

# shellegram



SHELL OIL COMPANY  
HOUSTON REFINERY

SHELL CHEMICAL CORP.  
HOUSTON PLANT

VOL. 22, No. 3

HOUSTON, TEXAS

MARCH, 1957

## Chemical Progress Week Set in April

### Two Towers In Production

Two new towers in the Toluene area of the Distilling Dept. went into use in mid-March as the Refinery moved closer to the production of three new solvents for the paint, varnish and dry cleaning industries.

One of the new columns was placed on stream to replace two older columns in the production of "VM and P" solvents, a product the Refinery has been producing since the 1930's. It was planned that the two old columns would be ready to go on stream in April for the production of an important new product—Shell Sol 72, an odorless paint thinner.

The second new column was expected to go on stream this month taking over the production of mineral spirits from the vacuum column. Later in



V. J. McCoy, Public Relations Representative for Shell Oil Company (left) discusses plans for Chemical Progress Week with G. F. Johnson, Research Dept. Both men are representing Shell Chemical as members of a joint committee that is making plans to let the public know about the chemical industry.

the year, this new column together with the vacuum column will produce two additional new grades of mineral spirits.

### Court Hands Down Decision Making TCP Patent Possible

The Judge of the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia recently ruled that Shell is entitled to a patent for Shell gasoline with TCP additive.

He said tests have shown that a TCP additive "substantially reduced the fouling of spark plugs and helped cure some of the difficulties, especially in connection with airplane engines."

The Judge further stated, "There would seem to be no doubt that the inventors in this case made an important discovery, namely, the ability to eliminate or at least substantially to reduce the fouling of spark plugs by the addition of the chemicals to gasoline fuels containing lead compounds."

The court expressed the opinion that "the forward step taken by these inventors was far from obvious..." and that "it took a couple of years of experimental work on the part of a group of trained men to arrive at a solution."

According to Shell, the essential work on the invention was done at the Company's Wood River Research Laboratory. The patent application names as inventors Vernard Yust and John L. Bame, both of Shell's staff at Wood River.

The judge's decision said gasoline with TCP additive

received "widespread acceptance" by the Air Force, by other corporations and in other countries. Shell said 10 billion gallons of TCP gasoline have been sold in the United States in addition to many billions of gallons in other countries since the discovery was made.

Total U. S. petroleum production in the past 10 years is valued at 62 billion dollars—about equal to the total value of all other minerals, metals and fuels produced in the U. S.



C. U. THERE

Says don't forget to put that extra cash to work earning money for you at your Credit Union. He reminds you the Credit Union is a two-way street—money for you in emergencies and money for the money you invest. Will he see you there?

Next month 830,000 persons, who derive their living from some phase of the chemical industry, will celebrate Chemical Progress Week, April 8-12.

This is one time in the year when the entire industry makes an effort to let the American people know the contributions made through developments in chemistry. Another important goal of CPW is to interest promising young people in a career in the chemical industry.

Today the chemical industry is the fourth largest in the United States, employing 830,000 people in 11,000 locations. No other industry can offer the opportunities to be found in chemistry. Statistics show that the chemical industry provides six times as many rewarding careers for professional and technically-trained workers as the average of all manufacturing industry.

Not only does the worker in chemistry provide beneficial products for his neighbors, he aids in their financial support. Such people as merchants, bankers, doctors, automobile salesmen, policemen, teachers and newsboys make their living from the payroll of this plant. Estimates show that four people and their families are partially supported one way or another by one person on the Houston Plant payroll. It is then possible to say that

the Houston Plant employees aid in the support of almost 7,000 people in this area.

The industry is making a continuous effort to improve the living standards of every man, woman and child in America. During one year the industry spent over \$360 million for research and will provide the ground work in the development of hundreds of new products.

Today there are more than 8,000 different chemical products available that make living more comfortable. These products cover many fields such as agriculture, medicine, clothing, building and furniture.

In its effort to provide more and better products the industry will spend, next year, approximately \$2.5 billion on domestic chemical construction and millions more on research.

Such an expanding industry needs qualified people to help maintain its continued growth. Unfortunately there is now a shortage of such people.

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### Work on Administration Building Resumes at Ref.

Construction work on the new Administration Building at the Refinery was resumed in March after some two months of inactivity caused by

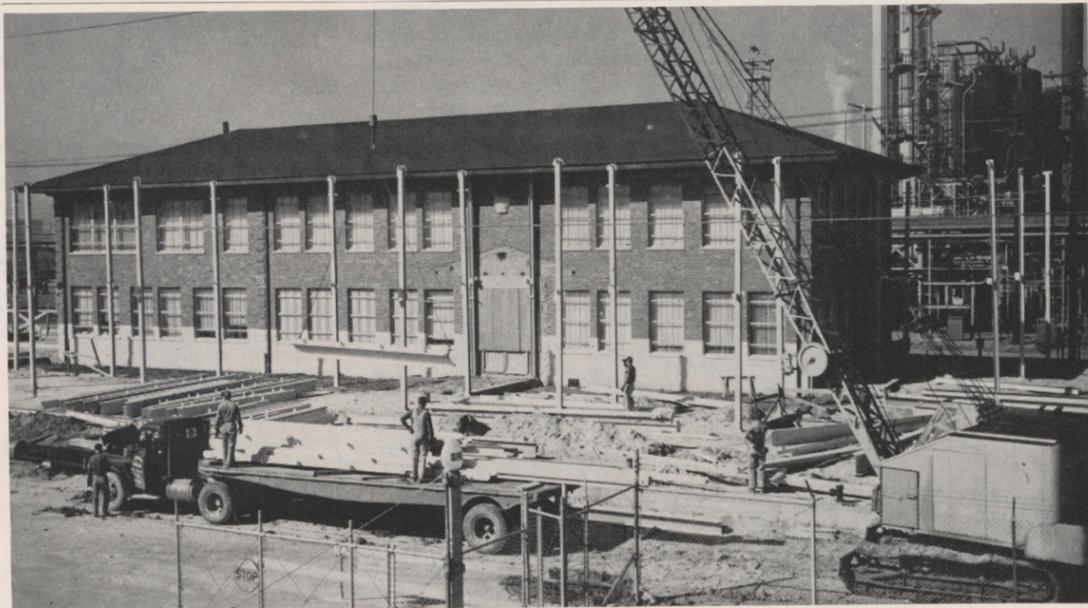
the shortage of structural steel.

