



## Fluctuations in marketplace changing nation's refineries

The refinery business is going through some big changes these days.

The industry's changes stem from two causes: a decrease in the demand for petroleum products and the use of larger amounts of more readily available high-sulfur crude oils.

The decrease in product demand is causing refineries across the country to decrease their output and operate at lower efficiency levels.

The increasing volume of high-sulfur crude is causing problems for those refineries which are not equipped to handle the crude. The refineries must either purchase more expensive low-sulfur crude, spend millions of dollars to make necessary improvements to upgrade their processing ability, or discontinue operation.

In the local area, Amoco Oil Co. announced its Wood River refining units would shut down by about Oct. 1, 1981. The four units, which have a capacity of 104,000 barrels-a-day, will be moth-balled.

Amoco officials said the refinery had a limited capability to process high-sulfur crude. At the time of the closing announcement, officials said the refinery was operating at only about 60 per cent capacity.

In addition to the Amoco closing, Gulf Oil Co. announced it would close its Toledo, Ohio, refinery and a portion of its Venice, La., refinery. Sun Petroleum Products Co. recently sold its Tulsa, Okla., refinery in order to reduce its gasoline output.

U.S. consumption of oil products is down sharply from a peak demand in 1978. Americans used about 18 million barrels of crude a day in 1978, compared to the present use of about 15 million barrels-a-day.

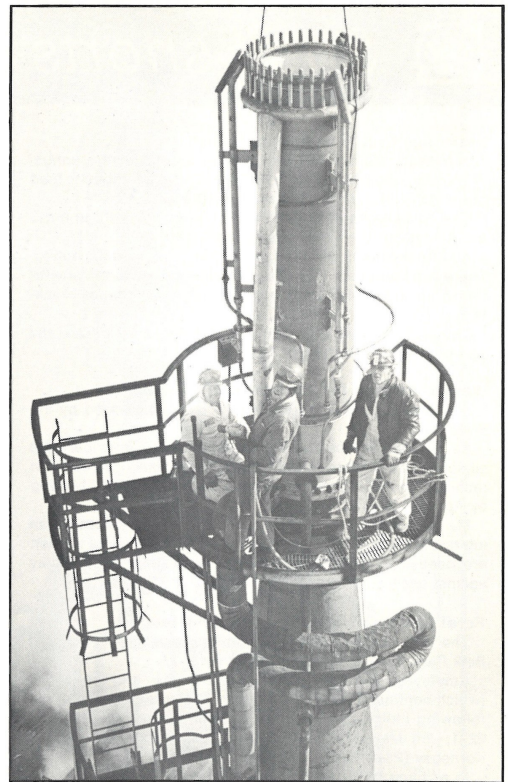
The decrease has had its effect at Wood River Manufacturing Complex. Intake of crude oil is currently about 200,000 barrels-a-day. With a capacity of 290,000 barrels-a-day, Wood River is operating at about a 69 per cent level.

"The marketplace is undergoing a real change," said Howard Olsen, manager of Economics and Scheduling. "It's going to take some time for it to stabilize. During that time, we shall probably see many companies making changes to adjust to the newer market conditions."

Olsen said the key to staying in business will be by operating more efficiently than "the competition."

Wood River's ability to handle high-sulfur crude will improve its position relative to many refineries. According to the National Petroleum Council, about half of the crude processed by U.S. refineries is high-sulfur crude. The council reports that about 80 per cent of the world's remaining reserves are high-sulfur crudes.

Wood River also has the flexibility to handle heavier crudes, such as those from Mexico or the Middle East.



## Mission accomplished

Finishing touches are put on the new flare tip installed in March at the Alkylation unit. Shown on the 200-foot high platform are (from left to right): pipefitter Alan Weiss, pipefitter/welder Jim Anderson, and pipefitter Bill Ewing.

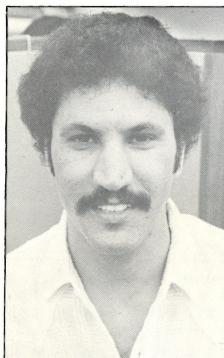
For more photos of the flare tip installation, see page 3.

