

“Deadwood” cleared in Complex dismantlement

If you haven't noticed, the DPMC skyline is slowly changing. The three concrete stacks of Power Plant I, with Shell's faded letters lining its side, will soon be dropping out of sight.

The tall concrete stacks are just one example of the familiar landmarks at DPMC that will disappear. In fact, over the next 19 months, 17 old and outdated facilities throughout the Complex will be dismantled.

“We're used to building new things, not tearing them down,” said Don Trichel, Project Engineering. Trichel is coordinating the dismantlement project, DPMC's largest ever.

But DPMC is losing more than old equipment, which in some cases has been idle 15 years. With each falling brick and every twisted piece of steel a few memories are lost.

Charlie Mosley, Shell's field representative for the project, watched the construction of the EP unit in 1947 he is now helping to tear down.

“There are a lot of memories,” sighed Mosley, who has been at DPMC 38 years. “But that's progress. There's not much land left around here, so we can take advantage of some real estate that was no longer doing us any good.”

Making room for new growth

Mosley calls the old, obsolete units “dead wood. On my ranch I clear the dead wood so I can grow something productive,” he said. “With the land we gain from tearing down old units we can build new plants that will benefit the young people.”

But the dismantlement project will save more than space.

“The dismantlement will save us about \$300,000 a year,” said Dave Marshall, Senior Purchasing Representative, who coordinated the financial

aspects of the project along with Vondeen Crouch. “That savings is the amount of property tax we paid on the equipment even though it wasn't operating. That includes \$170,000 in maintenance costs we spend every year to keep the old equipment safe,” Marshall said.

The key to the dismantlement project is to safely remove the old facilities without damage to remaining equipment and adjacent operating units before they become too hazardous to maintain.

“The first step is to isolate each unit we're removing,” Mosley said. “Next, we decontaminate it completely. We want to make sure all the products are out of the unit before it is torn down.”

A team of operating personnel was given the responsibility to ensure each unit was safely decontaminated before the contractors stepped in. The specialists, each an expert on a particular unit, could be called upon to do whatever is necessary to make the unit safe for dismantlement.

Dismantlement methods vary

Most of the 17 units have been targeted only for partial dismantlement, but others will be torn down completely. Mosley said these include SR 1 and SR 2, LOPP, EC-2, EP, AA and Glycerin.

Each structure is dismantled in a slightly different way. “Torch cutting and rigging with crane cable are the most common forms of dismantlement so far,” Trichel said. “There will be no blasting used,” he added.

The biggest job will be the removal of Power Plant I's towering concrete stacks, the largest of which stretches 276 feet tall. Trichel said a circular platform will be placed on top of the stack where workers can slowly chip the concrete away.

The falling debris will be collected through an opening at the bottom of the stack.

Like the rubble from the concrete stacks, most of the equipment will leave the plant in bent, broken pieces, but some will leave fully intact. A furnace reboiler from DU-1 was hauled off in one big piece — accompanied by a police escort for the flatbed truck that carried it down the highway.

Unique safety considerations

Proler International, the firm selected for the project, is in the unique situation of tearing down old, idle equipment they now own. Trichel explained that when the contract was signed, ownership of the defunct units was transferred to Proler. Thus, when the project began, Trichel said, “Proler was actually in the process of removing their own equipment.”

This situation raised several questions — especially in the area of safety.

“We had to look at the project differently, but there is nothing new in safety,” said Frank Hruska, Shell's Safety Representative on the project. “We approached it just as we would a construction project. We tried to anticipate the hazards before they occurred.”

“Our job was to take each unit out of service and make it safe for the new owner,” Hruska said. “We could ensure safe work within the Complex by making the contractor realize safety was our highest priority.”

The safety guidelines for the dismantlement project were discussed at a pre-job conference. “We wanted to work closely with the contractors with as little effect as possible on their operations,” Hruska said. “We had an obligation to the contractors as well as ourselves.”



