

Million hours reached

Friday the 13th. A "black cat" day...full of foreboding bad luck...a day to wipe off the calendar and forget?

Not so you'd notice Friday, February 13, 1976, at the Wood River Refinery because that's the day Wood River employees reached the million-hour mark without a lost-time injury for the fourth time in 14 months.

The safety string which culminated in the Friday the 13th achievement started on October 18, 1975, passing through several shutdowns and winter ice storms - times when the potential for injury is generally greater without added attention by all employees. Other million-hour marks in the last 14 months were notched in December 1974, May 1975, and

October 1975.

Refinery manager, Art Williams, had these words of praise for Wood River employees: "Every Wood River employee can be proud of this achievement. Safety is of utmost importance to us all and every day that passes without injury is an accomplishment of individual and team effort.

"This is our country's bicentennial year and 'bi' means 'two'. Let's all redouble our safety awareness and alertness, moving on to the two-million manhour mark and beyond during 1976."

Harry Rollins, Safety manager, said, "Our main goal is keeping people safe and that takes everyone's effort. The achieving of a million injury-free hours is a mea-

sure of our collective successes...a job well done."

Ed Ballman, general manager of chemical plants and refineries...and former Wood River refinery manager...sent a telegram with his best wishes: "Congratulations on reaching one-million man-hours without a lost-time injury. Total commitment to safe operations is a vital and commendable goal. We are looking forward to your achieving many more injury-free hours."

This is the 41st time Wood River employees have distinguished themselves by reaching a million or more manhours since such records have been kept - starting in the early 1930's. The last time two-million hours was achieved was in 1952.



THAT'S THE SPIRIT! Wood River Woody in his bicentennial colonial garb points to the safety sign in the background showing more than one million safe hours.



VOL. 39, NO.3

WOOD RIVER REFINERY

MARCH, 1976

Refinery Lab's Ruedin notches 45 Shell-years

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. That extra try turned into 45 years for Roger Ruedin, special tester in the Refinery Lab.

"It was September 1930," says Roger. "Right in the middle of the Depression. To put it mildly, jobs were awful hard to come by... especially for a green, 17 year old just out of Alton High.

"I'd just been turned away by Personnel for the third time when someone - I don't remember who - pointed out this rather large man and said, 'If you want a job, why not ask him. He's the plant superintendent, Dr. Schippers. If anybody can help, he can.'

Not shy

"What did I have to lose? I told him I'd be willing to do anything... start at the bottom. He tried to steer me back to Personnel, but when I was persistent he took me to the Main Office lobby and told me to wait there.

"I didn't see him again, but all of a sudden Personnel cal-

led me back and after some discussion I got the job as office boy in the Refinery Lab...been in the Lab ever since.

"The office boy job was the only position open. It was the lowest paying at the refinery, I guess. Paid \$60 a month.

"Apparently they had been having trouble keeping office boys happy. When they'd look around at the other jobs in the refinery at higher pay, they'd agitate for a transfer. When I promised to stay on that job for at least a year, they gave it to me."

Job security

Mr. Ruedin feels his promise was reciprocated by Shell through job security. "Other companies around the country were forced to make layoffs, but I kept my job right on through," he said.

After about three years on the office boy job - "mail carrier, mostly" - and at the suggestion of the chief chemist, Hugh R. Berry, young Roger Ruedin transferred to the operations side

of the Lab, starting as a sample carrier.

He worked himself up through the tester ranks where he is now a special tester responsible for the standardization of test equipment and procedures. He said, "If you're not consistent in your testing, there's no use in doing it in the first place.

"If anything goes wrong, it's up to me to see that it's corrected. All it takes is some common sense to figure it out, and a certain amount of diplomacy to keep the operation smooth. I enjoy it."

Changes made

Roger Ruedin has seen a few changes take place in his 45 years at the refinery, not the least of which have been at the anti-knock lab where he spent most of his career. He said, "I never thought I'd have seen all the changes.

"It's heavily computerized now, but I'll bet those computers have got cranked into them the 'jigger-figures' we humans played with back in

the old days. Take the rest of the refinery too: household words like Trumble, Cross, TVP, and Blowbright are all gone.

"So are the goats and the gardener. Who are they? Well, I'll tell ya.

Get my goat

"I guess it was before even I came to the refinery they had goats on the property. Natural born weed and grass mowers they were!

"They let those billy's and nanny's roam all over the tank yards, keeping the growth down. To keep the goats off the tank stairways, they had to build gates.

"It wouldn't surprise me if the frames to those steel gates were still standing at the base of some of those stairways today."

