

Cumene unit operations are scheduled to resume next month

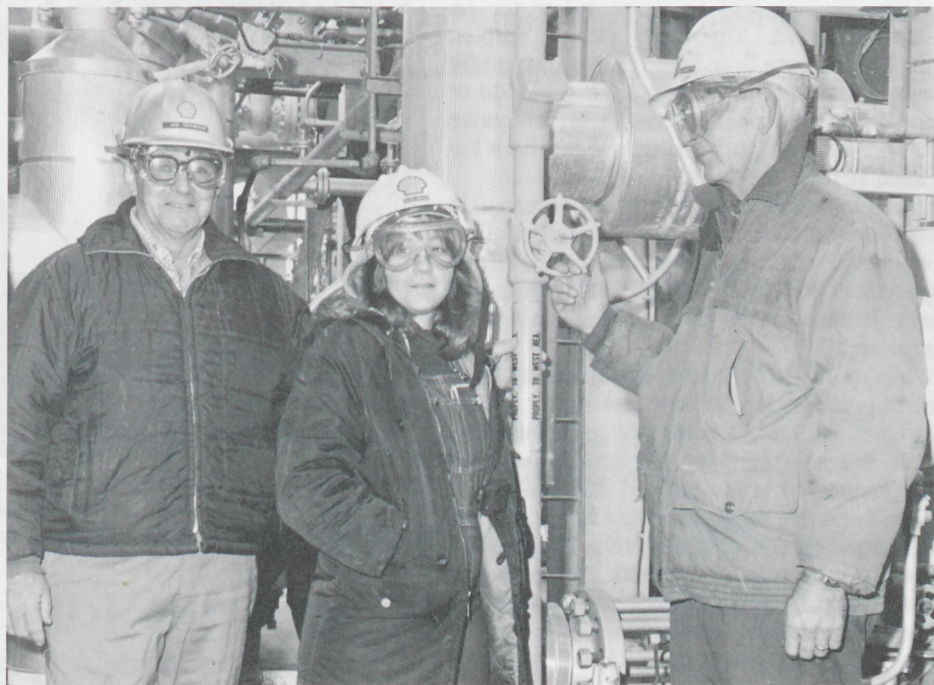
Looking at the shiny, new equipment at the cumene unit of Phenol A—which is scheduled to be back in operation in about a month—it's hard to believe the area was ravaged by fire last May 17.

During that fire, three of the unit's four columns (the flash, rectifier and cumene columns) and other equipment were damaged extensively by the intense heat. Fortunately, nobody was injured in the incident. The blaze was brought under control in about two hours, thanks to the prompt response of firefighters from the DPMC, Channel Industries Mutual Aid, Deer Park, Houston and Pasadena.

The flash column was replaced last year—while buckled metal skirts and other fire-damaged parts on the rectifier and cumene columns were substituted for new parts. Although the unit's recycle column received no structural damage, new insulation had to be installed in place of that destroyed in the blaze. Major repairs also were made to the foundation of two reactors cracked by heat during the fire.

Other project work included in-

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Joe Kennerty, left, foreman, Special Projects; and Ann Hill, operator, and Bill Grimmert, operations supervisor, both of Phenol A, show off some of the new equipment at the cumene unit of Phenol A. The cumene unit, which was damaged extensively by a fire last May, is expected to be back in operation next month.

Complex carpoolers sign up

About 400 employees have signed up to participate in the Complex's carpool matching program, according to Becky Maxwell, Employee Relations Analyst and coordinator of the Complex's carpool matching program. She added, "We are very pleased with the response."

She also pointed out that 353 employees have applied for new tags for the carpool parking lot to replace old tags that expire Friday. If you have already signed up to participate in the carpool program and wish to apply for a new parking lot tag, you can contact her at Extension 6998. Without a new tag, you cannot park in the lot—which



has been set aside for carpoolers.

Since the carpool matching program's records are being continually updated, you can sign up to participate at a later date by calling Maxwell—or CarShare at 227-0003.

CarShare, a computerized service offered by Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority, is processing data from registration forms employees have already submitted to participate in the carpool matching program.

Those persons who have already signed up will receive a listing of prospective nearby Shell carpoolers at their homes from CarShare around the first week of March.

\$ — \$ — \$ — \$


Provident Fund news


The Provident Fund valuation is as follows:

Equities Fund	
Jan. 31-	\$4.148
Shell Stock Fund	
Jan. 16-31-	\$50.615

The Shell Employee Stock Ownership Fund valuation is:

Jan. 16-31-	\$50.197
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\$ — \$ — \$ — \$

Complex was ready for freezing temperatures

The wintry weather that sneaked into the Houston area last week may have caught many people unprepared, but the DPMC wasn't taken by surprise.