The largest hydraulic crane in the United States lifts an IPA reactor from its base as part of the Complex dismantlement project. The 47,000 pound reactor was one of four removed, each in one piece. The reactor was cut at its base and hauled straight up by the crane, before being loaded on a flatbed truck. This equipment, which was dismantled in late September, was to be sold as used equipment. The dismantlement project, which began in August, is approximately 15 percent completed.

Answer Books reach 1 billion

“The Energy Conservation Payback Book,” published the week of Oct. 19th, was the one-billionth Shell “Answer Book” published since the popular series began in 1976.

A billion “Answer Books” laid end to end would stretch half way to the moon, or encircle the earth four-and-a-half times. From any perspective, a billion is mind-boggling any way you look at it.

“The Energy Conservation Payback Book,” the 28th published this year, tells how to select “cost-effective” energy conservation measures — those that will pay for themselves in a

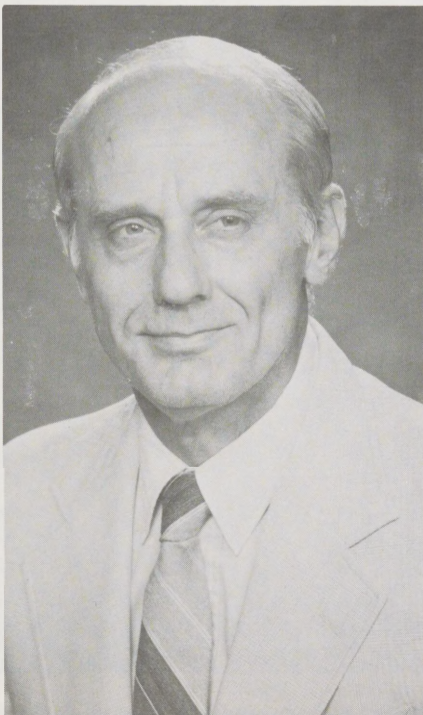
reasonable length of time.

For instance, a homeowner might buy and install an insulation blanket for his water heater. The blanket may cost \$25, but it could save about \$20 a year in fuel costs.

The “Answer Book” series was devised following the 1973 oil embargo to educate the public about the oil business and to provide benefits through consumer information.

“The Energy Conservation Payback Book” is available free at service stations of participating Shell dealers, or by writing to Shell Answer Books, P.O. Box 61609, P.R. Department, Houston, Texas, 77028.

Olefins production poised for economic upswing



H. G. Jacobson

Shell is poised to increase its production of olefins, the raw materials used by the petrochemical industry to produce a variety of consumer goods, when the improving economic conditions generate increased demand, said DPMC's new superintendent of Olefins operations.

H. G. “Jake” Jacobson, who assumed the superintendent's job August 1st, said, “We have the largest manufacturing capacity for olefins in the world.”

Jacobson's return to DPMC is a homecoming of sorts. In 1956 he began his career with Shell at Deer Park.

The 46-year-old chemical engineer succeeded R. M. Kembell-Cook, who had been at DPMC eight years. Kembell-Cook moved to Head Office, where he is now Manager of Logistics, Lubricants and Packaged Products.

Shell's involvement with olefins has expanded rapidly since 1966, when the company's first olefins plant was built at Norco, Louisiana, Jacobson said. Today, Shell has completed three units at Norco and two at DPMC.

But the challenge of staying on top in a

dynamic new field can be tough. Although completed only 11 years ago, OP-II is already being refurbished to increase its operating efficiency.

“Even though it was built relatively recently, OP-II was becoming less efficient and less competitive than our other units,” Jacobson said. “The work we're doing on OP-II now will put it on even footing with other large olefins plants in the industry.”

Jacobson said the tight economy has limited the demand forecasters predicted years ago when the olefins plants were planned. “But this gave us the chance to shut down OP-II and complete the work that will increase its efficiency,” he pointed out.

The production of olefins is not complicated, but much can depend on the processes used, Jacobson said. A feedstock is exposed to high temperatures in large furnaces. There it “cracks” into different chemical compounds, like ethylene, propylene and butadiene. “These are the raw materials others use,” Jacobson said. “None of our products ends

up with the consumer.”

