



Shellegraph

Houston Refinery

No. 7

Friday, February 19, 1971



Foundations have been poured at the site of the new Orthoxylene unit which is next to Paraxylene.

NEW ORTHOXYLENE UNIT TO ENLARGE SHELL'S LINE OF PETRO-AROMATICS

Construction on offsite facilities for the new Orthoxylene manufacturing facilities continues in preparation for full scale building on the new site near the Paraxylene unit.

The Orthoxylene unit will enlarge Shell's line of petroleum-based aromatics, which in 1967, was expanded with the completion of a paraxylene facility at the Refinery.

In connection with construction of the new unit, revisions are being made in the aromatics concentration unit, the feed preparation unit, three columns in the paraxylene unit are being changed over to orthoxylene production, and three new storage tanks are being built.

At the site of the unit, the foundations have been poured and contractors are working on underground piping.

Major on-site construction will begin when two large 180 feet by 15 feet diameter columns

(Continued on Page 4.)



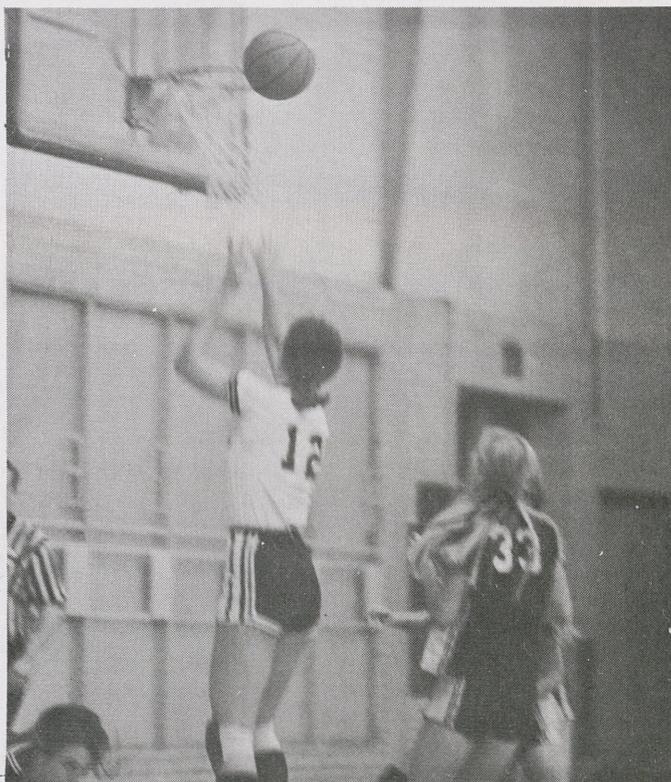
An up-to-date control console with alarm systems overhead is being installed in the Paraxylene control room.

DEER PARK GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM HAS STRONG FOLLOWING AT SHELL

Basketball is an interesting sport and several Shell employees have more than a casual interest in the game when their daughters play on the Deer Park Deerett basketball team. Even the Deerett Coach, Bob Brockhoff, has a special Shell fan. His wife, Paulette, is a stenographer at the Chemical Plant.

Gayla Allen, daughter of B. C. Allen, Instrumentman No. 1, Engineering Field, is one of the team captains on the junior varsity team. Faith Watson, daughter of Ed Watson, Operator No. 1, Lube Oils, is one of the captains for the Deerett varsity team. Bunny Beeson, daughter of John Beeson, Chemical Plant, and Diane Berg, daughter of F. H. Berg, Jr., Operator No. 1, Hydro-processing, are on the varsity team.

(Continued on Page 3.)



Faith Watson shows winning form as the Deeretts head for another victory.

CAFETERIA TO HOLD GO-TEXAN DAY

In preparation for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Refinery cafeteria has designated Wednesday, February 24, as Go-Texan Day.

A western menu including barbecue beef, links, potato salad, beans and slaw will be served to get Shell employees in the mood for the big roundup. Items will be priced at 60 cents for meats and 17 cents for vegetables.

