

THE SHELLGRAM

Volume 13

HOUSTON REFINERY, JANUARY, 1948

Number 1

F. E. Caddy Is New Superintendent At Chemical Plant

Frank E. Caddy feels at Home in Houston, Texas. The new superintendent at Shell Chemical's Houston Plant, having been reared in Wyoming, takes notice of the similarity in people between his home state and Texas. This similarity is that character of the West that makes itself felt in the truly friendly attitude with which he has been welcomed.

Mr. Caddy joined Shell Chemical in 1931 as a chemist during the initial operations at Shell Point, which by the way was Shell Chemical's first. Not only did he get in at the beginning of Shell Point, but also at the beginning of Dominguez and Torrance. For the war period and to last October Mr. Caddy was assigned to the Torrance plant.

Speaking proudly of his wife and five children, Mr. Caddy said he definitely is a family man. That fact does not deprive him the time to participate in employee recreational activities according to his friends. Of interest to many of us is news that Mr. Caddy enjoys a round of golf.

With experience in numerous Shell Chemical plants behind him, Mr. Caddy still found reason to exclaim that the size of the Houston Plant really was impressive.

Red Cross Beneficiaries

This Year Greater Gifts Are Needed For An Equal Job

The 1948 fund campaign of the American Red Cross reminds the public that "this year greater sums are needed for an equal job." To estimate a campaign goal takes a lot of figuring, based in part on statistics of the past, in part on unpredictable needs of the coming year, and, most important, on definite plans for community well-being.

In its steadily increasing emphasis on a peacetime program, the Red Cross is expanding its work for veterans and their dependents, while at the same time maintaining its traditional services to the armed forces and to civilians.

Red Cross beneficiaries in 1947 were legion. Nearly 100,000 persons received emergency help and rehabilitation following disasters of the past fiscal year. In the first 10 months of 1947 alone, Red Cross disaster relief appropriations were approximately \$9,500,000. Financial assistance to veterans, servicemen, and their dependents totaled \$11,944,365 for the year. Numberless persons were served by Volunteer Special Services workers, who gave 25,000,000 hours of their time.

Benefits from Red Cross services are two-way. Instruction in water safety and first aid not only provides skills that prevent many accidents from occurring to the individual but also provides a knowledge of what to do for others when accidents do occur. Since the Red Cross in 1914 began its program to "waterproof" America, the nation's drowning rate has been cut in half. Similarly, the 11,230,000 certificates issued since the first aid program was instituted in 1910 are impressive evidence of the num-

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New Chemical Plant Superintendent



MR. F. E. CADDY

Smoking Sparrows And Cockroaches That Kick---Accident Oddities of '47

By PAUL JONES
National Safety Council

When a sparrow smokes in bed and a cockroach kicks a man down the stairs, things are getting good and wacky. But that's what happened in 1947.

And that isn't all. A dead deer shot a hunter. A hit-skip cow made traffic history. A mouse upset a truck, a quail committed suicide, and some busy little bees boarded a streetcar and caused a honey of an accident.

Yes, the annual roundup of odd accidents by the National Safety Council reveals that animals stole the show in 1947. To wit:

Firemen in Camden, N. J., finally found the source of smoke pouring through the home of Mrs. Marie Baugher—a bird's nest under the roof. A sparrow had carried home a lighted cigarette. And just to prove that smoking in bed isn't restricted to sparrows, a pigeon in Washington started an apartment house fire the same way.

Cockroach Wins in One Fall

The celebrated case of the cantankerous cockroach occurred in Detroit and involved John Nantico, a bakery employee. Mr. Nantico said he was ascending stairs made slippery by spilled cake frosting when he looked into the leering eyes of the biggest cockroach any man ever saw. He kicked at the roach, the other foot slipped and he landed at the bottom of the stairs with a broken leg.

A dead deer shot Clarence Gerkin of Hudson, Colo., in a neat bit of posthumous vengeance. Mr. Gerkin had shot the deer first and was preparing to dress it when a reflex kick by the animal hit his gun and discharged it. The bullet tore through Gerkins left arm.

The hit-skip cow became part of the nation's traffic problem when it bowled over Mrs. Lucy Nostrand as she alighted from a bus at a busy intersection in Milwaukee. The bounding bovine, fugitive from a farm, whammed into Mrs. Nostrand, knocked her flat, and barreled on down the street.

Hitchhiking Mouse Has Day

The British Women's Land Army had trained 19-year-old Christine Woodward to face bombs, bullets and battle without flinching, but they hadn't thought of a mouse. So when a mouse scampered across the toes of Miss Woodward while she was driving an army truck in Davenport, England, she just did what came naturally. She fainted. The

truck went into a ditch, the mouse into a field, and the victim to a hospital.

Far less intrepid was the suicidal quail that found itself looking down the barrel of a gun held by Gene Hatfield in Joplin, Mo. Realizing the jig was up, the quail decided to end it all. It flew straight against the barrel of the gun and dropped at Hatfield's feet with a broken neck.

Apparently stung by the high cost of living, bees took to streetcars in 1947. A frolicsome bunch of them swarmed aboard a trolley in Cincinnati and evinced a great interest in Motorman Earl Armstrong. As he frantically batted at his bumping passengers, the streetcar bumped an auto, which rammed the rear of another. Meanwhile, buzz, buzz, buzz went the trolley.

As Fireman Horace LeBouf was carrying Mrs. Catherine Markowski down a ladder from a burning building in Detroit, they passed a first floor window. Flames shot out and nipped LeBouf in the seat of his pants. He yelped, spanked himself frantically and let go of Mrs. Markowski. LeBouf lost his balance, landed smack on the lady who preceded him to the ground. Mrs. Markowski was bruised, her rescuer apologetic.

A speedboat carrying Miss Georgia Brooks of Chicago during a holiday outing on Lake Geneva, Wis., swerved so sharply it threw Miss Brooks into the water, swerved again, hit the struggling swimmer, flipped her neatly back on its prow.

Angel Without Wings

And in Seattle, John Angel drove into a service station, ordered a change of oil, stepped out, discovered too late that he was eight feet

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Pipe Line History

First Long-Line Transmission of a Technical Product

Pipe line history was written recently when Shell successfully carried out the first long-line transmission of a technical product. On October 27, the first tender of a Shell Mineral Spirits ever transported in this manner was pumped through the East Line from Wood River, Illinois, to Zionsville, Indiana, and Lima, Ohio. The operation was pronounced a complete success.

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New Engines for Old Soon to Be Available for All

Relief is in sight for those thousands who can't buy a new car and whose old one bodes fair to fall apart before another winter. It comes in the form of new engines now being manufactured by the automobile companies to replace wheezing power plants.

The auto men will turn out around a million new engines this year to repower old jalopies while their owners wait for that new model. They figure these engines will go a long way toward saving 1.5 million cars that would normally go on the scrap heap this year.

Disregarding those who discard their old cars just because they like to be up to date, cars go to the

(Continued on Page 4)

Deer Park Scout Troop 268 Wins Presidential Award

Deer Park Cub Scout Troop Number 268 has won the Presidential Award for 1947, consisting of a large plaque and honorable ribbon.

In order to qualify for this honor, the troop was required to increase the membership by 25 percent and have a 20 percent increase in rating. The troop and the new committee were also required to be registered for 1948 by December 15, 1947. The new committee consists of: Mr. W.A. Carpenter, Chairman; Mr. A. S. Mitchell, Athletics; Mr. V. Keldsen and Mr. C. Wolters as Merit Judges, and Mr. Fay Hilliard, Transportation.

The Scoutmaster of this troop is Mr. H. J. McShane who was honored recently by an invitation to be a guest of the Navy on board of one of the Naval Reserve ships for a trip into the gulf.

Troop 268 has a basketball team that challenges all teams in its age group (9-12). This challenge is directed especially to the Cub Troop units in Pasadena.



Mr. W. A. Carpenter, Manager of the Topping Department, resigned his position as president of the refinery's Credit Union at the last meeting of that organization. Mr. Carpenter was instrumental in the phenomenal growth of the Credit Union from 477 members in 1944 to 1228 at the end of 1947. The total assets of the Union has jumped from \$56,561.50 to well over a quarter million dollars. Mr. J. H. McCarty has been elected to succeed Mr. Carpenter as President of the Credit Union.

Shell Announces Executive Changes In Organization

H. Bloemgarten, vice president of exploration and production of Shell Oil Company, Inc., has been appointed managing director in charge of the technical operations of the Royal Dutch Shell Companies, effective January 1, 1948, it has been announced. His headquarters will be at The Hague. Mr. Bloemgarten has been with the Shell organization over 25 years. In 1935 he was appointed vice president in charge of production in St. Louis, and since 1942 he has made his headquarters in New York.

A. J. Galloway, regional vice president of the Shell Oil Company in Houston, has been appointed vice president in charge of exploration and production, replacing Mr. Bloemgarten, it was announced by H. S. M. Burns, president. Mr. Galloway joined Shell in 1926 as an assistant geologist in California. He moved rapidly through positions of increasing responsibility, and in 1934 was made vice president of the Shell Petroleum Corporation in St. Louis. He remained in that position through 1939, when Shell Petroleum was consolidated with Shell Oil Co., Inc. Mr. Galloway moved to Houston in September, 1940, becoming regional vice president of the Texas-Gulf and Mid-Continent areas.

