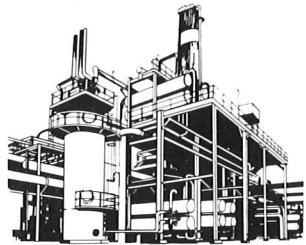


# WOOD RIVER REVIEW

WOOD RIVER MANUFACTURING COMPLEX



VOL. 45 NO. 11, NOVEMBER, 1982

## United Way pledges increase 9%

Employees "dug deep" during the WRMC United Way campaign Oct. 1-15. Contributions pledged for 1983 are \$76,000, representing a nine percent increase over 1982 employee pledges.

Combined with the 1983 Shell Companies Foundation pledge of \$74,500, the total Complex donation to local United Way offices is \$150,500.

"Outstanding, simply outstanding," commented **Mike Greer**, Complex campaign coordinator. "Wood River employees have once again demonstrated their generosity and concern for others less fortunate than themselves."

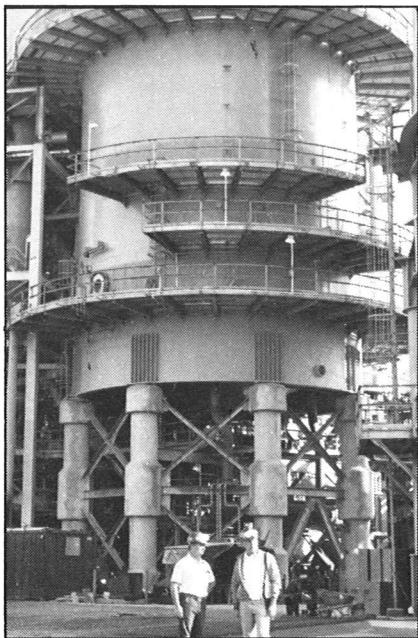
He went on to say, "In the face of current economic conditions, the need for United Way agency services is greater than ever. Shell and



**United Way**

WRMC, through corporate and personal contributions, have set an impressive example for others to follow."

## Far from home, supervisors are challenged by Martinez assignment



**Dave Chiolero and Brad Bradstreet, WRMC supervisors, are serving as Flexicoker startup foremen at Shell's Martinez (Calif.) Manufacturing Complex. Their temporary assignment began in July.**  
*(Photo by Sherrie Wagnor, Martinez)*

What is it like, after more than 25 years at Wood River, to go on a one-year temporary assignment 2,000-plus miles away from home and family?

Ask **Dave Chiolero** and **Brad Bradstreet**. The two Wood River Manufacturing Complex supervisors are working as Flexicoker startup foremen at Martinez (Calif.) Manufacturing Complex. They began their assignments July 3.

"The first month was tough — I was lonely," recalled Chiolero, a 27 year Shell and Wood River employee. "But I've adjusted pretty well and am able to see my wife every three weeks. Either I go home to Godfrey or she visits me."

Bradstreet is staying with his parents in the city of Lodi, approximately 60 miles from Martinez. The Shell employee of 28 years plans to move closer to the Complex this winter.

"I was raised in Lodi and attended school there. No doubt this has helped me make the transition," he said. "I won't deny that I still get homesick, though."

Both men say their involvement with the Flexicoker plant — Shell's first — is very challenging. Bradstreet describes the experience as a

"whole new ballgame."

The Flexicoker is one of four new plants under construction in the Operations Central (OPCEN) manufacturing area at Martinez. Heavy, asphalt-like pitch produced by the LOP (light oil processing) vacuum flasher will be processed by the Flexicoker and converted into lighter materials. Next, these materials will be processed in LOP to make gasoline. Currently the pitch is blended with a valuable, more fluid material and sold as fuel oil.

The Flexicoker will also produce a low heat content gas which will be burned with refinery gas in process unit furnaces at LOP and OPCEN. All of this is part of the \$800 million West of the Rockies modernization program taking place at the Martinez and Wilmington complexes.

Chiolero said that as the construction crew completes parts of the Flexicoker, it turns them over in piecemeal fashion to the operating group to prepare for startup. Flexicoker startup is scheduled for early 1983 and he and Bradstreet will return to WRMC soon thereafter.

