

Gasoline prices: a taxing burden

Mention the per gallon price of gasoline these days, and you'll probably find plenty of people willing to put their two-cents-worth into the conversation. Trouble is -- those pennies add up, and there's a significant portion of the total price of a gallon of gasoline that people forget about ... taxes.

First, of course, is the federal excise tax on gasoline. Across the country it's four cents per gallon. The oil companies collect this four-cents-per at the pump and direct it to the federal government (just as the state taxes are for the states).

The various states levy their shares, too. State excise taxes vary widely -- from a low of five cents per gallon in Texas to a high of ten cents in

Rhode Island and Connecticut. Missouri's state excise tax on motor gasoline is seven cents. Illinois: seven and one-half cents.

In fact, all the states except Texas (5c), Nevada (6c), and Oklahoma (6½c) have per-gallon tax rates of seven cents or more ... 15 of them are at the nine-cent level or above.

On top of the excise taxes, eight states see fit to add sales taxes as well. Illinois levies a five percent sales tax over and above the other taxes. The other states adding sales tax are: Hawaii, California, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Georgia, and New York.

Check the chart to see how the taxes per gallon you're paying in Illinois and Missouri stack up ... because they do!



Teamwork turns Alkylation in just seven days

In early September, Alkylation compressor number 9520 - the largest in the refinery - abruptly shut down. What was thought at first to be correctable by some quick seal and bearing replacements turned out to be more serious, and the turnaround that followed was a good example how the skill and teamwork of Wood River employees can combine to get a big job done in quick order.

After replacing the seals and bearing, a test run was made on the compressor September 15, but during that test, excessive vibration forced a full shutdown of Alkylation to remove and replace the compressor's rotor. Since Alkylation receives feed from the Cat Crackers and other operating units and produces a needed component for our blended gasolines, a shutdown in this operating area (as with most operating departments) has a domino effect to one degree or another throughout the refinery.

It was important to get things fixed and back on stream as

soon as possible.

Tight schedule

In an important planning meeting, it was estimated that repairs to compressor 9520 would take seven days of all-out effort. But since all of Alky would have to be down while this work was progressing, it was also decided to complete other shutdown maintenance during this period. This would ease the workload during an Alkylation shutdown scheduled for 1976.

All maintenance work was tied to the compressor work,

the idea being: complete whatever other maintenance that could be done within the time frame of the compressor repairs ... seven days. Daily progress meetings coordinated the efforts.

While machinists were applying their skills to the compressor and turbine, virtually all other types of Wood River craftsmen were working on other aspects of the shutdown. Other shutdown work done before the "deadline" included: column cleaning, mat replacement, valve repairs and replacements,

alarm systems check, tubular work, and insulation repairs.

Teamwork

Denzil Dyer, who was appointed overall shutdown coordinator said, "This was a great team effort. Along with the efforts of the operators in the department, were the efforts of virtually all the crafts, Safety and Engineering inspectors and the Purchasing people. It was a safe, successful shutdown."

Engineering Field assistant manager, Tony Calcaterra, said, "We don't like unscheduled shutdowns very

much, but I think this was a case where we got the most out of what started out as an unhappy situation. It shows what can be done with a team effort."

On the job only about two weeks before the shutdown, new Alkylation manager, Gailor Justice said, "It was quite an educational experience. I am extremely proud of our operating personnel, craftsmen, and other Wood River people who worked so hard. It was a professional job done under adverse circumstances. I'm glad to have been a small part of it."

Refinery records second injury-free million hours in '75

For the second time this year, Shell-Wood River employees distinguished themselves by accumulating a million manhours without a disabling injury.

The latest achievement, reached on October 1st, was the 40th time the refinery had reached this coveted safety plateau since such records had been kept here. It marks the first time a million

manhours had been achieved twice in one calendar year since 1961.

Refinery manager, Art Williams, said, "All employees are to be congratulated for their spirit of safety awareness. Safety is of utmost importance at Wood River Refinery, and each day of injury-free work is a result of every individual's efforts.