ALL-OUT EFFORT ON BAY MARCHAND FIRE AIMED AT CURBING POLLUTION

Each day, people advise Shell how to put out the fire presently burning in the Gulf of Mexico. The company thanks them for their thoughtfulness and continues about its business of letting the fire burn.

Almost immediately after Shell's Platform B in the Bay Marchand area caught fire from an undetermined source last December, the decision was made to keep it burning.

The plan was based on keeping oil pollution at a minimum by drilling relief wells, attacking the fire at its source--the producing formation deep in the earth.

Attempting to extinguish the fires and cap the wells at the platform in the early stages could result in oil coming up for a prolonged period of time.

The offshore platform is 7 miles south of the Louisiana coast and 65 miles south of New Orleans.

Overnight, a Bay Marchand Emergency Group of Shell experts was set up. They came mostly from the offshore division office in Metairie, La., and were divided into three groups: Relief wells, environmental protection and firefighting.

Eventually, five mobile drilling rigs were pressed into relief well service. Three of them came from other oil companies in the area.

Main target from the onset was the well B21, believed to be the cause of the blaze which damaged and ignited a number of other wells on the platform. The platform contained 22 producing wells.

Famed firefighter "Red" Adair was called in as a consultant. Shell wanted the fire to burn, but in a controlled way, so that the fire wouldn't completely deteriorate what was left of the platform and its conductor pipes. And they wanted Adair's advice now and for the future. As a result, waterspraying barges were brought in to do their best in keeping the conductors cool while relief drilling operations were underway.

The environmental protection team found itself with a large and unique job. They were faced with the possibility of unconsumed oil from the platform reaching the shore.

The group developed its own shoreline protection plan which was put into use almost immediately, but in the absence of a major spill, they were able to refine their plan and add to it daily.

Their plan was divided into three phases: the use of oil skimmers and booms for recovery of oil in the vicinity of the platform; the use of shallow water barges, skimmers and booms near the shoreline; and finally, protection of the shore itself. This last phase included 22,000 bales of straw and a wildlife protection plan should birds come in contact with oil.

Shell gathered a flotilla of equipment to protect the shoreline--just in case of a major spill: a half-dozen skimmer boats and barges; a dozen tugboats; thousands of feet of boom to contain the oil; several helicopters to spot the oil; and its own developed collecting agent, Shell OIL HERDER*, to be used as a shoreline barrier. The agent is non-toxic, evaporates in 12 hours, and

works by 'pushing' oil together allowing easier pickup by skimmers. The agent was approved for use by federal and state officials.

Thousands of bales of straw were deployed at strategic points along the shore to be used as an absorbent.

The wildlife protection plan was elaborate. It called for bird spotters to pin point large populations; propane operated automatic noise makers to scare birds away; and three portable bird cleaning stations ready to be flown anywhere along the shoreline.

The bird cleaning and rehabilitation methods Shell planned were devised by Phillip Stanton, an ornithologist and a biology instructor at Framingham, Mass. State College.

Stanton presently is working on a \$10,000 grant from the American Petroleum Institute to continue his research in wildlife rehabilitation. His methods, for example, have saved up to 90 percent of oil-soaked birds brought to him. Earlier attempts at saving oil-soaked birds had little success.

When oil did appear along the shore, Shell's OIL HERDER was used. It had just been approved by the various governmental agencies.

Skimming and oil recovery boats went into action, along with the fleet of tugs with booms to contain the oil. Straw, previously stored at intervals along the shoreline, was used to soak up what little oil there was. It was reported that the first spot of oil on the shore (a patch 30 by 50 feet) amounted to less than a cupful. It was gone the next day.

Northerly winds proved a blessing; they intermittently blew films of oil away from shore and out to sea where oil dissipates harmlessly.

But the threat of a major oil spill hangs over the Shell people. Private weather reports are scrutinized several times a day; booms are made longer and are used to block passes into the bays; more straw is stockpiled on the shore; bird cleaning stations are equipped with new cleaning agents, heaters and wash basins.

The first relief well was successful. Drilled at an angle, the relief well came within 25 feet of the original well bore at a depth of 12,500 feet. Drilling mud was pumped down the relief well to choke off the flow of oil from B21.