"Tell the people at Wood River not to forget us," said Bradstreet, "because we'll be back!"

# SHELL SHORTS

## Party set for Dec. 14

The annual Christmas party for Complex employees, pensioners and their families will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the East Alton-Wood River High School Memorial Gymnasium in Wood River.

Entertainment will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a musical program performed by the Roxana Junior High band and the Roxana Senior High choral group. A stage show, featuring a juggling act, will follow and Santa Claus will arrive about 7:30 p.m.

## A reminder!

Posters that were entered in the annual Safety Poster Contest may be picked up in the editor's office, first floor, Main Office Building. Winning posters used in the 1983 calendar will not be returned to Wood River.

The new safety calendars will be mailed to all employees in December.

## Football champs

The Rogues won the SRA flag football league championship for 1982. Members of the number one team are: **Ray Burton, Rusty Crain, Steve Eatmon, Terry Eldridge, Terry Elrod, Gary Godar, John Hagemeister, Bob Helenes, Ron Miller, Bill Owen, Mitch Scroggins, Allen Shook and Tim Yinger.**

## Classified Ads

**For sale:** Sony HP510A 25 watt stereo AM-FM receiver with turntable and two speakers. All solid walnut. \$125. Jerry Scroggins, 259-5110.

**For sale:** 1973 Monte Carlo. Call Don Wiegmann, 377-8255.

**For sale:** 3-piece bathroom set (vanity, tub, toilet-grey). Storm door plus frame measuring 6'9" X 33". Will accept reasonable offer. Joseph Hlavsa, 288-7519.

**For sale:** 1981 Ford Courier, 4 cylinder, 5-speed OD. Call after 5 p.m. Jim Jones, 377-5008.

**For sale:** gasoline motor for bicycle. E.D. Hamilton, 259-2922.

(Continued on Page 6)



*Gas Plant employees worked their one millionth hour without a lost time accident on Oct. 26. Eleven days later, on Nov. 6, they passed the 12-year mark, an accomplishment that John McNally, process manager, acknowledged by distributing donuts to staff and hourly employees. Above, McNally offers a snack to Mary Ayres in the treater control room.*

## Winter to be colder than normal

Following a mild weekend, the temperature plummeted on Nov. 23 and the Wood River Manufacturing Complex received a dusting of snow.

Meteorologists are predicting that temperatures will be six degrees lower than normal this winter, which will result in increased heating oil use.

## New SRA board named

SRA board members for the coming year were elected Nov. 18-19. Serving from Crafts are: **Felix Floyd, Gary Arth, Gary Wilson and Mickey Bruce.**

Operations members are **Sheila Smith, Kerry Pitt, Weldon Tucker and Brad Kane.** From Staff are **Kathy Leitner, Ken Hudson, Phil Lamm and Allen Hosto.**

## Promotion update

As reported in the October Review, Shell's credit card promotion is attracting numerous customers to Shell stations. According to Harley Gosney, Tulsa Credit Card Center, 2.35 million application-invoices were received as of Nov. 11. Approximately 88 percent of all applications will be approved as new accounts.

The Department of Energy says there is approximately a 65-day supply of heating oil for the winter season — 21 percent lower than a year ago.

Dr. Edward Murphy of the American Petroleum Institute assures that in an emergency, demand could be met. He noted that currently 30 percent of U.S. refinery capacity is not being utilized and there are abundant crude oil supplies in storage.

## MY STORY/PHOTO IDEA IS:

SUBMITTED BY:

I CLIP & SEND TO EDITOR, MAIN OFFICE

# Poet seldom at a loss for words

During those restless nights when sleep doesn't come easily, Marvin Jordan usually knows what is keeping him awake. His mind is too busy for his body to relax. Busy arranging words, putting thoughts together . . . creating bits of journalistic magic.

