



After 13 years of operations

## Paraxylene Unit is shut down

A victim of skyrocketing operating costs and poor market conditions, the Paraxylene Unit (PXU) at Aromatics East shut down its operations permanently last week.

But no layoffs are expected as a result of the PXU shutdown. Instead, the approximately nine operations personnel affected by the shutdown will be reassigned to other duties within the Complex.

### Study preceded shutdown

The decision to shut down PXU, Shell's only paraxylene unit in the U.S., was made in July after an extensive study that lasted more than two years. The study concluded that PXU, which began operating in 1968, could not compete profitably with newer, more modern paraxylene units.

Johnny Garrison, process manager, Aromatics East, explained, "Another technique for manufacturing paraxylene was developed in the early 1970s shortly after our unit started up. Also, the newer units got progressively bigger, and therefore were able to produce paraxylene more efficiently. As a result, PXU became obsolete in many respects—although it had only recently been built."

### PXU requires more energy than new units

One of the main reasons PXU could not compete profitably was because it required much more energy than newer units did. This energy was required to separate paraxylene from orthoxylene and metaxylene through a crystallization process. Garrison said, "Since energy costs have



On hand to take the last sample of paraxylene from PXU last week were Johnny Garrison, left, process manager, Aromatics East, and operators Gwen Lyons and B.K. Parker.

increased so dramatically during the last two years, it has made it increasingly expensive to operate PXU."

Another factor was that paraxylene demand has decreased because of a sluggish economy. Paraxylene is used to manufacture polyester for clothing and is also used to manufacture products such as film and disposable soft drink bottles. But there is currently a surplus of paraxylene to supply those markets.

But while operations at PXU were discontinued on Sept. 14, work will continue for the next two months to prepare the unit for dismantling next year.

However, Garrison said, "This was more than just shutting down another unit. I'm sure everyone at PXU shared the great sadness and feeling of personal loss that I experienced when I saw work begin to cease

production of paraxylene.

### Personnel met challenges at PXU

"This was an unusual operation because PXU had to operate at minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit since paraxylene freezes at 54 degrees. So much care had to be taken in operating this unit, particularly during the coldest months of the year. But the employees here met the immense challenges at PXU again and again, serving many times above and beyond the call of duty.

"However, I think working at PXU was more than a job for most of our people. All you have to do is talk to one of the many personnel now

scattered throughout the Complex to find out that they're still talking and joking about PXU although they may not have worked there for years. The majority of operators who worked there left the unit with a sense of pride. They left part of themselves at the unit.

"So, it is not unusual to find PXU employees facing the closing of this unit with great emotion. After all, it was something special—the only unit of its type within the Shell organization.

"I just want to say thanks to everyone who took the extra steps necessary to keep PXU operating and operating well. Thanks for the memories."



Operators Melvin Miller, left, and Charlie Guerrero keep busy with final chores as they prepare for the shutdown.

## SFCU payroll deduction plan goes into effect in October

Effective the first pay period in October, DPMC staff employees will be able to participate in a payroll deduction plan allowing them to automatically deposit money from their paychecks into Shell Federal Credit Union share accounts.

The same opportunity has been offered to hourly employees and is pending, subject to approval by OCAW Local 4-367.

All regular, full-time staff employees may participate in the payroll savings deduction program—which will not include payroll deductions for loan payments. All they have to do is complete a payroll deduction authorization agreement and a SFCU membership application if

they are not already members. The payroll deduction authorization forms are available at the SFCU office at 301 East Thirteenth, Deer Park. The SFCU will forward a copy of the completed authorization form to DPMC as authority to begin deductions.

As indicated on the deduction form, employees may choose which pay period they wish deductions to be made. The minimum amount that can be deducted is \$10. Deductions made during the month will not draw interest or be available for withdrawal until the first of the following month.

Changes in the deduction authorization other than cancellation will be possible only after a minimum of three

months from the date of the last change. Cancellations will be accepted at any time after employees have filled out the cancellation portion of the deduction form and forwarded it to SFCU. All deductions or changes, including cancellations, must be received at SFCU at least two days prior to payroll closing (not payroll date) in order to be effective on the next paycheck.