Meanwhile, work continued to move ahead satisfactorily on the new Research Building with July 15 set as a tentative completion date.

Since the steel for the Administration Building was the structural frame work of the building, its unavailability caused practically all work to come to halt until its arrival. The presence of this material means that the new office building may be completed by about Sept. 1.

When the new building is completed, it will be occupied at first primarily by persons now using the old Administration Building. The old structure will then be renovated.

Upon completion, the two will be joined by an inclosed walkway across a 20-foot courtyard and personnel will be finally located in permanently assigned areas in the two structures.



The long-awaited structural steel for the new Administration Building arrived at the Refinery Feb. 28 and was quickly unloaded to get construction work underway after a delay of some two months.

## Shellwood Pool Opening Slated

The swimming pool at the SERA Shellwood grounds will be opened sometime in May, it was announced by Charlie Stebbins, Pool Chairman.

An exact date for the season opening will be announced later, but it was promised that special opening-day events will be planned.

The pool was constructed last summer and was opened on Sept. 23. It stayed open for only two weeks, but attendance at that time indicated considerable interest in the facility. SERA officials predict the pool will be a favorite summer spot for Shell employees and their families.

### Shell Dividend Announced

The Board of Directors of the Shell Oil Company recently declared a regular quarterly dividend of 50 cents a share on common stock.

It was to be payable March 22 to shareholders of record on March 11.

## SERA Makes Change

# Vending Service Expanded, Improved

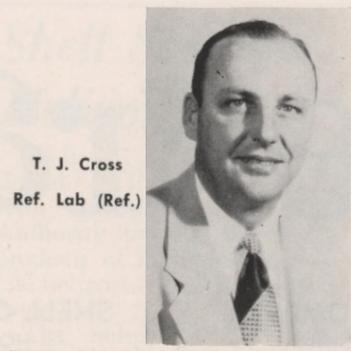
A revised and enlarged vending machine service under the sponsorship of the SERA was put into effect at both the Refinery and Chemical Plant at the end of February.

One of the major changes is the presence of an employee of the Canteen Service Co. on fulltime six-day duty at Shell to service the machines of that organization. This means that vending machines should be filled or repaired within two hours of notification that service is required.

The new system, with Canteen Service having a contract for a majority of the business, was put into use following a six-month survey conducted by a committee of the SERA Executive Board under the chairmanship of Jack Hatcher (Ref. Dispatching). The survey group looked into the problem of bottle losses, profits and type of service rendered before recommending that new bids be received from various vending companies.

Canteen Service was awarded the contract because it offered higher profits and more satisfactory service.

A total of 17 new machines have already been added



T. J. Cross  
Ref. Lab (Ref.)

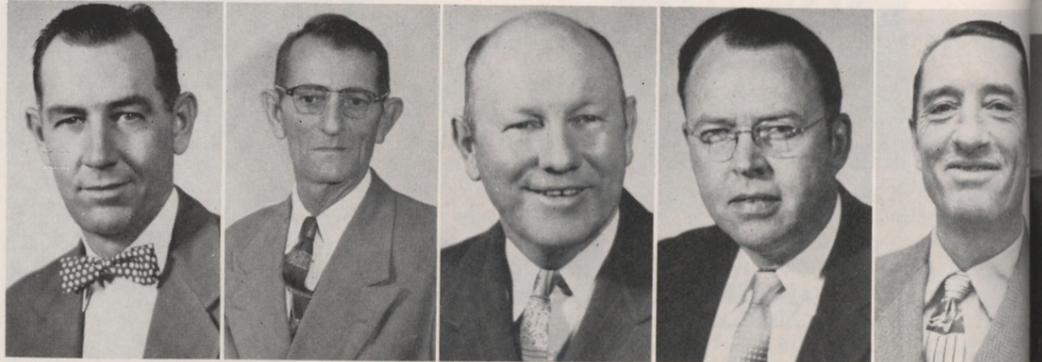
## Old License Plates Can Help Children

What are you going to do with your old auto license plates?

How about turning them in at any Shell station to aid the Houston Council for Aphasic Children?

The council will sell these plates as scrap to help finance the operation of its school which treats victims of aphasia. Aphasic children are those of average or higher intelligence who are unable to communicate properly because of damage to the brain by injury or disease.

## 15 Years Service



J. B. Davis Jr.  
Stores (Ref.)

W. J. Driskill,  
Eng.-Field (Chem.)

D. R. Julian  
Eng. (Ref.)

M. L. Renquist  
Gas (Ref.)

R. B. Simms  
Opr. (Chem.)



D. O. Starnes,  
Opr. (Chem.)

N. A. Tippit,  
Opr. (Chem.)

H. R. Willingham  
Eng.-Field (Ref.)

R. A. Wilpitz  
Research (Ref.)

J. D. Wood  
Eng.-Field (Ref.)



J. T. Harlan

## J. T. Harlan Goes To Nuclear School

J. T. Harlan has been transferred from the Houston to Head Office-Manufacturing Development Department Senior Technologist.

Harlan was a Senior Technologist at the Houston and had been here since 1948. His new duties will be focused on exploring nuclear engineering and radiation chemistry as they may relate to business in both the present and future.

Before beginning his assignment Harlan will attend Atomic Energy Commission International School of Clear Science and Engineering. The first half of his months' course will be held at North Carolina State College and the remainder at Argonne National Laboratories.

## Provident Fund Pays 3 Percent

A distribution of 1956 earnings at the rate of three per cent a year was announced recently by the Trustees of the Shell Provident Fund.

These year-end earnings are being credited to members' accounts and statements showing the additions are to be mailed as soon as possible.

The Trustees also authorized a provisional earning rate of three per cent from Jan. 1, 1957, to the date during the year when a person terminates his membership because of retirement or resignation. This act enables outgoing members to get final account settlements without having to wait for the establishment of an official 1957 earnings rate.

Approximately 6,200 persons drowned in the U. S. in 1954.

**DON'T KICK THE MACHINE**  
For Service:  
Call  
P. M. Sarver (Chem. 393)  
H. K. Kaiser (Ref. 329)

It was pointed out that if the new paper cup machines prove successful, bottle machines may be completely eliminated.

The survey indicated that at least 100,000 bottles were lost or broken in the past two years, which at two cents each, added some \$2,000 to the operational costs of the recreation group.

Persons working in areas that do not now have vending machines nearby may request a particular type of service. Such requests should be cleared through the department manager concerned. Machines will be furnished if the need is apparent and managers involved agree to their installation.