"The prime concern, of

course, is the safety of every employee ... the recording of a million injury-free hours is just one measure of our collective successes."

As was done earlier this year, to celebrate the million hour achievement, employees have been asked to select an award from a catalog sent to their homes. The awards range from stadium blankets to toasters; Corning Ware to portable

radios.

Employees have been asked to place their order directly with the award supplier before December 1, 1975, on a form and in an envelope supplied.

Unfortunately, the injury-free period stopped October 20 as a pipefitter suffered a deep laceration when the wrench he was using slipped and struck him in the chin.



REALLY BIG MOVE. This giant flatbed with 24 tires was able to accommodate only about half of a 75-ton, 84-foot asphalt converter vessel moved from Shell's docks through Hartford to the refinery. A special dolly with 16 tires held up the rear. For a picture story of this unique move, see page four.

Plan to retire? Plan ahead!

There are more than a few Wood River employees who have put in 25, 30, 40 good years with Shell and who may be considering trading their regular work weeks for retirement life in the next few years. Retirees' lives suddenly become unstructured, and they no longer have to worry about keeping (or in some cases 'changing') daily work schedules or the pressures of the job.

But a retiree's life can be just as rewarding and productive. Studies have shown that people who plan ahead for their retirement life are far more likely to find them fruitful.

Because the new life found in retirement must be looked

at squarely for all its advantages, as well as for its pitfalls, Shell is making special reading material available to any employee thinking of retiring within the next five years or so.

The theme of this series of booklets, covering topics of interest to future retirees, is that planning retirement beforehand is very important. Woven throughout the booklets is advice on controlling one's own life rather than letting destiny take its course. A few of the subjects included are: deciding where to live, making ends meet, how to keep well, travel tips, keeping busy, enjoying leisure, legal matters, and Social Security benefits.

The booklets are published quarterly by Retirement Advisors, Inc., an organization that is prominent in the field of preretirement counseling.

To get on the mailing list, just send your name and home address to:

R. W. Hester, Manager
Pensioner Services
Room 662, One Shell Plaza
P. O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77001

Recipients of the booklets are encouraged to write to Retirement Advisors, Inc., with any questions they may have, and this organization, through its panel of experts, will make personal replies. The booklets will be sent to homes quarterly over a five-year span.

Sports and shorts

Photographer of the year

The SRA Camera Club holds monthly photo contests on a variety of themes. Entrants accumulate points for "photographer of the year" based on their finishes in these monthly contests. Top point getters this past year were: Pete Curran, retired Purchasing manager; Rich Heinz, instrumentman; and Larry Nieman, senior engineer in Tech.

Shell News photo winners

The cream rises once again to the top! Last year Joel Harmon, senior chemist - Refinery Lab, and Pete Curran, retired Purchasing manager, won honorable mentions for their photos in the annual *Shell News* Photography Contest. This year Joel and Pete have been notified they are again winners, but this time their entries were judged right near the top in the country!

Joel's action photo depicting a fierce Civil War battle captured third place and a \$100 Savings Bond. Pete's picture of a 1790 log cabin school house placed fourth, winning a \$50 Savings Bond prize. Their pictures will be published in the next issue of the *Shell News* magazine.

Bridge winners

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Randels won the Martha Kimmel Memorial Trophy for supremacy in this year's annual Wood River duplicate bridge tourney. Ray is a retired Safety manager from the refinery.

Small world

It's rare enough to meet someone from back home when you're on a little vacation, but what are the chances of: running into someone from the refinery while on a two-hour cruise of Lake Lucerne, Switzerland? Lamoine Schoenleber (engineering projects foreman) and his wife, Connie, and Quint Nungesser (gate captain) and his wife, Germaine, did just that one Saturday evening in September. The Schoenleber's and Nungesser's were on totally different tours of Europe and just happened to be in the right place at the right time ... "over there".

