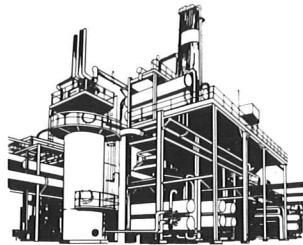


# WOOD RIVER REVIEW

WOOD RIVER MANUFACTURING COMPLEX



VOL. 45 NO. 10, OCTOBER 1982

*Unit modernized during shutdown*

## Precursor to resume production

The Wood River Manufacturing Complex Precursor Unit began startup activities Oct. 17, following a seven-week shutdown for modernization. The Precursor produces tertiary amylanes which are specialty chemicals used as raw materials for hydrocarbon resins, herbicides, fragrances and specialty chemicals.

Major repairs and construction to the 20 year old Precursor included concrete pad removal, excavation and removal of contaminated subsurface soil, foundation repair, installation of new acid, process and storm sewer systems, overhaul of the Freon refrigeration unit, and numerous equipment modifications. Preliminary construction geared toward the Aug. 31 shutdown began in April. Additional work is scheduled for completion by year end.

The cost of the Precursor modernization project exceeds \$5 million and represents Shell's commitment to stay in the tertiary amylanes business, according to Jay B. Flint, Base Chemicals Business Center, Houston. He said a 1979 study concluded that the Precursor required new and upgraded facilities to remain operational beyond 1983.

"It was a question of either reinvesting in the Precursor or face eventual withdrawal from the business," Flintsaid.

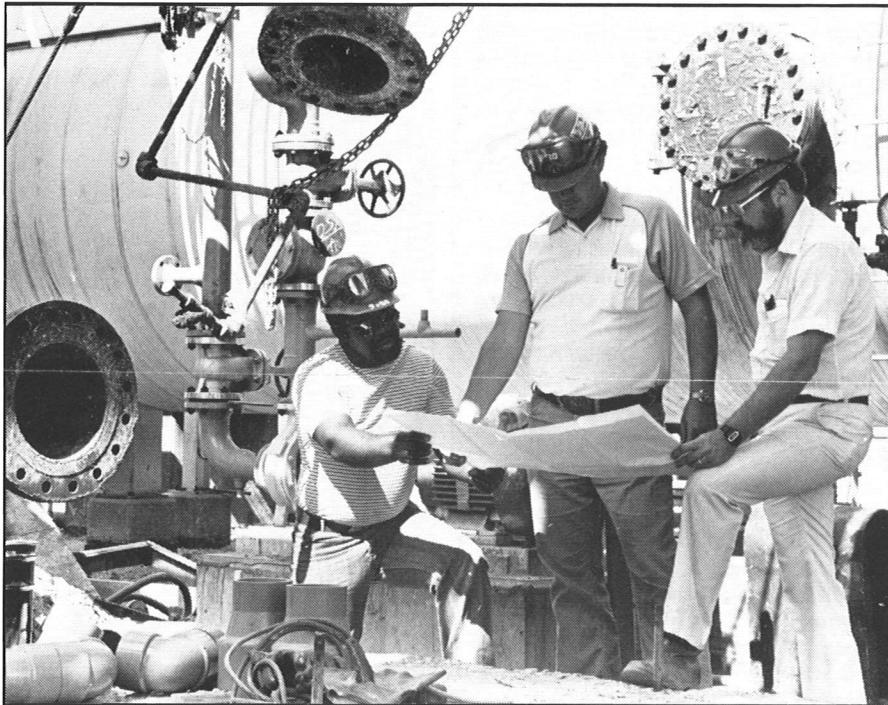
He added that the decision to reinvest was influenced by the customer demand, Shell's position as the sole U.S. supplier and the lack of available substitutes for established end uses. The only other source worldwide is Royal Dutch Shell.