Flower power

And the gardener? Roger doesn't recall who the gentleman was, but swears there was enough work at one time to keep a full-time gardener busy...inside the refinery.

"That's right," he said. "We had beautiful flower gardens not only around the Main Office building and the Lab, but also in the operating areas. As I recall, just about every department had its own plot.

"All that kinda went out of style after awhile, though. I'll say one thing, it dressed up the place."

Retire?

Roger and his wife, Hilda, live in a home that is just around the corner from the Alton High School he attended as a boy. They have four children, one living in Oklahoma and the others in this area.

Although Roger hasn't decided upon a particular date,

he says that he and Hilda are looking forward to retirement. He said, "I guess I could come pretty close (three months short-ed.) to Walt Stark's refinery record of 47 years and 5 month's service if I stayed to 65, but that's not influencing me. When we're ready, we're ready."

Mr. and Mrs. Ruedin enjoy travel and photography, which are evidenced by the excellent pictures of far away places hanging in their family room. They also enjoy fishing.

"That's what you'll find us doing in retirement," smiled Roger. "I've enjoyed my 45 years at Shell, but am looking forward to retirement years someday too." Roger suffered a heart attack last fall and has been home recuperating since then. He says he's feeling much better now, and is looking to the future with much enthusiasm.



R. R. Ruedin
Refinery Lab

Know anyone in the Olympics?

No doubt about it, 1976 is unique. The calendar tells us it's Leap Year. Politically, in the United States at least, it's a presidential election year. Historically, it's a bicentennial year, marking America's 200th birthday.

And, from an international sports standpoint, it's an Olympic year, bringing together outstanding athletes from around the world to Innsbruck, Austria, for the Winter Olympics and

Montreal, Canada, for the Summer Olympics.

At least a few of those athletes, we understand, will be Shell people. For them, the Olympics is, more often than not, a once-in-a-lifetime experience...one that deserves to be shared with other Shell employees across the country and around the world.

The Wood River Review and the Shell News magazine would like to highlight the

experiences of Shell employees or members of their immediate families who have participated in this year's winter games or will do so in the summer ones.

Your help is solicited. If you know of any Shell-folks involved in some official capacity, please contact Bill Gibson, editor of the Wood River Review. Such involvement might be as a competing athlete, an official, a chaperone, or whatever.

Credit Union grows over 40 years of service

On January 14, 1935, the American economy was somewhat improved from the depths of the Great Depression. But eight Shell employees at the Wood River Refinery remembered all too well the virtue of putting something aside in savings taught by those lean years.

On that date D. Long, R.V. Roberts, E.F. McNelly, G.F. Craig, J.R. Ferguson, G.C. Farmer, J.F. Webber, and G.D. Allen banded together to form the Shell-Wood River Credit Union.

And thus it was formed . . . with eight shareholders and total assets of \$57. The Shell-Wood River Federal Credit Union is now 41 years old. It has 3,296 members and assets approaching \$5 million. Its federal charter number of 91 makes it one of

the oldest federal credit unions in the country.

On duty

The credit union's day-to-day business at 217 East Ferguson in Wood River is handled by Bob Myers, office manager; Virden LaMarsh, treasurer; and Sheila Davis, Karen Stewart, and Mary Horyn who handle the accounts.

All but Mary, a part-time employee, have direct Shell connections. Bob's father, Walt Myers, was a receiving clerk in Stores until his retirement in 1954. LaMarsh retired as a senior cost analyst in Construction in 1970.

Sheila Davis' father, H.L. Johns, is a truck driver for the St. Louis distribution plant, and Karen Stewart's

father is Bill Klokenga, an operator in Aromatics.

Membership in the Shell-Wood River Federal Credit Union costs the same as it did 41 years ago . . . one \$5 share and a 25-cent initiation fee. Membership is open to Shell employees, pensioners, their widows or widowers, and dependent children living at home.

Serving you

In addition to providing a place for insured savings at a competitive rate of return (six percent has been the annual rate since mid-1974), the Shell-Wood River Credit Union extends loans for a variety of purposes as well as provides other financial services, such as counseling, notary public, "Blue Book" references, and a copy service.



CREDIT UNION personnel proudly display their 40-year plaque. It all began in early 1935. From left: Sheila Davis, Virden LaMarsh, Bob Myers, and Karen Stewart.

Members who maintain a minimum savings balance of \$2,000 are also eligible for a form of life insurance with premiums paid by the credit union. Members and those they sponsor may avail themselves of low-cost group travel fares, such as the Hawaiian trip currently being offered . . . and they will even sell you the Travelers' Checks!