## Saudis enjoy hands-on training at Wood River

Months before Saad Utaibi came to Wood River Manufacturing Complex, he was given a description of the joint venture between Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and Pecten Arabian Limited, an affiliate of Shell Oil Co.

"Somebody told me this is the biggest and the best project," said Utaibi (pronounced yew-tah-bee). "They said the project is already signed and the details finished."

Utaibi now has formed his own opinion about the project after having been at Wood River for a little more than three months.



Saad Utaibi

"The biggest project? Yes. The best project? That is what we are trying to make it."

Utaibi and fellow Saudi Arabian Fouzi Algosaiabi are two of 22 Saudis who are being trained at Shell facilities in the U.S. under an agreement between SABIC and Pecten Arabian Limited. The Saudis will return to their country to work at the \$3 billion petrochemical complex now being built by Saudi Petrochemical Company, equally owned by SABIC and Pecten Arabian Limited. The complex should begin operating in 1984 and start making products available for export by mid-1985.

Algosaiabi (pronounced algoh-sah-bee) said as an employee of SABIC he had the opportunity to join projects with Shell, Mobil and Exxon in the United States and projects in Japan and Germany. Algosaiabi chose Shell for several reasons.

"My friends advised me to join Shell because it has a good training program and I would have a future with the company (Saudi Petrochemical Company)," he said. "I also didn't want to go to Japan or Germany because I didn't want to go through the adjusting period again."

Both Algosaiabi and Utaibi,

now employees of Saudi Petrochemical Company, received their college education in the U.S. and through the years have learned to speak English fluently. Algosaiabi graduated from Marquette University in August, 1980, and Utaibi graduated from Arizona State University in May, 1980. Both men received bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering.

Because of their earlier years in the United States, the two Saudis said they had no real problems adjusting to Wood River when their training program at the complex began in January. Knowledge of the English language has helped them to avoid any misunderstandings.

Algosaiabi said, "I remember when I was living in the college dormitory and the floor's resident advisor came in and told me and my roommate there was a bomb threat and we had to leave. We had been in the United States for only one month and didn't know what the word 'bomb' meant. He was using every means to try to let us know we had to leave."

The resident advisor finally picked up the Arabic dictionary the men had and pointed to the word "bomb."

"My friend threw the dictionary down," Algosaiabi said

with a chuckle. "We both went running."

Utaibi said the only language problem now is learning the many abbreviations used throughout the complex.

"For example, LCV stands for level control valve," he said. "But whenever someone says a word which we do not know, we ask what it means."

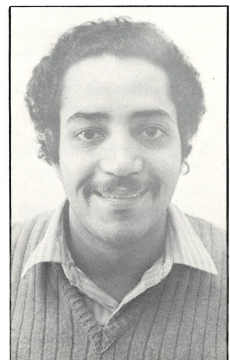
"We have found everyone cooperative and no one shows any signs of unwillingness to help. If you ask for something, you can always get an answer."

The two men are being trained as process control engineers in the instrumentation section. Their training is being directly supervised by Eng. Services staff engineer Bob Klie.

Hands-on training is viewed as a career development program for the 22 Saudis. The men can identify their skills and interests and decide their target positions, the jobs they would like to perform at the petrochemical plant when they return home.

Both Saudis at Wood River say their country is growing rapidly because of industry's expansion due to the many international agreements being made.

Both men are from large



Fouzi Algosaiabi

families: Algosaiabi has four brothers and two sisters while Utaibi has six brothers. The two men have individual apartments in North County in St. Louis and now have one chore they aren't accustomed to—cooking.

At Wood River, the two men are looking forward to continuing their day-to-day education.

"We are learning a lot," Algosaiabi said. "But we have a long way to go."

**Editor's note:** Saad Utaibi was recently transferred to Head Office in Houston to participate in the program to help train Saudi operators and Maintenance individuals.



# Shell shorts

## Easter egg hunt to be held April 11

The Easter Bunny will be hopping around at the annual Shell Recreation Association (SRA) Easter egg hunt to be held at Kendall Hill Park on Saturday, April 11.

Festivities begin at 11 a.m., and children will hunt in areas designated for their own age groups.

All SRA members and their families are invited to the outing. There will be donuts, hot chocolate and coffee in the shelter house for those who don't enjoy hard-boiled eggs for breakfast.

