

# Leamy retires after 43 years

Harry Leamy, process manager in Gas, retires April 1 after nearly 44 years at the Wood River Refinery. If anybody here knows all about the operations side of the refinery, Harry has to be one because he has "done it all."

After receiving his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, Harry started as a "trainee" on July 1, 1930. "The program for trainees was to put you on virtually every job in operations so you knew the refinery firsthand," said Harry.

"We worked shift work. We went from department to department, working a few days as gauger, a few days as fireman, a few days as operator, and a few days as 'foreman.' Being 'foreman' consisted of nothing more than following the real foreman around.

"The intention was that the trainee eventually be exposed to all operating departments. But this was the middle of the depression. After about a year, the refinery superintendent, Mr. Schippers called the six trainees together and explained they couldn't keep us on in that classification.

"He offered to retain us, but only on the bottom operations job -- gauger 3rd. He gave us a few weeks to search for other jobs, but remember this was the depression. All six of us came back and accepted the

gauger 3rd job, and were happy to get it. From a formal education standpoint I guess we were about the best qualified gauger 3rd's around."

Harry was a gauger at the old Trumble units -- now distilling. He remained on that job until December, 1932, when he finally became an "engineer" again. Harry said, "I think the title was 'process stillman' then. Same as process engineer now. In those days the department manager was called 'head stillman.' Horace Dale was my head stillman."

Harry Leamy can personally attest to the fact the refinery has changed over the years. He recalls plants, the names of which only students of Wood River history would recognize because they are no longer in existence.

Harry said, "There was the Schultz Plant. It was part of the lube side. It was a fractionating unit for sour lube stocks, but it never seemed to come up to expectations. The Lochman Plant was supposed to be a precise fractionating column for light hydrocarbons, but it was a real bust.

"The TVP (true vapor phase) was another bust although not as bad as the Lochman Plant. It was a cracking unit.

"They weren't all losers, obviously. We have many processes which have stood the test of time. Others worked well but have been replaced with improved processes. In addition to the Trumbles, I've worked on the Cross Plants which were coexistent with the early Dubbs'.

"In the early forty's we built an SO<sub>2</sub> plant called the Edeleanu. On Pearl Harbor Day the 4x12 shift came in and told us about the attack. We were shocked.

"Carvel Grammer, a shift (Continued on page 4)



Harry Leamy  
Process Manager Gas

## Refinery sponsored junior achievers see trade fair as profitable experience

A-going-INTO-business sale? In these days of the merchandisers mirage ... the continuous, going out of busi-

ness sale ... that is a refreshing approach.

Well, that's what happened February 8 and 9 on the mall at

River Roads Shopping Center in St. Louis. Some 200 Junior Achievement (J.A.) mini-companies sponsored by 60 St. Louis/East-side corporations staged the affair.

Junior Achievement companies are formed by high school students under the tutelage of local business men and women. They learn about the business world by literally "going into business": electing officers, producing and marketing items, filing reports and, hopefully, reaping profits.

### Shell-companies

The refinery sponsors six J.A. companies in Alton/Wood River. Thanks to some persistent convincing by Frank De Lapp, auditor in Treasury and center coordinator in Wood River, the six companies shared a large booth in the center of the activities: a prime location.

Over \$200 in sales were chalked up by the young entrepreneurs. They sold: love lites and flicker lamps, ice

scrapers, auto trouble lights, wall plaques, grocery list pads, salt and pepper shakers, and a game called "leapin' tees."

Frank said, "We still have a few of these items left if anyone is interested. Just contact me or one of the J.A. advisors at the refinery."

### Enthusiastic group

Enthusiasm ran high in the Shell group. At one time or another virtually all the advisors were there, not to mention an exceptional representation of the achievers.

Sam Hutchinson, engineer in Engineering Office and center coordinator in Alton, said, "Saturday we had about thirty kids in the booth at one time. Most stayed all day long."

Frank said, "It was a well spent time for both the advisors and achievers. It gave us all an opportunity to see how other companies in the St. Louis area were doing, and to get some good ideas for future products."



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! Carpools aren't always without goof-ups. Like the time Leroy Carrell's group forgot and left him at the gate. They got part way home before they missed him and turned around. But all members of this pool swear it's the only way to go. To learn more of their story SEE PAGE 3.