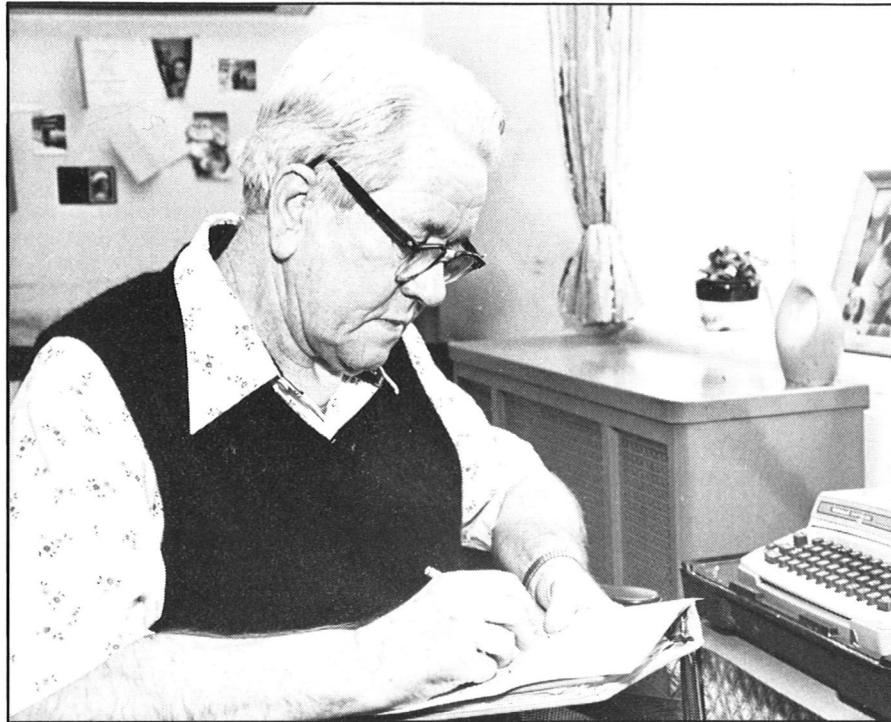
Not wishing to disturb his roommates at Madison County Nursing Home in Edwardsville, Jordan, with pad and pencil in hand, finds a more private area in which to compose.

Marvin Jordan writes poetry.

The former Shell Wood River employee of 31 years wrote his first poem at the outbreak of World War II and he's been hard at it ever since. A dozen scrapbooks filled with published poems attest to the popularity of his work over the years.

Jordan's poems regularly appear in church and hospital newsletters, a local weekly newspaper and in poetry anthologies published in book form. U.S. Senator Charles Percy once read a poem written by Jordan to the nursing home residents during a visit to the Edwardsville facility. Jordan poems are frequently recited on KMOX radio on Sunday mornings. St. Louis television personality Jay Randolph read Jordan's piece about baseball great Lou Brack on a Cardinal game telecast.

"People always ask me what I like to write about," he said. "Seasons of the year, holidays and nature are my



**Marvin Jordan, Edwardsville, puts the finishing touches on another poem. Jordan, who worked at the Complex for 31 years, draws inspiration for his writing from life experiences.**

favorite topics. For the most part, I draw inspiration from things that happen to me and feelings I have inside."

Jordan admits he is occasionally at a loss for new, fresh ideas. After writing hundreds of poems over a 40-year span, what topics could remain undiscovered?

"That is the beauty of poetry, there is always something more to write about. Besides, friends aren't bashful about requesting special poems commemorating anniversaries, births of grandchildren or whatever," Jordan said. "I have quite a backlog of orders."

As secretary to the nursing home resident council he is exposed to another type of writing: taking the meeting minutes. Jordan's involvement with the Edwardsville Senior Citizen Center as a member of its board of directors puts him in touch with other activities and people, all fodder for future poems.

"I get so wrapped up in my writing I forget my troubles," Jordan explained. "But, every once in a while I have to get away from the typewriter and quit writing. Sometimes I will leave a poem unfinished for months at a time."



**No, it's not one of the Fruit of the Loom characters, it is Pat Schrader who wore the most original costume to the SRA Fall Halloween Dance Oct. 29. Ron Miller officially declared Pat the winner. Other winners were John and Ruth Cook, prettiest; Clarence Schwab, ugliest; and Jayme Scroggins and Rhonda Miller, funniest.**

Fortunately for his many readers, he always returns to complete yet another Marvin Jordan poem.