E. D. Cumming, manager of Shell's American department in London, will succeed Mr. Galloway in Houston, Mr. Burns said. Mr. Cumming was graduated in Engineering from Auburn (Alabama) University, and was first employed by Shell at Long Beach, California. He spent the early part of his career in technical positions with the company on the Pacific Coast. He has served as both technical assistant and manager of Shell refineries at Wilmington and Martinez, California. In 1938 he became manager of Shell's Wood River, Illinois, Refinery, and in 1939 vice president in charge of manufacturing. On special leave of absence during the war he served as director of refining for the Petroleum Administration for War. He was made vice president in charge of exploration and production of the Pacific Coast area October 1, 1944, remaining in the position until October 31, 1946, when he went into Shell service overseas.

A Word to the Wise

Better Have Your Social Security Account Checked

How long has it been since you checked your social security account? Have you ever? If not, you'd better do it now.

Every four years the Social Security Board "freezes" your records; that is, closes them to corrections or alterations. These four-year periods are figured from the time you first registered with the Board. If your name and number get mixed up, or if your account has been incorrectly credited, you stand to lose unless you correct it in time.

For this reason, you should go to your local Social Security Board and ask for Form OAR-7004. Fill it out according to the instructions printed on it and mail it to the address specified. The Board can then check its records and rectify any mistakes that may exist. This will save you money should there be any errors.

THE SHELLGRAM

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for bread and for delight

Most of us devote one third of our lives to work and one third to sleep. Much of the remaining third is given over to recreation.

Shell employees have particularly varied and interesting ways to relax. Some of them like to hunt, or study the stars, or build radios, or raise thoroughbred horses. Some prefer strenuous sports. Still others prefer to read.

But the particular way in which we spend our spare time is not the really important thing. What is important is to do whatever we do enthusiastically and enjoy it to the fullest.

The same principle applies to our work. If we spend our working hours in a haphazard, half-interested way, we are wasting our time and missing an opportunity to live a rich and full life.

John Ruskin put it this way: "We are not sent into this world to do anything into which we cannot put our hearts. We have certain work to do for our bread, and that is to be done strenuously; other work to do for our delight, and that is to be done heartily—neither is to be done by halves, but with a will, and what is not worth this effort is not to be done at all."

TECHNICAL PRODUCTS

(Continued from Page 1)

Much thought and experimentation, however, preceded this initial run. For one thing, an adequate buffer product had to be found to protect the product's specifications in transit. After a number of tests, kerosene was finally selected.

To combat adverse mixing with other products, extreme care was exercised. Pipes and pumping equipment were thoroughly flushed to assure complete cleanliness of the entire system.

When the product arrived at its destination, customers reported that it was far the best product they had had the opportunity to purchase and test. As a result of this initial success, further use of the line as a technical product carrier is anticipated.

"Understand Rivalry and you understand America"



by
Ed Thorgersen

Whenever sports fans get together, sooner or later the talk gets around to famous upsets. Well, the upset that gave me one of the greatest thrills was the 1934 Rose Bowl game, when Coach Lou Little's football squad from Columbia gave a heavily-favored Stanford eleven the surprise of its life.

Stanford was loaded with power that year with a record that showed wins over the top teams of the West. Columbia, on the other hand, had been trampled by Princeton, and lacked reserves. The game was figured to be so one sided there was trouble selling tickets.

Came the kickoff and the dawn! For it was Columbia forcing the play . . . tackling viciously . . . driving deep into enemy territory. And by halftime, the little Columbia eleven led the big, unbeatable Indians, 7-0.

In the second half, Stanford came back with everything it had. Time after time, the Western backs plunged deep into Columbia territory until it was first down for Stanford on Columbia's three yard stripe.

Four plays later, it was Columbia's ball on their own one yard line! The kids they said "didn't have a chance" had upset the experts!

What made that upset possible? . . . Competition—rivalry . . . the old, typically American trait of wanting to be better than the next fellow, the trait that is evident in everything Americans do—from playing football to making better petroleum products.

Yes, just as competition brings you great sports events, competition brings you the latest development in petroleum. For over 34,000 individual oil companies—producing, re-

State Vocational Training Classes Continue Studies

Vocational training at the refinery continued this month, after a two week intermission due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Twenty-nine employees of the pipe shop, two labor foremen and one zone supervisor resumed their studies in blueprint and sketching courses being conducted by Mr. E. J. Newton and Mr. C. C. Bateman, senior engineers in the construction office at the refinery.

In the electric shop, Mr. O. M. Gindratt, assistant electrician foreman meets his blueprint and sketching course for electricians each Monday and Thursday after working hours. Sixteen employees of the electric shop are in Mr. Gindratt's class.

A course in general carpentry is being conducted as the Pasadena Vocational School each Monday and Wednesday night for 11 members of the carpentry craft who have enrolled. Mr. I. C. Loomis, number one craftsman, is doing the instructing.

There will be other classes announced from time to time, with a course in radio being considered at this time. These courses are organized under the state's vocational education program. Successful completion of one of these courses leads to a state certificate.

Under consideration for future classes are such subjects as mathematics, blueprint reading and physics.

Personnelities

Kemper Kaiser has at last found the man who won't live with the schedule that he makes for him. To make matters worse, this individual has the habit of picking the dead of night to register his complaints. "There must be a solution," Kemper says, as he peeks above the bags he now carries under his eyes as a result of this unfortunate situation. "My boy is only two months old, but he should be able to read a schedule sheet by now."

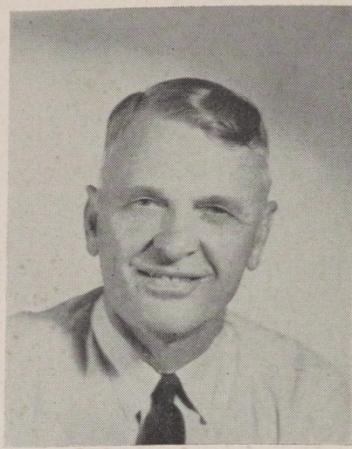
The "new look" for Industrial Relations executives, as modeled by Jack Morrison seems to be a pair of snow boots. Sitting in his office with his feet at ease, they look like a couple of St. Bernards, without the liquor kegs.

Several weeks ago a small fire was discovered in one of the tool sheds behind the new Control Lab building. With the road cleared for it, the fire wagon rushed out to the main gate careening on two wheels as it hurried to the fire. Sitting on top of the wagon and hanging on to the sides were the plant's safety men: Mancuso, Battestin and Company. As they went out the gate and were technically off of refinery grounds, everyone got out a cigarette and match and took a drag.

fining, transportation, distributing and retail sales—are in this competitive business and there is plenty of rivalry to bring you the best gasoline and lubricants in the world—at the world's lowest prices—and meet demands for more and more petroleum products.

That's why it is so true there's a plus for you in Petroleum's Progress.

Service Birthdays



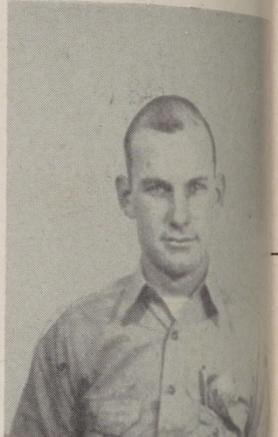
R. Pugh
Engineering—20 Years



R. Grange
Cracking—25 Years



H. C. Nannen
Stores—10 Years



S. M. Walker
Engineering—10 Years

Pictures Not Available:

T. J. Reed
Engineering—10 Years

L. F. Fortune
Engineering—10 Years

Three Shell Films Receive Awards For Excellence

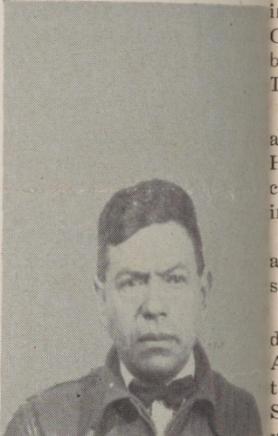
Last month, three Shell films received awards for excellence. The first of these, "Screw Drivers and Screw Jays," received the National Safety Council's Accident Prevention Award, while "Lever Age" and "Harnessing Liquids" were recognized by the judging committee at the "Films of the World Festival."

The award by the National Safety Council to "Screw Drivers and Screw Jays" reads "For outstanding public service and cooperation, through advertising, in the national campaign to prevent accidents." In his letter to the company, Mr. Ned H. Dearborn, President of the Council said, in part, "The award is in recognition of your valuable service in the interest of public safety. . . . We are sure you have earned the good will of those in your community whom you are helping to protect against danger of accidents."

In Chicago, "Lever Age," a movie portraying the evolution of the machine age from primitive crowbar methods, was selected as one of the world's outstanding public relations films. It was one of five films which received top awards in the "Sponsored Films" classification at the film festival.

"Harnessing Liquids," which explains the principles of Hydraulics, was awarded an honorable mention in the competition.

The festival, sponsored by the Chicago Film Council, was a world "film fair" of documentary, informational and educational films, and was the first of its type ever held in the United States. Films were entered from countries all over the world, and were judged competitively for technical excellence, presentation of subject matter and informational value.



G. Roque
Engineering—15 Years

Carpenter Shop News

by Sudsy

McCormick loading sack sack of sawdust and shavings. he is planning a pallet party all his in-laws will be here for holidays.

Who hung the mistletoe in shop? Whoooo was the wolf who stood under it all day waiting his prey? He finally caught the Party

A conference in Marquette's office of McShee and McCormick busy studying the new figures forms of 1948.

