points of vantage, the pipe lines which brought the first crude from the fields of West Texas and New Mexico into the storage tanks of the Refinery, one of men and mules and mud.

George Blanyer, now a Foreman in Automotive, helped to lay the first pipe line into the Refinery, but few know him as George. Since he's been known only as "Tony."

Reliving those hectic days of the early days of the Refinery, yesteryear would be no small chore he's been known only as "Tony." were it not for the vivid memory "Tony" joined Shell Pipe Line of one man who helped to string in 1928 at Bastrop upon hearing of those vital lines through the mire a "big job" which was to bring that was once Pasadena, and who crude oil hundreds of miles into decided to stay on to see what was a new Refinery that was being going to happen to the crude after built. Being familiar with this it had completed its twisting journey. He's been here, watching the vanguard of those laying the pipe line from Houston to the Refinery.

It was obvious from the start to the men stringing the pipe, that if they were ever to reach their destination, they would first have to beat the mud. As soon as the trucks and tractors carrying the heavy pipe ventured into the muddy regions, they would without fail sink hopelessly into the mire.

Tony noticed one day while helping to get a truck out of the mud that there were a number of mules about, and they weren't having any particular trouble navigating through the soggy strawberry patches. So he got an idea: Why not have the trucks carry the pipe on the main roads, unload them along the route of the line, then let the mules do the rest.

His suggestion to use mules to drag the pipe into position to be ditched raised many an eye-brow, but the plan was finally adopted, perhaps out of desperation. And so it came to pass that the mules conquered the mud.

When Tony reached the Refinery in the Spring of 1929, his first glimpse was vastly different from the one seen by people viewing the Refinery for the first time today. Equipment, wooden shacks and heavy tractors were strewn about with what seemed to be wreckless abandon. "Looked like a hurricane had hit the place," Tony observed.

But Tony decided he would like to give Refinery life a try, so he stayed on to become something of an institution. "I've never spent one uninteresting day at the Refinery in 25 years," he will tell you.

While first classified as a Painter in Automotive, there was many a call for "Tony" which had nothing whatever to do with wielding a paint brush. He was, in fact, one of P. E. Keegan's right hand men in the First Aid department. He also used to write and take pictures for the old Shell Shock, fore-runner of the Shellegram, and Shell Globe, which preceded the Shell News. Moreover, he did quite a bit of painting outside the Garage, mainly on the safety theme.

Although most of his old photographs and files were destroyed in a fire years ago, many of the pictures in this issue belong to Tony, and we are thankful to him for lending them to us.

SHELL SHOCK

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HOUSTON, TEXAS, MONDAY, JULY 1, 1955

SAFETY FLAG REMAINS ALOFT

MAJORITY SIGN FOR INSURANCE IN GROUP PLAN

Required Quota Among Five Refineries Subscribed

During the past week one hundred employees on monthly salary basis signed up for the new group insurance. This brings the total for all refineries above the seventy-five per cent required to make the insurance effective.

HONOR ROLL

THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS HAVE NEVER INCURRED A LOST TIME ACCIDENT

Drayage	2154
Out Audit	2154
Deits	2154
Superintendence	2154
Ref. Main Office	2154
Technological	2154
Industrial Engineering	2154
Industrial Relations	2154
Cooling Water System	2154
Laboratory-Contract	2154
Laboratory-Research	2154
Dispatching (O. P. B.)	2154
Ship Recovery	2154
Clear Dispatch	2154
Car Office and Shop	2154
General Foreman	2154
Blacksmith	2154
Janitors and Garden	2154
Saltway	2154
Towers	2154
Tail Room	2154

Safety's Beacon

Still the crimson banner flutters Amid the smokes of Industry. Half year's toll of storm and shine Puffing folds, increasing grimly August this That Duty has with wisdom met And with a floating silhouette Purloined stranger's wanted spoil. Blessed with peace the hearts that toll And anxious ones at home. Today hearts strong in earnest prayer Lord, help us to keep it there.

MIDNITE ENDS CONTEST BRINGING TO HOUSTON TAYLOR SAFETY AWARD

Employees Jubilant As Zero Hour Passes Without Disabling Injury Closing Contest

Again Houston Refinery employees scored as the first six months of 1955 passed without a disabling injury inside the Safety Plaque to Houston. Tenison ran high the final days of the contest, with every employee redoubting his efforts to work safely.

Departmental Safety

(Due to shortage of time we were unable to interview all departments. Inquiries should be made of the Laboratory for the most careful affairs of the section.)

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CALHOUN



GIBBONS



HARRIS



HARRISON



HILL



KEEGAN

August Service Birthdays



MAGNESS



NEWMAN



OVERSTREET



RAGUTH



RICHARD

REFINERY

FIFTEEN YEARS

G. H. Cousins, Engineering
H. R. Neal, Utilities
B. J. Walter, Utilities

TEN YEARS

E. Allen, Jr., Gas
H. N. Creamer, Engineering
T. R. Kelley, Research
J. McFarland, Engineering
C. J. Spurlock, Engineering

CHEMICAL

TEN YEARS

A. M. Isbell, Engineering
J. W. McKinney, Engineering
W. C. Morgan, Operations
E. E. Morris, Operations
J. S. Price, Operations
C. Whisenant, Engineering
A. L. Woodring, Operations
J. B. Worthen, Engineering



HOBBS



RAPE



ROE



DUSCHAMP



JOHNSON

A. W. CALHOUN

There were far fewer buildings than there were mud holes at Houston Refinery when Adam W. Calhoun first reported for work as a Pipefitter's Helper in 1929.

Prior to being made Shift Foreman in Dispatching, he was a Wharfman, Gauger and Pumper.

In his spare time, "Cal" conducts classes for candidates through several degrees of Freemasonry.

He is married and has one daughter. The Calhouns live at 225 W. Texas Ave. in Pasadena.

L. W. GIBBONS

Assistant Manager of Treating, L. W. Gibbons marks 25 years of Shell service in August. He was first employed as a Treater in 1929 and has spent all of his time in that department.

He was made Assistant Manager in 1945.

His address is 2245 West Main.

E. C. HARRIS

The Clock House was in the P&IR Building and a Cafe occupied the space where the Clock House now stands. That was when Ernest C. Harris was first employed by Shell in 1929 as a Helper in the Pipe Gang at Houston Refinery.

Having been a Gauger, Pressureman and Stillman in Cracking, Mr. Harris is now a Shift Foreman in Thermal Cracking.

Interested in photography and television, Mr. Harris is married and has one child. The Harris' residence is 7023 Vandeman in Houston.

gone on stream when Mr. Keegan first reported for work.

D. HARRISON

Doc (that's his given name) Harrison is a 25-year Shell man this month. He hired in at Houston Refinery as a Pipefitter's Helper No. 2 in 1929 and has been here ever since with the exception of World War II duty as a Sergeant.

He is an Assistant Labor Foreman, and he makes his home at 3106 Gannett.

