

Voluntary program . . .

Employees eligible for periodic physical examinations

Periodic physical examinations . . . voluntary, comprehensive and at company expense . . . will be made available to all Wood River Refinery and Research Lab employees.

Employees who are 40 years of age or older may have these examinations every two years; those under 40, every three years. Individuals must be employed three years in order to participate in this program.

Confidential

Refinery Physician Dr. Mitchell said the examination will include a thorough laboratory and clinical check-up, measurement of lung capacity and function, sight, hearing, blood pressure, and a chest X-ray. Persons 35 years and older will also receive an electrocardiogram (EKG).

The results of the examination will be strictly confidential. Dr. Mitchell said, "All of the records will be maintained in our confidential medical files and will not be disclosed without the consent of the employee."

"These examinations are designed to encourage preventive medicine. They are not meant to interfere with employees' normal relationships with their personal physicians. Any employee found to have a health problem will be referred to his or her personal

physician for treatment."

First-come basis

Recently, employees received a letter outlining the program. In order to volunteer for a physical, employees must fill out and return to Employee Relations the questionnaire that was attached.

"Individual exams will generally be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis," said Ira Snyder, Assistant Manager-Industrial Relations. "The return of the questionnaires will be the Refinery Hospital's basis for scheduling."

Snyder indicated the examination and tests will be conducted during scheduled working hours -- during the day shift, Mondays through Fridays.

Tests/exam

He said, "Roughly outlined, the sequence will go like this: The employee would be notified of the time to report to the Refinery Hospital and the need to fast (no food or liquid intake) for 12 hours prior to the scheduled time. After initial testing, the employee will be transported to Alton Memorial Hospital for additional tests and the chest X-ray, then back to the refinery and return to work."

"It'll be a week or so before we reschedule the employee for a physical exam by Dr.

Mitchell. This is to allow sufficient time to receive the test results and to have Dr. Mitchell evaluate them before the physical and the confidential consultation with the employee."

Snyder continued, "Dr. Mitchell will discuss the results with the employee. If there's a condition the doctor feels should be pursued further, he will recommend the employee consult his personal physician. Individual test results can be provided the employee's personal physician if the physician requests them."

Act now

Depending on the volume of response, if you're late in getting in your request and find yourself at the end of the line, you might have to wait many months for your physical.

If you're interested in availing yourself of this program, the time to get your questionnaire in is NOW.



APPLYING THE PRESSURE. Refinery nurse Ann Robertson checks the blood pressure of Judy Schrewe, Employee Relations secretary. Blood pressure is one of several tests that are part of the physical exam program.



Review

Wood River, Illinois



VOL. 38, NO. 3

WOOD RIVER REFINERY

MARCH, 1975

Refinery's utility bills could leave you gasping

Bills! Bills! Bills! Everybody gets 'em ... including utility bills. Even with the rising costs of energy, there are ways to conserve energy -- and therefore money -- in our homes. The article on page two covers that subject.

But the Wood River Refinery has utility bills too, and the size of them could leave you gasping.

Watt a bill!

Take electricity for instance: in January, the refinery's electric bill was \$785,000. That's more than \$25,000 a day just for electricity! At these prices, it wouldn't take much of a savings percentage-wise to add up to some real dollars conserved.

For example, is it reasonable to assume that a small process unit might have 100 lights of varying sizes? And that they total something like

25,000 watts?

Probably so. If all of these lights were left burning 24 hours a day when really needed for only 12, there would be considerable waste. Jack Szymanowski, manager of Utilities Department, estimates this would be an unnecessary waste of electricity to the tune of \$115 per month.

As summer approaches and there's more daylight, the potential for waste rises. Multiply the above example by the other units and buildings at Wood River, and up go the dollars.

Blowing off steam

The refinery doesn't "buy" steam, but it makes a heck of a lot of it. The energy required to make steam -- be it the purchased or in-house variety still has a price tag.

It costs about \$2.80 to make 1,000 pounds of steam at 600 pounds per square inch pres-

sure (psi). In running Wood River Refinery, about 30 million pounds of steam per day are normally produced. That means a cost of about \$85,000 per day is attributed just to making steam!

The refinery uses 150 psi steam for winterizing and heat tracing of pipelines to prevent freezing. Most of the steam leaks are in these types of steam lines. Typically, these leaks are around valve stems where packing has deteriorated or tubing connections which have pulled apart.

If you have a three-eighths-inch valve stem with just a sliver of a leak around it, that's about the same as an eighth-inch hole. Szymanowski calculates that a tiny sliver could blow off nearly \$40 worth of steam to the atmosphere a month.

