



shellegram

SHELL OIL COMPANY
HOUSTON REFINERY

SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY
HOUSTON PLANT

VOL. 26, No. 1

HOUSTON, TEXAS

JANUARY, 1961

Shell Sponsors T. V. Concerts By L. Bernstein

Shell Oil Company will again sponsor telecasts of the series of Young People's Concerts featuring the New York Philharmonic under the direction of Leonard Bernstein.

Originating from Carnegie Hall, New York, these hour-long concerts are being telecast on four Sunday afternoons over the CBS Television Network. The first was presented on January 8. Other programs are scheduled for February 12, March 19 and April 9.

M. E. Spaght, President of Shell Oil Company, spoke during the first program of the series. The programs may be seen in the Houston area over Station KHOU-TV, Channel 11.

Also appearing on the first telecast was R. C. Witman, a former Chemical Plant employee who is now a senior technologist in the Industrial Chemicals Division in New York. He described some of the Shell Chemical Company products and explained the function of the Union Technical Service Laboratory. Witman joined Shell at the Research Laboratory at the Chemical Plant as a research chemist in September 1953. He remained here until September 1955 when he was transferred to the Union Technical Service Laboratory.

Leonard Bernstein, the dis-

See TELECASTS, Page 2

Carol Lane Awards Competition For Traffic Safety Announced

Women and women's organizations that lead in the never-ending fight against traffic accidents may receive national recognition and cash awards in the Carol Lane Awards for Traffic Safety.

The awards, established in 1951 by Shell Oil Company, are presented annually by the National Safety Council through a Shell grant. The awards are the only national recognition for women's work in traffic safety, and are named for Shell's women's travel director.

Nominations for the current awards program will be accepted until June 1. Entries must be submitted on an official entry blank, and must be for a traffic safety program carried out during the 18 months preceding the deadline date.



RINDSBERG

LAWS

GABIG

BEHRENS

Laws Now Superintendent

Rindsberg To Head Office In Chemical Plant Moves

Several personnel changes including the promotion and transfer of D. N. Rindsberg and the promotion of J. H. Laws have been announced by Glenn Purcell, Manager of the Chemical Plant.

Rindsberg, formerly Plant Superintendent, Plastics and Resins Division, Houston Plant, was named Manager—Operations in the Plastics and Resins Division—Head Office. He succeeded D. B. Luckenbill, whose appointment as Plant Manager of the polypropylene plant to be built near Woodbury, New Jersey, was announced last month.

Laws Succeeds Plomteaux

J. H. Laws, formerly Assistant Superintendent—Operations, Industrial Chemicals Division, Houston Plant, became Plant Superintendent, Industrial Chemicals Division, succeeding C. H. Plomteaux, who was named Plant Manager, Shell Point Plant, Ammonia Division.

W. A. Gabig succeeded Laws as Assistant Superin-

tendent—Operations. Gabig was Assistant Chief Engineer—Maintenance prior to his promotion.

The final change was the promotion of K. F. Behrens, an area engineer at the Norco Plant to the position of Assistant Chief Engineer—Maintenance, succeeding Gabig.

A graduate of Colorado College with a B.S. Degree in Chemistry and the Graduate School of California Institute of Technology with an M.S. Degree in Meteorology, Laws began his Shell career in May 1952 when Shell purchased Julius Hyman & Company of Denver, Colorado. He was employed by the Julius Hyman & Company in February 1947 and had been named Assistant Manager, Insecticide Department in May 1950.

In October 1952 he became department manager, a position he held until September 1953 when he became a senior technologist in the Denver Plant. His next assignment was an 18-month tour in The Hague. Upon his return, Laws came to the Houston Plant in November 1955 as Manager—G Operations, a position he held until promoted to Assistant Superintendent—Operations in March 1959.

Gabig Began Career Here

Gabig, a graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology with a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering and of the University of Houston with an M.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering, started his career with Shell in February 1947 when he was assigned to the Houston Plant as an engineer. He served in various capacities in Engineering Inspection, and Design and Drafting until August 1953, when he was transferred to Shell Chemical Company, Head Office, Manufacturing Engineering. While assigned to Head Office he served as assistant and later as project engineer in the initial construction of the Norco Plant. In June 1955 he was perma-

See TRAFFIC, Page 2

See RINDSBERG, Page 2

Employee Recreation Clubs Drive For More Members

The annual drive for new members begins in February for the Shell Employees Recreation Association. During the solicitation period all non-members will be contacted by an SERA representative and given an opportunity to join.

be made on the payroll period ending February 12, while the staff deductions will be made February 15. Payroll deductions for all current SERA members will also be made on these dates.

SESC Opens Drive

The dues are \$5.00 per year per family. This amount is matched by an equal contribution by the Company. Membership in the SERA entitles the employee and the members of his family to participate in the year-round activities sponsored by the Association as well as to enjoy the facilities of Shellwood, the SERA-owned recreation area near Friendswood.

Pay Dues By Payroll Deduction

For new members who prefer paying their dues by payroll deduction, an IBM Authorization Card may be signed and the deduction made during February. The deduction for hourly personnel will

The Shell Employees Social Club, which now numbers 242 members in the Refinery and Chemical Plant, will also be conducting a membership campaign during February. Like the SERA drive, each prospective SESC member will be contacted and given an opportunity to sign a payroll deduction card for the payment of his yearly dues. For the SESC, the annual dues are \$3.00, which is likewise matched by an equal Company contribution.

The SESC is also an active Shell employee organization, sponsoring various parties and gatherings throughout the year.

Refinery Artist Chips Way To Texas City First Place Award

An entry by R. A. Johansen in the 1960 Texas City Art League contest won a "Best of Class" award in final judging.

Johansen's work, entitled, "Madona," competed with over 200 entries in the ceramic category. The "Madona" consisted of four pieces of tile, neatly fitted together into a square with the ceramic work in the center. Judging in this category was based 80 per cent on originality of design and 20 per cent on technique.

