

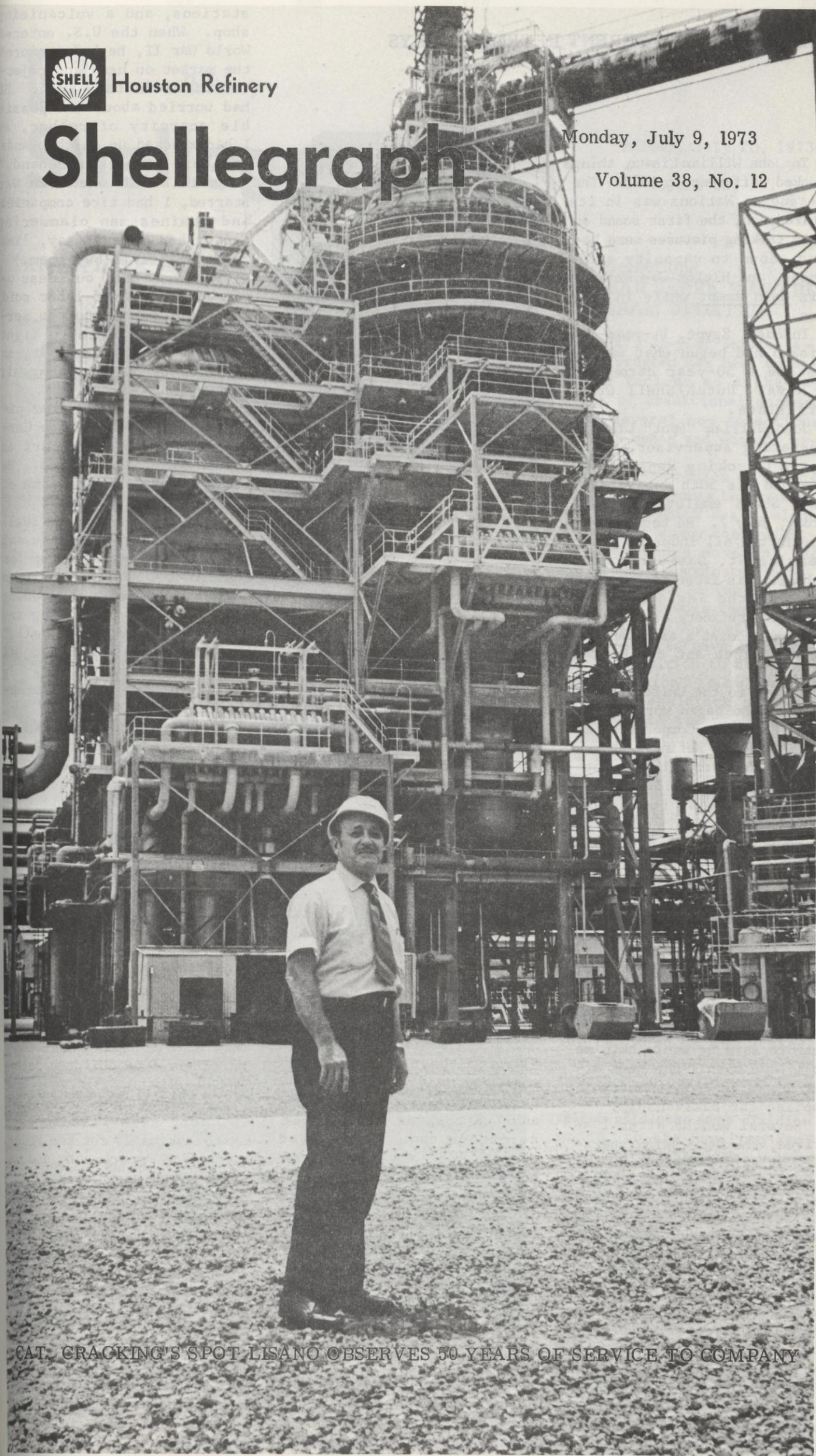


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CAT. CRACKING'S SPOT LISANO OBSERVES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMPANY

THINGS WERE DIFFERENT IN THE OLD DAYS

To John William Lisano, things looked different in 1923. The League of Nations was in its third year, the first sound on film talking pictures were being shown to capacity audiences, and Hitler was writing his Mein Kampf while in prison.

In Suez, Egypt, 14-year-old Lisano had begun what was to become a 50-year career with a Royal Dutch/Shell Group affiliate.

John William "Spot" Lisano, operating supervisor, Catalytic Cracking Department, reached his 50th anniversary as a Shell employee on Saturday, July 7. He began working in the oil industry after leaving St. Saviour's high school. His first assignments were at the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields refinery as a stillman and chemist's assistant in the research and analytical lab.