C. E. HILL

Coy Edgar Hill, No. 1 Pumper in Utilities, is another employee who observes his twenty-fifth Shell birthday in the month the Houston Refinery celebrates its Silver Anniversary.

"Red" who was first employed as a Pipefitter's Helper in 1929, also has had experience in the Cracking Cleanout Department. He is a hunting and fishing enthusiast.

Married, "Red" has two children. The Hill's make their home at 325 Second St. in Deer Park.

P. E. KEEGAN

P. E. Keegan, Superintendent of Administration, marks 25 years of Shell service this month. He was first employed as a Safety Inspector at Houston Refinery in 1929.

Mr. Keegan also has been Manager of P & IR at Houston Refinery and Assistant Manager of Personnel in Head Office.

The Topping Plants had just

gone on stream when Mr. Keegan first reported for work.

He and his wife, Ruth, have five children. The Keegans make their home at 2015 Branard in Houston.

C. M. MAGNESS

Clifford M. Magness recalls that when he first reported for work at Houston Refinery, it was "nothing but a mud hole." Of course, that was 25 years ago, for "Maggie" celebrates his Silver Anniversary with Shell this month.

First employed as a Roustabout in 1929, Mr. Magness is now a Cooling Water Pumper. Through the years, he has worked on the Separators, Cooling Water Towers 3 and 4 and 7 and 8.

"Maggie," who says that he likes to "take it easy" in his spare time, is married and the father of two boys and four girls. The Magness' live at 824 W. 14th St. in Houston.

M. S. NEWMAN

When M. S. Newman first reported for work at Houston Refinery in 1929, it looked something like this:

There were a few unpainted tanks; no fence around the Refinery grounds; a large coke pile, and the First Aid office was in Warehouse No. 1.

Hiring in as a Painter, "Shorty" had occasion to help paint those unpainted tanks that first struck his eye. He's now an Auto Mechanic in Automotive.

He and his wife have two children, and the Newman's make their home at 7034 Canal St. in Houston.

T. V. OVERSTREET

Troy V. Overstreet began his Shell service 25 years ago as a Burroughs Bookkeeping Machine Operator at Houston Refinery. His present position is Senior Expediter in the Stores Department. He also has had experience as a Sample Carrier in the Control Lab.

Mr. Overstreet enjoys gardening and woodworking. He and his wife make their home at 1111 Smallwood in Houston.

C. RAGUTH

Mr. Raguth chalks up 25 years of Shell service this month. First employed as a First Class Tester, he is now a Service Foreman in the Control Lab. He also has been a Shift Foreman in the Control Lab.

An active worker in the Pineview Civic Club, Mr. Raguth and his wife, Margie, reside at 116 Pineview Drive in Houston.

L. RICHARD

Louis Richard first came to Houston Refinery in 1929, but not as an employee. He was employed by the Construction concern that was building the Badgers (now the Topping Unit). When that work was completed, "Frenchy" elected to cast his lot with the infant Refinery, and he has been here ever since.

Mr. Richard, a Shift Supervisor in Engineering, observes twenty-

five years of service this month.

"Frenchy" lives at 7715 Arvin St. in Houston, where he enjoys growing flowers in his spare time. He has three children.

T. B. HOBBS

Thomas B. Hobbs, Zone Supervisor, is credited with 20 years of Shell service this month.

First employed as a Painter, Mr. Hobbs is a native Houstonian. He lives at 7219 Narcissus.

O. RAPE

Oscar Rape, Pumper No. 1 celebrates his twentieth Shell birthday this month, having been first employed as a Laborer in 1934.

He held various jobs in the Refinery before moving to the Dispatching Department in September of 1941 as a Gauger No. 1.

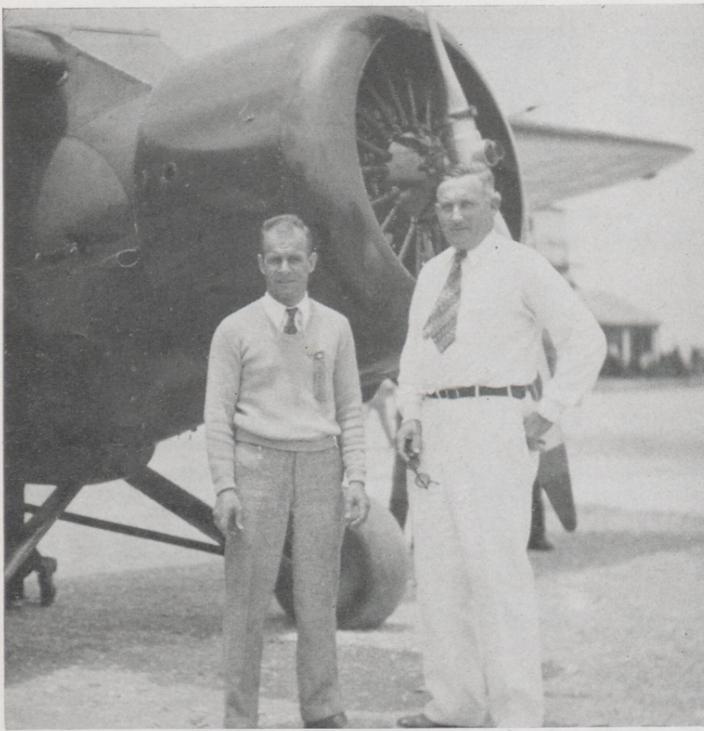
Born in Middleton, Texas, he attended school at Comanche, Texas. His residence is 7136 Japonico.

H. G. ROE

August brings 20 years of Shell service to H. G. Roe, assistant Pipe Foreman. He was first employed as a Laborer in 1934 at Houston Refinery shortly after Dubbs No. 7 had been completed.

In his spare time Mr. Roe likes to fish, hunt and help with a food service operated by Mrs. Roe. He is also a member of the Pasadena Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Roe and their two children live at 205 Tartar St. in Pasadena.



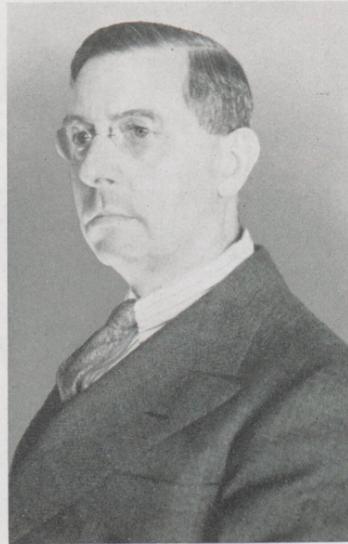
J. H. (Jimmy) Doolittle, Shell's aviation expert during the thirties, left, made a flying visit to Houston Refinery in 1933 to publicize Shell's aviation gasoline promotion campaign, and was welcomed by R. B. High, first Refinery manager. Gen. Doolittle, who led the famous bombing raid on Tokyo in 1942, now is a Shell vice-president and is on the board of directors.

