



# shelletter

## HOUSTON REFINERY

"It Strikes Us This Way"

No. 36

Friday, November 2, 1962

TO ALL STAFF EMPLOYEES

We welcome back with us, Refinery Manager John Tench, hale and hearty -- and recovered ... he's back at his post, and, according to John, "...glad to be here."

... And did any of you see that elusive seven millionth barrel of crude go gurgling past? Too bad, 'cause we had a nice prize awaiting the winner. But with no winner this time, we'll just have to save those free meal tickets for another contest.

### OPERATIONS

Over in the Platformer 1 area of the Aromatics Department, the labors of some of our folks who found time for a little construction work are starting to pay off. The absorber-stripper at Plat. 1 is being tested, and if all the little gadgets say "A o.k.", we'll have an entirely new system going for us shortly. We've assigned one of our ace correspondents to keep us posted on this fast-breaking news story, so you - our faithful reader - will be one of the first to know ... Back in business as of 6 a.m. yesterday: the LHT Unit in the Lube Oils Department, and right now the LHT's "best by test" products are being sent to storage. Total down time for this unit was a brief four days, and this drew a comment of "surprisingly good" from Process Superintendent L. J. Snyder ... That Frigid Monster, the Greer, coughed up some more wax slabs yesterday, and a fresh, new Task Force was there, ready to do what came naturally.

### SAFETY

Louie has been looking over the First Aid cards again, and making a few notes on what he saw. "Glad to see almost all cards show only injuries of a minor nature; however, the cause and cures should be emphasized to keep them from being too numerous -- and not major. Just to illustrate: Head bruises can always be avoided by developing the habit of wearing a safety hat. Chemical burns on the hands rarely happen if we're wearing rubber gloves. With just a little more attention we can avoid those contacts with hot lines ... and tools handled properly will not leave scars on your hands." Case closed ...

### ASIAN FLU

For those of you who missed the "Shoot Out at Casey Clinic" yesterday and this morning, a make-up day for giving the Asian Flu shots will be held next Tuesday, November 6, from 2:30-3:45 p.m. And the location of this production: the hallway next to the Refinery hospital.

### TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE

We heartily appreciate the immediate response to our request to complete and turn in the traffic questionnaires. A large quantity of completed forms were received this morning at the two deposit stations located at the Receptionist Desk in the Main Office Building and at the Main Gate. We hope these forms will be a means of improving the present situation, and the large number already turned in should prove quite helpful. Also, we'll be looking at your suggestions and recommendations as other possible courses of action unfold. The majority yesterday voted for three outgoing lanes -- you've got 'em today. So keep turning in the questionnaires as the occasions warrant.

### CAFETERIA

Here's something we bet many of you didn't know about: A Shell-staffed Health Inspection Team inspects the facilities of our Hash House regularly. Under their close surveillance

(over)

comes the over-all cleanliness of the Cafeteria (both dining room, serving line, kitchen, and storage areas), and sanitation practices of the Hash House crew in the preparation and storage of food. When they're through, this team has given our Hash House as good a "going over" as City Health inspectors do ... And do you know how we stack up? EXCELLENT ... So here's a pat on the back for our Hash House employees for doing a first class job all the way around.

ODDS AND ENDS

SIGN OF TIMES: November 1 brought early morning birthday greetings to Gateman W. P. Zuber as his colleagues in khaki joined in tuneful remembrance ... It was the first day of winter for the gatemen, too, as the wool uniforms (without long-handles) came out of packing for a few months' wear.

ADIOS... and Good Luck: to Ben Baldwin, who leaves us today ... California-bound Ben becomes the Manager of the Technological Department at the Wilmington Refinery.

CUTIE CLOSE-UP: Pity the single young working girl, who, when the clock tolls 9 on Saturday night must tell her date, "Gotta go home, I'm working the 12-8 at the Refinery tonight." And praise to the young, faithful beau ... who believes her.

HEAD OFFICE MANAGEMENT LETTER

SHELL STATES F.T.C. CHARGE OF PRICE FIXING IS NOT JUSTIFIED

The Federal Trade Commission filed a complaint October 25 against Shell of price discrimination and price fixing in Georgia in 1958.

The F.T.C. complaint alleges that beginning in October, 1958, Shell sold its gasoline to certain of its dealers in the Smyrna-Marietta, Georgia, area, as well as other areas, at lower and more favorable prices than it sold to its competing dealer-purchasers. The Commission also alleges that about the first week in October, 1958, Shell conspired with some of its dealers in the Smyrna-Marietta area to fix the retail price at which gasoline would be sold by the dealers' service stations.

W. F. Kenney, Vice President and General Counsel, said in a statement concerning the charges: "We are surprised to learn that this action has been brought so long after the price disturbance that occurred at Smyrna in 1958. The matter was investigated by the Federal Trade Commission in 1959, and no complaint was filed against Shell at that time. We are confident that none is justified now."

The complaint against Shell follows one made in 1959 against American Oil Company alleging price discrimination by American in the Smyrna-Marietta area at the time of price disturbance in October, 1958. One of American's defenses in that case was that it was acting in "good faith" in meeting Shell's price.

The F.T.D. ruled against American in the case. The F.T.C. trial examiner and the majority of the Commission found that Shell's price--the one met by American-- had been illegal. One of the Commission members raised a question concerning the ruling in view of the fact that Shell had not been made a party to the case. Apparently this provoked the Commission into filing this complaint against Shell at this late date.

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