



Family Day

Family Day was held at the Wood River Refinery Saturday, September 21, and by most any measure you'd want to make, it was a success.

The purpose of Family Day was to give family members a close-up view of how the refinery operates and perhaps even a glimpse of where dad or mom (or whomever) works. The weather was perfect: sunny and seventy, and the estimated 7,000 persons who attended had many opportunities to see in some detail the inner workings of the Wood River Refinery.

If Family Day was a success, it was due to the efforts of many volunteers, and advance planning that started last May. All in all nearly 500 employees volunteered some of their time beforehand and/or on Family Day itself.

Tourin' time

For most folks the first "tour" of the day was through the welcoming tent where old-and-new pictures of the refinery and its people were displayed, Shell products were exhibited, a slide show of how the refinery operates was run, and personal safety equipment was shown.

An intricate schedule of busses was set up over three separate routes -- each with guides on board. All toured the entire refinery, but emphasized and stopped at different work areas. Walking tours of the Refinery Lab and the main office area were also available. Over 4,400 people were counted boarding the busses.

That's entertainment

Although designed primarily for the youngsters attending Family Day with their parents, "show-time" activities in the cafeteria drew a healthy group of parents too. John Fabjance, an Alton magician, entertained several times during the day, alternating with a lively cartoon show.

Three clowns toured the welcoming and show area, delighting the kids with their antics and balloon tricks. What would have seemed a limitless number of special balloons and lollipops were available for the grabbing. Ten thousand of each were distributed.

Food food food

A picnic lunch was served all day, and although hopefully no one had to go without, there weren't any "leftovers" either. In all, over 510 pounds of ham and more than 930 pounds of barbecued beef were consumed, along with 875 pounds of coleslaw and 75 sheet cakes of 100 pieces each . . . not to mention relishes, potato chips and soft drinks.



Refinery Manager, Art Williams, spent much of the day greeting employees, pensioners, and their families in the welcoming tent. Here he meets the family of Harv Birmingham, employee relations representative.



Refreshments were served by Canteen Corporation all day. Visitors consumed over 8,000 sandwiches, 8,000 cups of soda, 3,500 sacks of potato chips, as well as relishes and cake.



Eighty-one year old retiree, Ray Misegades, and his 95 year old sister, Tina Simmons, enjoyed the day's activities by taking in the Red Line bus tour and walking tours. Ray retired as a distilling operator-1 in 1954.



Bob Gray, process engineer in Light Oil Processing, explains the computerized workings of the Oil Movements Center (OMC) to an attentive tour group. Marion Brown of Products Pipeline (foreground) was one of many employees throughout the refinery to whom Family Day was "just another work day."

Special Thanks

In addition to your editor, there were four "official photographers" capturing Family Day activities on film. Many of their pictures appear in this issue. Special thanks go to Larry Basden of Tech., Jon Hayes and Tom Wittman of Research, and Ray Thrasher of Engineering Office.

Tourin' Time



"Welcome to the Cat Cracker, and step right in!" Visitors to the Cat Cracker were treated to the smiling faces of (from left): Jimmy Nicosia, Kenny Nail, John Carlton, Barney Sethaler, and Les Schlemer.



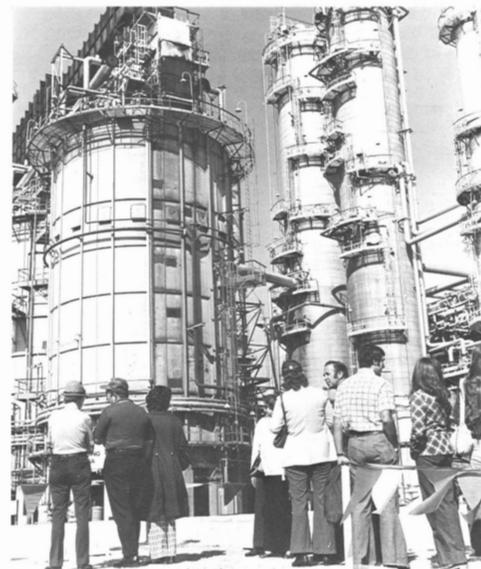
Tour guide deliveries were as varied as those who gave them. RAY MELLIES (senior engineer-Tech, above) literally "eats up" his job at the microphone. Don't chip a tooth, Ray! CAROLL BARTON (operator-1 in LF&E, left) makes his "pitch" with the smooth delivery and sporty moustache of a medicine show Barker. ART KIEHNE (engineer-Tech, below) "croons" his tune in the relaxed manner of a nightclub singer.