25

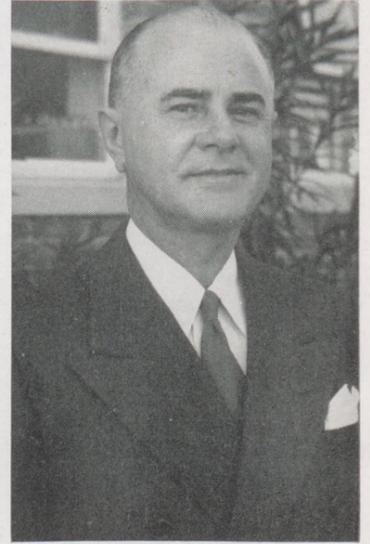
years of progress



R. B. HIGH
1929 to 1934



W. MULJEMEISTER
1934 to 1937



R. H. WASER
1937 to 1943



The General Safety Committee, above, was in charge of the Refinery's Safety program during its early years. The members of that committee still with Shell are: Left to right, bottom row—Bruno Simon (5); seated—P. E. Keegan (2), Ralph Stillinger (3), L. L. St. Pe (4), J. P. Dobson (5), John Davies (6), W. T. Riggs (8); third row—Ralph Pemberton (1), W. Peterson (3), Curnie Wilson (4), C. D. Warren retired (5), F. Hilliard (7), L. Hubbell, retired (8); top row—J. W. Richardson (2) retired, Sam Martin (5), J. W. Nixon (8).



Engineering Field won the inter-plant baseball championship in 1935. They are, left to right, standing: R. (Bub) Pemberton, Engineering, N. F. Gilliam, Automotive, J. S. Hacker, formerly of Engineering, Elmer Galle, Chemical Plant Engineering, Oscar Breeding, no longer with Shell, A. J. (Jack) Englishby, George Thorn and Johnny Campo, all of Engineering. Front row: Al Thurman, Chemical Plant Engineering, Messrs Webb and McGuff, who are no longer with Shell, L. N. Mancuso, Fire and Safety, W. T. Riggs, and P. M. Sharp, both of Engineering.



This is a picture of the Main Office force—snapped in 1931. Many of the above faces can still be seen around Houston Refinery. Bottom row (left to right): A. S. Mitchell (1), L. W. Gibbons (3), Roy Faulk, new Norco Refinery Manager (4), W. F. McKinnon, Lab Mgr., E & P Research Lab, (5), Randall Lee (9), Bob Haldane (11). Second row: R. B. High, former Houston Refinery Manager (5), Eula May Bradford, now Mrs. T. B. Viser (7), Lillie May Mecklin, now Mrs. Norman Thew (9), and Cortis Lawrence, former Shellegram Editor. Third row: Bob Perry (4), P. E. Keegan (6), Gus Collins (8). Fourth row: John Eichorn (5), Charles Brockmeyer (7), W. A. Carpenter (9), C. E. Davis, now Vice-President of Refining (10). Fifth row: R. H. Coombs (1), and Sixth row: C. E. (Red) Walker (6) and M. O. Sifford (7).



Tinnie Dowdy, now Assistant Dock Master, reflects back 25 years to the day when he was a dock hand and the first ship was loaded at Houston Refinery's dock. He recalls that the first ship loaded here was named S. S. Federal, and it carried crude oil to Shell's Norco (La.) Refinery.



P. E. FOSTER
1943 to 1951



M. P. L. LOVE
1951 to 1954



P. E. HURLEY
1954 to . . .



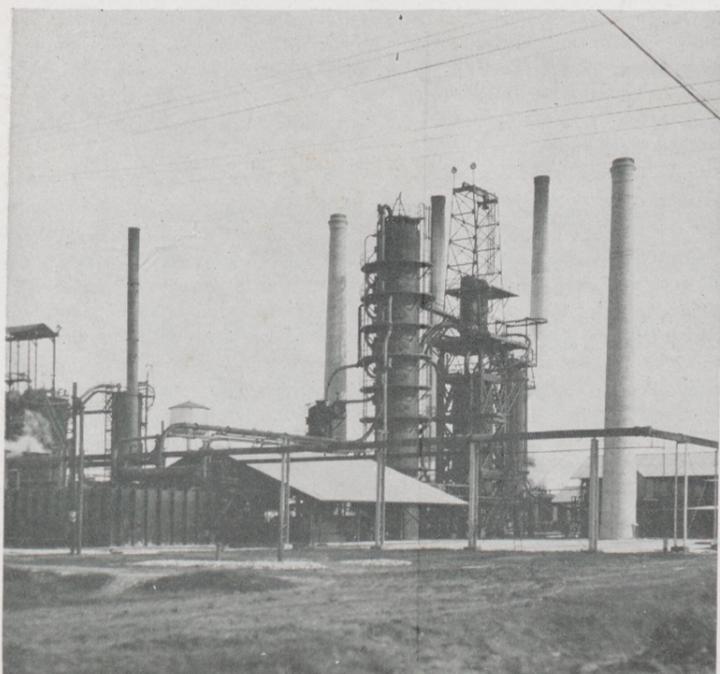
The Allied cause in World War II found an effective and enthusiastic backer in Houston Refinery and its employees. The above photo shows a War Bond Rally during a lunch period in September of 1943. Where the clearing shows in this eleven-year-old photo, there now stands the Central Shops Building. The Lube plant now stands in the space occupied by the trees in the picture. County road was then outside Refinery property.



While thousands of visitors from all parts of the world looked on at the annual Oil Equipment and Engineering Exposition April 12, 1935, the Houston Refinery team was declared national champion in the art of rendering first aid. Jimmie Vawter, Gas, and Tony Blanyer, Automotive, second and third from the right, respectively, are still with Houston Refinery.



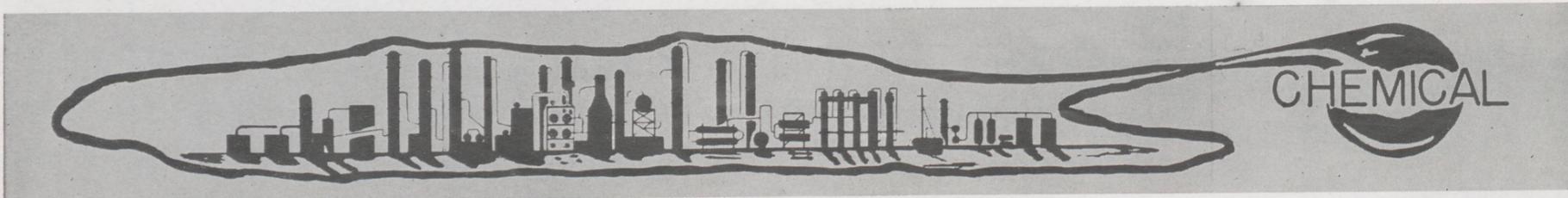
Employees went 514 days without a disabling injury in 1930. Present and retired Shellites pictured are L to R, bottom row—Bill Mathews, retired, (3), Doc Lilley (11); second row—Joe Marks, retired (2), R. R. Klechka (4), George Werner, (8); third row: J. W. Richardson, retired (1), Jack Englishby (4), Jimmy Sorenson (5), Homer Fricks (7), Bill Snow (9); fourth row—O. E. Hutchinson, retired, (1), C. S. Lindsey, S. F. Konzen (5), V. C. Mayberry; fifth row—Lee Aaron, retired (2), J. C. Donohue, retired (5), T. E. Ross, retired (8), Louis Richard (11).