## AUTUMN WONDERLAND

By Marvin Jordan

*Many beautiful songs and poems  
Are written about the fall.  
Trees with cloaks of colored leaves  
Don't hurt the scene at all.*

*A delight to watch the pretty leaves  
Release from the stately trees,  
To start a downward journey,  
And float in the Autumn breeze.*

*Summer's end can mar the beauty  
Of this wonderful time of year.  
Knowing that "Old Man Winter"  
Is lurking somewhere near.*

*Watching our wildlife friends.  
Who somehow seem to know.  
Food will soon be hard to find,  
With the earth a blanket of snow.*

*Could there be another Land,  
Where countless trees abound?  
With colorful falling leaves  
That never reach the ground.*

## After four-year run

Senior Inspector Dan Swarrington summed it up nicely. "A cat cracker shutdown is the biggest maintenance project at Wood River in terms of expense and the man power required. Everyone involved works on a tight schedule and without the cooperation that exists between de-

partments we'd have a tough time meeting our objectives."

Catalytic Cracking Unit-2(CCU-2) went on a six-week maintenance shutdown Sept. 29 with startup set for mid-November. The shutdown came four years after its last major turnaround. The record continuous

run for a WRMC cat cracker is four years, four months and three days, or 1,595 days.

A catalytic cracker is a refining unit that transforms the heavier portion of crude oil to lighter products such as high-octane gasoline. WRMC is the only Shell facility with two cat crackers; both CCU-1 and 2 were built for wartime production and became operative in 1943 and 1944. The units each run at a maximum feed of 45,000 barrels per day, approximately three times their original design capacities.

CCU-2 was originally scheduled for a major maintenance shutdown in mid-1981 but careful inspection indicated it could continue to operate safely and efficiently until fall 1982, according to Dennis Kimpton, Cracking process manager. Three "quickie" shutdowns for minor repairs were conducted during the 1981 major shutdown.

Howard Green, shutdown coordinator, said the intervals between shutdowns have gradually increased as a result of improved operating and maintenance techniques, and technology that allows onstream repairs and longer equipment life. In the beginning, the cat cracker units would sometimes run only three months before shutting down. Until the 1970s, shutdowns normally occurred every 12-18 months.

Green's goal as coordinator was to efficiently complete high quality repairs to the unit while staying within the multimillion dollar project budget and shutdown time frame of six weeks. Employees assigned to the shutdown were scheduled over shifts covering 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Selected tasks such as sandblasting and gamma ray work were performed during night and weekend shifts and Sundays to minimize delays.

### IDENTIFYING PROBLEM AREAS

Swarrington, who has taken part in 15 cat cracker turnarounds, describes the inspector as a cross between a troubleshooter and guardian angel.

"From start to finish and on a monitoring basis until the next shutdown, cat cracker zone inspectors are involved with maintaining the equipment and operating integrity of the units," he said. "Together with

Operations and Maintenance, the Inspection group identifies and coordinates repairs and parts replacement."

Swarrington said that initially 18 inspection and various Complex zones were active in the turnaround, but that number was reduced to 10 in the final two weeks before startup.

Detailed records of all repair work performed and equipment/parts used for each cat cracker dating back to 1944 are kept, he added. The records are continually analyzed so that erosion and corrosion rates can be calculated. This enables Inspection and even Head Office experts to make maintenance recommendations for the next shutdown.

Kimpton said that while CCU-2 was inoperative the Gas Plant and Alkylation Unit also took brief shutdowns for inspection and minor maintenance.

Looking ahead, Kimpton said CCU-2 should operate efficiently three to four years before another major shutdown is required. CCU-1 is scheduled for a major maintenance turnaround in 1984.

### MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Dan Daley, manager — Maintenance Field LOP, outlined the significant improvements made to CCU-2 during the shutdown.

The regenerator external cyclones were upgraded and replaced. Cyclones are environmental control devices that separate catalyst from flue gases by centrifugal action.

