

# Shellegram

Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

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## Time for new year resolutions

There is something to be both loved and hated about New Year's resolutions. It is easy to love making them. Even if you're a cynic about most New Year's traditions, you still probably find the idea of making resolutions irresistible.

Several DPMC employees agree, as you will find out a little later.

But just as it is easy to love resolutions when they are being made, it is also easy to hate them when you find them hard to keep. Because what so often happens is that a month or two after New Year's, you pull out your crumpled list and discover that your progress has been minimal.

Of course, the odds are against you to begin with. January is a terrible time to plan for changes. It may be the beginning of a new year, but it is also winter — cold, bleak, wet — and the world

seems as though it will never be different.

But, the tradition of New Year's resolutions is an acknowledgment, nevertheless, that, despite all that is known and set and past in your life, you can change. It's a way to tip your hat to possibilities, to the idea that you can still produce a different future.

In the pause between last year and next year, you need to resolve something: to break a pattern, take a risk, get some "new" in the year.

Take Charla Hale, Employee Relations, and M.F. Fletcher, Training, for example. They are attempting to break one of the most common foes annually under New Year's resolution attack — to quit smoking.

Mike Waugh, Process Engineering-West, also wants to break a pattern as he enters the 1980s. "I want to quit

being an Aggie joke," he comically pleads.

Travel and vacation topics also enter in heavily in our sampling of DPMC resolutions. Phil Beall, Economics & Scheduling-North, wants to "make three weeks of vacation last as long as I can." While Lynn Shipman, Dock Construction, generally wants to do more traveling and have a good time; Lisa Adrian, GS&F mailroom, plans to make it all the way to Hawaii in 1980.

Pat Bezdek, General Services, was less risky, saying she would be content to just be happy and have a good year. But, Bobby Garrett, Employee Relations, is far more aggressive; he wants to come out from under the mountain of work that buried him in 1979.

Lonnie Grounds, Process Manager, Hydrocracking, was most unselfish in

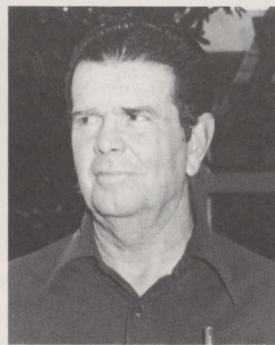
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Adrian



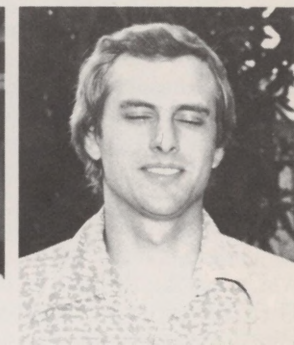
Shipman



Fletcher



Daniel



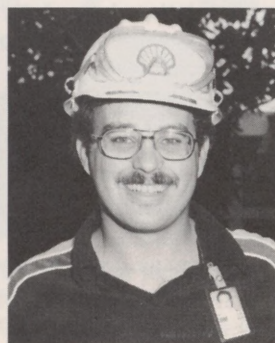
Beall



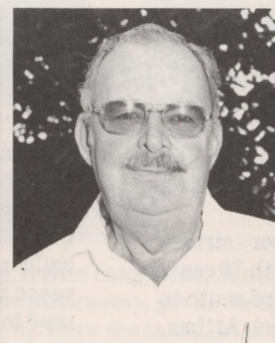
Bezdek



Garrett



Waugh



Grounds



Hale

## Larkin in third career

For DPMC pensioner John Larkin, retirement day in 1957 also meant the first day of another career — the third, to be exact.

At age 88, with more than 70 years of experience as a machinist, Larkin has not only conquered the challenges of a changing technology but he continues to propel the changes along.

Although his arthritis may have slowed him down some — he says it only hurts him when he stops for lunch, never while he's working — his large muscular hands can still build or fix just about anything.

Coming to Shell's Deer Park facility in 1937, the Missouri native brought over 20 years of experience with him from the Frisco Railroad. For the past 23 years after retiring from Shell, Larkin has been busy in the medical research department of the Veterans Administration Hospital, across the street from his present Houston address at St. Dominic's Residence Hall. His one-of-a-kind creations include the first mechanical heart, equipment for male sterility research, psychological testing apparatus and a headrest for wheelchair-bound dental patients.

