



"BIRD POWER." An imaginative eye and a steady hand paid off for Jerry Manis of the Research Laboratory with this winning photo in the Pro Football Photo Contest.

**Review**

Wood River, Illinois



VOL. 36, NO. 3

WOOD RIVER REFINERY

APRIL, 1973

## Concurrent Aromatics shutdowns executed

"I'd have to say it was one of the biggest overall shutdowns I've seen in my 32 years here at Wood River." These are the words of Lauren Weishaupt, shutdown coordinator during the recently completed series of maintenance shutdowns in Hydroprocessing.

"I would estimate we used about 150 man-days of craftsmen each day of the shutdown," Lauren said. "And, of course, the operators on the units played an important part to assure orderly and safe coordination of efforts." He added, "Some shutdowns are in a rather concentrated area, but these were spread out which increased the need for good teamwork."

During a four week period beginning the week of March 11, 1973 extensive inspection and maintenance was performed on the Hydrocracker (HCU), Catalytic Reformer No. 3 (CR-3), and to a lesser degree on the Catalytic Reformer No. 2 (CR-2), Hydrodesulphurization Unit No. 1 (HDSU-1), and Saturates Gas Plant (SGP). All are located on the Aromatics side of Hydroprocessing.

After operators made the units ready, blinding (a step signalling the beginning of shutdown maintenance) began on March 13 at the HCU and March 20 at the CR-3. On the HCU, extensive tubular inspection was made and, where warranted, replacements were made. In addition, an in depth study was made on the second stage heat exchangers. It was during work on these exchangers that one of the more difficult problems arose.

To get into the tubular areas two large cover plates had to be removed. Each

weighs 4½ tons, and studs for these plates are 3½ inches in diameter. Early attempts to loosen the massive nuts proved unsuccessful, so a specialized torque machine was brought in. Although the power source for this machine is smaller than a refrigerator, it is able to exert tremendous torque. "That machine can put out 24,000 foot-pounds of torque," notes Red O'Brien, boilermaker foreman for the HCU shutdown. He continued, "It sure came in handy for us in both loosening and retightening the nuts on those cover plates."

Circumstances called for extensive work on the many compressors and control valves utilized by the HCU. "There was a great deal of work to be done, and the machinists and valve repairers followed through very well," said Weishaupt. "I was impressed by the overall work of all craftsmen on all jobs during these coordinated shutdowns," he emphasized.

CR-3 received its share of tubular rejuvenation as well. "Fourteen bundles were pulled for cleaning and inspection, and of those, 4 were retubed," recalls Red Donaldson, boilermaker foreman for the CR-3 project. In addition, seven motor operated valves were reconditioned.

The radiant tubes of four furnaces were "bull blasted" to remove scaling. "It is similar to sandblasting," said Weishaupt, "but pecan hulls are used because they dispose of scales without damaging the furnaces' brickwork or refractory."

(Continued on page 4)

## Big league photography

# Lab photographer wins national contest

Well, football fans, if you visit the pro football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, after July 27-28 of this year you can see a product of Jerry Manis, a Wood River employee, permanently enshrined there.

Jerry, who is a photographer in the Research Laboratory, won first prize in the "color feature" division of this year's annual Pro Football Photo Contest. Other divisions were color action, black and white action, and black and white feature.

For his winning entry, Jerry receives a cash award, a commemorative plaque, and an expense-paid trip for him and his wife, Mary, to Canton for the induction ceremonies.

The contest is limited to professional photographers who work for newspapers, magazines, or television stations, or who are affiliated with one of the professional football teams. Jerry does part time freelance photography for the *Alton Telegraph*, particularly sporting events.

"I generally take from 100 to 200 pictures per game," said Jerry, but added, "Some people take twice that amount or more." He cautioned, "There is always something going on and you have to be ever alert. You can't skimp on film because as soon as you decide to pass up a shot, that will be the time something unique happens."