## Southern Illinois oil field tries for new life chemically

Benton, Illinois is about 25 miles northeast of Carbondale. Or, if you will, about ninety miles southeast of the refinery. Near Benton is an oil field, aptly called the "Benton Field." Sadly, apt as well is the description of the Benton Field . . . it's called "kaput" meaning pretty well finished.

Now, while the word might cause the experts to groan and raise their eyebrows a bit, they would have to agree. Both primary and secondary recovery methods have already been implemented.

Originally the field, discovered in 1940, produced some 30,000 barrels of crude a day, but the production eventually dropped to 1,500 barrels. It bounced back up to 10,000 barrels in 1952 following initia-

tion of a waterflood project (secondary methods).

But in 1968, production sagged to only 300 barrels a day ... and that's "kaput." Late in 1972, however, something happened to the Benton Field that may save it, and many other "kaput" fields.

Since primary and secondary recovery methods often leave as much as fifty percent of the oil in the ground, Shell researchers have been struggling for many years to find a way to more fully produce a reservoir.

So this southern Illinois field is in the midst of an exciting test -- a third or tertiary recovery step. The test involves a chemical flooding of the field. Joe Reisberg, senior staff research chemist for Shell Development, says they are try-

ing to drive oil out of pores in rocks much like detergent drives dirt out of the family wash. But in this case, the researchers are working with oil trapped in rock pores that are only 10 microns, or .0004 of an inch, in diameter.

Actually, chemical experimentation began in Benton as far back as 1968. Unfortunately, early tests proved only moderately successful. But it did show the R&D people that chemical flooding would work. The experimentation with different chemical "recipes" went on, until in mid-1972 the researchers believed they had found the correct combination.

Daily, critical mixtures of chemicals are carefully measured and pumped into six injection wells. Samples are taken to insure the correct chemical proportions. Production wells are tested approximately every two weeks to determine the progress of response. The results of these tests are constantly sent back to the engineering and research staffs for more detailed analyses and surveillance.

But the many people who have worked for so long on this project will have to wait longer to see if their formula works.

It may take 15 to 20 years before anyone can call the experiment a complete success. By that time, according to the researchers' speculations, all of the chemical will have moved through the area, bringing with it 80 to 100 percent of the remaining oil. This tertiary recovery method, once perfected, could have applications that would change the pattern of many existing Shell oil fields.

So, if the chemical flood project is a success, the Benton Oil Field will not only again become a major producer, it will be a milestone in the industry. And that's a lot to say for a field that at one time could only be called "kaput."



SOLD! As William Huntsman concludes a sale to a satisfied customer, Dwight Cannon eyes the cameraman as another potential bargain seeker. Both Dwight and William are members of the "BBC" JA-company in Alton. Dwight is the son of Joe Cannon, pipefitter 2nd at the refinery.

# Sports and shorts

## Top ad designer

Chris Foederer, daughter of Herb Foederer, accountant in Treasury, was named the grand prize winner in the annual Draw-an-Ad contest sponsored by the *Edwardsville Intelligencer*. Chris, an eighth grader at St. Boniface in Edwardsville, picked up \$40 for her efforts and her ad appeared in the *Intelligencer*. Chris' ad, for Bonanza Siroloin Pit, invited the readers to "Buckle up your saddle and skedaddle to Bonanza for a family treat."



Chris Foederer

## Shell keglers bowl over Olin

The annual Shell/Western bowling match was nabbed by Shell this year; by 544 pins. Nine five-man teams competed for each side. Losers paid for the bowling. Shell teams won 18 of the 27 total games played. Three Shell bowlers had 600 series' and 36 more bettered 500. Ray Robinson of Engineering Projects topped all Shell bowlers with a 651. Dale Williams and Olin Buhr of Research had 602 and 601 respectively. Red Raffety of Inspection bowled the high Shell game of 244. John McConnell of Engineering Field had a 242. Shell's number two team had the high single game for either side with a 1011 scratch. Shell's number three team bested all comers with a 2858 scratch series.

## Fishing contest begins

The annual SRA fishing contest is underway. It will run through October 15. Awards will be given for bass, crappie and bluegill. To assure all fish stories are on the level, Andy Corsere, tinner, Jack Ridinger, safety inspector, and James Jarvis, yardman, will be the official judges. Copies of the contest rules can be picked up at the main and south gates. For further information call SRA board member Jim Rench on plant phone 221.



