

A. J. Albers: 45 years at Wood River

"Hey Abel... or Art... Al... Double-A... Triple-A... Long-drink-of-water."

Arthur John Albers, operations foreman in Distilling, answers to all of these nicknames and others, and he's been answering them at the Wood River Refinery for 45 years. "Abe," he says, is the one he hears most often.

Snipe hunt

Abe began his Shell career in the Refinery Lab. "My first job was carrying samples," he recalls, "from old Topping Row and the Gas Plant to the lab. If the operators knew you were a beginner, they'd play little tricks on you.

"Like they'd ask you to go back to the lab and bring them a 'bucket of end-points'. Of course when you went there you'd find out that end-points aren't something you carry in a bucket, but terms describ-

ing points on the boiling ranges of various products. It didn't take you long to learn, and remember, what end-points were! Then, you couldn't wait to 'educate' some other new guy yourself."

Abe spent over 15 years in the lab and worked on a number of different assignments, including research oriented projects. He said, "We tested working models of units which are now full-fledged parts of the refinery, like a dewaxer, a deasphalter, a hydrogenation unit and a vacuum still."

Prefers shift work

In 1945, Abe moved over to an operating department, Lube Extraction. In 1948 he bid into Distilling; his home department ever since. He became a shift foreman in 1958, and operations foreman

in 1966.

Current duties find Abe on day shift and in the office most of the time, but he says he likes it better on shift work. "It isn't so much that I prefer the changing shifts," says Abe, "but I do enjoy working out on the units with the fellas and where the action is. Given a choice between shift work on the units or day shift in the office-- I'll take the shift."

Distilling start-ups

Abe has seen a number of different Distilling Department units come and go in his many years here. He said,

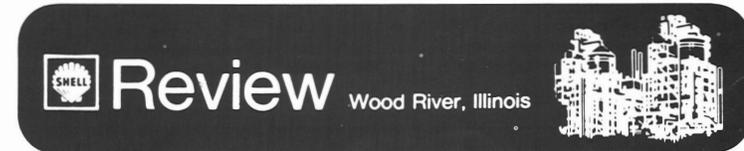
"We don't have any Topping Units any more, but at one time there were eight of them. Over the years they've been replaced by new DU's (Distilling Units). I've seen those 'new' DU's be replaced by others along the way, too."

Currently the refinery just has DU-1 and the substantially larger DU-2 in operation. Abe was directly involved with both start-ups. He said, "DU-1 was brought up in late 1953, as I recall, sometime between Christmas and New Years. Ring in the new



A. J. Albers

(Please turn to pg. 3)



Vol. 37, No. 9

WOOD RIVER REFINERY

SEPTEMBER, 1974

Economist's observation ...

Petroleum prices/supplies follow cycles

Editor's note: as with all industries in a competitive economy, the petroleum industry is subject to the forces of the marketplace -- supply and demand. Currently, the country is experiencing a shortage condition and higher prices.

But this isn't the first time these conditions have occurred. Below is part of an essay written by economist Dr. Richard J. Gonzales and published by the American Petroleum Institute. Dr. Gonzales recounts the fluctuations over the last fifty years:

The United States has gone

through a series of economic cycles over the past fifty years that involve petroleum.

First, there may be a surplus that causes prices to go down. If prices are frozen at that level, demand is stimulated, development of new supplies is suppressed, and soon a shortage is created. When you create a shortage, the price has to go up. And when the price changes, supply and demand are influenced and that sets in motion a whole new cycle.

The 20's and 30's

In the 1920's the nation was

worried about running out of oil. The government appointed a Federal Oil Conservation Board to look into this. People predicted that we were going to run out of oil completely by the 1930's.

Then, fortunately, a new technology came along -- geophysics. That suddenly made it possible for companies to find oil in areas where they had looked before, but without success. They found a large crop of new fields, and the price went down because technology had changed, making it possible to

find and develop oil at lower costs. People in the 1930's began to think that we would always have a surplus of oil.

That was the first cycle.