He says it isn't unreasonable to guess there could be 150

such leaks around the refinery at any given time. And with Spring approaching ... well, the change in temperatures always seems to pop out a few more.

As the "holes" get larger and/or the steam pressure higher, the losses rise geometrically. A significant steam leak at 600 pounds pressure could easily vent 500 to 1,000 pounds of steam per hour ... or about \$1,000 to \$2,000 worth a month.

Water down the drain

Utility head Jack Szymanowski says, "Water consumed around the refinery has various costs depending upon the type: domestic, cooling water, fire water, or boiler feed. A waste of cooling water going directly to the sewer can be fairly expensive, for instance."

"While some natural loss is expected and some controlled loss on a cooling tower is necessary to maintain water quality, a lot of cooling water tower losses are just plain waste."

Jack says a half-inch diameter stream of cooling water discharging to the sewer would lose 1.5 million gallons of water a month. That's a "cool" \$350.

Air isn't free

Air isn't free? Well, the air we breathe is, but not the air used in refinery process. Most of the thousands of instruments in the refinery are run pneumatically, not to mention many tools.

The refinery air must be compressed to do its job and must be dried to avoid rust and corrosion. It takes energy (fuel) to run the compressing and drying equipment. Wood River's "air utility bill" runs on the order of \$50,000 per month. So you see, an air leak may not seem like anything to worry about, but it costs money too.

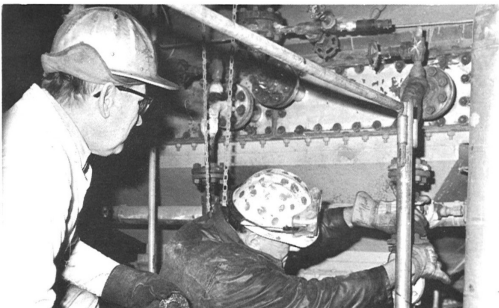
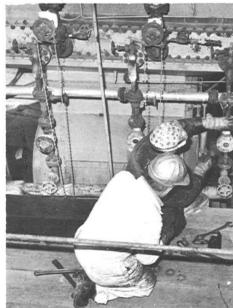
Nitrogen is another invisible gas that may not seem significant if lost, but it is. In fact, it's becoming darned expensive to waste. The price tag for nitrogen has more than doubled in recent months, and future price rises are on the docket.

Jack Szymanowski says, "If operating departments can change their operations to use air or steam instead of nitrogen in some cases, and be alert for nitrogen leaks, we could realize significant dollar savings for this increasingly expensive utility."

Be a penny pincher

By its very nature, a big refinery like Wood River uses large amounts of energy in order to make more energy. Some of the energy Wood River uses is purchased ... much of it is produced here, then used here.

Keep an eye out for leaks or other areas where energy in the refinery can be best utilized and least wasted. It takes a lot of watchers and warners to keep the utility bills down around this place ... but the penny savings can add up fast!



STOPPING STEAM LEAKS. Pipefitters Mike Matevy (left) and Dave Maddalon repair a steam leak in Utilities. Even minor instances of energy waste add up quickly in a facility as large as Wood River.

Sports and shorts

Ten-and-over barbecue

For those people who schedule vacations or trips around the barbecue (and there are some) ... the date for this year's event will be Saturday, July 12. Again, it will be held at the Edwardsville Legion Park.

Perfect Game

Jim Akers, pipefitter at the Lube D&D zone, bowled a perfect 300 game February 2nd. Jim was bowling in the Friday Night Classic League at the S & S lanes in Gillespie. He carries a 199 average in this league.

Jim strung his twelve consecutive strikes in the second game. He had a 690 series. Notwithstanding the big game and series, Jim says he, and his team, were hotter the week before when he had a 718 series and the team 3320 ... both scratch!

Watching Akers roll his first perfect game was a "humbled opponent" Bill Byots, foreman in Compounding.



Jim Akers

Shell/Western bowling

The annual, good-natured grudge match between Shell and Olin bowlers went to the Olin keggers this year by just over 200 pins. Forty-five of the better bowlers from each company competed. Bob Boetcher, loading racks operator, threw the best game (265) and best series (670) of all competitors. Shell's number 7 team, of which Boettcher was a member, had the best team series for Shell at 2859 scratch. Westerner number 1 was highest overall at 2907. High team game overall was by Shell's number 2 team: 1033.

Creative artist

Could it be there's a budding ad-man or commercial artist in the Schwab family? If so, Doug Schwab, son of boilermaker Clarence Schwab, is probably the one.

Doug, a seventh grader at Edwardsville Jr. High, was the grand prize winner in the *Edwardsville Intelligencer's* annual "Draw-an-ad" contest. His ad for Imber's Men's Wear earned him the top prize of 40 bucks. (Any freebies from Imber's, Doug?)



