shellegram

SHELL OIL COMPANY
HOUSTON REFINERY

SHELL CHEMICAL CORP.
HOUSTON PLANT

VOL. 24, NO. 3 HOUSTON, TEXAS MARCH, 1959

CREDIT UNION PRESIDENT J. B. Harkness and E. J. Newton, chairman of the construction committee (right), share honors in ground breaking ceremonies, March 11, for the new Credit Union building in Deer Park. Looking on (left to right) are David Williams, field representative, Texas Credit Union League; G. F. Breckenridge, Manager; C. H. Welch, Chemical Plant, a member of the Board of Directors; L. V. Ash, Chemical, a member of the Credit Committee; Dixon Kirk, Chemical, Board member; B. L. Stanley, Chemical, Credit Committee member; W. H. Berkley, Board member, Chemical; and Robert Maurice, A.I.A., architect for the building. The lady is Vivian Tucker, Credit Union Secretary.

Credit Union Construction Underway in Deer Park

Informal ground breaking ceremonies on March 11 got construction underway on the new Credit Union building in Deer Park.

The 4,900-square-foot building is being constructed by the Brown Construction Co. under a $63,432 contract. This work includes some furniture and fixtures to be built into the building plus all of the paving of driveways, parking areas and sidewalks.

Work on the one story, masonary building is expected to be completed about the middle of July.

Digging out the first shovels of dirt were J. B. Harkness, Credit Union President, and E. J. Newton, former President and chairman of the construction committee.

Located at 205 East Eighth St. in Deer Park, the building will surround a patio and will contain a number of individual offices plus a large lobby with business transaction desks. A drive-in window and night deposit box will be additional, convenient features of this structure.

Following completion of the building, the Credit Union windows at both the Refinery and Chemical Plant will be closed. This move was approved by the membership at the annual meeting in January.

Ancient Diatoms Help Chemical Plant Solve Effluent Treatment Problems

Microscopic plant fossils called diatoms are now at work in the Chemical Plant. The diatoms were deposited in lakes more than 100,000 years ago and are presently assigned to assist the filtering unit attached to the waste disposal well.

It was in 1957 that this well was drilled to a depth of about 7,650 feet. A great deal of planning went into this project so that no safeguard against hazards caused by injections of plant wastes would be overlooked. The bottom of the well is about 3,000 feet from the nearest potable water. At this depth it was anticipated that the sands would take on high-volume injections and disperse the material quickly.

For a time, injections went as expected, until it was found that the sands were refusing to absorb the injections. A study indicated that minute solid particles floating in the waste stream must have clogged the pores in the sands, thus making further injections impossible.

To clear the sand structure a combination brine, acid and detergent was forced down the well under high pressure. These three ingredients proved successful and the same sands were again suitable for use.

Since there was no desire to repeat injections that would surely clog the well a second time, it was concluded that a filter was needed.

A large drum containing 22 circular leaf filters was installed. Each leaf filter consists of a center screen of heavy gauge wire with several layers of fine mesh screen on each side. The screens are mounted on a shaft

See DIATOMS, Page 2

Death Takes Butler, Hill

It is with regret that we report the deaths of two long-time Shell employees, W. T. Hill, Engineering Zone Foreman at the Chemical Plant, and E. R. Butler, Valve Repairer No. 1 at the Refinery.

Mr. Butler died on March 6 and Mr. Hill died on March 11. Both men had been in ill health for some time.

Mr. Hill, 61, began his long Shell career on Jan. 18, 1929, when he came to work at the Refinery as a Laborer. He subsequently worked as a Labor Sub-Foreman and Labor Foreman at the Refinery before transferring to Chemical as Labor Foreman in 1946. He

See DEATHS, Page 2

Plants Get UF Merit Awards

In recognition of their outstanding performance in last October's United Fund drive, both the Chemical Plant and Refinery have been presented the UF Merit Award.

Employees at both plants set records in the amount of money contributed and exceeded goals assigned by United Fund headquarters.

Laws Named Assistant Superintendent at Plant

Chemical Plant Manager Glenn Purcell recently announced the appointment of

J. H. Laws

John H. Laws to the position of Assistant Superintendent-Operations for the Industrial Chemicals Division at Houston.

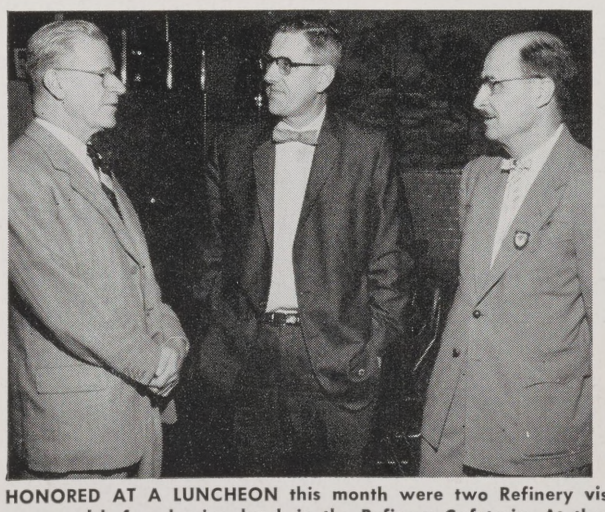
Purcell indicated that the appointment is part of the over-all reorganization of the Chemical Plant along divisional lines. (The *Shellegram* will carry stories in subsequent issues regarding other organizational changes at the Plant.)

In his new assignment, Laws will report to the Houston Plant Superintendent Industrial Chemicals Division, and the Operating Department Managers in A, G, E, Utilities and Shipping Depts. will report to Laws.

Laws began his Shell career in 1952, when Shell Chemical

See LAWS, Page 3

Luncheon Honors Distinguished Visitors



HONORED AT A LUNCHEON this month were two Refinery visitors, both of whom are pictured above talking to Refinery personnel before having lunch in the Refinery Cafeteria. At the left Refinery Manager John Tench and Refinery Superintendent A. J. Wood share Shell memories with F. S. Clulow who retired on July 1, 1956, from the position of Vice President Manufacturing and was succeeded by M. P. L. Love. In the right hand picture L. R. Goldsmith (facing camera), General Manager, Technical in Head Office Manufacturing, chats with C. C. Bateman, Manager, Construction; W. G. Eddleman, Manager Engineering Field, and L. J. Grossheim, Manager Fire and Safety. In the background are A. M. Eaton, Manager Purchasing-Stores, and H. D. Estes, Manager Economics and Scheduling.

Blanyer, Coombs, Dowdy Retire March 1

Three Refinery employees retired March 1, and each one has the distinction of achieving a "first" of one type or another.

George J. Blanyer, Automotive, was the first Refinery newspaper's first photographer. Robert H. Coombs, Treasury, was the first man in the history of the Houston Refinery to reach 40 years of Shell service. James A. Dowdy, Insulation Shop, is the first person to retire from that particular craft.

Blanyer, known throughout the Refinery by his nickname Tony, was listed as photographer in the masthead of the employee-run *Shell Shock* when it first appeared on Dec. 23, 1932, and continued in the post for a number of years. The *Shell Shock* was the forerunner of the *Shellegram*.

Completing his thirtieth year of accredited Shell service on Feb. 2 of this year, Blanyer can look back upon a Shell career that started in January, 1929, when he joined the pipeline organization at Austin as a Camp Foreman. He moved with this new line into the Refinery in April, 1929, and has been here ever since.

After his pipeline construction duties were completed, he became a Painter and in February, 1931, transferred to Automotive as a Mechanic. Blanyer completed the remainder of his Shell career in that field, becoming Craft Foreman in April, 1948.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Blanyer plans to continue to live in Houston and his initial plans include doing a good bit of work on his house.

Coombs, who is equally well known as Doc or Cookie, completed 40 years of service last Sept. 1. The organization which Coombs joined on Sept. 1, 1918, was the Roxana Petroleum Company which eventually became the Shell Oil Company. And the place he first went to work was the refinery then under construction at Wood River, Ill.

He came to the Houston Refinery on April 1, 1930, and has been here ever since. Coombs' entire career was spent in various phases of the shipping business; his most recent job was that of coordinating both incoming and outgoing shipments of all materials other than petroleum.