Surplus/shortage

But as the price went down, people began to use oil instead of coal and to use oil in many new ways. It became common to use oil for home heating. Petroleum was so cheap that oil burners were developed and we began to enjoy the benefits of central oil heat.

In the 1946 to 1948 period, right after World War II, our country again worried about

running out of oil, for the second time in the 20th Century. The price of crude oil went from \$1.25 a barrel under price controls in June 1946 to \$2.65 in November 1948 -- more than a doubling.

As a result, there was a great surge of exploration and drilling. In this period, oilmen discovered and applied new technology so they could recover oil and natural gas from formations that previously were non-commercial.

(Please turn to pg. 4)

It's a moving experience for two fuel oil tanks

It was a moving experience. Tank moving experience, that is.

In an effort to reduce even further the small percentage of Cat Cracker catalyst "fines" getting to the atmosphere, Wood River is building two, large electrostatic precipitators. However,

the site chosen for the precipitators was already occupied by the two boilerhouse fuel oil tanks.

It was decided that rather than tear down the existing tanks and build brand new ones, the tanks could be picked up, shuffled a

couple hundred feet to their new foundations and put back into operation.

Steve Tirrell, senior engineer in Engineering Office, was the engineer who calculated the feasibility of such a move; Stan Smith's drafting group (particu-

larly draftsman Bob Pratt) did the design drawings for relocation of pumps, pipes and related equipment; and the Engineering Field personnel under the guidance of Tony Calcaterra and Jules Weshinsky of Engineering Projects made the actual move.

There was more to this move than just figuring clearances, lift-weights, doing the rigging, and making the move. Tirrell said, "These two tanks provide fuel to the boilerhouse. Operationally, we couldn't afford to totally cut off that supply."

Weshinsky continued, "So what we did was disconnect and move one tank while the other continued to supply fuel. After the first tank was moved, connected up, filled, and put back into service, we could move the second."

Both tanks have been moved and are in service at their new location. So what's the next move? Build those precipitators, that's what.



With craneman John Spudic at the stick, and craneman helper Ken Johnson (lower center) assisting, one of the tanks moves slowly to its new foundation. Each tank is 32 feet in diameter and 40 feet tall, and weighs about 32 tons. From lift-off to set-down the 217 foot trip took 20 minutes.



As the tank moves forward, yardman Dick Hilyard clears a spot on the new foundation where the tank's water trap will fit.

**Give
the
United
Way**

Sports and shorts

Missouri/Illinois Champs

As the Review went to press last month, a Khoury League team coached by Bob Hovorka of Technological was locked in the throes of a playoff to determine the greater St. Louis area -- both sides of the river -- champion for girls aged 10 and 11. They emerged victorious! In fact, they swept the series in two straight games, ending their season at 18 and 0, including playoff games. They defeated the Bethalto Mighty Midgets for the title.

SRA softball kings

The Compounding team posted two straight victories over the Pipefitters to win the SRA slow pitch championship. Compounding went through the entire season and the playoffs without a defeat. Their final record was 16-0.

SRA Bridge Tournament

The SRA Bridge Club will hold the annual Martha Kimmel Memorial Bridge Tournament starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 13, in the refinery cafeteria. It is open to all SRA members and their families. To enter, just show up at the starting time.

RETIREMENTS



Ralph Graham
Eng. Office
35 years



Gene Hightower
Eng. Field
35 years



Jim Thompson
Eng. Field
33 years



Jess Billings
Eng. Field
31 years



Tommy Turpin
Eng. Services
31 years



Jim Spagna
Lubricants
30 years



Virgil Brinker
Eng. Field
28 years



Art Enloe
Eng. Field
25 years



Melvin Utechtt
Eng. Field
22 years

IN REMEMBRANCE

IRVING E. FLAGG, August 18. Mr. Flagg was an electrician 1st before retiring in February, 1973. He was 63.

ALBERT WAYNE BEAN, August 21. Mr. Bean was an operations foreman in Distilling before retiring in 1970. He was 68.

ELMO LYNN COONS, August 24. Mr. Coons was a senior office assistant in Utilities before retiring in November, 1973. He was 57.