Doug Schwab

Easter egg hunt

The annual kiddies' Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, at Kendall Hill. Two things for parents to remember: don't be late, and stay out of the way. When the bell sounds promptly at 11 a.m., it doesn't take long for that wild-bunch of candy searchers to clean the grounds! In case of rain, the hunt will be rescheduled to March 29.

It's your money . . .

Energy savings begin at home

Only a few years ago, it might have seemed a bit unusual for oil companies to urge energy conservation. Times change. The world energy situation today virtually demands conservation -- by industry in general, by governmental agencies, and by individual citizens.

In the long view, the greatest contribution to energy conservation probably can be made by the nation's millions of householders and motorists. In short, everyone can help.

Here are a few tips -- some well-known, others more obscure. They save energy. They save money, too.

- A quarter-inch gap under an outside door lets as much air in or out as a nine-inch hole in the wall. Draft-proof your doors and windows.
- An open fire may be nice to look at, but it warms only a small area. If you use it to supplement central heating it could be pulling warm air out of the

rest of the room to support combustion. And it could confuse the thermostat on your heating system as well.

- Insulate your roof. The biggest single heat loss, 20 percent or more, in a house is through the roof. The cost of insulating an ordinary three-bedroom house should be recovered in less than two years by reduced heating bills. You know how to tell a well insulated roof in the winter? The snow doesn't melt so fast from inside heat seeping out.
- Make sure your water tanks and pipes are protected. New heating systems almost invariably include hot water tank insulation, but older systems can be insulated on a do-it-yourself basis.
- Switch off all lights when you leave a room. Overall economy and efficiency are better served by turning off

lights -- even fluorescent ones -- when not in use.

- Operate electrical equipment -- clothes washers for instance -- at their full capacity whenever possible. The motor uses the same amount of energy whatever its load. Small loads usually are far less economical.
- Repair any leaky hot water taps. Hot water heating is energy-consuming and expensive. And one wasted drop of hot water a second adds up to 650 gallons a year down the drain.
- If you keep a deep freeze packed to the top, you save energy per unit stored. Nobody is quite sure why. One suggestion is that each chunk of frozen food acts like a big ice cube and helps to keep the temperature down.
- Carrying heavy tools in the trunk of your car makes the engine work

harder and uses more gasoline. Open windows and roof racks are also a drag on the engine.

- Starting the car early to "let the engine warm up" (and get the inside warm) does *not* make the engine work that much more efficiently. It just wastes fuel.
- Don't speed. High speeds and traffic-light "Grand Prix" starts burn up fuel. Smooth, safe, progressive driving saves gasoline and avoids unnecessary wear and tear on the car.
- Reduce braking by observation and anticipation. Nothing burns up gasoline more quickly than fast, fierce, stop/start driving.
- Have your car serviced regularly. A mechanically efficient car dri-



Bob Wieseman
Eng. Field
25 years

ven well will give extra miles to every gallon.

- Radial tires give up to six percent better mileage than standard tires, although they look soft.
- Tires that are under-inflated are potentially dangerous and a "drag" on your car. Inflate tires to manufacturers' recommended pressures.

ANNIVERSARIES



Charlie Barnett
Refinery Lab
40 years



Harold Johnson
Pipefitters
35 years



Cliff Kline
Pipefitters
35 years



Bob Sims
Distilling
35 years



Frank Vazzi
Safety
35 years



Henry Cotter
Pipefitters
30 years



Louie Moggio
Truck Drivers
30 years



Ed Simonds
Mechanics
30 years



Tony Skrobul
Gas
30 years



G.L. Archibald
Aromatics West
25 years



Carol Barton
Lubricants
25 years



Ray Bollinger
Eng. Field
25 years



Fred Hess
Lubricants
25 years



Joe Pazero
Hydroprocessing
25 years



George Perrin
Utilities
25 years

'Shuttle reliability' byword for refinery buses



Louis Moggio (left) and Gib Freezeland discuss the 152,000 refinery miles they cumulatively put on the shuttle bus behind them.

The old buggy's been retired to less strenuous duties, but not without doing eight years of yeoman service, and 152,000 major maintenance-free miles... all without ever leaving the refinery.

The "old buggy" is a 25-passenger 1967 Dodge bus. "It's still around and still runs well," said Wib Davis, automotive craft supervisor, "but it was time we got a newer -- and bigger -- bus. So when we took delivery on a new 40-passenger Dodge, the old one was reassigned."