The regenerated catalyst lines were replaced with lines using a cold shell design. This eliminates "creep" (permanent line expansion) caused by excessively high temperatures under the influence of stress.

New silicon regenerator components were replaced with stainless steel, enabling the regenerator to operate at higher temperatures. This increases the efficiency of catalyst regeneration.

Construction of cooling water tie-ins will allow the eventual relocation of cooling water lines from below ground to above ground.

A set of soot blowers on the CO heater was installed. The blowers will maintain heater efficiency by blowing off buildups of catalyst.

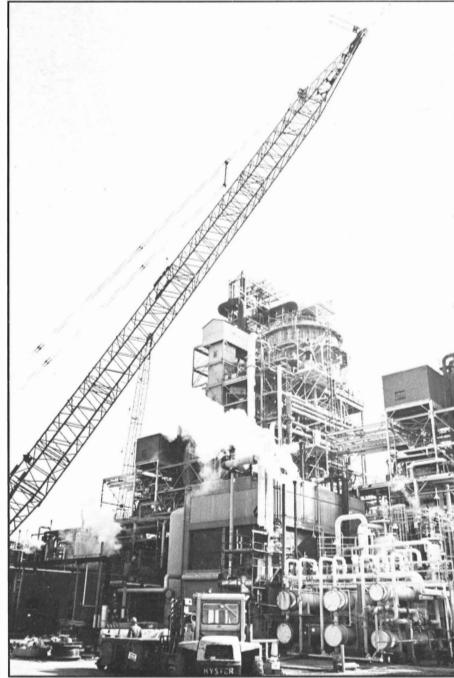
— Replacement of the top half of the reactor stripping cylinder with stainless steel will aid in the elimination of corrosion.

— To reduce erosion, the bottom cyclone of the reactor's secondary cyclones were replaced with enlarged cones.

— Replacement of regenerator dip legs with refractory-lined dip legs will provide long term efficiency. Refractory is a material which can stand high temperatures and resist abrasion.

— 750 square feet of reactor wall lining was replaced with stainless steel as a barrier to erosion and corrosion.

Amid all of the facts and figures associated with the cat cracker shutdown is this miscellaneous item, courtesy of Howard Green. At the peak of shutdown activity more than 4,000 cartons of drinking water per day were consumed by workers. A big project indeed.



Cat Cracker-2 at the height of shutdown activity. (Photo by Randy Millikin)



Above: Frank Menke and Jack Seibold, Maintenance.



Center: Jodie Hammock, truck driver, brought numerous loads of equipment and supplies to the shutdown site.



Below: Inspectors Bill Jacobs and Ron Baggett examine the gasket surfaces of new pipes for Cat Cracker-2.

# Anniversaries



**Norman Bruce**  
EP & S  
35 years



**Pete Tucker**  
Maintenance  
35 years



**Andy Knopik**  
LOP-Dispatching  
35 years



**Russ Edwards**  
Customer Services  
40 years



**Maurice Miller**  
Maintenance  
30 years



**Sam Rice**  
LOP-Cracking  
25 years



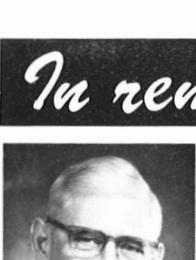
**Hib Eberhart**  
Lubricants  
35 years



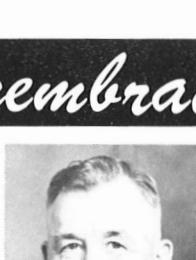
**Louie Nepute**  
LOP-Gas  
35 years



**Don Rundel**  
Lube-Compounding  
25 years



**C. J. Held**



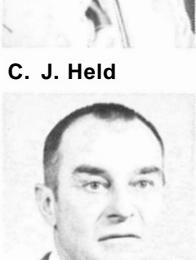
**O.E. Phillips**



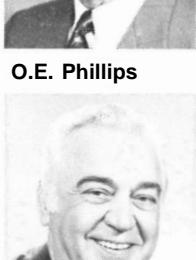
**Luther Felton**  
Purchasing  
40 years