Employees who transfer out of the Complex won't be able to continue their payroll deduction plan at the Deer Park credit union. However, they may be able to participate in a similar program at their new location.

If you have any questions about the program, contact the SFCU office in Deer Park.



Operator Angle Smith baked a cake to mark the shutdown.

## DPMC tops million safe hours

Congratulations to the many employees who have made it possible for the Complex to exceed a million safe hours. Since the last Complex lost time accident on July 20, North personnel have accumulated 534,000 safe hours and South employees have reached 493,000 safe hours—which make up a DPMC total of 1.2 million safe hours.

The Complex reached one million safe hours on Sept. 16, an achievement which rated extra recognition in the form of

a congratulatory telegram from R.G. Dillard, general manager, Oil Logistics and Manufacturing.

Dillard said, "This achievement (the one million safe hours) helps demonstrate the progressive improvement you have made in the last three months in your overall safety performance. Each employee should take pride in the individual contributions which make up the group achievement."

# 1969- 1981

## S. Warehouse earns 12-year safety record



When the top picture was made in the late 1960s, the South Materials Warehouse was already on the road to safety that would lead it to 12 years without a lost time accident in 1981. The South Warehouse marked that 12th anniversary on Aug. 29 in recognition of while all the employees who have worked at the this remarkable safety record, the Shellegram is right who have worked at the South Warehouse top photo include (top row) D.S. Meaden, left, Will Dunham, Bill Wheelock, Joe Lee, Ellis Rusk, Andy Andrews and Howard Griffin. Employees on the third row are Bill Collier, Frank Lewis, Ed Hyatt, Toby Essary, Ivo Junek, John Connolly, Bob Parnell, Les Wallace, Carl Volke and John Tipton. The second row includes Fred Gerbode, Dottie Patterson, Del Broussard, Liz Counces, Diana Kelley and Red Relf. On the bottom row are Sam Campbell, Ralph Marsh, Sam Wilson, Red Summerfield, Bill Clark and an unidentified driver.



## SHORT SUBJECTS

### CA production records recognized

Chlor-Alkali (CA) recently received Head Office recognition for the department's record-setting production of finished caustic this year.

The recognition came late last month in the form of a congratulatory letter from T.H. Green, general manager, Logistics-Chemical.

In the letter, Green said, "I congratulate the entire Chlor-Alkali operating team for an outstanding seven months of operation. Your achievement of setting quarterly and semi-annual records reflects your desire and dedication to operate the unit at its highest potential. The record production of 18,515,000 pounds of finished caustic in July, exceeding the previous record by 7.7 percent, is a fine continuation of this year's outstanding performance. I greatly appreciate the personal effort given by every member of the team."

The achievements that led to this recognition included several monthly production records this year. The first record came in January when CA produced 17,047,000 pounds of finished caustic—a record which broke the department's all-time record of 16,318,000 pounds set in March 1977.

Other monthly records quickly followed, with the department producing 17,107,000 pounds in March and 17,158,000 pounds in May before reaching the new all-time July record. In August, the department produced 17,452,000 pounds of finished caustic—the second highest amount ever made there.

J.D. Washburn, process manager, CA, said, "CA has produced about 8 percent more finished caustic this year than any other eight-month period in our history."

### Claim forms mailed to aid employees

To aid Complex personnel in processing paperwork connected with a disability-related absence, copies of Shell disability benefit claim forms were mailed to all employees' homes last week.

Although you may not now be away from work as the result of a disability, the forms are meant to be stored with your other important papers in case you ever need them. As a result, you can give a form to your physician the first time you see him for treatment of a disability and not have to go back to get the paperwork completed. Then, the forms can be submitted to Payroll before the payroll closing deadlines.

Additional claim forms will be mailed to employees when the initial notice of absence is received by the Claims Department as each completed set of forms is received by Claims. Forms also can be picked up in the Personnel South Building next to the South main gate and Room 143 of the North Administration Building.

