



World's tallest drilling platform will be built by Shell in Gulf

In the Gulf of Mexico, Shell plans to build the world's tallest offshore oil platform. The platform will be used to develop an oil and gas field that was discovered by Shell and other participating companies.

With the drilling rig aboard, the platform will rise some 1,220 feet above the ocean floor ... that's about twice as high as the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and roughly the height of the Empire State Building.

Most of the massive structure -- 90 million pounds of steel -- will be hidden, however, as it will stand in approximately 1,000 feet of water. The base will be slightly more than a city block wide.

It is anticipated that the

platform will be completed in 1978. Then comes development drilling which is likely to take another two years. Thus, even getting an early start, oil and gas from the field won't become available to the consumer for some four to five years from now.

It is tentatively planned that the platform, which will cost more than \$100 million, will be large enough to accommodate 56 wells. Shell and seven other participants acquired three 5,760-acre blocks located about 100 miles southeast of New Orleans in March 1974 for bonus payments of more than \$214 million.

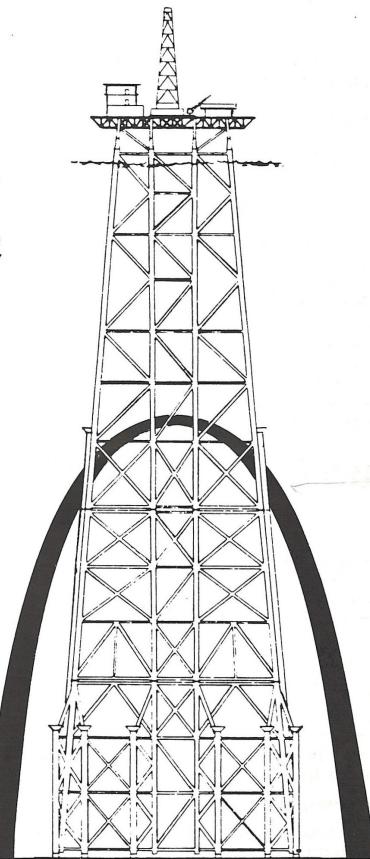
Announcement of the decision to erect the platform follows seven exploratory wells drilled in water depths of

around 1,000 feet. All have encountered oil or gas.

Drilling to date indicates a platform volume of 50 million barrels of oil and gas equivalent has been proved on the three tracts. Shell owns 42.83 percent of the three leased blocks.

Other owners in the venture are Continental Oil, SONAT Exploration Company, Getty Oil, Offshore Company, Florida Gas Exploration Company, Barber Oil Exploration Incorporated, and Drillamex Incorporated.

The significance of offshore oil development becomes more important to the Wood River Refinery as other domestic crude resources continue to become depleted.



WORLD'S TALLEST PLATFORM will stand 1,220 feet high with drilling rig. That's roughly twice the height of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

Asphalt emulsion ...

It's an old process but it will be new to Wood River

Even though the Wood River Refinery is one of the largest asphalt producers in the country, producing roughly five million barrels a year, there is an asphalt process coming here that's new to the refinery. Not new ... just new to the Wood River Refinery. Matter of fact, in Shell it's new east of the Rockies.

It's called asphalt emulsification and the process has been available since 1903 and used extensively elsewhere since the '30's. Recent energy and environmental problems have focused attention on increased use of the emulsion process.

Savings

The making and use of emulsions can effect savings

in energy and products as well as improve air quality. In some grades of asphalt ("cutback" asphalt for instance) a hydrocarbon diluent is used to make the asphalt easier to apply. This diluent later evaporates leaving the asphalt behind.

In the emulsion process, water is substituted for the petroleum distillates used in the blending of cutback asphalts. Water is comparatively less expensive than these distillates.

As the asphalt sets up at a construction site, the blended liquids (water or distillates) evaporate. Evaporation of water is better environmentally than distillates. In addition, the customer can handle

and mix emulsified asphalt at lower temperatures which saves him energy costs.

How does it work?