The Texas A & M graduate said his goal is to keep the olefins plant running in a safe and efficient manner. “We want to create for our people the very best working environment we can in terms of safety and job satisfaction. We want our people to strive for excellence in everything they do,” he said.

Jacobson joined Shell as a chemist in 1956. After spending three years in the Air Force, he returned to Deer Park and began graduate studies in chemical engineering at the University of Houston.

The native Texan was named Assistant Department Manager of A Department in 1963, then Assistant Department Manager of G Department one year later. In 1965 he was promoted to G Department Manager.

In 1967 he left DPMC for Shell's former head office location in New York City. There he served as a senior engineer in the Transportation and Supplies-Crude Oil and Volatiles Supply Department.

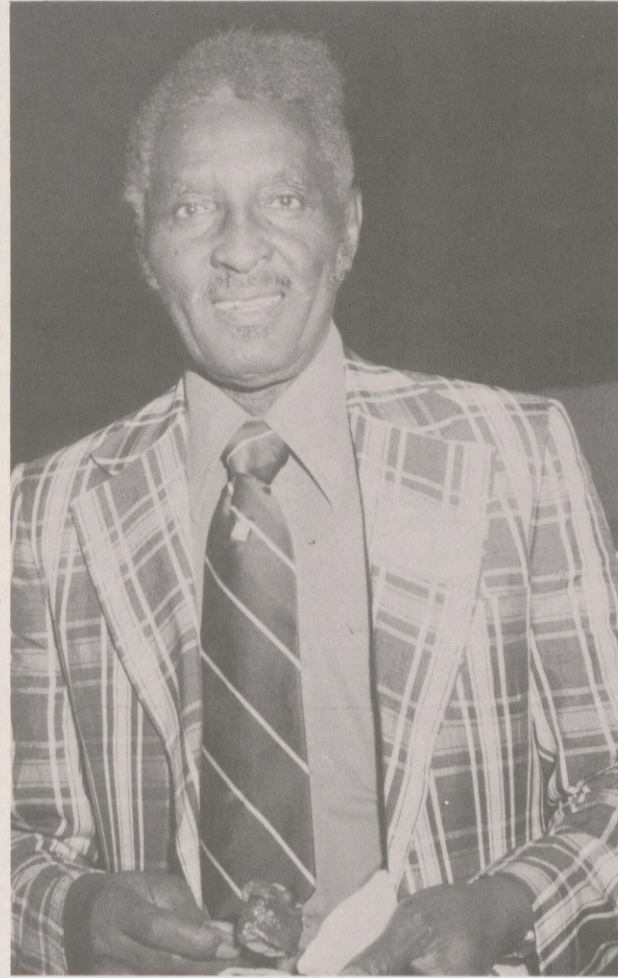
Jacobson continued his career in

Continued on page 4

At Sylvan Beach Good times roll at annual Complex Ten-and-Over Parties



Ety Mathews, left, an Employee Relations retiree, cuts a piece of cake for Jack Fisher, right, a Utilities retiree.