The new drink vending machines are supplied with Coke, Dr. Pepper, root beer and non-carbonated orange. Two of them are in the Refinery Shops and one each at the Main Gate Washhouse, Labor Office and Docks. There are two in the Chemical Plant Shops.

New milk machines went into the Treating Dept. and the Labor Office, while two coffee-chocolate machines were placed in the Refinery Shops. New candy outlets were placed at Platformer No. 1 and at the No. 2 Boilerhouse. Cigarettes are available from new machines at the Refinery Main Gate Washhouse, Engineering Office, Labor Office and Field Office.

SERA Business Manager Fay Hilliard and Assistant Kemper Kaiser pointed out that revenue from the machines goes a long way to help their group meet the annual budget.

**JOE & MOE** by G. B. DUNN  
Paint Shop



## British Ambassador Visits



The British Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Sir Harold Caccia (right), visited the Refinery March 13 where he was the luncheon guest of Refinery Manager John Tench (center). On the left is J. C. B. Richmond, Her Majesty's Consul General at Houston. Following lunch in the Refinery Cafeteria, the group went on a brief tour of the Refinery. Sir Harold was in Houston for a two-day official visit.

## SERA Board Is Considering Improvements at Shellwood

The SERA Executive Board recently has been studying ways of securing funds for rather large-scale improvements and additions to the family recreational facilities at the Shellwood grounds.

A number of improvements designed to make the facility more attractive to family picnics and outings are being contemplated and estimates of the costs involved are now being gathered. Before any final go-ahead is given on these major expenditures, the Board said it plans to submit the proposition to the membership in order to determine the desires of the majority.

### BE SURE TO VOTE

As the **SHELLEGRAM** went to press, the SERA was mailing a letter to the home of each member explaining the proposed changes at Shellwood. The members were being asked to vote on the proposition of holding two smaller picnics this year instead of the large picnic with the money saved to be dedicated to the suggested improvements.

Improvements or additions which are being contemplated include the following in an approximate order of importance as visualized by the Board. The number of proposed projects actually completed would depend on the amount of money available.

1. Club House changes: (a) Installation of a complete kitchen, (b) Building an adjacent 40x80 foot concrete patio, (c) Covered walkway from the building to rest rooms.

2. Three or four complete sets of playground equipment for children including such items as slides, swings, merry-go-rounds and sand boxes.

3. A relocation, enlargement and complete modernization of the boat landing slip.

4. Two or three good piers on the edge of Clear Creek for fishing or temporary mooring of boats.

5. New rest room facilities near the master barbecue pit.

6. Installation of two to four circuits of outdoor lights around the grounds.

7. More small, family-size barbecue pits, tables and benches.

8. Some first class horse-shoe pits and shuffleboard areas.

9. One fully-equipped, lighted tennis court.

### Shell Plans to Construct England's Tallest Building

Plans are now made for the construction of what will be England's tallest building. The new structure will be 27 stories tall and will cost an estimated \$85 million. It will be called the Royal Dutch Shell Building.

## At Knock Test Lab

# Two New Engines Up Capacity

The steady purr of engines in the Refinery's Knock Test Laboratory will soon get louder as two new gasoline testing engines join the eight other machines already in use.

The seven-day, around-the-clock operation of the Lab helps the Refinery meet specifications on its products, especially automotive and aviation gasolines. Foreman W. O. Hopper and his men help keep those high octane ratings in gasoline.

A rigid, high octane requirement for new Super Shell was one of the main reasons for the current expansion of the Lab. In order to turn out more precise test results and assure the most economical blending of component parts, the Lab is turning to multi-testing. This process of taking several ratings on the same material means that more engines are required.

Also, increasing numbers of octane ratings are required in connection with the work currently being done by the Research Dept. for the improvement of high octane gasoline.

### More Repair Time

The additional machines will give the Lab motor mechanics more time to work on the engines and keep them tuned up to top performance. This should materially improve the precision and accuracy of the tests obtained from all the engines.

There are two knock test methods for motor gasoline which are called Motor Method and Research Method. One of the new engines is designed for easy conversion to either

method while the second engine is only for the Motor Method. Research Method motors simulate auto engines operating at low speed. The Motor Method engine is geared to high speed operations. Each type is necessary in the testing of Super Shell octane ratings.

When the expansion is completed, six of the Lab's engines will be used to test motor gasoline; three, aviation gasoline, and one, diesel fuel.

The two new engines will be located in a separate, self-contained room which was constructed by completely enclosing the old barrel area in the rear of the main Knock Lab building. A new barrel rack site is also under construction. Each area is approximately 14x30 feet.

### New Air-Conditioning

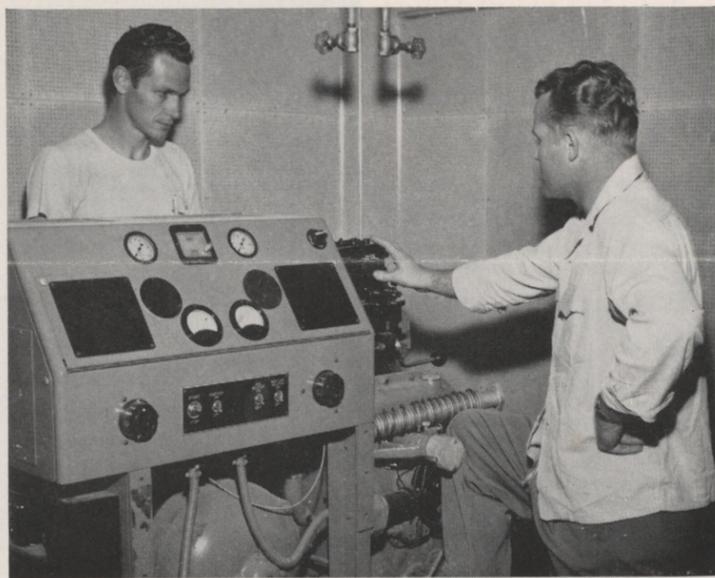
A new air-conditioning unit with its own cooling tower was installed to take care of the room which will have its own blending and testing equipment, thus making it completely self-sufficient.

Another recent improvement in the Lab's operation is the use of quality control charts which permits keeping a closer check on the octane ratings of finished gasolines and various products as they come from the operating units. For example, monthly charts are maintained on Cat Cracked gasoline and Stabilized Platformate, two of the most important components of Super Shell.