The heart of the emulsion facility is the "mill". It isn't big, roughly the size of an office desk with the outward appearances of a pump, but it will be able to make asphalt at the rate of 125 gallons a minute at 150 degree temperatures.

There are two big gears inside the mill which grind together base stock asphalt and a water/chemical solution that looks like soapy water. The final fluid looks like chocolate milk ... but don't try to drink it.

Three grades of asphalt emulsions will be made through this process at Wood

River: one grade of rapid-set and two grades of slow-set asphalt. Total capacity of the emulsion complex is expected to be 12 million gallons a year with the ability to expand it to double that if desired.

Site selected

The emulsion complex is scheduled for completion in 1977. It will be located on Fifth Street south of Main Office Road, directly north of the new vertical asphalt converter installed recently. To be built on the site are storage tanks for the "soapy" additives, a blender to mix the water/chemical solution, the mill itself, and product storage tanks.

Emulsion asphalt will be transported from the refin-

ery via truck. Connections to the existing asphalt loading rack will also be built. The addition of the emulsion complex itself will not add asphalt capacity to the refinery as it is expected to be offset by a reduction in the production of cutback asphalt.

Emulsion elsewhere

Shell currently has asphalt emulsion plants at Willbridge, Oregon, and the Martinez, California, Manufacturing Complex. Concurrent with the Wood River construction, a 10 million gallon per year unit will be added at Martinez. With the additional units, Shell's total asphalt emulsion capacity will be approximately 42 million gallons a year.

1975: Wood River Review reviews Wood River's year

How was 1975 for you? Was it a year you'll always remember because of one or more special events? Or is it hard to recall any outstanding occasions ... just another "average" year?

Whichever way you feel, one thing is for sure: 1975 is gone and can't be brought back ... but some of the events can be brought to mind. There were more than a few significant develop-

ments at Wood River in '75. Here are some of them. Can you think of more?

Operations

Last year marked a continuation of the refinery's

expansion and debottlenecking program. Most visible items were the four asphalt storage tanks (250,000 barrels each) erected in West Property and the 300,000 barrel crude tank in Southwest Property. The asphalt tanks were put into service early in 1975 and the crude tank in December.

The asphalt tanks were built in conjunction with a program to increase the refinery's asphalt production capabilities. (See related story in this issue.) The crude tank was added primarily in anticipation of future increases in foreign crudes to

be received by the refinery.

A number of other facilities were added to the refinery during the year. Among these were revisions to the Benzene Extraction Unit to increase its capacity, addition of heat exchangers at several units to conserve energy, replacement of the old inefficient refinery air compressors with two new compressors, and completion of the computer installation for the gasoline blender.

A new boiler (Boiler 17) and new boiler-water treating facilities completed in late 1974 became fully operational during 1975.



THE BARBECUE was one of the big events of 1975. For more big events, see page 3.

(Continued on Page 3)

Activity Calendar

Special Events

Bowling tournament	February 15/22
Wood River Bowl	
Shell-Western bowling match	March 14
Bowl Haven	
Easter Egg Hunt	April 10
Kendall Hill	(Rain Date - April 17)
Spring Dance	May 14
Firemen's Hall - Collinsville	
Golf Day	June 19
Cloverleaf Golf Course	
Family Picnic	June 26
Chain of Rocks Park	
Ten-over barbecue	July 17
Edwardsville Legion Park	
Fall Dance	November 5
Firemen's Hall - Collinsville	
Awards Banquet	December 2
(To be determined)	
Pensioners' Christmas party	December 4
Lewis and Clark Restaurant	
Children's Christmas party	December 16
Wood River High School	

Sports Leagues (starting dates)

Fishing Contest	March 15
Trapshooting	April 26
Golf League	May 3
Softball League	May 11
Bowling League	August 30
Football League	September 7
Basketball League	November 30

(Many of the above dates and locations are tentative and subject to change. As time approaches, be sure to watch the Review and your bulletin boards for further information.)