Overall guidance of credit union affairs is done by the

Board of Directors, the Supervisory Committee, and the Credit Committee. All are Shell employees or retirees. Their names are shown in the box. Charter member, J.R. Ferguson, has been president for 34 years.

The next annual meeting of the Shell-Wood River Federal Credit Union will be held March 6 at the Masonic Temple in Wood River. The meeting is open to all members, prospective members, and guests.

Credit Union Board Members

J.R. Ferguson	President	Retired
G.A. Berry	Vice President	Insulator Foreman
L.H. Rohde	Secretary	Retired
V.W. LaMarsh	Treasurer	Retired
R.A. Adams	Board Member	Inspection
C.H. Denny	Board Member	Retired
D.Z. Harris	Board Member	Pipefitter Foreman
C.F. Stanley	Board Member	Retired
Wm. Tester	Board Member	Catalytic Cracking
W.I. Lengacher	Supervisory Committee (Chmn.)	Gas Plant
E.B. Gillis	Supervisory Committee	Retired
R.L. White	Supervisory Committee	Financial
M.S. Kuhm	Credit Committee (Chmn.)	Retired
A.C. Cunningham	Credit Committee	Truck Driver
J.A. Hmurovich	Credit Committee	Retired

Retirements



Phil Costanzo
Cracking
40 Years



W. H. Gross
Alylation
40 Years



Dick Sunkel
Eng. Office
38 Years



Frank Hendrickson
Utilities
37 Years



R. J. McKee
Pipefitter
37 Years



E. W. Schmidt
LOP-Distilling
37 Years



Norm Tomlinson
LOP-Distilling
36 Years



Ed Hoffman
Lubricants
35 Years



Lloyd Ellis
Mechanic
34 Years



H. C. Hochmuth
LOP-Cracking
34 Years



LeRoy LaPelle
LOP-Cracking
34 Years



George Myers
LOP-Cracking
34 Years



K. E. Nail
LOP-Cracking
34 Years



Jack Harris
Safety
33 Years



Clarence Janssen
Refinery Lab
33 Years



Bob McFain
Yardman
33 Years



Bob Monaghan
Refinery Lab
32 Years



E. A. Depping
Utilities
31 Years



N. B. Bangert
LOP-Gas
30 Years



Richard Janning
Shop machinist
25 Years



Keith Bauer
Eng. Foreman
22 Years



Harold Locke
Pipefitter
22 Years



Lee Wotowa
Painter
22 Years



Harry Kulp
Brickmason
17 Years

Shell's '75 net earnings down from record '74

Shell's 1975 net earnings were \$514.8 million, second highest in its history, but 17 percent below the Company's record net income of \$620.5 million in 1974, according to Harry Bridges, president.

Fourth quarter net income of \$132.5 million decreased 16 percent from the comparable quarter in 1974.

Depletion allowance

Bridges said the principal factor in the earnings declines was the change in U.S. income tax law which virtually eliminated the percentage depletion allowance. This increased Shell's federal income tax expense by an estimated \$124.0 million for the year and \$26.9 million for the last quarter. These

amounts were more than the decreases in net income for both periods.

"Apart from the higher income tax, many of the factors which influenced 1974 financial results -- persistent inflation, sluggishness in the economy, and continued federal price and allocation controls -- also were present in 1975," Bridges said.

He added, "Our substantially higher level of exploratory effort resulted in much greater costs and expenses being charged against current year's earnings."

Chemical side

Bridges said chemical performance was second only to the record set in 1974. Shell's oil products earnings margin improved over 1974, Bridges

said, but remained unsatisfactory, mainly due to the effects of oil product price controls and crude oil allocation and entitlements programs, coupled with lower sales volumes.

The 1975 earnings amounted to \$7.59 a share, compared to \$9.21 a share for the previous year.

All numbers are subject to audit.

Capital spending

Shell's capital spending in 1975 was a record \$1.1 billion, 16 percent above 1974, and about two-thirds of the spending was dedicated to the search for and development of new energy sources, according to Bridges.

Such spending was possible, he said, because Shell

supplemented internally generated cash with funds from the sale of company debentures and shares of common stock.

"We expect our capital expenditures for 1976 to be on the order of \$1.5 billion, subject, of course, to satisfactory cash flow being maintained under changing government regulations," Bridges said.

Legislation

He referred specifically to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, passed in December, which rolled back domestic crude oil prices to a nationwide average of \$7.66 a barrel, brought all domestic oil under price controls, and extended pricing and allocation controls for an additional

40 months, beginning February 1.