Elli Richardson

## Elli tracks down varsity letter

Elli Richardson, daughter of D. B. Richardson, formerly of the Research Lab and now at Head Office, was the first-ever coed to win an athletic letter at Washington University in St. Louis. In fact when she joined the team she was the first female on an NCAA college division men's varsity team. She was a regular on the cross country track team this last season. Elli is a sophomore and intends to be back for the action next year.

# Danger: poisonous plants carry no labels

Ah, springtime is upon us! It's time once again for "children" of all ages to take to the outdoors ... the backyard, the park, the woods ... and enjoy the budding plants and flowers of nature.

But beware! Not all of nature's pretty things are good for us. Some of these plants and bushes are poisonous -- and they don't carry any labels as warning.

A Seattle, Washington, study revealed that ten percent of the child poisoning cases they observed were where the youngsters had eaten toxic plants. In the majority of these cases the parents themselves had had no idea these plants were dangerous.

## Pretty deadly flowers

A survey of both the classroom and the home is likely to turn up some of these potentially dangerous plants. The dieffenbachia, for instance, a common genus of indoor plants, have stalks containing needle-like crystals of calcium oxalate that, if chewed, can become embedded in the tissues of the mouth and tongue, causing swelling. A woman in Cleveland nearly died a couple of years ago when her swollen tongue began to block the air passages to her throat.

The leaves of the lovely oleander bush, another indoor plant, contain a deadly heart stimulant that, if eaten, could kill a child. Some people have died merely from eating steaks that had been speared



**PRETTY POISON.** This cartoon drawn by Don Boyer, son of the article's authoress, depicts another common plant that is pretty to look at but dangerous to nibble.

on oleander twigs and roasted over an open fire.

## Even garden vegetables

Your vegetable garden obviously has many good and safe things to eat. Other parts of these plants are dangerous. The family of the "nightshade plants" such as potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants and green peppers have blooms and foliage that are toxic if eaten.

Most dangerous of all plants in the vegetable garden is rhubarb. Its stalk, commonly used in baking and cooking, of course is not toxic, but the leaf blade, containing oxalic acid, which crystallizes in the kidneys, causes severe damage if

a number of leaves are eaten.

Castor bean seeds, sold in any garden store for about 25 cents a packet, contain a powerful blood poison.

Mushroom hunting is a popular pastime in this area. But the wrong mushrooms can be very dangerous. No test can prove unknown mushrooms to be safe and edible. Symptoms of mushroom poisoning include abdominal pain, dizziness, diarrhea, cold sweats and arm and leg cramps.

## Children don't know

Of greatest danger to children are the small attractive berries they find in their yards

## RETIREMENTS



Donnelly Best  
Hydroprocessing



Leo Boverie  
Purchasing



Charles Caulk  
Hydroprocessing



Willard Grandfield  
Hydroprocessing



Lewis Jenkins  
Refinery Lab



Buck Little  
Lubricants



Clarence Merkel  
Engr. Field



Steve Ostanik  
Lubricants



Sybil Seiberlich  
L. O. Processing



Edwin Suever  
Engr. Field



George Vannoy  
Engr. Field



Luther Williams  
Engr. Field

or in fields near their homes. The berries often look like wild fruit--a mouth-watering delight. Danger--their juice may be deadly.

Teach your children not to eat strange berries, fruits or plant parts. If your child becomes acutely ill and you suspect poisoning of some sort, examine the child's lips, teeth and tongue for discoloration. If the poisoning is from a berry, leaf or stem you may find the evidence there.

There are universal antidotes for these poisonings. Get in touch with your doctor immediately. If you find evidence of an eaten plant, save a specimen for your doctor.

The nearest poison control center in this area is the St. Louis Children's Hospital. The phone number (1-314-367-6880) can be called anytime.

More and more people are using natural health foods and teas these days. If you aren't well acquainted with the plant world, don't go out this spring and pick your own brews. Purchase what you need from someone more astute in these matters. Afterall, it's a matter of health.

Jeanne Boyer, refinery nurse

# Activity Schedule

Plan to attend this year's activities planned for you. Below are some of the 1974 activities for Wood River employees, pensioners and their families. Some dates are firm and others are tentative as of now. Other possibilities are in the planning stages. You will be notified of any changes or additions to this schedule. You may want to cut it out for future reference.