Golf team champs

The 'Maxfli's' golf team is refinery champion. The Maxfli's, champions of the Super Shell League, beat Hydroprocessing, Premium League winners, in an 18-hole playoff. Members of the championship team are: Max Clark, Jack Calderwood, and Bob Lewis of LF&E; George Chaffee, Dave Miller, Penny Horton, and Art Kellar of Gas; Randy Fickert of HCU; Larry Jones of Engineering Field; and Jack Cherry of Asphalt.

Match play champions

Individual winners and runners-up in the SRA match play golf tournament are listed below:

Championship Flight

Winner: Tom Buller group leader Technological
 Runner-up: Joe Kingery sr. engineering Eng Office
 assistant

A Flight

Winner: Joe Scroggins operator Cat Cracking
 Runner-up: Tony Allaria foreman Cat Cracking

B Flight

Winner: John Ventress retired operator Utilities
 Runner-up: Ferd Weiss engineer Eng Office

C Flight

Winner: Grover Egmon operator Aromatics East
 Runner-up: Charlie Barnett senior chemist Refinery Lab

D Flight

Winner: Joe Dana special tester Refinery Lab
 Runner-up: Bud Molloy operator Cat Cracking

SRA Awards Banquet

Winners in SRA sports and club activities over the last year will be honored at the annual awards banquet Thursday, December 4, at the Legion Park in Edwardsville. Invitations will be mailed during November. One thing, please -- if you're invited and find you can't attend, please notify an SRA board member because the SRA pays for your dinner (with our dues) even if you are a no-show.

Pensioner Christmas Party

Last reminder to pensioners: The annual Pensioners' Club Christmas Party will be held at the Lewis and Clark Restaurant in East Alton from 11 am to 3 pm (including a buffet meal) on Saturday, December 6. Invitations will be mailed in late November. If you don't get yours by about Thanksgiving, call Harry Leamy at 259-1349 in Rosewood Heights.

Comment:

Nothing but hot gas

The Federal Power Commission (FPC), Bureau of Natural Gas, made a study. They estimated that in 1976 it will cost \$1.70 per thousand cubic feet to develop and produce natural gas.

This was based on a none-year average history of productivity, including all applicable taxes. Using a 12-year history and excluding tax costs from the equation, they came up with somewhat lower figures.

But in the *same* report, the PFC Bureau of Economics recommended that the 51 cent per thousand cubic feet ceiling for newly discovered natural gas be retained ... with a one cent rise allowed in January 1976.

It is difficult to see how more gas -- costing \$1.70 to produce -- will be produced if the ceiling sales price as set by the government is kept at only 51 or 52 cents.

Retirements



Omar Phelps
Gas
36 years



John Williams
Insulator
34 years



Cecil Davis
Craneman
32 years



Ernest Bolen
Truck Driver
22 years

Classified ads

For sale

1969 Sport Fury III. Power and air. Vinyl top. 383 engine. Exceptionally clean. \$825. J. T. Doherty. 618-259-4631.

1970 VW. Auto-stick. Air conditioning. New snow tires. Will sell \$200 below book. Tom Colgate. 618-656-2315.

Two white-wall snow tires. 7.35x14. Firestone. \$8 for the

pair. Cliff Davidson. 618-466-4284.

Two nylon tubeless snow tires. 7.75x15. \$25 for the pair. John Elliss. 618-254-7034.

Sears washer. All steel with porcelain finish. 20 pound load. 5 years old. 618-465-1264.

Wanted

Carpool ride. Monday through

Friday days. From Brighton. Gary Bray. Plant phone 553. Home phone 618-372-3415.

Full choke barrel for Ithaca model 37 shotgun. 20-gauge. Jerry Rolfingsmeier. 618-637-2462.

Found

Man's ring. Can be identified and claimed at Employee Relations.

In Remembrance

JOHN LESLIE DOOLEY, October 14. Mr. Dooley was a pipefitter 1st before retiring in 1957. He was 75.

