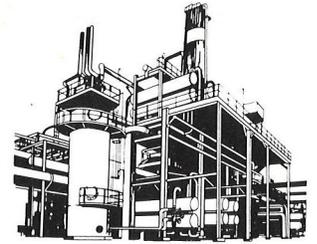


WOOD RIVER REVIEW

WOOD RIVER MANUFACTURING COMPLEX



VOL. 46 NO. 3, MARCH 1983

Study focuses on nitrogen usage

The ever-increasing price of nitrogen is motivating WRMC to take a hard look at its consumption of the gas. A capital project in Lube and a recent audit of the nitrogen distribution system are two examples of current activity in this area.

In 1979 the Complex spent \$1.1 million for nitrogen compared to \$2.1 million in 1982. Annual usage between 1979 and 1982 increased about 25 percent from 160,000 to 200,000 cubic feet/hour.

Nitrogen is an inert gas that is used throughout the Complex to reduce oxidation, explosion or fire hazards in storage tanks and other equipment where hydrocarbons are present.

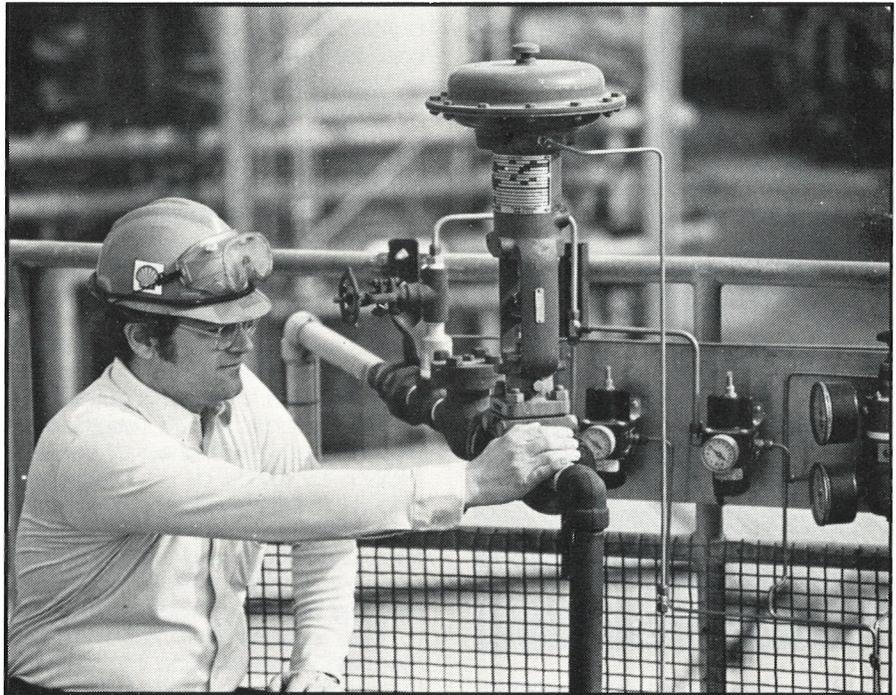
"What was once a relatively inexpensive commodity has become a significant part of our operating costs," said **Bill Carr**, Utilities manager. "This is true because it takes a lot of energy to produce nitrogen and we all know energy costs have increased dramatically in the past 10 years."

Consistent with the Complex goal of reducing variable costs where appropriate, **Tom Madden**, **George Freeman** and **Mike Higgins**, of Utilities, performed an audit of the main nitrogen distribution system which identified several areas of nitrogen waste. These included valves that were not completely closed or that needed plugs, rubber hoses attached to nitrogen manifolds, defective tank vents that allowed nitrogen to escape into the atmosphere, and blinds not turned where required.

The audit is currently being extended to include the many miles of nitrogen piping at the process units. Upon completion, Carr expects that overall WRMC nitrogen consumption can be reduced 10-20 percent relative to 1982.

One nitrogen saving project that was recently implemented was the placing of a new control system on two HVI-150 lube oil storage tanks in

Continued on page 7



A new control system on two lube oil tanks is minimizing the amount of nitrogen necessary for tank blanketing. This is one of many projects under way to reduce nitrogen consumption at WRMC. Above, Mike Breyer, senior inspector, reviews the installation of a gauge assembly on tank N-181.