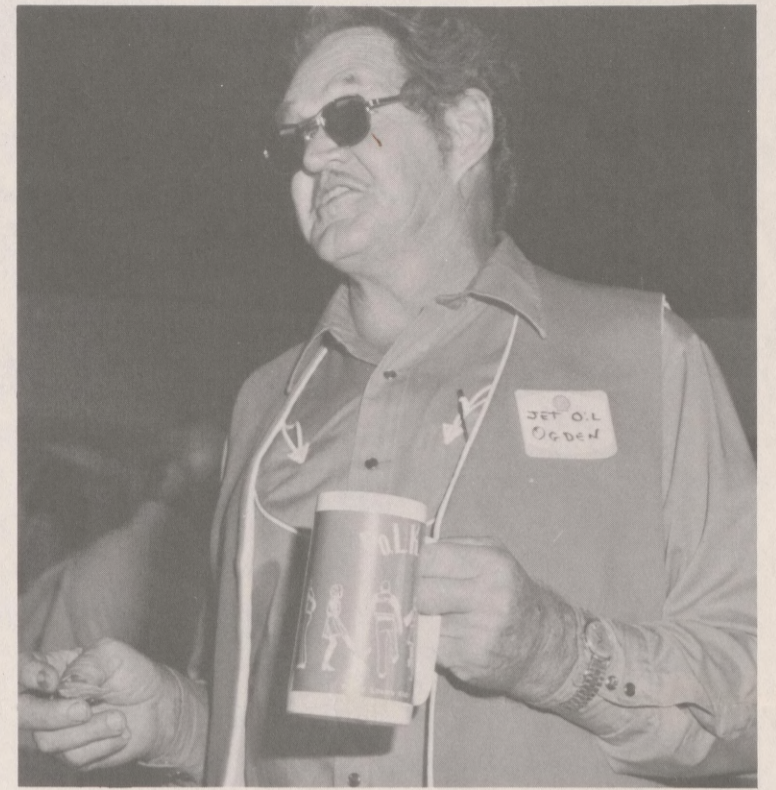
Sporting an eye-catching coat, Frank Lewis, retired area foreman, Dispatching, poses for this portrait on his way back from the hors d'oeuvre table.



R. E. "Smitty" Smith, left, retired welder, and Burns Clare, foreman, boiler, pipe and tin shop, right, keep an eye on the action in the Sylvan Beach clubhouse.



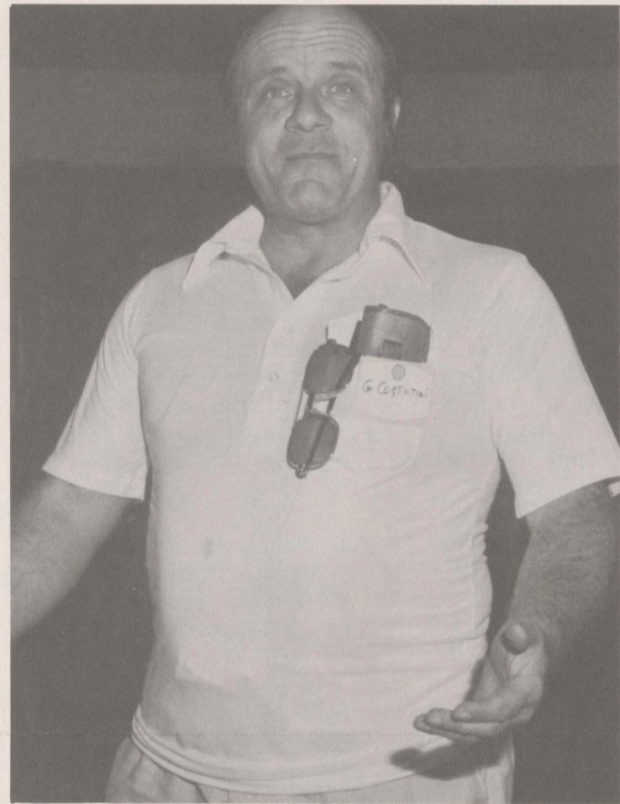
Ten-and-Over parties are a family tradition for the Browns. H. B. Brown, operator, A Department, left, enjoys dinner with his father, J. J. Brown, retired carpentry foreman, right. Brown, Sr., retired from Shell in 1951, and he regularly makes the annual get-togethers.



W.G. (Jet Oil) Ogden, electrician, Maintenance North, helped himself to the refreshments.



Opal Knudson, left, retired timekeeper and clerk, exchanges memories with H.L. Turner, retired operator, right. Both are former employees of Aromatics West.