By the way—who can bring 1948 calendar—no machine please.

Dunderdale was sprouting the vegetation on his upper lip several days as the result of a bet. The biggest majority though it was smut.

After serving three and one years in the Pacific sleeping in hammack it has been rumored Dowda is trying the same thing a two by twelve, forty feet in air.

We all wish to express our sympathy to H. C. Rothell family in the recent death of father.

Charley Evans on the sick what's the trouble, Charley? the widows got you worried or the gasoline?

Main Office Takes "Time Out" For Christmas Party While Bob Perry Works



Engineering Office

by K. P. Sewell

Cecil Williams and Ted Day have been so busy following construction that they almost forgot to take vacations. Perhaps they were waiting for good weather. We'll wager C. F. is playing golf somewhere, but won't venture a guess as to Ted's activities.

The Inspection Department has added Rex Morelan to their gang. He is developing accuracy fast and can already hit the pipe he is aiming at two times out of three.

John Herrmann is back to work after being absent a few days with strep' throat.

The local engineers seem to be developing into a tribe of nomads. After that mass migration to attend the Engineering Conference at St. Louis, it appeared that things would settle back to normal. Such is not the case, Mr. Haldane has been away so much lately that we almost got up-to-date with our work. Mr. Gable only came back long enough to pick up his pay check and then returned to St. Louis for an M & E Standards Meeting. Jack Parker has been on vacation among the ice and snow of his native Iowa—although he started with a cloudy frame of mind as it looked as if jury duty was going to interfere with the more pleasant things of life. Strangely enough, Derk Holsteyn has been sticking closer to home than usual—wants to be here for the Christmas Party no doubt.

That likeable chap, Jay McKenzie, from Head Office, Stores Department, has returned to New York after spending some time at the refinery. Jay formerly worked in the Engineering Inspection group. During his recent visit he gave McLellan, Hubbell and Williams a golf lesson, which they needed very much if they wish to play in Jay's class.

Those two brilliant young engineers, Purnell and Messenger, are still trying to work out details for their proposed frozen food locker project to operate in conjunction with the air conditioning system. They have allocated certain file cabinets for this purpose, but now it develops that the cabinets must be equipped with wheels so they can be moved quickly from one room to another, depending on changes of temperature in the various offices. According to last reports, they are offering to take that famous heating and ventilating engineer, Dr.

RED CROSS—

(Continued from Page 1)

ber of beneficiaries of these services.

The National Blood Program when fully established will make whole blood and its derivatives available without cost to all people of our nation. Its beneficiaries carry in their very veins a token of neighborly service.

Events of the year 1948 are uncertain and unpredictable. Yet standing by, ready for any emergency, is the Red Cross with millions of organized workers to carry on its manifold services.

Remember—this year greater gifts are needed for an equal job!

Randal E. Lee, into the partnership in order to guarantee their customers the best in cold storage service.

Our readers (if any) have probably guessed that this is our first attempt at writing a column of this kind. Due to lack of experience, we have not attempted to describe or comment on that shirt that Ralph Stillingler paid good American dollars for at the Hudson Bay Company trading post while in Canada on his vacation. Of course, we repeat the comments heard around the office when he wore it to work but to report them all would require an extra section to the paper.

P. S. We heard something about Mr. Kubricht becoming a "father" the other night—what about the cigars and candy, Mr. Kubricht?

Late Bulletin

We are forced to hedge on our bet that Williams is playing golf on his vacation. As we go to press we learn that he is the proud father of a 7 lb. 10 oz. baby girl born December 18th. When interviewed, he seemed interested only in his family which now includes two boys and a girl. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Williams.

Engineering an air-conditioning job can teach a man many things about human nature. Ask Randal Lee, he knows! Latest lesson is that you can't please any of the people any of the time.

Research In Oil To Result In More And Better Food

With everybody thinking of food these days in terms of meatless Tuesdays and eggless Thursdays, petroleum's scientists are doing a different type of thinking about the American menu. Everybody some day in the future will have a much better diet because of it.

Progress in the laboratory has brought the ever-expanding service of our industry into a field that promises eventually to transform the business of raising food. As we go about our daily jobs, research workers are producing out of oil, chemical magic that not only kills insects and weeds but helps food to grow and protects its vitamin content.

War-born insecticides such as DDT (which has an oil base) and DD, a somewhat similar product made entirely from petroleum, have captured the popular imagination. But our scientists point out that the use of these, as well as of oil preparations for preventing mildew, rust and other plant diseases, is still in its infancy. More research and experimental farming must be done before the full possibilities can begin to be realized.

Laboratory men explain that, while U. S. farmers lose \$3,000,000,000 annually because of insects and plant diseases, their losses due to weeds are even higher. That is why they feel that their most exciting contribution to agriculture has been through development of herbicides such as the spectacular 2-4-D.

Proper use of herbicides as dusts or sprays may eliminate the need for four or five plowings. Not only that: 2-4-D causes weed roots to grow so fast that they burst and die. Those dead roots then fertilize the soil.

Finally, herbicides are highly selective. They won't hurt food plants. This year, for example, 95 per cent of the carrots in New York State were weeded, without benefit of plow or hoe, by a herbicide from oil similar to petroleum cleaning fluids.

Oil research—10,000 persons are employed and \$50,000,000 is spent annually on those research projects—also has helped the farmer as ways have been found to convert petroleum and natural gas into vast quantities of inexpensive nitrogen fertilizers. These by-products are anhydrous ammonia and ammonium



nitrate. This year, 140,000 acres of cotton alone were treated with such fertilizers in the United States.

That, however, is only part of the picture. The tractor as a labor-saving device is becoming a familiar machine but the importance of 2,700,000 tractors on America's farms extends beyond their use as labor-saving utilities. It deals with a crusade that first began to concern scientists early in this century.

Since our ancestors came to these shores, conservation experts say, more than one-fifth of America's farm and grazing lands have been ruined and almost half of them have been damaged by erosion.

The first scientific attack on the erosion was started in 1905 by Dr. Hugh Dalton, chief of the U. S. De-

partment of Soil Conservation Service. Dalton found that farmers needed inexpensive but powerful machines with which to fill in gullies, build retaining walls and contour their fields in order to keep that top-soil from washing away. The answer came when the oil-fueled tractor was perfected about 10 years ago.

There are endless other ways in which our industry has come to help the farmer who produces the nation's food. To mention just two of them: radiant oil stoves are replacing inefficient smudge pots in frost-threatened citrus groves, and new oil sprays hasten the ripening of fruit, guard its vitamin content and protect it from shrinkage and decay.



RETORTING IT

TECHNOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Those vacancies at Tech. Dept. desks lately are allegedly due to shift work at the DAP plant and Chemico Concentrators. Of course the attractions of St. Louis and a new car have lured Ed Herrerias on another "quickie" trip up there even in "duck" weather; and business duties called Fred Taylor to Alhambra, California and John Mital to Rochester, New York. The irrepresible Floyd Reitz has been transferred to the "C" Operating Dept.—well, their loss is our gain! Our nominations for the Man of Distinction—Les Wareham with his new spectacles. Imagine Joe Matherne's surprise when Virden Wilson arrived with Joe's wife on a recent Sunday evening train from Louisiana way. Virden also turned orator (a new talent!) recently before the Houston Paint Varnish, and Lacquer Production Club. Overheard at the barbecue in a game of skill involving Tech. Dept. men, the new superintendent and Pinky Martin—"You should worry, Pinky, your wife's working!" From observation at same barbecue, U. S. Treasury Dept. should investigate Chick Hedman of Construction. The choral renditions were excellent too.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
E-nergetic—(except Monday through Friday) Engineering Dept.

N-aughty—Inspection Dept. for teasing the girls

G-aiety—Constant state of the drafting room

I-rresistable—Joe Levada's personality

N-utty—Bill Robbins and George Harlan

E-ligible—Jim Fowler

E-ngaged—Bill Gabig

R-etire—Kirby Walker's dream

We girls are out for the kill this year, it being Leap Year. Liz Black says, "It's this year or never, because it's too long until next Leap Year." So all you defenseless men better watch out for these overpowering girls. We mean business. Mr. Duguid and Mr. Walters too busy to see each other during office hours, carry on their business on the way to work each morning.

Walt Visinsky doing double duty with Sammy Stutts away. Here's wishing Sammy's little girl a quick recovery.

Faye Wismer losing some of her wisdom teeth, that is. It's costing her a lot of pain and still another one to go.

Flash! Kirby Walker turns over new leaf. He's going to get up early enough to catch his bus on the right corner and not have to chase it. You know, he had to chase it to Pasadena one morning. Let's see how long this leaf stays turned over.

LABORATORY

Dorothy Blohm and Carl Goerte put over the surprise of the year by getting married January 1. They did announce their intentions shortly before the event took place but no one was the wiser until then. As a matter of fact, hardly any one knew they were going together.

Mildred Pitts Shipp, a December bride recently appeared in a pair of slacks. "Wonder what Mr. Shipp is wearing," perponded Ed Templeton. Apparently there were other remarks for Mildred soon appeared wearing a skirt.

The latter part of December found Paul Leyhe on vacation to St. Louis and on a honeymoon trip to the Rio Grande Valley. When John Morrow recently questioned him as to his decision to get married after all these years, Paul is quoted as saying, "After being with Gerry McKinley for six months, I decided nothing could be worse." Morrow

replied, "I can understand that, but what makes the girl so desperate."