Shell ranked # 1 in survey

Shell was ranked number one in the petroleum refining industry according to a 1982 survey of nearly 6,000 business executives, outside directors, and financial analysts, who were asked to rate the corporate reputations of companies in America's 20 largest industries.

The survey, conducted by *Fortune Magazine*, asked respondents to rate companies in their own industry on a scale of 0 (poor) to 10 (excellent). Eight key attributes of reputation were used to measure performance: quality of management; quality of products or services; innovativeness; value as a long-term investment; financial soundness; ability to attract, develop and keep

talented people; community and environmental responsibility; and use of corporate assets.

Shell's composite score was 7.26, outdistancing Atlantic Richfield (7.17) and Standard Oil of Indiana (7.11). Rounding out the top ten were: Standard Oil of California; Exxon, Mobile; Phillips Petroleum; Tenneco; Gulf Oil; and Texaco.

"Analysts gave companies in this group lower ratings than did the executives and directors polled, probably because oil stocks haven't been too slick lately," *Fortune* pointed out. "Both groups agreed, however, that Shell's greatest strength is management."

Executives applaud WRMC safety effort

WRMC's 1982 safety performance has prompted Shell senior management to commend Complex employees for their safety efforts. In the text of written comments prepared by two company vice presidents, it was noted that the overall Shell manufacturing organization reduced total injuries by 25 percent last year.



J.H. DeNike, Shell vice president of Oil Products, addressed WRMC management Feb. 23 regarding the company's 1982 performance and 1983 goals. The meeting was held at a St. Louis hotel.

Ray O Brien, vice president — Operations: "For Wood River Manufacturing Complex employees, 1982 was a year of significant improvement from an already good performance level. You are leaders in total recordable statistics and have reduced the number of disabling injuries to your best level ever. The stability of your work force and the quality of your technical resources, procedures and staff provide a solid base for consolidation of your current achievements with continued reductions in disabling injuries.

"1983 can be a safe year for all of us if we reinforce those areas where our management emphasis has 'paid off' and seek to strengthen those areas needing improvement."

J.B. Henderson, executive vice president — Products: "In 1982 the overall safety performance in Products Operations was the best ever. In reaching this point a number of organizations achieved excellent safety records. These results emphasize the effectiveness of our approach to safety as an integrated part of facility management. I appreciate the efforts of those locations with continued high performance and those where significant progress has been made.

"Your organization has made a meaningful contribution to our long term corporate goal of being recognized as among the leaders of our industry in safety — as a prime element demonstrating our commitment to corporate responsibility. Let's continue improving in those

areas where appropriate and maintain our performance at those locations where high standards have been achieved."

Wanted: entries for Slogan Contest

The Safety Slogan Contest kicked off March 4 with the first of 12 weekly slogan subjects publicized on 2500 line and Complex bulletin boards.

Each Friday during the contest a new safety subject will be announced. Employees wishing to submit a slogan relating to that week's subject need to fill out an entry form and deposit it in a collection box by 8 a.m. the following Thursday.

Forms and boxes are located at the Main and South gates, OMC, PLW, Sulfur Plant and Main Office reception area. There is no limit to the number of slogans employees may turn in.

A panel of Shell judges reviews all entries and selects a winning slogan each week. All 12 winners will receive a wall clock. In the event of ties, forms with identical slogans will be placed in a container and one will be randomly selected. Winning slogans are displayed on the Main and South gate message boards and announced on 2500.

Judges are on the lookout for catchy, original slogans that relate to the subject of the week.

WOODY & CLYDE



KARATE

Richard Negele has a self prescribed method of releasing pent up frustrations — he participates in karate.

"I am a physical person and always have been. That is why I prefer a physically active job rather than a desk job," said Negele, who works in valve repair — Maintenance.

The seven year Wood River employe finds that his involvement in karate has carryover benefits to other facets of everyday life, both in the mental and physical senses.

"I started karate training for self-defense," he says. "I had lifted weights in the Air Force and had even won a trophy or two at that. But one night I saw a really tough guy mercilessly beat up another man, and I realized that if the guy had attacked me, I wouldn't really have known what to do. So I enrolled in a karate school."