Two bus drivers shared the wheel over these 152,000 miles. Gilbert "Gib" Freeze-

land took the helm when the bus was first purchased and drove it until he retired in 1970 after 27 years in the truck gang at the refinery.

Louis Moggio, now a 30-year Shell veteran, took over from Gib. In the 5½ years or so that Louie guided the bus along its refinery routes, they shared over 100,000 miles.

He said, "When you're with a vehicle for so long it's like an old friend. I tried to take care of it just like it was my own. I'm sure Gib felt the same way."

"That was really a good bus. Even with all those miles on it,

it never had to have any major repairs... the valve covers have never been off it. It's a rolling Shell-products advertisement."

Louie's driving the new bus now... bigger, more modern. He says, "That new bus is a real fine piece of machinery... automatic transmission, power steering. It's a real luxury. My riders like it, too. They say it's a comfortable ride."

So far, Louie's put on about 2,000 miles. He expects to be with the new one a total of about 50,000 miles or so before he retires "in a couple years."



Louie Moggio is proud of his brand new shuttle bus.

In Remembrance

JESSE DARRELL FARMER, November 15. Mr. Farmer was a boilermaker helper before retiring in 1963. He was 72.

STEPHEN MAHER, December 14. Mr. Maher was a pipefitter 1st before retiring in 1965. He was 64.

EVERETT DONALD HANSON, December 20. Mr. Hanson was a yardman before retiring in 1963. He was 70.

PEARL C. SHEARLOCK THORNTON, December 20. Mrs. Thornton was a senior stenographer in the control lab before retiring in 1949. She was 83.

NAPOLEAN JEWELL SNOW, December 28. Mr. Snow was an operator 1st in Utilities before retiring in 1962. He was 74.

WILLIAM R. TURNBEAUGH, December 31. Mr. Turnbeaugh was a carpenter before retiring in 1956. He was 81.

RAYMOND BIERBAUM, January 16. Mr. Bierbaum was a machinist 1st before retiring in 1959. He was 73.

JOHN RENNER, January 22. Mr. Renner was a machinist 1st before retiring in 1969. He was 64.

JOHN REX HOGAN, January 23. Mr. Hogan was a tractor operator before retiring last November. He was 61.

RUSSELL BENJAMIN FRENCH, January 24. Mr. French was a compounder

4th before retiring in 1963. He was 74.

ROLLA H. HORD, February 2. Mr. Hord was manager of Personnel and Industrial Relations at Wood River before transferring to Shell Pipeline where he retired in 1964. He was 72.

JULIUS C. BROWN, February 10. Mr. Brown was a senior clerk in Engineering Field before retiring in 1961. He was 69.

CECIL OTIS FONES, February 10. Mr. Fones was a refinery nurse before retiring in 1963. He was 72.

AURA CLEON TAYLOR, February 11. Mr. Taylor was an operator 1st in Aromatics before retiring in 1963. He was 71.

EMMETT L. CRUTCHLEY, February 14. Mr. Crutchley was a pipefitter 1st before retiring in 1955. He was 79.

ARTHUR S. HICKS, February 16. Mr. Hicks was a shift foreman in cat cracking before retiring in 1959. He was 70.

JOHN JOSEPH LORCH, February 17. Mr. Lorch was a shop machinist 1st before retiring in 1966. He was 67.

FRANK H. GIESIKE, February 19. Mr. Giesike was an electrician foreman before retiring in 1961. He was 75.

IVAN I. WOOD, February 20. Mr. Wood was a zone foreman before retiring in 1957. He was 74.



R. Bierbaum



J. C. Brown



E. L. Crutchley



J. D. Farmer



C. O. Fones



R. B. French



F. H. Giesike



E. D. Hanson



A. S. Hicks



J. R. Hogan



R.H. Hord



S. Maher



J. Renner



N. J. Snow



A. C. Taylor



W. R. Turnbeaugh



I. I. Wood

Medicare medical insurance: eligible enroll before April

People who didn't sign up for Medicare medical insurance when they first became eligible or who have cancelled the protection once can enroll now through March 31 at any social security office, according to Ted Rowe, social security district manager in Alton.

Medicare medical insurance is offered automatically

to people who reach 65 and are eligible for social security benefits -- and to disabled people under 65 who have been entitled to monthly social security disability benefits for 24 consecutive months or more. Nine out of 10 people eligible are enrolled in the program, according to Rowe.

"But some people decline

the protection when they're first eligible," he said. "And some sign up once and cancel later. They can enroll in the first three months of any year. You can only cancel and re-enroll once."

Medicare medical insurance supplements Medicare hospital insurance. The hospital insurance is funded by social security contributions

from workers and employers, whereas the medical insurance -- the voluntary part of Medicare -- is funded by individual premiums and federal revenues. The medical insurance helps pay doctor bills and other medical expenses.