To complete the project,

Johansen, who works in the Refinery Utilities Department, said it was necessary to make six separate firings to include all of the colors. Using four pieces of plain, unfinished tile, he made his drawing of the mother, child and star in the center of the square, then chipped out the background leaving the original tile surface as the outline of the figures. Johansen used overglaze to add the colors. After each color was added, the tile was fired to bake the colors into the tile permanently.



R. A. JOHANSEN stands beside the "Madona," his winning entry in the recent Texas City Art League competition. The Madonna is centered on four pieces of tile with the background chipped out to form the picture.

E. L. Fisher Gets New Position at Marietta Plant



FISHER

The promotion of E. L. Fisher, Assistant Manager, R Operations, Plastics & Resins Division, Houston Plant, to Operating Department Manager at the Marietta Plant—Synthetic Rubber Division, has been announced by Glenn Purcell, Plant Manager.

Fisher was first employed by Shell as a laborer at the Martinez Refinery in June 1946. He worked as a summer employee until his graduation from Oregon State College with a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering in June 1950 at which time he joined the staff of the plant laboratory at Martinez. He held various assignments of increasing responsibility in the Technological Department and in Operations at Martinez until December 1954, when he was promoted and transferred to the Norco Plant as assistant department manager. In April 1957 he was transferred to Head Office—Manufacturing Operations as a technologist, and was later assigned to the Agricultural Chemicals Division. He came to the Houston Plant as Assistant Manager—R Operations in May 1959.

Rindsberg—

(Continued from Page 1)

Recently assigned to Norco as engineer in the Plant Engineering Department. He was promoted to senior engineer in July 1956 and to area engineer in June 1957. He returned to the Houston Plant as Assistant Chief Engineer—Maintenance in April 1959.

Behrens was employed as an engineer at the Houston Plant in February 1946. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, he served as a maintenance engineer and a job engineer until July 1954 when he was promoted to Assistant Manager—G Operations. He remained in Operations for a year and then was transferred to Shell Chemical Company, Head Office, as a senior engineer. While assigned to Head Office he served as project engineer for the Norco Plant's SBA Unit and in January 1958 he was assigned to the staff of the Norco Plant as Senior Engineer—Office. In March 1959 he was promoted to area engineer, the position he held until he returned to the Houston Plant as Assistant Chief Engineer—Maintenance.

FOR SALE

1956 Ford Country Sedan Station Wagon with all power equipment, including air conditioning. For further information please call Refinery extension 530, or GR 9-2311, extension 291.



ONE OF THE MOST popular vocal quartets in the Houston area is the Epics. Standing are left to right John Barnes and Buddy Williams, son of A. L. Williams, Distilling Department, Houston Refinery and brother of E. M. Young, Engineering Department, Chemical Plant. Seated are Jesse Tobar and Jeanne Capers, daughter of J. A. Capers, Fire & Safety Department, Houston Refinery.

H. W. Adams, Refinery Pioneer, Enters Retirement on January 1

For H. W. Adams, January 1, 1961 brought more than just the beginning of a new year. This day also ushered in a new life for Hank and his wife, Vi. After 32 years at the Houston Refinery, Hank was retiring.

Exactly what this new way of life holds for the Adams family, neither are quite sure. But of one thing Hank is positive—he plans to enjoy it.

The couple will continue to make their home in South Houston, at 1208 Avenue J, and follow a leisurely pace which is sure to be sprinkled with plenty of fishing and bowling.

It was on December 1, 1928

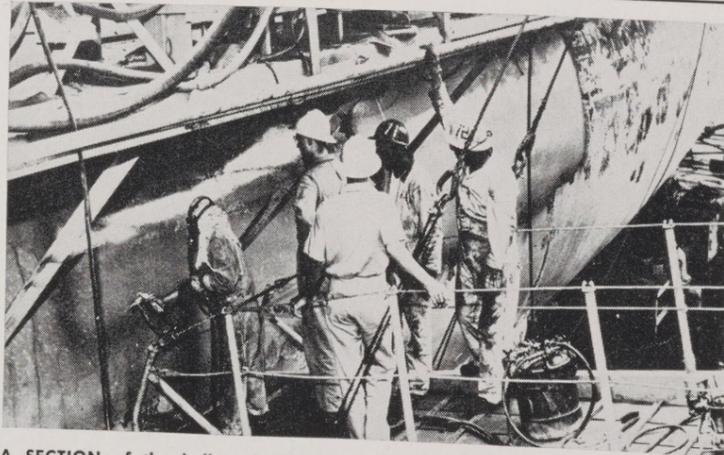
that Adams reported to work at Shell. His first assignment was as a truck driver helper in Automotive. The Refinery was still almost a full year away from being operative.

From his duties in Automotive, Adams moved to other Engineering Field assignments during his early years with the Company. Then, in July 1941 he was named a labor sub-foreman. Five years later, in July 1946, he became a labor foreman in Construction. Continuing in the Construction group for the balance of his career, Hank became a general foreman in August 1951, craft supervisor in September 1954, and zone supervisor in December 1959.

Both Vi and Hank are veteran members of the Shell Mixed Bowling League.



ADAMS



A SECTION of the hull and a main fuel ballast tank of the USS WAHOO, a conventional submarine, got an "unconventional" coat of paint in a recent test. The new coating was based on Shell Chemical Company's EPON® Resin 815 and the recently introduced EPON CURING AGENT® H-2. This new curing agent, a product of Shell Development research, makes possible the application of solvent-free coatings with ordinary spray equipment. Previous solvent-free coatings would begin gelling during application in only 30 to 60 minutes after addition of curing agent, thus requiring costly special equipment to apply. With H-2, coatings remain usable for a day without danger of spray gun clogging with gelled paint. Since no solvents are present, the new coating is well suited for application in areas where solvent vapors might require interruption of other type finishes currently used. The coating also exhibits excellent water and chemical resistance important in marine and industrial uses. The use of the new coating on the WAHOO made it possible to apply a thick coating faster, safer and more economically than with many other types of finishes and without interruption of work schedules. Chemist J. M. Klarquist (second from left) of Shell Chemical's Union, New Jersey, Laboratory furnished technical assistance in the test.

