



shelletter

HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 129

Monday, July 15, 1963

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

Negotiations

NLRB HEARING POSTPONED; NEGOTIATORS TO RESUME MEETINGS FRIDAY, JULY 19

The postponement of the hearing on the NLRB charge from July 22 to September 16, announced via Supervisors letter and 6-111 today, means that the next meeting of negotiators will definitely be held on Friday, July 19. As previously made public, William Simkin, Director of the Federal Mediation Service, will be in attendance at Friday's meeting.

Operations

DISTILLING UNIT 1 BACK UP AND OPERATING

The reporter's weekend round-up notes that Distilling Unit 1 in the Distilling Department came up Saturday and is running smoothly..... Boiler 14 is still down with work going on.....And in Thermal Cracking, Dubbs 6 is down for awhile today.

Vacationland, U. S. A. Contest

GEORGE MARTIN, HUBIE MILLER, CECIL FARRINGTON WIN IN TODAY'S DRAWING

Today's drawing for more winners in our Vacationland, U. S. A. contest brought forth three lucky names: First Prize - George Martin; Second Prize - Hubie Miller; and Third Prize - Cecil Farrington. Their prizes include a variety of Shell products for the home and car, and George can add to his two tickets to a Houston Colt .45 baseball game. The winners may claim their prizes by dropping by the Editor's office, Room 132, in the Main Office Building.

AND NOW...let's open the mailbag and take a look-see at where our latest group of vacationers are going - and have been. TOURING TEXAS seems a popular sport for many of our folks today. Up at Six Flags, George West says he just made an "investment" in pleasure, is off toward Austin...and not missin' those graveyards one bit. From Lake Buchanan comes a message from Red Washmon, "The water is warm and the fishing is cold". At Jefferson, Texas, Red O'Neal reports, "No fish at Lake of the Pines Thursday morning (July 11). Heading for Arkansas". Then just to prove there are fish some places, from Rockport, David Krouse checks in with "Catchin' those 'Specs' by the dozen".....

Spreading our wings a bit, over in Key West, Florida, Odie Jenkins writes that the picture on his post card is typical of what you see in Key West. "The colors are out of this world".

Then, 'cross continent to Lakeview, Oregon (and that was a jump!)... H. G. Cox says he's staying at a place where the elevation is 4800 feet, and the first job of the AM is to build a fire!

REMEMBER US on your vacation.....and share the sights with your friends at the Refinery. Our address: SHELLETTER Editor, Shell Oil Company, P. O. Box 100, Deer Park, Texas.

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Safety

AND LOUIE SAYS....."Look for something new to be added in our 'It's Nice To Be Noticed Safe Worker Contest'."

From Shell's News Service

NEW STUDY HIGHLIGHTS WILDCAT RISKS

Less than two per cent of the more than 8,000 new-field wildcat wells drilled in the United States in 1956 found commercial quantities of oil or natural gas. The ratio of success was one well in 53. These facts are revealed in a new study which analyzes the profitability of these wildcat wells six years after they were drilled.

Compiled by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the report defines a new-field wildcat as a well drilled in an area where oil or gas has never before been found. A well is considered profitable if it discovers reserves of at least one million barrels of oil or six billion cubic feet of natural gas.

Only 159 of the 8,436 wildcat wells -- or 1.88 per cent -- had proved to be profitable six years later. The remaining 8,277 wildcats either found too little oil or gas to be considered profitable or were abandoned as dry holes. Between 1945 and 1956, the statistical chance of finding a commercial quantity of oil or gas was about three in 100, according to the report.

The average wildcat well costs roughly \$55,000 to drill. Drilling offshore and in similar areas of difficult accessibility often boosts the cost of a wildcat as high as \$400,000 or more.

ODDS & ENDS

BIRTHDAY BELLES & BEAUS -

- July 15 - Adam Calhoun
- July 16 - Jane Eyman
- July 17 - Cecil Wolfe

SERVICE SYMBOLS -

- 15 years - Larry King (July 16)
- 10 years - Bruce Posey (July 16)

WELCOME ABOARD.....to Hubrect Van Meurs, who joined our Research staff last week for a training assignment. From Amsterdam, Hubrect, wife, Teresa, and two-year old son, Frank, are getting the "Texas Welcome" treatment from his associates in Research these days.

PILLBOX PALAVER: Back in the fold after his bout with pneumonia - H. M. Hancock.....And off and in the hospital for check-up and observation - Ralph Starkweather.

10 years - Bob Connally (July 14)

PILLBOX PALAVER: H. M. Hancock is out of the hospital and now at home, recovering
Ed Metzler is still hospitalized in Houston.