**Richard Gerth**, process manager for Alkylation, said the Complex produces an average of 400 barrels of tertiary amylanes each day. The product is stored under pressure in spherical tanks in Dispatching and is transported in 700-barrel tank cars to Shell customers across the country. Customers' tertiary amylene needs during the seven-week shutdown were met from inventory

that was stockpiled over the preceding sixmonths.

Shell's largest corporate accounts

are Goodyear and Mobay Chemical Company. Goodyear uses the chemi-  
**(Continued on Page 6)**



*Involved in the seven week Precursor shutdown were Bob Smoot, operator; Larry Allen, Alkylation Operations foreman; and Frank Budny, project engineer. The 20 year old Precursor is the only producer of tertiary amylanes in the United States.*

## A new look for the Review

This issue of Wood River Review introduces a new format for our monthly Complex newspaper.

I believe you will find this smaller size appealing, and easier to handle and read. A smaller paper does not mean there will be fewer articles and photos than before. You will continue to receive just as many news and feature items highlighting Complex activities, safety, industry and Shell news, employee service award information and

human interest pieces.

For your convenience, each issue will contain an ideas box that may be used to jot down story and photo ideas you have for an upcoming Review. Clip the box and send it to **Dave McKinney**, editor, Main Office Building. You are also encouraged to call me on extension 2168 with your ideas. I'd appreciate your input.

—Dave McKinney

## SHELL SHORTS

### Chemist honored by SIU-E

James Maynard, senior chemist in Quality Assurance, is one of three SIU-Edwardsville graduates to receive the first Science and Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award.

He was honored for his contributions and successes in mathematics, chemistry and physics. The award was presented Oct. 8 by the Alumni Board of the School of Science and Engineering.

Maynard began his studies with the first SIU class at the Alton Residence Center in 1957 and graduated in 1962 with bachelor's of arts degrees in chemistry and physics. His studies in chromatography and air pollution are regularly published by the American Chemical Society.

### Pick up posters

Posters that were entered in the annual Safety Poster Contest may be picked up in the editor's office, first floor, Main Office Building.

The 1983 safety calendar with the 12 winning drawings will be mailed to all employees in December.

### Maxfli's win golf league

The SRA golf league came to a close Oct. 9 with the championship tournament at Belk Park. When all was said and done, the Maxfli's were champs.

Team members are captain L. Schiemer, D. Berkhisier, R. Cox, R. Adams, M. Clark, L. Jones, D. Rogers, G. Chaffee, D. Bryant, B. Sims, K. Killam and N. Everett.

### Bass tourney results

The SRA bass tournament was held Sept. 11 at Murphysboro, Kincaid Lake. **O.C. Johnson** was the winner with a five pound catch. **B.J. Koch** took second place and **G.A. Miller**, third place.

## Retirement



Retirement  
William Williams  
Lube • D & D

After 10 years in Houston

# Durland returns as Complex manager

**Bill Durland's** 31 year career with Shell has taken him to assignments from coast to coast and points between, including more than one year (1971-72) as Wood River superintendent.

After 10 years at Shellhead office in Houston, Durland returned to Wood River as Complex manager on Sept. 1. He succeeded Art Williams who has retired.

"I am happy to be back," said Durland, former manager of Plans & Analysis for the West of the Rockies Region. "Wood River Manufacturing Complex is a key part of Shell's oil products business. The employees are dedicated, competent and really know their jobs."

Durland stated he anticipates the Complex will carry on doing what it has done for more than 60 years — producing quality oil products efficiently.

At the top of his WRMC priorities list are employee safety, maintaining a challenging and rewarding work envi-

ronment, operating efficiently and competitively, complying with governmental and environmental regulations, plus being a good neighbor in the community.

Durland emphasized that Shell and Wood River strive to maintain an excellent relationship with regulatory agencies.

"This goes hand in hand with the company's policy to be a responsible citizen, especially in communities where we have facilities," he said. "We want to pull our share of the load in the community. That means supporting employee participation in local activities, and providing financial assistance to United Way and educational institutions."