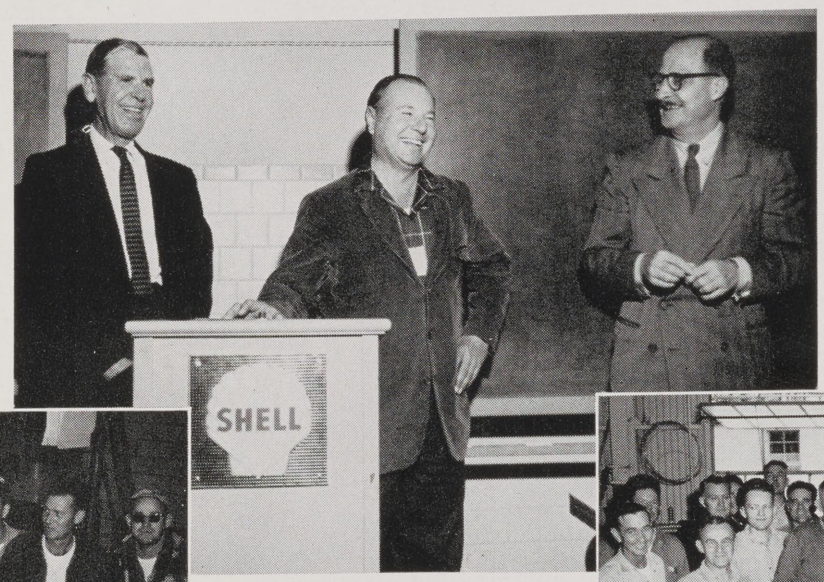
An active member of SERA during his many years at the Refinery, Coombs takes particular pride in his efforts to please the children by making arrangements for the rides at the annual picnics, and, in fa he has plans to assist with t year's affair in the same w

Coombs is one of those r persons in that he is a nat Houstonian, and he plans continue to live here dur retirement.

Dowdy retired with slig ly more than 15 years of credited Shell service, havi reached that anniversary d just last December. His Co pany career started in S tember, 1943, when he w employed as a Car Repairm Helper. He continued to w on tank car repairs until carbarn was closed down September, 1947.

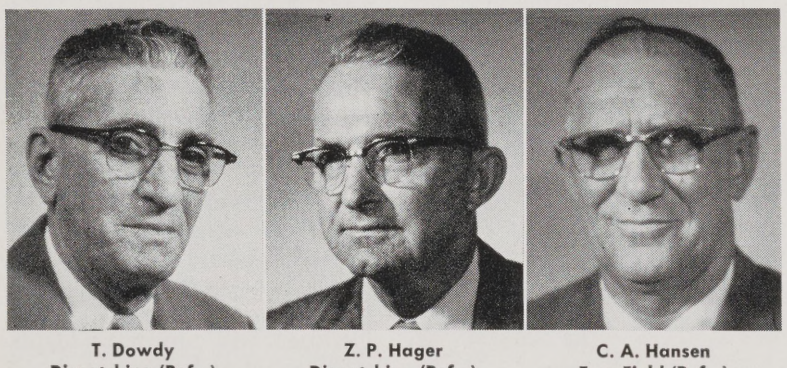
He then moved into the sulation Shop and comple his Shell career in that field

Dowdy, a native of Hous County, plans to return to East Texas area to run a sm farm near Crockett, on wh he will raise a few cows a chickens.



THREE RETIREMENT get-togethers held the final week in February honored three Refinery employees who became pensioners on March 1. In the top picture L. L. St. Pe (center) tells an interesting tale about one of the many incidents in the 40-year service career of retiring R. H. Coombs (left). In the right picture, many of his fellow Automotive workers gather with G. J. "Tony" Blanyer (in suit) to wish him good luck and present him with a table saw and set of luggage. Meanwhile, down in the Insulation Shop (left picture) employees were gathering to honor J. A. Dowdy (center in white shirt) and present him with a pair of binoculars.

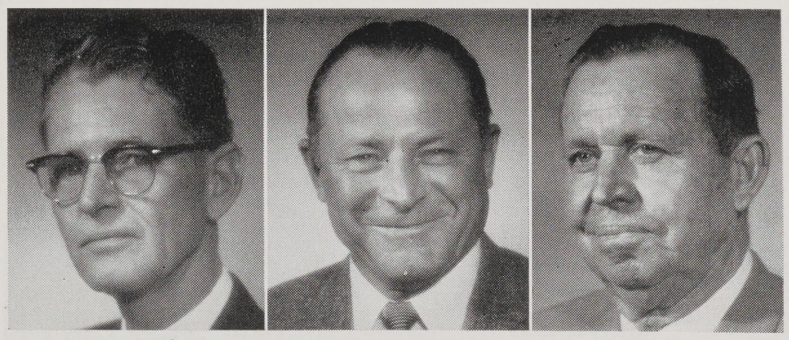
30 Years Service



T. Dowdy
Dispatching (Refy.)

Z. P. Hager
Dispatching (Refy.)

C. A. Hansen
Eng. Field (Refy.)



G. A. Hensley
Eng. Field (Refy.)

R. R. Klechka
Eng. Field (Refy.)

D. R. Lilley
Eng. Field (Refy.)

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(Refinery)

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(Chemical Plant)

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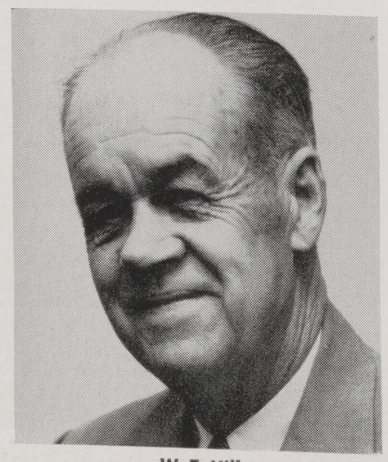
Deaths—

(Continued from Page 1)

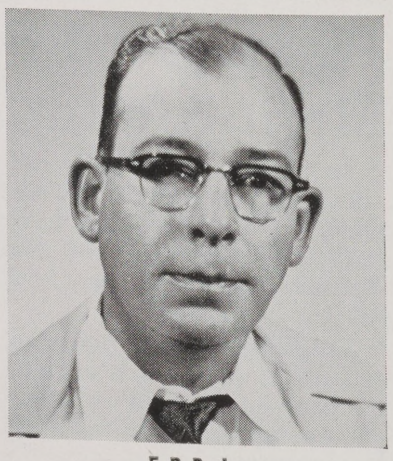
was named Zone Foreman in 1955.

Mr. Butler, 52, joined the Shell organization here at the Refinery on July 28, 1932, as a Laborer in Engineering Field. He worked in Cracking from October, 1932, until February, 1937, when he went back to Engineering, working subsequently as a General Helper, Yardman and Salvage Repairer. He became a Valve Repairer No. 1 in 1947 and continued in that capacity until his death.

The *Shellegram* expresses the sympathy of all their fellow employees to the families of Mr. Butler and Mr. Hill.



W. T. Hill



E. R. Butler

Diatoms—

(Continued from Page 1)

that runs through the middle of the tank.

Two other tanks complete the filter unit. One contains long fiber asbestos in solution and the other diatomacious earth. The diatomacious earth, as you may suspect, is made entirely of the organisms called diatoms.

Prior to injection of waste material, the asbestos is pumped into the filter tank, and as it passes through, the fibers cling to the screens. As the asbestos is in solution, the water is recycled into the tank. This process is continued until the water is clear, which indicates to the operator that all of the asbestos is in place on the screens.

At the same time the waste stream enters the filter, the diatomacious earth is injected. The tiny diatoms work as s arators which keep the scre from premature clogg Soon, however, the screens have a layer of material them about two inches th This tells the operator th is time to clean the filters

The filter cleaning pr is accomplished by inje streams of water at a ra 360 gallons a minute onto side of the filters. Such a is sufficient to literally off the layer. Naturally, material falls to the botto the tank and is pumped and sent to the new w stream treatment plant w it can be suitably handled safely disposed of.

As a necessary precauti the event the filtering breaks down during opera several cartridges of cotto already installed in the leading to the well. T cartridges would do an quate job until repairs be made to the main filte

The well with leaf fi is now operating accordi the original expectations

SHELL COOLING SYS PROTECTOR

Shell Cooling System tector provides all-year p tion for the cooling syste your car. It prevents th mation of rust, corrosion scale — an especially pra feature during summer m when anti-freeze is not

Refinery Cleanliness Must Be Maintained

For many years the Houston Refinery of the Shell Oil Company has enjoyed a reputation as one of the cleanest and best looking refineries in the United States.

