

# SHELLEGRAPH

HOUSTON  
REFINERY

"YOUR INFORMATION HOT LINE"

No. 85

Friday, June 19, 1964

TO ALL EMPLOYEES

HOUSTON REFINERY MAKES REVISIONS  
TO ACU IN AROMATICS DEPARTMENT

A project to install an improved process for the recovery of aromatics is currently underway in the aromatics concentration unit at the Houston Refinery.

In making the announcement, Refinery Manager L. T. Wilson said revisions to the unit are due for completion in the first quarter of 1965.

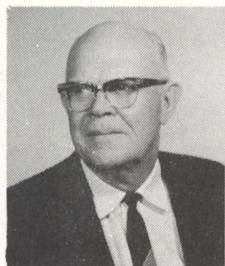
Primary products of the ACU are benzene, toluene, and xylene - used for a variety of purposes as raw materials in the petrochemical industry. Secondary products are paraffinic solvents used primarily in paints, inks and edible oil extraction.

At present a combination extraction distillation process known as phenol extraction distillation is used in the recovery of these products. The new process - sulfolane extraction - is a liquid extraction method which utilizes Shell-designed rotating disc contactors. Incoming feed is mixed with a solvent - sulfolane - in the contactor to affect the separation of aromatics. Two contactors, one for the sulfolane extraction step and the other for water washing of a product stream, are the only major pieces of new equipment to be installed.

When completed the revisions will allow Shell to increase total aromatics production at the unit through higher recovery of the aromatics in the feed. They will also further improve the purity of the products. Toluene purity, for example, will be increased from 99.7 to 99.9 + % which will significantly widen the market applications for this chemical. The quality of the by-product paraffinic solvents will also be improved.

Another major benefit of the project will be in reduced utility costs since the heat requirement of the extractive distillation process is greatly reduced in the liquid separation process.

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SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



H. M. ARCHER  
ENG. FIELD  
35 YEARS



T. L. WILSON  
DISPATCH. DEPT.  
35 YEARS



Q. C. STANBERRY  
LUBE OILS DEPT.  
25 YEARS



L. E. VAUGHAN  
ENG. FIELD  
25 YEARS



SHELL HANDS across the Divide....The above picture was taken recently when the Refinery's Dan Urbanek (left) was on a temporary assignment at the Ciniza, New Mexico, Refinery. Shaking hands with Dan is Jarl Winters of Shell's Los Angeles Marketing Office. The Continental Divide is located nine miles east of the Ciniza Refinery. Dan spent several weeks at Ciniza lending technical assistance shortly after Shell acquired the refinery from the El Paso Natural Gas Products Company.

TEN YEARS OF GOVERNMENT PRICE-FIXING

This June marks the tenth anniversary of a Supreme Court decision which has left an entire industry and its 35 million customers in a state of growing uncertainty.

On June 7, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Federal Power Commission was responsible for setting the prices producers of natural gas charged the interstate pipelines which carried the fuel to consuming areas of the country. Prior to 1954, natural gas prices were set competitively; only interstate

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SAFE  
WORK  
DAYS

RUBY POLLOCK'S NEPHEW ADDS UP HONORS

Ruby Pollock of the Refinery's Lube Oil Department is a "proud aunt" these days - because of the accomplishments of her nephew, Robert Pollock, a recent graduate of Jesse Jones High School. Bob graduated Summa Cum Laude, and was tied for first place with two other seniors for Class Valedictorian. He maintained a straight "A" grade average in school, and was a member of the National Honor Society, All-City Orchestra, and All-State Orchestra. A National Merit Scholarship Test finalist, Bob also won the Jesse Jones High Mathematics Award. In September he enters Rice University, majoring in bio-chemistry.

PRICE-FIXING (continued)

pipelines were federally regulated.

The court ruling left the commission with a difficult job: to regulate and set prices for thousands of competing gas producers. Some observers have called this a hopeless task.

At first the FPC used the "cost-of-service" method whereby prices were to reflect a producer's costs plus a reasonable return. This method was found to be unworkable. At one point, the commission reported that it would have taken until the year 2043 to get current with its rate cases even if the commission's staff were immediately tripled. That was in 1960.

The case-by-case cost-of-service approach was then abandoned in favor of a system of area prices.

Under this method, the commission has divided the country into 23 areas. It has set temporary ceiling prices for each area pending the completion of hearings at which final prices will be determined.

For more than three years, the commission has been holding hearings to help determine what the final prices should be in three of these areas. The testimony from these hearings has filled 30,000 pages and included 337 exhibits.

With 20 areas still to go, producers have become convinced that area pricing is no more workable than was case-by-case cost-of-service pricing.

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C L A S S I F I E D S

FOR SALE: 17' glass boat; fully equipped including 35 h.p. Johnson electric motor, two 6-gal. tanks, dash controls, running lights, anchor, trailer with 12" wheels. Boat and motor in first class condition. \$800 cash. Call K. I. Stonequist, WA-6-5505, 7335 Dallas.

FOR SALE: Westinghouse electric range; 40". \$20. Call OL-4-0474.

FOR SALE: Mark IV auto air conditioner; \$50 cash or will trade for large refrigerator. Call GR-9-1831.

WANT TO BUY: '55-'59 model clean used car. Cash. Call D. H. Wheeler. GR-9-2538.

FOR SALE: 1959 Chevrolet, Impala hardtop; air-conditioned, excellent condition. Call GR-3-5914.

FOR SALE: 1960 Dodge Polara, air, power, 38,000 miles. Call GR-3-5914.

FOR SALE: Executive-type home situated on beautiful, wooded lot; convenient to both grade and high schools and to shopping centers; near Gulf Freeway and Airport in Overbrook-Sims Bayou area. Home has three bedrooms, two baths, large den, living and dining area; built-in gas kitchen, two-car garage; lots of closets and storage space. For sale by owner. Call MI-9-5546.

FOR SALE: Country estate - peace and quite of country living with the latest modern conveniences. Located in Harris County near Channelview. Large 1-1/2 story, fireplace, exposed beams, bookcases, window seats, large windows. Completely modern kitchen. Central air conditioning. Two years old. Home located on almost two acres of ground with lawn fading into beautiful native woods. Call GL-3-3549.

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