Commenting on the oil products industry, Durland said that today's environment of fuel efficient automobiles and energy conscious consumers has reduced the demand for gasoline na-

(Continued on Page 3)

## Haefner recalls 'what could have been' without hard hat

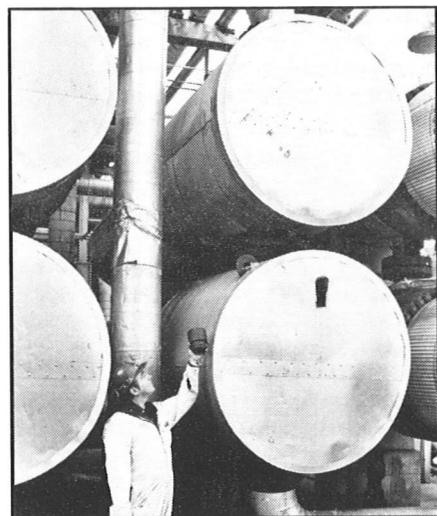
Boilermaker **Chris Haefner** was operating an impact wrench at HDU-1 the afternoon of Sept. 18 when a sudden blow to the head knocked him to his knees.

Haefner, who was wearing his hard hat, was struck by a seven pound socket that fell from a scaffold work area 10 feet above him. The socket landed on the back of Haefner's hat and onto his neck.

"Stunned, dazed, however you describe it, that's what I was," he recalled. "My hard hat absorbed most of the impact but I did receive a nasty bump and bruise on the back of my neck."

Haefner was taken to the Complex Emergency Hospital, examined and released. A Complex nurse told him that the hard hat very likely prevented a concussion and sutures.

"Not to mention a trip to the hospital and possible lost time on the job," Haefner said. "The incident was accidental, just one of those bump-on-the-head things. I'm glad that is all it was."



While working at HDU-1 in September, a seven pound socket fell from a scaffolding 10 feet above Chris Haefner, striking the back of his hard hat. With socket in hand, the Boilermaker indicates the area the accident occurred.

# WRMC in harmony with environment

"We have come a long way this year in our record of compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) waste water treatment regulations — not a single violation has occurred since March. Where we are now is where we want to stay," said **Chuck Walls**, manager of Quality Assurance/Environmental Conservation.

The Complex is subject to a permit administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the NPDES program. The program sets forth purification standards for water discharged by industries into public waterways. Water used by WRMC in the refining process is treated before it is released into the Mississippi River.

NPDES permit parameters include

limits on temperature, bio-chemical oxygen demand, pH balance, metals and phenol content, etc. If any of these limits are exceeded, a violation of the permit occurs and a detailed report must be submitted to the EPA.

In an average month, Complex waste water must pass approximately 160 tests, each of which represents an opportunity to violate the permit.