Shell Daughter, Son Spark Epics To Rapid Rise With Recording

The Epics, one of the fastest rising vocal quartets in the Houston area have created a special interest in the popular music field among several Shell families.

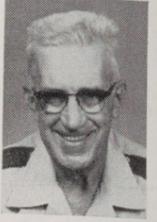
Singing lead for the Epics is Buddy Williams, son of A. L. Williams, Distilling Department, Houston Refinery and brother of E. M. Young, Engineering Department at the Chemical Plant. Jeanne Capers, daughter of J. A. Capers, Fire & Safety Department, at the Houston Refinery is the female vocalist in the group. John Barnes and Jesse Tobar complete the quartet. All four members are graduates of Deer Park High School.

The Epics have been together as a group for about six months. They have cut several records and have made many personal appearances. Their later record, "Ho Hum Deedle Dum," was picked as the Hit of the Week by radio station KILT. It is now rising rapidly and steadily toward the top of the record ratings.

Television and personal appearances have kept the Epics busy. They have appeared on the Larry Kane Show on Chan-

nel 13 several times. Entertaining at dances has also attracted the teen age audiences and opportunity to see and hear the Epics at work.

D. A. Haragan Dies Suddenly



HARAGAN

Died suddenly on December 25, 1960.

The SHELLEGRAM expresses the condolences of Haragan's many friends at the Chemical Plant to his wife, Mabel, his daughter, June, son, Gene.

Mr. Haragan joined Shell in September, 1943, when he was employed as a gateman at the Houston Refinery. He remained at the Refinery until January 1950, when he transferred to the Chemical Plant as a Gateman No.

Chemical Plant's Elmer Saxon Dies After Prolonged Illness



SAXON

Relations Department at the Chemical Plant. He died January 21 in a Houston hospital after an illness of several months.

The SHELLEGRAM expresses the deepest sympathy of all his many friends at Shell to Mr. Saxon's family in their bereavement. Surviving him are his widow, Beatrice, his mother and sister.

Mr. Saxon joined Shell at the Houston Refinery in June 1929 where he was employed as a painter in Engineering

Field. He was later assigned to the Treating Department where he held various assignments until March 1943, when he became safety inspector. In January 1945, he was named senior safety inspector, a position he held until February 1946, when he was promoted and transferred to the Chemical Plant as head fire and safety inspector. Since August 1957, he held the classification of assistant manager.

Telecasts—

(Continued from Page 1)

tinguished musical director of the nation's oldest symphony orchestra, is the host and conductor of the Young People's Concerts. He will be resigning his role as television's standing teacher of serious music, in which he has received acclaim for the manner in which he clarifies the purpose of the composer, the meaning of music and the intricacies of musical performances.

The New York Philharmonic has been giving television presentations of Young People's Concerts since 1957. Shell last year was the first company to sponsor them.

Traffic—

(Continued from Page 1)

ents' group, is eligible for the Carol Lane Awards.

Need for the active participation in traffic safety of women and women's groups is pointed up by this fact from the National Safety Council:

Motor vehicle accidents, the No. 1 off-the-job death-dealer, take the lives of more workers than all at-work accidents combined.

Further information on the Carol Lane Awards for Traffic Safety may be obtained from the National Safety Council, 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

HOUSES FOR SALE

EL LAGO, Seabrook, all brick, central air, heat, landscaped, beautiful home. Call LE 9-2206.

SEABROOK-TODDVILLE ROAD, two new, one bedroom, access to Bay, down. Call LE 9-2206.

REFINERY IN REVIEW

'60 Was Year of Challenge; More of Same Due For 1961

If 1960 cannot be described in glowing terms of increased product demand and high production reports, it must be viewed as a year of challenge to the oil industry.

How well the industry—and Shell—were able to meet this challenge might be measured by the progress made in improving overall operating efficiency, yet holding the line on prices of products to consumers despite high costs and excise taxes.

A recent statement by Frank M. Porter, President of the American Petroleum Institute, noted that while the general consumer price index continued to rise in 1960, the average service station price of gasoline (exclusive of taxes) on a national basis showed a further drop.

Customer Denied Benefits of Lower Gasoline Prices

But, unfortunately, the customer is denied the benefits of lower gasoline prices because of excessive taxes, which on a national basis now represents almost 50 per cent of the average service station price of the fuel itself.

Though the demand for petroleum products did show a further increase during 1960, the rate of gain was considerably less than the year before and substantially smaller than had been anticipated generally at the start of the year.

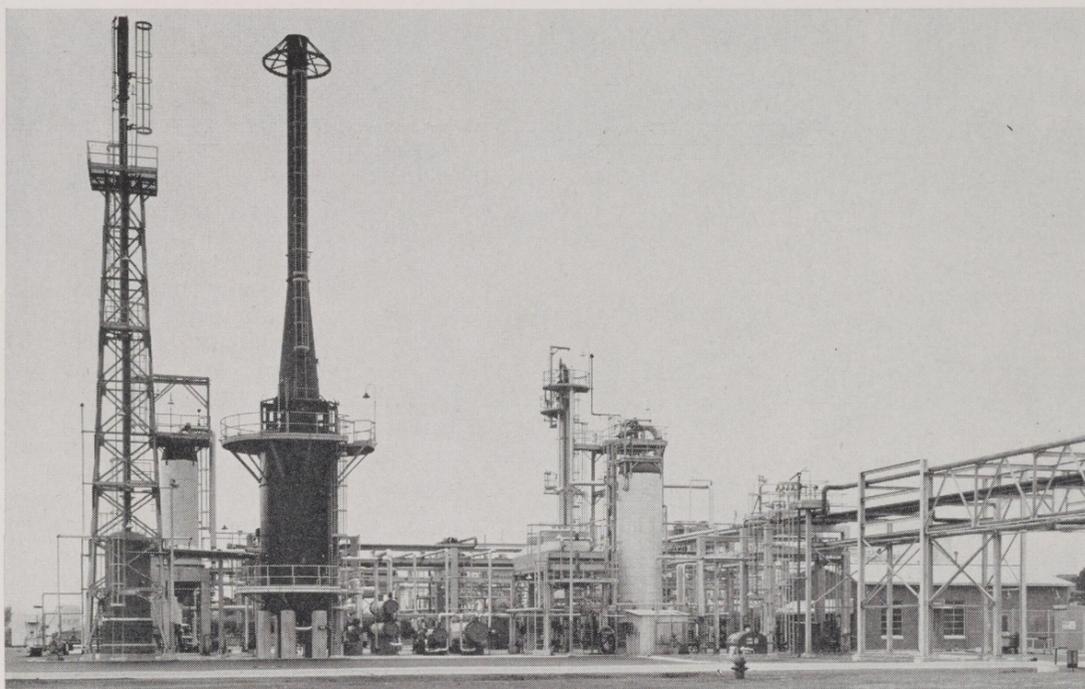
In 1959 there was an increase in demand for petroleum products of more than four per cent; but in 1960 this gain sagged to just above two per cent.