"The elimination of price controls has been long overdue, and we believe that rollback of crude oil prices from previous levels will encourage wasteful consumption of fuels, postpone development of domestic energy resources, and accelerate imports of less reliable and more expensive foreign supplies," Bridges said.

He added, "We cannot estimate at this time the overall effect of this new energy legislation on Shell's future profits and cash flows because of the vagueness and uncertainties regarding the application of certain provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act."

'Little Red Hen' has her fill of government regulations

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who scratched about the barnyard until she uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we plant this wheat, we shall have bread to eat. Who will help me plant it?"

"Not I," said the duck.

"Not I," said the cow.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Not I," said the pig.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. And she did. The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain. "Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I," said the duck.

"I have udder things to do," said the cow.

"I'd lose my unemployment benefits," said the goose.

The pig just sat there watching television, making believe he didn't hear her.

"Then I will," said the little red hen, and she did.

When at last the time came to bake the bread, the little red hen asked, "Who will help me bake the bread?"

"That's risky business," said the duck. "I wouldn't want to get my tail feathers burned."

"I want to see your environmental impact study first," said the cow.

"Not my line of work," said the goose.

"I'm suffering from a shortage of energy right now," grunted the pig, and he rolled over and went back to sleep.

"Then I will," said the little red hen, and she baked five golden brown loaves and held them up for her barnyard

neighbors to see.

They all wanted some . . . in fact, demanded their share. But the little red hen said, "No, I'll have no trouble eating these five loaves myself -- especially if I eat a little at a time and save some for tomorrow."

"Excess profits!" screamed the duck.

"Monopolistic bread baron!" yelled the cow.

"She ought to be investigated," announced the goose.

"Capitalistic pig," said the pig.

They all painted protest signs and marched around the barnyard shouting their opposition.

When the government agent came, he said to the little red hen, "You must not be greedy."

"But I earned the bread with my own toil and personal investment," said the little red hen.

"Exactly," said the agent. "That's the wonderful free enterprise system! One isn't restricted from earning as much as he can with honest toil. But under our modern government regulations, the productive workers must divide their product with the idle. It's called, among other things, an entitlement program."

The little red hen was divested of her precious loaves, and they were divided. Everyone lived happily ever after . . . even the little red hen who smiled and clucked, "Thank you. Thank you."

But her neighbors wondered why, from that day forward, she never ever baked bread again.



Classified ads

For sale

Leaving the country. Due to overseas transfer, for sale: 1972 Impala. 4-door. Power and air. Vinyl roof. Electric trunk lock. Radial tires. Peter Deen. 314-355-5928.

Camera equipment. Nikkormat FTN system with 55mm micro Nikkor and 24mm wide-angle lens. Both with polaroid filters. Vivitar 272 flash with carrying case. Heavy duty tripod. Purchase price totaled \$680. Will consider \$500 or best offer. Will also

consider selling individually. P. F. Curran. 618-259-6746.

Let's trade

Outboard motors. Will trade my 7-horse Sears for an older model 10-horse. Glen Phelps. 618-377-5436.

Wanted

Fold down camper. Used. With built-in refrigerator and stove. Harv Birmingham. 618-259-7957.

Eugene Spudich . . .

Refinery Lab tester takes paycheck text to task

"Ah-ha . . . I've got you," says Eugene Spudich, tester-one in the Refinery Lab. Eugene's sharp mind and sharp pencil have shot holes in the *Review* article about "extra paychecks" that was run last month.

In short, the article noted that those on the craft payroll will be issued 27 paychecks in 1976 rather than the normal 26. According to *Review* calculations, such an "extra" paycheck situation would occur only every 28 years.

"As soon as I read the arti-

cle I sat down at home and did some figuring," said Spudich, "because it seemed to me the operations payroll had 27 paychecks just a few years ago . . . 1970 to be exact."

According to Eugene's calculations, operations' next 27-paycheck year will be 1981. Prior to 1976, the last craft payroll to accomplish this was in 1964. "Depending on how the leap years fall, it's every eleven or twelve years for each payroll," he said.

That means every five or six years one payroll or the other gets 27 paychecks. Not nearly as unique as every 28 years . . .

After studying Eugene Spudich's theory, the *Review* went back to its perpetual calendars, did some more checking, and found that 1976 is only one of three possible calendar configurations that would allow 27 paychecks.

They are: a leap year that starts on Thursday and ends

on Friday like 1976 (comes every 28 years), a leap year that starts on Wednesday and ends on Thursday (comes every 28 years), and a non-leap year that starts and ends on Thursday.