The Easter Bunny also reports that in the event of rain, the egg hunt will be held April 18.

## Women needed for summer softball league

A women's softball league is now being organized by the SRA.

All female SRA members and wives of SRA members are eligible to participate in the league. Individuals interested in receiving more information should contact Jo Ann Manning by April 17 at extension 2382.

Manning said about seven women so far have expressed an interest in playing softball this summer. She said more women are needed in order to split into teams which would play against each other one night per week.

## Fore! Golfers wanted for 1981 SRA league

The 1981 season of the SRA golf league will begin May 4 at Belk Park Golf Course in Wood River.

Employees and retirees interested in playing in the league (which continues through October) should contact one of the following individuals: Winston Wallace (Eng. Services), ext. 2271; Jim Maynard (Quality Assurance), ext. 2870; or Jack Kornegay (P&PE), ext. 2157.

In addition to league play, the annual SRA Golf Day will be held Saturday, June 6 at Cloverleaf Golf Course in Altou. Further information about entering in the competition will be given at a later date.

## Shell Matching Gifts program increases by \$240,000

Contributions and matching funds amounting to \$1.2 million went to education under the Shell Matching Gifts program during 1980, \$240,000 more than the previous year's total.

Shell Companies Foundation, Inc., sponsor of the program, matched 2,465 contributions to 160 private secondary schools and 537 post-secondary schools during 1980.

The program will have its next match of contributions to approved colleges, universities, and private, independent secondary schools April 30. The Shell Foundation must receive all completed forms from the schools by April 1.

Gifts of cash, check and marketable securities will be matched two for one. The minimum contribution is \$25 per person, and the maximum is \$2,500 per person per calendar year.

Program brochures and forms are available in the Employee Relations office and can also be obtained by writing Shell Companies Foundation, Inc., Two Shell Plaza, P.O. Box 2099, Houston, Texas 77001.

Forms received by the Shell Foundation after April 1 will be eligible for the September match.

## Order deadline for Shell desk diary is June 1

Orders are now being accepted for the 1982 Shell desk diary.

The 160-page desk diary will feature some 100 color photographs of seashells and the sea, plus steel-plate engravings throughout the book.

To order the 1982 hard-cover volume, send \$4.00 per copy to Shell Desk Diary, P.O. Box 2663, Houston, Texas 77001. Checks should be made payable to Shell Desk Diary. Order deadline is June 1, 1981.

## Retiree's daughter elected Pi Beta Phi president

Jeanie Egmon, daughter of Grover Egmon (Hydroprocessing ret-'81), was recently elected president of the Illinois Alpha chapter of Pi Beta Phi.

Founded at Monmouth College in 1867, Pi Beta Phi was the first national scholastic women's fraternity.

Jeanie, a sophomore at Monmouth College, is double-majoring in business and English.

The Safety "I" program is at your fingertips

# Dial 2500

# Anniversaries



**Doc Linn**  
Safety and IH  
40 years



**Vern Fillingim**  
LOP  
35 years



**Ferd Weise**  
Eng. Services  
35 years



**Hal Kesinger**  
Safety and IH  
25 years



**Rene LeBrun**  
Maintenance  
25 years



**Jack Heiderscheidt**  
Utilities  
25 years

# In remembrance



**H.E. Dubin**

Harry Edward Dubin, 84, died Feb. 16. Mr. Dubin was a tinner 1st in Eng. Field before retiring in 1962.

Herman L. Foster, 53, died March 7. Mr. Foster was a pipefitter 1 in Maintenance before retiring in 1980.

Maynard Daniel Frey, 74, died Feb. 19. Mr. Frey was a



**H.L. Foster**

yardman in Eng. Field before retiring in 1966.

Aloys Louis Luebberts, 83, died Feb. 23. Mr. Luebberts was a blacksmith 1st in Eng. Field before retiring in 1962.

William Seth Schneider, 86, died March 7. Mr. Schneider worked in the railroad section of Treasury before retiring in 1959.