If you have any questions, call Lori Conover, DPMC North, Extension 6553, or Gladys Woodard, DPMC South, Extension 7993.

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### Congratulations

Those shown at right, who have worked the last 12 years at the South Warehouse, include (top row) Sam Shaw, left, Toolroom foreman, Red Relf, Receiving foreman, and Pat Graham, counterman. On the bottom row are O.M. Clark, left, senior Purchasing assistant, Sam Wilson, counterman, and Ivo Junek, Warehouse foreman. Not pictured are John Connolly, Stores foreman, and Gus Vornkahl, counterman, who also have worked at the warehouse during the last 12 years.



### From Eastern Onion

## Jim Smith gets birthday 'surprise'

Are you tired of getting dull birthday presents? Maybe you should drop a few hints so your friends will fix you up with the kind of birthday present Jim Smith, electrician, Maintenance North, got a couple of weeks ago.

Smith was just eating lunch in the North Cafeteria, minding his own business and not paying any attention to the unusually large crowd that was gathered around his table. It seems the word had gotten out about his birthday "surprise."

Needless to say, Smith was caught totally off guard when his surprise walked in—compliments of the Eastern Onion singing telegram people. And the surprise, who looked more like Mae West than a telegram messenger, did sing "Happy Birthday," along with half the gang at the cafeteria. She also presented a shocked Smith with a party hat and horn to make sure he celebrated in style.

Then, she left. But one thing's for sure. Smith has at least one birthday he's going to remember for a long time.



Jim Smith eyes his birthday "surprise."

## Complex sports news

### Top women's softball teams



#### First place

For the third year in a row, the Angels emerged as first place winners of the SCORA women's softball competition which involves Complex employees and relatives of DPMC personnel. Members of the team shown here include (top row) Johnny Brecheen, left, assistant manager, Emily Whitton, Sherry Erickson, Cindy Thomas, Connie Jackson, Terry Provorse, Lisa Koehn, Constance Walls and Sammy West, manager. On the bottom row are Bertie Boatwright, Mary Brecheen, Sandy West, Charise Meriwether and Barbara Cribbs. Team members not shown are Gayro Lawson and Evelyn Kirk.



#### Second place

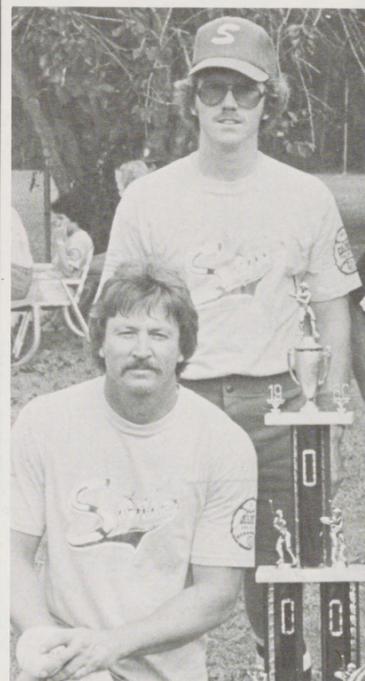
Sonny's Bunnies captured second place in the SCORA women's softball league. Members of the Bunnies shown here include (top row) Sonny Hammond, left, manager, Kim Green, Lavelle Lyons, Shelly Hall, Elvia Monceaux, Margaret Espinosa, Lynda Lyons, Delores Hernandez and Donnie Hall, assistant manager. On the bottom row are Pauline Alexander, Vicki Hammond and Darlene Scott.



#### Third place

The Bluebonnets finished the SCORA women's softball season in third place. Team members pictured here include (top row) Joe Diaz, left, assistant manager, Vickie Breshears, Carolyn Hoppens, Kathy Keller, Naomi Martinez, Stephanie Rhodes, Kathy Ryan, Rubeen Jimenez, assistant manager, Rosie Jimenez, Lisa Adrian and Chester Guldry, manager. On the bottom row are Pam Washington, Sylvia Garza, Pam Olivo, Karen Pendergast, Edna Bazan and Danita Destin. Not shown are team members Priscilla Arthur, Sandy Bryant, Mary Escobar and Diana McMahon.

