



# shellegram

SHELL OIL COMPANY  
HOUSTON REFINERY

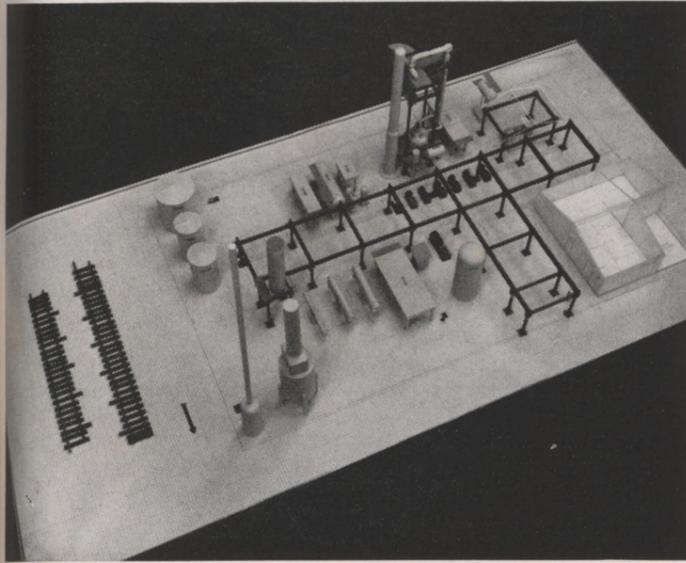
SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY  
HOUSTON PLANT

VOL. 25, No. 1

HOUSTON, TEXAS

JANUARY, 1960

## Second Hydrotreater Approved For Houston Refinery



THIS IS THE MODEL of the Lube Oil Hydrotreater which will be built this year east of the lubricating departmental offices. Completion date has been set for the fall of 1960.

Shell's policy of continual product quality improvement has resulted in the awarding of a contract to Procon, Incorporated to construct a new lubricating oils hydrofining unit. This unit will be Shell's first lubricating oil hydrotreating plant and will be known as the Lube Oil Hydrotreater. It will be constructed east of the lubricating oils department office and south of the existing clay contact unit.

Construction is expected to start by approximately March 1 and to be completed in the fall of 1960. H. J. Lewis will be project engineer for the on-site facilities and E. J. Nelson has been named project engineer for the off-site facilities.

This unit will improve the color, color stability, odor, and oxidation characteristics of lubricating oil stocks by treating the charge stocks in a Shell trickle phase process. The liquid flows through a reactor bed containing catalyst in the presence of hydrogen gas at elevated temperatures and pressures. This quality improvement will be accomplished by the removal of sulfur and other trace contaminants in the lubricating oil stocks. The process will utilize a once-through hydrogen rich gas from the currently being constructed Distillate Hydro-

treater. Vent gases from the Lube Oil Hydrotreater will be sent to Shell Chemical for sulfur recovery.

The unit has been designed to process nine different charge stocks in blocked-out operation. These include the high viscosity index lubricating oil stocks and Diala transformer oil currently being clay treated at the Houston clay contact unit, and the three low viscosity index distillate stocks currently being further processed elsewhere. The operation of the hydrotreater will therefore result in discontinuing operation of the clay contact unit.

In addition to heat ex-

changers, pumps, and additive facilities, the major parts of on-site equipment include a 12,000,000 BTU/Hr. feed pre-heat furnace, a reactor filled with catalyst, two product separators, a stripping column for flash point control, and a Stratco flash evaporator for removing traces of moisture. All intermediate and final product stream cooling will be accomplished by air cooling. The off-site facilities will include installation of necessary feed and product lines, supply of utilities, provision for adequate storage, and the installation of field booster pumps for supplying charge stocks to the unit.

## Membership Drives By SERA And SESC Open In February

The Shell Employees Recreation Association will launch its 1960 membership drive during the month of February.

If you are not presently a member of the SERA you will be contacted in the near future by an SERA representative and given an opportunity to join. By signing an IBM Authorization Card, the membership dues may be paid through payroll deduction.

The dues are \$5.00 per year per family. This amount is matched by an equal contribution by the Company.

### Dues By Payroll Deduction

For those who prefer paying their dues by payroll deduction, the deduction for hourly personnel will be made on the payroll period ending February 14, while for staff employees the deduction will be made on February 15. Payroll deductions for regular SERA members will be made automatically on these dates, also.

The Shell Employees Social Club is also conducting a membership drive in February. Like the SERA dues, payroll deductions on the February dates may be used by SESC members. The annual dues in the SESC are \$3.00, which is likewise matched by an equal Company contribution.

### New Series Begins

In the belief that Shell employees would like to learn more of the history, growth, organization, and activities of the SERA, the SHELEGRAM begins a series of articles this

month dealing with this subject. The first of these articles appears in this issue on page eight, entitled "The SERA Story."

## Group Studies Epon Market At Chemical

Approximately 25 marketing, manufacturing, research, and development representatives gathered at the Houston Plant this month to examine some of the present and future market requirements for EPON® and other thermosetting resins. The men, all EPON Resin technical specialists, represented Shell Chemical Company and Shell Development Company.

The purpose of the meeting was to define the primary goals in EPON Resin research and to understand the opportunities for developing new and improved products. The group discussed the current market to determine any deficiencies in our present products and to find areas of potential improvement.

The need for new and special property resins and curing agents was also discussed and the corresponding marketing and manufacturing problems were outlined. The meeting, in general, provided the opportunity for different groups of the Division to better understand the ideas, needs, and problems of the other.

## Refinery's Rollins Named LaPorte's Fireman Of Year



J. O. Rollins

The Refinery's J. O. Rollins, who for the past twelve years has served as the Fire Chief for the LaPorte Volunteer Fire Department, was singularly honored recently when he was named as the Outstanding Fireman of the Year by the LaPorte Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The banquet honoring Rollins was the first to be staged by the LaPorte Jaycees, but in the future the award banquet will be an annual affair.

In being named to receive this award, Rollins was cited for his service to the citizens of LaPorte for the past 18 years. Rollins became a volunteer fireman in April 1941, and was named chief in 1947. Since that date he has served continuously as Fire Chief, on

See ROLLINS, Page 6

## Credit Union Declares 4.75% Dividend Rate For Shareowners

The Board of Directors of the Shell Employees Federal Credit Union has declared a 4.75% dividend for shareholders for their 1959 savings.

This announcement comes on the eve of the annual meeting of all Credit Union members, scheduled for January 28 in the Refinery Cafeteria, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Included in the agenda will be a talk by the president of the Texas Credit Union League, R. C. Morgan. During the meeting officers will be elected for the five vacancies on the Board of Directors and for the three members of the Credit Committee.

### Magnavox Top Door Prize

There will be several door prizes offered for those attending the meeting, with the main prize being a Magnavox combination stereophonic record player-television set.

Refreshments will be served both before and after the meeting, and will consist of sandwiches, potato chips, soft drinks, coffee, and cookies.

### 15% Interest Refund

A 15% refund on all interest paid by Credit Union members on loans during 1959 has also been approved by the Board.

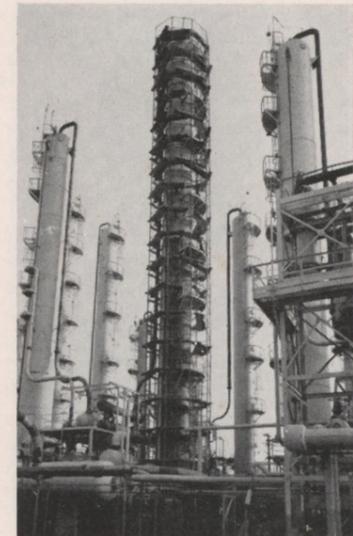
Both the dividend rate and the refund rate are the same as that paid to members in 1958.