Total intake of crude at the Houston Refinery dropped slightly in 1960 as compared with the previous year, reflecting this general economic condition in the industry. Some Refinery products did realize production increases by significant amounts. The manufacture of benzene, a product used primarily by chemical companies as a raw material, was increased by 25 per cent this past year. A 10 per cent production increase in toluene was realized in 1960. Toluene, another raw material used by chemical companies, is also an important aviation blending component.

Positive Steps Taken at Houston

Here at the Houston Refinery, positive steps were taken this past year to assure both Shell's employees and customers that the Company is taking action to remain in a favorably competitive position in an industry long noted for its highly competitive nature.

Revisions at the Distilling units and the Catalytic Cracker, as well as further improvements in the coming year at Distilling Units 1 and 2 and at the Flashers are aimed at



ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE addition to the Houston Refinery skyline during 1960 was the Lube Oil Hydrotreater, completed and put on stream in August 1960. The unit is located east of the Lube Oil Department Office.

obtaining greater value from each barrel of crude processed by allowing us to make a higher proportion of more valuable products.

Year of Hydrotreaters

Certainly 1960 must be recognized at Houston as the year of the hydrotreater, for in these past few months we have seen two such units move from the drawing boards to reality.

The Distillate Hydrotreater went on stream in early July. Designed to improve the quality of furnace oil and diesel fuel processed at the Refinery, the prime consideration in the construction of this unit was product quality improvement. The process employed at the DHT, known as the Shell trickle phase process for desulfurization, replaces the acid and doctor treatment of furnace oil components previously used in the Treating Department.

Little more than a month later, in August 1960, the Lube Oil Hydrotreater went on stream. This unit is located east of the Lubricating Oils Department Office and south of the Clay Contact unit.

Like the DHT, this unit was built for product quality improvement, a continuing policy throughout Shell. It is interesting to note that in the past 10 years every new unit added to our Refinery skyline was constructed not to increase total production but to improve the versatility and performance of Shell products.

Bio-Filter Announced

Late in the year came the announcement by Refinery Manager J. A. Tench of the construction of additional facilities at the Refinery for the purification of waste water entering the Houston Ship Channel.

This new installation, to be known as a biological filter, is due for completion in the fall of 1961 and will be operated by the Effluent Control Department.

This biological method has been used for many years to purify domestic sewage but it has been applied to petroleum refinery and industrial waste waters only within recent years. With the construction of these facilities, the Houston Refinery becomes the first pe-



INSIDE the air conditioned control room of the new DHT unit, operating personnel are able to maintain a watchful eye on the unit's activity with the aid of a full graphic panel. A feature of the panel is the new automatic tank gauge which will give instantaneous readings of tank levels at the push of a button. Shown here at the left taking such a tank reading is A. M. Gore, Shift Foreman, while recording totals on the log sheet is W. L. Hartley, Operator No. 1.

roleum refinery in the Ship Channel area to employ nature's "wonder bugs" in this manner.

Safety Program Successful

The Refinery safety program, a subject of importance to each of us, experienced another year where accidents here were far below the industry average—a heartening situation which has existed for many years.

During 1960 there were 20 disabling injuries at the Refinery, the same number as experienced the previous year. Looking at a key yardstick of industrial safety, the frequency rate of disabling injuries (number of disabling injuries per million man hours worked), the Refinery experience in 1960 was 3.72. This compares with 3.63 for 1959, with both figures considerably below the industry average.

Several departments passed safety milestones during the year, climaxing long safety records spanning many years. The Insulators group passed the magic million-hour total in June, building their record over a 21-year period which dates back to October 1939.

Another department to reach this safety mark, and with it the presentation of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Award, was the Distilling Department. This operating

group completed its millionth hour of work without a disabling accident in January 1960.

Commenting on the past year, L. J. Grossheim, Fire and Safety Department Manager, describes the period as successful, but quickly points out that room still remains for improvement. And it is toward the improvement of this record that Grossheim and his staff are dedicated.

UF Drive Over The Top

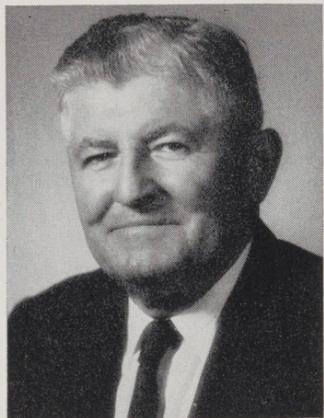
Another challenge hurled at Houston Refinery employees this past year came in the form of an all-time high United Fund goal of \$31,288. And it will be remembered just how civic-minded Refinery employees met the goal—topping it with a record contribution total of \$32,474.86.

Challenges Still Present

This year is sure to present new challenges. The immediate horizon offers few prospects of a sharply accelerated demand for petroleum products. Noting this recently, Refinery Manager Tench expressed the firm belief that Shell Oil Company, and the Houston Refinery, are prepared to face these challenges with the technical "know-how", the foresight, and the teamwork which have become the trade-mark of our past successes.

