

# 1974: it was quite a year

The new year, 1975, is already off and rolling, and it looks as if it may develop into a memorable one. Don't discount ol' 1974, though, because it had more than its share of historical events.

Recall, if you will, some of the people and proceedings of 1974 as they took their place in the history of Wood River.

### Snow

Actually, the big weather story of 1974 started in late '73 as two record snow storms hit the Wood River area a little more than a week apart. Officially, the total accumulation was 22 inches.

The refinery's snow removal crews were pressed into 24-hour service, and an admirable job they did. To add insult to injury, a January "teaser" storm dumped a few more inches of snow followed by freezing rain ... and '74 was off to a pretty slick start.

### Operations

Partially because of diminished crude supplies due to the Arab embargo, several major maintenance shutdowns were scheduled for the early months of '74.

Biggest of these were the shutdowns at Cat Cracker No. 2 and Distilling No. 2. During one period both of these big

units were down at the same time. Compared to the record intakes of late '73, the refinery was running for a short while with crude intakes about 200,000 barrels per day under capacity.

Conservation efforts toward fuel requirements in running the refinery continued, and the goal of reducing 1971 requirements by ten percent before 1975 was surpassed well in advance of the self-imposed deadline. Further savings are still being sought.

The reinstatement of Mideast crude saw refinery modifications planned in order to accept and process this generally higher sulfur content crude, while at the same time increase overall refinery capacity to 300,000 barrels per day. These projects are continuing.

### People

It was a record year of sorts for service anniversaries as no less than four employees celebrated 45 years with Shell, virtually all of their 180 years of experience being at Wood River. The four "old-timers" were A.J. Albers and Clyde Hitch of Distilling, Chris Christeson of the Refinery Lab, and E. B. Gillis of

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**AT FAMILY DAY** (top) Jack Maher, Aromatics foreman, speaks to a group visiting the HCU/CR-1 control room. **TANK MOVES** (left) were part of the scene. Tank D-43 was moved from Dispatching to Cracking by way of the Main Gate parking lot. **MILLION SAFE HOURS** (right) were celebrated with turkeys. While safety inspector, Ed Henke, and gateman, Jack Harris, pass out the birds, refinery manager Art Williams, greets the flock of recipients.

## New Publication for pensioners on its way

Wood River pensioners responding to the Readers' Survey last Fall expressed a strong desire for continued and increased coverage of pensioners and pensioner activities in the *Shell Review*.

Other Shell pensioners across the country no doubt have been expressing similar opinions because even before Wood River's tabulations were made, plans were under way for a Shell-wide publication specifically for pensioners.

The first issue of the *Shell Alumni News* is scheduled for mailing to Shell's 12,000 pensioners in late January. The new newspaper not only has a role to play in improving pensioner/company communications, it also should facilitate contact among pensioners themselves. It comes to pensioners in addition to the *Shell Review* and the *Shell News* magazine now being received.

Several special sections are planned for the new publica-

tion, including People Notes, Club News, and "Letters", all of which will depend on the input of pensioners themselves. The publication also will carry regular listings of retirement anniversaries.

Any retiree-related news will be welcomed by the new newspaper. Particularly appropriate will be news of pensioner clubs -- either established or proposed. But *Alumni News* will welcome comments on just about any subject: second careers, vol-

unteer work, organizational activities, travel, hobbies, whatever. Any accompanying photographs will be given careful consideration.

Just because there's a nation-wide pensioners' newspaper, don't think that your own Wood River *Shell Review* doesn't want to hear from you. We do! And so do the other Wood River pensioners and employees by reading your story in the *Review*.

If you know of a story that might be interesting to your fellow pensioners and employees, drop a note to Bill Gibson, editor, *Shell Review*, Box 262, Wood River, Illinois 62095. All items will also be forwarded to the *Shell Alumni News* for their consideration.

If you prefer to bypass Wood River and go directly to the *Shell Alumni News*, mail your correspondence to: R.W. Hester, Manager Pension Services, A.M.F. Box 60565, Houston, Texas 77060.