Thanks to the advance warning we received from the weatherman, the Complex was implementing freeze precautions long before the thermometer began its rapid dip down into the teens.

Bill Charles, process manager, Utilities Distribution, explained, "Freeze precautions normally go into effect whenever it looks like the temperature will be 32 or below for an extended period. The main thing Complex departments have to do in the face of extremely low temperatures is the same thing you do at home when you open a faucet to let water drip—we have to keep water running here too to keep it from freezing."

He explained each department is responsible for protecting its own water lines and other equipment from freezing temperatures. "Each department has to do different things to get ready because each has different kinds of equipment."

While main water lines are immune from freezing temperatures because of high flow rates, action must be taken fast to protect lines which are opened less frequently—such as those connected to the several hundred safety showers and fire monitors in the Complex. The job of opening these lines sounds simple. But it's a lot more complex than the one you perform at home when you turn on a handful of faucets. That's because there are hundreds of these Complex water lines to be manually opened up.

Departments also must move rapidly to turn on "heat tracing" systems—which employ heated steam in copper tubing to keep the cold from putting valuable, delicate instruments at operating units out of commission. In addition, steam hoses must be drained to prevent them from freezing and rupturing.

Charles pointed out planning for low temperatures begins long before winter—because a test simulating freeze conditions is carried out each October determining what kind of water pressure and flow rates can be expected in the event of a freeze.

But in spite of the careful planning and extensive freeze precautions, some water pipes broke during last week's freeze, causing leaks and low pressures in some sections of the Complex. While the DPMC's water usage normally is approximately 230 gallons per minute, the leaks caused usage to exceed 1,300 gallons per minute for a short time during last week's freeze.

Charles said, "I'm confident the Complex could've done better to avoid damage from the freeze. However, our water systems as a whole continued to operate well in spite of the low

temperatures. We came through considerably better than the last time we had a severe freeze—about three years ago. We had some significant problems then."



As warm as the last few days have been, it's hard to believe that freezing temperatures—which produced the icicles at this cooling water tower—had everybody at the Complex shivering just last week.

Watch out for cold weather 'bugs'

Spring may be just around the corner. But during the last few weeks, Old Man Winter has left his mark on many Complex employees in the form of viruses and flu.

According to Dr. Jim Gross, the Complex's assistant medical director, the dispensary has witnessed far more cases lately of various types of minor viral illnesses, which are usually accompanied by mild fevers and coughs, than classic flu (influenza), which brings sore throats, severe headaches, fevers reaching 104-105 degrees and general muscle aches. However, he added some viral illnesses produce flu-like symptoms.

Gross said the Complex experience is part of a national trend. As a result of this trend, Americans are seeing fewer flu epidemics—which can escalate quickly—and more cases of a wide

variety of viral infections which hang around at a steady rate rather than reaching epidemic proportions.

To ward off a virus, he suggested Complex employees "avoid excessive exposure to cold weather and fatigue—and get some rest."

What do you do if one of these viruses gets you sick? Gross stressed sleep is the key to getting better. "While it's always a good idea to see your doctor, the most important thing most people can do is to get some adequate rest. Stay in bed and sleep—don't just lounge around the house. Let your body's defenses drive away the illness. Rest is vital because these viral infections usually don't respond to antibiotics."

But he added some persons, who experience certain types of symptoms with a viral illness, need to see a doctor

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New ad policy takes effect tomorrow

Tomorrow is the day the *Shellegram* changes its deadline for accepting ads from Monday to Friday.

We hope this change will allow us to get more ads in earlier. Please submit your ads early.

Cumene unit operations will resume . . .

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stallation of about 34,000 linear feet of piping, 100,000 feet of electrical wire and 509 new instruments; repair or installation of 18 heat exchangers and the pouring of about 250 cubic yards of concrete.

The end of the rebuilding work, which was performed by about 250 workmen, came about two weeks ago as the project was turned over to operations. Maintenance crews are assisting operations in commissioning activities,

Meeting set

The annual membership meeting of the Shell Federal Credit Union will be at 7:30 p.m., March 5, at the Gaines Y. Mason Auditorium in the Deer Park High School on Ivy Street.

Credit Union members, who are encouraged to attend the meeting with their families, are eligible to win cash door prizes totaling \$2,200.

Other meeting business will include election of three directors and one Credit Committee member.

Remember SCORA's dance

Remember SCORA's Friday dance at Pasadena's American Legion Hall (at the corner of Preston and Pasadena Boulevard). It will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets, which cost \$3 per couple for SCORA members and \$4 per couple for guests, will be sold at the door only. A cash bar will sell beer, mixed drinks (bringing bottles or mixes is prohibited) and soft drinks.

such as activating utility lines, to ready the unit for resumed operations.