Regardless of whether or not you choose to sign up for the voluntary Medicare med-

ical insurance program, when you or your spouse become eligible for Medicare, you should notify your regular group insurance company. This notification might save you some money.

If you have any questions about your Shell hospital-surgical-medical insurance as it relates to Medicare, contact Pam Handshy in E.R.

Shell News contest wants 'bicentennial-pictures'

The third annual Shell-wide photography contest is now in session, and you may have a better than average chance to be a winner.

Why is that? In keeping with our country's upcoming bicentennial celebration, the contest's theme is "America's Historic Places."

Watch next month's issue for details on Wood River's own Bicentennial Photography Contest.

Entries are limited to photo-subjects -- significant or small -- that in some way played a part in America's past.

One needn't travel far from the refinery to encounter swatches of America's history: Indian grounds, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Mark Twain's Mississippi River, St. Louis - the gateway to the West . . . you name it.

History of success

Wood River amateur photographers have scored in the prize category in both of the previous contests. In 1973, Jim Hokanson, research technician, had his entry displayed in the *Shell News* as an honorable mention winner. Last year, Joel Harmon, chemist in the Refinery Lab, duplicated Jim's recognition.

Pete Curran, retired manager of Purchasing, distinguished himself in both contests, receiving certificates of excellence.

Contest Rules

The contest runs from now until August 31, 1975, so you have plenty of time to get that winning shot. You may enter as many as six color photographs -- prints or slides.

In addition to U.S. Savings Bonds (top prize is \$300), winners' pictures will be published in the November-December issue of *Shell News*.

For more facts about the contest and an official entry blank, see the current issue (1975:1) of *Shell News*.

Good luck!



WOOD RIVER WINNERS. Wood River employees have seen their entries published in the *Shell News*. In 1973 it was Jim Hokanson's "Japanese Tearoom" (top) and last year Joel Harmon's "Just like daddy."

Themes vary . . .

SRA Camera Club has monthly contests

On this page is announcement of the Shell-wide photography contest for 1975. You are encouraged to enter.

But did you know there's a Wood River photography contest every month sponsored by the SRA Camera Club? Why not try your shutter at it?

It's a slide contest and is open to all SRA members and their families. All you need do is pick two of your best slides (from the last two years) on that month's theme and bring them to the cafeteria conference room at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month.

Contest dates and monthly themes for the remainder of 1975 are:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 1 | APRIL FOOL. Any humorous scene with or without people. |
| May 6 | PORTRAITS. A head and shoulders or full view of one person. |
| June 3 | NATURE AND FLOWERS. Any nature scene including wild animals, insects, flowers, etc. Picture should exclude all evidence of man. |
| July 1 | OPEN |
| August 5 | OUTSIDE NIGHT SHOTS. No flash, please. Available light only. Examples: lighted fountains, neon lights, the moon and stars, etc. |
| September 2 | ST. LOUIS AREA SCENES. This greater area. |
| October 7 | YOUR VACATION. Any shots taken during your vacation. |
| November 4 | SLIDE SEQUENCE. Three or four slides that tell a story when shown sequentially. |
| December 2 | OPEN |

RETIREMENTS



Clyde Hitch
Distilling
46 years



Charlie Levi
Alkylation
38 years



Ed Hindman
Boilermakers
35 years



Al Wallace
Engineering Field
35 years



Tom Frazier
Dispatching
32 years



Roland Niemann
Machinists
32 years



Dean VanBebber
Dispatching
32 years



Wilson Clardy
Valve Repairers
31 years



Jim Healy
Dispatching
31 years



Paul Montgomery
Boilermakers
31 years



Basil Wisnasky
Pipefitters
29 years



John Ventress
Utilities
28 years



Jim Jarvis
Laborers
24 years

Classified Ads

For sale

Automotive. Chains: truck and car. Two, 1973 Chevrolet wheels and tires. Two, G78x15 tires (new). Henry Kuhlman. 618-888-2427.
Car and motorcycle. 1968 Dodge V-8 with automatic transmission. \$75. 1973 Yamaha 125 cc Enduro. Knobby tires and extras. Low mileage. \$500. Don Smith. 618-656-0045.

Class-one trailer hitch. Fits 1968-73 Chrysler-Ford-GM station wagons. Fran Bulawa. 618-466-5707.

Wanted

Carpool ride. From south St. Louis area (Gravois/Weber Rd.) Gary Morrison. Straight days. Plant 266. Home 314-481-7853.



Review

Wood River, Illinois



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Bill Gibson, editor

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