The addition of the two years noted above that end on Thursday is a result of Spudich's pointing out that if Friday is January 1st, then the paycheck is bounced back into the year . . . and that's how you can have 27 paychecks in some years even if there are only 52 Fridays!

Sound confusing? There's more, such as calendar days "gained" (i.e., Monday-start to Tuesday-start) from one year to the next . . . two days after leap years . . . and how this affects the frequency cycle. But all that's too complicated to get into at this juncture.

Suffice it to say that Eugene Spudich took up the challenge and came forth with some corrected facts. Now . . . anybody care to dispute Eugene's calculations?

Wood River-Westhollow transition complete

Although Wood River research people had been transferring to the Westhollow Research Center in Houston over a several month period, the Wood River lab didn't "officially" close its doors until the first of this year.

And, although research people from all over the country had been taking up their working residences within the walls of Westhollow for many months also ... it didn't officially open until the weekend of January 30 - February 1.

Three-day affair

This was the official dedication. It was dedicated over a three-day period for two reasons: first, it's an awfully big place, and, second, quite a few guests were expected.

Speakers at the dedication ceremonies included Shell president Harry Bridges; Tom Baron, president of Shell Development Com-

pany; and Texas congressman Bill Archer. Following the dedication speeches were two days of open house complete with tours, displays, and souvenirs.

The dedication activities reaffirmed Shell's research commitment and assures Westhollow's neighbors in the west Houston area of its commitment to the community.

For the family

But the most important reason for the dedication and open house was to provide research employees' families a chance to see where mom or dad works.

About 4,400 guests -- research employees, families, retirees, and dignitaries -- were invited to each session of the dedication and open house. The invitation list also included university people, state and local officials, Shell's board of directors,

and the press.

Wood River represented

Many of those attending the ceremonies did so by traveling to Houston from great distances at their own expense. Among these were 16 Wood River pensioners and employees.

Unofficial ceremonies included a retirement party for Julian Ryan, staff research engineer, who retired at Wood River this January after more than 40 years of service. Over 200 of Julian's friends attended the affair.

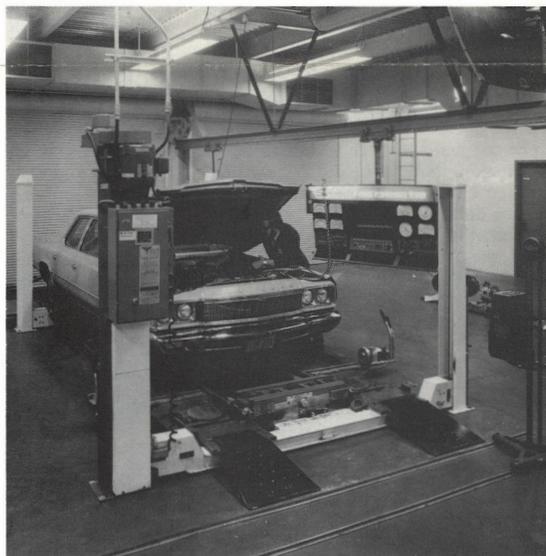
If not Wood River itself, at least a part of Shell's St. Louis past plays a prominent part in Westhollow's Theme Building. These are three massive bronze elevator doors and a bronze mail drop from Shell's former East of the Rockies headquarters building in downtown St. Louis. The doors and the mail drop are emblazoned with Shell pectens.



Last one to leave, please lock the door. Four of the last to leave the Wood River Research Lab symbolically lock the door. They are (from left): John Luketich, Kenny Whisler, Lonnie Bowman, and Julian Ryan. Among them, they logged over 135 Shell-years. All are now retired. The very last person to leave hasn't really left. He's Guy Wombles who transferred into the refinery as an engineering foreman. Part of Guy's responsibilities include the now quiet Research facilities.

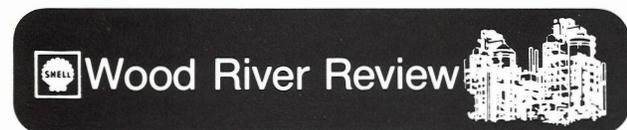


The Theme Building is the architectural focus of the Westhollow Research Center. Shading fins and special glass are used to reduce energy loads and to break up the sense of size. Ponds and landscaping help the facility blend into its environment. Among the highlights inside the building are bronze elevator doors and mail drop originally from the Shell Building in St. Louis.



The mission of the Wood River group is the same at Westhollow, with all the latest equipment. Here Ben Visser, former Wood Riverite and world mileage champion, tests a car in the diagnostic facility.

Safety is your business



VOL. 39, NO. 3 WOOD RIVER REFINERY MARCH, 1976

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

Bill Gibson, editor

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

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