Dubbs No. 7 as it looked in September, 1932, when it began operating. Originally a cracking unit, it is now used for fractionating of naphtha.



In October, 1938, the Stores Department (then known as the Warehouse) had 20 employees; now it has 52. Of the 20 pictured, seven are still in that department. They are, on the top row: (M. O. Sifford (3), Bob Board (7), Roy Carter (8). Stores Department employees in the middle row are Harry Gilmor (1), Manager A. N. Eaton (4), Troy Overstreet (7), J. B. Jones (8). F. G. Hawk, third from left in middle row, now is Manager, Production, Purchasing-Stores in New York Office. Ivan Shores, first man on the top row, now manages Chemical Plant Stores, and next to him stands A. W. Williams, Chemical Plant Engineering. E. W. Brown, Chemical Plant Engineering, is the fourth man from the left, kneeling.



Chemical Plant's Thirteen Years Are Part Of Growth Of Refinery

1941



C. W. HUMPHREYS
1941 to 1946



G. PURCELL
1954 to . . .

1954



B. M. DOWNEY
1946 to 1954

Shell Chemical is engaged in the manufacture of chemicals from petroleum products. The growth of our company has been made possible by plants such as the Houston Refinery. Even though we at the Chemical Plant are proud of our individual achievements, we take pride in sharing with the Refinery as they celebrate an important milestone in their history—twenty-five years of operation. Cooperation on the part of all employees in the Shell family has made this anniversary a significant one. Whatever Shell has accomplished in the past quarter of a century could have been done only with the loyalty and excellent work of Shell employees.

Glenn Purcell

Chemical Plant Reflects Growth And Progress

The Refinery had grown tremendously in its twelve years of operation when the decision was made to build a chemical division. This division was to use as raw materials, olefins, gases which before the development of such processes as alkylation, polymerization and isomerization had been burned as waste by-products.

Construction was started in December of 1940 in the area at the south-east corner of Shell Oil's property on the one time county road which led to the channel. On what is now the East Plot there was only grazing land for cattle. The first feed came into the Chemical Plant lines in August of 1941 and the first crude Butadiene was made in September. This was the first commercial quantity of butadiene produced in this country. Isopropyl alcohol and acetone were the two other initial products of the Houston Plant. In October of 1941 there were fifty-five people assigned to the chemical division. Most of the people had been with Shell for some time. Many of them transferred from the Refinery. Because of the operations by Shell Chemical at Martinez and Dominguez, quite a few Californians came down to Texas to help with the new division.

The demands of war took its toll on products and employees from 1942 until post-war days. Many women came to work in the operating Departments during that period. However, only three of them are still employed. Helen

Brown and Mayme Tanner are still working on the units, and Pat Estes is now working in the Stores Department. They each have ten years service with the Company.

Vivian Tucker, Secretary to the Plant Manager, came to the Chemical Plant from the Refinery in 1943. She recalls her first try at typing on an electric typewriter. She said she tore her hair for three months before she finally mastered the roaring monster.

Several additional products were made available in commercial quantities with the construction of the Allyl Alcohol Plant, which was completed and placed in operation in June of 1945. There were then almost 250 employees assigned to the chemical division.

Operations at the chemical division of the Houston Refinery had expanded to such a degree that it was no longer feasible to operate the plant as a portion of the Refinery, and in February, 1946, the administration and physical properties were assumed by the Shell Chemical Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shell Oil Company, Inc., which had been operating similar chemical plants at Martinez, Pittsburg, Dominguez, and Torrance, California.

Construction of DAP Plant was completed in June of 1946 and major construction continued through 1948. No sooner was one new plant complete than construction on another was begun. Plants C, M, S, H, and EC-1 were all built

during this period. In addition to unit construction, there were two sections added to the office building, a new shop and warehouse of modern and functional design, two new wings to the change house to provide adequate locker and other facilities for the use of employees, and the first aid building were completed.

The achievement of synthetic glycerine production on a commercial scale by Shell Chemical Corporation at the Houston Plant was realized when the first finished glycerine was produced in August of 1948. This operation represents a major accomplishment in the progress of the chemical industry and assures a steady supply of this widely-used product.

The once quiet pasture gave way to the roar of furnaces and tall columns took their place in line early in 1948, when we crossed the county road and built Plants EP and EA. The East plot now has about five units operating. EC was completed in December of that same year.

The first batch of Epon, a specialty product, came out on November 23, 1950. This resin found numerous uses and every day new ones are being developed.

The Sulfur Recovery Plant was built in October of 1952. This unit obtains its raw material from waste gases.

The construction of the modern new Research building has promoted a delightful surrounding for the

C. W. Humphreys, B. M. Downey, And G. Purcell Managers, Who Have Guided Plant Growth

Since its beginning in 1941, the Chemical Plant has been under the guidance of three different Plant Managers. Each man has played an important part in our Plant's history. We salute C. W. Humphreys, B. M. Downey and Glenn Purcell.

When the first feed came into the Plant on August 28, 1941, C. W. Humphreys was Assistant Superintendent of Shell Oil in charge of the Chemical Division. In March of 1945, he was made Superintendent of Shell Oil in charge of the Chemical Division. With the change from Chemical Division to Shell Chemical Corporation in February of 1946, Mr. Humphreys became the first Manager of the Houston Plant. Mr. Humphreys was transferred to Head Office in June of 1946 and he is now Vice President in charge of Manufacturing.

B. M. Downey came to Houston as Plant Manager on Mr. Humphrey's departure in June of 1946. Shortly after his arrival several major plants were constructed. The world's only synthetic Glycerine Plant was completed under his management. The Plant had tripled in size and was still growing, when Mr. Downey was promoted to Manager of Manufacturing and was moved to Head Office in 1954.

Glenn Purcell took over as Plant Manager on January 1, 1954. He had been with our Plant for three years from 1949 to 1952, as Assistant Superintendent and later Superintendent, so he had seen the Plant grow and had a big part in the planning of its growth.

In May of this year the first National "Chemical Progress Week" was observed. This week was set aside to pay tribute to the steadily progressing chemical industry. The total number of employees at our Plant now is approximately 1580. Each person has played some part in the advancement in growth and progress of the Plant.



Chemical Service Birthdays

G. F. JOHNSON

G. E. DUSCHAMP

George Johnson is a twenty year man now. George was first employed as a Junior Chemist with Shell Development at Emeryville in August of 1934. He worked in California until November of 1940 when he went on military leave. He returned from service in April of 1946 and was assigned to Martinez as Senior Chemist. In July of 1946, George came to Houston as Chief Chemist. He returned to California in July of 1948 as a Senior Technologist at San Francisco and in September of that year went to New York. November of 1949 George moved again to Houston this time as a Senior Research Chemist. George graduated from the University of California with a B. S. degree in Chemistry. The Johnson's, George, his wife, Helen and their two children, David and Eric make their home in La Porte. He spends some of his spare time working in his garden and then when he has enough worms, he goes fishing. George is also active in Scout work.

