



shelletter

HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 107

Monday, April 29, 1963

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

Negotiations

"OFF-THE-RECORD" MEETING HELD FRIDAY

Reduced committees of the Companies and the Union met with the Federal Conciliator in Houston on Friday afternoon, April 26. The meeting was exploratory in nature, designed to investigate the various areas of disagreement to determine what subjects might be profitably developed in a later meeting involving full committees. Another meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, May 1.

Operations

SHUTDOWN COMPLETED

Day-by-day, the weekend went something like this: Dubbs 9 Distilling came back up and is running smoothly....And over in Utilities, boiler No. 15 came down for routine maintenance and inspection. Activity around the cat. cracker picked up sharply Friday morning when one of the large blowers quit blowin'...Seems there was trouble in the lubrication system, but the fellers with the "know-how" had it back to puffing by mid-afternoon the same day.

At Cat. Cracker

WORK UNDERWAY TO HARNESS ENERGY FROM FLUE GAS

A construction project that will utilize the cat. cracker flue gas is well underway. By harnessing this gas before it is released to the atmosphere from atop the stack of the regenerator, it can be turned into energy to help pre-heat cat. cracker feed and drive a blower that sends air to the unit.

To do this with a gas otherwise lost, a large pipe over five feet in diameter will be connected into the regenerator stack. This pipe will bring the gas down to ground-level where it enters a separator to be cleaned up. After catalyst dust particles have been removed, the gas then travels to an adjacent expander turbine, reducing the gas pressure and supplying the energy to drive an air blower. The air blower supplies air to the unit where it is used to regenerate catalyst.

But the job of the recovered gas is not over. From the expander the gas will go to a feed preheater where its carbon monoxide (CO) content is burned to supply most of the heat necessary to raise the temperature of incoming cat. cracker feed to the desired range.

And what do we gain from this chain of events? Primarily, the new preheater allows us to shut down the existing one which uses purchased natural gas exclusively. Also, the new blower will supply more air to the unit than do the two existing ones which are powered by steam. The two old blowers will be taken out of service.

Currently three such energy recovery projects are underway in Shell - one at Norco, another in Canada, and the one here. The Norco project will go into service this summer. The three mark the first in the industry to include a separator and expander in the chain. The separator is of Shell design.

(Over)

As an interesting sidelight, the noise level of the cat. cracker will be changed considerably when the project is completed. Most of the noise (now caused by the escaping gas) will be eliminated. However, Project Engineer Herschel Arnett says there'll be a few new noises (the expander for one)...but it should be quieter all the way around.

At present, the foundation work for the new installations has been laid, and the structural steel for the preheater is now going into place. Completion of the project is still a number of months away.

Safety

BRING YOUR SAFE DRIVING HABITS TO WORK WITH YOU

No doubt...one of the big reasons we use vehicles to get us where we're goin' is to save time. However...we should not be in such a rush that we set aside caution and the simple things that will make our journeys - either long or short - safe ones. So let's review our safety habits:

- Do we always attach flags to extended loads from the front, rear or sides of the vehicle?
- Do we observe traffic signs?
- Do we limit our driving to just our side of the road?
- Do we drive within safe speed limits?

These safety rules of the road apply on public thoroughfares...and right here in the Refinery. Keep the CAUTION sign before you every minute you're behind the wheel....Because - as our slogan says: SAFETY IS GOOD FOR LIFE.

LAST CHANCE...Tomorrow is the final day for the youngsters to turn in their entries in the May Safety Slogan Contest...and win free tickets to a Houston Colt .45 baseball game. All school-age sons and daughters of Refinery employees are eligible. Mail the entry directly to: SHELLETTER EDITOR, SHELL OIL CO., P.O. BOX 100, DEER PARK, TEXAS, or drop the entry in (1) the official entry box at the Hash House, or (2) in the Refinery Mail with the envelope marked SAFETY SLOGAN CONTEST. So climb aboard...and get those entries in before Wednesday, May. 1.

MORE SAFETY SLOGAN WINNERS: The Mystery Man brought his honor roll up to date, and it included the following new Silver Dollar Safety Club members: Ennis Bickley, Grady Hensley, Howell Willingham, Evelyn Leamons, and Dorothy O'Sullivan.

SERA News

SHELLWOOD SWIMMING POOL TO OPEN MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30

Here's a sure sign summer is nearly here...the swimming pool at Shellwood will open on May 30 (Memorial Day). The same hours in effect last year will be followed again this season, with the pool opening daily at 10 AM and closing at 8 PM. And, just like last year, the pool will be closed on Monday and Tuesday each week. All 1962 memberships in SERA will be extended until further notice, so hang onto that '62 membership card. Admission to the pool: Children under 12 - 15¢, Adults and young 'uns over 12 - 25¢. Lifeguards will be on duty at all times the pool is open.

ODDS & ENDS

BIRTHDAY BELLES & BEAUS -

April 29 - Don Bailey, Cecil Braddy, Jim Moser, Billy Simpson
May 1 - R. D. Weatherford.

FIRST QUARTER REPORT - Copies of Shell Oil Company's First Quarter Report are now available in Room 132, Main Office Building.

SUPERVISORS MAILING LIST: Mary Fay Sherman, who keeps up with such things, asks that anyone on the supervisors mailing list who changes departments please let her know immediately - so's she can route your mail properly and you can keep "up to date" with the news of the day.