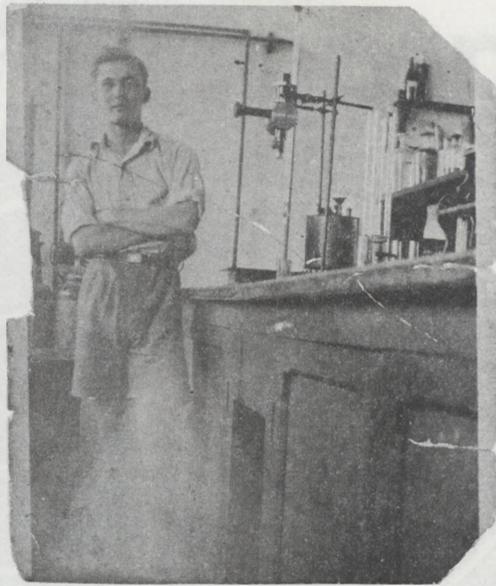
He came to the United States in 1929 and began working for Shell Petroleum Corporation at the Wood River Refinery shortly after his arrival. "I wanted to go to Australia to live with relatives, but nobody would take the responsibility. So, then you read about the United States and what a country it is. Naturally, I figured just like everyone else, I would come over here for fame and fortune," Spot said.

"I tried to come over three times, and each time I started, they would give me a raise and I changed my mind," he added. "Finally, an uncle in Detroit said he would help me so I came over. One week after I was in this country, I applied for citizenship.

"Several months after I arrived, the depression started," he said laughing.

He worked at the Wood River Refinery as a gauger in distillation, then moved to the Norco Refinery as a gauger until 1932 when he came here as a pressureman in cracking.

The very outgoing Lisano married Bernadine Tipton when he was 24. "You won't believe this, but I was very shy and selfconscious when I was young. I was born with a blonde spot on my head and I always stood out in a crowd," he said. "They used to call me Two-



14-year-old Spot worked as a chemist's assistant in Suez, Egypt.

Tone. Finally, when I moved here, Red Price, a stillman in Thermal Cracking, said Two-Tone was too long, so he was going to renickname me Spot. and the name stuck."

"I've enjoyed every bit of my life with Shell, he said. "If I had it to do all over again, I would probably work for them again."

"Unfortunately, I wasn't born where I could go to college. Over in the old country, you don't get a chance," said Lisano who was born in Cospicua, Malta. He has kept up with developments in the oil industry, having served as a shift foreman in the cracking department. He moved to Cat. Cracking in 1947 to help bring the new unit on stream and has served there since. He was promoted to operating assistant in 1963. "Things have changed so much," he said. "When I came here, there were six Dubbs and two topping units, some agitators that they called treaters and one big boilerhouse. That's all."

"You know, 50 years, they just went by," he said, in trying to recall some memories. "Time just flies, especially the last 30 years; it's just gone by so fast. I was talking to a guy just the other day about something, and he said that was 20 years ago."

The industrious Spot says he used to moonlight in the old days. At one time he had a tire store, three service

stations, and a vulcanizing shop. When the U.S. entered World War II, he had cornered the market on used and rejected tires in this area. "I had worried about the possible scarcity of rubber, so I had stocked up on thousands of these tires beforehand," he said. "So when the War started, I had tire companies and businessmen clammering for tires. They'd say, 'You fix them, we'll buy them.'

"I turned that business over to my wife who later sold it when I went into the service. I wanted to go fight so bad, I could taste it, so I enlisted in the Army Air Corps," he said.

Spot served as a glider pilot with the 53rd Troop Carrier Wing and took part in the invasion of Holland. He was a captain at the time of his discharge in 1945.

After returning to Shell he also sold real estate and had a farm and a pet shop for four years. "This was when our three boys were growing up. We sold anything and everything and had a ball," he said. "I always go all out and do things in a big way, then have to pay through the nose," he added.

Spot will be 65 November 26 and he will retire December 1. He has the distinction of being the second man to have served Shell Oil Company for 50 years. The other 50-year veteran is Arthur J. Douherty who reached that milestone in 1968 as supervisor communications, Pipeline Department, Los Angeles.

Spot and Bernadine, who like to fish and hunt together, have plans for their retirement including going to auctions, garage sales and taking care of their garden. They hope to spend more time with their four children, Jack, Gloria, Jim and Michael, and their 10 grandchildren. Two of their sons live in this area--Jack works for the Houston Police Department, and Jim teaches at Northshore High School--the other is a professor at Auburn University and Gloria is moving from Pennsylvania to California.

"I look back on it all and think my life could have been worse. I could have done very well if I had not gone to the service. But, on the other hand," he said, "Well, heck, if I hadn't done that, then something else might have happened. Well, I'm just well satisfied."