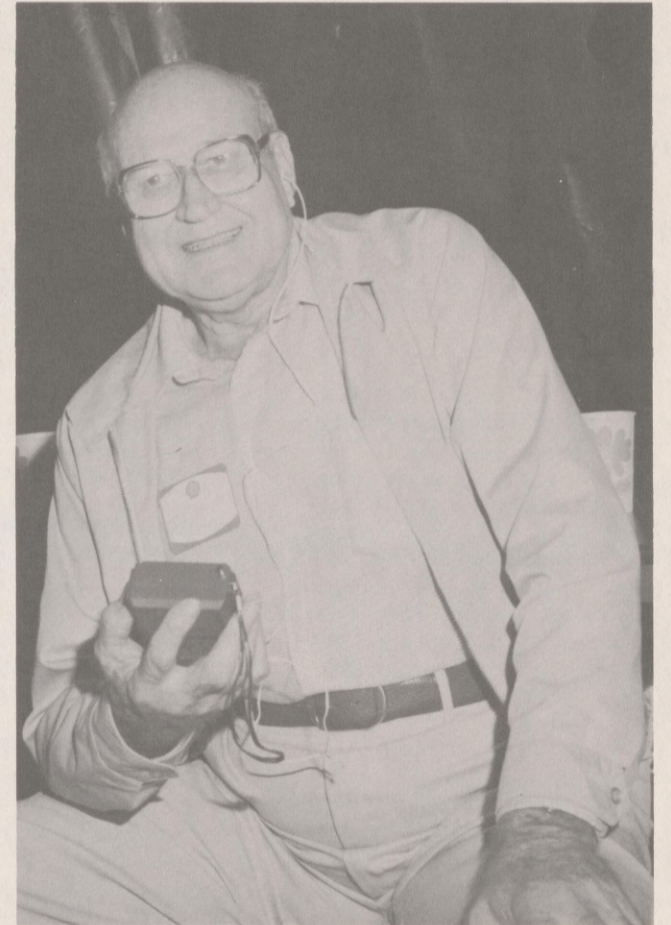
The camera catches George Cosentini, operator, Dispatching-Docks, by surprise.



This group was talking resins — past and present. Pictured here, from left to right, are Tom Cochran, foreman, Resins, O. B. Hicks, a South retiree, Sam Hervey, a South retiree, Roel Rosales, foreman, Resins, and Raul Flores, foreman, Maintenance South.



Delicious appetizers sizzle in the foreground, while Tom Prince, machinist trainee, Maintenance South, left, discusses business with Fred Henshaw, operator supervisor, BASR South, right.



O.L. Brown, a South retiree, takes time out at the party to tune in his favorite football action. A special TV room was set up so visitors could watch the college football action while they relaxed.



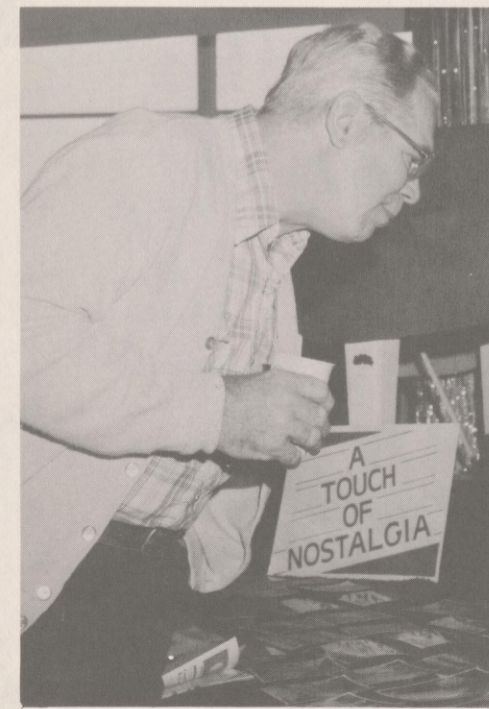
Dan Stein, operations foreman, Thermal Cracking, left, talked over old times with Forrest Lee, a Thermal Cracking retiree, center, and Tom Davis, operations supervisor, Alkylaton, right.



Gwen Deyon, accounting assistant, General Accounting, waits to help another party participant sign in.