RUSSELL WAYNE EDDINGTON, September 25. Mr. Eddington was a field machinist 1st before retiring in 1969. He was 62.

JOHN W. ELLIOTT, September 20. Mr. Elliott was a machine shop foreman before retiring in 1957. He was 79.

JAMES W. HOLDER, October 10. Mr. Holder was a pipefitter 1st before retiring in 1947. He was 86.

WALTER RANKIN JONES, September 22. Mr. Jones was a pipefitter 1st before retiring in 1962. He was 72.

PAUL RAY KINDLE, September 29. Mr. Kindle was a special tester in the Refinery Laboratory before retiring in 1972. He was 59.

JOHN W. MINTER, October 11. Mr. Minter was a boiler-

maker before retiring in 1958. He was 80.

RALPH H. PORTER, September 23. Mr. Porter was an operator 2 in Dispatching before retiring August 1975. He was 57.

JOE BAILEY WILLIAMS, September 5. Mr. Williams was an insulator 1st before retiring in 1966. He was 71.

CECIL CHARLES WUTH, August 29. Mr. Wuth was Chief Engineer before retiring in 1963. He was 70.



J.L. Dooley



R.W. Eddington



J.W. Elliott



J.W. Holder



W.R. Jones



P.R. Kindle



J.W. Minter



R.H. Porter



J.B. Williams



C.C. Wuth

Late night search made for cat feared rabid

A bite from a little kitten usually isn't a traumatic experience, but if the cat is wild, and can't be found . . . well, it can cause some tense moments and/or painful anti-rabies injections for the victim.

Such tense moments were experienced on a warm evening this summer by the family of ten-year old Cheryl Davis of Wood River. Cheryl and her family were at Shell's Kendall Hill recreation facility setting up a Bible school for the following week when she spotted and began playing with a gray kitten.

The kitten, apparently wild, became frightened or too playful, bit Cheryl and ran away. This happened about 6:30 p.m. After consult-

ing their family physician, Cheryl's mother, Mrs. James Davis, called the Main Gate to seek assistance in finding the kitten so it could be tested for rabies.

The search
Gate captain Walter Weiss took the call. He said, "She called at 9:30, and was understandably upset. If we were unable to locate the cat and have it tested, the little girl would have to undergo that series of shots which I understand is no fun.

"Mrs. Davis told us to call them any time of the day or night if we found the kitten. I'm sure she couldn't have rested till we did. I assured her we'd make an all-out effort, and that we and the Roxana police make regular

patrols of Kendall Hill so everyone would try their very best to find and capture the animal.

"I figured the kitten lived in the underbrush of the area, and since it was probably hungry would still be around the picnic area. Marshall McCraney was our man on patrol so he took the van which is equipped with animal nets, etc., and searched the area.

"Would you believe, within half an hour that fearless McCraney was back with the cat all hung up in our net! We called Mrs. Davis and after verifying Cheryl's description, determined it was the same kitten.

"How about that? Just like a TV detective show . . . from all-points bulletin to capture in half an hour!"

Happy ending

The kitten was taken to the Madison County Rabies Control Center where they ob-



Patrolman Marshall McCraney captured the wild kitten within half an hour.



Gate captain Walter Weiss coordinated the search for the culprit cat from his 'command post' at the Main Gate.

served it for the necessary ten-day period. It did not prove to be rabid so young Cheryl Davis was spared the painful series of shots.

Mrs. Davis said, "We are grateful for the help the Shell employees gave us. Everyone was so helpful and conscientious.

Mr. Weiss was particularly reassuring on the telephone, and I appreciate how well he and Mr. McCraney handled the situation.

"Yes, it was tense for a while, but everything came out to a happy ending."

SRA election

It's election time for the SRA Board of Governors. SRA members will have an opportunity to vote for their representatives on Thursday and Friday, November 13 and 14. Voters will be asked to select two women's representatives, three craft representatives, three operations' representatives, and two staff representatives.