Congratulations are in order to the Bobbie George's on the arrival of a girl, born December 21.

On January 11, the Emmet Wallace's had an open house for the "newly-weds" of the laboratory. Approximately one hundred guests were present, and all had a really enjoyable time. The decorations which were unique and pleasing certainly deserve special mention. They consisted of a pair of double wedding rings suspended in front of a large mirror over the fire place, numerous individual candles and candle groupings and a wedding scene depicting three bridal pairs.

Royce Donkle recently returned from a hurried trip to Wisconsin with a new Ford. He claims he got it after waiting only three months and further swears that he didn't pay a premium. A lot of the boys are wondering how he did it.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Industrial Relations, keeping pace with our Plant expansion, welcomes Truman Shields into the fold. Truman, serving as another right hand for Elmer Saxon, is the Safety Inspector in the new "E" Department area on the East side of the road. He has been with Shell for fourteen years, his latest service being at the Torrance Plant.

Speaking of welcome—we all welcomed Mr. Nield, our boss man from S. F., got here just in time. He must have enjoyed the treasure of "winter-time in the South." Jerry Wood joined us in early January and is already a veteran at the gas pump.

OPERATIONS

Clif Walter has come from Torrance to work with Bob White in making EP a running part of the "E" Department. Cliff is one of our long-time Shell men. This year makes number fifteen. He joined Shell Oil at the Wilmington Refinery in 1933 and soon moved to Shell Development at Emeryville. Cliff transferred to Shell Chemical in 1943. His major task in getting established in Texas is to find a home for his family of eight. Looks like sympathizers will be hard to find from now on if you're trying to find a house and only have three or four in your family.

Mr. J. Platt Okie has joined the Head Office Staff as of January 16. The best of luck to you Platt—and many pleasant hours to you on the links.

Grant B. Shaw goes to "B" Dept. replacing Ray Evenson. Grant comes to us from Martinez, while Ray goes to Shell Oil at Wood River. Also added to our growing staff is another Torrance veteran, G. W. Richardson—welcome Glen!

The men in operations are all waiting for E. G. Wooley, A. V. Kelley and S. J. Washburn to set that date. Now that Wooley is working 8-4 shift, it shouldn't be long now.

Ford of the pipe shop sure did look relieved on 1-19-48 when he was handing out cigars up at the gate that morning. It was a boy this time.

B. J. Waggoner the new operator over at the AC plant was giving out donuts a few days ago. It was a "Girl" for him this time.

The man who knew what he was talking about when he said he was going to have a boy soon had an 8 lb. 11½ oz. boy delivered to his home 1-4-48. He really knew what he was talking about. If you don't think so ask Joe Ward. They had a bet of 5 to 1. This was none other than C. A. Mosley of "A" Dist.

Some of the men are now over at the new "E" plant training and getting ready to put it in operation. For information and details see Mr.

The "Lin Smith" and Her Record Barge Tow



To keep home fires burning this winter in the oil-shy midwest, the recently launched "Lin Smith," most powerful towboat on the Mississippi, shoves a record of nearly four and a half million gallons of domestic fuel oil to Shell's Wood River, Mo. refinery.

W. B. Dunkin, W. E. Fulenwider, George Horton, C. S. Camp, Tommie Thompson who are all breaking in over there.

We would like to congratulate the following men who have just been raised to Shift Foremen: R. E. Thurmond, H. E. Berry, W. H. Driskell, M. J. Harmon, A. L. Burrows.

The Shift Foremen on the new "E" plant are A. L. Burrows, M. J. Harmon, C. W. Holliman and C. G. Hollingsworth.

C. W. Freeman has been moved to the job of Zone Maintenance Foreman. Congratulations "Cecil." Anyone who needs a second hand car see J. C. Odom of Deer Park. He handles Chevs. and Fords. He will trade or buy.

We are very happy to report that N. G. Tate's eyes are doing better. We all hope him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at work soon.

W. A. Fink is off for an appendix operation. He is going to be in the Vets Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Flash—"Babe" Curtis and L. L. Jones are proud papas. A baby girl for each. A. H. Parker jumped the gun on vacations and headed for the Cajun Country a mite early this year.

A sudden rush of ticket buyers swamped June Mathews one recent graveyard. June "sold out" in record time.

"Baldy" Bautsch stars again! When one of the contractor's shacks caught fire, he saved the day for the "M" plant with his quick thinking and deft handling of the fire water monitor. Baldy quickly sprayed some tower scaffolding, the "M" plant, and various personnel who seemed in danger of igniting. Someone else put out the fire. (That someone being for the most part W. H. Berkely—good going "Berk"); Tommy Thompson left the "M" plant to go across the road and be an E'er.

Instrument man Ray Smith coined a very descriptive nickname which has stuck with Big Moss. Yes?

Another name: Around the "M" plant they call him "William Tell" Smith. What is your story Smitty?

Rash has a pretty serious case—Did you give her that ring for Xmas, Jarvis?

Sandhop seems to have something

NEW ENGINES—

(Continued from page 1)

"bone-yard" either because of engine failure or body wear and damage. If a car will hold up for a while yet, a new engine may be the answer. Manufacturers' sales talks are pretty convincing, and their big point today is—"no waiting." Dealers in most parts of the country can make almost immediate delivery.

Cost is nominal, ranging from \$162 for a Chevrolet short block engine to \$770 for the biggest Lincoln engine. Manufacturers hasten to add that while the prices of new cars have jumped almost 50% over prewar, replacement engine prices have increased only about 20%.

In addition to cost and immediate delivery is the fact that engine replacement is a relatively simple job. In addition, the replacement engines made by each different manufacturer (Buick, Ford, Pontiac, etc.) are made to fit various models of their line. Thus a Chrysler engine will fit into a 1941 Chrysler as well as 1945 or 1947.

on bashful Jack Owens. Where did you get that nickname of "Daddy", Jack?

In the Treasury Department Charlie Myers, Frankie Strickland and Dorothy Shattles have recently added their shoulders to the wheel.

The following thoughts were passed on to us recently. Items like this make good reading for all of us so here you are—

Daily Promise Yourself

- (1) To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- (2) To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- (3) To make all your friends feel that they are truly worth while and there is something in them.
- (4) To look on the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- (5) To think of only the best, to work for only the best, and expect only the best.
- (6) To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are of your own.
- (7) To forget the mistakes of the past and press to greater achieve-

Record Barge Tow Gives Some Relief To Oil-Shy Area

Some small measure of relief to the oil-shy midwest appeared recently when the largest single tow of fuel oil ever to be delivered to Shell's Wood River Refinery, recently launched "LIN SMITH," the most powerful towboat on the Mississippi, and amounted to 3,687,722 gallons.

This immense cargo, hauled by barges, traversed the distance to Shell's Norco Refinery to the River in 19 days.

D. B. Hodges, Shell Vice President in Charge of Transportation and Supplies, pointed to the tow as representing a "significant phase of Shell's effort to increase oil product supplies in the midwest. The shipment represents a substantial addition to the domestic fuel oil in the area, he said.

Although this shipment was standing because of the size of the cargo moved by a single tow, barges have been shuttling steadily between Shell's New Orleans refinery and Wood River carrying oil for use in that area. As a result some 20,000 families in the Mississippi valley can thank "LIN SMITH" and the other spectacular towboats plying the Mississippi for the heating oil will warm their homes this winter.

- (8) To wear a cheerful smile all times and to have a smile for every living creature you meet.
- (9) To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- (10) To be too large to worry, too noble for anger, too strong for trouble.
- (11) To think well of yourself and to proclaim the same to the world in words but in good deeds.
- (12) To live in the faith that the world is on your side as long as you are true to yourself.

Utility Log

by F. A. Bly

Definition of a technical man— one who does the least amount of work with the maximum amount of effort and "red tape."

Doc Bickley and Charly Schaeffer, our two brand new papas. Now Charley wants to sell his slide rule. He says there's nothing on his rule that will show him how to keep from walking the floor at night.

I asked R. C. Grothe why he looked so worried. He said he wasn't worried, he was just overworked and underfed. Maybe carrying the ball he was telling about is what is wearing him down.

Recently I've been hearing rumors that some people around here drive to the gasoline pump and get their gasoline one gallon per trip. A few days ago I made the trip with Willie Ursprung in his new Mercury chariot. As we approached the pump, he said isn't she sweet and nice. I said yes, I would like to have a "Mercury" myself. With a horrified look on his face, he said not the car, the pump attendant. He told me if he knew her name he would send her a dozen red roses and a ten pound box of candy. Note to Mr. Ursprung: The young lady's name is Miss Hamilton and she lives in La Porte, although I imagine you could stop by Industrial Relations any time.

W. E. Cray is organizing a class in thermodynamics primarily so he can have Frank "Firpo" Bishop for one of his students. He said he wanted at least one shining example—but he didn't say of what.

Churchwell stuck his finger in the cat's mouth to see what would happen. Yep! That's right. She bit him not once, but twice.

Leon Buenger, Pasadena's number one politician makes steam at No. 2 Boilerhouse so hot that it turns the headers on the generators cherry red. Dan Gates and McIlveen swear to that statement.

It has been rumored that Fay Hilliard received an abacus and pea shooter for Christmas. One fellow here too has been trying to improve his vocabulary said he thought the gifts were for counting and killing sheep when Fay was troubled with insomnia at one o'clock in the morning.

I wonder what Neal's wife would say if she knew Neal let the dog sleep in the house while she was gone.