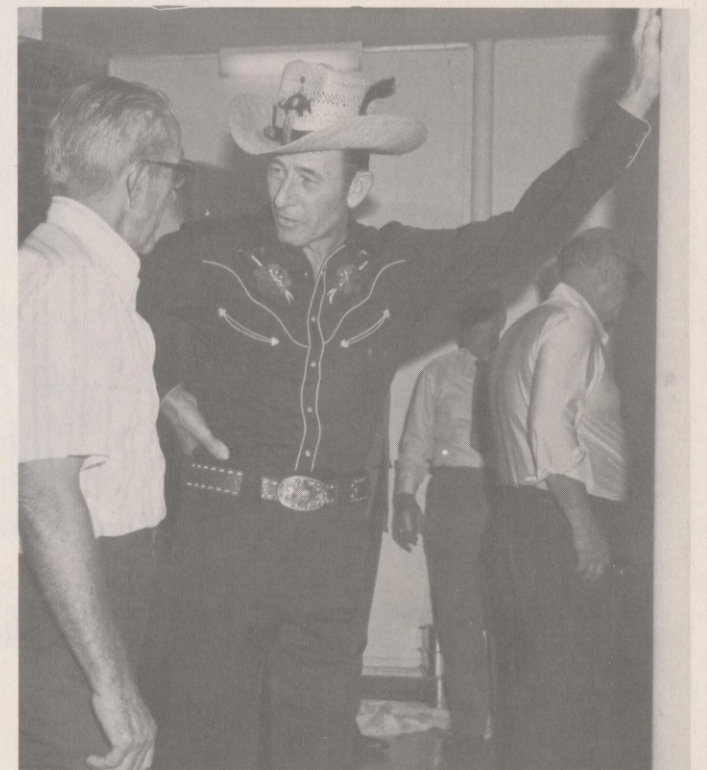
E. R. Roach, crane operator, Automotive, left, P. J. Kelly, pipe shop, Maintenance South, center, and Bull Arrington, operator, BASR, right, relax after dinner.



John Hoesel, process manager, G Department, adds "a touch of nostalgia" to his afternoon, as he glances over the photos taken at past Ten-and-Over parties.

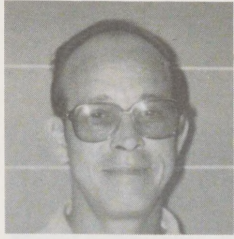


Bill Stricklin, electrical inspector, Process Control, recalls a funny moment as he pages through an old issue of the Shellegram.



John Pearson, right, heavy equipment operator, Automotive North, chats with H.D. Smith, a North retiree, left.

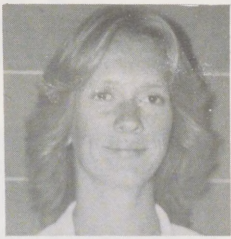
Welcome to Deer Park Manufacturing Complex



Dick Ashley
Instrumentman
Maint. South
Hired in Sept.



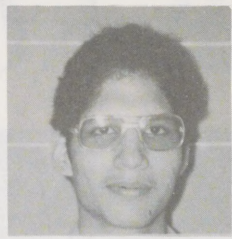
B.A. Daughtry
Office Asst.
Gen. Services
Trans. in Sept.



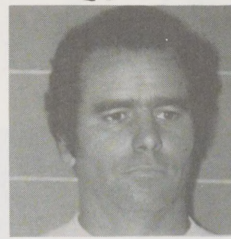
Becky Fornero
Lab Tech.
Qual. Control
Hired in Sept.



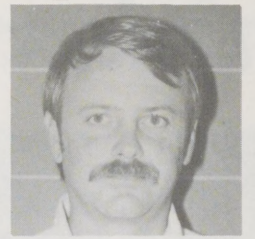
Betty Hilliard
Purch. Asst.
Purchasing
Trans. in Sept.



Joel Reyes
Lab Tech.
Qual. Control
Hired in Sept.



K.L. Sciacca
Machinist
Maint. South
Hired in Sept.



Don Wood
Process Mgr.
C Dept.
Trans. in Sept.