These announcements by the Board follow the provisions of the new Federal Credit Union Law which went into effect in October 1958 and states that the Board of Directors for a Federal Credit Union

will decide upon the dividend rate if one is to be paid. In the past the membership has made this decision at the annual meeting, following recommendations by the Board.

The dividend, as well as the interest refund, will be credited to the individual member's share account.

## TALL TIMBER



WHEN IT BECAME necessary recently to re-insulate Toluene Tower V-364 at the Refinery Distilling Department, this 19-level scaffold was erected by the carpenters, encircling the tower from top to bottom. It took over 200 boards, each eight feet in length, to wrap around the 126-foot high tower, and make safe the work project performed by the insulators. Since the unit was not shutdown for the repair, the scaffold had to be constructed so as to meet all the required safety standards for the craftsmen, as well as to allow free access for the operators operating the unit.

# Retirement Ranks Swell With Addition Of Six Refinery Men On January First

Almost 150 years of Shell service is represented by the six Refinery employees who retired on January 1. Leaving the Refinery after long careers were H. A. Gilmor, Allen Grant, B. T. Hutson, C. J. Jimenez, Monroe Moore, and H. E. Rose.

Of this group, Gilmor accumulated the longest accredit-



H. A. Gilmor

ed service record with a career dating back to April 1925 when he was employed as a laborer in the Engineering Field at the Wood River Refinery.

After several years in the Storehouse at Wood River, Gilmor moved to Houston and came to work at the Houston Refinery in June 1932 as a laborer. Within a month he transferred to Stores. In October 1938 he became a material checker, and in September 1954 he was named Inventory Checker, the position he held until his retirement.

Gilmor will continue to reside at his South Houston home, but his future plans include many visits to San Diego where his daughter lives.

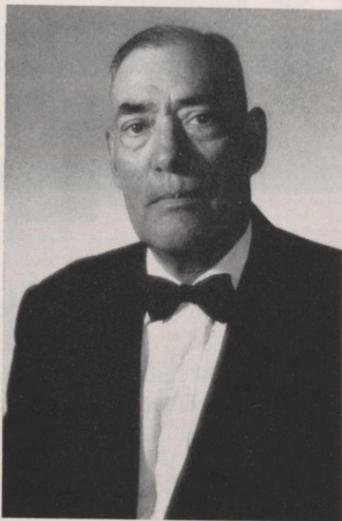
Allen Grant plans to spend



Allen Grant

his retirement on his farm near Livingston in East Texas, following a Shell career which lasted 17 years. Employed as a laborer in the Refinery Engineering Field in February 1943, Grant continued in the Engineering Field throughout his Shell career, retiring as a Special Laborer.

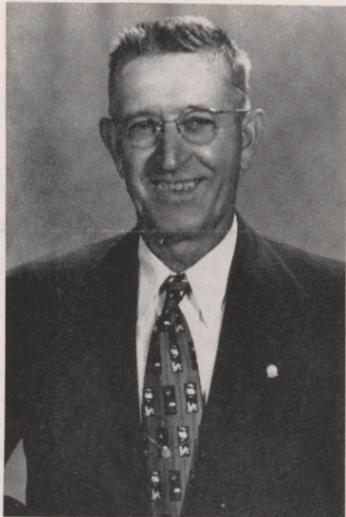
Jimenez was another of the long-service employees to join the ranks of the retired on January 1. This past year Jime-



C. J. Jimenez

nez marked the completion of 30 years service at the Refinery.

Jimenez was employed July 24, 1929 as a laborer in the Engineering Field, and became a Truck Driver No. 2 in March 1945. It was in this classification that Jimenez worked at the time of his retirement. Although he hopes to maintain his home in Houston at 7512



B. T. Hutson

Avenue F, Jimenez plans to spend much of his leisure time in Mexico.

After almost a quarter of a century at the Refinery, B. T. Hutson leaves his job as a Pipefitter No. 1 to retire to his home at LaPorte. Hutson plans to continue living in LaPorte, where he owns rental property, and also spend some time at a farm in Arkansas of which he is part-owner.

Hutson came to the Refinery in April 1935, working first as a laborer in the Engineering Field. Later he worked in the Dispatching Department before transferring to the Pipe Shop in May 1941 as a Pipefitter Helper No. 1. In 1945 Hutson became a Pipefitter No. 1.

Another Refinery employee retiring on January 1 was Monroe Moore, whose 23 years service dates back to August 1936. His first assignment was as a laborer in the Engineering Field. During World War II Moore was on military leave for a tour of service with the U. S. Army.

Besides his home and other property here in Houston, Moore owns a farm near La-

Grange, Texas, which he hopes to improve in his retirement. Houston will continue to be his permanent residence, however.

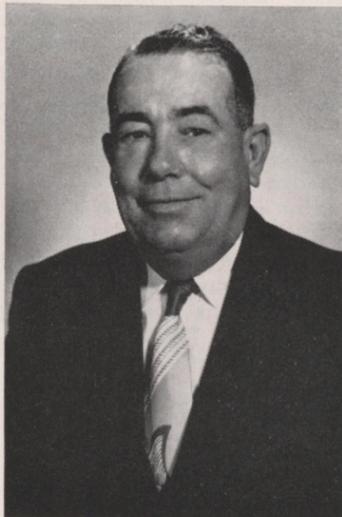
The final retiree was H. E. Rose, an Electrician No. 1 in the Engineering Field. Following retirement from Shell,



Monroe Moore

Rose is moving to Florida where he plans to open a small appliance business.

Employed on September 10, 1940 as an Electrician No. 1 in the Refinery Engineering Field, Rose worked in the Electric Shop his entire career, working as both an electrician

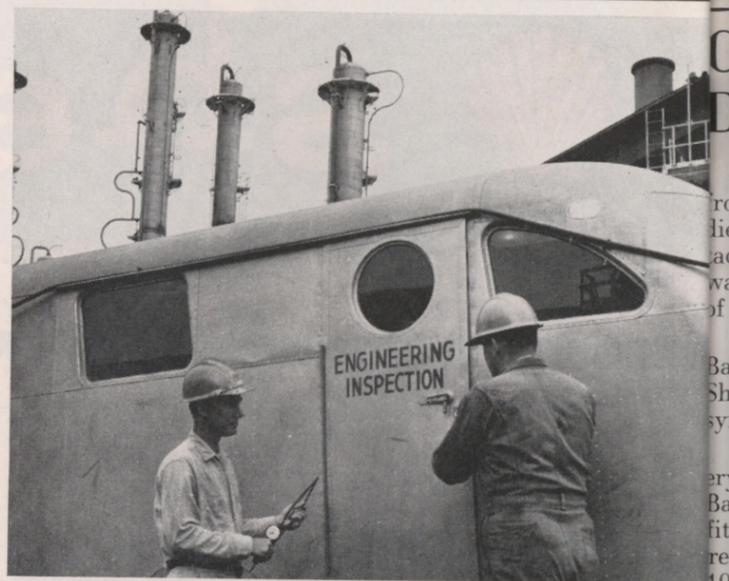


H. E. Rose

and relief craft foreman at the time of his retirement.