An unusual rise or drop in the octane ratings of these products will show on the quality control charts. Then the Lab can get in touch with the operating department concerned to see if some operational change caused the difference or if check testing is required.

Similar charts are being used to keep a close watch on engine performance to help keep test results up to the rigid standards.

The enlargement of the Lab, Hopper said, will mean that it will be the second largest knock testing facility in the Gulf Coast area.



Getting acquainted with one of the new knock test engines which will soon go into use are T. F. Funderburk (left) and C. E. Shirley of the Knock Test Lab.



Foreman W. O. Hopper of the Knock Test Laboratory of the Refinery Laboratory looks over one of the two new engines being installed for octane rating tests.

### Traffic Regulations Work FOR You, Not Against You!

- Drive safely and courteously yourself.
- Insist on strict enforcement of traffic laws.

**WHERE TRAFFIC LAWS ARE OBEYED - DEATHS GO DOWN!**

Support Your Local Safety Organization

## Big Bore Rifle Club Asks Members Sign

All employees interested in becoming members of the SERA-sponsored Big Bore Rifle club are asked to sign up officially and pay their \$3 initiation by April 15. SERA is underwriting most of the expenses of the club, but the extra \$3 will be needed to pay for special equipment that SERA cannot finance.

Information may be received from and dues paid to the following: At Refinery, John Temple, Ref. Lab.; Clifford Sudduth, Machine Shop, and A. L. McLain, Cat. Cracker. At Chemical Plant, R. L. Cryer, Operations, Les Bassinger, Shipping Lab.

Reserves of crude oil and natural gas liquids now stand at a record 35.5 billion barrels, almost three times those in 1931, although use of petroleum has more than tripled since then.



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JAKE KOBLER, Editor  
(Refinery)

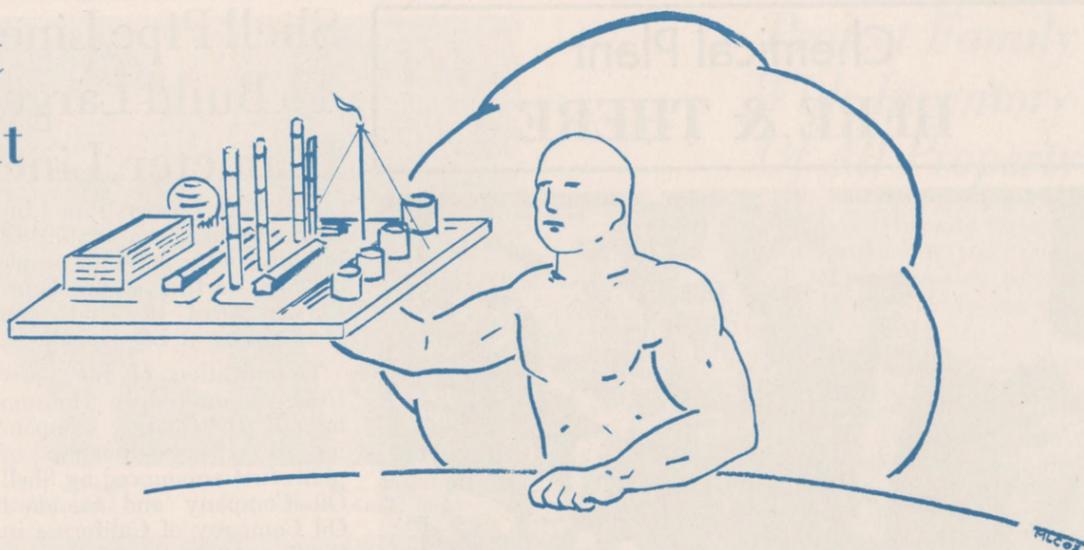
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# Steam—A Friendly Giant Serves The Chemical Plant



## A Versatile Force to Provide Power for Machines; Heat for Product Processing

A powerful, yet invisible giant surges silently through the Chemical Plant, lending a strong arm to our production systems.

This giant is born of heat and pressure and is called "steam." Steam provides power to this plant at a rate of 800,000 pounds an hour or 19 million pounds a day.

An example of steam's brute force is found on present-day Naval aircraft carriers. Through the use of a steam launching device, airplanes can be more safely catapulted from flight decks. This device is powerful enough to throw an automobile one mile straight into the air.

### Has Many Uses

The uses of steam in this plant are on a slightly different plane. It is used all over the plant for such things as powering pumps, compressors and electrical turbines; but its greatest use is one of supplying heat for product processing.

Often, white clouds can be seen rising from this plant and many attribute these to the steam system. Fortunately this is incorrect since that would be a loss of valuable heat. Also, the steam travels through a tightly closed system of insulated pipe. According to J. W. Eberman, Manager of Utilities Dept., "The less steam visible in a plant the more assurance there is that it is well engineered and con-

structed."

### Refinery Supplies Steam

All but 10 per cent of the steam used in the Chemical Plant comes from the Refinery through large diameter, mile-long lines. Two boilers within this plant supply the rest.

Production of steam at the Refinery is carried on in several groups of boilers, each group producing steam under different pressures and temperatures. These boilers are capable of producing approximately 2,650,000 pounds of steam an hour.

To change one pound of water into steam takes 1,000 BTU's (British Thermal Unit—measurement of heat). One BTU is about the heat produced from a lighted kitchen match, and will heat one pound of water 1° Fahrenheit.

Steam produced at normal atmospheric pressures will not reach the temperatures needed at this plant or the Refinery. Therefore, something must be done to raise the temperature. This can be accomplished by increasing the pressure in the boilers or by super-heating the steam under a constant pressure. Use of the super-heating method can raise the temperature of steam well over 600° F.

### Plan Use In Plant

During the Chemical Plant's early years, plans were made for the use of steam. Certain basic requirements had to be met and the fewer differences

in temperature requirements, the easier it would be to set up a workable system. When the study was completed, it was decided that plant process heating requirements could be satisfied best with 50 psig (pounds per square inch by gauge reading) steam which would attain a temperature of 298° F.

All operating departments

can be achieved because the steam only loses 10 per cent of its heat value when used in this manner.