- Easter Egg Hunt** April 6  
Kendall Hill -- Rain Date April 13
- Spring Dance** May 3  
Collinsville Park
- Golf Day** June 8  
Cloverleaf
- Family Picnic** June 29  
Chain of Rocks Park
- Barbecue (Tentative)** July 13  
Legion Park - Edwardsville
- Fall Dance** November 1  
Collinsville Park
- Awards Banquet** December 5  
(Tentative)  
Lewis and Clark

Longtime carpoolers say:

# It's cheaper, more relaxing, and fun

Carpooling is becoming more and more popular these days, but there's at least one group of poolers at the refinery whose members qualify as experts on the subject. Do they have the experience(s)?

## Eighteen years

It all started eighteen years ago when Darlene Gross, now a senior accounting assistant in Treasury, started at the refinery. Her father wanted to be able to drive his own car once in awhile so he asked Leroy Carrell, boilermaker, if Darlene could trade driving chores with him. That started what must be one of the longest unbroken carpools (as opposed to shift busses) in the refinery.

Jules Weshinsky, supervisor in Engineering Projects, joined a couple years later, followed in 1960 by Orville Wildhaber, valve repairman. Dave Caperton, boilermaker helper, is the youngest of the group, having joined "only" 2½ years ago. All are from the Marine, Illinois, area.

## One week in five

Each participant drives a week at a time. Jules said, "It really is a convenient system. You can plan well in advance.

Since I drive only one week in five, my wife has plenty of time to do whatever shopping is necessary. It has saved me a bundle of money too because in addition to the gas, oil, etc., I've never had to own two cars."

Darlene likes the setup for another reason: "I like the idea of just sitting back and relaxing 80% of the time."

Leroy just laughs at that, however. He said, "Relax? She does a lot of womanly primping on the way to work. Whenever I buy a new car I have to make sure it has a visor mirror for Darlene."

A survey of the group revealed that a total of 18 different cars have been used in the carpool over the 18 years. Leroy said, "Darlene had an old station wagon at one time. It had really been through the mill, and got rusted out so bad that when we drove in rainy weather, a mist would come up through the floor boards. We finally persuaded her to trade it in."

## Close call

Although every member of the group is a careful driver, over the years you are bound to have at least one close call.

(And that isn't restricted to carpools.) The most harrowing experience happened when Darlene's brakes went out as they approached a stop sign.

"Luckily it turned out OK," said Darlene, "but we all got a good scare -- my knees were literally knocking. I thought Jules had been pretty cool through the whole thing because he didn't even put down the paper he was reading, until he confessed he was frozen with fear."

## Compatibility

What makes a carpool so successful for so long? Compatibility was the unanimous response. But Leroy went a little further in explaining what makes this compatibility work. He said, "It's really a sense of common courtesy -- especially on the little things."

"For instance, Orville and I smoke, but never in the car. We figure it isn't very hard to make it the 20 minutes or so it takes for the ride."

Orville said, "Everyone in the group has a good sense of humor and is able to take a little friendly ribbing. On the other hand, no one feels obligated to talk just to keep up a conversation. We've made the



**LONG TERM CARPOOL.** Fellow travelers five days a week are (from left) Jules Weshinsky, Dave Caperton, Darlene Gross, Orville Wildhaber, and Leroy Carrell.

entire trip several times with little more than a 'good morning.' We respect each other's feelings."

## How about you?

Dave said, "Two and one-half years in a carpool is a lot longer than most people have tried it, but not in this group. I enjoy it and really wouldn't

want to ride alone everyday. I expect to be a member for quite some time. Everybody who can, ought to try it too."

If you know of a Wood River carpool with a longer record than this one, or if your carpool has had some novel experiences, contact the Editor, Bill Gibson, and we'll see you get the deserved recognition.

## Engineer describes Dutch dilemma

"I saw a picture of a boy roller skating down a highway. Now that's one way to beat the gasoline shortage and the no-driving-on-Sunday law!" Les Books, senior engineer in Engineering Services.

Les spent six weeks in Europe last fall/winter, and he can attest to the seriousness of the situation over there. Les attended a Shell electronics school for instrument engineers in Amsterdam, Holland, and then vacationed briefly with his wife in Holland and England.