### BUICK FOR SALE

1957 Buick Century 4-Door, Two-Tone Green & White, Equipped with Power Brakes, Power Steering, Air Conditioning, Heater & Radio. Call GR 9-2956, or Refinery Ext. 254 or 243.



REFINERY ENGINEERING INSPECTORS now have this mobile home as headquarters during shutdowns. Here, J. J. Wisnoski, Inspector, and C. R. Gibbs, Engineer, prepare to enter the trailer to compare notes.

## Refinery Engineering Inspectors Get Trailer To Follow Shutdowns

A trailer once used by traveling Shell geophysical crews is now the shutdown headquarters for Refinery Engineering Services' Engineers and Inspectors.

Secured from Houston Area Exploration & Production by W. Cowgill, the trailer was brought to the Refinery and completely renovated in the Refinery carpenter shop. Besides the desks, file cabinets and clothes closets were built. The plywood paneling on the trailer's interior was also repaired. Refinery electricians rewired the trailer, providing for the future installation of an air conditioning unit.

The much-traveled trailer now serves as home base for the Engineers and the Inspec-

tors during unit shutdown around the Refinery, giving them a close, convenient headquarters from which they can follow the progress of the shutdown.

## Local Groups Get U. S. Atlas Addition

Again this year, Shell has presented U. S. Atlas additions to the Pasadena Public Library, the Deer Park Independent School System, and the Baytown Sun newspaper.

For the past several years these Atlas additions have been given to these organizations in order that their U. S. Atlas would remain current.



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON was a time for a family reunion for the members of the C. J. Jimenez family. Gathered here around the parents are (standing) Elena Abraham, Irma, Robert, and Carmen. Pomposa is seated beside her parents. Carmen was home from Harlingen, Texas, where she is a nurse in the hospital, while Irma is attending school in Guadalajara, Mexico. Jimenez retired from the Refinery on January 1.

## 30 Years Service



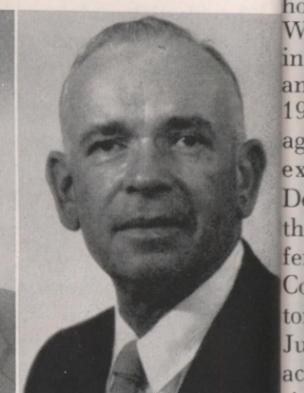
W. L. Caldwell  
Thermal Cracking (Refy.)



R. Haldane  
Engineering (Refy.)



N. P. Hand  
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)



C. C. Suggs  
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)

## C. M. Banks Dies Suddenly

C. M. (Red) Banks, retired from the Refinery since 1953, died suddenly of a heart attack on January 8. Mr. Banks was 69 years old at the time of his death.

To his wife, Mrs. Marie Banks, his many friends at Shell send an expression of sympathy.

An employee of the Refinery since March 1929, Mr. Banks was working as a Pipefitter No. 1 at the time of his retirement on December 1, 1953. During his career at Shell he worked as a rigger as well as a pipefitter helper before becoming a Pipefitter No. 1 in February 1946.

Born in the British West Indies, Mr. Banks became a naturalized U. S. citizen in 1921.

Mr. Banks lived at 6301 Bay-



THE BIG DEER THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY — It took a trailer to bring back these mule deer from a Colorado hunt. Eleven of the "muleys" pose here along with W. L. English, W. G. Vann of the Refinery Engineering Field, and Joe Lockler.

## Colorado Deer Hunt Brings "Big Ones" To Vann Party

W. G. Vann, Refinery Engineering Field, felt he knew where to hunt for the "big ones" this year.

So, during the week of December 7, Vann and two companions, W. L. English and Joe Lockler, left for Colorado and a post-season hunt for the big mule deer in the San Juan National Forest.

During this post-season shoot, each hunter is allowed two licenses, worth a limit of four deer for each hunter. When the hunt was over and the trio had packed their rifles, all three men had reached the limit.

So successful were the hunters that they had to rent a trailer to bring the twelve deer home. Ten of the deer were

killed in two days, seven of these in one day's shooting.

Vann, who is no stranger to December hunting in Colorado, says emphatically that this is the best time of the year to try for the bigger "muleys," because the snow and colder weather force the game down off the mountains and into easier hunting range.

When the hunters strung up their kill for the photographer, it became obvious that Vann knew what he was talking about. Their largest deer field dressed to 225 pounds, and the largest antler spread was 32 inches.

The two hunters who accompanied Vann have brothers who are Shell employees. English's brother is F. D. English, Refinery Thermal Cracking Department, while Lockler's brother is T. H. Lockler, Refinery Engineering Field.



C. M. Banks

way Drive in Wooster Heights, near Baytown. Burial was in San Jacinto Memorial Park.

## Wilson Succeeds Cumming As Shell Oil Vice-President

J. E. Wilson has succeeded E. D. Cumming as vice president of Shell Oil Company's Houston area.

A native of McKinney, Texas, Wilson joined Shell in 1938 after receiving a degree in geological engineering from Texas A&M College. He was engaged in geological surface mapping for over three years prior to entering military service. He served in a reconnaissance force in the armored branch and was wounded in the Normandy Campaign. After completion of military service, with the rank of major, Wilson returned to Shell and held various positions in exploration at Tyler, Houston, Wichita Falls, Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Casper, Wyoming. He was transferred in January 1954, to Denver as an area geologist. In January 1955, Wilson was named manager of the Rocky Mountain exploration department at Denver, a position he held for three years before being transferred to Shell Development Company in Houston as director of exploration research. On July 27, 1959 he was named acting Houston Area exploration manager.

Cumming, a veteran of 36 years with Shell, had served



J. E. Wilson

as Shell's Houston Area vice president since January, 1948. He joined Shell in 1923 in California and gained nationwide reputation in the then infant natural gasoline industry and in all phases of refinery technology. In 1942, because of his standing in the field, Cumming, then vice president, manufacturing, in Shell's New York office, was named by the Secretary of Interior to the position of National Director of Refining for the Petroleum Administration for War.

Shell Oil Company's Houston area is composed of 1300 employees and covers East, Central and South Texas.

## Families Invited To Dine At Cafeteria

Recognizing that many of our employees want to show off the modern facilities of the Refinery Cafeteria, an invitation to "Dine with us" has been extended to all employees and their families by the Refinery Cafeteria.

Dinner is served from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. each evening in the week, including Saturdays and Sundays, while the lunch hour lasts from 11:20 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Breakfast is available from 6:30 till 8:00 a.m.

It is suggested that employees who plan to bring their families to the Cafeteria, call beforehand to learn the choices on the menu for the day.



"Then you go another three miles and run into one of them newfangled clover leaves . . . after that you're on your own."

## Horner Becomes President Of Shell Pipeline Corp.

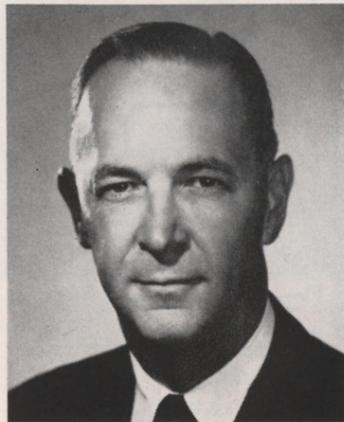
J. A. Horner has assumed the presidency of Shell Pipe Line Corporation, the Houston-based firm announced recently.

Formerly secretary of the Shell Oil Company in New York, Horner succeeds Joe T. Dickerson, who retired on January 1 after 33 years of service with the Shell Companies.