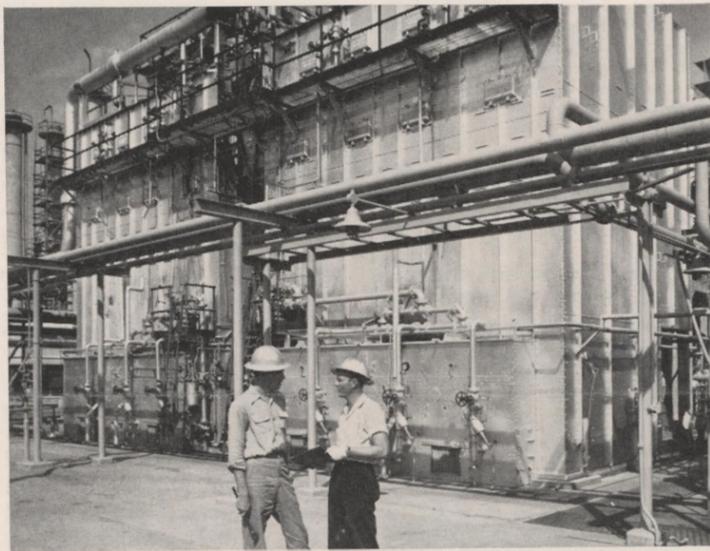
### Water Recovered

After steam has done its job, whether it be in a manufacturing process or powering a machine, it loses some of its characteristics. This usually happens when the steam has transferred its heating facili-

ties to a product in the making. Because the temperature is reduced it causes the steam to partially condense, or return to its original form—water. The water thus derived must be removed from the system.

Removing excess water is done through the use of "water traps." As water accumulates in the steam pipes, it runs into a small reservoir, which is the trap. When the water reaches a certain level it is forced out into a return system that takes it either back to the Refinery or, in some cases, to the plant's cooling water system.

Steam, as a moving productive force, has been used in America for decades. It is surprising to think that in this world of never ending change, steam has not been replaced.



Boilers pictured in background provide about 10 percent of steam needed in this Plant. D. D. Koehn (left), Operator No. 1, and Z. C. Webb, Operator No. 1, discuss information on clip-board before making pressure gauge readings.

## Shell Provided Olympic Fuel

Shell went to the Olympic Games at Melbourne, Australia during November and December, providing fuel for the symbolic torch and flame which burned continuously throughout the Games.

The cone-shaped torch used at Melbourne was the same one that was specially designed and manufactured by Shell for the 1948 Olympic Games at Wembley, England. It was fueled with a special hexamine naphthalene mixture in tablet form.

Shell propane was used to fuel the flame, which was smokeless and capable of withstanding high winds and heavy rain. The size of the flame was controlled by a valve in the fuel supply line.

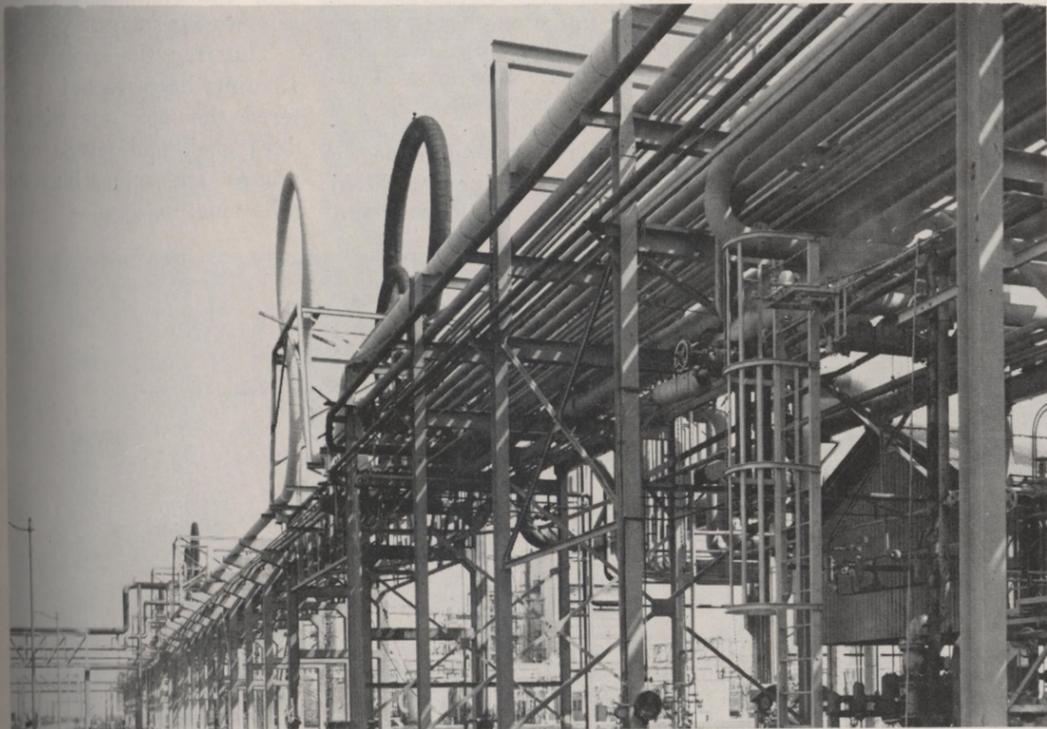
Shell diesel fuel was used to heat the water in the big Olympic swimming pool.

have a use for steam in their processing systems. Its specific use will depend on the product involved and the technique used.

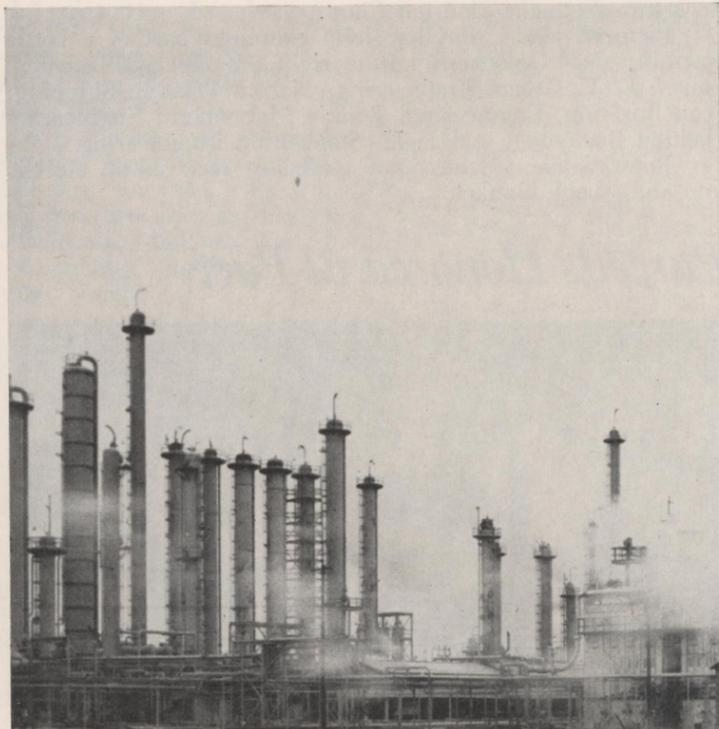
Many times, preparatory to using the steam in processing, it is first used to power machines like steam turbines, pumps and compressors. This

ties to a product in the making. Because the temperature is reduced it causes the steam to partially condense, or return to its original form—water. The water thus derived must be removed from the system.