Service Anniversaries

35 Years Service



M. J. Bady
Eng. Fld. (Refy.)

20 Years Service

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| C. R. Dukas
Aromatics (Refy.) | L. Campbell
Lube Oils (Refy.) | T. Rocha
Eng. Fld. (Refy.) |
| R. Y. Seaber
Research (Refy.) | A. Velasquez
Eng. Fld. (Refy.) | |

15 Years Service

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| E. Jones
Eng. Fld. (Refy.) | E. W. Scott
Eng. Fld. (Refy.) | H. G. Sandland
Research (Refy.) |
| L. A. Lewis
Eng. (Chem.) | E. B. Wallace
R&D-IC (Chem.) | E. Small
F. & S. (Refy.) |
| E. W. Roe
Research (Refy.) | R. C. Myers
Research (Refy.) | J. Talen
Operations (Chem.) |
| | R. S. Riojas
Eng. Fld. (Refy.) | |

10 Years Service

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| J. H. Cahill
Operations (Chem.) | L. M. Parrott
Eng. (Chem.) | J. A. Ward
Eng. (Chem.) | E. P. White
Operations (Chem.) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|



WEST 10th Street, the main entrance road into and through the Chemical Plant, was rebuilt and resurfaced during 1960. The new road was constructed because the original surface and roadbed were starting to require excessive maintenance.

Purchasing-Stores at Chemical Announces Personnel Changes

Glenn Purcell, Manager of the Chemical Plant, recently announced the promotions of W. L. Wheelock to Buyer and R. L. Parnell to Supervisor, Material Control, in the Purchasing-Stores Department.

Wheelock began his career with Shell in August 1947 when he was employed as a

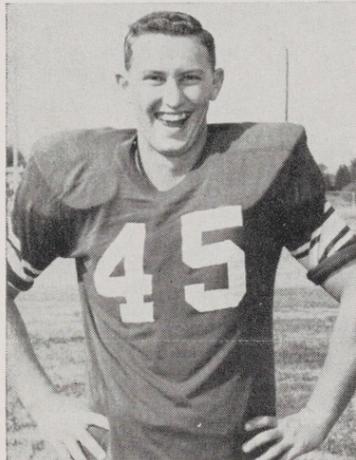


PARNELL

WHELOCK

clerk in the Storehouse at the Houston Plant. One year later he was named Assistant Stores Foreman, a position he held until January 1955 when he was promoted to Supervisor, Material Control Section. Bill is a graduate of Ohio State University.

Parnell, a graduate of Indiana University with a B.S. Degree in Chemistry, joined Shell in June 1949 as a junior chemist assigned to the Houston Plant Laboratory. He was named chemist in July 1951, a position he held until he transferred to the Purchasing-Stores Department as material expeditor in January 1955.



WEARING the big number "45," John White earned a statewide reputation as a lineman for the Crosby Buffs these past four years. He is the son of J. F. White who works at the Chemical Plant.

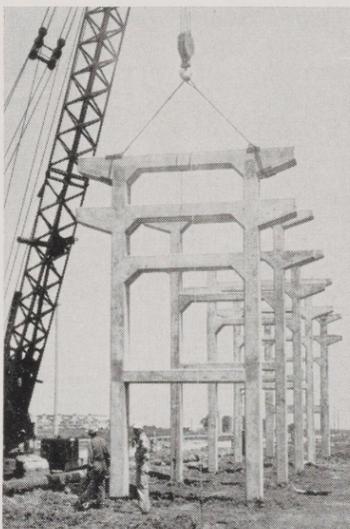
John White Named To All-State Team In Texas Football

The number "45" proved the magic total for John White, a senior this year at Crosby High School. This was the number on the football jersey worn by the Crosby football player, and when he pulled the jersey off the final time after four years of competitions, he had suited up for 45 games.

Across the span of those four years as a lineman for Crosby, John, who is the son of the Chemical Plant's J. F. White, collected many honors. Last year he was named to the All-District eleven as a guard on the defensive team.

Then this year, as a tri-captain for the Crosby team that went all the way to the state Class A finals, John was not only a repeat selection on the All-District team, but was also named to the All-State team.

The abilities of the rugged young lineman have not gone unnoticed. Already at least three major colleges have made overtures to attract the six-foot, 205-pounder toward higher learning.



SHOWN BEING SET INTO place is one of the new precast concrete pipeways built at the Chemical Plant in 1960. Construction was facilitated by using the recently patented method of joining together precast concrete structural members developed by M. H. R. Cogan, Engineering Department.

Tullos Takes TV Stamps in Contest

J. C. Tullos, an employee in the E Department at the Chemical Plant was one of the recent winners in a contest sponsored by the PASADENA DAILY CITIZEN.

Tullos noticed that his telephone number was listed in the Lucky Telephone Number spot and contacted the paper to win a prize of 2,000 Top Value Stamps.

WITH GLANCE AT '60

Improvements Continue at Chemical

The year 1960 was a year of continued growth and achievement at the Chemical Plant. Production levels were up in most units and sales were comparable. Construction activity was generally oriented toward improving product quality and customer service rather than increasing capacity. These accomplishments are significant since the year 1960 was a year where competition in price, quality, and service continued to intensify throughout the chemical industry. Overcapacity in several basic chemicals also began to have effects on price structures. Sales during the last two months of 1960 were substantially below those of the previous months. It is not possible to review the activities of each unit or construction project at the Chemical Plant; however, significant trends in various plant activities will be discussed.

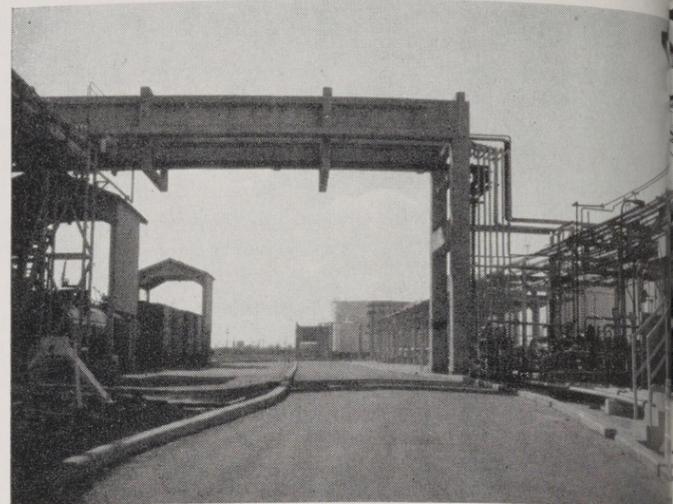
Production

The level of production in most of the units increased during 1960; however, several of our products encountered a lessening demand with a corresponding decline in production.