The roller skating episode took place in Holland. Les arrived there on the last "driving Sunday." He said, "I understand things are more back to normal now, but when I was there they had rationing and driveless Sundays. The price of gasoline has been high for a long time -- much higher than here in the U.S."

Les described the Sunday scene in Holland as like something out of a movie. He said,

"The streets and highways were pretty barren. You'd see a lot of people riding bicycles, though. Even without a gasoline shortage you see many bike riders -- including little old ladies and gentlemen."

"But I'll admit I've never seen hitchhikers catch a ride with a cyclist before. Girls wear those long 'granny coats', but they are split up the back to allow access to a bike."

Expressing great respect for the Dutch, Les said, "Holland, unlike other European countries, was completely shut off by the Arabs. But also unlike some of the other European countries they took immediate steps to handle the situation rather than wait until it had deteriorated. They also have an excellent mass transit system. Things never really got desperate like they could have."

Any other unusual sights on those driveless Sundays? "Well, there were more than just a few horse drawn carts,

and I heard of one man who was arrested when he was sailing down the highway in one of those roller sailboats. They didn't say why he was arrested--maybe he was speeding."

London has energy problems of its own, but it was due to the lack of coal rather than petroleum because England "runs on coal." Les said, "It was eerie -- stores with only an occasional light bulb. . . dim street lights, and so on. It didn't diminish the historical sights, though. We enjoyed our visit."

Was it good to get back to the States? Bet it was good to get back to a more orderly existence.

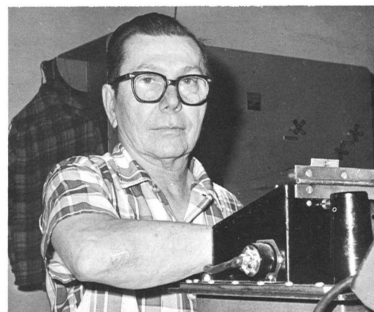
"From an energy standpoint, yes," said Les. "But we arrived home in the middle of that mid-December storm. What with delayed flights and icy streets we finally got home at 3 a.m. -- after about 8,000 miles and 36 hours without sleep."



**WATER BUS.** Mass transit takes many forms in Holland. Les Books is about to board one of the many "busses" that cruise the Dutch canals.



**JOAN SENSENEY**, secretary in Engineering Field. "I'm sorry but Messers Nelson, Moore, Hightower, Wallace, Davis, Saltich, Thompson, True and Wallace are out on projects in the plant. Can I take any message?"



**MARSHAL SLOCUMB**, tester 1 in the Refinery Lab. "I've been out here 34 years and nobody ever took my picture. Bet you won't either!"... FLASH "Well, I'll bet you never print it."

## On the job

This month a new feature is being added to the *Review*: Wood River people "on the job." From time to time your editor will be cruising the area looking for people hard at work. Watch out! You may be next.



**JIM AKERS**, pipefitter 1st. "Are these pipes heavy? Naw, I just carry them on my right shoulder to balance the chew can in my left pocket."

# Shell-wide photog contest seeks your people-pictures

Dig out your prize snapshots because the second annual Shell photography contest is now in session. The contest is open to amateur photographers who are employees or pensioners of Shell Oil Company and its divisions and subsidiaries, except members of the Head Office Publica-

tions staff. Deadline is August 31, 1974.

Eighteen cash prize winners will divide \$1,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds, with the top prize being \$300. In addition, 25 Certificates of Merit will be awarded. Prize-winning pictures will be featured in the November/December issue of

the *Shell News*. Grand prize winner will appear as a cover of a future *Shell News*.

Last year Jim Hokanson, research technician, saw his picture, "Japanese Tearoom" published as an honorable mention winner. Pete Curran, Wood River pensioner, received a certificate of excellence.

The theme of this year's contest is "Americans All." Pictures should focus on the people of our land at work and at play, in action and in moments of restfulness. They could be a mother's face as she holds her new baby for the first time; a fullback stopped at the one-yard line; a boy and a dog sharing an ice cream cone; or a black chef in a pizza parlor.

They can be character studies, mood shots, close-ups or crowd scenes. Pictures should reflect excitement, joy, humor, tenderness, anguish or fear -- all the things that make up the gift of life.

This is a color photography contest. You may submit up to six color photographs, no larger than 8 x 10, or color transparencies, preferably 35 mm or 2 1/4 x 2 1/4.