W. L. KOCH, September 5. Mr. Koch was a field machinist helper before retiring in 1955. He was 82.

L. C. WOOD, September 8. Mr. Wood was a boilermaker 1st before retiring in 1952. He was 75.

LOUIS AUGUST KNIPPING, September 15. Mr. Knipping was a zone foreman before retiring in 1961. He was 76.

Energy Forum

If one of your friends or neighbors asked you the following questions about the energy situation, how would you answer? Our answers are on page 3.

1. Are we Americans pumping oil from known wells as fast as we can to help increase domestic crude supplies?
2. Is the Wood River Refinery making gasoline at its maximum level?
3. It's being said that demand for gasoline has risen sharply over the last few years. Why?

Energy savings might be found 'blowin in the wind'

Sometimes the situation calls for a return to the old tried-and-true methods of the past ... but windmills for goodness sake? By an oil company?

Absolutely! In yet another effort to conserve energy (and at the same time use an energy source that's abundant, and free, and was going to waste otherwise) Shell is experimenting with small windmills on offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Windmills are being evaluated as an alternate power supply for foghorns and obstruction lights on the platforms. Here's how the windmills help: the blades are connected to an alternator, and the alternator charges rechargeable batteries which run the navigational aids.

Dick Witcher of the Southern Exploration and Production Region, based in New Orleans, is the project coor-

inator for the experiment. Dick said, "We are now installing four windmills on offshore platforms in the Gulf, but plan on installing similar ones on all our unmanned structures in the Gulf."

"Each windmill will replace from 10 to 30 storage batteries, depending on the amount of power required. In the past we have had to replace the storage batteries at least once a year. When you consider the amount of energy it takes just to make all those batteries and add to that the manpower, transportation, and related effort needed to change the batteries, we are conserving a significant amount of energy."

Significant, yes. Shell estimates that potential energy conservation could reach the equivalent of a third of a million dollars per year.



WIND ENERGY. Dick Witcher (left), project coordinator of Shell's alternative energy program, and Fred Kerekowski make final adjustments on one of four windmills which help provide electricity to run offshore platform fog horns and navigational lights.

Why not try your hand at world-wide bridge?

The ninth Shell World-Wide Bridge Tournament will be held this year during the first two weeks in November. It's a tournament believed to be the only one of its kind in the world.

Shell bridge players compete in their respective locations by playing pre-dealt hands. Thus, players in Hong Kong or Venezuela, in Thailand, in Europe, or in the United States, compete by playing the same hands. Scores are then compared with those of all other Shell players around the world. Over the years, the championship has been won by American,

British, and Dutch pairs, among others.

In last year's Wood River competition, Dave Clarke and John Bostick, both of Research, tied for top honors with Noel Lane of Dispatching and his wife. When it came to comparing scores worldwide, however, retiree Ray Randles and his wife scored the highest of the Wood River pairs, finishing 60th out of 300 participants.

Anyone interested in playing in this year's tourney can get the particulars from pensioner J. D. Metcalf (618-656-2266) or any member of the SRA bridge Club.



SOUTH FROM ALASKA. Last July it was Kenny Kruckeberg, engineering foreman, and his son Dennis who flew this tiny Piper between Alton and the Alaskan wilderness (as featured in the September '74 Shell Review). They were later joined by Kenny's wife Hertha for a visit with Kenny's brother Jim and his wife Jo Ann at their Alaskan home. This year Jim and Jo Ann repaid the visit by flying the two-seater down here. The flying Kruckeberg's (from left) Kenny, Hertha, Dennis, Jim, and Jo Ann.

It's no secret ...

Tinner Bevfoden makes magic tricks work

Some wags joke that the recent upsurging interest in magic across the country is a result of the tricksters in Washington. Others say it's simply the fun of a magic act that people enjoy. Whatever the reason, magic is making a comeback as a popular form of entertainment.