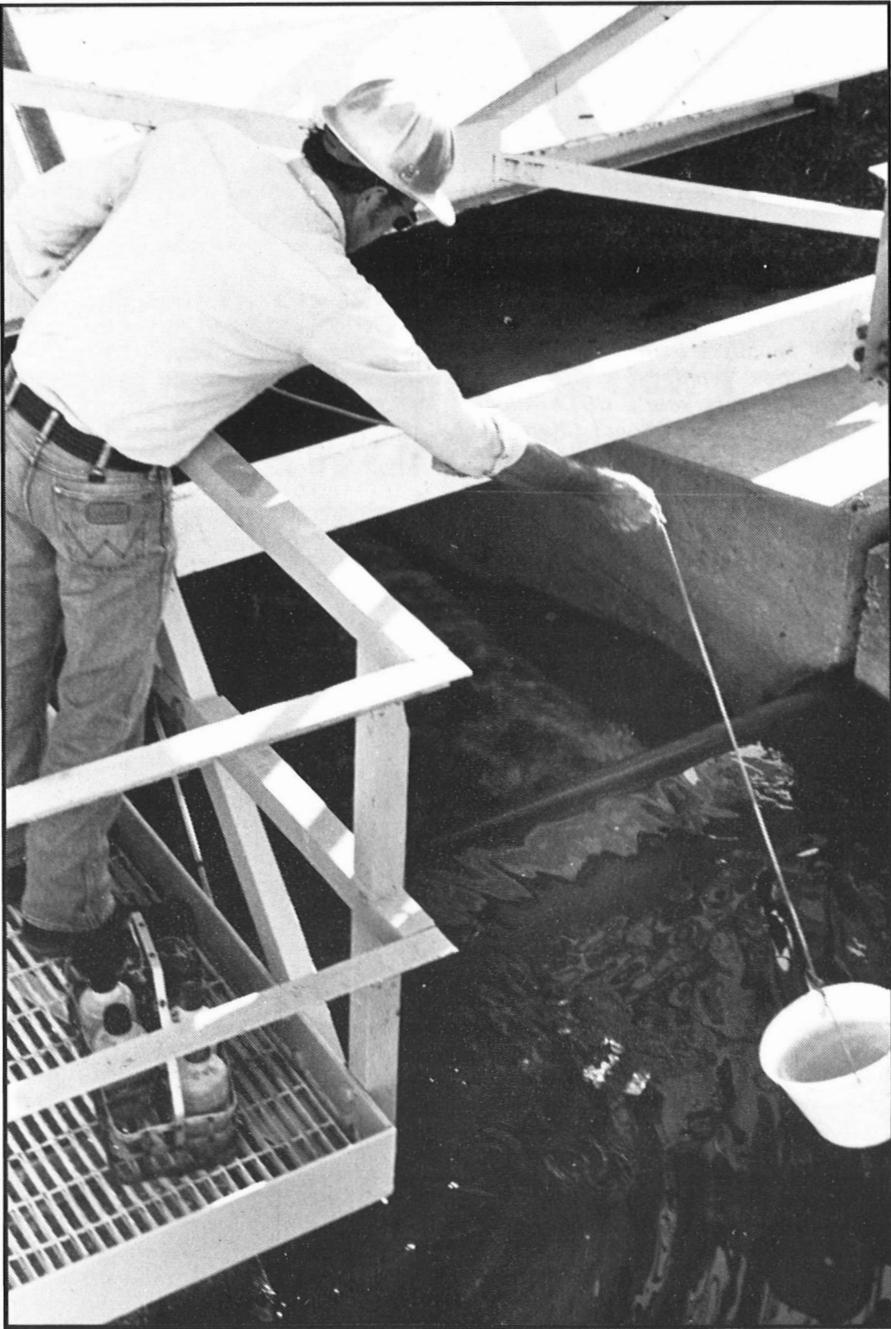
A recent letter from the Illinois EPA recognized WRMC's "excellent effort ... in complying with all NPDES regulations..."

"The agency does not routinely send out letters of praise," Walls said. "The letter reflects hard work and commitment on the part of Operations, Maintenance, Utilities, Engineering and Laboratory employees."

Walls added that improved communication among departments in identifying and resolving effluent treatment/discharge problems has been a key to the current record of performance. At the present rate, the Complex has a very good chance of meeting its goal of a 99 percent violation-free year of operation, he said.

Utilities manager **Bill Carr** reported that eight staff and hourly foremen have received certification as industrial waste water treatment works operators. The employees participated in a four day course at SIU-Edwardsville's Environmental Resource Training Center. Video tape presentations that

(Continued on Page 6)



*Leroy Edwards, Utilities, collects a sample of water before it enters the Mississippi at the lagoon outfall. Water used by the Complex in the refining process is treated before it is released into the river.*

## Durland returns

(Continued from Page 2)

tionwide. Consequently, crude oil processing has declined.

"Many inefficient or poorly located refineries have shut down and more may follow," he predicted. "But the modern, efficient complexes like Wood River will continue to produce."

Durland and his wife, Nancy, have three sons. Paul is a mechanical engineer employed in Wyoming, Ross is studying for an advanced degree in molecular biology at the University of California - San Diego, and John is a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at Texas A & M.