Al Keeney has a good story about the three kinds of gin.

O. J. Ruff is looking for trouble as usual.

Anita Gilstrap—God's gift to Charlie Schaeffer.

Lost—One rubber heel, fender please see Ed Reese.

Seems as though Fay Hilliard is trying to get his suction up with Ursprung. Why else would he be buying Ursprung Coca Cola?

M. P. Marrie is again serving Italian dinners.

Kerney Wilson is getting to be just about as busy as a cat on a tin roof.

We've found where we have a Hill and Hill in the Utilities Department. A Mr. C. E. Hill at No. 7 cooling water tower and a Mr. E. A. Hill in the Boiler House. It's fun when one of them reports off for a day and you arrange for a relief for the other Hill.

Notice: Do not fail to pay your Poll Tax this month as we are thinking of running Mr. Grothe for something or other this year.

This being leap year, it is now time to begin praying for our one-and-only Miss Gilstrap. Even tho some boy would be lucky just think what that would do to the Utilities Department.

Mr. Lee Aaron is doing things about the house shortage. He has just completed a nice garage apartment and boys, she will be for rent.

Mr. Bob Nowlin, our Zone Machin-

Shell's Most Unusual Operation

In New Jersey, Shell Pumps Asphalt Through Longest Unheated Pipe Line

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, between the muddy Passaic River and an enormous factory, stand two seemingly insignificant brick buildings. A closer look reveals a pipe line running from the river bank, through two little houses to the factory. The pipe is only a mile long; the two buildings are easily obscured by the trees that surround them; and yet this is the scene of one of Shell's most unusual operations—the pumping of asphalt through the longest unheated asphalt pipe line in the world.

Shell acquired the line and its two pumping stations in 1930, and has been operating them ever since, supplying the enormous Flintkote plant, volume producer of roofing materials, with the asphalt it needs to operate.

With the line, Shell also inherited a number of engineering problems, for asphalt is a tricky product to pump. The pipe line itself presented difficulties. For one thing, the mile-long tube had been constructed with sharp 90 degree angles at points where it ducked under roads, through buildings, and up the hill. At these points, breaks sometimes occurred. Once, soon after Shell acquired the line, one of these sharp bends burst right next to a large flower nursery, and Shell had to buy \$2,800 worth of asphalt-covered azaleas. However, these weak links were soon replaced with welded flanges and gentle bends and, with many other improvements, made the pipe line a workable unit.

The problem of operation remained, however. Unlike modern asphalt lines, the East Rutherford pipe line does not have a steam pipe "jacket" (steam pipes surround the pipe and enclosed in asbestos) to maintain product heat. Back when the line was built, "steam jackets" were almost unheard of, and the expense seemed prohibitive. To pump efficiently without this heat protection is a touchy proposition, requiring the full-time services of five licensed engineers.

Success of the pumping operation depends largely on the proper cleaning of the line, for as the liquid asphalt (heated to approximately 330 degrees aboard the delivering tanker) flows through, little pools of asphalt invariably get caught in

ist has bought a farm and we believe that was the smart thing to do. Bob, we will help when it comes hog killing time.

Was talking to Mr. R. O. Kay at the C. W. P. W. about working conditions back in 1929 and '30. Been a lot of improvements. The place is bigger and do you know even though some of us still fuss and raise cain, we want this and that and asking for more, we do notice the change.

the pockets formed by the bends in the pipe. If not completely cleaned out, these little pools harden, forming hard clogs which tend to catch additional asphalt and build themselves up to "plug" proportions.

To help prevent this, the line is "blown" clear after every use. This is done by shooting compressed air through the pipe. But even using such care, an occasional tiny pool gets by-passed. Sufficiently hardened by the time of the next run-through, this little obstruction starts to collect new asphalt like a snowball rolling downhill. Engineers on constant watch can spot such a cog, for almost instantaneously the pressure in the line will increase from a normal 150 pounds per square inch to a dangerous 300. Pumping is immediately stopped, and the hot product is left in the line for fifteen minutes to half an hour to melt away the obstruction. Then pumping is resumed and the softened "plug" is forced through the line. Precision operation is essential for, should the plug be formidable, there is a danger of the whole line clogging up, as the inert asphalt begins to cool and clog.

Should this happen (and it has happened only twice in all the time that Shell has operated the line) the only way to clear the pipe is to burn fires under its entire length, to melt the hardening product. Kerosene, wood, rags—almost anything—are burned to help loosen the plug. The skill of the engineers in handling a temporary plug is the reason such extremes are so seldom necessary. They manipulate the pressure—constantly nudging the liquid asphalt against the block, after it has lain there long enough to warm the obstruction. They wait for just the moment when heavily increased pressure will carry off the plug and not further clog the line.

To a community which in large part owes its existence to the enormous Flintkote plant, the functioning of Shell's seemingly insignificant pipe line is of real importance, for, without it the plant is paralyzed; with it the plant is a beehive of production activity to which hundreds look for livelihood, and upon which thousands depend for valuable materials.

It even costs more to have an accident these days.

The National Safety Council says the average cost of accidents has gone up along with eggs and two-pants suits to nearly \$50 for every man, woman and child in the United States, as compared with about \$37 in pre-war days.

Thus the nation's total accident bill added up to nearly \$6,500,000,000 last year and costs are still going up.

Nineteen Years On the Job



Dubbs 9 Quips

by Oscar Breeding

Well, as we stumble blindly and unsuspectingly into a brand new year this scribe (late as usual) wishes all of you and yours a prosperous but above all a happy new twelve months.

From reports and rumors the new Lube Plant may unfold an abundance of Dubbs 9 men. Too early as yet to bid them fare-thee-well.

"Hoss" Matthews had his son, J. W., Jr., on the unit recently for a visit. The boy certainly looks fine and is slated for baseball duty in the Texas League this season. San Antonio, I believe. Incidentally, "Hoss," we all hope for your mother's rapid recovery from her recent illness.

J. R. Dudley is expanding his interests. Anyone know of a good location for a new pinball machine? If so, see "Dud"!

The versatile Terry Lighthouse is rapidly assuming the title of the "Terrible Terry." I suppose you just can't please everybody at once, can you, Terry?

Jack Goodnight had his car stolen recently. Too bad, Jack. Any insurance on it?

Tom Davis, "Lefty" Bishop, and the writer journeyed fishing to K-rankaway recently and, as on several previous trips, came back empty handed. The aforesaid individuals are now open for advice from a good fisherman as to where to go and how to fish. We don't think we're so good any more. J. D. Gore just told me he could use the advice, too.

The George Bramletts and Paul Phillips were in full swing at the recent SERA dance at the Rice Hotel and appeared to be having a grand time. Tom Davis, Terry Lighthouse and this individual joined the "stag" line for this one and all I've got to say is, when is the next one?

A. S. Mitchell, Lou Harling, Charles Williams, and C. A. Janac all looking fine and healthy after Christmas holiday vacations. Have no dope on where they went or what they did as yet.

Anyone know where you can buy one of those ready-made bow ties that light up in the dark? If so,

Shorty Phillips Sets a "Once in a Lifetime" Record

We fell upon this story merely by chance. Someone in the Personnel Office had occasion one day to be glancing through the service dates and records of various refinery people when they hit upon the record of one Harry M. (Shorty) Phillips. Shorty's record would have gone unnoticed had it not been for what obviously was a clean absence record. Then we checked and double-checked to make sure we had not overlooked anything, but his clean slate stood up under the close scrutiny.

The records indicate that Shorty was born in the Windy City of Chicago and that he first came to work for Shell here at the refinery as a laborer in the Engineering Field Department on January 24, 1929. That happens to be over 19 years ago and we think that is a pretty enviable record for any man. That same year, Shorty was transferred to the Dispatching Department where he has worked ever since. He's now working as one of the Shift Foremen at the Docks.

let J. D. Gore know as he's in the market for one to wear on 4-12's and graveyards. (No fee for this ad, J. D., I'd be this helpful to anyone.)

The "Wakefield" club is being strengthened daily by various "huddles" and furtive meetings of its members. A person can be on almost any shift and see at least a couple of good members discussing some club business. Club officers have not as yet been elected, but a business agent has been appointed. The first official meeting is slated for sometime early in February.

THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT SAFETY IS BEFORE YOU GET HURT



You don't need Safety Clothing For Playing Bridge

(Although some might find it helpful)



You do need Safety Clothing On Hazardous Jobs

LaPorte Is Scene Of Construction Christmas Party

by Ralph Emig

There was holiday spirit to spare when the Construction Office of the refinery held their annual Christmas party on the afternoon of December 24. The scene of the festivities was Bob and Marie's Restaurant in La Porte.

In attendance, besides the Construction Office personnel, were representatives of the major construction firms participating in current refinery extensions. They were Mr. Allan Gilmour of the Flour Corporation, Mr. Jim Hybarger of the Lummus Company, and Mr. Doug Emerson of the M. W. Kellogg Company. The Lube Oil department of the refinery was represented by Mr. H. J. Lewis and Shell Chemical by Mr. Bob Waldron.

A choice of delicious seafood and steaks was the bill-of-fare. Refreshments were concocted expertly by Mr. J. H. McCarty. If anyone left thirsty it wasn't Mac's fault!

Tech Topics

The Tech Department congratulates Allen "Junior" Lewis of the Gas Department on his recently announced engagement. We hope he won't have to evict any of his sun-tanned tenants to have a place to live!