Rod Walsh, senior project engineer, who was in charge of field work for the rebuilding program, pointed out that the cumene unit was turned over to operations three weeks ahead of schedule. Walsh added, "We were able to complete the rebuilding effort ahead of schedule because of the fine job performed by the mechanical, engineering and procurement contractors for the project—and the excellent cooperation we received from

Phenol A operations and Complex engineering and maintenance personnel."

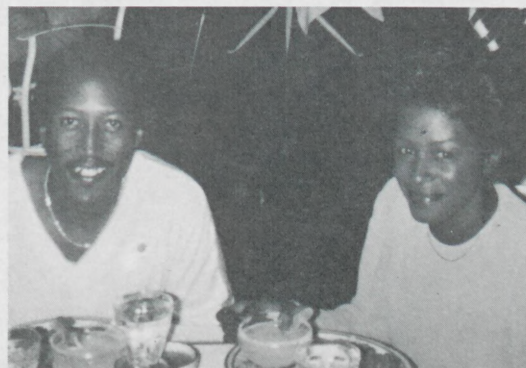
'Bugs' . . .

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quickly. These are persons who develop shortness of breath, a worsening cough (especially if accompanied by large amounts of yellowish mucus) and a second recurrence of fever after apparent improvement.



"I KNEW HE WAS A WEIRDO. BUT A PIZZA LUNCH PAIL?"



Aromatics West safety party

Marking three years without a lost time accident, Aromatics West recently sponsored a safety party at Louie's on the Lake.

Among those attending were (left photo) Mark and Vicki Clark, (center) Lloyd and Evelyn Kirk and (right) Dave Guerra.

Classifieds

FOR SALE

1977 Chevy pickup. Four-wheel drive, four-speed, 350 engine, power steering and brakes, air, AM-FM, eight-track, cruise, posi-trac, camper cover. 32,000 miles. \$4,500. Call 487-0942.

1977 Ford van. Six-cylinder, automatic, stereo, full carpet, captain's chairs, custom paint. \$3,300. 1976 Olds 98. Cruise control, tilt wheel, stereo. 60,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$2,300. Kemball Super Star II organ. One year old. Perfect condition. \$900. Call 424-1152.

1974 two-door Century. Dark sand, clean, fully equipped. Uses regular gas. \$1,375 or best offer. Call 643-3184.

1974 Maverick. 302 V-8, automatic, power steering, air conditioning, mag wheels, new battery, new muffler and exhaust pipes. \$1,500 cash. Call 487-4849.

1974 Pontiac Lemans. 58,000 miles. Good transportation. \$800. Call 479-8191.

1978 Honda Accord LX. Rebuilt engine in warranty. Sharp, loaded. \$4,600. Call 738-4546.

1977 Pontiac Grand Prix. Beige, full power, AM-FM stereo with tape deck, tilt steering, cruise control, Michelin tires. 59,000 miles, very clean. Call 472-0595.

1979 Chevy cargo van. 15,000 miles. Panel inside. Excellent condition. \$4,900. Call 479-3829 or 473-9861.

1973 16-foot Starcraft open bow boat. Aluminum hull, 80 HP Mercury motor. Black Labrador retriever. Two and a half years old. Not registered. Call 422-4069.

New troll motor. Twelve-volt, foot control or manually operated. Call 476-0011 after 5 p.m.

Complete Lionel train set. Mounted on four-foot by eight-foot base. Ready to run. Will deliver. Excellent condition. Super Pro detector with headphones. Warranty included. Excellent condition. \$300. Reconditioned Super Pro with headphones. Five years old. \$170. Two Rollie R-36-E auto flashes. Complete with charger, remote eye. Excellent condition. \$100 each. Call 331-8990.

WANTED

Carpool members. For carpool that meets at the parking lot located at Bellaire, Bissonet and Rice streets in Southwest Houston. Hours—7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Call 668-0057.

FOUND

Two pair of eyeglasses, one case. Call Les Cole at Extension 6301, describe and claim.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Calico cat. Six years old. Call 941-4378.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Whether you feel like being an urban cowboy or you just want to get dressed

up in your western duds to get ready for the Houston Livestock Show Rodeo, Feb. 27 will be "Go Texan Day" at the DPMC. The cafeterias also will be marking the occasion by serving barbecue. What else?

DPMC service anniversaries



35 Years
W.L. Visinsky
Maintenance South



25 Years
G.L. Williams
Proc. Cont.-Elec.

Moos dies

Herman H. Moos died Jan. 11. When he retired on Jan. 1, 1968, he was a general helper, Engineering Field, with 22 years of company service. He resided in Houston.

Shellegram

Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

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Les Cole - Editor