There's at least one person at the refinery who is closely involved with magic: Bob Bevfoden, tinner 1st. Although Bob knows how hundreds of magic tricks are done, he seldom performs them himself because, you see, he's one of those "backstage" people. Bob's hobby is constructing the many and varied props that magicians use in their acts.

He makes it possible for beautiful ladies to be sawed in half, to float in mid-air, to disappear and/or reappear. He sees to it that you can stuff a roomful of goodies into one little box. And, he makes a magician's wand that's so good it can make itself disappear.

Bob (many people here know him by his refinery 'stage name' of "Ben the Tinner") got into his unusual hobby in 1967 through a church friend, John Fabjance. John is a teacher at Alton High who for years has not only constructed magic tricks but also performed them. In fact John Fabjance, the magician, performed at Family Day with props largely constructed by himself and Bob

Bevfoden.

Tricks for the famous

Bob said, "This is strictly a fun hobby for me. In fact, the whole family gets into the act. Our basement at home is our workshop. Over the last seven years I've built over one hundred different magic-trick props. We use everything from plastic to wood to glass to cloth to feathers. Oh yes, we even use some tin from time to time, too."

Bob and John have working relationships with many individual magicians throughout the country as well as the Six Flags people and the Ringling Brothers Circus.

Bob said, "About once a year the Ringling Brothers people stop by and we all have a big brainstorming session to come up with new tricks for their clowns. It's a lot of fun. We get some pretty crazy ideas too. If you've seen their circus lately, you've probably seen something I've built... like a box that makes a midget disappear, or a three-foot baby bottle that never empties."

Inside information

If you've been wondering about the secrets of some of those magic tricks, just ask Bob... he won't tell you. He said, "Sure, I know the secrets behind many magic tricks... some pretty complicated ones too. But it's an unwritten code among those in the trade to never, but never, tell how it's done."

Being behind the scenes and knowing how all the

tricks are done sounds like fun to most folks. "It is," says Bob, "but there are drawbacks. Once you know for sure how a trick is done or an illusion achieved, it takes all the real fun out of magic. About all you can do is appreciate the magician's technique."

He continued, "Most magicians and magicians' helpers know all the tricks, or at least the general technique, but every once in awhile someone comes up with one not even his fellow magicians can figure out... and you can bet he's not going to tell them either!"

Vanishing violin

He said, "There's this one fellow (Norm Neilson) that levitates a violin and it plays itself out there in mid-air. At the end of the song the music stops and the violin disappears into thin air! At a recent magician's convention he performed it and we were all watching from backstage."

"We knew that violin had to go somewhere: up, down, behind the curtain, somewhere. We all watched very carefully and had the advantage not only of being backstage but also of having some inklings about the secret. But, zoom, it was gone! And Norm never told us where it went either."

That's fantastic, Bob. Very interesting. But there's this one trick that's always had us baffled. Certainly you wouldn't mind giving us one little hint on how it's... Now where the heck did he disappear to?



MAGIC MAKERS. When it comes to helping tinner Bob Bevfoden construct all those gadgets that baffle you at a magic show, the entire family gets into the act. Shown with some of the props they make in their basement workshop are (from left): Bob's wife Dana; children Mary, Diane, Tina, and Freddy; and Bob himself.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

Woman's 5-speed bicycle. One year old. Excellent condition. Don (I finally got a boy's bicycle) Belliss. 618-259-1176.

1973 Harley Davidson. 100 cc. Guaranteed never to have been ridden by Evel Knievel. Ken Hainaut. 618-635-3670.

1972 Honda CB-175. Perfect condition. Electric starter, 1,100

miles. \$445. Russ Booher. 618-259-5943.

Meal time. Portable electric oven. Also, junior sized dining table: 36x42. Extends with 17 inch leaf. Both like new. Good buys. Clarence Ryan. 618-259-1702.

Figure it out. Electric calculator and electric adding machine. Lloyd Whitworth. Weekdays after 6 p.m. 618-633-2351.

From page one ...

Distilling foreman celebrates 45th

year with a new unit so to speak.

"It was on stream, but we didn't have it running very well for a couple months. We all experienced a variety of growing pains."