Since that time, other burning wells have been choked off, confirming the accuracy of the Shell engineers and the value of the program.

Other relief wells are being drilled at this moment. And the fire continues to burn happily.

SHELLEGRAPH

Published by Shell Oil Company for its Houston Refinery and Houston Research employees at Deer Park, Texas.

Mrs. Josie Ochoa-Editor

Reprints allowed by request. To submit news and photographs, call extension 541 or send material to Rm. 103, Main Office Annex.

Deadline for ads--Wednesday noon



Bob Loucks presented a scroll to Rich St. Pierre at a recent party where Rich and



D. M. Geehan were feted. Rich and Dave have transferred to General Offices.

PROVIDENT FUND NEWS

The following are the Provident Fund valuations:

Equities Fund

January 5, 1971 - \$2.053

January 20, 1971 - \$2.126

Shell Stock Fund

January 1971 - \$49.680

CONSERVATIONISTS PRAISE SHELL FOR POLLUTION CONTROL AT FIRE

Shell recently received praise for its efforts in fighting pollution from the wild wells.

In an interview by the Times-Picayune, a New Orleans newspaper, a top official of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Jerry T. Thornhill, said he was happy with how Shell was handling the fire.

"I don't know what more they could do that they're not doing," he said.

Thornhill said the EPA is particularly pleased with Shell's approach of not putting out the wild well fires until relief wells have been drilled to cut off the oil supplying the wells. He added that Shell has been putting forth a great deal of effort in containment around the wild wells and in cleaning up beaches.

"Oil that is getting on the surface or on the beach-they're on top of it," Thornhill said. "This is certainly the best (anti-pollution) effort I've seen on the Gulf Coast."

A spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard also praised Shell for the way it has been handling the pollution threat.

He said Shell has not only been supplying the Coast Guard with daily reports on the extent of pollution but also has anticipated many situations and taken appropriate precautions, such as placing booms across passes to contain oil and providing a beach clean-up team.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL- (Continued from Page 1.)

Girls basketball is a major sport at Deer Park High School, and the girls take the game seriously. They play a 32-game schedule and begin practice in mid-October.

Coach Brockhoff enjoys coaching the girls, but he admits that it is a little different. He is in his second year as coach at Deer Park and has enjoyed notable success. Last year his varsity team finished the season with a 26-5 record and were district co-champions, and this year's team also has an outstanding record.

Girls basketball is similar to regular basketball, but there are some noticeable differences in the rules. Each team consists of six girls, divided equally between offense and defense. The center line of the court is the boundary which divides the offensive and defensive teams, and the players cannot cross the line.

Offensive players are forwards and defensive players are guards. The Shell girls seem to prefer shooting the ball since Gayla Allen, Faith Watson, and Bunny Beeson all play forward. Diane Berg is the only guard.

SHELL DEFENDS NO-PEST STRIP, RESPECTS DECISION OF OFFICIALS

Policy decisions rather than science have placed restrictions on Shell's NO-PEST(R) insecticide strip, according to J. B. St. Clair, president of Shell Chemical Company. He was referring to the recent label change which says that the strip should not be used in areas where food is prepared or served.

"We have accepted the considered judgment of regulatory officials because we have a sincere dedication to the philosophy that officials appointed to guard the public health act out of dedication and are considerate of facts," St. Clair said at a recent sales meeting in New York.

"There have been honest disputes concerning use in certain situations involving sensitive individuals, such as infants, and sensitive locations, such as food preparation areas. The consensus of U.S. regulatory officials was that it would be prudent to avoid use of the product in such situations, despite strong scientific evidence showing no health hazard."