"Babe" Loughridge writes from New York that he's finally settled in an apartment on the Jersey side. Babe's furniture did a little wandering on its way from Houston to New York—he traced it to such out-of-the-way places as Akron, Ohio and West Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—but it eventually arrived, a few anxious weeks after it left Houston.

Bill Bryan and Bron Geye recently returned to the fold after a few months' lube oil training at Wood River Refinery. Bill turned up with a "Charlie Chan" moustache, which was very promptly "kidded off."

"Senator" Raarup came to work one morning a few weeks ago humming "In My Merry Oldsmobile," the reason being that he had just acquired a second-hand jalopy of said brand. "Rup" completed a flight to the Crescent City for Christmas without mishap.

The Tech Department really enjoyed the annual Christmas luncheon "house mother" Elsa Graham prepared during her vacation.

Jack Limbach now carries his birth certificate around with him when making the rounds of an evening. Seems he needs it to convince certain people about his age.

Rentz Gullick claims he's a pretty good ice-skater after only a few times out, but admits occasionally for the sideboards when his knees begin to feel like they could be stirred with a spoon!

SMOKING SPARROW—

(Continued from Page 1)

aloft on a grease rack.

World's champion freak faller of the year, so far as distance is concerned, was Charles Arter, pit-boy in a mine in South Yorkshire, England. Charlie fell down a 1,554-foot shaft and escaped with only a broken leg. Halfway down the shaft he overtook an elevator cage which was going down almost as fast as he was. He landed on it and rode the rest of the way down.

In Lille, France, a tile setter named Yvon Dherire slipped off a roof, fell six stories and landed snugly in a baby buggy from which an alert mother had frantically snatched her child. Dherire was unhurt, but the mother fainted and broke an ankle.



Construction Office Christmas Party included the following: Front row, left to right, D. Weathersby, J. R. Ryan, O. Kaltwasser, Lois Dewberry, H. J. Lewis, B. H. Broughton, J. H. McCarty. Second row, C. C. Bateman, Bob Waldron, Sam Costa, E. J. Newton, Doug Emerson, Louis Rien, Pete Green, Jerry Davis, Ralph Emig, Sam Brister, K. W. Massey. Third Row, D. C. Carnes, Allan Gilmour, W. T. Rochelle, Chris Hansen, Jim Hybarger, E. J. Hander, and E. Underwood.

SERActivities

by Marx Isaacs

1948 OFFICERS

Popular Jimmy Hallmark was appointed SERA business manager for the coming year. In recognition of her fine job as executive secretary in 1947, Hortense Barrell was re-elected.

The following zone representatives were chosen for 1948:

- Zones I & II, Jack Staton and John Larkin.
- Zone III, B. A. Risinger*
- Zone IV, Peggy Bryan*
- Zone V, Paul Phillips*
- Zone VI, Jorretta Schwartz
- Zone VII, Dick Elton*
- Zone VIII, Victor Ashe

(* indicates reelected 1947 representative)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

SERA is making every effort to get as many new members as possible in 1948. The big dance on January 31 opened the campaign in this connection and the dance, free to members and their escorts, should increase the roster considerably. Membership cards are obtainable at the door.

Bridge Club

SERA now pays the \$15 monthly rental on the Ripley House room in which the duplicate bridge tournaments are held, on the second and fourth Mondays of every month. This allows more and bigger prizes to be taken from the entry fees.

CAMERA CLUB

The easel for meeting demonstrations has been completed. This equipment, as well as meetin-room rental are supplied by (you guessed it!) SERA.

BASEBALL

SERA has appropriated funds to purchase an entire new set of uniforms for the baseball squad, and is considering insurance for team members against accidents while playing.

BOWLING

A Shell bowling tournament for members of the SERA mixed and scratch leagues is being planned.

Construction Office News

Mr. L. H. Kendall from the New York Office is making his temporary headquarters in Mr. Newton's office. Mr. Newton has moved in with Mr. Green.

Earl Horridge is having trouble disproving the rumor that started when he innocently gave Jerry Davis a cigar the other morning.

Harold Lewis is the Beau Brummel of the Construction Office. Although the girls were outnumbered ten to one at the Christmas party, he managed to get his arm around one when the pictures were made.

Charlie Carnes appointed himself a committee of one to keep the girls at the party sober. He even made himself personally responsible for emptying their glasses. He tells us later that his favorite drink is scotch and soda.

Ollie Kaltwasser gets our vote as being the Gibson Girl of 1948. With her flare skirts, tight-sleeved blouses and fancy hair-dos she looks like one of the Harvey Girls.

The new addition to the Lube Operating Department is Leonard Lambin. He came here from New York, but was originally from the Wood River Refinery. He is assigned to the Lube Department as a technologist.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ed Hander whose mother passed away the first of the month.

Mac McCarty combined business with pleasure in his week-end visit to Dallas.

See details in this issue of the Shellegram.

SPORTING GOODS DISCOUNT

Any SERA member can obtain a 10% discount on purchases at the Houston Sports Shop, 4717 S. Main Street (excluding guns and ammunition) by presenting his membership card.

GET THAT 1948 MEMBERSHIP CARD IN S.E.R.A. NOW!

A Timely Suggestion To Motorists During These Days Of Icy Highways

Motorists remember to change the oil in their cars when winter comes, but a lot of them don't remember to change their driving habits to fit the season.

The National Safety Council says this conclusion is supported by the fact that for the last eight years, snow belt states have shown a winter jump in the mileage death rate of 24 to 53 per cent as compared with summer.

The two major winter hazards in all sections of the United States are inadequate traction and reduced visibility. To find out about these hazards and what to do about them, the Council has conducted several research programs on frozen lakes in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan.

Tested Tips Offered

As the nation enters the most hazardous period of the year, the Council announced these tested tips for winter driving:

(1) Find out how slippery it is when starting out by stepping on the brakes lightly or "gunning" the motor. Get this feel of the road when driving slowly and while no other vehicles are near.

(2) Adjust speed to conditions. A good guide to follow is the speed of other cars. Passing requires changing direction, accelerating and braking—all dangerous on a slippery surface.

(3) Stay well back of other vehicles and slow down well ahead of intersections and curves. If you are going slow enough, it helps to accelerate very slightly when rounding a curve.

(4) Use tire chains on snow or ice. They are the most effective self-help you have.

Keep Windshield Clear

(5) Keep windshield and windows clear with good defrosters. If necessary, roll down the window a little.

(6) Pump the brakes when you slow or stop. Locked brakes will throw you into a skid.

(7) Even though it's cold, don't forget hand signals when someone is behind you. Unexpected maneuvers which surprise the other fellow are accident-makers on slippery roads.

(8) Don't lower tire pressure to increase the load over the wheels to get added traction. You get very little more, and you increase the chance of a skid.

(9) Good tire treads are better than smooth tires on dry and wet pavement, but on snow or ice they give no advantage. Only chains which bite in, help them.

Keep Steady Foot on Gas

(10) Keep a steady foot on the pedal. Even small forces, like sudden compression when you step up on the gas, may cause a skid.

(11) The best way to control a skid is not to have one. The adage of steering in the direction of the skid applies only if you have room to maneuver. However, a driver with a sensitive hand on the steering wheel often can correct the beginning of a skid by steering slightly in the direction of the skid.

(12) Start in second gear on wheels which minimize spinning of wheels and a possible slide to the side.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Love may occasionally work miracles but always it has to have something worth working on.

Marriage doesn't make men meek, it's just that the meek ones are most easily caught.

Sometimes the happiest marriage is one where both parties get better mates than they deserve.

To women, love at 20 is a valley; at 30 a jungle; at 40, the Andes.

—De Casseres

Research Lab

This column from the Research Laboratory is a continuation from the December issue and was written by Coleen (Arky) Stockford as her last contribution to The Shellegram.

Jim Martin worrying about getting his eyes put out.
 Dorothy Jean Golden bothering nobody.
 Gene McDaniles watching, with bright eyes, what goes on.
 Herb Cannon seeming shy, but who knows?
 Jelly Blankenship casting pearls of wisdom during coffee hour.
 Eddie Gelus always having the time to listen attentively to anybody.
 Melba Walton trilling out that hearty laugh.
 Bert Hale hiding them purty eyes behind specs.
 Sam Kent keeping on schedule through sheer underlying fortitude. Match you for a nickel, son.
 Jim Ferry quietly letting the gel columns perk by themselves.
 Tom Wier looking witched.
 Ira Pearl Gunn just sittin' around, keeping somebody company.
 Charlie Dalton being very much at home anywhere in the lab.
 Frances Sullivan looking for one of her bosses.
 M. E. Klecka not circulating much till he's determined the wind velocity.
 Joe Murphy—Bake, Jr.
 Henry Hudson with a steady grin and little to say.
 Jimmy Crocoll hunting for a victim for his latest joke.
 Lillian Brown always looking well-groomed and smooth.
 Junior Coffey, big operator, operating.
 Billie Jones waiting for his drawl to catch up with him.
 Wendy Groves tossing her head as she blue-ribbons it down the hall.
 Jim Askins fast becoming a fixture in this group.
 J. T. Foulds seeing what's hap-

It'll Bore Two Miles Down

Shell Oil Co. Introduces Portable Electric Rig---Cuts Drilling Costs

A completely portable electric oil well drilling rig capable of boring two miles into the earth has been developed and put into operation by Shell Oil Company, Incorporated in its mountainous Ventura, Calif., fields, company officials announced today.