It did not reach this enviable position by accident or luck. It got there because every employee took enough pride in his individual work area, as well as in the plant as a whole, to see to it that maintaining of cleanliness was a part of each day's job.

Every employee today has either helped build this excellent reputation, if he is a long-time Shell hand, or he has inherited the right to enjoy such a reputation, if he is a relative newcomer. None of us today, however, can afford to take our reputation any less seriously than it has ever been taken. None of us can rest on the laurels received in the past.

Litterbugs Moved In

All of which is to say that in recent weeks good housekeeping practices seem to have been forgotten, or at least neglected. We have allowed those pesty, invisible litterbugs to take up residence in our Refinery. To maintain our reputation and, more importantly, our cleanliness we must all take immediate steps to clean up our individual areas and keep them that way.

But we must remember that cleanliness — as necessary as it may be — is not an end in itself. Cleanliness is also a vital aspect of working safely and working well. A dirty work area carries over into bad safety habits and slip-shod production.

The attitude that will allow dirt and filth to accumulate will also allow safety rules to be neglected and will allow work output to deteriorate in quantity and quality. The man who throws the paper drinking cup on the ground instead of into the waste basket may be the same man who does not take proper care of his tools or equipment.

Oil Spills Are Dangerous

Such improper care may put equipment out of use for repair, may make it unsafe for use, or may even destroy its usefulness completely.

Oil spills not cleaned up right away may cause someone to slip down and suffer a serious injury. A carelessly discarded soft drink bottle may get broken and cut someone.

We should all take pride in the beauty and cleanliness of our Refinery, not only because outsiders admire it, but also because it means we have made for ourselves better, safer and more enjoyable working conditions.

Providing these conditions for ourselves comes not through the efforts of one man or one group of men; it takes the efforts of every individual employee, and every individual employee ought to be proud to make such an effort.

Laws—

(Continued from Page 1)

Corporation took over the Julius Hyman Plant in Denver. He served as Assistant Manager and Manager of the Insecticide Dept. there and in March, 1954, began a foreign assignment at The Hague.

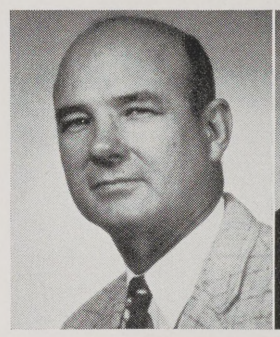
In December, 1955, he was made Manager of the G Operating Dept. at the Houston Plant and held that position up to the time of his new appointment.

Laws has a BA degree in chemistry from Colorado College and an MS degree in meteorology from the California Institute of Technology.

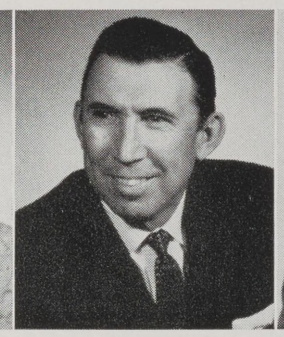
SHELL SPEEDY FLUSH

Cooling system deposits mean engine overheating. Shell Speedy Flush removes oil and grease sludge, rust, corrosion and scale accumulation.

25 Years Service



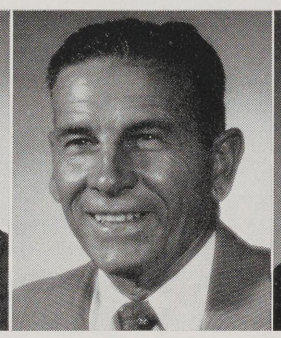
A. H. Baker
Lube Oils (Refy.)



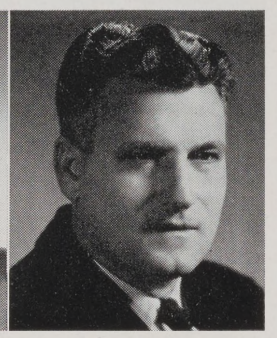
P. S. Graves
Dispatching (Refy.)

C. V. Hand
Eng. (Chem.)

J. H. Leach
Aromatics (Refy.)



L. N. Mancuso
Fire & Safety (Refy.)



R. L. Webb
Aromatics (Refy.)

Louisiana's Delta Pipeline in Use

Crude from offshore wells moved through the Delta Pipe Line for the first time on February 16. The 120-mile line, a common carrier owned and operated by Shell Pipe Line Corporation, now enables Shell Oil Company to transport crude more economically across Louisiana's delta country to Shell's Norco Refinery.

With the two main line and two injection stations in operation, the initial capacity is estimated at 90,000 barrels a day. The capacity of the line can be increased up to 160,000 barrels a day by the addition of a booster pump station.

The water-logged terrain presented unusual problems all through the construction stages and even in the final testing of the line. Because most of the line is laid under water, the customary method of detecting leaks — by observing where the ground becomes wet from escaping water — could not be used.

Instead, a fluorescent, pea-green powder was mixed with the test water and pumped into the line. Even minute leaks were discovered when this green mixture escaped and rose to the surface of the water or swamp, where it could be detected from the air. In some instances, the dye made it possible to find leaks so small that they were invisible to the naked eye.

Rubber Ball Cuts Intermixing

Take out "dumbbells," put in round rubber balls, and product mixing is cut in half. This is essentially what Shell Oil Company has proven on its 250-mile North Line from Wood River to East Chicago.

The dumbbell is an older type of mechanical separator placed between two product tenders in a pipe line to prevent commingling, a major problem in products pipe line operation. Formed by fixing several rubber disks to each end of a metal bar, these dumbbells generally keep the interfacial mixture between two liquids down to 700 barrels in the 250-mile trip.

A newer type of separator, however, is proving much more effective. Developed after approximately four years of research, the separator is basically a hollow rubber spheroid inflated with water or a mixture of water and anti-freeze. Fitting snugly into the pipe, spheroids are placed at intervals between tenders. By this method, interfacial mixing is cut to approximately 300 barrels over the same 250-mile stretch.

The new separator can also pass through the line more easily, since its round shape permits it to navigate sharp bends and even mitered elbows in the pipe. Launchers designed to shoot the spheroid into the line were constructed specially for the operation.

Acting also as a scraper, the spheroid may have application for crude pipe lines as well as product lines.

New Employees

REFINERY

Madeline R. Braun, Typist, Research
Inez C. Mitchell, Jr. Clerk, Purch-Stores
William T. Knowles, Technologist, Refy. Lab
Margaret W. Prokish, Steno., Treasury

MILITARY LEAVES

GONE ON

Roger D. Stutzman, Cat. Crack.

RETURNED FROM

William H. Stewart, Research

Jim Moseley Builds Own Boat, Using Herrmann's Dining Room

Very few persons have built their own boats, but even fewer have varnished them in a friend's dining room.

Having now done both of these things, Jim Moseley of Engineering Office at the Refinery is able to spend his weekends running about the Bay in his 10-foot, 6-inch run-about. Moseley constructed the craft from plans as published in a magazine and with the assistance of John Herrmann, Engineering Services.

Although Herrmann assisted with some of the physical work on the boat, perhaps his major effort came when varnishing time rolled around at the same time the rains set in. He talked his wife into allowing the spacious Herrmann dining room to be turned into a temporary boat yard.

After three weeks of living with the craft, which quite naturally became a conversation piece among visitors, Mrs. Herrmann indicated she sort of missed it when it was finally taken away.

A two-seater equipped with a 30-horse motor, the boat was built in Herrmann's garage at night and on weekends. Of wood frame construction with ¼-inch plywood side and bottom, the run-about also has a fiberglassed bottom over the wood, with a resin paint over that. The deck is made of mahogany.

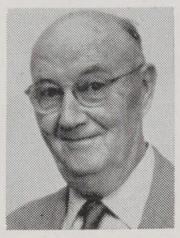
One interesting feature is the tail fins, which are filled with styrofoam to counteract the heavy motor on such a small boat and to provide extra floating power in case of a turn-over.

Moseley utilized his own drafting ability to add detail drawings to the general sketches which appeared in the magazine, and took about eight months to complete the boat, which is as yet unnamed but is thoroughly tested.