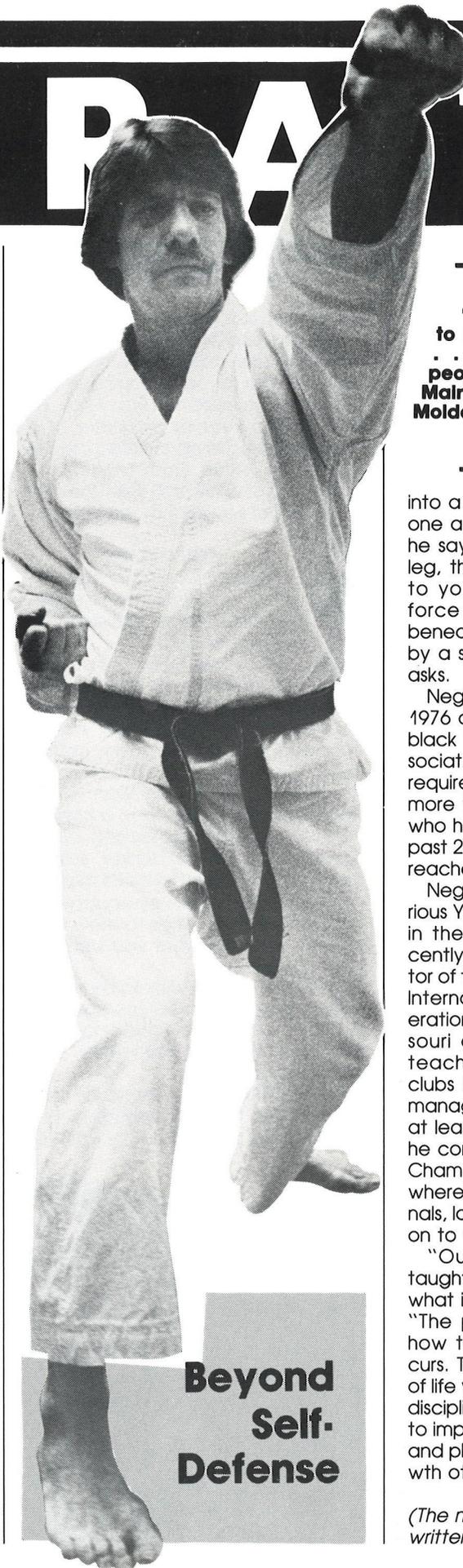
But Negele asserts that his ideas about karate training for self-defense quickly changed. "I thought I would just learn how to defend myself, but what I found was that karate is a whole new way of life. It goes far beyond simple self-defense."

He says that the karate courses he teaches stress the development of character, sincerity, effort, etiquette and self-control.

When instructing a group of karate students, Negele's demeanor changes drastically. The soft voice becomes a harsh, authoritarian bark, not unlike that of a drill sergeant.

Starting in a kneeling position and a bow to his students, Negele introduces class exercises to the students. He bends, twists and stretches, displaying an extraordinary flexibility usually only seen in champion gymnasts or professional dancers. He becomes "sensei" (the one who has gone before and wants to guide others), their teacher. Then he counts cadence while they strive mightily to achieve the perfect coordination between mind and body, which is the ultimate goal of serious karate students. "No," he says softly, "you're only using your arm muscles. You must try to move everything — arms, legs, trunk, head and mind — as one unit."

To show what he means he drops



**Beyond
Self-
Defense**

"The purpose of karate is to learn how to avoid trouble . . . how to get along with people," says Richard Negele, Maintenance. (Photo by Glen Moldafsky)

into a long, low stance and extends one arm in front of him. "First relax," he says, "then drive from your back leg, through the center of your hips to your arm." He punches with a force that makes the wood floor beneath the students shake, as if hit by a sonic boom. "Understand?" he asks.

Negele began his karate training in 1976 and today is a second degree black belt of the Japan Karate Association (JKA). So strenuous are the requirements of the JKA that of the more than quarter million Americans who have trained in the art over the past 25 years, fewer than 1,000 have reached the second degree level.