**M.D. Frey**



**A.L. Luebberts**



**W.S. Schneider**

# Retirements



**John Jackson**  
LOP  
39 years



**Frank Griffith**  
Instruments  
35 years



**Carl Best**  
LOP  
34 years



**Dave McGibany**  
Pipefitter  
33 years



**Bill Speciale**  
Craneman  
32 years



**Gene Schneider**  
LOP  
31 years



**Ted Wolf**  
Pipefitter  
25 years



**Gerald Caron**  
Pipefitter  
23 years

# Classifieds

**Ski boat.** 16-foot Thompson with 55-h.p. Johnson motor, water ready, excellent condition, trailer included, call Betty Augustine at 618-637-2382 after 6 p.m.

**Golf clubs.** One set of junior clubs: 3, 5, 7, 9, and putter, \$40, call Bob Woods at 618-656-5163.

**Doll cradles.** 14-inch by 20-inch, make wonderful birthday or Christmas presents, \$35 finished, \$25 ready to finish, call Fred Long at 618-259-5278.

**Lawn mower.** 21-inch with overhauled 3.5 Briggs Stratton engine, \$40, call Jim Sauerwein at 618-377-6347.

**Tires.** Two steel-belted tires (FR-78-14) and Nova wheels, \$50 total, call Roy Wolfe at 618-656-2744.

**Motorcycle.** 1980 Kawasaki LTD 250, 1,900 miles, blue, \$900, call Bob Kile at 618-656-0988.

**Antenna tower.** 50-foot self-supporting, used previously for ham radio, call Bill Bright at 618-656-7180.

**Free.** Classified ads in this section are printed free of charge for all Shell employees and pensioners. To report an item you'd like to buy or sell, mail your ad to Charlie Skaer, Main Office room 313, or call extension 2168.

# Employee finds 1939 watch fob

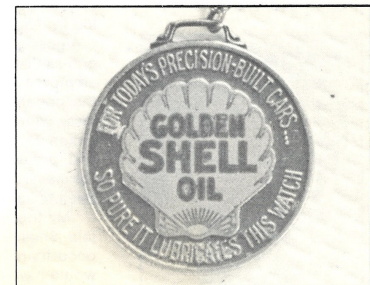
A story in last month's issue of the *Wood River Review* brought quick results for tool repairman Joe Pellegrino.

Pellegrino's collection of Shell watches was the subject of the back page feature. Pellegrino spent four years of searching to find a 1939 Golden Shell watch.

However, Pellegrino didn't have the 1939 watch fob, a brass ornament on the end of the watch's chain.

After the publication of the *Review* story, Pellegrino received a letter from 1963 retiree Wesley Hurley who lives in Wood River. Hurley, who had worked in Dispatching, said he still owned the 1939 watch and watch fob which he had bought back in 1939 for \$5.30. Hurley wrote that he would be willing to sell the antique if "the price was right."

Pellegrino jumped at the offer and bought the watch and fob from Hurley for \$200. Hurley said he had worn the watch only about 15 times to work before he became afraid that it would be



1939 Shell watch fob

damaged. So he put the watch in the family jewelry box which is where it stayed until recently. He said the watch would be more appreciated in a collector's case than in his jewelry box.

## Alky flare tip replacement proves to be a 'top' job

Maintenance foreman Lamoine Schoenleber was standing in the skip-cage held 200 feet in the air by the crane.

He looked at the three men standing on the nearby Alkylation flare platform and casually said, "You know, I think these guys enjoy working up here better than being on the ground."

"I don't think I'd go that far," pipefitter Alan Weiss musingly said when he was told of his foreman's comment. "But working at heights doesn't bother me.

"You notice the wind a lot more. Sometimes you sort of feel like you're moving a little bit."

He paused a second or two and added, "You also have a lot nicer view up there."

Weiss, along with pipefitter Bill Ewing and pipefitter/welder Jim Anderson, installed a new flare tip at the Alky unit in early March. The replacement went smoothly, thanks to the work of the qualified shutdown crew who had a clear, sunny day for the project.

