



shelletter

HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 85

Thursday, February 28, 1963

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

OPERATIONS

Takin' a wide angle look around us on this last day of February: For the last few days the Distilling Department spotlight focused on a tall column in the LOFU - the butylene fractionation column to be exact - where a retraying job was in hot and heavy progress.. Then came Tuesday (February 26) - the men with the wrenches and other assorted tools stepped back - said "Operator, it's all yours" - and waited to see the results. It didn't take McClellan's Minute Men long to find that it worked....in fact that same afternoon they were swinging back into operation....Today they reached design production on the unit....The LVI shutdown continues on schedule in Lubricating Oils Department....and while in Lube Oils, we mustn't overlook the fact that MEK deoiling is back in operation after being down for a couple of weeks due to stock position....Then moving on around, a couple of "quickie" shutdowns were pulled off in rapid fire order....the alky depropanizer in the Gas Department was down yesterday and back up today; and a gas compressor in alky did "down and up" today....And in the Aromatics Department a one-day job on the TEDC to replace a broken valve went off without incident.

EMPLOYEES EVENING MEETING

Upwards of 250 employees turned out for the Evening Meeting in the Hash House Monday and listened to comments by Leonard Wilson, Harry Walker, and Jack Kelbaugh. The talks outlined "where we are", and answered questions that came up from the group. Wilson reported on the return to work at Norco and Wood River, and commented that his conversations with Managers at both locations indicated that the return of the hourly employees had gone smoothly. He said that at Norco, some staff employees continued in operating roles following the end of the strike so that hourly employees could be trained for their new duties. At both locations the voluntary retirement plan is being accepted by many employees - including some staff employees who have chosen to take advantage of an incentive retirement plan. Wilson went on to restate Shell's position in the local strike, and his desire that a conclusion be reached in the strike here that proves acceptable to both parties and results in a return to work of our hourly employees. Jack Kelbaugh discussed developments in the NLRB case and described in detail exactly why Shell attorneys objected to the subpoenas issued a few days prior to the hearing to Wilson and Jim Hyde, Chemical Plant Manager. (As you know, the case on the Union's charges shifts to a Federal District Court March 7 where the legality of the NLRB subpoenas will be determined.)....Harry Walker commented on the new rotating work schedules which go into effect Monday, March 4, for all shift workers....Walker pointed out that the new schedules, combining both eight- and twelve-hour shifts over a full operating cycle, are an attempt to satisfy the divergent preferences of virtually all operating employees. At the close of the meeting the Hash House crew served up filet steak dinners....and the line formed to the right.

SAFETY

Refinery Manager Leonard Wilson chose the occasion of the Employees Evening Meeting, Monday, to reflect upon the past safety accomplishments at the Houston Refinery, and his personal interest in an aggressive safety program. He took a moment to recall his own experience with the eye-opening safety records compiled at the Norco Refinery in recent years....saying that such records are possible only when employees accept safety as a "way of life". To point up his strong support for our safety activities here at Houston, Wilson announced a new safety program that is just getting underway. The "master-minding" of the new program will shift from department-to-department within the Refinery, with each responsible department doing the "thinking up" of ways to keep us on the safety path. Right now the ball is in the hands of Floyd Good and his Gas Department "thinkers". We'll be watching for some new safety approaches from this group in the next few weeks.

(Over)

(Over)

SAFETY (Cont'd.)

And a last day reminder - that TODAY is the LAST day to submit entries for the March Safety Slogan contest.....Drop your entry in the Refinery Mail - or place it in the big green box marked "Safety Slogan Contest" in the Hash House.

And another safety-gem by Hallmark: The three principal causes of fires are.....MEN... WOMEN...and CHILDREN.

CAFETERIA

With the change in hours for operatin' folks, the Hash House does a quick double-step to fall in line.....Startin' Sunday, March 3, the Hash House will close at 7:30 p.m. and continue this revised schedule as long as the 12-hour shifts are in effect (two weeks). Then, with the return of the eight-hour shifts, the Hash House will remain open until 12:30 a.m. (The "opening up" time of 6 a.m. remains unchanged.) Also, for the people coming on shift Sunday, March 3 for a two-shift spin, the special snack table will be set up at 2 p.m.....that way you'll have a chance to get that midnight snack on your way to the job that afternoon. Thereafter, while the 12-hour shifts continue, the snack table will be wheeled to center stage at 7 p.m. each evening.

ODDS & ENDS

RESEARCH WIVES MEET: The Shell Oil Company Research Wives Club meets Monday evening, March 4, at 8 p.m. at the San Jacinto State Bank in Pasadena. Two films will be shown: "Turn the Wheels West" (a tour through the National Parks of the Western United States); and "Your Home as You Like It". Everyone is welcome.

SCRAP LUMBER: Jones Lake will be open the next two Saturdays (March 2 and 9) for scrap lumber for you "do-it-yourself" wood workers.....The area will be open all day each time. Enter and exit by way of the Refinery Main Gate. No advance arrangements are necessary, just tell the guard at the Main Gate where you're going - then check back with him on the way out. And the price is right - it's FREE!

FOUND: A pocket knife - by John Schroeder....in the employees parking lot this past weekend....If it's yours, give John a call at extension 234 and describe your loss. He's working Schedule 1.

SERVICE SYMBOLS: 15 Years - Lee Hill (March 3)

BIRTHDAY BELLES & BEAUS:

- February 27 - Carl Posern
- February 28 - Clarence Sharpe
- February 29 - Leo Schultheis
- March 1 - Jim Landry, Hank Anderson, Ed Patterson
- March 3 - Herb Wagoner, Murel Milburn

TV GOLF: "Shell's Wonderful World of Golf" originates in The Hague (Holland) this Sunday, March 3, with a match between Byron Nelson and Gerry de Wit. The show may be seen over Channel 2, KPRC-TV, from 3-4 p.m.

WE HOPE you noticed....there was no SHELLETTER yesterday....A low flying flu bug got loose in the household....SO now we can call today's issue our WEEKEND EDITION, since the boss said we'd be off the hook for a Friday publication inasmuch as we're drainin' all our news sources for today's effort....See you Monday.