A native of Oklahoma City, Horner graduated from the University of Oklahoma at Norman in 1936 in the legal department. Continuing legal work, he was assigned to Centralia, Illinois, in 1940 and to New York in 1941. In 1944 he was a member of the group which planned the company's postwar organization and expansion.

In 1945 he became administrative assistant in the office of the Shell Oil Company president and four years later was named assistant secretary of the company. He was appointed secretary in 1953.

In addition to his Shell Oil



J. A. Horner

duties, Horner had also been serving as vice-president of Shell Development Company and secretary of Shell Chemical Corporation, International Lubricants Corporation and Shell Canadian Exploration Company.

Shell Pipe Line Corporation is one of the nation's largest carriers of crude oil, owning or operating approximately 7,000 miles of pipe lines and employing more than 1200 persons.

## Miller's Home-Grown Go-Cart Draws Neighborhood Attention



TIME FOR SUPER SHELL — About the only way the Refinery's R. D. Miller could get his 11-year old son Bob to stop long enough to have his picture taken was to wait around until his "Go-Cart" ran out of gas. And between Super Shell refills Miller was able to snap this picture.

On Christmas morning, 11-year old Robert Miller suddenly became the most popular boy in the neighborhood.

The reason was the timely arrival of a home-designed, home-made "Go-Cart" built by his father, R. D. Miller, as a Christmas gift.

Before dawn broke on Christmas Day, the shiny little car had already been on its solo journey beneath the Galveston Freeway overpass near the Miller's Pecan Park home. And within a few hours, Miller reports that half the kids in Pecan Park and many of the grown-ups must have come by to inspect the little car.

Miller, who works as a Boilermaker No. 1 and relief Boilermaker Foreman in the Refinery Engineering Field, used approximately 30 feet of scrap 3/4 inch exchanger tubing to fashion the small auto. Working at home during the day after coming in from the 12-8 shift, Miller was able to build the Go-Cart in secrecy while Bob was at school. It took Mil-

ler three days to complete the project during the week preceding Christmas.

The frame of the Go-Cart is 72 inches long, 28 inches wide, and rigidly reinforced throughout. The body of the cart sparkles with a shiny coat of yellow and has a red, plastic covered seat made with one inch foam rubber. The car has an automatic clutch and foot-controlled brakes. Miller estimates the top speed of the Go-Cart at 25 miles per hour. A three horse-power Clinton engine powers the chain-driven vehicle.

Miller places the cost of building the Go-Cart at approximately \$80.00, with the engine and the four ball-bearing wheels the major expense items.

Before the Go-Cart was many hours old, a passer-by stopped and offered to buy the car on the spot from Miller. A "Not For Sale" look was quickly registered by son Bob as he sped away for another turn around the course.

# 1959—A Preview Of The Future

## Rise In Demand For Chemicals Highlights Year

By Glenn Purcell  
Manager, Houston Plant

December 31, 1959, brought to a close what has been a very active year for the Houston Plant. And, since our industry closely follows the general level of the economy, we can also consider it as having been a good year.

The recovery, which took place following a decline of business activity in 1958, created a broad demand for our products. Production levels at most of our units remained high throughout the year and sales were comparable. The reorganization of the Company into five integrated product divisions, which brought about a realignment of duties and responsibilities for a great many of our people, is now beginning to show its effect in improved efficiency and coordination.

In safety, 16 of 29 employee groups worked the entire year without a disabling injury. One group saw the end of an enviable record of more than four and one-half accident-free years. However, our overall record in 1959 simply was not as good as we are capable of making it. We must double our efforts in 1960.

While a record was not established for construction, we did build one major new plant and made many significant plant alterations, which have resulted in improvements in capacity and product quality. It is not possible to discuss all of these but some typical examples can be cited.

### Solvents

A general growth in the market resulted in the increased production and sales of solvents for the year. However, the cutback in automobile production due to the steel shortage did reduce somewhat our sales during the last quarter. Acetone production is up from 1958. Used extensively as a raw material in the synthesis of many different materials, acetone is also an excellent solvent and the demand for this product will probably continue to increase.



CONSTRUCTION of the new Phenol Unit last year meant that Shell Chemical could produce all the intermediate chemicals required in the manufacture of Epon resins.

This was one of the factors considered in our selection of the cumene process for making phenol. Since acetone is a co-product in the manufacture of phenol by this method, we were able to produce phenol and at the same time increase our acetone capacity in anticipation of future demands without building additional separate acetone facilities.

Hexylene glycol and isopropyl alcohol sales were also higher, again due primarily to the general level of business. Other factors contributing to this growth, however, are the increasing numbers of IPA derivatives now being used and an expansion of the foreign market. Hexylene glycol is also finding wider application in many areas. For instance, much interest has been shown in its use as a deicing additive to gasoline.

### Intermediates and Other Industrial Chemicals

An unprecedented worldwide demand for allylics during 1959 caught the chemical industry slightly by surprise. This coupled with our own increased EPON® Resin production resulted in the speedy rehabilitation of the AC section of the AA Plant in order to supplement our supply of allyl chloride. We produce AC for sales, for use in glycerine manufacture, and in the production of epichlorohydrin which we in turn sell and use as an intermediate in the manufacture of EPON resins. Further revisions are now planned which, when complete, will raise our AC capacity a substantial amount.

The construction work completed in G Plant during 1959 not only raised our glycerine

production, but also increased epichlorohydrin capacity. In addition, facilities are essentially completed which will be used to co-process the glycerine being made from acolein at the Company's Norco Plant. We anticipate, however, that by late 1960, when the new glycerine finishing system is completed at Norco, this service will no longer be required.

For many years we have been the world's largest producer of bisphenol-A. We use a significant amount of this production in the manufacture of EPON Resins and the remainder is sold to other industrial users. As the demand for this product has grown, so has competition for business and the requirements of our customers for products of only the highest quality. To insure our continued leadership in this area, we invested a considerable amount of capital in 1959 for revisions to our BPA facilities. These revisions have enabled us to maintain high quality standards and to raise our capacity in anticipation of future requirements.

Our new Phenol Unit was the Houston Plant's largest construction project of the year. The ready availability of raw materials and our own very large requirement for phenol in making BPA made this a natural addition to our Plant. While we will be our own largest customer, the various Shell refineries will also use substantial quantities in their refining processes.

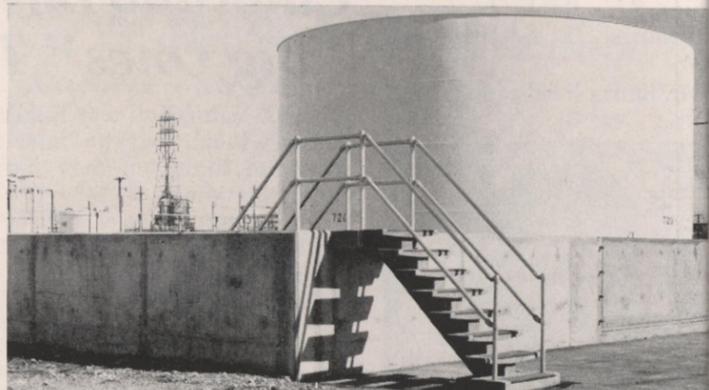
### EPON Resins

EPON Resins sales have also shown an increase over 1958. Research activities have resulted in the development of new applications and formulations, which have broadened the market for these products. A good example of this is the paving of our main entrance road with EPON® Asphalt Concrete which took place last September. In this case a special combination of our EPON Resins and regular asphalt results in a surface coating which is in many ways superior to any conventional road surfacing material presently being used.