Carl Herzog, office assistant in Compounding, welcomes another group to the PLW for a trip through the canning plant. Elaine Paul, senior clerk, acted as a guide.



The Engineering Field shops provided many interesting displays. Here, Earl Flatt, machinist 1st, describes a working model of a reciprocating pump.



Visitors were afforded close up views of the refinery's operating units. This one, Distilling-2.



It was a packed house in the cafeteria as kids of all ages alternately enjoyed a magician and cartoons.

That's Entertainment

Mary Kay Archibald, secretary in Research, shows good form in balloon blowing as a young friend seems to be getting the idea.



Magician, John Fabjance, proved to be a big hit as he drew heavily from his audiences for young "assistants." Ray Thrasher, design draftsman, was the entertainment chairman for Family Day. But the chairman-turned-photographer enjoyed the Shows as much as did the kids (above).



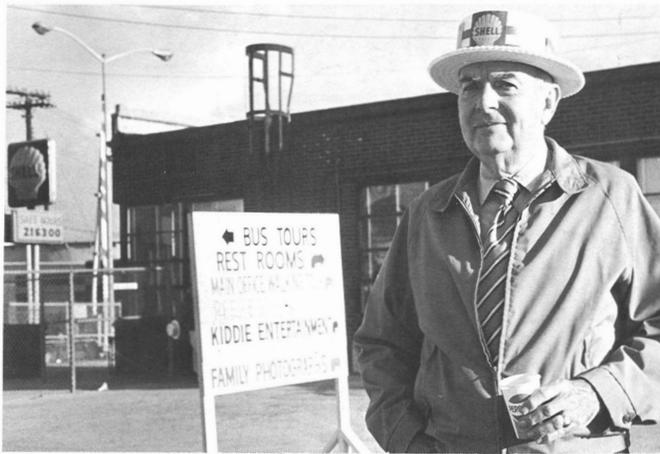
Christine Basden, daughter of Larry Basden, senior engineer in Tech, finds a comfy lap with one of the many volunteer baby-sitters. In this case it's Arlene Tutt, Engineering Field secretary.



It wouldn't be the same without clowns! Three clowns from the Moolah Shrine Temple of St. Louis entertained. The clown on the extreme right is Tom Strayhorn, son of retired pipefitter 1st, Sam Strayhorn.



Given just a few more years, Shellie Boehm will make a perfect tour-guide. Here she models her mom's tour-guide hat. Mom is Marty Boehm, operator helper in Aromatics East.



Battle veteran, Cliff Davidson (Light Oil Processing) surveys the "battlefield" at dusk. Cliff has been closely associated with the planning and execution of past Family Days, and was vice chairman for Family Day '74.

What a Day!



It's been a long day. Among the "chief dispatchers" of bus tours were Ray Lopez, superintendent operations, Light Oil Processing (left) and Bob McAndrews, manager, Economics and Scheduling. Both were happy to get off their feet at day's end.

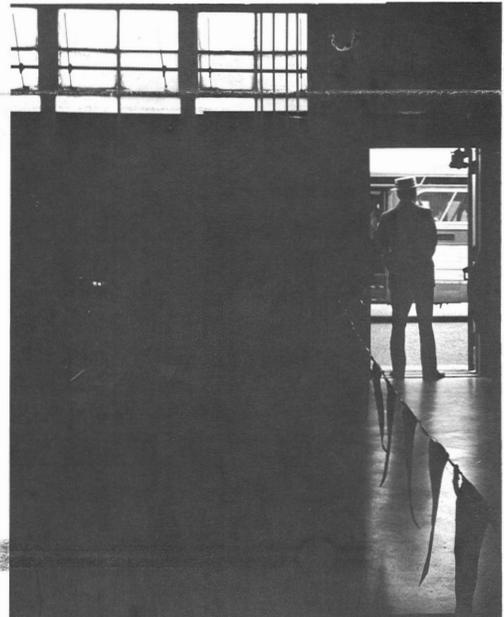


Red Laatsch (left), foreman in the Refinery Lab, is the lucky winner of a "Wood River Woody" statue presented by Bob Brannan, senior safety inspector. Eight such winners were picked at the stroke of the half-hour as they passed the safety display.

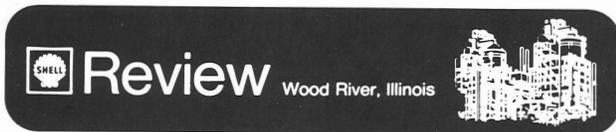


Did I have a good time at Family Day? You betcha! When's the next one?

Saying so-long to the last bus...



Special Issue – Family Day



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