Inside job

Abe continued, "Even though DU-2 was much larger than DU-1, I guess we learned from our start-up mistakes of 15 years earlier, because DU-2 went into operation with far fewer Excedrin headaches than DU-1."

"There's one duty I had during DU-2 construction I'll al-

ways remember. I was in charge of a special final inspection: I was the guy who climbed inside every column--from top to bottom--to make sure we didn't leave any tools in the patient before buttoning her up.

"Stop by Distilling someday and take a gander at all that hardware. I've been over, under, and into every inch... often on my hands and knees."

Not so retiring

Next March Abe celebrates his 65th birthday. He plans to stay on his Shell job until then, but as for taking up the leis-

urely life during his pension years, Abe isn't so sure. "I've always kept myself in fit condition and active," he said, "I'm not sure what I'll be doing, but it won't be sitting in a rocking chair. At least not for a few years, anyway."

He joked, "I may have to get another job in self-defense. My wife Betty and I raised six kids (all college educated, three with PhD's). They're grown and spread all over the country. If I have too much leisure time on my hands I might end up being a non-paid handyman from coast to coast." He smiled, "Might as well be drawing a paycheck, eh?"



Energy Forum

(Below are answers to the energy questions on page 2.)

1. The major producing oil fields in the United States (Louisiana and Texas) have been producing at their maximum efficiency rate, as determined by those producing states, for about two years. If any well is pushed to produce beyond its maximum efficiency rate, the natural pressure within the well is dissipated too rapidly. This results in a reduction in the total amount of oil that can be recovered.

2. Yes, and has been doing so pretty much since early spring. However, toward the end of each "driving season" the refinery cuts back on gasoline production and increases distillate (heating oil) production in anticipation of the winter heating oil season.

This summer, Wood River has been able to do even more in the way of making gasoline due to an extended Cat Cracker shutdown at the Norco Refinery. A portion of this Cat Cracker feed has been sent to Wood River where most of it was able to be converted to much needed gasoline.

3. Major causes for the rise in gasoline demand in recent years were:

- Increased desire for gasoline-consuming power options in new cars, particularly automatic transmissions and air conditioning.
- Lower engine compression ratios (to allow use of no-lead or low-lead gasolines) and the addition of various pollution controls on new cars. These decrease mileage. (Estimated by the Office of Emergency Preparedness at nearly 4,600,000 gallons per year across the U.S.)
- Record breaking sales of new cars (prior to the 1974 model year) equipped with the above mentioned power options and pollution controls. In other words, more cars on the road getting worse gas mileage.
- Increased away-from-home driving and driving vacations, and more use of recreational vehicles such as boats, snowmobiles, dune buggies, and trailers.

Shell sponsors patriotic TV series

It's probably a first. It's probably the first time in the history of television that a single company has contracted to sponsor 732 network television programs. In advance. And over a period of two years.

Yet that's what Shell has done in agreeing to sponsor "Bicentennial Minutes," 732 one-minute programs scheduled nightly from the Fourth of July of this year through the Fourth of July of 1976, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration

of Independence.

The first program was aired July 4, 1974, on CBS in prime time -- just after *The Waltons*. In that opening "Minute," Charlton Heston described how, on July 4, 1774, George Washington was at Mount Vernon supervising the addition of a wing to his estate and expressing concern over the closing of Boston harbor by the British as a result of the Boston Tea Party. "That's the way it was," Heston said. And 'that's the way it will be' over the

next two years.

The special project, documenting America's struggle for independence and reflecting life as experienced by colonial Americans, will be broadcast each day of the year in prime time. Each "Minute" will feature a well-known individual from various professions relating an authenticated piece of American history which occurred exactly 200 years previously. Some of the events were momentous, others were not. But, taken together,

the "Minutes" will represent a mosaic of the American Revolution, as well as the lives of the people who lived it.

Each guest celebrity will be invited to participate in the series because his work or personality relates to the "Minute" in which he appears.