Removing excess water is done through the use of "water traps." As water accumulates



Expansion loops shown at top center of picture are highly necessary in bringing steam from Refinery to Chemical Plant. Walls of main pipes are thick and unflexible, so to take care of expansion and contraction due to heat changes in pipe these loops provide the necessary flexibility.



Many plant processing units reduce temperature in these units by letting heat escape into the atmosphere. This condenses in cold weather to look like steam clouds.

### Chemical Plant HERE & THERE



Chemical fishermen gathered around to survey their unusually large catch are: O. J. Poymkal, Boilermaker Helper No. 1, W. R. Lindsey, Zone Foreman—A Area, S. G. Scurlock, Boilermaker No. 1, J. L. Stinebower, Boilermaker No. 1, B. C. Hart, Rigger No. 1, J. H. Connolly, Counterman No. 1, R. B. Bush, Toolroom Foreman, (behind him, his brother), J. D. Brown, Boilermaker No. 1, J. M. Sammon, Boilermaker Helper No. 1, and A. H. Duff, Boilermaker Helper No. 1. Also along on the trip but not pictured are: L. Asbill, Counterman No. 1, H. L. Hopkins, Boilermaker Helper No. 1, N. A. Shepard, Boilermaker Helper No. 1, J. D. Cole, Boilermaker Helper No. 1, and M. D. Moore, Boilermaker Helper No. 1. It took less than two hours to make catch.

### Fishermen Make Huge Catch

A stalwart group of Chemical fishermen braved high winds and sea to bring in what should be one of the largest red snapper catches of the year.

In about an hour and one-half 18 men caught an estimated 2,000 pounds of fish, and this did not include the little ones they threw back. The reason for the short run was the weather.

The men were out on a commercial fishing boat off the coast of Freeport when a norther came up and forced the boat to return.

### Christensen and Walker Given Parties



Phyllis Christensen and Rose Walker, both of the Engineering Dept. were recently honored at parties marking their departure from the Houston Plant.

Pictured above, Phyllis (left) examines part of a bottle warming set. Onlookers, left to right are: Diana Blackmon, Stores; K. F. Green, Engineering; Norma Weston, Shipping; Jean Burleson, Engineering; Bonnie McLennan, Engineering (behind Burleson), and F. H. Stephenson, Engineering.

Rose Walker (pictures not available) received an electric iron and a baby blanket.

### Purcells Honored at Party



Guests watch Glenn and Mrs. Purcell prepare to cut cake during 25th wedding anniversary party held at home of H. L. Shores. Pictured left to right are: Mrs. M. H. Cogan, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Maycock, H. A. Dufresne, Mrs. J. H. Laws, (behind Mr. and Mrs. Purcell) Mrs. R. M. Oaks, Mrs. J. W. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Shores, Mrs. H. A. Dufresne, Mrs. George Harlan, Mrs. Joe Eberman and F. G. Reitz.

### Shell Pipe Line To Build Large Diameter Line

The Four-Corners Pine Line Company has been established to construct a 600-mile crude oil line starting at the Four-Corners area of Utah and terminating at Los Angeles.

Organization of the new firm, announced in Houston by six participating companies, is a crystallization of plans first announced by Shell Oil Company and Standard Oil Company of California in October 1956. The following firms hold stock in the new company: Continental Pipe Line Company (10%); Gulf Oil Corporation (20%); Richfield Oil Corporation (10%); Shell Oil Company (25%); Standard Oil Company of California (25%), and The Superior Oil Company (10%).

R. G. McIntyre was elected president of the company. He retired January 31 as chairman of the board of Standard Oil Company of Texas and as president of the Pasotex Pipe Line Company.

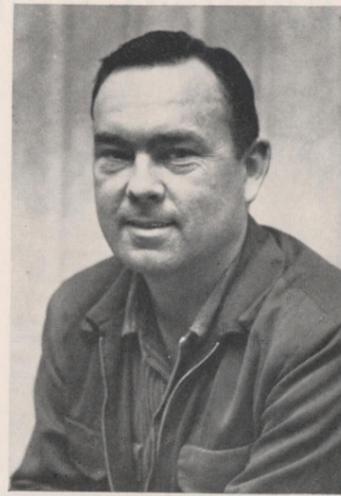
The new line, to cost an estimated \$50 million, will have an initial capacity of 60,000 barrels per day, McIntyre said. Ultimately, capacity could be increased to 160,000 barrels per day, by increasing the number of pump stations along the route, he added. Shell Pipe Line Corporation, which will construct and operate the line as agent for the company, has completed much of the preliminary engineering work and construction will start with initial delivery of pipe in April of this year. It is expected that crude shipments out of the Four-Corners area can be started by the end of 1957.

McIntyre's announcement said further: "Westward movement of Four-Corners oil is both logical and essential because of California's ever-increasing requirements for crude and the proximity of Los Angeles refineries, which are 400 miles closer to the Four-Corners area than are the major U. S. Gulf Coast refineries. We feel that this line will provide a real service by establishing another source of crude oil for the Pacific Coast's expanding economy, while stimulating development of what promises to be a major producing area."

### New Supervisors

Chemical

Refinery



J. B. Dillard  
Craft Foreman—Welding



B. R. Cole  
Craft Foreman—Machinist

### May Choose Alternate Award

Shell employees celebrating 25 years of Shell service may now have a choice of a watch or an atmospherically-controlled clock as a service award.

The announcement of the of the LeCoultre Atmos Century Clock to the awards program was made this month when it was reported that employees who have already received a watch will be allowed to purchase one of the clocks at a price equivalent to the Company's cost. The P & IR Dept. is handling orders for persons interested in buying a LeCoultre clock.

This clock which is powered by atmospheric temperature changes retails for \$99.50. It measures 8 7/8" high, 7" wide and 5 1/4" thick.