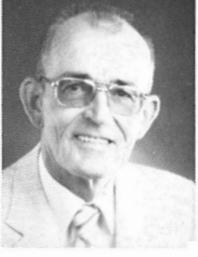
**James Kingston**  
Maintenance  
35 years



**N. Karcher**



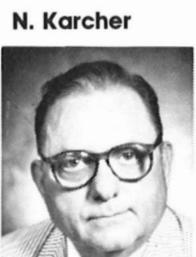
**M.J. Mygatt**



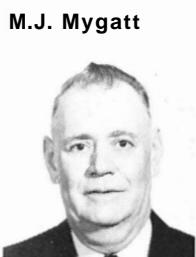
**Richard Milcic**  
Maintenance  
25 years



**Don Clark**  
Maintenance  
30 years



**A. Muich**



**S.W. Strayhorn**

## Classified Ads

(Continued from Page 2)

**For sale:** Kosino 200 watt guitar amplifier with two speakers in cabinet, \$375. Gibson Les Paul copy guitar, \$75. Larry Ondrey, 217-324-2551.

**For sale:** 1976 Mercury Marquis, very sharp. 1976 Chevy half-ton, excellent condition. Jim Grizzle, 259-0258.

**For sale:** Builder's seven and one-half inch electric skill saw with four blades. Six foot silver Christmas tree. Clarence Priest, 259-7865.

**For sale:** 1977 Monte Carlo. \$1,000 under retail. Larry Pranger, ext. 2345 or 498-2853 in Jerseyville.

**Wanted:** shotgun and rifles with broken stocks. Also, a wood planer. Call Jerry Rolfingsmeier, 318-459-3984.

**Wanted:** size 9 coronation-type long gown (with hoops) in good condition. Call Bob Wieseman, ext. 2750, or Cindy at 585-3194.

## In remembrance

**Clarence J. Held**, 70, died Nov. 2. Mr. Held was a pipefitter in Maintenance before retiring in 1976 after 33 years of service.

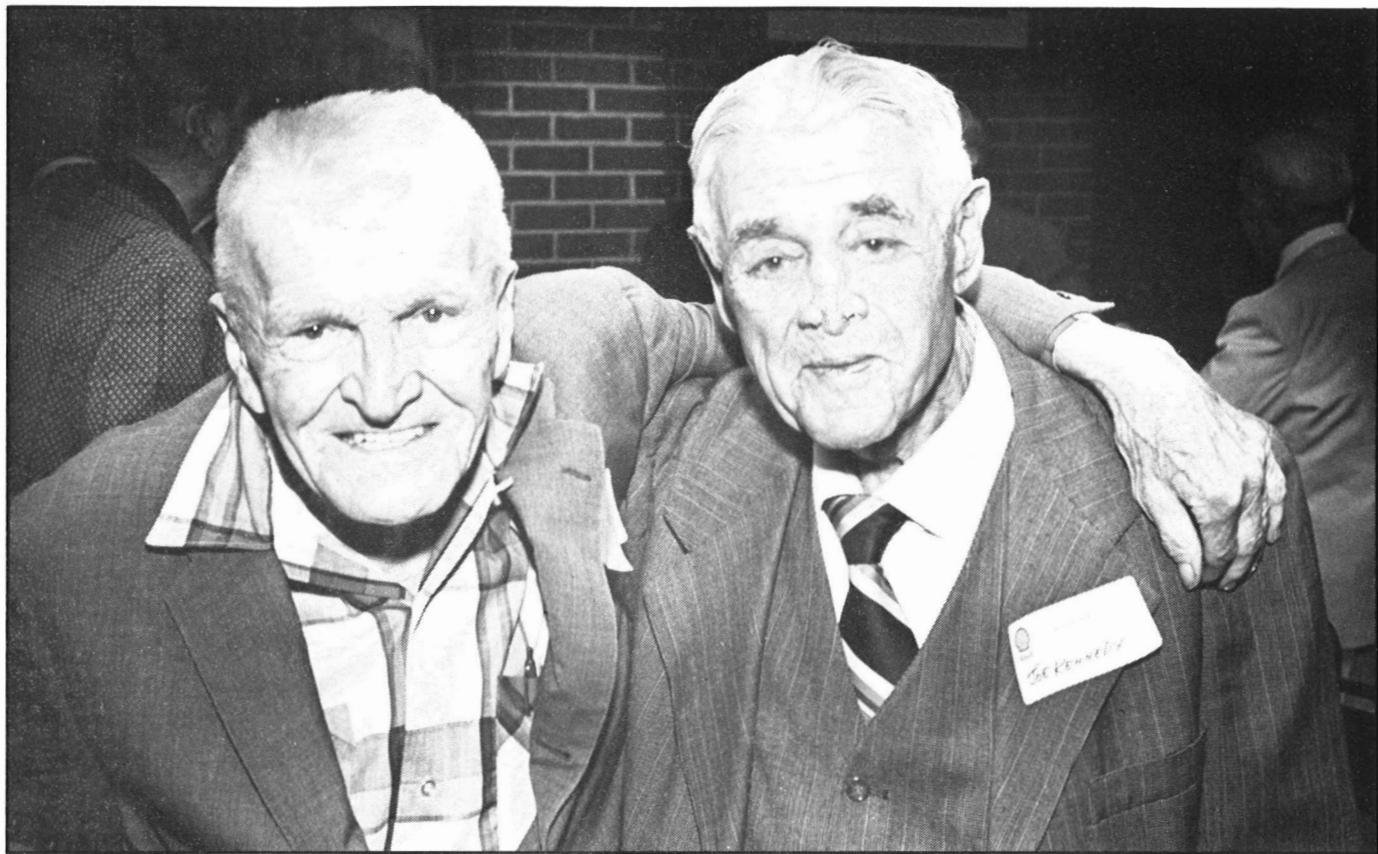
**Ollie E. Phillips**, 94, died Oct. 22. Mr. Phillips was a valve repairman before retiring in 1948 after 25 years of service.