The flare tip replacement was

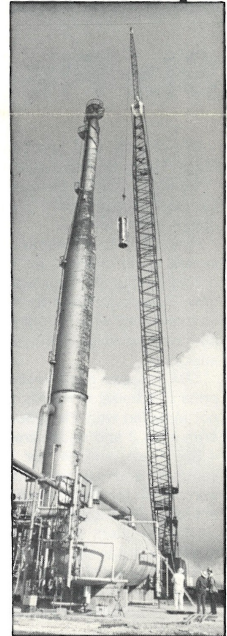
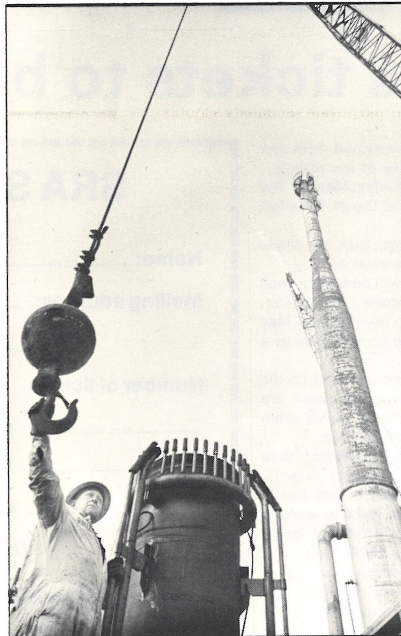
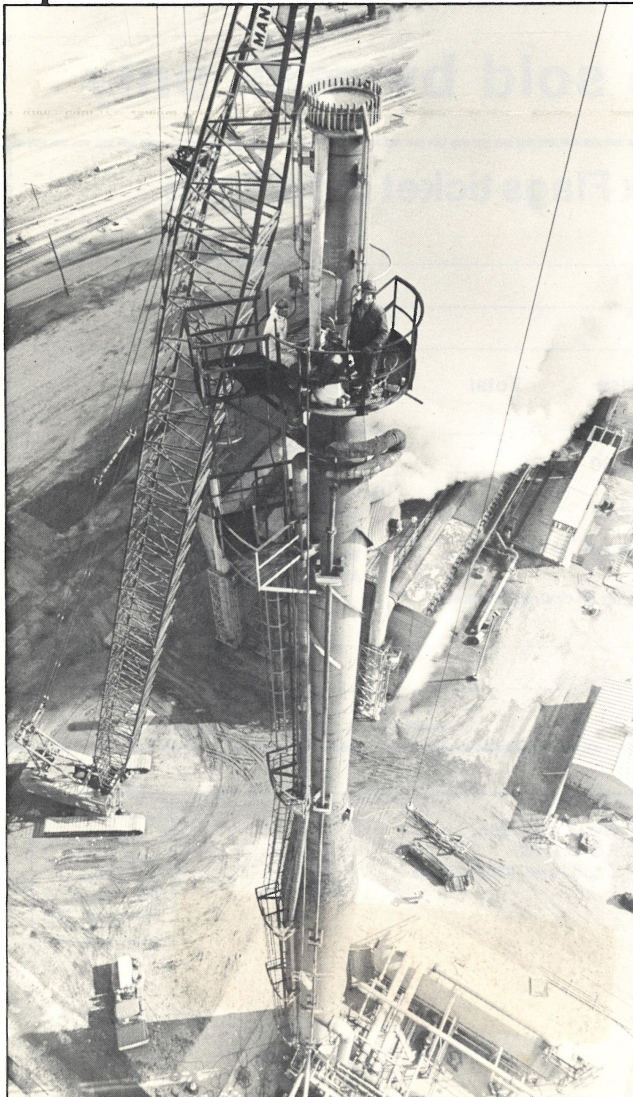
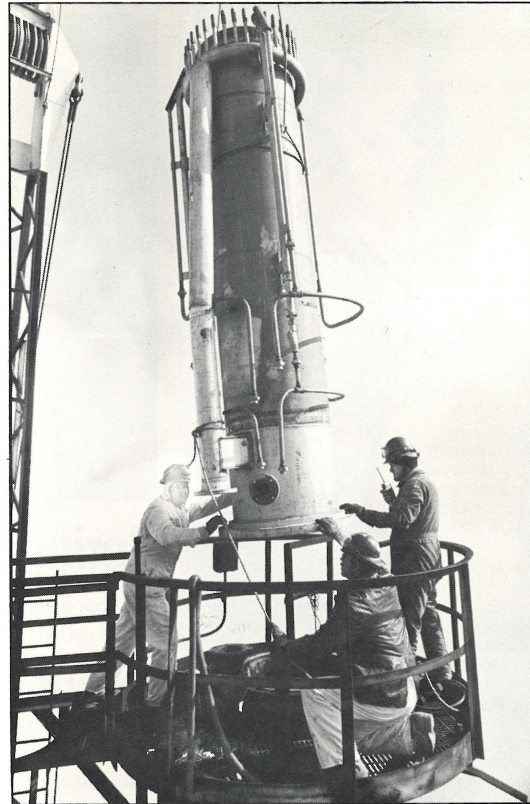
necessary because a steam ring cracked in the old flare tip, causing steam to come out the side of the tip instead of out the top. Although the old tip was still operable, it needed two to three times as much steam than normally required.