The Atmos Clock

### Chemical Plant Revises Safety Areas; Erects New Safety Boards

The Chemical Plant's Fire and Safety Section has completed a plan to revise the Plant safety areas. They have also replaced the safety bulletin boards, located near the Main Gate, with new ones that reflect the new picture of departmental safety records.

Rather than grouping large segments of employees together under one heading they are now broken down into small units. This type of division will give each group a chance to build a good safety record without hindrance.

Since the Engineering Field Dept. is the one department

that groups several divisions under one heading, it was divided into ten units. The units are: Field Office, Shop, A, E, G, P&R, and S Area and Shift Maintenance, Construction and Transportation.

The Fire and Safety Section is hoping that employees each unit will make their goal the completion of safe working days. Thus far, the employees 13 units have reached or entered the 365 safe working days goal, and several of groups are approaching milestone.



The men pictured above represent all of the crafts in the Engineering Field Dept. Behind them is the new Safety Bulletin Board. It will be up to these men and everyone else in the plant to make every day a safe work day.



REFINERY  
Eng.-Field

- L. L. Raybon III
- C. E. Taylor
- F. E. Otto
- C. W. Holt
- B. E. McElroy
- W. B. Thompson
- A. M. Wardell
- R. L. Dillard
- J. O. Steambarge
- B. L. Jordan
- D. R. Murph
- H. M. Lucas
- B. W. Passmore
- C. R. Baker
- B. C. Bowden
- R. W. Smith
- M. A. Stark
- J. E. McNamara
- G. C. Smith
- C. C. Bobbitt
- R. W. Esproson
- D. A. Ellis
- A. N. Skipper
- S. F. Millsap
- C. R. Watson
- A. D. Brown
- J. H. Massingill
- B. D. Crawford
- P. R. Myers
- D. J. Minnick
- R. O. Young
- J. R. Bolton

Research

- C. J. Williams
- H. C. Hillman
- R. H. Harvey

Technological

10 YEARS  
Refinery

- J. H. Morris, Research
- R. J. Pitts, Eng.-Field.

Chemical

- E. W. Clark, Eng. Field.
- D. A. Davidson, Eng. Field.
- B. F. George, Shipping.
- B. P. Jones, Eng. Field.
- J. N. Lanier, Eng. Field.
- C. A. Parker, Opr.
- O. N. Snell, Opr.
- E. F. Walzel, Opr.
- D. D. Winner, Treas. Dept.



CHEMICAL

- Jan. 19—Carolyn Lois, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kresta, Shipping Dept.
- Feb. 18—John Clay, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Ciuzio, Lab. Dept.

REFINERY

- Mar. 16—James Gail Elrod, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Elrod, Treasury, at Pasadena Hospital, 8 lbs. 15 oz.

In 1955, 1.4 million gasoline pumps poured almost 48 billion gallons of gasoline into the fuel tanks of the nation's motor vehicles. This flow supplied the liquid power for travel over U. S. highways that averaged a million miles every minute of the day.



R. L. Davis  
Eng.-Field (Ref.)



R. T. Effinger  
Eng. (Ref.)



A. J. King  
Therm. Crack. (Ref.)



Antonio Padilla  
Eng.-Field (Ref.)



C. W. Posern  
Gas (Ref.)



W. C. Smith,  
Research (Chem.)

## Small's Garden Gets Attention

Refinery Gateman Earl Small has a lonely job down at the Construction Gate, but he attracts a lot of attention from the hundreds of persons who pass on the La Porte highway every day.

As Earl said, "Folks never used to pay much attention to this gate as they went by, but they all look over here now. And just wait till it gets warm."

The reason is Earl's garden. When he went on duty at the gate last August, weeds and grass were growing up around the gate house. As he says, "I started from scratch." Now there are five flower and vegetable beds and part of the grass growing around the building is St. Augustine planted there by Earl.

Even the non-gardener can

recognize some of the plants and flowers along the fence—two dozen rose bushes, zinnias, marigolds and beets. But the proprietor himself will be happy to give visitors a tour of his gardens, proudly pointing out his althea, cape jasmine, crepe myrtle, holly, hibiscus and amaryllis.

Now that the hard work of preparing the beds has been completed and the plants are in, Earl has turned his attention to refinements. He has poppies planted in the shape of a star around a utility pole. A neat, brick border outlines one of the beds. And weeds are non-existent in this garden, proof of Earl's devotion to his pastime.

He is looking forward to warm weather, blooms on his plants, and more visitors. Jokingly he said, "When I get flowers blooming here, I'm going to have to take a stick to keep the ladies away."

Many friends have given him seeds, cuttings or plants for the garden. He also admits to "taking a lot of them from my wife's garden at home."

Earl appears to be well equipped with tools—a hoe, shovels, water hose and other tools are neatly arranged beside the guard shack. And on the steps sit two muddy work shoes, attesting to many hours in the garden.

Why does Earl do all this work?

It's obvious he likes plants and gardening; the work helps pass the lonely time, and as he said, "I figured all those people going by would like a little something pretty to see."



Refinery Gateman Earl Small gets ready to use a hoe on the weeds that popped up in the middle of his beet patch. Small's garden at the Refinery Construction gate promises to be a beauty spot this summer and even now attracts much attention.

## Protect Family With Inventory Of All Property

Will your family have any trouble collecting your money and property which may be so greatly needed in the event of your death?

One way of assuring them of these benefits is to make a complete inventory of what you own—what they are to receive. Such an inventory may be included in a will, but no matter what its form, it should tell the location of everything valuable now in your possession.

It should also be a complete list of insurance you have been paying for all these years—what company? what policy number? how much is it worth?

List your other possessions, even though they may be perfectly obvious to you. Tell your family that you own that piece of land in West Texas; that you have a savings account in a bank somewhere.

In addition to property there are other things your family should be able to find easily and quickly if you should die. Birth certificates are often needed. A Social Security card will make it easier for them to collect that government benefit. Tell your family where these documents are.

Provide them information about income because they will have the responsibility of filing your income tax report. List the names of Provident Fund beneficiaries.

Make certain your property deeds and automobile certificate of title are in good order so that the family will experience no difficulty in settling claims to these items.

And above all, do these things now. Tomorrow may be too late.

## CHEMICAL

Continued from Page 1

At present, only half of the top third of our high school graduates go on to college. The serious loss to the future intellectual and scientific resources of the nation represented by those qualified students who fail to continue their education is one of the problems that must be solved.