JIM MOSELEY TAKES a spin in his recently completed, home-made run-about accompanied by Miss Esther Clamon, who is girls' basketball coach at LaPorte High School.

Start Retires At Chemical

D. J. Start, Operator No. 1 at the Chemical Plant, has retired after completing more than 15 years of service. Start's retirement became effective on March 1.



D. J. Start

During his career with Shell, Start held various jobs with both Shell Chemical and the Houston Refinery. He began his career in 1943 at the Refinery and in 1947 transferred to the Chemical Plant. His first assignment was that of General Operator Helper. During his remaining years Start worked in E Dept., where in 1948 he became an Operator No. 1, the job he held before his retirement.

In the past five years the average horsepower of new passenger cars has jumped 80 per cent—from 140 to 250.

JIM STEELE DRAGS an unwilling calf across the finish line at this year's Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo to become winner of the $125 given by the Chemical Plant, with which he will purchase a calf to raise during the coming year.

Fine Heifer Such as Miss Paddock Makes Scramble Bruises Bearable

Podnah! That calf scramble event at the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo does get rough. This event can never be truly appreciated until it's actually seen.

Proof of the roughhouse tactics employed by the unwilling calves was the cut lip received by Jim Steele, this year's winner of Shell Chemical's calf. Jim is from Alamo, Texas, and held true to his name and the reputation of the San Antonio fort for which the town is named.

After the officials gave the go signal, Jim was one of the first to reach a calf. With just dispatch he flung the critter to the turf, put on the required rope halter, grabbed a handful of calf tail and brought him on in. He was second over the finish line.

It was sheer coincidence that Jim was observed so closely by the reporter. However, his bright yellow shirt with blue stripes made him quite a stand out.

One of the other boys in the same event with Jim did not fare too well. He and his calf wrestled to a standstill. He pulled the calf one step and the calf pulled him back three. Finally, the boy just gave up and sat down.

Much to his surprise the calf charged by him hell bent for leather toward the finish line. When calf, dragging boy, passed the line some of the men caught the calf and others caught the boy, for he had passed out two feet in front of the line and had ridden the critter on in.

When Jim met his sponsor Glenn Purcell, Chemical Plant Manager, he was offered a soft drink. In true rancher fashion, Jim turned the offer around and offered to buy Purcell a soft drink. Besides generosity, Jim is possessed of a good personality and a sense of humor.

Jim is 15 years old and has been in 4-H work for about six years. With an eye on the future Jim has already started a herd of registered Herefords to which he will add a heifer his prize for capturing Sh Chemical's calf.

The calf caught in the scramble is not the one winner takes home to fat up for next year's showi Rather, he is given money buy a calf of his own choosi

Jim is a freshman in hi school and plans to atte Texas A&M to study mod farming and ranching.

Meanwhile, down from ranch again came Miss P dock to sweep more honors herself and owner Barn Gardner. Barney, it will be membered, became the f youth to capture a Chemi Plant sponsored calf, in 19

Last year Miss Padd walked off with the Gr championship in the Brahm heifer calf scramble divisi in addition to reaching the nals in the all breeds class.

Well, Barney brought M Paddock back again this y and entered her in the scramble division and the ior division. The result that she was judged as the Brahman heifer, the best in scramble class, the best in ior breeding beef and gr champion of the Brahm class. In addition to the bons, Barney picked up a ver trophy from the Ameri Brahman Breeders Associat and a $100 prize.

Curtis Fuchs, winner of 1958 Chemical Plant calf, turned for judging with a looking Shorthorn Steer nam Bingo. It was apparent in t ing to Curtis, that he had sp much of his time during last 12 months preparing calf for the show.

Bingo was entered in medium weight Shorth class and was awarded a enth place ribbon. A few after the showing, Curtis Bingo up for sale. With sale complete, Curtis w home just a little unhapp having to leave his close panion Bingo to the most tain fate of appearing on s one's dining room table i near future.

CHEMICAL PLANT Manager Glenn Purcell and Curtis Fuchs, who captured the 1958 calf sponsored by the Chemical Plant, are seen with the Shorthorn steer, Bingo, he raised during the past year.

I. C. White Takes School Board Post

I. C. White, a Fire and Safety Inspector at the Refinery, was sworn in recently as a member of the School Board of the Deer Park Independent School District.

White was named a member of the board to replace former Chemical Plant employee C. G. Hollingsworth who moved out of this area.

SHELL COOLING SYSTEM PROTECTOR

Shell Cooling System Protector deposits a protective film on all parts of the cooling system of your car, preventing the formation of rust, corrosion and scale.

Shell Chemical Announces New Liquid Epoxy Resin

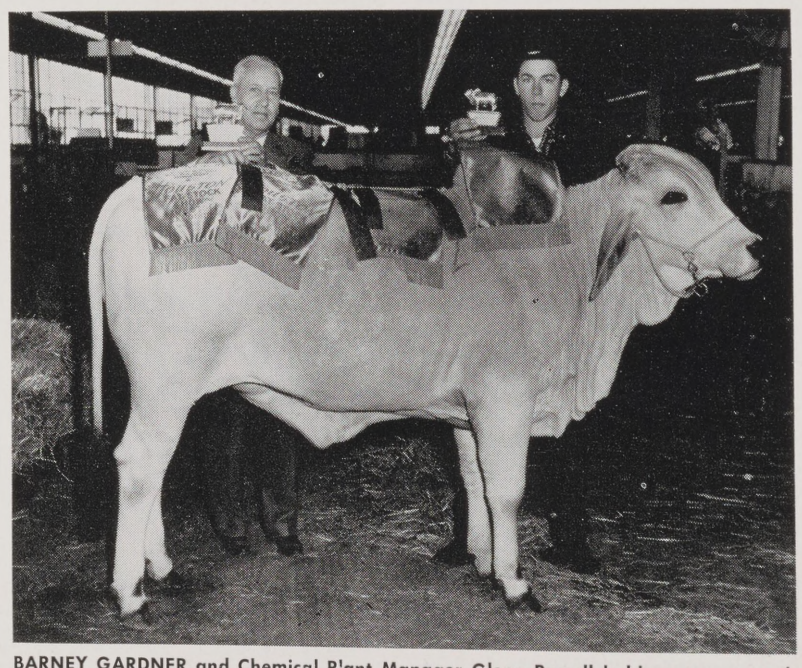
A new member, EPON® X-81 has been added to Shell Chemical Corporation's family of 20 epoxy resins and curing agents.

Liquid epoxy resins are characterized by their high strength, resistance to chemical attack and adhesive ability. Epon X-81, in addition, has exceptional flexibility or "stretchability." This quality enables Epon X-81 compounds to withstand continual temperature changes and heavy impact loads that break down the more rigid epoxies. In standard laboratory tests, cured Epon X-81 castings doubled their length before breaking. Conventional epoxy castings snapped when stretched seven per cent.

Major market for the new product will be in those adhesive applications where temperature changes tend to weaken the bond: compounds for caulking and sealing, body solders for automobile repairs, and in bonding new concrete to old — such as in repairing sidewalks, factory flooring or highways. The toughness of Epon X-81 makes it ideal for long lasting dies which are used to form aircraft and other metal parts.

Also in liquid stage Epon X-81 has a low viscosity and will flow as easily as motor oil. This property makes it useful in surface coatings which can be applied directly without having to be mixed with a solvent. This flowability also enables Epon X-81 compounds to completely encase the exterior and interior parts of electrical components such as transformers and condensers.

Several hundred workers are killed each year in the United States by accidental contact with electricity.



BARNEY GARDNER and Chemical Plant Manager Glenn Purcell hold up two awards while other ribbons rest on the ample back of Miss Paddock, Barney's heifer who was the winner of all these prizes. Barney captured the 1957 Chemical-sponsored calf.

SHELL SPEEDY FLUSH

To prevent engine overheating, use Shell Speedy Flush twice each year — after anti-freeze is drained away in the spring and before anti-freeze is added in the fall.

10 Years Service

Refinery

J. C. Merritt, Eng. Services
M. E. Miller, Research
W. T. Roye, Dispatching
E.T. Shandera, Gas

Chemical

B. K. Boyd, Operations
J. L. Brelsford, Engineering
J. H. Connolly, Stores
R. L. Cryer, Operations
W. J. Forsythe, Operations
N. J. Johnson, Engineering
G. W. Little, Operations
S. J. McGlaughlin, Operations
F. B. Reynolds, Stores
R. L. Seger, Operations
W. R. Shive, Engineering
R. F. Slovak, Engineering
C. C. Turner, Engineering

15 Years Service

J. A. Berwick, Refy. Lab (Refy.)
C. E. Clemons, Eng. (Chem.)
J. R. Ensminger, Opr. (Chem.)
R. McGee, Gas (Refy.)
W. T. Riggs, Gas (Refy.)