Classifieds

FOR SALE

1978 Plymouth Volare. Four-door, V-six, 16,000 miles. Air conditioning and radio, new tires. \$3,400. Call 476-5916.

1975 VW Pop-up Top Van. Air, automatic, sleeps 4 — loaded. 28,000 miles. Must see to appreciate. \$4,450. Call 471-4217 after 5 p.m.

1979 Chevrolet El Camino. 305-V8 with 46,000 miles. Power steering, brakes and windows. Tilt wheel, cruise control, bucket seats, console. AM-FM cassette. Trailer hitch, Rally wheels. Dark blue, clean, good paint. 18 to 24 mpg. \$5,000. Call 353-0329 or 328-5674.

By Owner, 3-2-2 home. 1,534 square feet. Spacious rooms, large covered patio. Deer Park schools. \$59,000. Assumption plus equity, owner partial finance. Call 487-3322.

Matching couch and loveseat. Foam cushions with washable covers. \$200 for both. Call 452-0768.

Antiques. Granddaughter clock with Westminster chime \$250. Brass coal chest, very ornate \$100. Three restored trunks \$150-\$200. Call 479-8714.

Sweeney Deer Feeder. 300 pound capacity, 10 foot legs. Used one season. \$200. Gas tank. 65 gallon capacity, fits inside of Fleetside truck. \$85. Call 479-3544.

Insulation. Call 476-4934.

1976 Mini-home. 33,000 miles. Roof and dash air. Many extras. 1974 Cadillac. Many extras. Sears water softener. Never used. Please call 475-1479 for more information.

FOR RENT

Two bedroom townhouse.

One-and-a-half bath, fire place, club house. \$450. Call 487-5256 or 482-5944 after 5 p.m.

WANTED TO BUY

Eight-track record-play deck only. Should have Fast Forward. Price negotiable. Call 495-1811.

FREE

Nine-month-old Cocker Spaniel. Free to good home. Call 479-8955 after 4:30 p.m.

Puppy, Lab mix. Shots, 6 months, excellent watchdog. Needs a good home, not the SPCA. Call 666-0216 evenings.

FOUND

Money clip. Lost in parking lot. Claim in person Room 151, N. Administration Building.

PERSONALS

Our sincere appreciation to Deer Park Manufacturing Complex friends for the support given Mary Villers, District No. 470, in the recent Deer Park Fall Festival Queen Contest. Mary finished as a runner-up.

Don and Ellie McCants

Olefins . . .

Continued from page 1

chemical plant operations in 1969 when he was named Plant Superintendent of Shell's Woodbury, New Jersey, plant. He returned to Texas in 1974, serving as manager of Raw and Process Materials in Houston.

Jacobson and his wife, Rose, live in northwest Houston. In his spare time he plays tennis and an occasional round of golf. Jacobson is also a licensed commercial pilot with instrument and instructor's ratings. "I haven't had the time to do any teaching, recently, but it is something I enjoy," he said.

All Savers Certificates available now

All savers certificates are now available in \$500 minimums at the Shell Federal Credit Union (SFCU). The maturity is one year and dividends will be paid only at maturity, and will not be compounded. The interest rates for the all savers certificates change periodically, reflecting the change in the average investment yield of U.S. Treasury bills.

The first \$1,000 of earnings on an all savers certificate is exempt from federal income taxes. This is a one-time, total lifetime exclusion of interest income per person regardless of the number of years in which the exclusions are taken.

The penalty for early withdrawal on an all savers certificate is the loss of three months dividends or dividends

since the date of issuance. If any portion of the certificate is withdrawn prematurely, the saver loses the tax exemption on all interest earned on the certificate.

For more details, see the friendly folks at the SFCU. The credit union is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Thursdays and Fridays the drive-in is open until 7 p.m.