EPON® resin sales have also shown an increase over 1959. The prices on several grades were reduced during 1960. Research activities have resulted in the development of new applications and formulations which have broadened the market for these products. For example, a new curing agent, developed by Shell Development chemists, allow an epoxy resin base mixture to maintain a usable viscosity for about one day rather than the normal 15-20 minutes. This allows the mixture to be used as a coating substance using conventional spray equipment, thereby increasing the market for EPON resins.

Acetone is a good example of a product influenced by the economic conditions that exist today in the chemical industry. It is produced as a primary product, and is also obtained as a co-product in the production of phenol by the cumene process. Since phenol is a basic building block for various resins, it is being produced by many companies with the result that an increasing number of manufacturers produce acetone in competition with our product. The sales price of acetone was reduced 0.5 cents per pound in July 1960 by our competition, reflecting a supply and demand situation.

The production of glycerine increased a little over last year but has encountered a lessening in demand due primarily to increased imports of foreign crude glycerine. Glycerine production at our Norco Plant was started during 1960 using a new improved process. This will tend to reduce the demand on the Houston Glycerine Plant. The price of glycerine was reduced two cents per



ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION project of 1960 at the Chemical was the building of a paved surface maintenance road and a precast concrete pipe bridge that are shown here. Built as part of a general rehabilitation of area surrounding the shipping dock, pump platforms, and A area tank farm, road now provides an access for motor vehicles and improves the drainage conditions. The bridge is constructed of precast concrete to reduce the effects of corrosion and also to improve the general appearance of the area.

pound in the latter part of 1960 because of an oversupply in the world market.

Construction

While most construction projects that were completed during the year were to make a unit or product more competitive either in cost or quality, there were programs finished which improved customer service. In addition, the over-all appearance of the Plant was changed in several areas. A new maintenance road was constructed east of the Tank Farm, a new surface and roadbed were built for the Main Entrance Road, and new lamps and poles were installed around the Main Entrance Road, Main Gate, and in several department areas.

Safety

The Plant safety record showed the results of the efforts of all employees to work safely. There were eight disabling injuries in 1960 as compared to 18 during 1959. In addition, 22 of 29 employee groups worked the entire year without a disabling injury. This is an increase of six over 1959. The frequency (number of accidents per million man-hours worked) of accidents requiring the services of a doctor having declined steadily over the past several years as shown by the following table.

Year	Accident Frequency Requiring Doctor Services
1954	119
1955	105
1956	92
1957	70
1958	55
1959	49
1960	43

Economic Condition Of Industry

It now appears timely to review the current economic conditions of the chemical industry since they have a bearing on the future of the Houston Plant.

The chemical industry in the past twenty years has been an industry noted for rapid growth and large annual expenditures for new facilities. Each year has seen large increases in output. However, since 1955 there has been a gradual leveling in the rate

of growth and a decline in the per cent of increase in output.

Today the phrases "a price squeeze," "lower margins," "a severe overcapacity," and "the need for new markets" have become used throughout the chemical industry. Taxes, wages, raw materials costs are rising. Depressed prices and rising costs are having such an effect on some companies that they are necessitating changes in methods of operations.

The chemical industry not only has the usual competition between companies producing the same products but also strong competition among products that can be substituted for each other. Also there is a competitive race between processes making the same products from different materials.

The Future

Even though the chemical industry is going through phases of intensive competition and overcapacity in some products, the future for the Houston Plant will continue to be good if each employee continues to cooperate with efforts to strengthen its competitive position.

An excellent indication of our Company's belief in the future of the industry can be seen in the announcement of the building of the new plant near Marietta, Ohio, and Woodbury, New Jersey. During the month of January 1961 the local newspapers carried announcements of construction of three chemical plants in the Gulf Coast area. The incentive investment in new chemical facilities appears to still exist.

Plans for the future of the Chemical Plant continue to stress the importance of improving efforts toward improved processes, increasing efficiency of operations, and improving the products to make them more attractive to customers. The efforts of all employees working toward these goals will assure that 1961 also becomes a year of achievement.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM REFINERY SUPERVISORS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Gathering Honors A. J. Wood Amid Holiday Setting

With the departing Refinery Superintendent A. J. Wood in the spotlight, the annual Supervisors Christmas Party was held December 20 at the Houston Executive Club. A gathering approaching 300 was present.

The group partook of a dinner which included roast beef, fried chicken, baked ham and corned beef — then sat back and enjoyed the evening's entertainment staged by fellow Refinery employees.

Master of ceremonies for the program was Dan Urbanek. Refinery Manager J. A. Tench made the presentation of gifts to Wood, who has been transferred to the Emeryville Research Laboratory. Wood was presented an attache case as well as a lighted, floor-model world globe.



Beauty was added to the evening by the presence of the five ladies on the stairway, Mary Sheffield, Mary Breaker, Peggy Shelburne, Ina Foster, all from the Treasury Department, and Lee Scott, Research Laboratory. The appreciative males are (left to right) D. Holsteyn, N. Thew, and G. E. Thorn.

A turnout of close to 300 gathered at the Houston Executive Club for a double-barreled event—the annual Supervisors' Christmas Party and a farewell send-off for Refinery Superintendent A. J. Wood. Receiving their identification cards from H. K. Kaiser are P. W. Gudgell, R. D. Jaquay, J. A. Thomas, J. E. Stowers, C. C. Suggs, and J. H. Moser.