Grad's Pics Will Be Run

This is the second call photographs of Shell sons daughters graduating f high school or college this

These pictures will be tured in the June issue o *Shellegram*.

Please remember these in submitting pictures:

1. Deadline is May 29.
2. Any size photograph be used.
3. Black and white g prints preferred.
4. Also submit full nam parents, department at R ery or Chemical Plant, i mation on school activitie honors, future plans of stu
5. Deliver to *Shellegram* itor in Refinery Central S or Employee Communica Section at Chemical Pla mail to *Shellegram*, P. O 2527, Houston 1, Texas.

Rodeo's Calf Scramble Event Helps Youths Get Start in Cattle Business

Thousands of spectators cheer the youths who entertain them each year in one of the calf scramble events at the Houston Fat Stock Show and Rodeo.

But how many of these persons know what lies behind the excitement of scramble events? Do they know how and why Alton Urbantke, the lad who caught the calf sponsored this year by Refinery Manager John Tench, got into this scramble? Do they know what will happen to him during the coming year as a result of his pulling one struggling calf across the finish line?

The answers to these questions tell a heart-warming story of many men who willingly devote their money and their time to help interested youths get a small start in the cattle business.

These men include, this year, some 220 sponsors such as Tench who donated $125 each to be used by each winning boy to purchase a calf of his choice. And these men include persons such as Walter Peterson and W. L. McCarley who serve on the beef scramble committee and go into action at every performance of the rodeo at which boys scramble for the opportunity to raise beef cattle.

Peterson, Assistant Department Manager in Dispatching, is vice-chairman of this committee and a Stock Show director, as is Tench, and works on the arena floor at each performance to assure that all scramble rules are obeyed and that the record of which boy catches which calf is accurately maintained despite the excitement of the chase and capture.

McCarley, a Zone Foreman in Refinery Engineering Field, had the duty this year of contacting the sponsors who attended the performance and introducing them to the boys who captured their calf.

Thus, this year he was able to introduce Tench to young Urbantke, a 15-year-old Rowena, Texas, youth who caught, haltered and dragged to victory the Tench-sponsored animal. This young student at the Ballering Junior High School near San Angelo plans to purchase either an angus or a short horn with his $125 in winnings and raise the animal on his father's small farm.

Right now this farm is devoted primarily to the raising of hogs and milk cows. Although Alton's ambition is to be a dairy farmer, he is eagerly looking forward to fattening a beef animal, his first try at raising a calf that is all his own.

Then next spring when the rodeo rolls around again Alton will return to Houston to exhibit his calf just as 1958 winner Don Gault of Killeen returned this year to enter his animal in the special judging for scramble competitors.

Behind the catching of a calf one year and the showing of it the next lies a great amount of work on the part of each boy, his school's agricultural teacher or his county agent, and the members of the two scramble committees.

In addition to the beef scramble committee there is a dairy scramble committee which handles sponsors' donations and the boys interested in raising a dairy cow. Of this year's 19 rodeo performances, ten contained beef scramble events and nine had dairy events.

Twenty boys, but only ten calves, are turned loose in the arena at each event. These boys don't just happen to show up for one of these events. They are selected a long time in advance by their teachers or county agents on the basis of their interest in and enthusiasm for cattle raising as exhibited in 4-H or F.F.A. work.

Each boy travels to Houston at his own expense to be entered in only one scramble event and with only a 50-50 chance of success, which facts certainly indicate the great desire these lads have in getting a calf of their own to raise.

After purchasing his calf with the $125 (some of his own money may be added toward a more expensive animal, if desired), the boy begins to fatten him up. But this process is certainly no hit or miss affair, either.

The scramble committee and the sponsor must receive periodical reports on the calf's growth along with neat and accurate expense records. Such a reporting system, officials believe, teaches the boy good business practices while he is learning how to physically take care of the animal.

SHORTLY AFTER HE captured this calf in the scramble at the rodeo, Alton Urbantke was introduced to Refinery Manager John Tench, sponsor of the scramble calf, and to Walter Peterson, Assistant Manager of the Dispatching Dept. and a member of the calf scramble committee.

DON GAULT of Killeen, who captured the Refinery-sponsored calf in the 1958 scramble, returned to the show this year to exhibit Topper Pride to stock show officials and Refinery Manager John Tench, one of some 220 businessmen who sponsored calves this year.

During the ensuing year Tench and many other sponsors will pay personal visits to the farms of their boys to get a first hand look at the way the calf is developing and to assist the youth in any way possible. As interested committee members, Peterson and McCarley may also visit with the boys taking part in the program.

When the boys come back to the show the following year they compete for many prizes. This year some $500 worth of prizes was given away for such things as the best accounting records, the best groomed animal, the cleanest stall, in addition to ribbons for the outstanding animals themselves in the breed categories.

For the returnees each year the show is climaxed at an award banquet attended by the boys, their sponsors and Fat Stock Show officials.

Outstanding Students Visit Refinery

RECENT VISITORS to the Refinery include this group of outstanding high school students who are interested in careers in science or engineering fields. They were selected by their respective schools in the Houston Independent School District to take part in this program, which includes several visits during the year to various companies in this area.

Refinery Wives In Bowling Win

The wives of three Refinery employees took high honors in the recently completed Pasadena women's bowling tournament.

Rosalie Kuntz, the wife of G. J. Kauntz of the Surveying Crew, and Bobbie Chamblee, wife of W. A. Chamblee, Thermal Cracking, teamed to take first place in the doubles.

Becky Hall, the wife of J. M. Hall, Gas Dept., took third place in the singles and was a member of the team from the Monday Night Mixed League that won third in the team event.

Between 1928 and 1957, the number of accidental deaths in U. S. industry declined 25 per cent, according to the National Safety Council.

Risers Lead Bowling Loop

The fact that the Risers held the end of February lead in the Shell Mixed Bowling League is quite understandable when you realize that the two top average male bowlers and the second ranking woman bowler are members of this team.

However, the Chemical Plant based Risers' lead over the second place Woodchoppers at that point amounted to a single game with the Isodopes only one more game back in the close 24-team league.

Bowling with the current leaders are top ranking A. Dugas with a 178 average and B. Howell with 175. Reba Dugas' 152 average stands second only to Ann Washburn's 163 among the women bowlers.

Close behind in the distaff category was Vi Adams with a 151 average. Among the regular male bowlers, J. Collins, Chemical, was the only other man with a 170 or better average, standing at 170 even. Among the substitute bowlers, R. Fletcher and T. Stewart, both of Chemical, had 176 and 173 averages respectively while the Refinery's L. Harling had a 174 mark.

Since our last report, Mrs. Washburn upped her league leading woman's series record from 529 to 545 and the Jokers with a 2626 series replaced the Risers at the top of the team season highs. Howell's 615 series and H. Graham's 268 game still stand as the best of the year along with the Motor Lab's top game of 1015 and Mrs. Dugas' 210 game.

We Found Lost Items

The **Shellegram** Editor is holding three items found at the Refinery. Losers may claim them by contacting him on 540 and identifying the objects. They are

A woman's coin purse

A small, silver key on a rubber band.

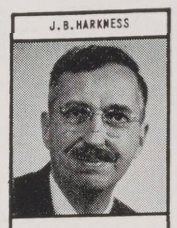
A silver cufflink, rectangular in shape.

HOUSTON REFINERY

REFINERY LABORATORY

STAFF PERSONNEL

MARCH 1, 1959


J. B. HARKNESS — MANAGER


A. P. GARNER — ASSISTANT MANAGER

TECHNICAL DIVISION

ANALYTICAL–EXPERIMENTAL LAB.