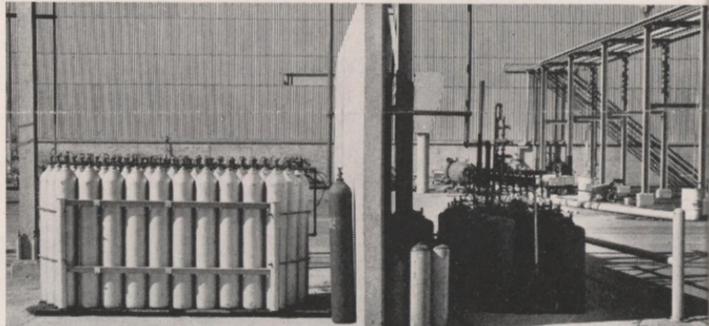
By increasing sales through the development of new products and applications, we have also increased the difficulty of



EPON® RESIN returned to the Houston Plant as a major ingredient in the surface material used on the main entrance road. EPON® Asphalt Concrete is only one of many new applications found for this product.



SHOWN with the new tank built for storage of products received from Norco the new type of concrete fire wall now being used in the Plant.



TYPICAL of many small improvements made during the year is the new oxygen acetylene system installed for the Shops Building.

meeting each customer's particular specifications. The solution facilities, which were added last year have helped to solve that problem. This equipment enables us to economically blend bulk quantities of resins and solvents as required by an individual customer. We also made, during 1959, many other revisions in the EPON Plants, which were designed to improve and maintain product quality.

### 1960 and the Future?

These are but a few of the developments which took place during the past twelve months. Each one has made a contribution to our success, not only in 1959, but for many years to come. This is as it must be if we expect to grow and maintain a position of leadership in our industry.

1960 and the future? Right now the future looks good. But good only if we are willing to expend the additional effort, initiative, and ingenuity that will be demanded to meet the competition. And each year the competition gets tougher. Today we must compete with 160 companies producing various organic intermediates. In 1950 there were two companies pro-

ducing epoxy resins and in 1959 there were more than half dozen. This does not include an almost equal number of companies that have indicated an interest in getting into this business and who are already licensed to manufacture epoxy resins. Similar situations exist in almost every segment of the industry.

In addition to rival companies, we have other even tougher competition to meet in the future. We will have to overcome a necessarily high capital investment in new plants and equipment. We must answer such problems as ever increasing operating cost and the replacement of equipment which, because of new developments, becomes obsolete before it pays for itself or depreciates rapidly due to the severe conditions imposed by chemical processing. We must develop the new chemical products that will be needed to satisfy our economy's ever-changing needs.

It will be a big job, but we feel that we have the people who can do it.

Texas has produced 36% (23 billion barrels) of all U.S. oil in the first 100 years of the American petroleum industry.

## 25 Years Service



R. M. Mace  
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)

D. B. McCants  
Dispatch. (Refy.)

L. E. Morris  
Eng. Fld. (Chem.)

# Refinery Construction In 1959 Led To Product Improvement

By John Tench  
Manager, Houston Refinery

A backward glance at the year 1959 clearly reveals that it was a year of achievement and progress for the Houston Refinery, and each major improvement was marked with future significance.

As you review the past year, you cannot help but be impressed by the fact that almost all of our process construction was undertaken primarily for the purpose of product improvement. Examples are the alkylation extension at the Gas Department, and the two hydrotreaters which will go on stream during 1960.

### Accent On Competition

In each of these instances, a production increase was not the motivating force to cause us to make the changes. These units are aimed at improving Shell products, to make our products more attractive to the buyer.

As the accent is placed more and more on competition in the oil industry, capital expenditures such as these are necessary if we are to remain competitive in marketing our products throughout the United States and abroad.

To improve our products, efforts in 1959 were directed toward the alkylation extension, the hydrotreaters, and the new wax molding facilities at the Lube Plant. All of these projects were either completed or announced during 1959, and add assurance that Shell will continue to maintain a role of leadership in the industry.

When the wax molding facilities became a reality this past summer, and the first trays of molten wax began to be processed, the Refinery then had the facilities to produce a wax in near-perfect sanitary conditions. These facilities also mean that the Houston Refinery can produce a variety of wax grades of better quality and appearance than was possible with the older wax molding equipment.

### Higher Quality Alkylate

The alkylation plant extension made possible the production of a higher quality alkylate, a vital component of Shell aviation fuel. Here, once more, the prime factor in making these additions was to improve Shell products.

Late last summer an announcement of a distillate hydrotreater, to be located east of the Catalytic Cracker Gas

Recovery System, was made. Construction continues on this unit which is due to be completed and on stream in July 1960. This unit will process furnace oil, with its primary purpose being the removal of sulfur and other contaminants from the furnace components to assure an improved and more stable finished oil.

### Two Hydrotreaters

And late last month an announcement was made of a second hydrotreater for the Houston Refinery, this the Lube Hydrotreater to be located east of the lubricating departmental offices.

This plant will improve the quality of the finished HVI stock oils and Transformer oils now produced at Houston, as well as processing to finished neutrals the untreated LVI distillates.

The products will meet the increasing demands of engines now in use and under design for improved lubricating oils. Completion date for the Lube Hydrotreater is set for the fall of 1960, with construction beginning in March.

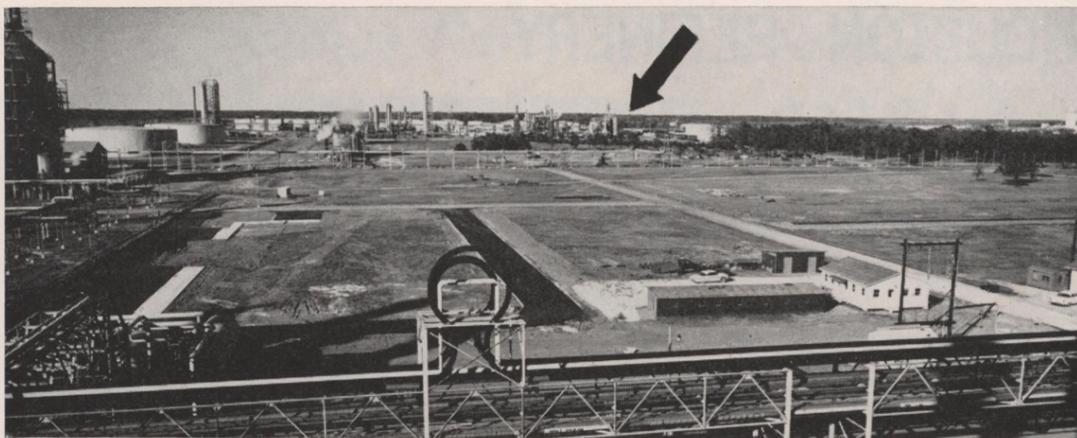
### Face of Refinery Changed

The face of the Refinery was changed in other ways this past year, too. In August the old Refinery Cafeteria was closed for a complete remodeling. At about the same time the Shell Employees Federal Credit Union moved into its new home at Deer Park. Ground had been broken earlier in the year at the Deer Park location near the schools on Eighth Street for the modern building which now houses all Credit Union activities.

A modern cafeteria greeted Refinery patrons on the morning of November 2 when the doors were opened once more for business. To add to the Refinery decor, the exterior of the Cafeteria Building was finished in limestone to blend with the Main Office Building.