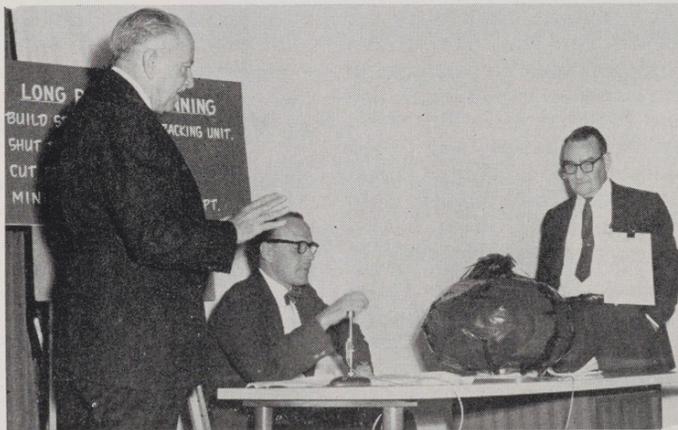
The Dispatching Department was well represented, too, as this picture testifies. From left to right are W. F. Arnold, W. O. Miller, A. W. Calhoun, B. B. Dorrell, W. H. Jackson, I. L. Smith, and H. H. Hall.



A highlight of each party is the opportunity it offers for long-time friends to renew acquaintances in small, informal groups. A few Shell men take advantage of this opportunity as we see (standing) from left to right L. O. Hay, J. B. Davis, C. F. Williams, J. P. Balfout, and J. V. Campo. Seated are E. H. Wells and B. R. Cole.



A delicious dinner which included hot roast beef, fried chicken, corned beef, and baked ham was enjoyed by those attending the party. Those recognizable as they move through the serving line at the right are F. G. Tilton, E. R. Johnson, I. G. Loomis, L. H. Reeves, A. M. Eaton, and A. F. Sartor. How many others can you recognize?



Much of the humor during the evening's entertainment program centered around the "Purple Onion"—that all-knowing, all-telling forecaster of Refinery operations. Here, L. J. Snyder utters the magic words to put the "Onion" in orbit. Intent upon the answers which will be forthcoming are R. A. Ress and V. T. Ellis. Ress played the title role of Superintendent Wood in the skits.

His First Deer Hunt Brings Two-Bagger To Refinery's Tuggle

It may have ruined him for future deer hunts, but the Refinery's L. C. Tuggle has a story to tell about this past season.

On his first deer hunt and using a brand new rifle, Tuggle bagged two deer within the almost unbelievable space of five seconds.

This all happened on the Maverick Ranch in Maverick County, located between Eagle Pass and Brackettville. It is also near the site where the movie "The Alamo" was filmed, but no Hollywood writer could have prepared a better script for the Refinery engineer to follow.

Waiting at his stand on the afternoon of the first day of the hunt, Layton spotted an eight-pointer in a mesquite thicket through the scope on his rifle and fired. When he looked again there was the same deer—he thought—still standing. Tuggle drew a bead and fired again, and watched as the deer fell in his tracks. The surprise came when he went to recover his kill. Not one but two eight-pointers lay dead only a few yards apart.

One of the deer dressed at 104 pounds, while the other weighed 92 pounds. Using a Winchester Model 70 with a four-power scope, Tuggle paced off the distance of the shots at 240 yards.

Civil Defense Training Offered

Mrs. Billie Fife, wife of R. L. Fife, P Operations at the Chemical Plant, is serving as coordinator of a Home Preparedness Workshop that is being sponsored by the Civil Defense Organization in the Pasadena area.

The workshop, which is being conducted in five consecutive weekly sessions, is being presented to stimulate the interest of the general public in and around the Pasadena area in the importance of individual preparedness. It is providing information and techniques that will enable citizens to be better able to

combat the efforts of nuclear weapons or a peacetime disaster.

The first three meetings of the program were held on January 19, 26 and February 2. The remaining meetings are scheduled for February 9 and 16. All sessions are being held in City Hall in Pasadena from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

There is no charge for the meetings and they are open to the public. Each meeting is an individual program; therefore, valuable information can be obtained by attending any or all the sessions.



A parade of friends and business associates took the microphone at the party to comment on their relationships with the departing Wood. Shown here is Process Superintendent M. A. Rogers, telling about the days at the Wood River Refinery. In the foreground, Wood listens, while in the background can be seen Lee Scott, R. E. Griffith, and Refinery Manager J. A. Tench.

John Wood Records Hole-In-One During SERA Golf Tourney

The Refinery's John Wood joined a select group of Shell golfers who can brag about that "one shot" recently when he recorded a hole-in-one on the eighth green at Hughes Club.

It happened during the monthly SERA Golf Tournament, and the feat earned for him 12 golf balls. The ace also boosted him to a gross score of 97 and a respectable finish in the Second Flight standings.

Topping the First Flight finishers was J. H. Burns of the Chemical Plant, whose gross 80 and net 67 was good for six golf balls. Leading the Second Flight was John Carson, Refinery, with a gross of 81 and net of 63—lowest for the day. Heading the Third Flighters was H. M. Cole, with a gross 105 and net 72.

Golf Chairman Dave Miles has announced that plans are nearing completion for the Shell match play tournament, scheduled for next month. The usual three flights will compete.

Shell Families See Marriage Ceremony Unite Daughter, Son

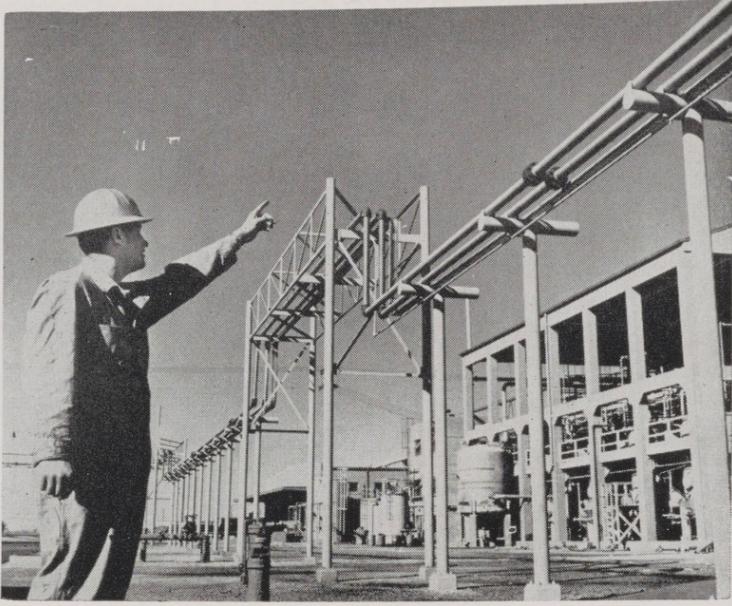
Miss Bonnie Louise Boatright became the bride of Fay Hilliard, Jr. on December 23 in ceremonies at the First Presbyterian Church in Pasadena.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Boatright, while the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fay Hilliard, Boatright is a supervisor in the Refinery Personnel and Industrial Relations Department, while the father of the groom retired from the Refinery on June 1, 1960 after completing over 27 years of service with Shell.