George Duschamp completes twenty years of service this August. A native of Tyler, Texas, he now lives in Golden Acres, the section he claims is the best place in the country to live. His reason? Well, there are several—good neighbors, good schools and good churches. George has a right to be proud of his community because he helped to pioneer the area. He has always been active in civic work. He served as a Water Board member for three years, during two of which he held the office of Secretary to the Board.

His first job at the Refinery was as a General Helper in the Dubbs clean-out. He has worked as a Pipefitter Helper, Pipefitter Foreman and is now a Maintenance Foreman. George and his wife, Arreta, have three children, two have graduated from high school and the baby girl is almost two years old. Hunting and fishing fill most of George's spare hours.

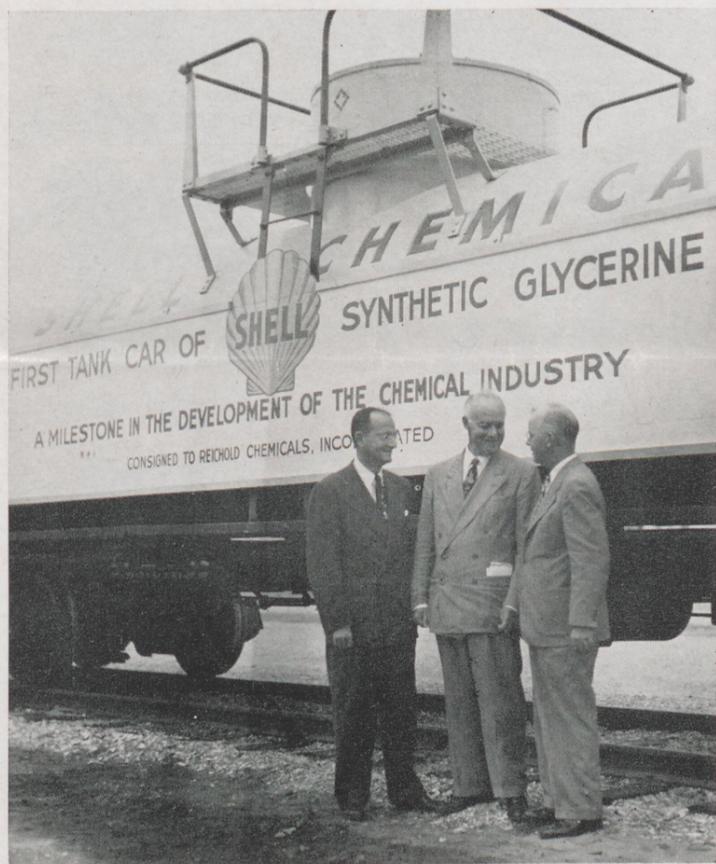
Old Pictures Highlight Plant's Story



Who would have expected to find all this glamour in the Refinery? That's how the cutline under this photo read in 1941. Elsa Graham, seated, still works in the Technological Department. Taking finger prints is J. W. Collins of the downtown office. R. B. "Red" Howell of Distilling is being mugged. The Nurse is the Chemical Plant's Marie Karney.



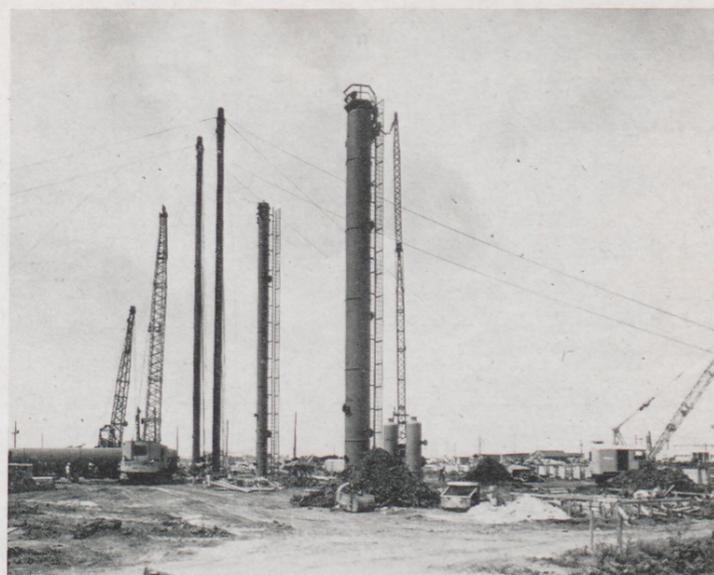
At left the peaceful prairie was about to become the East Plot. A corner of the construction building is visible at the extreme left.



The first tank car of finished Glycerine rolled into position in August of 1948. Here at the dedication ceremony is one of the thirty-six new tank cars, which were especially designed to transport synthetic Glycerine. The tank cars have aluminum shells. B. M. Downey, right, then Plant Manager talks with W. P. Gage (left), L. V. Steck about the important product.

Take A Glance Back Remember When?

The first columns are being erected on the East Plot, at right. Only the beginning of the mass of columns and vessels in the five units which now occupy the area.



Ref. Engineering Group Pose For 1938 Photo

How many people do you know in this picture? Of the many here we picked out a few who are still in the Engineering Department and are working at the Chemical Plant. You should be able to name a few more. Top row: (First on right) W. T. Hill. Third row: (second from left) S. F. Konzen. Front row: (from left) 10th, L. R. McCollum; 11th, O. H. Weaver; 13th, R. L. Thornton; and 16th, G. E. Duschamp. W. V. Graves is second from right in the third row.

SHELL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
HOUSTON REFINERY
ENGINEERING DEPT.
NOV 16 1938

Congratulations To Refinery's Long-Service Employees

The Shellegram takes pleasure in saluting the men who, in 1954, are celebrating Shell service birthdays of 25 years or more. Most of these men have been a part of Houston Refinery since it began operations in August of 1929. Those who came after the Refinery had gone on stream brought with them valuable experience gained at other Shell installations. The same holds true, of course, for the veterans of Houston Chemical Plant. They have all played an integral role in the growth of Houston Refinery and Houston Chemical Plant, and are deserving of our heartiest of congratulations.