Stakes are set for Vegas Night

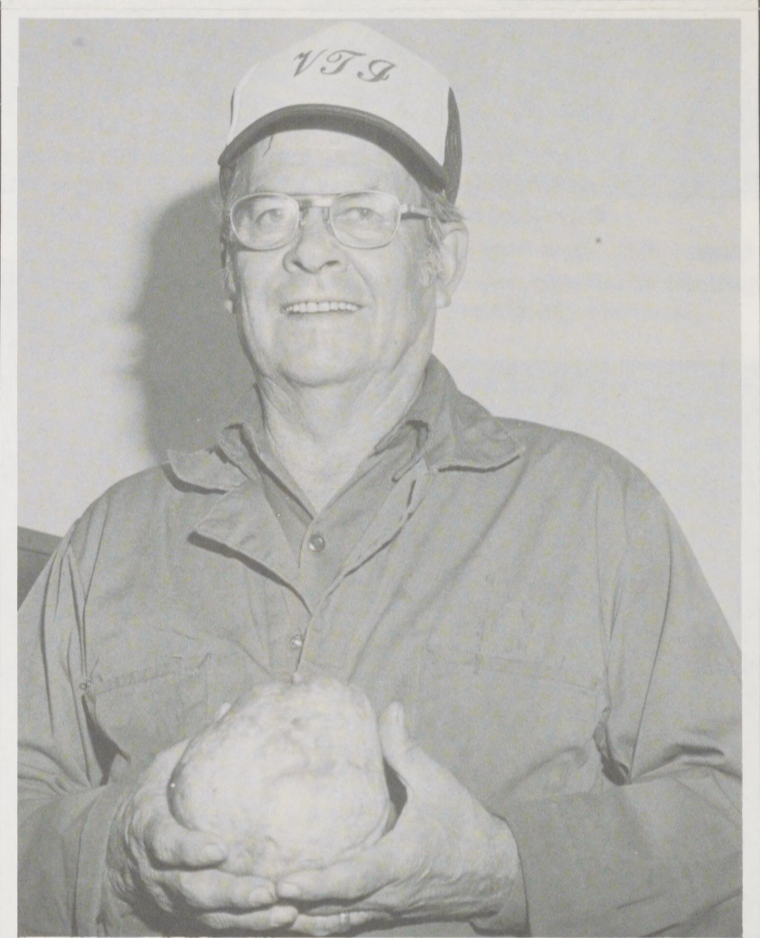
Have you been feeling lucky lately? Making all the green lights on the way to work, watching the Dialing for Dollars movie when they call your number? If Lady Luck is in your corner, you could strike it rich at SCORA's Las Vegas Night Nov. 7th.

The casino will be set up at the S.P.J.S.T. Hall in Pasadena, at the intersection of Tatar and Highway 225. The "gambling" and bingo party, which begins at 8 p.m. and ends at midnight, is open to all adult SCORA members and their guests.

The wheel of fortune will spin throughout the night, while the dice roll at the craps table. Other games include poker, roulette, black jack and bingo, which will be played for cash prizes.

Each gambler will receive \$10,000 in phony money at the door. The best gamblers will fatten their pockets, looking forward to the auction held at the end of the evening. Additional phony money will be available for those whom chance has frowned upon.

Tickets are \$3 per person in advance, and \$4 at the door. For more ticket information, call Barbara Bond at 6789 or Lisa Adrian at 6896.



A likely candidate for the Guinness Book of World Records? This knobby fruit looks like a small pumpkin, but it's actually a two-and-a-half pound pear. Bill Amason, Automotive North, said they grow to this size every year. Amason said the fruit came from a Keefer pear tree, one of two he has. He claims he doesn't know what makes the pears grow so big, but he must have a green thumb with his pear trees. Amason said his wife would make mincemeat pie out of the pear, but it would make a meal in itself. Ironically, the prodigious pear was grown at Grapeland, north of Houston.



Beth Pritchard and Freddie Lomax

The Shellegram is published each week for the purpose of informing and entertaining pensioners and employees like Beth Pritchard, left, and Freddie Lomax, both operators, Specialty Resins. Pritchard started working at the Complex last year and Lomax has worked here since 1977.

John Abbott-Editor
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