Polls will be open at the main and south gates in the morning and afternoon at shift-change time and at the cafeteria over the lunch hour. Listed below are the nominees for this election. Starting in January, winners will serve two-year terms.

Women: (Elect 2)	Judy Blackburn Sue Bonafede Judy Schrewe Donna Yates	Lubricants Treasury Employee Relations Purchasing
Engineering: (Elect 3)	Davey Crockett Dennis Garofole Richard Horbelt Don Hunt Ed Meiners	Pipefitter Electrician Painter Carpenter Insulator
Operators: (Elect 3)	Mark Allison Charles Bond Max Clark Leo Cox Bill Jacobs George Machino Bob McDonough Bill Tester Bob Watson	Hydroprocessing Utilities Lubricants Lubricants Refinery Lab Utilities Light Oil Processing Light Oil Processing Light Oil Processing
Staff: (Elect 2)	Al Brown Ralph Elliott Howard Green Chuck Jones Charlie Rose	Employee Relations Engineering Field Engineering Field Engineering Field Engineering Field

Far from being big 'oil barons' millions share oil companies' profits

The next time someone bugs you about the "fat cats" in the oil business, you might refer them to a study recently released by the American Petroleum Institute which answers the question: "Who owns Big Oil?"

The study found that more than 14 million Americans are direct or indirect shareowners of the six largest U.S. oil companies. The figure was arrived at after the elimination of all duplication.

Together, these individuals own nine-tenths of the common stock of the companies. They represent more than 6.5 per cent of the nation's total population. If data were available for the hundreds of oil companies in this country, millions of additional individuals would be involved.

Although there may be a few millionaires in the group, the survey shows that the typical oil-company shareowner is a person with a good education

who has worked hard, saved some money, and invested part of it in common stocks.

The survey reveals that the 2,300,000 direct shareowners are distributed throughout the 50 states, with slightly greater concentrations in California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

In addition to direct and indirect owners, the survey shows that shares in the six companies are owned by 91 colleges and universities, nearly 200 mutual insurance companies, and about 1,000 charitable and educational foundations.

Other highlights of the survey include these facts about direct shareowners:

- They are significantly older than the rest of the U.S. population. Half are more than 60 years of age. Eight out of 10 are more than 45 years of age.

- Women outnumber men, 54 to 46 per cent.

- Median family income is about \$16,400 a year.

- Retired persons make up 46 per cent of the total. Their median family income is \$14,100 and their median age 70.6 years.

- In one-third of the employed households, more than one person works either full- or part-time.

The survey shows that when oil companies are penalized by governmental action or damaged by political criticism, a lot of people get hurt. During the past year or so, while oil companies have been accused of all kinds of wrongdoing, prices of most oil stocks have dropped even more than those of most non-oil stocks. In that process, millions of Americans have been deprived of part of the value of their investment.

Winners revealed in Wood River Bicentennial Photo Contest

The shutter has been closed on the Wood River Bicentennial Photo Contest and the winners announced. The contest, which was open to Wood River employees and pensioners, paralleled the Shell-wide contest in that its theme was historic places or events.

Wood River's contest wasn't in competition with the Shell-wide event. In fact, quite the contrary -- it was hoped local interest could be raised to get Wood River photographers also to enter their shots in the big contest.

Wood River entries were limited to prints (color or black-and-white) whereas the Shell News photo contest called for only color prints or

slides. First-place photographs are pictured on this page. You can see all the winning pictures displayed in the Camera Club's display case in the Cafeteria. Winners are:

Color

1st: "Holy Family Parish"
Joel Harmon
(Sr. Chemist - Refinery Lab)

2nd: "Union Monument"
Bill Roach
(Sr. Chemist - Refinery Lab)

3rd: "Grant's Hide-a-way"
Joel Harmon

Black-and-white

1st: "Moon Mission"
Larry Nieman
(Sr. Engineer - Tech.)