Away from the office, Durland enjoys tennis, backpacking, music, photography, and he collects Japanese prints. His interest in the latter activity stems from the many business trips he made to Japan as venture manager for agricultural chemicals during 1974-80.

# Tennis team captures second in tourney

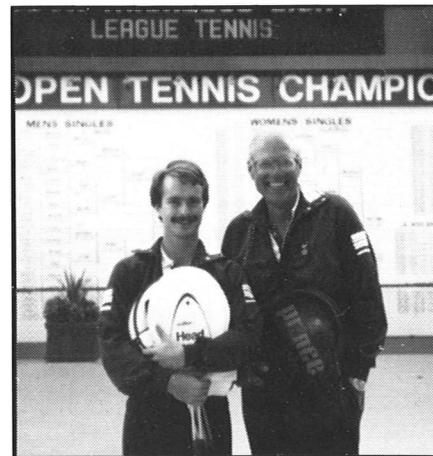
Warren Saunders and Bob Zier vogel recently returned from New York City with new hardware for their trophy cases. The Complex employees are members of the St. Louis Gateway Arches tennis team that took second place in the annual USTA (United States Tennis Association)/Michelob Light League National Championship.

The championship was held Sept. 24-26 at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow, New York, site of the 1982 U.S. Open.

Competition in USTA/Michelob league tennis is for the recreational club player. Men and women from across the country compete at three levels of play: 3.5, 4.5 and 5.5. By comparison, a beginner has a 1.0 rating and a world class player is rated 7.0. Gateway Arches competes in the men's 4.5 division. Last year the team finished third nationally at this level.

Saunders, who plays doubles, explained that his team earned the trip to New York by first winning the St. Louis district tourney comprised of eight teams. The Arches then played in the Missouri Valley sectional tourney in Des

Moines, Iowa where they defeated teams from Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas. Next, it was on to Indianapolis



**Bob Zier vogel, Engineering Operations Support, and Superintendent Warren Saunders belong to the Gateway Arches tennis team that was runnerup in this year's USTA/Michelob Light League National Championship. Both men play doubles.**

where the team captured the Central regional title by beating the Northwestern and Western sectional champs. The four regional victors, North Atlantic, Southern, Central and Pacific, then met in New York for the national championship.

Zier vogel, also a doubles player, said the Gateway Arches defeated teams from the North Atlantic and Southern regions in the first two rounds but lost to the Pacific region in the final match.

"It was a real thrill for me to play for the championship two years in a row," Zier vogel said. "It took a team effort to get as far as we did and that aspect of competition is very rewarding."

Zier vogel and his doubles partner were undefeated in the championship tournament. But, individual winners are not officially recognized, only team victories.

Saunders and Zier vogel look forward to December when the team indoor season gets under way. As for the 1983 national championship, perhaps the third time will be the charm and they'll come home with first place trophies.

## Check home heating units: Langendorf

The fall season is upon us and now is the time to inspect home heating systems for potential safety hazards, advises LeRoy Langendorf, of the WRMC fire department.

He said furnaces should be in good operating condition both for safety's sake and heating efficiency. When using portable heaters, read and follow their instructions.

"There are a few points to keep in mind if you own a kerosene heater. First, never refuel while the heater is lit, do not store fuel in the house, always crack a window in the room where the heater is being used and never leave a lit heater unattended," Langendorf said.

He emphasized that every home should be equipped with smoke detectors as more fire-related deaths occur from smoke inhalation than the flames.

Other tips on how to prevent fires at home and how to survive them are discussed in Shell's latest Answer Book, "The Fire Safety Book." Booklets were distributed to Complex employees at the front and south gates during National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3-9. Additional copies are available at the Safety office.

The booklet states that last year

there were nearly 720,000 home fires in the U.S., resulting in more than 5,500 deaths.