Jerry added, "Sometimes you can plan ahead, or 'set up' a feature shot, but since no one is ever posing for you, timing is important there also."

Although he also uses a Nikon F camera, the winning photo was taken with a Mamiya RB-67 with a 180 mm lens. The photo was taken late in the season's finale on December 17, 1972 against the Philadelphia Eagles at Busch Stadium.

Jerry calls it "Bird Power." "To me the players in their hoods and jackets looked like a covey of birds as they shuffled back and forth under the watchful eye of the big daddy bird on the score board," Jerry recalls.

Some 100 different professional photographers entered a total of 459 photographs in this year's contest. Events from the beginning of the exhibition season through the Super Bowl and Pro Bowl were eligible. Jerry adds, "Photos could be on or off the field; either before, during or after the game. Anything that centered around the activities of a pro football game could be entered."

Jerry began his career with Shell as a junior lab assistant in the Research Laboratory in 1960. Until February of this year he worked on various projects specializing in electronics, but when the opportunity arose to become a Shell photographer he gladly accepted it.

In this position he is able to draw upon ten years of experience gained while his photography became an increasingly more sophisticated hobby. Jerry's hobby has developed from an amateur pastime to a profession . . . and he has the credentials to prove it.



The final steps of a shutdown. In this case at the CR-3. While Don Perdun, boilermaker helper, looks on, Harry Kulp, boilermaker helper, and Dick Milcic, boilermaker 1st, use an impact wrench to head up a reactor.

## Wood River Woody

Meet Wood River Woody. Woody is the symbol of safety at Wood River Refinery. Woody believes in the philosophy that safety is everybody's business 24 hours a day.

Look for Woody on the bulletin boards, on signs throughout the refinery, and here in the *Shell Review*; and listen for his advice on Dial 500. Woody says, "let's all keep pecking away at unsafe practices and do our parts to make Wood River Refinery an even safer and cleaner place to work."



Wood River produces its share

## The gasoline dilemma

"Since last summer Wood River has been processing all the crude oil that is available to us to meet heating oil and other distillate requirements as well as increasing gasoline demands." These are the words of Warren Saunders, refinery superintendent.

Warren reflects the concern of others in Shell about whether the all-out effort to avoid a heating oil crisis last winter could contribute to a possible gasoline shortage this summer.

He continued, "When the crude oil has been available, Wood River has been running it at record levels." Fred Walters, manager of Economics and Scheduling, notes, "During the month of January, 1973 we ran more crude than any month in Wood River's history. The first quarter of this year was a record quarter also."

The availability of foreign crude oil and increased gasoline demand are key factors in determining whether there will be enough motor fuel to meet travelers' needs during the vacation months just ahead.

Shell believes that if sufficient foreign crude is available, and if gasoline demand for 1973 does not increase more than the expected five percent over 1972, then the industry should be able to fill the American public's need for 1973.

How much gasoline and distillate a refinery can produce from a barrel of crude depends on a number of factors: the type of crude used, the physical configuration of the refinery (how many and what kinds of units it has), and how much of each product it is committed to produce. This means there are both physical and contractual reasons why refinery yield structures can't be shifted more than they are at present. Within these limits, refinery yields between gasoline and distillates can be adjusted

only in the range of 2 percent to 3 percent--depending on peak demand. In shifting to produce more heating oil in 1972, we have been unable to keep ahead of the constantly increasing demand for motor gasoline, which rose 5.8 percent in 1972 over the year before.

East of the Rockies, motor gasoline inventories as of February 24, 1973 were 17 million barrels less than they were at the same time last year. The volume of motor gasoline production was running only 1 percent higher since the start of 1973, even though refineries are operating just about at capacity levels. This fact contradicts critics' claims that the industry has been producing excess gasoline (the charge being that industry was favoring the more profitable gasoline to the disadvantage of the supply of heating oil).

Shell contends that the company could not have produced more distillate and less gasoline over the last 6 to 12 months without causing critical shortages of other products, particularly gasoline.