### Sonics lose to Norco



Photos courtesy of Norco

Shown here are Johnny McDaniel (top) and Fred Sonderegger, both of the Sonics. They relinquished the Texas-Louisiana "Shootout" trophy to Norco's softball team after the Sonics lost two out of three games against that team in Louisiana last month.

The DPMC's Sonics lost out last month in their bid to defeat Norco's softball team two years in a row at the second Texas-Louisiana "Shootout."

Norco took an early lead in the match by defeating the Sonics 7-5 in the first of three games, which were played in Louisiana near the Norco Manufacturing Complex. And although the Sonics won a second game 18-11, Norco emerged as this year's champs by clinching a 14-11 victory in the third game of the series.

As a result of the Norco win, the "Shootout" trophy, which has been in our hands for the last year, was left in Louisiana. And that's some trophy, measuring more than four feet tall.

But the Sonics could make a comeback in '82 (if they're SCORA champs then) as a rematch with Norco is being considered.



Dan Daniels gives it everything he's got for the Sonics as he takes a swing.



Norco's players kicked up a lot of dust as they met the challenge posed by the Sonics.



But there was a lot more to the "Shootout" than just a ball game. The Sonics received the VIP treatment as they were treated to jambalaya and other goodies at the end of the chow line.

# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

1977 MGB. AM-FM stereo eight track. 30,000 miles. \$4,200. Shown by appointment only. Call 921-7626.

1979 Ford LTD station wagon. 429 engine, electric windows and seats, runs good. 96,000 miles. \$500. Call 479-2459.

1977 Buick Century Grand Sport. New transmission and tires, other extras. Very clean. Retail, \$3,200. Asking \$3,800. Call 946-1725 after 5 p.m.

1981 Blazer. Two-wheel drive, mud grip tires, stereo. New in March 1981. 7,000 miles. Call 771-9025 after 5:30 p.m.

1978 Ford Ranger Lariat. Completely equipped, matching cover and 10-foot overhead camper, sleeps five or six. \$5,000. Call 485-3064 after 4:30 p.m.

1946 Ford Pickup. With 1971

Chevy 404 engine and transmission. Body in good condition. \$1,000. Call 477-7407 after 5 p.m.

1976 Dodge mini-home. Dash air, gas stove, furnace, sink, refrigerator, rear shower, six new tires, AM-FM eight-track, 22 feet long. Very clean. Call 475-1479.

1974 Honda 100. Excellent condition. \$250. Call 479-4333.

Motorcycle cover. New, orange nylon, fits 400 cc to 750 cc without sissy bar, with lock. \$45 value, will sell for \$30. Call 946-6273.

Zenith color console 25-inch set. In excellent condition. \$150. Zenith 19-inch black and white portable TV. In new condition. \$85. Six-grave cemetery lot. In Forest Park-Lawndale in very desirable wooded section. \$2,795. Call 479-4839.

Amana chest type freezer. Capacity of 21 cubic feet.

Seven years old, needs new gasket but otherwise is in good condition. \$250. Call 476-5630.

Couch and two chairs. \$100. Call 488-1843.

Wooden playpen and port-a-crib. \$20 each. Wee-care car seat. \$15. Antique Venetian beads. Complete strand. \$25. Call 487-0887.

Baby stroller. \$5. Car seat. \$10. High chair. \$10. Call 479-0655.

1980 golf clubs. First flight, men's r.h., stiff shaft, standard length. Two PW irons, 1-3-4 persimmon head woods. All for \$300. Call 348-2454.

Parakeet cage with accessories. \$20. Call 488-8897.

## WANT TO BUY

Used clarinet. Must be in good condition. Will pay fair price. Call 473-0399.

## WANTED

Roommate for large, two-story house. In LaPorte, Creekmont Subdivision. Need \$350 per month, utilities paid. Call 471-2064.