REFINERY

THIRTY-SIX YEARS

OCTOBER

R. H. Coombs, Treasury

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS

APRIL

J. L. Miller, Administration

THIRTY-THREE YEARS

FEBRUARY

L. J. Grossheim, Fire & Safety

THIRTY-TWO YEARS

JUNE

W. A. Carpenter, Distilling

AUGUST

H. B. Price, Thermal Cracking

NOVEMBER

M. A. Rogers, Administration

THIRTY-ONE YEARS

JANUARY

R. Grange, Thermal Cracking

JUNE

A. M. Eaton, Stores

JULY

J. W. Lisano, Cat Cracking

SEPTEMBER

A. S. Mitchell, Thermal Cracking

THIRTY YEARS

REFINERY

FEBRUARY

R. E. Holmes, Dispatching

NOVEMBER

E. J. Wollard, Engineering

TWENTY-NINE YEARS

MARCH

G. Werner, Engineering

APRIL

C. M. Wilson, Engineering

R. L. Lucas, Treasury

JULY

L. L. St. Pe, Dispatching

AUGUST

H. Gilmor, Stores

DECEMBER

O. Derrington, Utilities

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS

FEBRUARY

M. J. Bady, Automotive

B. Simon, Fire & Safety

MARCH

M. L. Bartley, Dispatching

A. D. Richards, Distilling

APRIL

E. R. Meeks, Thermal Cracking

MAY

R. B. Howell, Distilling

AUGUST

J. W. Owen, Engineering

NOVEMBER

G. F. deRidder, Technologist

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS

FEBRUARY

R. W. Smith, Lubricating Oils

MAY

G. J. Delaney, Engineering

SEPTEMBER

H. R. Duncan, Engineering

TWENTY-SIX YEARS

MARCH

R. Pugh, Pipe Shop

APRIL

C. L. Shultz, Engineering

W. O. Edgerton, Distilling

JUNE

J. B. Wyman, Administration

JULY

B. H. Broughton, Treasury

AUGUST

M. W. Gable, Engineering

OCTOBER

M. K. Kopp, Lubricating Oils

NOVEMBER

R. R. Cooper, Treating

D. W. Goldsmith, Cat Cracking

DECEMBER

H. W. Adams, Engineering

H. N. Fricks, Lubricating Oils

T. D. Harris, Gas

J. H. Griffey, Engineering

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

JANUARY

F. C. Cornell, Engineering

W. C. Joachimi, Treating

H. J. Kennedy, Utilities

W. Peterson, Dispatching

G. Ragan, Engineering

W. T. Riggs, Engineering

F. G. Tilton, Distilling

FEBRUARY

G. J. Blanyer, Engineering

C. L. Hanna, Distilling

C. S. Lindsey, Engineering

V. C. Mayberry, Engineering

G. Y. Mason, Thermal Cracking

J. C. Rivers, Stores (Retired)

N. Thew, Gas

MARCH

E. D. Clark, Engineering

T. Dowdy, Dispatching

Z. P. Hager, Dispatching

C. A. Hansen, Engineering

G. A. Hensley, Engineering

R. R. Klechka, Engineering

D. R. Lilley, Engineering

E. G. Morris, Engineering

S. Prieto, Engineering (Retired)

APRIL

J. Berver, Engineering

J. F. Bishop, Utilities

C. R. Brockmeyer, Engineering

W. W. Donehoo, Gas

T. H. Edmiston, Engineering

A. F. Honke, Dispatching

O. E. Hutchinson, Engineering

(Retired)

MAY

L. Aaron, Utilities (Retired)

J. J. Brashear, Dispatching. (Retired)

W. E. Dehart, Engineering

A. J. Englishby, Engineering

S. J. Gennusa, Dispatching

W. M. George, Dispatching

S. H. Hall, Distilling

E. E. Oglethorpe, Automotive

O. Roberts, Treating

J. H. Simoneaux, Treating

JUNE

H. M. Archer, Engineering

B. B. Dorrell, Dispatching

J. Fountain, Treating

C. S. Hodges, Dispatching (Retired)

M. Isaacs, Technological

G. L. Stewart, Treating

W. G. Vance, Engineering

T. L. Wilson, Dispatching

JULY

L. Fery, Engineering

H. J. Gray, Control Lab

W. H. Jackson, Dispatching

O. R. Joines, Dispatching

R. E. Pendleton, Thermal Cracking

ing

M. O. Sifford, Stores

C. J. Taylor, Dispatching

C. E. Walker, Treasury

AUGUST

A. W. Calhoun, Dispatching

L. W. Gibbons, Treating

E. C. Harris, Thermal Cracking

D. Harrison, Engineering

C. E. Hill, Utilities

P. E. Keegan, Administration

C. M. Magness, Utilities

M. S. Newman, Automotive

T. V. Overstreet, Stores

C. Raguth, Control Lab

L. Richard, Engineering

SEPTEMBER

P. L. Benson, Cat Cracking

R. D. Miller, Gas

W. J. Snow, Engineering

J. L. Thompson, Distilling

OCTOBER

W. W. Coale, Gas

N. F. Gilliam, Engineering

C. J. Jimenez, Automotive

J. B. May, Thermal Cracking

J. J. Roark, Utilities (Retired)

M. Robinson, Thermal Cracking

B. C. Sykes, Dispatching

A. Vincent, Engineering

,C. D. Young, Treating

NOVEMBER

R. V. Board, Stores

J. W. Matthews, Cat Cracking

R. D. Perry, Treasury

A. E. Shafer, Engineering

E. J. Wollard, Engineering

DECEMBER

C. R. Cates, Thermal Cracking

A. A. Handrick, Lubricating Oils

R. L. Hardin, Thermal Cracking

R. E. Lee, Engineering

E. B. Madden, Thermal Cracking

ing

J. N. Nail, Lubricating Oils

J. H. O'Farrell, Dispatching

R. Pemberton, Engineering

J. J. Staton, Engineering

CHEMICAL

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS

FEBRUARY

J. T. McMahan, Engineering

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

JANUARY

W. T. Hill, Engineering

R. L. Thornton, Engineering

FEBRUARY

E. H. Browning, Engineering

MARCH

W. C. Bevil, Treasury

APRIL

S. F. Konzen, Engineering

MAY

L. O. Knigge, Engineering

H. Yahr, Operations

JUNE

G. Purcell, Administration

E. G. Saxon, P & IR

OCTOBER

E. R. Downing, Operations

H. J. Ward, P & IR

DECEMBER

A. L. Burrow, Operations

H. W. Fisher, Operations



... these new employees and welcomed them to Shell?

CHEMICAL

Engineering

- R. C. Batchelor, General Helper
- R. Goode, General Helper
- E. A. Johnson, General Helper
- R. E. Johnstone, General Helper
- D. D. Straitwell, Brick Mason
- F. E. Alsobrook, General Hlpr.
- L. E. Avery, General Hlpr.
- H. D. Canady, General Hlpr.
- R. R. DeBolt, Engineer
- J. A. Linn, General Hlpr.
- A. W. Peil, Jr., General Hlpr.
- H. R. Pfeiffer, General Hlpr.
- J. C. Ranton, General Hlpr.
- R. L. Reeves, General Hlpr.
- H. E. Rogers, General Hlpr.
- J. T. Smith, General Hlpr.
- K. E. White, Jr. Engineer