## 'Take it with you' breathing equipment designed locally



**DESIGNERS.** Boilermaker foreman, Kenny Kruckeberg; boilermaker, Sam Grider; and equipment tool repairman, Maynard Green, inspect the portable breathing unit. These three, along with security supervisor, Jim Grizzle, designed the unit.

As refreshing as a breath of fresh air ... The idea of making breathing equipment more portable by carting it around started in the early fifties when men were required to step out onto, and do work on, floating roof tanks.

The young man who devised the first "cascade" air cart at the refinery was Fred Hess. Then, Fred was a fire and safety inspector. Today, Fred is the safety supervisor; which doesn't disprove the opinion that it can't hurt to make a good suggestion once in a while.

The cascade air cart was used in the tank yards with much success until 1967 when it was decided to stop using the refinery air system for

gas mask work and go to portable breathing units throughout the refinery.

As a result, Vic Pyle, now a retired boilermaker, built three new air carts. The safety folks just told Vic what they wanted to accomplish and the designer-builder came up with a good product.

Going a step further, in 1968 two large trailers complete with double breathing systems which could be pulled by truck to various sites in the refinery were designed.

Earlier last year it was seen that there was a need for more portable breathing equipment, so Kenny Kruckeberg, boilermaker foreman; L.T. "Sam" Grider, boilermaker; Maynard Green, equipment

tool repairman; and Jim Grizzle, security supervisor, united to design the 'Cadillac' of portable breathing carts. The new cart has several improvements. It has a better device to hold the air cylinders in place; it has an improved air hose retainer; it has a stronger lifting lug for transport and crane lifting to the site; and it has larger (actually automobile) tires to make the outfit easier to move over chat.

But the designers aren't finished yet! A battery-powered cable communications system has been installed on an experimental basis. The whole idea is to provide safer, more versatile breathing equipment for those who use them.

# Pensioners' Club annual dinner



"WELCOME YOUNGSTER!" Marion Teachout (head mail/file clerk, '71) greets brand new pensioner, Cliff Davidson (training coordinator, LOP, Dec. '74). Other club officers at the greeting table: Bob Rich (foreman, Distilling, '72); Harry Kirby (foreman, Effluent Treating, '63); and Rex Oglesby (foreman, Ref Lab, '63.)



"That's very interesting. There's MORE?" Coyl Denny (nurse, '71) and Al Perry (engineering foreman, '68.)



"Abbie, you get your hands off the dessert before dinner!" "Why, you old billygoat, I'm old enough to take care of myself." Byron Tanner (foreman, LOT, '61) and Abbie Schelm (foreman, Effluent Treating, '63.)



"The credit union is going to raise the loan interest by HOW much?" Jake Jacoby (operator, Gas, Feb. '74), Frank Hackethal pipefitter, '67) and Virden LaMarsh (estimator, Construction, '70.)



CHOW LINE. The retirees didn't waste any time filling their plates with the good spread of food provided.



"Hey look! We've got girl-retirees attending!" Buck Buchholz (pipefitter 2nd, '59) and Joe Hlavska (pipefitter, '73.)



"Gee, Jim, I don't know about your singing voice, but you do remember the words." Mel Spitze (foreman, Dispatching, '67) and James Cuddy (oper. asst, Effluent Treating, '61.)



MOST SENIORITY. Gaining recognition as the oldest pensioners attending the dinner were: Ross Davidson, age 81 (boilerhouse foreman, '58); "Pop" Harvick, age 84 (zone supervisor, '51) and; Joe Kennedy, age 83 (janitor, '51).



"Good to see ya!" Club president, Loren Weishaupt (engineering supervisor, '73) was at the front door to greet arriving guests.



"That's a good one! Now let me tell you one." Helen Ebelage (clerk, Treasury, '68) and Ethyle Derwin (telephone operator, '53.)



"Wouldn't you be more comfortable if you got a chair?" Ed Bean (tool expediter, Purchasing, '73) and Cicero Ruyle (tractor operator, '61.)