## FOUND

Keys. Left at North first aid station. Call Les Cole at Extension 6301, describe and claim.

## Short subjects ...

Continued from Page 2

### Don't forget the Ten-and-Over Parties

Don't forget the Complex's annual Ten-and-Over Parties. The Refinery Party will be Oct. 17 and the Chemical Plant's will follow on Oct. 24. Both will be at Sylvan Beach Pavilion in La Porte from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Active employees of DPMC who will have 10 or more years of accredited service by Dec. 31 and pensioners who have retired from the Complex are invited to attend.

### Norco reaches five million safe hours

The folks at the Norco Manufacturing Complex deserve special recognition for an extraordinary safety achievement. They reached five million safe hours without a lost time incident on Sept. 13.

### Wanted: Early Shellegram classified ads

Because we are receiving many ads every week, it is often difficult to get late-comers in. Please get your ads in as early as possible each Friday morning—or earlier—so we can get them in.

Ads are published for Complex employees, pensioners and their families only. Advertisers must be owners of the property mentioned and not agents or dealers.

All ads must contain the item, advertiser's name and home telephone number. It is up to the advertiser to decide what other information is included in the ad—but we would appreciate it if the ads are kept brief.

Mail or bring ads to the Shellegram Office, 151, North Administration Building. For more information, call Les Cole, Shellegram editor, at Extension 6301.

## Law, Sampy, Turner retire



Law

L.R. Law, 55, operator, Dispatching, retired Sept. 1 after 30 years of company service. He will reside at 6435 Miller Road, Houston, with his wife, Elizabeth.

Lamar Sampy, 60, counter-man, Purchasing, also retired Sept. 1. Leaving the



Sampy



Turner

Complex after more than 33 years of service, he will live at 2015 Carr, Houston, with his wife, Frankie Lee.

H. L. Turner, 61, operator, Aromatics West, was another Sept. 1 retiree. Ending 30 years of service, he will reside at 12653 Coulson with his wife, Elizabeth.

## Welcome to the Deer Park Manufacturing Complex



David Andersen  
Engineer  
Proc. Engrg.  
Hired in July



R.C. Chow  
Engineer  
Proc. Engrg.  
Hired in March



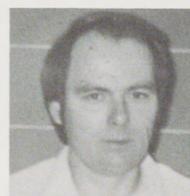
C.L. Necessary  
Typist  
Purchasing  
Hired in July



Cristina Parra  
Clerk  
Services  
Hired in March



John Taylor  
Machinist  
Maint. North  
Hired in July

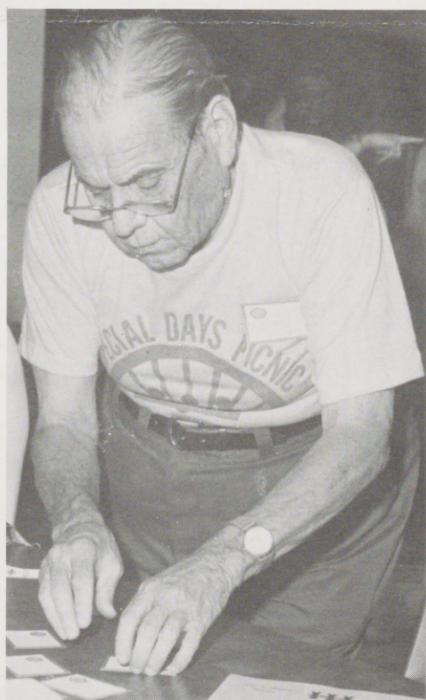


J.T. Terrell  
Lab Tech.  
North Lab  
Hired in March



25 Years  
W.R. Miller  
General Accounting

The Shellegram is published each week for the purpose of informing and entertaining pensioners and employees like Henry Sims, dispatch analyst, Dispatching-Operations. Sims is shown here serving as a volunteer at last month's United Way "Special Days for Special People" which was sponsored by the Complex and OCAW Local 4-367. He has been employed at the Complex since October 1946.



Henry Sims

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