**Nicholas Karcher**, 74, died Oct. 16. Mr. Karcher was a boilermaker - Engineering Field before retiring in 1968 after 20 years of service.

**Marion J. Mygatt**, 70, died Oct. 23. Mr. Mygatt was a supervisor - Engineering Field before retiring in 1974 after 33 years of service.

**Anthony Muich**, 64, died Oct. 28. Mr. Muich was a compounder helper - Lubricants Compounding before retiring in 1977 after 22 years of service.

**Sam W. Strayhorn**, 82, died Nov. 4. Mr. Strayhorn was a pipefitter 1 - Engineering Field before retiring in 1963 after 26 years of service.



*Renewing acquaintances at the Pensioners' Dinner Oct. 16 were Luther Disher, 90, and Joe Kennedy, 91. Approximately 350 retired Wood River Manufacturing Complex employees attended the annual get together.*

## **Georges Bank drilling suspended**

Shell Offshore, Inc. has suspended drilling on Georges Bank in the north Atlantic offshore Massachusetts for the time being after its second exploratory well in the area was a dry hole. The well was drilled to a depth of 19,427 feet and failed to find any indication of commercial hydrocarbons.

"Obviously we are disappointed with our own and the industry's negative result in the eight wells drilled to date, but exploration of frontier areas like Georges Bank is often unsuccessful, particularly on the initial round of drilling," said Lloyd Otteman, president of Shell Offshore Inc., a subsidiary of Shell Oil. SOI has no additional drilling plans for Georges Bank at this time.

SOI was operator for joint-interest owners who acquired three leases on Georges Bank in 1979 for \$86 million.

## **Caution advised when using heating stoves**

With the coming winter season there will be an increase in accidents related to coal and wood burning stoves, according to **LeRoy Langendorf**, Safety & Industrial Hygiene. He says that accidents have increased with the popularity of these heating systems.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission notes that accident patterns have developed since the return to coal and wood stove usage. Four major accident trends indicate the following problems:

Improper placement in the home. Extremely hot flues and stoves can set fire to nearby walls, floors and furnishings. A minimum three-foot clearance is recommended by the National Fire Protection Association on all sides of stoves that do not carry certification by a recognized testing organization.