The couple have made their home in Houston, where Mrs. Hilliard is employed by the Prudential Insurance Company. Hilliard, a student at the University of Texas majoring in accounting, plans to enroll at the University of Houston at mid-term to complete his education.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church in Pasadena was the scene recently of a wedding uniting Shell families. Shown above are the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Fay Hilliard, Jr. The bride is the former Bonnie Boatright, daughter of the Refinery's G. L. Boatright, while Mr. Hilliard is the son of Refinery Retiree Fay Hilliard.



OPERATOR D. E. Quandt points out the 1,600 feet of EPON® Resin glass fiber reinforced pipe which replaced steel in a section of the synthetic rubber production facilities at Shell Chemical Company's Torrance Plant. Carbon and water carried inside the steel pipe to mixing vats had caused deterioration that created leaks in the pipe. Tests were set up at Torrance to compare performance of aluminum, stainless steel, concrete-lined, rubber-lined and epoxy resin pipe. The tests proved that lightweight resistant pipe made of Shell Chemical's EPON 828 reinforced with fibrous glass was most practical for the job. Epon resin pipe has also proved effective against corrosion problems at Shell Chemical's Houston Plant — which pioneered its use — and at the Norco and Dominguez Plants.

H. D. Smith Becomes Supervisor In P. & I. R. Dept. at Refinery



SMITH

H. D. Smith is now supervisor of the Employee Communications Section in the Personnel and Industrial Relations Department at the Refinery, according to a recent announcement by Refinery Manager J. A. Tench.

Homer began his Shell career in June 1953 as a clerk in the Personnel and Industrial Relations Department in the Houston Area, Exploration and Production. In July 1954 he became interviewer in the Houston Area Employment Office, a position he held until February 1955 when he became wage and salary analyst.

In February 1956 Smith was transferred to the Houston

Births—

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Allen, son, Bart Edwin, 7 pounds, 11 ounces, November 22. Allen is an instrumentman in the Refinery Engineering Field Department.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bolton, a son, James Robert, Jr., 6 pounds, 2 ounces, born January 11. Bolton is a clerk in the Refinery Treasury Department.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Chapman, a son, Daniel Wade, 9 pounds, 1 ounce, born January 16. Chapman is a senior programmer in the Refinery Treasury Department.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hornsby, a son, Bruce Ray, 5 pounds, 2½ ounces, born January 13. Hornsby is a supervisor in the Refinery Treasury Department.

Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Stewart, a son, Stephen Reid, 6 pounds, 13½ ounces, born January 19. Stewart is editor of the SHELLEGRAM.

Refinery as analyst in the Wage and Salary Section of the Personnel and Industrial Relations Department. From this assignment he moved to the Employee Communications Section where he served as training assistant until his recent promotion to supervisor.

Smith is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, with a B.S. Degree in Economics, and from Baylor University where he graduated with an M.S. Degree in Economics.

Delaney Leads Fraternity to Sing-Song Title

Gordon Delaney, son of the Refinery's George Delaney, led the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity to a first-place trophy recently in the annual University of Texas Sing-Song contest. This marked the second year in a row that the Sig Eps took the first-place honors in the University-wide contest.



DELANEY

Song Director Delaney led his group in "Let Thy Holy Presence." Their first-place performance was presented in black tuxedos and bow ties.

Gordon is a senior, pre-med student at the University. Following graduation in June he plans to enter the Texas University Medical School in Galveston where he has already been accepted for admission.

FOR SALE

BLACK 1960 Renault Dauphine, excellent condition, vinyl interior, white sidewall tires, \$1,000. Contact Helen Smith, Refinery Switchboard Operator.

Safety Shoes Prove Welcome Attire For Refinery's Bailey

Refinery Boilermaker Chester Bailey is glad he was wearing his steel-toed safety shoes on the morning of December 28, and he still has a left foot to prove it.

On the above mentioned morning, Bailey was helping dismantle a retired cooler tube bundle in the storage area north of the Central Shops. Lengths of tubes were being removed individually from the bundle. A winch truck was used to pull the tubes from one end while Bailey, with a pneumatic gun, assisted from the opposite end of the bundle. As Bailey stood on a crosstie, using his air-gun to help free a jammed tube, the bundle and skid moved forward about six inches, pinning his left foot. It was necessary for the driver of the truck, R. C. Wilcox, to change positions to pull the bundle and skid back so Bailey's foot could be released.

The accident caused a compression-type injury with fractures to Bailey's left foot, but the fact that the steel-toed



NOT A CATFISH—or a whale—safety shoe Refinery Boilermaker Bailey was wearing one recently when his left foot was pinched between a metal sled and a tube. Note the deep indentation of the toe-cap and the ruptured sole, damage absorbed by the shoe which possibly saved Bailey's foot.

safety shoe was able to absorb much of the pressure, greatly reduced the extent of injury, and quite possibly saved his foot.

The lost-time accident brought to an end an 80-day period in which the Engineering Field Department amassed over one-half million man hours of work without a disabling injury.

VALENTINE GIRL



Our Valentine Girl for this month is vivacious Gail Leach, a blonde beauty who works in the Personnel and Industrial Relations Department at the Chemical Plant. Gail comes from a large family, too, since her father is J. H. Leach, a shift foreman in the Refinery Aromatics Department.

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