The unit's complete mobility, heretofore impossible in the hilly terrain of the Southern California coastal region, is expected to check rising drilling costs and increase the rate of well completions, according to S. F. Bowlby, Shell's vice president.

The result of two years of engineering research and experimentation, the new unit was designed and built at an overall cost of \$250,000, which exceeds the investment in a conventional rig of similar horsepower by about \$65,000.

Despite rising labor and material costs the new rig on an average will save \$5,000 in the cost of drilling a single oil well, it was estimated by Shell engineers. It is the first completely portable 900 H. P. rig and is designed for drilling to depths of 10,000 feet.

The most conspicuous feature of the rig is the twin-masted derrick which towers as high as a twelve-story building. It is the first one constructed which can be telescoped, folded and moved along the highway in a legal-load package.

Within a matter of hours after the rig's telescoped mast and aux-

iliary equipment is rolled into place at the well site, drilling is under way. Most of the heavy equipment, including a central power plant for generating electricity, is mounted permanently on semi-trailer units. The remaining major pieces of the unit, including the derrick and draw works, are loaded onto a truck-and-trailer carrier for movement to the drilling location.

Engineering changes in design to make the equipment fully portable involved unprecedented shifting of weight loads and positions of major pieces of machinery in the drilling rig so that all machinery could be installed easily from the transporting vehicles without sacrifice of operational efficiency.

In addition to its mobility, other revolutionary features of the rig make for a high degree of efficiency. A dashboard-type panel on the derrick floor provides finger-tip remote control of all steps in the drilling operation. The panel is covered with a bank of dials showing oil and air pressure, mud pressure and power loads.

Most bulky individual unit, the 18-ton, 123-foot derrick, was designed so that it would telescope to a length of 63 feet for movement and could be erected on the drilling site by large hydraulic rams and electric motors. Shell engineers have given special attention to safety features calculated to avoid accidents while handling the heavy equipment.

Bird Cage, Apple and Cue Ball---Research Christmas Party



pening besides the rent.
 Don Brake being almost formal with his everyday greetings.
 Gordon Reno being excruciatingly frank and a little sly.
 Pat Steele absent-mindedly looking for something.
 Ken Hines hiking down to the darkroom.
 Johnny Muyres brightening the corners.
 Mary Paige Hamilton and "that laugh."
 Bob Dicks sidling out of the center lane for a passing comment.
 F. C. Demny bird-dogging Harriet.
 Mac Simmons lounging about waiting for data.
 Aileen Jackson hunting someone for an outside call.
 Russ Seaber looking very efficient about his coffee-time.
 Roland Maddox needling Bake about anything.
 Joe Piazza also operating.
 Sammy Davis scooting into his darkroom.
 Jeep Sartor needling Risinger into a fair bowling bet.
 Pop Weather telling somebody a tall-hot ziggety!
 Al Hiatt taking Ben Post to a cleaning at chess.
 Stan Marple and that rafter-ringing laugh of his.
 Gene Grigassy trotting about with a worried frown.
 Bob Bell clacking down the hall oblivious of obstacles in the analytical section.
 Ann Alderman preparing the coffee-pot.
 Fred Kunreuther picking a spot for the pot.
 Roe, our pipefitter, being harassed by Junior, et al.
 Buford Kincannon soothing his distillers over minor problems.
 Harriet Leff wearing red slacks.
 Fox, the electrician, hunting the latest burned out "globe."
 Bake laughing, regardless.
 Note to Orfield-Morrison: get the bidding open, get in the majors, and double if Junior plays it; the sheen will be marvelous to behold.
 Note to another Junior: it's purty hot in Borneo—ja!
 —Arky.

Research Christmas Party, Or, Home Was Never Like This!!

by Arky

Gifts of every imaginable shape and size and every degree of wrapping ability almost dwarfed Research's pint-sized Christmas tree. The tree, itself, bespoke imagination, sparkling with copper trimmings from Pop Weathers' lathe, colorful glass balls by Tommy Matthews and Jelly Blankenship and scintillating lights dreamed up by Jay Cunningham (Marshall Andre and Connie Allan put the finishing touches on 'em).

There was caroling over the intercom system with Eddie Gelus, violin, and one group in Baker's office; Stan Marple's office was the other station with neither music nor instruments.

When Santy Baker started handing out gifts, Sammy Davis started taking pictures and laughs ranged from titters to tummy-hows over wild poetry and wilder gifts.

One or two of the fellows forgot and stood under the huge clump of mistletoe, with heart-warming results. Surprise visitor was Mary Emily Miller, just back from a European jaunt. Another was Mr. Foster who arrived just as Cliff Hogge opened a huge gift box containing several small turtles. A note deliv-

ered to him a few minutes later, asked cryptically, "Wasn't Myrtle fertile?"

Most of the gifts were products of weeks of research, very carefully planned to jibe ever so gently at the recipient. Tom Wier got a cue ball this year.

Ben Post ought to wear those ansty-pants shorts the lab gave him. Russ Seaber can eat oat meal for weeks now; shame he can't stand the stuff!

On the other hand, some of the good people lucked out. Mary Vick got another beautiful hankie. Alex Alexander will smell right purty.

Put Hinds' bird cage, with a little man perched inside, bespoke hours of painstaking work. J. T. Foulds can go deer hunting with his bean-shooter any day now. Mary Paige Hamilton got the red-haired doll and house she wanted.

Theda Kelly claimed a gift addressed to the "beer-drinkiest gal in Texas."

There were so many gifts, it would be impossible to even just mention them, like Junior Coffey's manicure kit, or Risinger's tickets for a bowl game, or Herb Cannon's baby gift.

You should've been there.



Mr. P. E. Foster started the various Christmas Eve Parties rolling when he dropped in at the Warehouse and handed the first gift to Jesse Jones, Jack Gray, Strickland, Foster and Jesse Drennan. Included in the picture, from left to right: Bob Beard,

KEGLER'S KORNER

by Marx Isaacs

Good attendance and generally high competitive spirit were reported by all three mixed leagues during the past month. The leagues had two or three nights off on account of holidays falling on their bowling nights. There are several openings for new bowlers in these leagues and it is hoped that any employees wishing to bowl will contact the secretary of the league in which he is interested (refinery Lawndale league—John Schroeder, telephone number 432; refinery Pladium league—Marx Isaacs, telephone number 483; Shell Chemical Lawndale league—Dick Elton, telephone number 257).

Standings in the refinery league as of January 14 were:

	Won	Lost
Inspection	45	25
Control Lab.	45	27
Utilities	40	32
Cracking	37	35
Isomerization	34	38
Dispatching	33	39
Industrial Relations	33	39
Research	33	39
Instr. Engineers	30	42
Engineering	28	44
High Team Game—Utilities—968		
High Team Series—Isomerization—2562		
High Man's Game and Series—M. Alston—244-556		
High Woman's Game—A. Windham—202		
High Woman's Series—C. Gable—557		

In the Shell Chemical league, which started a new season on December 11, standings as of January 15 were:

	Won	Lost
Forget-Me-Knots*	11	5
Fubar 5	11	5
Dugooders	10	6
?	10	6
Lizzezwhizeez	9	7
Construction	9	7
Ramrodders	8	8
Mickey Finn	7	9
Laboratory	6	10
Jobbers	6	10
Rhetasots	5	11
Tee Dee	4	12

(*) High team game—983—(**) High team series—2796

In the Shell Chemical league, the individual bowlers' handicap system has been adopted, thus helping the lower-average keglers to win the individuals' prizes offered by the league. Following are the leading contenders as of January 15, with scores including individual handicaps:

High man's game and series—R. Walters—233-610
 High woman's game—E. Cox and P. Hunter (tie)—208
 High woman's series—E. Cox—546

The lead continues to change weekly in the refinery Pladium league. Analytical left the cellar with a four-point win over Distillation, former league leader, while Technological, in fifth place a few weeks ago, is now second. Gas has held the top spot for three weeks but (as of January 14) is only two points ahead of the second-placers. League standings as of January 19 were:

	Won	Lost
Gas*	39	29
Technological	37	31
Distillation	35	33
Drafting	34	34
Analytical	30	38
Main Office	29	39

(*) High Team game and series—999-2620

High Individual Game (men)—Urbanek—247
 High Individual Series (men)—Fly—565

High Individual Game (women)—Schwartz—217

High Individual Series (women)—Barrell—514

The city tournament of the Hous-

ton Woman's Bowling Association will be held on week-ends only (as many as needed for the number of entries) beginning March 6 at the Pladium Lanes. The deadline for entries is February 21. Get entry blanks from your league secretary, if you are a female member of a WIBC-sanctioned league. Classifications for entrants are:

Class	Average
A	150 and higher
B	135-149 inclusive
C	120-134 inclusive
D	119 and lower

Hot Race Looms For Top Positions In Scratch League

by Art Doyle

Risinger Back

The last meeting of the Scratch League marked the mid-point of the season and found seven of eight teams in position to finish in first place. From Research in seventh, to Engineering in first, a gap of only six games separate the seven teams. Ethanol in eighth place is another eight games behind Research, but have made a frantic bid to get into the fight by enlisting "Ri" Risinger, who, as most of my readers know, is quite a roller.