# Wood carving carpenter figures out his hobby

You've probably heard about "a postman's holiday" ... walking his beat while delivering the mail is work, but on his days off he enjoys hiking all over creation.

Don Hunt, carpenter 1st, is engaged in what might be considered a "carpenter's holiday" ... he likes to wood carve in his leisure time.



**DON HUNT, carpenter 1st, uses a variety of specialized tools in his wood carving hobby. Here he demonstrates on a partially finished crucifix.**

"Well, I guess you might say they are similar in a way," says Don. "At least my work and my hobby are both in wood. But building scaffolds and carving little figures really aren't all that much alike."

### Wood worker

Don has been a carpenter for 15 years, but carving wood as a hobby for only the last seven years. He said, "I first got interested in it during a visit to Silver Dollar City. I figured if they could do it, I could. Even the man at Silver Dollar City said so. With that kind of encouragement I started my hobby as soon as I got home."

Admitting it wasn't easy at first, Don has developed his talent to the point where he has several award ribbons to his credit. He said, "It still isn't a snap, but now the most difficult part is advance planning."

"You always need to keep in mind where you're going. Carve off more than you want and you're finished ... you can't put back a piece that's been chipped away."

**Different styles and wood**  
There are different styles

of wood carving but Don Hunt's preferences are: "in the round" and "finished". His items, for instance, are three-dimensional, full figures as opposed to flat or plaque-type carvings, and they are sanded, smoothed, and stained as opposed to rough-cut.

The type of wood used offers many choices for the wood-carving devotee as well. Don explains the differences: "basswood is a light, soft-grained wood. It's easiest to carve, but the grain isn't as striking as some of the others."

"Walnut is a semihard wood with a very nice finish. It's becoming more difficult to find, but the finished product is worth it when you do."

"Teak and cherry are hardwoods. They both have pretty grains. Carving really isn't that much more difficult in the hardwoods, but it does take more time."

### All the tools

As with the most serious of wood carvers, Don utilizes a wide variety of carving tools. He said, "Just because you have a bunch of tools doesn't mean you're a better artist; but all other things being



**RIBBON WINNING figures come from the hand of carpenter, Don Hunt. Here are some examples of his wood carving skills.**

equal, the tools help you to be more flexible."

Most all the carving at the Hunt house is done in a special little room in the basement. Don said, "I have my own quiet little corner. It's very relaxing to me, and I do my best work when there aren't any interruptions. Besides, I don't catch it from my wife, Dorothy, for having wood chips all over the living room rug!"

### Join me

Don encourages anyone who might be interested in

wood carving to do so. He said, "I think anybody who wants to can do it. You don't need formal art training -- I don't have any."

If you think you can do it, Don Hunt encourages you to join him in the "Belleville Area Holzschneitzers" who meet once a month. If you're interested in seeing some of their expert work, stop by the First Presbyterian Church at Highway 161 and Royal Heights Road in Belleville Sunday, February 2.

## 'Record' retirement

There's no "record book" regarding the traditional Red Room retirement luncheons, but if there were, those attending the November 27th affair (retiring effective December 1) might lay claim to several.

Eighteen Wood River employees retired December 1st which is, according to Harv Birmingham, pension advisor in Employee Relations, the largest single-month group in a couple years. But it isn't the number of new pensioners that is worthy of note, it's the accumulated years of wisdom and Shell experience they have.

In all, these 18 individuals accumulated 662½ years of Shell service, for an average of near 37 years apiece. Six of the group achieved 40 years of service or better ... two of these with over 45.

Accumulated ages exceeded 1,100 years. That's a lot of wisdom! In speaking to the group, refinery manager Art Williams duly noted these achievements, thanked them for their many contributions, and told them that that much experience will be difficult to replace.