The biggest single cause of home fires is careless smoking — falling asleep (Continued on Page 6)



**Larry Forehand (right), Safety and Industrial Hygiene, distributed Shell Fire Safety Answer Books during shift change Oct. 7 at the south gate. Oct. 3-9 was National Fire Safety Week.**



**Boxed meals for everyone Oct. 1**

## **Safety Awareness Lunch well received**



*Above: Canteen employees, in assembly line fashion, prepare box lunches. What went into the 2,000-plus lunches? 1,500 lbs. of ribs, 800 lbs. of cole slaw, 225 lbs. each of roast beef and ham, 36 gallons of barbecue sauce, 5,400 cans of soda, and 36 sheet cakes.*

*Left: Lunch is served at Packaged Lubricants Warehouse.*

*Below left: Superintendent Warren Saunders delivers a safety message.*

*Below: Bill Durland, Complex manager, emphasizes to Main Office employees that safety is Wood River's number one concern.*



# Outlook optimistic for oil industry

The petroleum industry's potential for economic recovery is favorable, in part because of current difficulties, says Bob Thompson, Shell vice president of Finance.

"On a relative performance basis, I would expect the petroleum industry and its supplier companies to perform very well as compared to the industrial sector in its totality," Thompson told a recent meeting of the Institute for Internal Auditors. "What will survive out of the present difficulties is a leaner,

wiser and more capable industry, better able to meet the challenges of the future.

"The industry's cash flow as a whole remains healthy, although earnings are not as high relative to the recent past," he said.

Thompson said that Shell and other oil companies have taken significant steps to improve productivity, increase efficiency and ensure that decisions are made which are sound, both in

terms of short-term performance and the long-term future.

"Certainly, in an industry as highly competitive as oil and gas, there will be some casualties, as there are casualties in the rest of the economy today," he said. "But as we come out of this recession — even though it may be a very sluggish recovery — we will probably find that the inevitable shakeout will make our industry stronger, healthier and better able to serve consumer's needs in the future."

## WRMC in harmony -----

### (Continued from Page 3)

highlight the course were prepared for showing to department employees. Another example, Carr said, of communications at work.

Carr cited the recent upgrading of the west property biological treatment facility, and 1982 modernization of the lagoon outfall at Hartford Docks as

recent projects that are helping WRMC maintain its high environmental standards.

"The bottom line is preventing discharge of contaminated water into the Mississippi River," he said. At the lagoon outfall, we regularly sample the treated water as it enters the river. If there is a problem we take care of it

right now."

A partial listing of WRMC environmental projects completed this year includes:

— Completion of individual unit contingency plans provides quicker response to abnormal Complex conditions before permit violations occur.

— Monitoring and surveillance by operating departments has been improved. Additionally, in-plant monitoring for DMK and IPA at the DMK unit and in-plant monitoring for phenol at the Lube unit have been initiated.

— Revised sulfolane containment sumps are in service. This allows better control of sulfolane-rich material in-plant, rather than in the effluent system.

— New tank car/tank truck unloading facilities for bulk handling of phenol provides spills/drops containment capability.

— A revised Complex spill response plan, by pollutant, is completed and distributed.

## Precursor -----

### (Continued from Page 1)

cal to make rubber tackifiers and adhesives; Mobay for soybean herbicides. Other Shell customers purchase tertiary amylanes for such end uses as hydrocarbon resins, fragrances for perfumes and soaps, tertiary amyl alcohol and more.

Flint projects low growth in demand for tertiary amylanes during the next few years.

Gerth said the Wood River technical involvement for the modernization project consists of 10 employee-months of Project Engineering/Construction and

nearly two employee-months each of Process Engineering and Engineering Services time. Roughly 35 percent of the project cost covers repairs to the Precursor sewers, pads and foundations; 40 percent for environmental related mechanical equipment; and 25 percent for reliability/operability related equipment.

"Modernization of the Precursor will not change the basic technology of the tertiary amylanes production process," Gerth pointed out. "However, we do expect modest improvements in reliability and product yield, as well as ongoing maintenance savings."