Anniversaries



Joe Groom
Cracking
35 Years



Tom Jones
Cracking
35 Years



N. Bangert
Gas
30 Years



M. G. March
Refinery Lab
30 Years



Lee Berleman
Safety
25 Years



Ray Jones
Eng. Field
25 Years



Charles Moore
boilermaker
25 Years



Romie Womack
electrician
25 Years

For the want of a pin!

A bowler's lament ... the "tap" on a pocket hit. It happens all too often, but it's one of those things that has to be shrugged off. Sometimes it's more disconcerting because it breaks up a good game.

Pipefitter Paul Vogelbacher experienced the ultimate tap recently when a balky 6-pin refused to fall on Paul's final ball in an attempt at a perfect 300 game. He ended with a 299. Still, that's not a score to be sneezed at!

Vogelbacher's near miss came in the first game of a regular night in the Hi-Top Men's League at the Hi-Top Bowl in Highland, Illinois. Did the big first game shake him up? Not so you'd notice. Paul followed the 299 game with scores of 242 and 237 for a 778 series -- the highest ever shot in Highland.

In fact, Paul had a pretty impressive string of strikes: his first eleven throws ... then the 6-pin ... then the first six in the second game. That's 17 out of 18. He didn't even

throw at a spare until the seventh frame of the second game.

Paul, who sports over a 190 average in the league, knows what it is like to be near the pocket. But what about the pressure of a 300 game? "It's a thrill," said Paul. "I've struck strikes before, but you don't know the pressure until it gets close to the big one."

"Word spreads as the string gets longer, and more and more people start watching. Everyone in the house must have been gathered around ... and it gets very quiet when you bowl."

"I don't mind telling you I was mighty nervous. At least I gave it a good try. Yes, even though I didn't get the perfect game, it was a real thrill. If I ever have another chance at it, I'm sure it'll be just as nerve wracking and thrilling."

The last 300 game recorded by a Shell-Wood River bowler was last February by pipefitter Jim Akers.



Pipefitter Paul Vogelbacher narrowly missed a perfect 300 game.

Big bowling events on tap soon

Get ready bowlers! Two of the big traditional bowling events are coming up soon. Mark your calendars and set your plans now for:

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 15 from noon through 5 pm will be for singles and doubles competition. If there is sufficient interest like last year, there will be a separate singles event for "low average" (below 150 average).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 from noon through 5 pm is

reserved for 3-man teams. Numerous cash prizes will be awarded in the above events as well as all-events.

Entry blanks may be obtained at the contest or in advance from all SRA team captains or league secretaries. Questions should be directed to John Thomas in the Tech Department.

SHELL-WESTERN MATCH. This offers top-notch competition and a fun day! It always draws a spirited crowd of spectators, too. The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 14, at Bowl Haven in Alton starting at 1 pm sharp.

Based on the averages of those entering, Shell and Olin

pick their top 45 or 50 bowlers and form 5-man teams. Competition is hot because bowlers of like averages roll with -- and against -- each other.

The winner is declared on the basis of total pins for the three games of all the individual teams. Losers pay for the bowling.

All bowlers, alternates, and guests are treated with food, beer, and soda after the match. Entry information will be forthcoming in the near future. Watch the bulletin boards or contact an SRA bowling team captain for details.

Europeans only use half the energy

When the Federal Energy Administration said that consumers in some Western European countries use half as much energy as Americans, Kitty Borah wanted to see for herself.

Kitty, Shell Oil's Special Services Representative, spent a week in England and West Germany visiting in the homes of several families near London and Munich to see how they use energy. After her short stay, she came back with observations on some differences between European and American energy usage.

This information, together with material on future energy sources and energy conservation tips, forms the basis for appearances she is making across the U.S. this year. Kitty travels about 100,000 miles a year being interviewed on television and radio programs and by newspaper writers on the subject of energy. She will be in St. Louis February 23 and 24.

Kitty felt that although some Western European countries have similar per capita incomes as the U.S., they use less energy for several reasons: "For one thing," she says, "energy costs considerably more. Also, tradition and customs dictate different lifestyles. Europeans are accustomed to hiking and biking.