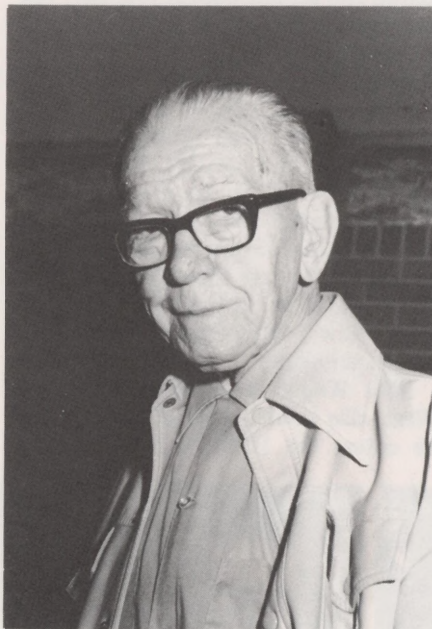
"You can go to him with a concept and he hands you back the gismo you want that didn't exist before," said George McAdams, administrative assistant for research and development at the VA hospital in a recent *Houston Post* interview. "And he doesn't need a lot of blue prints. You just say how it will work and he comes up with the prototype."

Larkin's present notoriety as "master gadget creator" at the VA hospital was precast way back in the 1930s by Shell management shortly after he joined the company. But actually, his uncanny abilities were formed some years even before then.

Larkin never went past second grade, preferring experience to "book-learning." In 1909, he began as a machinist with the Frisco Railroad in Springfield, Mo., staying with the line for more than 20 years, through World War I. The U.S. government took over the railroads and would not let a locomotive machinist become a soldier.

He survived through labor strikes and the Great Depression. With 75 cents in his pocket, Larkin journeyed south to Texas, travelling first to Port Arthur, then to Houston and Deer Park — and Shell.

During World War II, when parts were scarce, refinery management depended upon Larkin's skills and put him to work building irreplaceable parts. Transferred from the tool room to the government-controlled research laboratory, he invented a "wrist pin holder and sliding hammer." "This device eliminated the tearing down of whole engines just to repair a wrist pin," he explains. "It saved the company a lot of money and manpower, and I understand it is still being used today."



Larkin

While at the lab, he also built a miniature still for fuels research and retrofitted lobe sections of refinery pumps that resulted in a 60-percent increase in efficiency. "When I turned 60, Shell sent me a letter requesting I stay on for an additional year," Larkin recalls. "Five years and five letters later, I did retire at 65; and on that same day I helped my son with a mechanical problem at the VA hospital. I've worked there ever since."

Today, Larkin's shop at the hospital is the basement of Building 202 — a vast warehouse filled with every sort of machinery imaginable. "They don't build machinery as good as they did years ago," he reminisces. "Companies used to take pride in the equipment they produced, when machines were of the finest grade metal."

In recalling the personal accomplishments over the past nearly three-quarters of a century, the strong-featured face behind the black-framed glasses shines from compliments. But, the pride in his work is evident, even as he casually mentions that it was he who cast the dies for all the bronzework on the San Jacinto Monument.

Time does not find John Larkin growing old, only seeking more experience and enthusiastically working hard.

## Car pooling registration revised for 1980

Registration for the DPMC car pool preferred parking program is taking on a new look this month.

The main change will be in the way permits are issued. These permits will be issued only once a month. The first registration is set for Jan. 9-31. Applications will be received and permits issued at Room 101, Main Office Annex, Chemical Plant and at Room 164, Refinery Administration Building.

Employees unable to register during this period may contact Steve Fussell, Car Pool Coordinator, in the Employment Office.

Present preferred parking permits will expire Feb. 1. Employees participating in existing car pools and wishing to retain the preferred parking privilege, must register again. Failure to do so automatically cancels the permit.

## Pecten Paraguay contract signed

Two exploration and production contracts between Paraguay and Pecten Paraguay Company have been signed into law by President Stroessner of Paraguay. The contracts cover 15 million acres in the Parana Basin of eastern Paraguay. Pecten Paraguay Company, a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company, is the principal holder and will be the operator. Seismic operations are under way, and Pecten has an obligation to spend at least \$3.2 million during the first year of the contracts.

## Time for new year resolutions

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his resolving to improve the safety record of his department.

But, probably the most risky resolver in DPMC has to be Billie Daniel, Maintenance-North. She vows not to argue once with fellow employee Bob Staton during 1980.

Like these DPMC employees, there

must be at least one pattern in your life that has degenerated into a habit as accepted as the idiosyncracies of a partially broken toaster.

In every life, there are taken-for-granted, expectations, obligations. How many of yours have simply existed, unexplored, over a decade?