"Ri's" presence on January 14, however, failed to help their cause as Research took two games of three. In other matches, X-100, with Smith and Adams carrying the scribe, took two from the leading Engineers and chopped one game from their lead over Toluene, who seized their advantage and copped two from Chemical. Bill Enderson and Mason Rogers teamed to lead Toluene to victory. The fourth match pitted Thorn's Xylene team and Stanberry's Premium aggregation. Ed Herrerias had one of his best evenings to date and carried Captain George to a pair of victories. In all, no less than 15 bowlers cracked the 500 circle, led by Doc Towell's 568, Hank Adams 567, Stanberry 564, Herrerias' 561 and Cal Lawrence 558.

In the individual series and game competition, two of the leagues lower average bowlers now are setting the pace. Thew's 615 has stood since the week before Thanksgiving, while John Larkin crashed through with 256, bettering Thorn's 255 by one pin, several weeks ago. Of the two marks, the high game is likely to stand, but they will sweat out Stanberry, Risinger, Thorn, Brockmeyer, and Sartor's series every week. Oh yes, Adams, who had a 649 in the city tournament Sunday January 18 could also upset Norman's apple cart.

Standings as of January 20 follow:

Team	Won	Lost
Engineers	31	23
Toluene	30	24
Premium	29	25
Xylene	29	25
Chemical	28	26
X-100	27	27
Research	25	29
Ethanol	17	37

Classified

FOR SALE

Light tan topcoat, all wool, size 36, in new condition. If interested call 371, Chemical Plant.

FOR SALE

Philco 1203 table model combination radio-phonograph and record cabinet. Excellent condition, practically new. Call A. H. Rae at 267 Chemical Plant.

Sam Costa Named To Pilot Shell Oilers This Year

The Shell Oiler's baseball team held its first meeting of 1948 on Monday, January 5, 1948 at the refinery cafeteria.

Among those present were: Billy Amason, and "Ace" Shaw, catchers; Johnny Campo, Gabby Richardson, Roy Pitts, all infielders; Dixon Kirk, Jack Phillips, outfielders and Bill Telschow, Bobby Schroeder, holdovers from last year's team. Mr. Roy Faulk Assistant Superintendent gave a short talk on the future of baseball at the refinery.

The highlight of the meeting was the election of Sam Costa to manage the Oilers this coming season. The nomination was met with unanimous approval from the group.

Sam's career in baseball is a well known and much discussed topic around the refinery. He started playing back in 1923 on the sandlot diamonds of Houston. He was only 15 years old at the time and only three years later, in 1926, he had his first crack at professional ball, playing in the old Texas Ally league. That year Sam won ten games and lost only three and was one of the leading pitching prospects of the league. Other players in that league with Costa were Pete McClanahan, Les Mallon, and Heine Schuble, all later went to the major leagues.

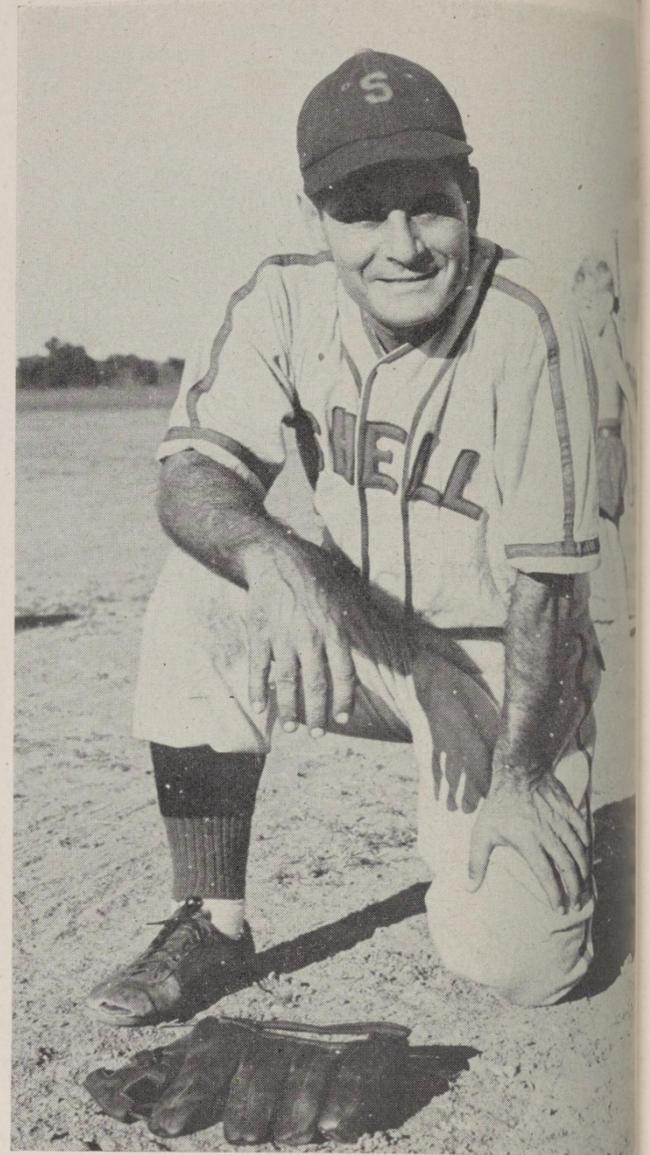
In 1927 Sam was a member of the Foley Bros. city amateur championship team and in 1929 he went back to pro ball, playing with San Angelo of the West-Texas league. His record there showed five wins and two losses as a San Angelo hurler. It was about this time that minor league baseball had its worst depression so Sam came back to Houston and went to work for Shell at the refinery. Sam played for the Shell Oiler teams of 1933, '34 and '35 when the Oilers boasted such players as Joe Gibbs, George Mallicky, "Shipwreck" Kelley, Buster Baebel, "Dutch" Hoffman, Jimmy Gordon and of course, Sam Costa. Sam expressed the opinion that he believes the teams of 1933, '34 and '35 were the best in the refinery's history.

In 1935 Sam joined the all-powerful Grand Prize Brewers and started a colorful six year career. During this period he was the most dependable pitcher the Brewers boasted and his hard work on the mound for this team earned him the nickname of Lion-hearted Sam. During this six year stay with Grand Prize, he had reached his peak and it was during this time that he boasted one of the two best curve balls in this part of Texas, the other belonging to Bobby Runnels.

This is Costa's first crack at managing a baseball team outside of handling the Oilers at the end of the 1946 season. However, Sam has been associated with baseball in some capacity for the past 25 years. Much of the credit should go to him for the fine new diamond and grandstand that is rapidly being put into shape here at the refinery. Also due a lot of credit for their tireless effort in lending baseball a big helping hand are Mr. P. E. Foster and Mr. Roy Faulk. They have both seen the baseball team through the good and the bad times.

Baseball training will begin March 1st and Sam Costa urges all employees who would like to try their hand at playing with the team to come out and he guarantees everyone an equal chance to make the team.

The Oiler pitching staff has been strengthened considerably with the addition of Steve Warchol, former Houston Buff ace who is now work-



SAM COSTA—New Oilers Skipper

ing at the refinery. Grover Noonan, a new employee at Shell Chemical, will add strength to the Oiler outfield. Noonan is a former Rice Institute star and is currently playing with the Oiler's basketball team, so he should report for training in good condition.

We might add that the new grandstand is now under construction and if good weather shows up it will be ready for the opening day.

Control Lab

by Louise Cox

Jack Agness moves up into the upper brackets this month with a new Ford.

Virgil Reichardt same bracket via home on the bay.

Bill McBride by way of accepting position with Charles Martin.

Will Wielkins has been elected chief agitator of the laboratory. An easy victory over has been W. W. Myers, Bill Carby, H. M. Miller and Oliver Goodson.

Doug Lawrence makes number one on the hit parade when it comes to giving parties. This reminds us that Claude Cassidy has not forgotten everything he learned in the "Crude Column." He still mixes some fancy blinds.

So very nice seeing Katherine Cassidy and her little daughter.

T. J. Cross and M. D. Thomas have been trying to outshine each other in everything in general.

Ray Jackson has been awarded the button for being the best conversationalist of the month.

Nelle McDowell has been given this month's medal for being the most cool, calm and collected. Of course some credit for this goes to Tommy Jones who was on sick leave for some time.

At last, George Roberts saw the light and moved on the right side of the channel. (Note to Galena Park homesteaders—it's a joke, Son!)

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a nice furnished apartment for refined couple, see Joe Worth. Must include comfortable day house with all modernistic features. Paid Adv.

Bowling Tourney Suggested; Ideas Sought On Plan

SERA bowling chairman George Thorn has suggested a bowling tournament, with team and individual entries from the Shell Chemical and refinery mixed and scratch leagues. This project will require considerable planning, so questionnaires will be issued soon to team captains in these leagues. They will in turn contact their members for suggestions as to most suitable alleys and proceed for conducting such a tournament. It may possibly be run along lines of the Houston city tournaments, with classifications A, B, and D in accordance with bowling averages.

Team competition, as well as singles and doubles, will probably be included. Entry fees will have to be decided and prize money from other sources may become available. Matches will be on week-ends when alleys are most easily obtainable. So put on those thinking caps and have some good suggestions and ideas ready when your team captain contacts you about

Old Father 1947 Sounds Off With Sound Advice

Old Father 1947 was being evicted. He snapped shut his case, straightened up and smoothed down his beard as the bells and whistles began to pour outside.

"So, you want my advice, you, son?" he said to the tenant, a little fellow named Baby 1948. "Not much I can do for you—kinda flopped on the problems myself. But folks might be a little better off if you passed along this tip from the National Safety Council: Don't drive if you drink! Happy New Year, bud!"