Crude oil supply is another crucial factor. First of all, it takes time to find crude supplies, negotiate prices and arrange transportation. Also there currently is a world-wide shortage of crude oil that is not expected to ease at least until the middle of the year. Even when some of these problems are resolved, it won't assure additional crude oil for U.S. refiners because buyers all over the world will be bidding for these supplies.

Shell is concerned that even when foreign crude becomes available, it will cost more than domestic crude. If so, the prices allowed U.S. refiners for their products--including both fuel oil and gasoline--will determine how able they are to compete for these new supplies.

## Belanger wins national safety limerick contest

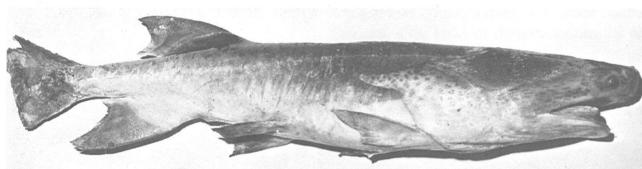
Remember the 1973 safety calendar you received from the refinery? Phil Belanger in Utilities not only remembered it, he used it to make himself \$100 richer.

The National Safety Council puts out the calendar, and every month they run a safety limerick contest. Rules and entry blanks are situated on the back pages of the calendar along with the first four lines of that month's limerick. Phil added the last line to the limerick below, and walked away with the nationwide first prize.

To Pete life was one big surprise--  
"Who'd guess all the whats and the  
whys?"

Poor Pete never learned  
Where safety's concerned  
Foresight cuts life's bumps down to  
size!

Why not try your hand at the contest?  
Take it from Phil; there can't be an easier  
or more enjoyable way to make \$100.  
Just think safety . . . limerick.



*Fifteen inches of mystery*

Do you know what kind of fish this is? Expert anglers at the refinery have been unable to positively identify its species although suggestions have been offered. Some say it resembles a paddlefish (spoonbill cat) without a snout. Others note the characteristics of a shark. But in the Mississippi? Patrolman Hal Kesinger landed the injured fish with his hands at Rand Road and the levee during the height of the flood. The fish is now at Edwardsville High where the biology department has preserved it and is trying to determine its origins.

## Sports and shorts

### THIRD GENERATION

When Charles A. Mellor began work in Cracking on April 10, 1973, he may have become a first at Wood River Refinery. To the best of our knowledge he is the only third-generation employee at Wood River since the refinery began production in 1918. Chuck's father, Charles V. Mellor, was an operator in Gas Thermal Cracking and had worked here 19 years until his death in 1967. His grandfather is Victor J. Mellor. The elder Mr. Mellor was a shift foreman in Lube Asphalt before retiring in 1962 after 36 years' service.

### SPRING DANCE

The SRA Spring Dance will be held Friday, May 4, at the Collinsville Park Ballroom. In addition to dancing from 8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., free food, refreshments and set ups will be provided. SRA members may get their tickets at the door. Tickets for guest couples may be purchased by contacting Lois Cooper in Employee Relations.

### GOLF DAY

Get those sticks cleaned and ready to go, golfers! Whether you are a "pro" or a once-a-year duffer, you are welcome to join the fun June 2 at the SRA golf day. It will be held at Cloverleaf golf course on Fosterburg Road in Alton. Dinner and refreshments will follow at the Moose Lodge in Wood River. Interested parties should contact Max Clark in Aromatics or Chuck Jones in Engineering Services.

### SOFTBALL

Scheduled play will begin in the SRA softball league May 22 at Kendall Hill. Fielding wizards, batting champions, or keen eyed umpires interested in some of the action should contact Henry Vassar through Engineering Services.

### FIRST AID MAJORITY

Quent Nungesser, patrolman in Safety, is an instructor's instructor. That is, he conducts Red Cross courses for prospective first aid instructors, and teaches them how to present their material. To take the course, individuals must have already completed advanced first aid training. Shell, or Shell-related students represented half of a recently completed class. They were: Bob Brannan, Safety; Bob Gray, Technological; Mrs. Alice Elam, whose father, Walter Ogg, retired April 1 from Engineering Services and; Ron Patton, whose father, Dave Patton, retired from Engineering Field in 1967.