"In addition, European homes don't have many of the luxuries that we do. They have few if any dishwashers, garbage disposals, clothes dryers, freezers, air conditioners, large stoves and refrigerators," she says.

"Generally speaking, the main differences in individual energy use are America's larger, more inefficient cars, more overheating and overcooling, more spacious single family dwellings, and larger appliances," Kitty says.

She found one German family that cooks outdoors on a grill almost every night during the summer months. And many wives do their grocery shopping daily, riding to and from shops on bicycles. Clothes are dried either outdoors or near indoor heating systems. "Bedrooms are rarely if ever heated," Kitty said. "Down-like bed covers are often used. And Europeans wear heavier clothes and sweaters rather than raising the temperatures in other parts of the house."

Kitty concludes that the energy problem is here to stay and suggests ways in which the average person can save energy. "We have to individually evaluate the way we use energy," she says. "We could blend some of the European conservation methods into our lifestyles and get the best of both worlds."



Kitty Borah, like a Bavarian housewife, prepares to peddle off to do her shopping.

From page one ...

The year in review ... 1975 an active one

The refinery continued to operate at intakes well below capacity along with the rest of the industry due to reduced product demands which have remained at a relatively low level since the Arab oil boycott and the subsequent increase in crude oil costs.

As a result of the energy saving projects mentioned above and the continued efforts of all employees to operate the refinery as efficiently as possible, our energy consumption per barrel of crude processed was reduced by about six percent compared to 1974.

Environmental

Attention to environmental factors continued to be a high priority activity in 1975, and the refinery continued to meet all applicable regulations. At midyear, state sulfur dioxide regulations became effective, and the refinery fuel system was modified to enable emissions from the stacks to comply with them.

Energy conservation ef-

forts continued as well. Energy and environmental conservation go hand in hand because when less fuel is burned to run the refinery it generally follows that there will be fewer emissions.

Likewise, installation of new equipment on safety flare systems is being designed to recover flare gases thereby saving more fuel and further reducing emissions.

The program to reduce noise associated with normal operation of the refinery resulted in silencing equipment being installed on three furnaces in Lubricants. The sound reduction there has been dramatic, and further studies and projects are underway.

Near the end of the year the refinery received some good ... and some bad ... publicity when an independent (non-government) group studying U. S. refineries announced that Wood River received their highest mark for water pollution control but a poor mark for sulfur oxide emissions to the air.

Refinery spokesmen acknowledged that water pollution control is indeed excellent, but pointed out that the sulfur oxide emission figures used by the study group were three years' old ... and were about *two-and-one-half times higher* than is the case today! Whichever figures are used, the refinery has been and continues to be within Illinois pollution control regulations.

Activities

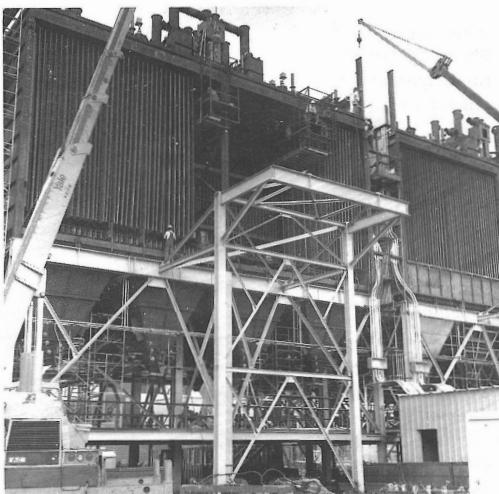
Participation in Shell Re-creation Association (SRA) and other employee activities was as good in 1975 as it had been in years. The traditional family get-togethers -- the Easter Egg Hunt, the Family Picnic, and the children's Christmas Party -- were well attended (a record turnout for the Family Picnic), and each was blessed with good weather for a change.

The spring and fall dances seem to be gaining in popularity again ... a trend that may continue in light of an excellent new ballroom found in the Madison County Firemen's Association building in Collinsville.

Bowling and golf tournaments found large groups of spirited competitors participating as did regular league and club activities and the fishing contest.