B. T. FERGUSON — CHEMIST IN CHARGE


L. H. REEVES — SENIOR CHEMIST

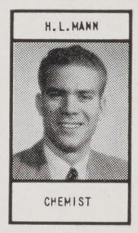

G. BALIKOS — CHEMIST


J. A. BERWICK — CHEMIST


R. G. EVELD — CHEMIST


R. E. FORD — CHEMIST


G. G. KING — CHEMIST


H. L. MANN — CHEMIST


J. S. MYRICK — CHEMIST


L. W. FEARSEY — CHEMIST


C. E. ROBERTSON — CHEMIST


L. E. WEAVER — CHEMIST


W. T. KNOWLES — TECHNOLOGIST

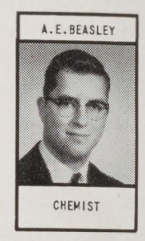
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

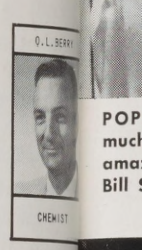

J. C. DeLAND — CHEMIST

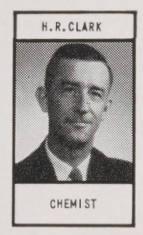
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY LAB.

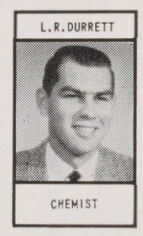

A. H. CHERRY — CHEMIST IN CHARGE


F. L. ROBINSON — FOREMAN ANAL. DIST.

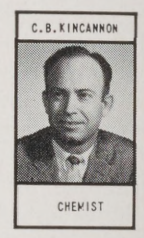

A. E. BEASLEY — CHEMIST


G. L. BERRY — CHEMIST


H. R. CLARK — CHEMIST


L. R. DURRETT — CHEMIST


W. D. HARGETT — CHEMIST


C. B. KINCANNON — CHEMIST


E. L. PATTERSON — CHEMIST


J. B. POND — CHEMIST


J. O. SCHULTZ — CHEMIST


L. K. GILLUM — TECHNICIAN


J. E. SCOTT — TECHNICIAN

INSPECTION DIVISION


C. A. ROBERTUS — CHIEF INSPECTOR

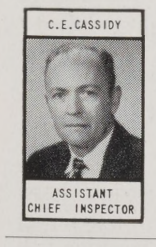

J. T. GRIFFIN — FOREMAN ANALYTICAL


W. O. HOPPER — FOREMAN KNOCK TEST


C. RAGUTH — FOREMAN ANALYTICAL


B. G. AMERSON — CHEMIST


R. N. MOEN — CHEMIST


C. E. CASSIDY — ASSISTANT CHIEF INSPECTOR


J. B. CARTER — SHIFT FOREMAN


C. D. FINCH — SHIFT FOREMAN


H. J. GRAY — SHIFT FOREMAN


C. F. SPRAGGINS — SHIFT FOREMAN

SERVICE DIVISION

R. L. HORNSBY — SUPERVISOR

M. B. KADLECEK — STENOGRAPHER

D. M. LEZAK — STENOGRAPHER

J. L. BARRETT — CLERK

D. D. McMANUS — CLERK

A. M. VARNER — CLERK

L. J. WHITLEY — CLERK

ONE OF THE RECENT orientation classes conducted by the Refinery Employee Communications Section for non-technical employees was somewhat unusual in that it was composed of ten women and only one lucky man. A visit to the Central Shops was included in this program, and in the above picture the group watches as Blacksmith C. H. Shelton prepares to demonstrate a blacksmithing technique. Participants (l to r) are Cleve O'Toole, who conducted the group on the Shop tour; lone male student Rudolph Trabanino, Drafting; Shirley Rowland and Lois Bradshaw, Treasury; Mittie Deaton, Thermal Cracking; Madeline Braun, Research; Inez Mitchell, Purchasing-Stores; Dorothy O'Sullivan (hidden), Kathleen DeSola, Jeanne Armstrong, Agnes Taylor and Joyce Fredrich, all of Treasury; and Marx Isaacs, Technological, who discussed Refinery operations and conducted the Refinery-wide tour.

Buzzing in Pocket Means Make Bee-Line for Phone

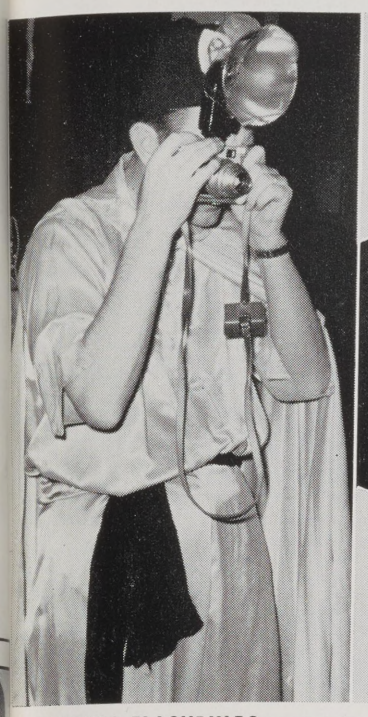
During March an improved method of intra-plant communication was installed at the Chemical Plant — its name, Pagemaster.

Pagemaster, manufactured by Stromberg-Carlson, consists of a selective radio paging system operating via the telephone switchboard, in conjunction with the existing whistle system. It permits the contact of key supervisory personnel whose work assignments may carry them anywhere in the Plant.

The heart of Pagemaster is a small pocket-size receiver. To actuate the system a person need only dial a code num on any telephone in the P This will automatically the main switchboard into transmitter and coder co nents of the system and c a buzzing sound to issue f the receiver in the pocke the individual being calle

Only one receiver is ho up to each code number; t fore, only one individu reached on a particular n ber. Upon hearing the buz sound, the holder of the ceiver goes to the nearest P telephone and, by dialin code number is immedia connected with the telep where the call originated.

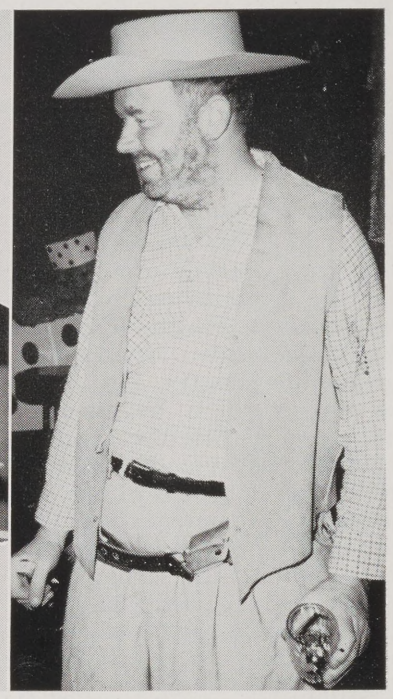
Chemical Research Holds Costume Dance



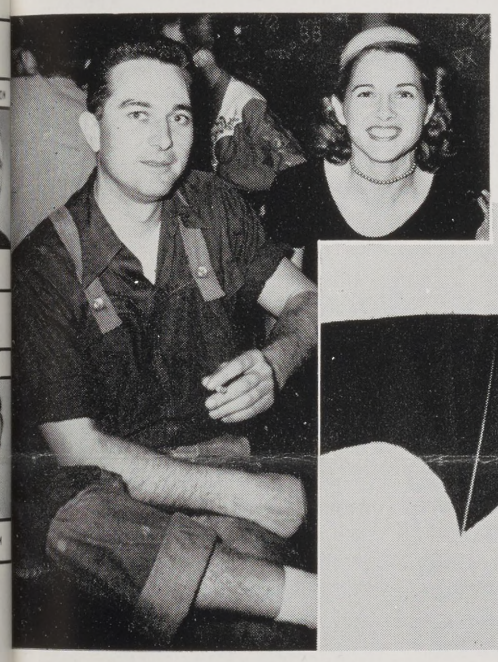
POPPING FLASHBULBS were much in evidence, recording the amazing costumes, and here Bill Smith is caught in the act.

JERRY CARTER is just too wrapped up in things to pay attention to the camera that snapped his picture and that of his curly-haired wife Susi.