Those who retired December 1 and their years of Shell service are listed below:

**Gil Barrett**  
Asst. Mgr. - Midwest P.R.  
37 years 10 months

**Chris Christeson**  
Sp. Tester, Refy. Lab  
45 years 3 months

**Glen Cornelison**  
Operator, Cracking  
32 years 2 months

**Cliff Davidson**  
Tng. Coord, L.O.P.  
42 years 3 months

**Morris Dresch**  
Yardman, E.F.  
31 years 9 months

**Dutch Fors**  
Sp. Tester, Refy. Lab  
44 years

**Randall Franklin**  
Pipefitter, E.F.  
35 years 1 month

**E.B. Gillis**  
Research Foreman  
45 years 1 month

**Jess Grover**  
Engineering Foreman  
40 years 8 months

**Ed Hunt**  
Sp. Tester, Refy. Lab  
43 years 5 months

**Thurm Jouett**  
Proc. Mgr., Lubricants  
33 years 2 months

**Dan McGrew**  
Pipefitter, E.F.  
36 years

**Ralph Niepert**  
Operator, Gas  
34 years 3 months

**Al Rezabek**  
Truck Driver, E.F.  
35 years 9 months

**Chuck Richards**  
Tool Repairman, E.F.  
20 years 2 months

**Elmer Schuette**  
Tractor Operator, E.F.  
35 years 1 month

**John Stassi**  
Compounder Helper  
38 years 9 months

**Leland Sugg**  
Yardman, E.F.  
31 years 10 months



**Chris Christeson**  
Refinery Lab  
45 years



**E. B. Gillis**  
Research Lab  
45 years



**Dutch Fors**  
Refinery Lab  
44 years



**Edwin Hunt**  
Refinery Lab  
43 years



**Cliff Davidson**  
L.O.P.  
42 years



**Jess Grover**  
Eng. Field  
40 years



**Gil Barrett**  
Midwest P.R.  
37 years



**John Stassi**  
Lubricants  
38 years



**Dan McGrew**  
Eng. Field  
36 years



**Randall Franklin**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Al Rezabek**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Elmer Schuette**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Ralph Niepert**  
L.O.P.  
34 years



**Thurm Jouett**  
Lubricants  
33 years



**Bill Raspica**  
L.O.P.  
33 years



**Glen Cornelison**  
L.O.P.  
32 years



**George Evans**  
Eng. Field  
32 years



**John Shourd**  
Eng. Field  
32 years



**Morris Dresch**  
Eng. Field  
31 years



**Carl Fry**  
Eng. Field  
31 years



**Leland Sugg**  
Eng. Field  
31 years



**Rex Hogan**  
Eng. Field  
27 years



**Dick Massears**  
Eng. Field  
25 years



**Chuck Richards**  
Purchasing  
20 years

Refinery sponsored...

# Junior Achievers profit from their business skills



**SUPER SELLER.** Members of SOJA company (from left) Bobbie Moore, Marc Tannlund and Cheryl Cunningham put together yule-log candle holders which were popular items during the holiday season.

How's business? Great! That's the answer of the Junior Achievement companies sponsored by the Wood River Refinery.

And business is good: production is humming, sales are running off the charts, and everybody's having fun in SOJA, NOWCO, and UNICO, Shell's three "J.A." companies at the Wood River Center.

J.A. is a nation-wide program where high school students, under the guidance of adults, learn much about the world of business by forming and running their own mini-corporations.

### A thousand in sales

All three mini-corporations are doing quite well by J.A. standards of organization, sales, and good business practices. One company, SOJA, is on its way to a particularly

distinguished sales year.

As of December tabulations, SOJA ranked second among the 300 or so J.A. companies in the Mississippi River Valley Region which encompasses the greater St. Louis area. At barely the half-way mark in J.A.'s "business year" (October to April) SOJA had exceeded \$1,000 in sales.

That's especially impressive because the items J.A. companies make and sell are usually of the small, low-price-tag variety. A thousand dollars in sales for the whole year is a generally accepted mark of excellence.

### Local talent

Norm Duncan, chief technologist at the refinery, is Shell's representative on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement in Alton/Wood

River. Randy Hasselfeld, engineer in Engineering Services, is coordinating advisor at the Wood River Center for all three of Shell's sponsored companies.