Employees can remember 1959, also, for the generous part they played in helping the Refinery surpass a record United Fund goal. This fine record by Refinery employees was praised throughout our area as an example of united effort. And all of us can take pride in our individual roles in this triumph.

The dawning of a new decade brings new challenges and new horizons. The improvements made in 1959 at the Refinery will certainly better prepare us for this challenge.



ON THE PLOT OF GROUND encircled by the new road in the left foreground will be located the Distillate Hydrotreater in mid-1960. The location for the Lube Hydrotreater can be seen where the arrow indicates in the far background, south of the existing clay contact unit.

## INCOME TAX TIP: Keep A Record

Family record keeping probably ranks with mowing the lawn and cleaning out the attic, as being among the things you would most like to avoid in your leisure time. However, carefully prepared family records can pay off in dividends . . . tax-refund type dividends. For to take advantage of any of the many legitimate tax deductions you are allowed, you must have adequate records.

Perhaps the possibility of cash savings will prompt you seriously to consider the suggestions given here by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. They show why you should keep monthly records of most of your tax deductible expenses.

### Medical and Dental Expenses

You can deduct medical and dental expenses in excess of 3 per cent of your adjusted gross income. In other words, if your adjusted gross income was \$6,000 then you could deduct expenses over \$180. Medical and dental expenses include not only doctor and dentist bills, but also such things as X-rays, hospital insurance premiums, and hearing aids.

Many people, particularly people with hospitalization insurance, figure that they will never have enough medical bills to allow them a deduction, so they pay their doctor and dentist in cash whenever they make a visit and don't bother to add up the expense. However, medical bills have a way of hitting hard and fast. A valuable deduction may be lost simply because you cannot tell how much you have paid to various doctors and dentists for the care of yourself and your family. And remember, every \$5 you deduct will put a dollar or more back into your pocket.

So, record your medical and dental expenses on a monthly basis. Be pessimistic. Assume that your bills will be high for the year, and that you will need to accumulate them toward a deduction. Also assume that the Internal Revenue Service will want to check your return. You can and should get proof of your medical expenses as they are paid. Either pay all expenses by check (made out to the doctor or dentist, not to "cash") and keep the cancelled checks, or ask for a receipted bill whenever you pay cash.

### Cost of Drugs

Drugs in excess of 1 per cent of your adjusted gross income can be deducted as a medical expense. However, you must be sure to segregate drug purchases from other things you buy at the drug store. Toothpaste, cosmetics, and toiletries can't be included. Neither can vitamins, iron supplements, or other formulas taken to preserve your general health. However, there are many drugs and medicines you can buy without a prescription that will allow a deductible expense. Such things as headache and cold remedies, lotions to heal cuts and bruises, and so on.

### Charitable Contributions

The federal tax law allows a very liberal deduction for charitable giving. Whether or not the amount you give each year warrants your keeping a tally can best be answered by you, but if you are at all generous there are some things you should consider. Your deductible contributions to charity can go as high as 20 per cent of your adjusted gross income, and up to 30 per cent in some cases. The instruction booklet you receive from the

Internal Revenue Service gives information on the various organizations that are considered charitable for tax purposes.

An important point to think about here is that your charitable contributions can be made in forms other than cash. For example, you can give shares of stock, land, furniture, clothing, and so on. The deduction you are allowed for items other than cash is measured in terms of the value of the item at the time you give it. You may have purchased a set of living room furniture some years ago for \$800, but at the time you give it to your local church it has a fair market value of only about \$50. Your deduction would be \$50. It is important to keep a record of the gift, particularly the date it was given, and if it happens to be stock, you might clip the stock market quotations from the newspaper of that date to show the price it was selling at.

### State and Local Taxes

You will probably not be able to support every deductible expense with a cancelled check or receipted bill, but if you know approximately how much you spent on purchases subject to, say, sales tax, you will be able to make a reasonable estimate of the amount of tax you paid, which is a deductible item on your tax return. The Internal Revenue Service will allow such an estimate. However, if your purchases are unusually high because you bought a new car or some other expensive commodity, your best bet is to be able to show the bills on at least the large items. It pays to set up a record for state and local taxes paid, and estimate the amount each month while the expenses are still fresh in your mind. This will save you a lot of trouble at tax filing time.

### Other Considerations

Interest on your mortgage or loan is a deductible expense. However, since your interest expense is likely to be fairly consistent month to month, it isn't difficult to determine your total interest expenses at the end of the year.

If you contribute to the support of a relative, it may be advantageous to list your contributions each month. You may be giving cash regularly, but other items such as food and clothing also count and may be important in showing that you contributed enough during the year to claim a dependency exemption for the relative. Of course, the relative must also meet certain other tests for a dependent. Space does not permit a complete discussion of dependency exemptions, but there is information on the subject in the instruction booklet you receive with your tax return. But, whether you think you will be able to claim a dependency exemption or not, list the expenses just in case.

### Income Other Than Wages

You must keep a record of any additional income you receive. Such income as interest on a savings account, gambling winnings, prizes, dividends, and so on. Any additional income must be added to your wage or salary when determining your taxable income.

Always keep your cancelled checks, paid bills, and other records together. At the end of the year, simply tally up your deductible expenses and you will have most of the information you need to make your income tax filing a breeze. You will also be able to ensure for yourself the maximum amount in legitimate tax deductions.



THE REMODELED REFINERY CAFETERIA will be remembered as a contribution of 1959. Not only does the modern structure add to the appearance of the Refinery, but to the dining pleasure of Refinery employees.

# HOUSTON REFINERY

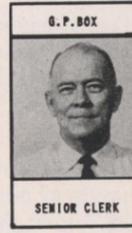


# TREATING DEPARTMENT STAFF PERSONNEL JAN. 1, 1960



## TECHNOLOGICAL

## CLERICAL



## SHIFT FOREMEN

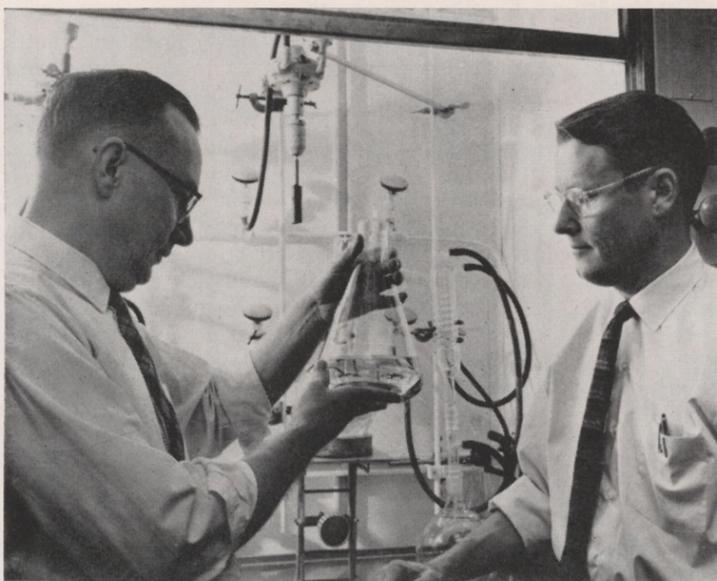


### Wood River Research Lab Expanded

A new electronics development laboratory, a part of the Wood River Research Laboratory's current program to expand its facilities, went into operation recently.

The program also includes construction of a high and low temperature test lab, an eight-bay garage, an industrial lubricants lab, a domestic burner

lab and a storage building. When these projects have been completed in late 1960, Wood River will be able to conduct research more effectively in such fields as the development of improved automotive and domestic heating fuels and automotive and industrial lubricants.