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

King's Cornet with music stand, \$75. Briggs & Stratton lawnmower engine, 1.5 hp., it runs, \$7.
Telephone: 473-2694

Wig with stand, color brown, cost \$35, sell for \$15.
Telephone: 453-6680

Beautiful aquarium, must see to appreciate, complete with over 25 different fish, over \$300 invested, will deliver and set up. For more information, call Friday only.
Telephone: 941-2285

Have 283 motor for 1964 Chevrolet, All accessories including clutch, pressure plate, standard transmission, excellent condition, \$150.
Telephone: 479-3100

Stereo tape recorder complete with speakers and mikes, plus 20 recorded 7" reels of assorted music. Friday only.
Telephone: 941-2285

'66 Corvette Stingray convertible, 327-4 speed, tape player. \$1800.
Telephone: 471-1618

Zoom lens 90-230 mm, will fit most 35mm cameras, in very good condition.
Telephone: 941-2285

'64 Sunbeam Alpine GT, completely rebuilt, great condition.
Telephone: 474-2310 or 748-7822

Model K12 Insley drag line with 50 ft. boom, ½ yard Hendrix bucket, swing & drag drum. Rebuilt Bands relined. 500 ft. of 5/8 steel cable.
Telephone: 633-1478

4 piece sectional living room couch, \$75. Large deep freezer, \$50. Both in good condition.
Telephone: 473-3651

Royal typewriter, standard office size, in perfect condition, \$45.
Telephone: 946-7991

2 beautiful free standing bookcases, each 36" wide by 78" high, Mediterrean, jade finish, each has 4 shelves, 2 doors, one adjustable shelf behind doors, \$100 each, also matching server, \$100.
Telephone: 1-591-3943

GE upright carpet sweeper, 1965 model, has hose connection but no attachments, \$25.
Telephone: 946-7991

RCA color TV console, 23".
Telephone: 667-3468

Early American maple dining room suite, pedestal table with formica top. Four captains chairs. Excellent shape. Price \$75.

Telephone: 485-4943 after 6.

60x100 foot lot on Galveston's West Beach. Quarter horse.
Telephone: 473-8865

7-piece modern formica top dinette, brown and beige. Good condition, \$35.
Telephone: 944-8895

WANT TO BUY

'64 Chevrolet Impala SS hood & trunk.
Telephone: 472-1488

PERSONAL

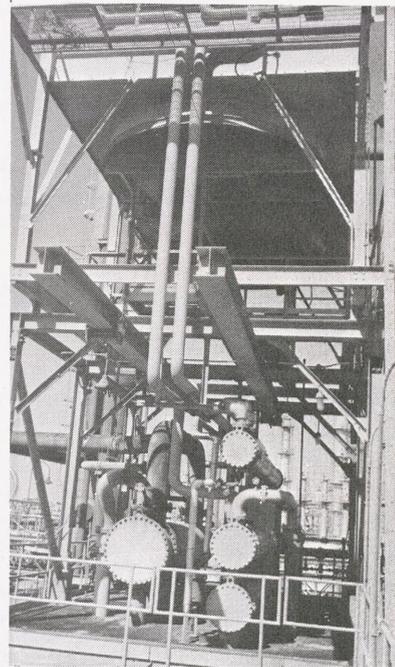
I just wish it were possible to thank each one of you personally for the beautiful wrist watch I received Friday night. You're such wonderful people, and I'll always treasure your friendship. Thanks again, from the bottom of my heart.

Polly Williams

ORTHOXYLENE UNIT--

(Continued from Page 1.)

Air coolers and heat exchangers have been constructed at the Aromatics Concentration Unit in connection with construction of the new Orthoxylene unit.



are brought in by rail and erected next month.

Innovative internal reflux computers, devised by Shell Development Company, will keep constant control of the amount of heat input in the fractionation columns regardless of reflux temperature. In addition, silencers are being placed on turbine exhaust to the atmosphere to abate noise.

A new instrument console for unit control will be installed in the paraxylene unit control house.

The 2,000-barrel-a-day-capacity unit will be mechanically complete by mid-summer. It will produce 200 million pounds of orthoxylene a year. Orthoxylene is used extensively in the manufacture of phthalic anhydride, an intermediate used in plasticizers for polyvinyl chloride. Plasticizers make polyvinyl chloride flexible enabling its use in a variety of consumer products. These include raincoats, curtains, upholstery, floor covering, shoes, handbags and wrapping film.