Safety

Certainly one of the most



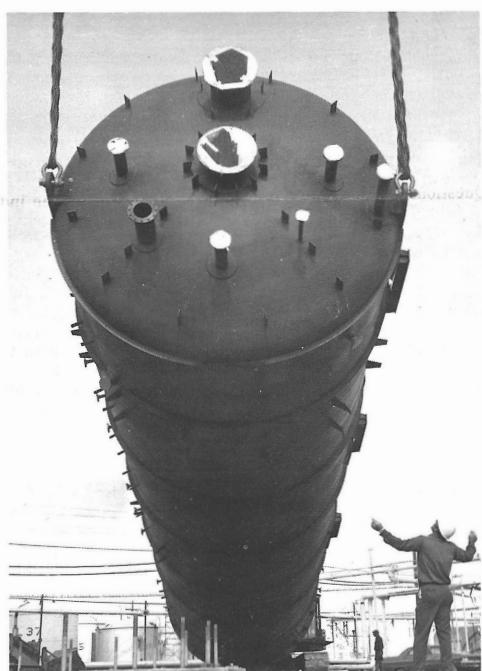
PRECIPITATOR CONSTRUCTION. Two electrostatic precipitators were built in 1975 to greatly reduce catalyst emissions from the cat crackers. Shown here are the many hanging plates that catch the catalyst by static electricity.

important subjects at the refinery is safety, and it turned out to be one of the proudest areas celebrated in 1975 as well. Having closed out the year with a million disabling-injury-free hours late in 1974, refinery employees pulled together to exceed the coveted million mark twice in 1975.

The first accomplishment was passed in April and the

second in October. It was the first time a million manhours had been achieved twice in one calendar year since 1961.

There were other notable events in 1975; you no doubt can think of many. The pictures on this page offer visual recollections of just a few of them. And, 1976 is already here with its own collection waiting.



BIG LIFT. It took three cranes working together to lift this giant asphalt converter into place. The trip by truck from the refinery's docks was a carefully planned maneuver as well.



THE CHRISTMAS PARTY was typical of the family events of the year ... well attended and lots of fun. You can't beat the combination of kids, clowns, and Santa.

Craft payroll employees to get 'extra' paycheck in 1976

In 1976, employees on the craft payroll will get an extra paycheck ... 27 of them rather than the normal 26.

It's not that they are in for a bonus, or will be working more regular hours, or anything like that. It's just that by a quirk of the calendar, 1976 offers 53 Fridays instead of the regular 52.

And, it just so happens that the craft payroll falls on the first Friday of the year (January 2) and the last Fri-

day of the year (December 31). The paycheck received on January 2 was for hours worked in 1975, of course ... but we are talking about when the check is received, not when the work was done.

How does this happen? Well, it's a little complicated, and several things have to fall just right to make it take place. First of all, it only happens in leap years that start on a Thursday -- like 1976.

How's that you say? Look at

it this way: non-leap years start and end on the same day of the week. (For instance, January 1, 1975, was on a Wednesday, and December 31, 1975, was also on a Wednesday.) A non-leap year that starts (and ends) on any day other than Friday will contain 52 Fridays ... or 26 paydays under Wood River's current hourly payroll system.

Ah ha you say! We've got ya ... any year (leap or not) that starts on a Friday will

contain 53 Fridays! You are right there, but not any extra paydays because -- as the payroll folks point out -- when a Friday is a holiday (i.e., New Year's Day) checks are dated the day before ... and that's *last* year, my friend.

So you see, the only way to get that extra payday in the same year is when we get the extra day provided by a leap year and the leap year begins on a Thursday and ends on a Friday like 1976.

How often does this hap-

pen? Care to stop here and figure it out for yourself?

It's really quite simple. Since leap year comes 'round every four years to give us that extra day, it takes 28 years to complete the cycle through the week back to a Thursday start (4 x 7).

Last time it happened was 1948, and the next will be 2004. Anybody care to hazard a guess as to who will be getting the "extra" paycheck in that year?