### CLUB FOR RETIREES

A local club of retired persons to be affiliated with the American Association of Retired People is now forming. If you are a retiree and would be interested in joining such a club, contact Shell pensioner, Steve Maher at (618) 462-2719.

### RETIREMENTS



Richard Kunz  
Engineering Field



Glenn Musgrave  
Refinery Lab



Walt Ogg  
Engineering Services

## Roxana students know our efforts

Educators say one of the best ways to learn is by seeing a practical application. Students in one of Mr. G.T. Kunz's general science classes at Roxana Junior High School recently had just such an opportunity. Bob MacDuff, training representative at the refinery, visited their class and demonstrated some of Shell's efforts toward environmental conservation.

The school itself is in close proximity to the refinery, so the students had a personal interest in our efforts to deal with the potential sources of pollution. Bob showed the class a prerecorded slide presentation which outlined environmental conservation methods actually practiced here.

Students observed environmental control systems for noise, odor, water, and air conservation. Emphasis was placed not only on the scientific

equipment and procedures used, but also on the day to day awareness exercised by Wood River employees.

A question and answer period followed. Judging from their questions and comments, the students were appreciative of the refinery's efforts, and agreed we have been successful in pollution control.

Rounding out the discussion MacDuff demonstrated the superior oil collecting properties of Shell's OIL HERDER® by spreading crude oil in a pan of water and applying a few drops of OIL HERDER, around the edges of the "spill". Exclamations of astonishment told their reaction when the oil was quickly herded into a corner of the pan. The students then listened as MacDuff fielded their questions and explained how OIL HERDER can be used to round up oil floating on bodies of water.

# Alton Emergency Corps is always on alert

## Shell employees participate in flood and rescue activities

During the recent floods, many people throughout this area gave generously of their time and toil to help protect lives and property from the ravaging waters. Those affected are grateful, because without their efforts, the already staggering losses would have been even worse. Many Shell employees were included in this group of hard working good citizens, and they extended a helping hand in a variety of ways. To these unsung heroes we extend our congratulations and heartfelt thanks.

### Always Alert

There are also volunteer groups in the Alton area which stay on the alert year around. One of these organizations is the Alton Volunteer Emergency Corps, and they not only played an important role in combating nature's bitter April Fool's prank, but also provide an organized network for expert assistance in case of disaster 365 days a year. Although the Alton Corps numbers only about 25 people, they perform with the heroism of a veteran army. Two of this elite corps are Wood River employees: Bill Connell of Compounding and Tom Krepel of the Pipefitters. Both take an active part in the corps' activities; Bill is a past treasurer and Tom is currently a trustee. Another member is George Rambo. Although not a Shell employee, George is the son of Wood River retiree, Ted Rambo.

When it became apparent that the swollen Mississippi and Missouri rivers were going to run rampant beyond their banks and sweep onto nearby farm land and towns, the Alton Corps sprang into action. The main thrust of the corps' efforts centered around the West Alton, Missouri area—one of the hardest hit by the 1973 flood. Coordinating with the police, the Coast Guard, and other service organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, the Alton Corps "did everything" according to Connell.

### Heroism and Hard Work

"We did everything from directing traffic to directing and participating in rescue operations," Bill recounts. During the height of the flood the Alton Corps performed a dramatic rescue near the Lewis Bridge over the Missouri River when one boat load of men and then another of intended rescuers capsized in the boiling current. It was the dead of night, and when corps members arrived they found six men clinging for dear life to branches of trees which were engulfed by the deep, swift flood waters.



Bill Connell straps on his life jacket prior to launching of the rescue boats.