Since this is a "people" sub-



**PEOPLE PICS.** These pictures, all winners in local Camera Club competition, capture in different ways the spirit of this year's contest. "Ticket Agent" (above) was taken at Silver City by Ray Thrasher of Engineering Office. "School Party" (above right) was snapped by Gene Hightower of Engineering Field at his wife's 2nd grade class. "End of the Trail" shows Robby Robinson, Engineering Field, in Shoshone National Forest south of Yellowstone. Mrs. Robinson took the picture.

ject contest, be certain you can furnish a written "consent to use" statement by all recognizable persons appearing prominently in your pictures.

For more information about the contest and an official entry form, see the January/February 1974 issue of the *Shell News*.

## Insulation is \$ saver

Do you know the thickness of the insulation in your home? Is it enough? According to the National Bureau of Standards "full" insulation -- six inches in ceilings and three-and-one-half inches in walls -- can save as much as \$120 to \$150 in annual heating bills in a northern states home. Such insulation also cuts down on summer air-conditioning requirements.

The Bureau goes on to say their tests indicate that the installation of six inches of the proper insulation in the top-floor ceiling of the average home will pay for itself through lower fuel costs in about one year. From then on

the money saved is all gravy.

Another government study found that the money spent on "whole-house" upgrading of insulation in an existing structure would be recouped in about five years. That's a return on your investment of about 20 percent. Not bad. As the price of fuel rises, the payoff time is shortened and the rate of return increased.

If you don't know if your home is sufficiently insulated, it might well be to your personal advantage to do a little investigating and consider additional insulating protection. And it wouldn't hurt the energy situation either.

## Leamy . . .

(Continued from page 1) foreman, really got hepped up about the situation. Wasn't long before he had convinced about half of the Treating crew to join him in enlisting in the CB's. They went too! We had good representation in the war effort -- both over there and here providing product."

Harry and his wife Myrtle, like the vast majority of Wood River retirees, plan to remain in this area. Harry said, "We plan to do some travelling -- we have three sons in California

and one in New Jersey -- if we can get the gas. We also hope to spend a couple of months down south in the winter every year, but by and large we'll be staying in this area.

"There are people who will tell you there are better places to live than here. And there are people who will tell you there are better Shell refinery locations to work at. But if I had to pick again some one place to work for 44 years, I'd take Wood River Refinery all over again."

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Jess Grover**  
Engr. Field  
40 years



**Herb Gower**  
Engr. Field  
35 years



**Harold Schenk**  
L. O. Processing  
35 years



**Novie Novitskie**  
Utilities  
30 years



**John Merritt**  
Hydroprocessing  
25 years



**Ivan Swofford**  
Hydroprocessing  
25 years

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**JOSEPH KRAVANYA**, February 24. Mr. Kravanya was an operator 1 in Dispatching and had been with Shell at Wood River since 1957.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

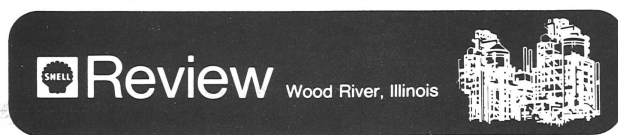
**1970 Dodge truck.** 3/4 ton, camper special, 3-foot cover, 4-speed transmission. R. LeBrun 618-931-6233

**Green rug,** 9' x 12', all wool; red Cosco push cart with chrome trim and handles; porcelain bath basin; two steel doors with frames 2' x 6'. All in excellent condition. C. Ryan 618-259-1702

**Gas floor furnace;** Magic Chef over and under gas stove; Coldspot deep freezer; 75,000 BTU gas boiler; formica top kitchenette table with chairs; Duncan Phyfe dining room table with five chairs; hay; nanny goat. H. Kuhlman 618-888-2427

**Chevrolet pickup truck.** 3/4 ton, 4-speed. Recently overhauled. Good shape. L. Ray 618-377-8947

**Found -** Prescription sunglasses in brown leather case. Employee Relations, plant phone 370.



VOL. 37, NO. 3 WOOD RIVER REFINERY MARCH, 1974

Published monthly for the employees and pensioners of Shell Oil Company's Wood River Refinery and Research Laboratory.

Bill Gibson, editor

SHELL OIL COMPANY  
P. O. Box 262  
Wood River, Illinois 62095

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
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