SRA members elect ten to Board of Governors



Glenn Crockett*
Pipefitter



Max Clark
Lube F&E



Sue Bonafede
Stenographic



Chuck Jones
Engineering Field

There are twenty-one people on your SRA Board of Governors. Nineteen are elected and two appointed. They represent a cross section of the refinery: crafts, operations, hourly, staff, and retirees.

Terms of office are two years. About half are up for election every year. Pictured here are those winning election last Fall and assuming their duties in January. (An asterisk means re-election.)

Get to know them. These people help formulate and run your various SRA activities throughout the year.

During the January meeting of the Board, officers and committee chairmen were elected. Officers for the coming year are: president, Joe Lanzarote of Engineering Office; vice president, Glenn Crockett, pipefitter; treasurer, Ray White of Financial; secretary, Arlene Tutt of Engineering Field.

Committee chairmen are: Athletics, Chuck Jones of Engineering Field; Fishing, Ray Alexander of Engineering Services; Membership, Judy Schrewe of Employee Relations; Publicity, Charley Rose of Engineering Field; Social, Bob Bevfoden, tinner, and Don Hunt, carpenter.



Don Hunt
Carpenters



Dennis Garofoli
Electricians



Bob McDonough*
Distilling



Bob Watson
Cracking



Judy Schrewe*
Employee Relations



Charley Rose*
Engineering Field

Classified ads

Propane floor furnace. Henry Kuhlman. 618-888-2427.

Home appliances. Two 40-inch gas stoves. One for \$25 and the other for \$15. Also, Sears water pump with 30 gallon glass lined tank. \$30. Don Smith. 618-656-0045.

Amana upright freezer. 13.6 cubic feet. Includes electric defroster. Used only two years. Still under

warranty. C. W. Ryan. 618-259-1702.

1966 VW Beetle. Lots of miles but runs good and needs a good home. Dick Dreith. 314-878-4972.

1971 Pontiac LeMans. Automatic transmission. Power steering. Air. Lloyd Whitworth. 618-633-2351 between 6-9 pm.

Golfers! Start the season with all the equipment you need. Complete set of Northwestern Ultimate golf clubs. Four woods, eight irons, pitching wedge, and putter. Also new bag, new cart, new umbrella, and new head covers. \$150. 618-377-9604.

Plastic engraving business. All equipment you need. Leon Crawford. 618-254-2091.

In remembrance

LEWIS G. FRAZIER, November 17. Mr. Frazier was an auto mechanic 1st in the Research Laboratory before retiring in 1959. He was 82. (No picture available.)

HAROLD LOUIS LORCH, December 23. Mr. Lorch was an electrician 1st before retiring in 1961. He was 77.

F. P. ROBINSON, December 12. Mr. Robinson was an

operator 1 in Distilling before retiring in 1963. He was 77. (No picture available.)

HORACE ELVIN RUTHERFORD, January 2. Mr. Rutherford was an operator 1 in Alkylation before retiring in 1972. He was 64.

WILLIAM H. WILSON, January 5. Mr. Wilson was a zone foreman before retiring in 1957. He was 80.



H. L. Lorch



H. E. Rutherford



W. H. Wilson

Social Security taxes are on the rise again

With what has become an annual tradition each January 1 -- the Social Security or F.I.C.A. taxable wage base went up again. This means that the taxable earnings and benefit computation base will be \$15,300 for 1976. The percentage rate of 5.8% remains the same.

The amount of tax payable by a 1976 wage earner who makes as much as \$15,300 rose to \$895.05, an increase of \$70.20. Last year the tax base was \$14,100, requiring a maximum deduction of \$824.85.

Shell is required, of course, to match employee contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Here's the 1976 schedule:

Total earnings	FICA Tax
\$ 4,000	\$234.00
5,000	292.50
6,000	351.00
7,000	409.50
8,000	468.00
9,000	526.50
10,000	585.00
10,800	631.80
12,600	737.10
13,200	772.20
14,100	824.85
15,300	895.05

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