Laboratory

- R. J. Cullen, Chemist
- W. B. Elmer, Jr. Chemist
- F. B. Kenney, Chemist
- J. R. Moise, Jr. Chemist
- C. M. Noble, Chemist
- H. I. Paul, Jr. Chemist
- J. D. Powers, Jr. Chemist
- R. F. Snakenberg, Jr. Chemist
- H. C. Terford, Chemist
- M. H. Wray, Jr. Chemist
- A. D. Brown, Jr., Jr. Chemist
- E. H. Frank, Jr. Chemist
- D. A. Graham, Jr., Jr. Chemist
- F. T. Kottenstette, Jr. Chemist
- J. H. Williamson, Jr. Chemist

Treasury

- E. B. Jackson, Jr. Clerk
- C. J. Kite, Jr. Clerk
- N. E. Weston, Jr. Clerk
- B. A. Wilson, Jr. Clerk
- Who's New
- C. D. Phillips, Clerk
- C. A. Smith, Clerk

A. A. JaegerAssistant Dept. Mgr., G
H. SobalaChemist, Lab.
J. T. StokesChemist, Research

Sr. Technologist
Technologist
Technologist

REFINERY

Automotive

G. W. AnderwaldTreater Operator Hlpr.
J. LairdCraft Foreman
R. M. TaylorGeneral Hlpr. No. 1

Truck Driver No. 2
Foreman
Truck Driver No. 2

Control Lab

C. W. JenkinsTechnologist, Lubricating Oils
Miriam B. Kadlecek.....Stenographer, Research Lab
Doris Jean KnightStenographer, Treasurer

Technologist
Stenographer
Stenographer

Engineering

Margie Lou WeirTypist-Clerk, Stores

Operator, Blue-Print Machine

Lubricating Oils

H. J. McNamaraTechnologist, Control Lab

Technologist

Research

Electa YoungSteno-Clerk, Treasury

Steno-Secretary

Stores

Lillian LongStenographer

Steno-Secretary

Technology

R. L. MotardResearch Engineer, Research

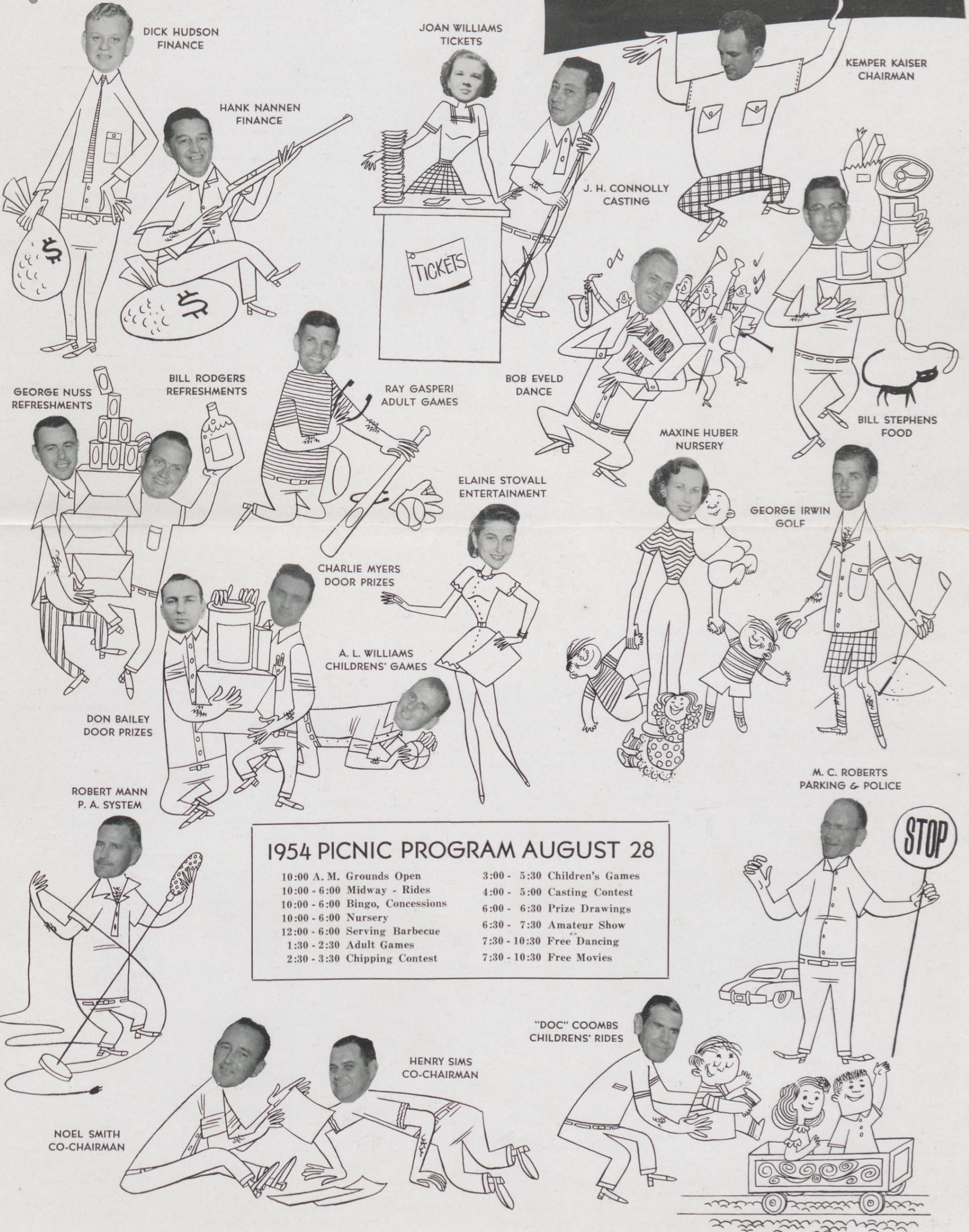
Technologist

W. W. WrightChemist, Control Lab

Technologist

You'll come to the

SERA PICNIC



DICK HUDSON
FINANCE

JOAN WILLIAMS
TICKETS

KEMPER KAISER
CHAIRMAN

HANK NANNEN
FINANCE

J. H. CONNOLLY
CASTING

GEORGE NUSS
REFRESHMENTS

BILL RODGERS
REFRESHMENTS

RAY GASPERI
ADULT GAMES

BOB EVELD
DANCE

MAXINE HUBER
NURSERY

BILL STEPHENS
FOOD

ELAINE STOVALL
ENTERTAINMENT

GEORGE IRWIN
GOLF

CHARLIE MYERS
DOOR PRIZES

A. L. WILLIAMS
CHILDRENS' GAMES

DON BAILEY
DOOR PRIZES

ROBERT MANN
P. A. SYSTEM

M. C. ROBERTS
PARKING & POLICE

1954 PICNIC PROGRAM AUGUST 28

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10:00 A. M. Grounds Open | 3:00 - 5:30 Children's Games |
| 10:00 - 6:00 Midway - Rides | 4:00 - 5:00 Casting Contest |
| 10:00 - 6:00 Bingo, Concessions | 6:00 - 6:30 Prize Drawings |
| 10:00 - 6:00 Nursery | 6:30 - 7:30 Amateur Show |
| 12:00 - 6:00 Serving Barbecue | 7:30 - 10:30 Free Dancing |
| 1:30 - 2:30 Adult Games | 7:30 - 10:30 Free Movies |
| 2:30 - 3:30 Chipping Contest | |

"DOC" COOMBS
CHILDRENS' RIDES

HENRY SIMS
CO-CHAIRMAN

NOEL SMITH
CO-CHAIRMAN

H. D. Smith Heads SERA; New Directors Take Office

H. D. (Rosey) Smith, Refinery Instrument Shop, is the new President of the Shell Employees Recreation Association, Inc.

One of the five Refinery and Chemical Plant nominees elected by the membership of the SERA to the Board of Directors, he was subsequently elevated to the presidency of the organization by the vote of his fellow board members at the July meeting.