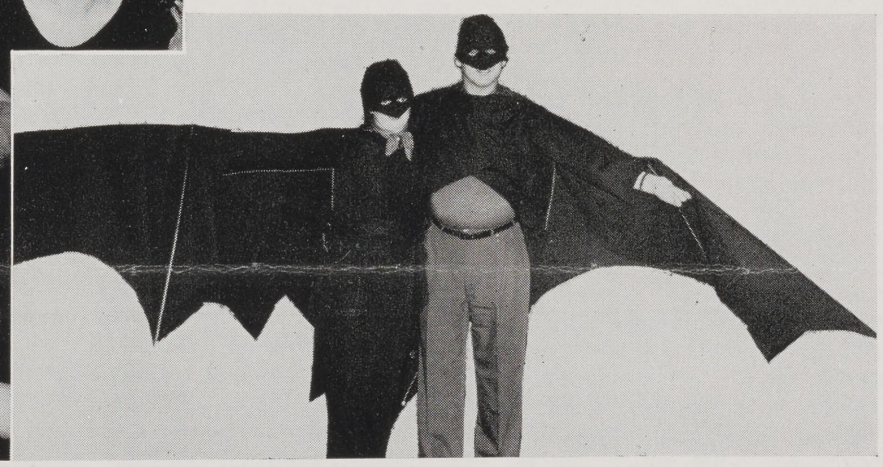
YOU EVER TRY eating hard boiled eggs with chopsticks? Don and Ginger Weaver look Oriental enough, but looking the part, they discovered, doesn't guarantee adequate manipulation of the little sticks.

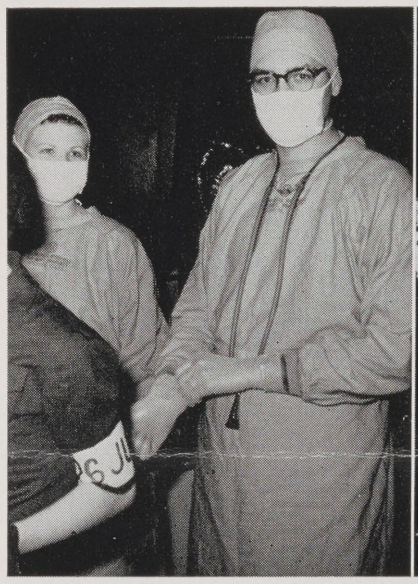


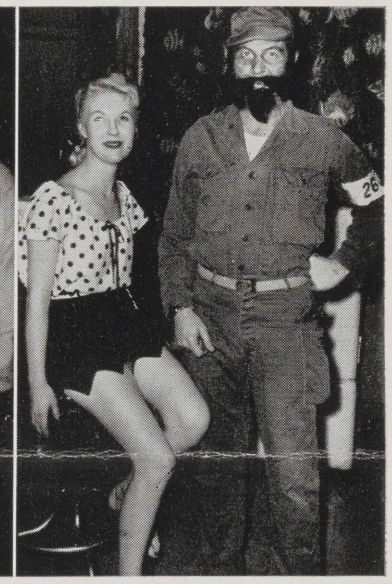
"HAND ME ONE a them eggs, gal," says this tough looking customer from the Old West, who may be better known around Research as Norm Hall.



SOMEBODY LEFT the cave door open and this pair of bats escaped to attend the party. We don't recognize the wings, but are pretty sure that the faces under the masks belong to Irene and Jack LaRochelle. The fellow on the left with smiling Joanna Riesser is none other than Dogpatch's own Lil Abner, travelling under the disguise of Wally Tanner.







DOGPATCH MEETS Cuba on the right, but we hope the meeting does not result in any battles that might require the services of the cutups on the left. Daisy Mae, in this case, may be better known as Pat Tanner, and the bearded Cuban rebel during quieter times is Scott Eidt. That's Doctor Frank Cody behind the gauze, and his assistant is Mrs. Cody.

TWO MORE CUBAN rebels escort a walking Shell advertisement in the person of Paul Harruff. The folks with the amazing growths on their faces are, when they are not overturning governments, Lavon and Granville Edwards.

Interesting Shell Films Free

Shell has an interesting variety of films that may be obtained free of charge for showing to high schools, parent-teacher associations, civic and community organizations.

These 16 mm sound films, many in color, may be obtained simply by phoning the Employee Communications Section at either the Refinery or Chemical Plant. A catalog listing all of the available Shell films may also be secured, if desired.

Reservations for films should be made as far in advance of the proposed showing date as possible.

Working time equal to that of more than 900,000 men was lost as a result of on-the-job accidents in U. S. industry during 1957, according to the National Safety Council.

You Can Lend Friendly Hand

How many friends have you? Two, 20, 200?

Be it two or 200, you count your friendships among your greatest assets. Consider for a moment what it would be like not to have any friends. A complete void. A vacuum of silence. No one to brag to or complain to.

There are many persons, particularly the aged, who live in our community who have been sentenced by circumstances to almost solitary confinement. Their complete circle of friendships extends to bill collectors, perhaps a doctor and a few birds enticed to the window sill.

This cruel sentence can be lifted by you, if you are willing to give any amount of your time as a "Friendly Visitor." You can adopt a lonely, aged man or woman as a friend and spend a little time with him or her each week.

Volunteer Community Services, a United Fund agency, is a recruiting station and dispatcher for friendship.

If you can spare a few fleeting minutes from your lifetime to give a lifetime of cheer to a new friend, please call Volunteer Community Services at CA 4-2767.

Style Show Set April 13

Models from the Shell Oil Research Wives Social Club will exhibit gowns such as those above at the group's style show April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the East End YMCA. All Shell Oil Research wives are invited to attend this event.

Showing sample gowns from Gina's Fashions, 4536 Griggs Road, are (l to r) Mrs. Stanley Marple, style show chairman; Mrs. B. R. Graham; Gina, and Mrs. O. M. Shultz.

This club was formed last June, and monthly meetings are held at which members enjoy various forms of entertainment such as bridge, guest speakers and colored slide presentations. Officers of the club are Mrs. Graham, president; Mrs. J. W. Lawrence, vice-president; Mrs. J. E. Nichols, secretary; Mrs. Max Nager, treasurer. Mrs. W. K. Meerbott and Mrs. K. E. Train are program chairmen; Mrs. W. A. Bailey Jr. is chairman of the membership committee, and Mrs. Shultz is publicity chairman.

New Laboratory on Wheels Helps Researchers Study Refining Units

The Refinery Research Lab now owns a 28-foot, custom-built, wood-paneled, air conditioned trailer—but it is not on loan for weekend fishing trips or vacations.

It will be far too busy serving as a mobile laboratory for the Engineering Research Group in its studies of refining units at Shell installations around the country. This trailer was especially designed to serve two important functions: first, as a convenient, compact field laboratory and second, as a means of transporting the dozens of packing crates and boxes which the Group formerly had to pack, ship and unpack every time a trip was made.

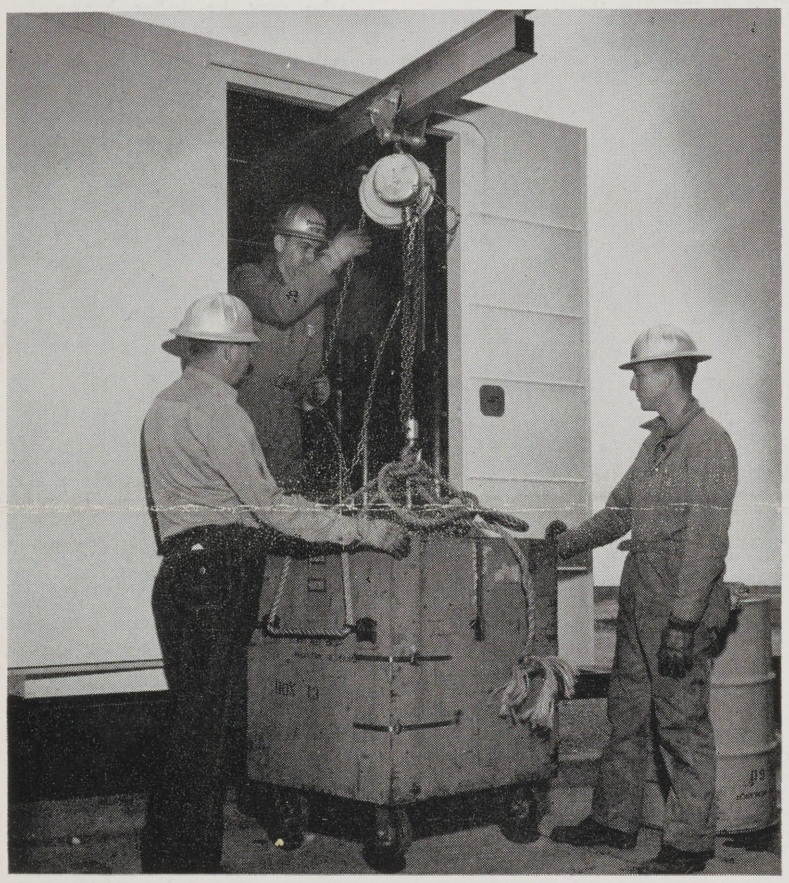
Group Leader M. G. Geiger Jr. pointed out that his Group was so eager to try out the trailer that it was put to use at the Houston Cat. Cracker just three days after being delivered. Following this initial trial, the aluminum-clad, 8-foot wide trailer was scheduled to go to the Montreal Refinery in April for special tests on commercial units.