### Yuletide intrigue in mailroom



With the unusually heavy holiday traffic congestion, Santa's little helper, Penny Bardwell (who doubles as a clerk in the mailroom), got an early start stuffing the undersides of DPMC Christmas trees on Dec. 21. Here she is caught in the act in the GSF Building by fellow mailroom personnel (left to right) Debbie Oravetz, Deniese Potter, Tanna Malveaux, Shirley Willis and Lisa Adrian.

### Negotiation

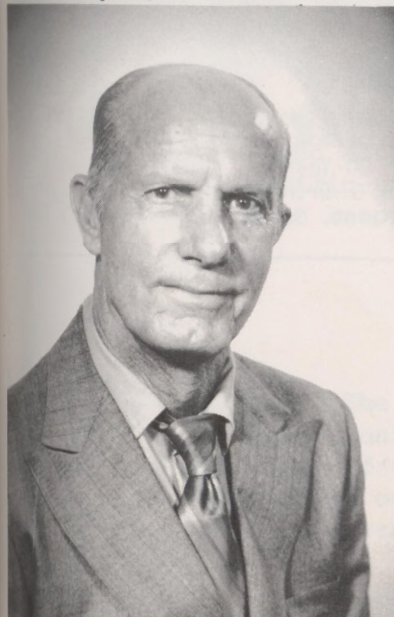
hot line

starts Jan. 4

Part of the January 1979 agreement between DPMC and OCAW Local 4-367 provided that discussions could be reopened this year on: wages, hospital-surgical insurance and additional vacation time. These discussions are currently underway.

Employees can learn of the latest developments in the talks by dialing 476-5243, a negotiations hot line starting Jan. 4. Calls from within the Complex need only dial the last four numbers.

### Employee retires



E.M. Seward, 65, has retired as painter No. 1 in Maintenance-North with 30 years of service. He and his wife Dorothy reside at 13226 Emporia in Houston.



### Classifieds

#### FOR SALE

2 ECI 150 speakers, 35-watt-channel, wood grain finish. 2 Ultralinear 100 speakers, 35-watt-channel. Must hear to appreciate. Will sacrifice. Price negotiable. 481-8943.

Pentax ME 35mm camera with 50mm - 1.7 lens. \$175. 477-1948.

Ladies 3 speed bicycle \$20.00 Ladies right hand beginner golf clubs with bag and size 7 ladies golf shoes, \$50.00 471-8272.

#### FREE

One-year-old female cocker spaniel-dachshund. 12 inches high. Red coloring. Needs good home. 947-1777.

#### LOST-FOUND

One 26-inch metal necklace. Claim in Rm. 151, Refinery Administration Building.

One green Lacy insulated sportswear coat, size large. Claim in Rm. 151, Refinery Administration Building.

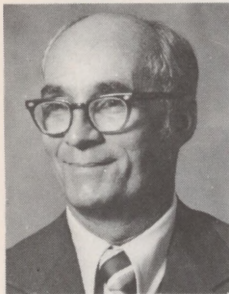
### Utilities South safety party



Thirty-two employees and guests from Utilities-South were wined and dined at the units safety party Nov. 28 at the Gulfgate Steak & Ale. Party-goers (left to right)

included: Donna and Rich Cervi, Mike and Mary Gould and Sherry and Craig Hartley.

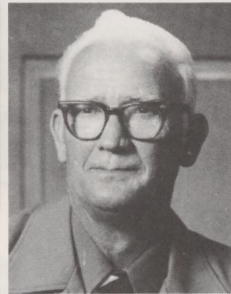
### Service anniversaries



25 Years  
C.H. Koehn  
Maint. Eng.



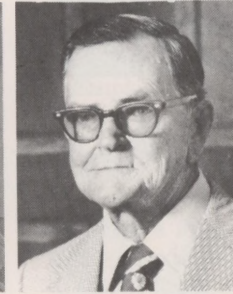
30 Years  
J.E. Holloway  
Maint. North



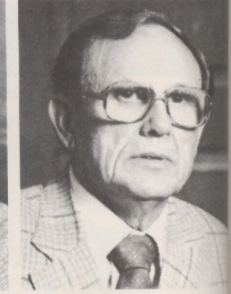
30 Years  
C.L. Parrish  
Instrument Man



30 Years  
M. L. Booty  
Gas Recovery



30 Years  
L. G. Brinlee  
Maint. South



30 Years  
R. B. Flynn  
Refinery Lab

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