Other new board members elected to serve two-year terms include W. D. (Bill) Antone, Dispatching, and R. G. (Bob) Hill, P & IR, of the Refinery, and N. F. Smith, Pipe Shop, and J. R. Lacy, P & IR, of the Chemical Plant.

Thus two Smiths were elected to the Board of Directors, thereby promising some confusing moments in the future.

President "Rosey" Smith succeeds W. W. (Woody) Myers as Chairman of the Board of Directors as well as President of the entire organization. Myers will serve for a year as advisor.

Board members who are beginning the second half of their terms are Kemper Kaiser, P & IR; Bill McLain, Engineering and C. D. Fisher, Welding, of the Refinery, and Vic Clarke, Engineering Field, and Neal Barker, Machine Shop, of the Chemical Plant.

Retiring board members are Juanita Nelson, Engineering Field, Ray Diamond, Platforming, and W. W. (Woody) Myers, Control Lab, of the Refinery, and Jo Kelley, P & IR, and Dixon Kirk, Instrument Shop, of the Chemical Plant.

Retiring board members are Juanita Nelson, Engineering Field, Ray Diamond, Platforming, and W. W. (Woody) Myers, Control Lab, of the Refinery, and Jo Kelley, P & IR, and Dixon Kirk, Instrument Shop, of the Chemical Plant.



H. D. SMITH



N. F. Smith



J. R. Lacy



W. D. Antone



R. G. Hill

Employees Proud of War Record

Houston Refinery and its employees chalked up an enviable World War II record.

To the war effort, Houston Refinery contributed ingredients for

synthetic rubber, explosive components and aviation gasoline, and its employees gave their enthusiastic support and, in some cases, their lives.

Butadiene, used in the making of synthetic rubber, had been produced at the Refinery since the fall of 1941, months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and before our supply of natural rubber had been cut off.

Houston Refinery became the first plant in the world to produce Toluene to make T.N.T. early in 1941.

And, of course, Houston Refinery's production of 100 octane Aviation Gasoline played no small role in our aerial supremacy.

Hundreds of Refinery employees left their jobs and their loved ones to take up arms. At one time, Houston Refinery had six majors and six captains in uniform. Those who remained behind joined the solid home front and worked around the clock to insure that our fighting forces would receive the supplies needed to win the war. Refinery employees maintained an excellent War Bond and Blood Donation record.



About the Shell Group Life Insurance Plan

1. There are approximately 29,400 Shell employees in the United States now insured under this Plan.
2. Life insurance currently in force for active employees amounts to over 178 million dollars.
3. At the present time, there are approximately 1,000 retired employees with post-retirement insurance.
4. Life insurance currently in force for retired employees amounts to nearly four million dollars.
5. During 1953, survivors of 120 active employees and nine retired employees claimed benefits under the Plan.
6. Claims settled in 1953 totalled more than 780 thousand dollars.

Voluntary Program Launched To Aid Retirement Problems

Shell employees nearing retirement age are being invited to participate in a new voluntary program which can aid them in obtaining information to help them plan their future. Called "Planning for Retirement," the new program makes available information about retirement problems, some of which are frequently overlooked or misunderstood.

The program results from the realization that many long service employees are often too occupied with their daily work and other activities to afford the time to estimate carefully their future financial condition and to map out plans for spending their time after leaving Shell.

B. B. Dorrell, Dispatching Department Manager, has been designated to assist with the "Planning For Retirement" program at Houston Refinery. Mr. Dorrell, with 25 years of Shell service, is well qualified for his assignment. He recently received special training in Shell's Head Office on subjects pertaining to this program.

Mr. Dorrell is inviting employees approaching retirement age to a series of personal discussions concerning retirement. Participation in these discussions is entirely voluntary even though they will be held on Company time.

"Experience has shown," Mr. Dorrell says, "that there are many advantages in planning carefully for the years ahead. For example, a retiring employee will have a better idea of what he can do if we furnish him with an estimate of the financial benefits he may receive under Shell's Retirement Program. The several alternate provisions for beneficiaries can

also be explained as they are provided in the Pension Plan, Provident Fund as well as the relationship of these plans to Social Security."

Information is also available which may help retiring employees make decisions about where to live and how to occupy their time.

Emphasizing that participation in the program is entirely voluntary, Mr. Dorrell nevertheless pointed out that detailed retirement information is a good thing to have available.

Shell Pension Plan Offers New Option

To provide greater flexibility in the selection of beneficiary options under the Shell Pension Plan and to meet more effectively the needs of individual retirement situations, the Trustees now offer employees who retire on and after July 1, 1954, the following new option:

"OPTION 4"

The retired former employee will receive for life a reduced Pension and after his death the named beneficiary will receive for life a Pension equal to one-quarter of the first month's reduced Pension of such Employee. This option may be elected either alone or in combination with Option 3."

A retiring employee may wish to make some provision for his wife or other approved beneficiary after his death and at the same time he may feel that he cannot afford the reduction in his own pension which would result from his election of either Option 1 or 2.

It is the purpose of Option 4 to permit an employee to retain a larger portion of his pension during his lifetime than would be possible under Options 1 and 2 and at the same time to make provisions for his beneficiary through the allocation of a smaller percentage of his reduced pension to the beneficiary.

Employees will want to review all four options in the light of their own requirements. Options 1, 2 and 3 are explained in detail on pages 25, 26 and 27 of "Program for Security."

Harvey Williams Dies



Williams

Harvey Williams, Janitor, died as the result of a heart attack July 14, 1954.

A native of Bunkie, La., he was employed in October of 1947 at the Houston Plant.

He is survived by his wife, Myrtle Williams and two children of Crosby, Texas.



P. E. Hurley, at the microphone, pays his compliments to the man he succeeded as Houston Refinery Manager at a farewell party given in M. P. L. Love's honor at the Ben Milam Hotel. Seated, left to right, are Mr. Love, Glenn Purcell, Chemical Plant Manager, J. L. Miller, Superintendent of Operations, and P. E. Keegan, Superintendent of Administration.



Vladimir (Wally) Anastasoff, Senior Research Engineer, signs the scroll that was presented to Mr. Love from the Refinery employees. Looking on are (L to R): Doc Harrison, Assistant Labor Foreman, L. H. McDonald, Assistant Manager of Distilling, and Glenn Purcell, Manager of Houston Chemical Plant.

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