2nd: "Pierre Menard Home"
Larry Basden
(Sr. Engineer - LOP)

3rd: "Fort de Chartres Guard House"
Larry Basden



HOLY FAMILY PARISH, a color shot of an historic church took first-place honors for Joel Harmon, sr. chemist in the Refinery Lab.



MOON MISSION, a special effects shot with a multiple lens, won first place in the black-and-white division for Larry Nieman, senior engineer in Technological.

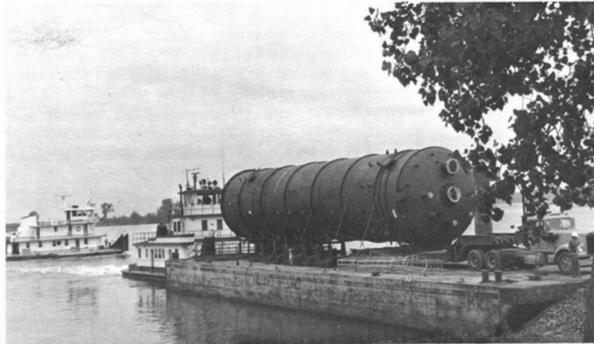
A moving experience

To accommodate an increasing demand in asphalt, a new converter is being installed at Wood River Refinery. This will nearly double the paving grade asphalt capacity of the plant.

The vessel, fabricated in Houma, Louisiana, necessitated some unique transportation and placement efforts - pictured on this page. The converter weighs 75 tons, is 83 feet 8 inches in length, and has a diameter of 17 feet.

To get to its site on Fifth Street in the refinery, the vessel passed from Shell's dock facilities through a corner of Clark Oil's dock facilities, through Hartford, Illinois, and into Shell's Fifth Street gate, crossing Highways 3 and 111 in the process.

Thanks to the cooperation and efforts of many this move was a safe and smooth one.



The vessel was fabricated in southern Louisiana and transported by barge to Shell's Hartford Docks. In St. Louis, a giant flatbed and dolly were put under the vessel so a powerful truck could drive it away.



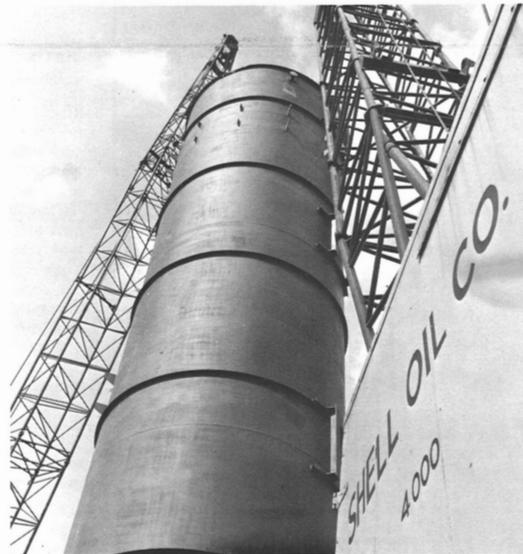
Juergen Hansen, project engineer for the asphalt converter, stands by the vessel as it lies on the trailer. Even lying on the truck, the top of the vessel was 23½ feet off the ground.



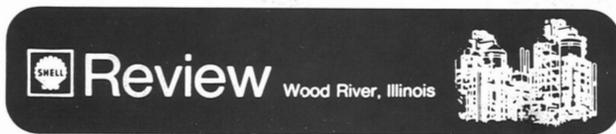
A special ramp was graded to the barge and the truck, with help from a Caterpillar, pulled the vessel onto Shell property.



Careful preplanning and the cooperation of many, including Hartford and state police, utility companies, and the railroad were necessary to move this payload through some tight spots caused by its immense size.



Lifting and placement of the vessel on its foundation were accomplished through the use of three cranes: two large ones (shown here) did the upward lifting while a "crawler" walked the bottom toward its resting place.



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

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

VOL. 38, NO. 10 WOOD RIVER REFINERY NOVEMBER, 1975

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

Bill Gibson, editor