## Access to federal lands expected

A new five-year federal offshore oil and gas leasing program announced recently by the Department of the Interior should provide Shell and the rest of the petroleum industry with greater access to federal lands believed to contain about two-thirds of this country's undiscovered oil.

"This is certainly the most important energy policy event in a long time," said President John Bookout. "Access to many areas of high geological potential will be offered for the first time."

"I would hope that since there will be a significant increase in the amount of lands offered, there will also be a significant increase in the amount of leases actually awarded to this industry," said Jack

Threet, vice president of Exploration. "If we can get these additional leases in hand, I'm confident the industry can do a more efficient job of finding oil and gas.

Shell has actively worked for improvements in Federal leasing policies for many years.

Bookout said that according to Shell's best estimate, there is a 50-50 chance that another 60 billion barrels of oil can be found in the U.S. — about two times existing reserves — and about 70 percent of all that oil potential is thought to be in areas controlled by the federal government, predominantly outer continental shelf regions included in the new program.

## Check home heating

### (Continued from Page 4)

on the couch or in bed while smoking, says John O'Gorman, Answer Book author.

In the Answer Book, he offers advice on following the 3 P's of safety: plan, prevent and protect. He also covers what to do if you live in a high-rise apartment, how to teach children to follow an escape plan, what you need to know about fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, and what to look for in a fire safety check.

Home fire safety checklists, containing useful information on how to keep your home fire-safe and space to make a family escape floor plan diagram of your home, may be obtained at the Safety office and Main Office lobby.

# In remembrance

**Wilbur T. Kubicek**, 75, died Sept. 15. Mr. Kubicek was a carpenter 1 - Engineering Field before retiring in 1971 after 32 years of service.

**Archa K. Bauer**, 69, died Oct. 3. Mr. Bauer was an engineering foreman - Engineering Field before retiring in 1975 after 22 years of service.

**Lester J. Motz**, 80, died Oct. 6. Mr. Motz was a yardman - Engineering Field before retiring in 1966 after 24 years of service.

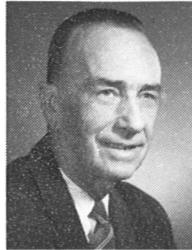
**Eugene W. Schmidt**, 69, died Sept. 25. Mr. Schmidt was an operator 1 in LOP-Distilling before retiring in 1975



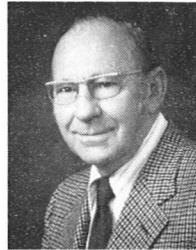
W.T. Kubicek



A.K. Bauer



L.J. Motz

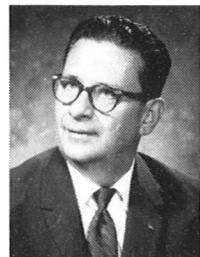


E.W. Schmidt

after 36 years of service.

**William F. Burian**, 68, died Sept. 19. Mr. Burian worked in Dispatching before retiring in 1971 after 34 years of service.

**Charles L. Morrow**, 77, died Aug. 31. Mr. Morrow was a yardman -



W.F. Burian



C.L. Morrow

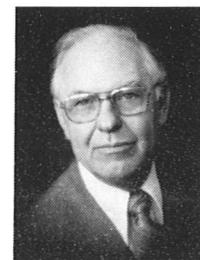
Engineering Field before retiring in 1963 after 20 years of service.

**William K. Miller**, 76, died Sept. 24. Mr. Miller was a craft foreman - Engineering Field before retiring in 1963 after 24 years of service.