CHEMISTS H. A. NEWEY (left) and R. T. Holm of the Plastics and Resins Department at Shell Development Company's Emeryville Research Center examine a beaker containing one of the new curing agents they developed for use in EPON® resin coatings. These curing agents — EPON Curing Agents H-1 and H-2 — make possible a major advance in the method of applying epoxy resin surface coatings, giving Shell Chemical Company a significant competitive advantage as a supplier in this field. Mixed with a solvent-free epoxy resin base, the curing agents keep the mixture at a usable viscosity for about one day, compared with the 15 to 20 minutes working life formerly possible with 100% solids coatings. When applied, the coating dries quickly at room temperature. For the first time, solvent-free epoxy coatings can be applied with conventional spray equipment or brushes, making the application faster, safer and more economical than was previously possible. The coating is especially suited for lining storage and cargo tanks, for heavy-duty coatings on floors and masonry, for protective coatings on roofs and gutters, and for product finishing where chemical resistance is desired.

### Rollins—

(Continued From Page 1)

call at all times, day and night.

Besides a plaque presented to Rollins as a personal memento of his outstanding service, the Jaycees unveiled another plaque which was presented to the LaPorte Volunteer Fire Department. On this plaque will be inscribed the names of the winners of the Outstanding Fireman Award for the next 18 years — with Rollins' name heading the list.

Rollins was employed at the Houston Refinery in 1934, and this past year celebrated the completion of 25 years of Shell service.

### 20 Years Service



C. H. Plomteaux  
Admin. (Chem.)

### Girls Twirl To Honors



Yvette, age seven, and Carole, age five, baton-twirling daughters of Charles Wolfe, Chemical Plant Engineering Field, won first place medals in the recent Pasadena Invitational Twirling contest, and finished in fourth place in the N. B. T. A. meet at Fairbanks, Texas. These accomplishments were particularly pleasing to the proud parents for in each contest Carole was the youngest participant.

### 15 Years Service

F. B. Bocquin  
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)  
C. E. Graham  
Purch.-Stores (Chem.)

R. R. Hardin  
Thermal Cracking (Refy.)  
A. E. Humphries  
Eng. Fld. (Chem.)

W. D. Stansbury  
Dispatching (Refy.)  
R. N. Thames  
Eng. Fld. (Chem.)

# Refinery Supervisors Attend Christmas Party



The Refinery Supervisors' Christmas Party was held this year at the Houston Executive Club on the evening of December 22. Approximately 250 guests attended and enjoyed an evening of friendship, food, and some fine entertainment. Seen here, receiving identification cards for the evening are T. R. White, Technological; J. W. Lisano, Cat. Cracking; and Otto Bopp, Aromatics. The ladies behind the desk are B. J. Foster, Research, and M. J. Shelburne, Treasury. In the background can be seen R. B. Maddux, P&IR; and D. W. Miller, Research.



It was flowers for all the ladies, and here, Refinery Manager John Tench pins a beautiful corsage on M. J. Shelburne, Refinery Treasury Department.



The gaily decorated ballroom of the Club was the scene of many informal gatherings throughout the evening. Some who can be easily recognized here are J. B. Harkness, Refinery Lab; W. A. Bailey, Research Lab; W. K. Meerbott, Research; C. R. Brockmeyer, Engineering Construction; B. Fogleman, Cat. Cracker; H. R. Willingham, Engineering Field; S. F. Ford, Cat. Cracker; R. L. Lucas, Treasury; T. V. Overstreet, Purchasing-Stores; and E. P. Logan, Treasury.



Looking over the wide choice of hors d'oeuvres are R. M. Odom, E&S; E. B. Madden, Thermal Cracking; E. P. Logan, Treasury; G. A. Lindstrom, Engineering Field; A. J. Ezzell, Treasury; E. R. Heidrich, Engineering Field; and M. G. Geiger, Research.



Music during the evening was provided by Aggie Sporrer and her accordion. Enjoying the music here are V. Anastasoff, Refinery Research Lab; and L. J. Landry, Technological.



A buffet dinner including roast beef, ham, and turkey was enjoyed by the guests. Moving through the "chow" line here are B. H. Broughton, Treasury; V. M. Torres, Engineering Office; and G. E. Thorn, Engineering Field.



This looks like a contented group of Fire & Safety Department men. Standing are W. L. Phillips and R. B. Connally, while seated are R. J. Griffin and D. M. Morris.



The traditional cake-cutting ceremony was performed by M. J. Shelburne, Treasury; John Tench, Refinery Manager; and I. G. Foster, Treasury. The letters "Merry Christmas" decorated the cake's icing.



Entertainment for the party was furnished by members of the Pasadena Little Theatre Group, many of whom are Shell employees. In this scene from the program, these "would-be" card players make like the weekly gathering of the ladies bridge club. Participating in the skit were W. L. Callender, Research; L. D. Ross, Research; D. W. Emerson, Research, and R. E. Griffith, Technological.

## Estes Speaks To Local Club

H. D. Estes, Manager of the Refinery Economics and Scheduling Department, was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Houston Chapter of the Desk and Derrick Club.

The subject of Estes' talk was, "Some Economic Dimensions of a Modern Oil Refinery." Manager of the Economics and Scheduling Department since 1951, he heads a department vitally concerned with the economic analyses of refinery operations.

In his speech Estes pointed out that application of mechanical energy has been the key factor in raising the economic standards of nations. Estes further stated that the United States ranks as the highest in the world in per capita production and consumption of energy, and as a result enjoys the highest standard of living as defined either by the greatest total purchasing power per hour of work or the largest per capita income. He also pointed out that 64% of all energy produced in the United States is in some way derived from oil.

## Ex-Milby Students Plan Reunion For Retiring Principal

A giant reunion and birthday party is being planned for April 2, honoring W. I. Stevenson who retires this year as the principal of Charles H. Milby high school in Houston. Stevenson, who celebrates his 70th birthday on April 2, is the only principal Milby has had since the school was founded in 1926.

Anyone who attended Milby is urged to send their name, address, and class year to J. C. Brewer of the Refinery Dispatching Department, who is on the committee to contact former students for this occasion.

Brewer's home address is 1417 Meadowlark in Deer Park.

## Northeast Airlines Switches to Shell Oil

Northeast Airlines, a major eastern seaboard carrier, has converted its entire piston-engine fleet to Shell Oil Company's new AEROSHELL® Oil W.

Northeast's contract with Shell calls for a quarter-million gallons annually and became effective January 1, 1960. The contract is Shell's largest commercial contract to date for AEROSHELL Oil W, the world's first non-ash, fully compounded dispersant oil with multi-viscosity characteristics for piston-engine aircraft to be approved by every major aircraft engine manufacturer.

Six smaller airlines are also using AEROSHELL Oil W in their entire fleet operations. These are Piedmont, Lake Central, Bonanza, Aloha, Chicago Helicopter Airways and New York Airways. Shell is presently selling over a million gallons of AEROSHELL Oil W a year.

## King Named Assistant Manager In Chemical Plant P Operations



G. A. King

Glenn Purcell, Chemical Plant Manager, recently announced the promotion of G. A. King, to Assistant Department Manager in the P Operating Department of the Plastics and Resins Division. King had been

working as a technologist in that department.

A graduate of Montana State University with a master's degree in Chemical Engineering, King began his Shell career in October 1955 as a chemist in the Houston Plant Laboratory. Since that time he has held various assignments in Operations and the Technological Department. He assumed his newest assignment in December.