Among individual advisors are: Greg Batch, accountant in Treasury; Toni Blankmann, accountant in Treasury; Teresa Beiermann, office secretary in Hydroprocessing; Ken Farris, engineer in Engineering Services; and Bill Fruit, engineer in Technological.

Other individual advisors are: John Griffiths, engineer in Technological; Bob Morfeld, accountant in Treasury; Jim Nielson, engineer in Hydroprocessing; John Propst, engineer in Engineering Office; Terry Stark, accountant in Treasury; and Marella Zaganelli, senior stenographer in Treasury.

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Buck Buckshot**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Sammy Fulkerson**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Red Laatsch**  
Refinery Lab  
35 years



**Bob Legate**  
Refinery Lab  
35 years



**Bud Locke**  
Refinery Lab  
35 years



**Walter Rives**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Frank Stringer**  
Eng. Field  
35 years



**Earl Allen**  
L.O.P.  
30 years

From page one...

## 1974 in review

A full year of family activities and sporting events filled the year, and for the most part, attendance was the best in years. Warmed by the experience, the SRA Board is planning even better things for 1975.

About 7,000 Shell-folks were treated to good weather, good food, and all kinds of entertainment, displays, and tours at Family Day, September 21. It was a day full of activity, and employees and their families got firsthand views of the refinery at work.

Most notable in a year of personnel changes, including those in operations, the crafts, administrative, and managerial, was the changing of refinery managers.

Art Williams came to Wood River from his post as manager of the Anacortes (Washington) refinery to replace Ed Ballman. Ballman was promoted to General Manager Chemical Plants and

Refineries at Head Office. He had been Wood River's refinery manager since 1966.

### Safety

The Safety Committee celebrated its fifth anniversary in April. Now called the Safety and Health Committee, it consists of members of the crafts and operations who meet monthly to review safety or health conditions, practices, and recommendations with management.

Wood River employees caused a further celebration for safety later in the year by surpassing a million man-hours without a disabling injury... just in time for everyone to receive a Christmas turkey as a safety award.

There's more, much more, but space just doesn't permit it. No doubt you can recall other significant events marking 1974 at the Wood River refinery. This has been only a sprinkling... and here comes '75!



**Ed Depping**  
Utilities  
30 years



**Ernie Johnson**  
Utilities  
30 years



**Mac McDonough**  
Eng. Field  
30 years



**Joe Heithaus**  
Research Lab  
25 years



**Eugene Stine**  
Eng. Field  
25 years

## It's bowling tourney time

Attention bowlers! Two of the big, traditional bowling events are coming up soon. They are:

**SRA TOURNAMENT.** It will be held at the Wood River Bowl on successive Sundays in February. Shell bowlers -- men and women -- are invited.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9,** from noon through 5 p.m. will be for singles and doubles competition. If there is sufficient interest, there will be a separate event in singles for "low average" bowlers

(below 150 average).

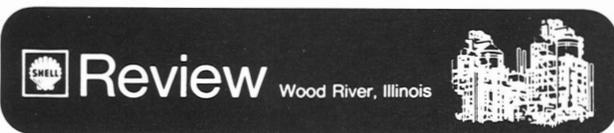
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16,** from noon through 5 p.m. will be for 3-man teams.

Entry blanks may be obtained at the contest or in advance from: all SRA team captains; Arlene Tutt, Engineering Field; John Thomas, Tech; Jim Carlson, Research; Jerri Andrews, Refinery Lab; or John Hamm, Lubricants. Enter early and reserve your times.

**SHELL-WESTERN MATCH.** Top-notch competition and a

fun day! Scheduled for Bowl Haven in Alton, Sunday, March 2. Based on averages, Shell and Olin pick their top 45 or 50 bowlers (of those who enter) and make up 5-man teams.

Losers pay for the bowling, and all bowlers, alternates and guests are treated to refreshments afterwards. If you're interested in entering, contact Charlie Gibson in Light Oil Processing or John Thomas in Tech.



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Bill Gibson, editor

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