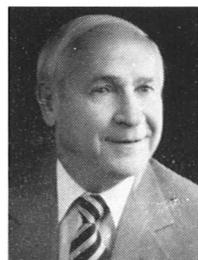


W.K. Miller

# Anniversaries



Ed Caveny  
LOPGas  
35 years



George Pickerel  
Dispatching  
40 years



Ellsworth Speed  
EP&S  
35 years



Kenneth Faulkner  
Compounding  
25 years



Joe Slaby  
Utilities  
40 years



Merl Hubbard  
Employee Relations  
30 years



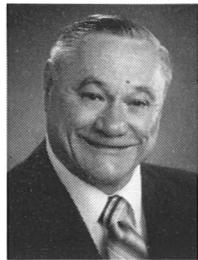
Weldon Tucker  
Quality Assurance  
35 years



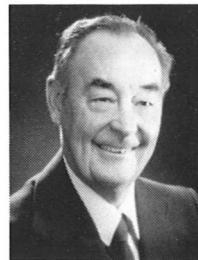
Leonard McCormick  
LOP-Distilling  
25 years



John Crim  
LOP-Cracking  
25 years



Clarence Delehanty  
Quality Assurance  
35 years



Walt Hausman  
EP&S  
35 years

## Answer Books available

Shell Answer Books are now on display in the Main Office and Cafeteria lobbies. Feel free to pick and choose from the 25 different issues and take whatever you wish.

## MY STORY/PHOTO IDEA IS:

SUBMITTED BY:

CLIP & SEND TO EDITOR, MAIN OFFICE

# Shell pursuing credit card customers

Historically, business is slowest during the fall months at Bluff Shellstation, just off highway 157 in Collinsville. Dealer Don Patterson said fall 1982 may prove to be an exception, however. His September volume was up 38 percent over the one-month period last year.

Other Shell dealers and jobbers in markets east of the Rocky Mountains are also experiencing an increase in business that can be directly attributed to the company's innovative marketing promotion. Introduced on Sept. 15, the promotion is designed to attract new credit card customers and to encourage current Shell card holders to use their cards more often. Customers pay the same price for Shell products whether by cash or credit.

Local and national newspaper advertisements, and radio and television spots explain that all competing oil company cards will be honored at Shell stations east of the Rockies through Nov. 30. Local papers with Shell ads are the Alton Telegraph, Belleville News-Democrat, and St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Globe-Democrat.

At the time of purchase, a holder of another oil company card completes a special application-invoice. In addition to the usual purchase and vehicle information, the customer is asked to provide his or her address, and telephone and Social Security numbers. The invoice is then sent to the Shell Credit Card Center, Tulsa Okla, where it is reviewed for approval. Holders of competitors' cards may also apply for a Shell card by filling out a coupon from a Shell newspaper advertisement and sending it to the Credit Card Center.

St. Louis area Shell dealers and jobbers are finding the promotion to be a real business stimulant, according to Bob Cox, district manager. He said dealers are reporting that many customers express appreciation for Shell's credit card pro-

gram.

Patterson agrees. "Several customers have remarked to me how upset they are with oil companies that charge for the use of a credit card. They feel ripped-off. Shell's promotion and 'same price, cash or credit' philosophy has brought a lot of new customers into my station."

Behind the scenes, so to speak, is the Credit Card Center where more than 1.3 million application-invoices were received between Sept. 15 and Oct. 21. On Oct. 7 alone, 65,000 promotion invoices arrived at the Center in addition to coupons and regular Shell credit card applications.

"Busy? That is an understatement,"

said Harley Gosney, promotion coordinator in Tulsa. "About 300 contract employees were hired to help our people process the application-invoices. Overtime, weekend work - everyone is doing whatever is necessary to get the job done."

Gosney said approximately 90 percent of the promotion applications are approved as new accounts, compared with 60-65 percent approval of regular applications.

Shell service stations are busier, the Credit Card Center is definitely busy and customers are pleased with Shell's promotion. In Don Patterson's words, "I'd like to see this last forever."



*At a time when most oil companies are discouraging credit card use, Shell has launched a promotion to attract new customers. Shell dealer Don Patterson, above, said the promotion has increased business at his Collinsville station.*

Shell Oil Company  
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Wood River, Illinois 62095

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wood River, IL  
Permit No. 229



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