In 1956 for the first time in history, more than a billion tons of crude oil and its products were transported within the United States.

It has been estimated that the 1,000-odd fields of the Gulf Coast account for about one third of the nation's oil and gas reserves.



T. K. STEWART, Editor

Staff Photographers: Sam Davis, Al Locke

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**The SERA Story**

**A Year Full Of Activities  
Marked Beginning Of Club**

*First Of A Series*

Early in 1932 a group of Houston Refinery employees, interested in the promotion of recreational activities, met and formed the Shell Employees Athletic Association. This organization was the forerunner of what we now know as the Shell Employees Recreation Association.

The group took formal life with the adoption of a constitution and by-laws on March 18, 1932. The committee which prepared and presented the constitution for approval was composed of Robert Haldane, F. C. Waggoner, W. A. Hart, J. B. Humber, and Carson Green.

**Keegan, Haldane Officers**

President of the newly-formed association was J. W. Killinger, and he was succeeded in office later by Haldane. P. E. Keegan's name appears as the treasurer of the club.

The preamble to the association's constitution stated in part that "employees are hereby invited to join in order to form a more perfect spirit of friendship and to improve our environment."

Among the objectives outlined in that first constitution included such worthy aims as (1) providing and sponsoring athletic sports and amusements in all practicable forms for the promotion of happiness and good fellowship among employees; (2) govern and supervise in general all amateur sports sponsored by the association; and (3) establish and provide for a suitable clubhouse or hall, financed by the association.

**Long-Range Objectives**

After more than a quarter of a century of operation these basic objectives still steer the actions of the present-day SERA. One of these long-range goals was realized with the purchase of 50 acres at Friendswood (Shellwood) in 1954, giving the association a permanent home with recreational facilities for its members.

A membership roster dated September 28, 1932 listed the names of 194 employees in the SEAA. One year later the membership had grown to almost 300. The activities of

the association were financed by membership dues of \$1.00 a year per member, plus an additional 25 cents dues each month.

The group scheduled a number of activities during its first year, with a diversified agenda which included baseball, basketball, dances, picnics, boxing, tennis, and rifle shooting.

Interest centered around baseball, chiefly, in those early days. The "Shell Oilers" were organized under the sponsorship of the association in 1932 and soon became recognized as one of the top amateur teams in the Gulf Coast area. An intra-plant baseball league was formed with five teams competing, the Toppers, Treaters, Crackers, Shops, and the Shippers. The association's first budget showed an appropriation of \$220 for baseball.

**Baseball Center of Interest**

In 1933 the Shell Oilers were managed by Bob Storm, while Keegan acted as the team's business manager. Besides playing in local amateur industrial leagues, the club often played weekend and holiday games with area teams from Conroe, Corrigan and Baytown.

A feature of the baseball season was Norco Day when the Oilers entertained a team from the Norco Refinery as part of a day filled with activities and enjoyed with the Louisiana visitors.

Some of the members of the 1933 Oilers were Sam Costa, C. E. Cassidy, R. H. Hutchings, W. T. Riggs, W. M. George, and F. J. Long.

Today's members of the SERA owe much to the foresight and planning by this early group of association members. For from this beginning, the more than 2600 association members today realize many of the long-range objectives so stated in that constitution drafted in 1932.

**10 Years Service**

- E. L. Fisher  
Operations (Chem.)
- J. E. Harris  
Eng. Fld. (Chem.)
- E. B. Rice  
Dispatching (Refy.)
- T. L. Sims, Jr.  
Lube (Refy.)



THESE ARE THE SHELL OILERS of 1932. From left to right (seated) Jimmy Gordon, "Hicky" Napp, Bill George, T. L. Wilson, "Chink" Cheneweth, C. W. Smith, "Bubba" Riggs, and Sam Gennusa. Top row F. C. Waggoner, Andy Shabi, Richard Hutchings, "Shipwreck" Kelly, "Shorty" Gibbs, "Piggy" Page, George Thorn, Lou Dufford, and "Slim" Bayless.



UP AND IN FOR sure-shooting D. R. Wolf, center for the Shell basketball team. Wolf accounted for 12 points in the 68-28 route of the Celanese five. Other Shell players recognizable are L. W. Gray (21) and D. L. Murphy (25).



DRIVING IN FOR a crisp shot and another two points D. L. Murphy in the recent league game with Celanese. Point guard under the basket is B. C. Bowden, while L. W. Gray (21) stands by. Alert play such as this keeps Murphy among the top scorers.

**Emergency Care  
Is Covered By  
Shell HSM Plan**

When Shell employees or their dependents, who are insured under the Shell Hospital Surgical Medical Basic Plan, require emergency treatment for an accident, certain benefits are available even though hospitalization is not necessary.

If emergency out-patient treatment is given in a hospital within 72 hours after an accident, the Plan will pay hospital charges for services performed up to a total of \$500 including X-rays, ambulance service to and from the hospital, and charges for anesthetics and their administration, provided the patient receives emergency medical care or treatment by a doctor within 24 hours after the accident. The Plan also provides coverage in accordance with the surgical fee schedule for any surgery performed. However, nonsurgical services such as X-ray interpretation, diagnosis, hospital visit, etc., performed by a doctor in a hospital will not be paid for by the Plan.

If the emergency treatment is given in a doctor's office, the Plan will pay for any surgery performed, in accordance with the surgical fee schedule. In addition, the Plan will pay up to a maximum of \$500 for X-rays taken in the doctor's office within 72 hours after the accident, provided the patient receives emergency medical care from a doctor within 24 hours after the accident. Services other than surgery or X-rays performed in a doctor's office are not covered by the Plan.

Children's rooms should be located in parts of the house which have ready escape routes. Otherwise, fire may cut off their exit from the house and prevent their rescue.



THIS IS THE 1959 SHELL basketball team, sponsored by the SERA. Top row (left to right): O. L. Harris, Engineering Field; R. F. Tucker, Engineering Services; J. Nichols, Lube; B. C. Bowden, Engineering Field; D. R. Wolf, Treasury. Middle row: M. C. Pitchford, Engineering Field; D. L. Murphy, Engineering Field; E. F. Bau, Refinery Lab; L. W. Wright, Engineering Field; B. J. Strong, Lube. Bottom row: B. D. Mankin, Gas; B. L. Norville, Engineering Field; J. W. Sledge, Engineering Field, L. W. Gray, Dispatching.

**Shell Basketball Team  
Compiles Good Record**

The Shell Refinery basketball team, sponsored by the SERA, started play in the Pasadena Industrial League in convincing fashion this year. In their first round of encounters the team breezed through their games undefeated.

Besides the Shell entry, teams representing the Celanese Corporation, Texas Butadiene & Chemical Corporation, and the Rohm & Haas Company are participating in the league. The teams play

every Tuesday evening at Southmore junior high school gym in Pasadena.

The league schedule calls for each team to play each other team three times. The winner of this league will meet the victor of the other Pasadena Industrial League with the winner advancing to the state tournament at Dallas.

Top goalers for the Shell five in their first few games have been D. R. Wolf, D. L. Murphy, and O. L. Harris.

<p><b>SHELL OIL COMPANY</b> P. O. Box 2527 Houston 1, Texas</p> <p>Return Postage Guaranteed</p>	<p>Sec. 34.66 P. L. &amp; R. U. S. POSTAGE <b>PAID</b> Deer Park, Texas Permit No. 1</p>
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