In its function as a mobile laboratory the trailer provides a number of advantages over the old method of operation. The air conditioning will make it possible to get more accurate measurements because the spectrometer used to monitor radioactivity is quite heat sensitive. The accuracy of the more delicate instruments will also be improved by a built-in voltage regulator to supply constant voltage to the instrument circuits.

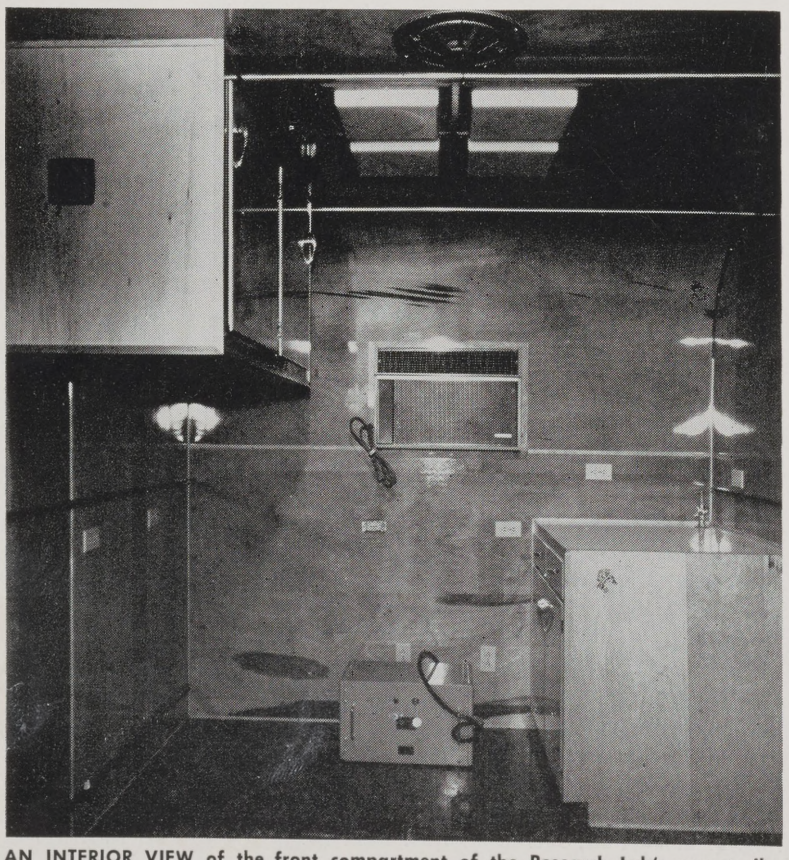
The Group can now use a portable analytical unit to make some on-the-spot studies of hydrocarbon feeds and products using gas chromatography methods. The trailer will give the group a much more convenient center of activities; it will greatly facilitate the use and repair of equipment right on the job.

Regarding its function as a transportation medium, the trailer makes it possible to reduce the considerable time and expense involved in packing and unpacking; there will be less possibility of damage to electronic equipment.

A commercial towing company will be hired to haul the trailer on each trip, Geiger said, pointing out that Group members have been averaging four to six trips a year over the past three years.



RESEARCH LAB employees use the aluminum hoist to lift a heavy crate into the new trailer which will be used for studies of operating units at Shell refineries around the country. The beam slides back into the trailer when not in use. D. E. Hardesty prepares to lift the crate, getting steadying hands from H. G. Sandland Jr. (left) and L. D. Ross.



AN INTERIOR VIEW of the front compartment of the Research Lab's new trailer shows one of the built-in cabinets and the work bench on the right. The many wall outlets make it possible to plug in numerous pieces of electrical and electronic testing equipment.

Use House Trailer Design

The trailer was based on a standard house trailer design, but incorporates numerous specifications laid out by the Research Group. Lab Technician Harry Sandland was primarily responsible for planning and coordinating the construction of this trailer with Texas Trailer Corp., the constructor.

It is divided into two compartments; the front one, which is air conditioned, houses the more delicate electronic equipment. The rear portion is primarily used as a storage area during movements. Both sections have work tables for equipment repairs and built-in storage cabinets for tools and glassware.

The back section is fitted with a removable aluminum beam and hoist which can be used to lift boxes and equipment weighing as much as 1,000 pounds into the trailer. A sliding door separates the two sections.

Tie-down rings in the walls and floor of the back section and metal rails along the walls in the front will be used to anchor equipment and supplies.

Transformer on Hitch

Connections are provided so that 440-volt electric power can be supplied to the trailer through a transformer located on the hitch, making available both 110-volt and 220-volt circuits.

A double-hinged door arrangement will keep out rain at the spot where instrument and phone cables run to the outside. The phone cables are part of the trailer's own communication system which will enable Group members to keep in touch with each other while at work on various parts of a unit.

Multi-purpose outlets have been installed to bring in air, water or gases as they may be needed.

Of wood frame construction, the trailer contains two inches of fiber glass insulation all around. The aluminum outer shell is coated with an EPON paint. The interior finish is varnished gum.

With such equipment on hand, the current motto of Engineering Research is: "Have trailer, will travel."

PAINTERS C. F. Jones (left) and J. C. Kubala demonstrate the new platform used to sand blast and paint steel pipe ways at Chemical Plant.

Pipe Rack Painting Work Aided by Elevator Platform

"Going up. First floor—sand blasting and painting."

As you walk through the Chemical Plant you may not hear anything like this, but it does in some part describe the new elevator hoist now in use.

The hoist was designed and fabricated at the Chemical Plant and is proving itself a boon to the painters. The unit consists of a platform floor that measures ten feet wide by fourteen feet long. It is equipped with waist-high hand[rails] all around and two win[dows]

The unit is now being [used] to paint steel pipe supp[orts] The advantage this unit [has] over permanent platform[s] that more area can be wo[rked] without having to move it

When the painters wish[es] put the unit to use they [lower] four heavy duty steel c[ables] to the overhead pipe supp[orts] The cables are linked to th[e] hoists and serve the same [pur]pose as any elevator cab[le]

After the work is compl[eted] at one location, the plat[form] can be easily rolled to the [next] location on its four ru[bber] wheels. The use of alumi[num] helps to lessen the ov[erall] weight of the platform w[hich] in turn aids ease of movem[ent]

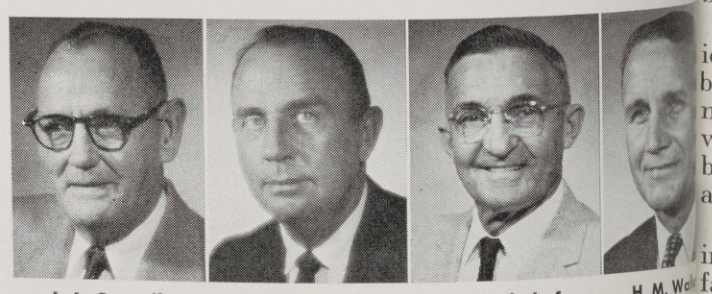
Several safety devices [have] been built into the unit. [The] platform will stop instan[tly] when the air supply is cut [off] whether this be on purpos[e] by accident. An automa[tic] emergency brake will stop [and] hold the cable drum should [the] platform suddenly drop d[own]ward at an accelerated r[ate] speed.

Wheeler Gives Briefcase Talk

Douglas Wheeler, Refinery Engineering Office, recently made his first presentation of the Magic Briefcase talk.

He told members of the Deer Park Rotary Club, through words and demonstrations, about many of the fascinating and useful products that are being manufactured out of petroleum. This talk and visual aids have been prepared by the American Petroleum Institute for interested oil industry employees to present to such civic or social groups.

20 Years Service



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