You already may have seen some of the "Bicentennial Minutes" aired thus far. Among the celebrities who have taped programs are: Rosalind Russell, Norman Vincent Peale, Alan Alda,

Jean Simmons, Pat O'Brien, James Earl Jones, Euell Gibbons, Elizabeth Montgomery, Burl Ives, and Henry Fonda. Many others are scheduled.

The one minute programs appear on CBS during prime time, following such shows as *The Waltons*, *Maude*, *Apple's Way*, *All in the Family*, and *Gunsmoke*.

Shell products are not advertised. The only mention of Shell is recognition of its sponsorship. Watch for these patriotic and educational programs.

ANNIVERSARIES



Paul Dvorchak
Refinery Lab
35 years



Elmer Engelmann
L.O.P.
35 years



Mac McNabney
Eng. Field
35 years



George Richardson
Refinery Lab
35 years



Smithy Schmidt
L.O.P.
35 years



George Thompson
Refinery Lab
35 years



Elmer Eudy
Dispatching
30 years



Homer Schwalb
L.O.P.
30 years



Sully Sullivan
Eng. Office
30 years



Harold Wilson
Hydroprocessing
30 years



Stanley Darr
L.O.P.
25 years



John Davenport
Research Lab
25 years



Roy Jenkins
Eng. Services
25 years



Thelma O'Donnell
Treasury
25 years



George Reddish
Lubricants
25 years



Moo Schneider
L.O.P.
25 years

General Omar Bradley gives doubly memorable 'minute'

Stage 33 at Television City in Hollywood seemed more like the inside of a church than a television set. The reverential atmosphere -- created by otherwise jaded stagehands and harried technicians -- was the direct effect of the awe commanded by the gentleman standing before the camera. Time came for a "take." On cue, he concentrated on the words flowing on the teleprompter before him and, in a steady, relaxed voice, began:

"This is Omar Bradley. Two hundred years ago today, the American Minuteman was born..."

It was a taping for a presentation on "Bicentennial Minutes," the Shell-sponsored series of 732 one-minute specials reflecting the American

Revolution, this segment scheduled to appear September 21. Bradley, handling his lines like a veteran actor, continued: "... they were ordered to be ready to fight on a minute's notice."

It was a perfect union of narrator and event: General of the Army Omar Bradley, 81, and the nation's only surviving five-star general, relating how, on September 21, 1774, the citizens of Worcester, Mass., voted to create an independent militia.

Yet it wasn't merely the blend of speaker and historical moment which so moved onlookers. It also was the opportunity to experience, in the presence of perhaps America's most respected contemporary military leader, the warmth and

genuineness which caused Bradley to be known as "the soldier's general."

"You know," one prop man in his late forties remarked, "most of the men on the crew here served under the General."

Such was indeed the case. Between takes, crew members approached Bradley to shake his hand. Some were satisfied with just a handshake. Others felt compelled to speak.

"General," said a balding electrician, "I served under you during the war. And, because of you, sir, we won that war."

Bradley appeared genuinely touched. Without a shred of false modesty, he replied, "No, sir, it was because of you we won the war."

From page one ...

Oil prices fluctuate

Price wars

Price stimulated the supply and we were back in balance quickly--by 1949 there was no shortage. The Korean War in 1950 and 1951 caused a slight rise of prices. But from 1958 forward there was a period of about 12 years when we had a surplus. This surplus, however, was in relation to immediate demands -- not in relation to long run demands. The threat of greater imports of cheap (at that time) foreign oil kept U.S. prices down and discouraged development of new resources. Beginning in 1958, the price of crude oil and petroleum products began to decline, and the consumer enjoyed price wars and surpluses. The producer was

the one who had to stand the unsatisfactory rates of return and the losses.

That was the second cycle.

Around again

We appear to be starting a third cycle. If the market is allowed to operate without government controls, the increase in price should stimulate the development of additional volumes, but the higher price also should check the demand.

So forces start moving to alter old trends.

Eventually, supply may be greater than demand, and the price will come back down.

This pattern has occurred before and can be expected to happen again.

Review Wood River, Illinois

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Bill Gibson, editor

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