Aided by the searchlights of a hovering St. Louis County Sheriff's helicopter, a man was lowered by rope 30 feet to the flooded area beneath the bridge. He tossed the men a lifeline and they were pulled to safety. Two others who had managed to swim to dry land when they were dumped into the cold water were also gathered up.

At another time, the Clark Bridge over the Mississippi was closed to regular traffic to clear the way for sand trucks rushing new supplies to the weakening levees. "They were really moving," recalls Bill. "I wouldn't have wanted to be driving across when one of those big trucks, fully loaded, came barreling past!"

Using their rescue boats, the corps kept busy ferrying out residents who were fleeing the rising waters, and bringing in food and supplies to those who had decided to stay and ride out the crest. "Some of these people had been through this many times before," said Bill. "To them it was just another big flood."

### Record Crests

A big flood it was. Some say the worst in 200 years. "The only one I can recall being anywhere near this bad was when I was in high school about 30 years ago," said Bill. "But in those days they didn't have the system of dikes and flood control they do now. Can you imagine what this flood would have caused without that?" Water was up into the first floor windows in West Alton. In a straight line, West Alton is about two miles from the nearest point of the "normal" Mississippi River channel. The vast area between the Mississippi and the adjacent Missouri was virtually one big lake.

The members put in long hours to help combat the flood. "Most of us helped in the evening hours after working all day at our regular jobs," Bill said. "We spelled each other, and those of the other organizations involved. Two of our corps members took time from their jobs to work full time. They didn't get home at all for over a week."

### Responding to Other Crises

But the 1973 flood is only one chapter in the story about the Alton Volunteer Emergency Corps. The corps was organized in 1948 and its volunteer members have been giving aid and assistance to those in danger or distress ever since. Each member can expect to put in some 200 free hours of his time to corps activities each year. Even though the manpower is free, other expenses of the organization are not. In addition to the headquarters building near the Beltline in Upper Alton, the corps maintains extensive equipment.

Augmenting their rescue boats, the corps also has a station wagon ambulance, a rescue van, a mobile field hospital trailer, and electric generators. The Emergency Corps is a member of the Alton-Wood River United Fund and your contributions go a long way to help this organization maintain the vigil for your safety.

Maintaining direct radio contact with the Alton Police Department and other law agencies in this area, the corps can spring into action on a moment's notice 24 hours a day. They not only have the facilities to help in case of natural disaster, but also respond to reported drownings and make themselves available for standby first aid at large civic gatherings.



Wood River Refinery employees Bill Connell and Tom Krepel take an active part in the missions performed by the Alton Volunteer Emergency Corps. Members must keep abreast of rescue techniques. Here Tom demonstrates a resuscitator/inhalator.

All members are trained in first aid. Tom Krepel, who is the first aid instructor for the group, points with pride as he describes the equipment they have at their disposal. "We are able to cope with most any emergency," he says. The large first aid hospital trailer which is pulled by a donated tractor-truck has five stretchers, a stove, two-way radios, an inhalator, and all manner of first aid equipment. Tom notes, "As well as being heated and air conditioned, it has a good system of self-contained lights. A doctor could perform emergency surgery in it if required."

The next time you hear about a natural disaster, or a drowning on the river, or any number of situations where fast professional assistance is required, you can bet that the Alton Volunteer Emergency Corps is lending a hand. Dedicated people like Bill, Tom and George help make this organization go.



They're off! Children race off in search of goodies hidden by the Easter Bunny.

## Easter egg hunt

The weatherman and the Easter Bunny combined their efforts to provide loads of fun and Easter goodies for children and grandchildren of SRA members at the annual Easter egg hunt held Saturday, April 14, at Kendall Hill. According to Bob Bevoden, president of the SRA and perennial chairman of the Easter egg hunt, this was the best turnout in several years. Bob said, "We taxed the Easter Bunny's supplies pretty well. There were certainly no prizes or candies to spare. Next year we may have to ask him for even more."



Look what I found! With their new found booty are Ricky and Julie Smith, children of Bill Smith of Employee Relations.

## SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES



Vernie Ellis  
Hydroprocessing  
35 years



Jack Cherry  
Lubricants  
30 years



Wimp Davis  
Engineering Field  
30 years



Merle Green  
Purchasing  
30 years



Charlie Booten  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Jack Giles  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Wilfred Hess  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Kenny Kruckeberg  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Howard McCollom  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Ray Ogle  
Refinery Lab  
25 years



Don Page  
Purchasing  
25 years



Gervese Roundcount  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Red Saunders  
Engineering Field  
25 years



Ben Simon  
Lubricants  
25 years



Jack Watkins  
Engineering Field  
25 years

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Wren bird houses made of exterior cedar plywood. John DeCota, 618-254-9344.

RCA Whirlpool air conditioner, 18,000 BTU. Has four speeds and outside vent. Three seasons old. \$175. Glenn E. Gindler, 618-345-5261.

Craftsman riding lawn mower, 6 hp, 26 inch cut. \$100. Mustang riding lawn mower, 7 hp, 24 inch cut. \$75. Jerry Rolfsmeier, 618-459-3984.

Newly refinished: two straight walnut chairs; one straight cherrywood chair; one walnut rocking chair; one 24 x 30 walnut table. Also, one walnut table as is. Steve Maher, 618-462-2719.

### DEATHS

MARION E. CHESNUT, March 3. Marion was a valve repairer 1st before retiring in 1965.

JESSE E. McMICHAEL, March 14. Jesse was a car repairman 1st before retiring in 1947.

TONY RENNER, March 27. Tony was a yardman in Engineering Field before retiring last August.

GLEN HOLFORD, March 24. Glen was a salvagerman 1st in Stores before retiring in 1951.

JAMES IRVIN BOULCH, April 9. James was a pipefitter 1st before retiring in 1961.

### Shutdowns ...

(Continued from page 1)

J. I. Smith, process manager for part of the units involved in this shutdown, reflected the comments of others when he said, "The efforts of engineering, safety and operations were well coordinated in meeting our targets. Teamwork was the key element."

# Your favorite snapshot could be a winner

Everyone has at least one favorite snapshot... one "certain to win a prize." *Shell News* is sponsoring a contest where that special photograph may be worth money to you. It is the Take-Stock-In-America Photography contest, and the specifics are outlined in the current issue of *Shell News*.

Entries mailed between now and midnight, August 31, 1973 by Shell employees and retirees will be eligible. (Amateur photographers only, please.) The theme is This Land, and winning pictures will reflect the spirit of America in one or more of the following ways: its beauty, its people caring for one another, its changing environment, its history, its sports, its culture, its arts and its inhabitants—pets, wildlife, and people: how they live and work and play; their everyday behavior, clothes, manners, religion, ethics and idiosyncrasies.

First prize winner will receive \$300 in U.S. Savings Bonds. Second prize will be

a \$200 Savings Bond; third prize, a \$100 Savings Bond; and fourth prize, a \$50 Savings Bond. In addition, Honorable Mention winners will receive \$25 Savings Bonds, and Certificates of Merit will be given for other pictures of note.

This is strictly a color photography contest, but contestants may submit up to six photographs, no larger than 8x10, or color transparencies, preferably 35mm or 2 1/4 x 2 1/4. Each photograph must carry both your name and address. For your protection all photographs should be carefully packed and marked. The contest instructions in the *Shell News* give some good tips in this regard. The official entry blank is there also. Entries are to be sent to: One Shell Plaza (Room 1536) in Houston.

Look for the prize winning pictures in the November-December issue of the *Shell News*. The first prize winner will be featured as a cover of a future *Shell News*.



Yosemite National Park, California; one of the most beautiful places in America. The spirit of America is shown not only in its beauty, but in other ways as well. If you have a photo which captures this spirit, you could be a big winner.

**Review**

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VOL. 36 NO. 3

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

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

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

Bill Gibson, editor