Steam is used to create large amounts of turbulence which ensures the flare of good contact with oxygen in the air.

Richard Gerth, Alkylation process manager, said the steam ring on the new tip was modified to hopefully prevent future cracks.

Two pilot lines and two igniter lines made of conventional steel were replaced with stainless steel lines, another improvement during the shutdown. Gerth said the change in material should mean longer service life and reduced plug-up.

The replacement of the flare tip was preliminary work for the complete Alkylation shutdown which began March 20. Cleaning of the crude alkylate feed treater and deisobutanizer (DIB) was the major work during the shutdown.



**Top photo:** The flare tip is lowered to its proper position. From left to right are pipefitters Alan Weiss and Bill Ewing, and pipefitter/welder Jim Anderson.

gives a full-length view of the Alky flare tip replacement.

**Bottom center:** Pipefitter Ray Bollinger attaches a crane's hook to the flare tip.

**Bottom left:** A photo taken from the skip-cage

**Bottom right:** A crane raises the tip to the platform.



## Spring fever strikes at SRA dance

The Shell Recreation Association's (SRA) spring dance had employees and pensioners out on the floor moving to a variety of music provided by the TDQ band.

The dance was held March 20 at the Madison County Firemen's Hall in Collinsville.

At left, Donna Klunk (Financial) dances with Andy Klein (Financial).

Above, Eng. Services technical manager Irv Doty does the twist and puts on a happy face as an extra bonus for the photographer.

The next SRA dance will be the fall dance on Oct. 23.

# Six Flags tickets to be sold by mail only

SRA Family Day has been renamed SRA Six Flags Day to be more descriptive of the activity.

Six Flags Day will be held Saturday, May 30. The park will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for a full day of family fun.

In addition to the name change, SRA has made several other changes for the annual activity.

This year all Six Flags tickets will be sold by mail only. Tickets are good for the entire 1981 season, so individuals who cannot go to Six Flags on May 30 have the advantage of using their tickets at a later date.

SRA has also made their entire discount on the price of admission tickets. Parking and meals are not included with the reduced ticket prices. Children ages 3 and under are admitted free.

Six Flags tickets for SRA members, their spouses, and children living at home may be purchased for \$6.50 each. These tickets are limited, so SRA advises members to order early.

SRA members may purchase tickets for family members not living at home for \$8.50 each.

Any Shell employee or pensioner, including individuals who are not members of SRA, may purchase tickets for themselves or guests for \$9.50 each.

The regular 1981 admission price for Six Flags is \$11.50.

To order tickets, fill out and return the form accompanying this article. Checks or money orders should be made out to Shell Recreation Association. No ticket orders will be accepted after May 22.

## SRA Six Flags ticket order form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SRA member:  Yes  No

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets	Price	Total
_____	x \$6.50*	= \$ _____
_____	x \$8.50	= \$ _____
_____	x \$9.50	= \$ _____
<b>Total cost</b>		<b>= \$ _____</b>

All ticket sales are final. SRA is not responsible for tickets lost by postal service.

Make check or money order payable to Shell Recreation Association.

Return this form and payment to:  
**Shell Recreation Association**  
**P.O. Box 262**  
**Wood River, IL 62095**  
**Attn: R. H. LeBrun**

\*Show first name and relationship for each \$6.50 ticket:

For SRA use only  
 Date tickets mailed: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_



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