According to John R. Hoover, Chairman of the Board, Manufacturing Chemists' Association, "It is estimated that we shall be short 216,000 scientists and engineers in four years. Today we are training only half the number of chemists, engineers and scientists that will be needed to keep our economy going at the rate we have been planning for."

Chemical Progress Week is a partial answer to the problem. But advertising the merits of the industry is not enough, every person working in the industry should try to interest young people in following such a career. A solution must be found, for scientific manpower is a critical resource, a precious commodity.

## Missing E May Be Thee

Even though my typewriter is a new model it has one key that does not work very well. It is true that there are 42 keys working fine, but just that one key can make all the difference in the world.

Sometimes I feel that a safety program might be just a little like my typewriter—not all the people are working properly. The one person not working properly may say, "Well I am only one person; I won't make any difference."

But you can see it does make a difference because a safety program to be effective needs the active participation of every employee.

So the next time you think that your efforts are not needed, remember my typewriter and say to yourself, "I am a key person in our safety program and I am needed very much."

20

Years

Service



Many of L. O. Knigge's friends gathered at the welding area of the shops building to wish him well on his retirement. As party gifts Knigge was given a power grinder and a white shirt. Left to right are: J. B. Worthen, Boilermaker No. 1, Knigge, and E. H. Browning, Maintenance Foreman.

## L. O. Knigge Retires From Chem. Plant After 28 Years

L. O. Knigge, Craft Foreman-Welding, has retired from Shell Chemical, ending 28 years of service.

Knigge began his career with Shell Oil Company at the Houston Refinery in 1929 as a Welder No. 1. When, during World War II, the Chemical Division began producing synthetic rubber, Knigge was assigned to that division. In 1946 the Chemical Division was made a part of Shell Chemical Corporation and Knigge was officially

transferred.

In 1953 he was promoted to Craft Foreman-Welding, the job he held before his retirement.

Since Knigge began welding in 1918 at the Galveston Shipyards, he plans to continue after his retirement. He already has an extensive array of welding equipment that will help him set up a small repairs shop. As Knigge put it, "I have been doing welding work for almost 40 years and I see no reason to stop now."

## Retired Chem. Employee Dies

J. T. Squires, who retired from the Houston Plant in 1951, died on March 10. Funeral services were held in Pasadena.

Squires is survived by his wife, Nellie Florence Squires of Pasadena.



## Shields Retires After 20 Years

Thomas W. Shields, Craft Foreman, Machinist in the Refinery's Engineering-Field Dept., retired March 1 with some 20 and one-half years of Shell service to his credit.

Shields, who began work at the Refinery on Aug. 10, 1935, as a machinist, plans to remain in Houston, where he owns a home at 7717 Adrian. Although he has not made plans for a specific retirement activity, he plans to get in a lot of time on his hobby of repairing clocks, radios and other small appliances.

During his career, Shields was made an assistant foreman in July 1943 and a foreman in Sept. 1954.

## Shell Plans To Introduce New Motor Oil

A new and improved formulation of X-100® Motor Oil-Premium will be introduced early in April wherever Shell Oil Company products are marketed.

The new formulation was developed in the research laboratories at Wood River and Martinez Refineries and is another product resulting from coordinated research between these two laboratories and Shell Development Company's Emeryville Research Center.

The new Shell X-100 Motor Oil-Premium, while retaining all of the high performance features of the former product, offers these outstanding improvements: 1) Improved engine cleanliness because of its resistance to low temperature sludge formation. 2) Reduced combustion chamber deposits under all driving conditions. 3) Reduced valve and ring groove deposits. 4) Greater anti-freeze tolerance. 5) Outstanding anti-wear, both in low temperature stop and go and high speed, high temperature operation, and 6) Superior anti-rust and corrosion quality.

The advances made in Shell X-100 Motor Oil-Premium were made possible by a combination of new additives and chemical ingredients.

One of the basic characteristics of the new product is that it automatically meets the viscosity requirements of changing temperatures. This multi-graded feature will give motorists top performance from their cars under any weather or driving conditions. X-100 Motor Oil-Premium meets all requirements as the engine temperature varies up and down.

Both X-100 Motor Oil-Premium and X-100 Motor Oil are being marketed in a newly-designed container and carton. The Premium oil container, in both quart and five-quart sizes, has a white background with the white X-100 outlined in red. Shell X-100 Motor Oil containers have a red background with the red X-100 outlined in white.



News of Refinery Employees

## Retiree Dunham's Son Honored

Arlen Dunham, son of J. L. Dunham, Pipefitter No. 1, retired Jan. 1, for the second straight year was named one of two winners of the Arthur Weinert Memorial Award for outstanding football play at Texas Lutheran College. The award was made at the annual Rotary-Lions Club football banquet in Seguin.

A 1953 graduate of La Porte high school, young Dunham also was named to the All-Texas College team chosen by *Dallas Morning News*.

## Cannon Receives Recognition

Recently honored by the *Baytown Sun* for his work as Cub Scouts was H. J. Cannon of Engineering-Services. A picture appeared in the newspaper as one of a series on Scout leaders in the Baytown area.

He is Cubmaster of Pack No. 163 which is sponsored by the Lakewood Civic Club. The paper pointed out that Cannon spent nine years in the Scout program in Vermont before coming to Texas.

## Wischhusen Is Club President

F. B. Wischhusen, Shift Foreman in the Lube Oil Dept., has been elected president of the Manchester Civic Club, an organization with some 700 members. Wischhusen replaced H. C. Blaylock, Dispatching Dept., who was president during the past year.



## Three Researchers Return

Three members of the Research Dept. recently returned to the Refinery after spending several months working on a two-stage cat. cracking unit at the Anacortes Refinery.

They are R. A. Wilson, R. G. Lutz and M. G. Geiger. Geiger came back with a souvenir of his life in the snow country—a broken ankle suffered in a skiing accident.

## Morton Resigns Post

J. E. Morton, Jr., of the Refinery Laboratory, recently resigned his seat on the Deer Park City Council after serving for the past five years. Morton moved to Houston which was the reason for his resignation.

## "Refinery Lab" Is Now Official Name

Refinery Manager John Tench last month announced that the name Control Laboratory has been officially changed to Refinery Laboratory. The official change was made to describe more accurately the scope of services provided by the organization. The three general divisions of the Refinery Lab are Technical, Inspection and Laboratory Services.



Machinist Craft Foreman T. W. Shields mounts the platform to thank his fellow workers for the lawnmower and saw they gave him upon his retirement after more than 20 years of Shell Service at the Refinery.

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