Body contact with the stove or flue. Aside from the obvious hazard of clothing igniting on contact with the stove, there have been reports of accidental falls against the stove it-

self, thus resulting in painful burns.

Burns from using flammable fluids. Gasoline and other volatile liquids should never be used or stored where their vapors may reach an ignition source, such as the stove.

Improper venting. Coal and wood require oxygen to support combustion. Therefore, there must be adequate venting to allow for the escape of carbon monoxide and the intake of oxygen. Proper installation and routine maintenance are important to assure proper operation of the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher in the room in the event of a flue or chimney fire due to creosote buildup.

Persons who are considering installation of a stove to save energy dollars should contact the fire marshal in their community to learn fire codes relating to wood stoves.

In all cases, home heating units should be inspected for safety, Langendorf said. This includes heat pumps, controls, switches, fireplaces, dampers and chimneys.

# WRMC runners go the distance in annual St. Louis Marathon

**Ron Adams** describes a marathon as a race of restraint. He speaks from experience having completed two of the grueling 26.2-milers in the past eight months.

"Early in the race when you're feeling good and the adrenalin is flowing, a conscious effort must be made to hold back and conserve energy for later in the run," said the senior inspector. "Believe me, when you get to the 18-20 mile mark you'll need every bit of strength you can muster."

Adams and five other WRMC employees — **Jim Wortham, Don Klotz, Rene LeBrun, Tom Shoemaker and Jack Brisky** — participated in the St. Louis Marathon on Nov. 7. The course began at Busch Stadium and extended approximately 13 miles to Arsenal Road before looping back to the stadium.

## A TALE OF TWO RUNNERS

Adams took up running two years ago as a means of losing weight and getting into shape. At that time he had no intention of ever competing. However, his competitiveness surfaced after running in a marathon relay. He said a friend had formed a relay team and needed a fourth runner. Adams agreed to help out and that one race served as a springboard for future events.

"I ran in the Olympiad Memorial Marathon (St. Louis) in February, my

first full marathon, with a goal of completing the course in under 4:30 hours," Adams said. "Why that time? Because race officials turned off the clock at 4:31 hours. I made it in 4:26."

Through the spring and summer months Adams ran an average of 20 miles a week. He increased the weekly mileage to 35 in September and 50 in October, gearing toward the November marathon.

In retrospect, Adams feels he pushed his training too quickly because he developed a foot injury that becomes particularly painful at about 15 miles. Leg and foot cramps occurred 18 miles into the St. Louis run and he was forced to alternate walking and running to the finish line. The time for his second marathon was an admittedly disappointing 4:37 hours.

"I knew I'd make it even if I had to walk in. There was never a doubt about that," Adams said. "Now I have two marathons under my belt and those experiences will help me prepare for future races. I am generally pleased with my progress.

## A TOTAL EFFORT

**Jim Wortham** put everything he had, his best effort, into the St. Louis Marathon.

"My legs went numb and I had to fight the urge to just walk on in," said the Complex electrician. "The last six miles were the toughest."

The fact that Wortham finished his first marathon in a time of 3:38 hours becomes even more impressive upon learning he has only been running seriously since last July. His decision to compete in the November marathon was made in October.

"I ran in several races in the 5-10 mile range and did pretty well," he said. "I asked myself, 'What is the ultimate running challenge?' and the answer was marathon."

Wortham said his age bracket of St. Louis Marathon competition (35-39) was composed of many well-conditioned runners whose average mile pace was less than seven minutes. He said his own 8.3 minute pace was a bit too ambitious to allow a strong finish. He now looks to improve his time in upcoming marathons.

For runners considering entering a marathon, Wortham offers these words of advice: commit yourself to a training schedule that includes several long mileage workouts, be careful not to "overtrain" especially during the week prior to the race, and drink liquids while running to prevent dehydration.

"I'm no expert or authority but that one marathon taught me a great deal about long distance running," he said. "It is hard work and requires conditioning, dedication and a strong mental attitude."

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