Negele has taught karate at various YMCA's and community centers in the area, and he was most recently appointed vice chief instructor of the South Central Region of the International Shotokan Karate Federation, for the states of Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma. He regularly teaches classes at more than 17 clubs in these three states and still manages to train under his instructor at least 4 times a week. In October, he competed in the National Karate Championship in Denver, Colorado, where he made it to the quarterfinals, losing only to the man who went on to win third place in the event.

"Our karate is not like what is taught in most commercial studios or what is seen on TV," he emphasizes. "The purpose of karate is to learn how to avoid trouble *before* it occurs. True Japanese karate is a way of life which teaches people, through discipline of the mind and body, how to improve themselves, both mentally and physically, and how to get along with other people."

(The major portion of this article was written by Glenn Randall, St. Louis.)

92 years and counting

Brothers reminisce about lengthy Shell association

Whenever **Lou** and **Bill Roller** get together the topic of conversation invariably shifts to business — specifically Shell Oil Company. With a combined Shell association of 92 years, it would seem the brothers

Friendly, guaranteed service has contributed to the success of the Roller Shell station in Alton. Bill Roller, who has been in business for 47 years, knows most of his customers by name.



have much to talk about.

Lou retired in 1968 after 45 years at what was then called the Wood River Refinery. The former automotive garage foreman resides in East Alton. Bill is in his 47th year as proprietor of a Shell service station located at 5th and Ridge, Alton. Both men speak proudly of Shell and feel their 92 years of service is a unique statistic.

LOU ROLLER

"Well, I worked at Shell for many, many years so I imagine you have some questions to ask me. Fire away."

Lou Roller was anxious for the interview. He had old photos of the Refinery and past issues of the *Wood River Review* neatly arranged on his living room coffee table. "This is me in 1923 standing near the light oil treaters on Main Office Road," he said, pointing to a framed picture of a youthful-looking Roller. "And this is an old Dodge screen panel truck we used to make pickups and deliveries of Refinery equipment. I have all kinds of things to show you. Just let me know what you want for your article."

Okay, let's start with some background information. Tell me how you came to work at Shell and about the Refinery in the early days. Roller was off and running.

His pre-Shell work experience was brief. After leaving school in the eighth grade, Roller went to work for

his uncle who owned an Alton grocery store. But the store eventually went out of business and Roller found himself without a job. He then landed work as a truck driver for ABC Bakery and this lasted for only six months.

"A neighbor of mine suggested I apply at Shell," Roller recalled. "At the time (1923) Shell was known as the highest paying company in the area so I put in an application and was hired. My starting pay? As a mechanic helper I received 48 cents an hour."

Roller's employment interview was conducted in the Main Office Building which was at the present site of the Quality Assurance Lab. At that time the current office building was under construction.

As was apparently common at that time, six-day work weeks were in effect and vacations were hard to come by. Roller said he worked seven years before ever taking more than a holiday or long weekend off. Also, there was very little emergency equipment on-site; no hospital or nurse either. Victims of serious accidents were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Two-wheeled carts equipped with hoses served as fire wagons. Refinery road surfaces were covered with cinders making travel between the units a bumpy experience.

Roller steadily rose through the ranks of mechanic 3rd, 2nd and 1st to assistant foreman and foreman. He said at one time he had 33 garage employees under his supervision and was on call 24 hours a day.

"I imagine the job descriptions for garage employees have changed considerably since I was at Shell," Roller said. "Years ago we took care of everything that ran on gasoline, diesel or butane. In addition we had numerous odd jobs including washing, waxing and servicing the seven staff cars, and serving as a taxi system for Refinery managers to and from Lambert Field."

Roller said that in the 1930s employees could purchase gasoline for their personal cars at pumps near the garage. Shell mechanics would work lunch periods filling the cars with

gasoline, grabbing a bite to eat when time permitted.

The Shell retiree may be out of work but he certainly isn't out of touch with WRMC. He occasionally stops by for visits with some of the "old timers" he used to work with and never fails to be amazed at how the place is changing. "The Complex looks great, really huge and impressive," he said. "Things must be going well for Shell."

BILL ROLLER

Bill Roller was walking by a Shell service station in Alton on his way to play tennis when the dealer called him over.

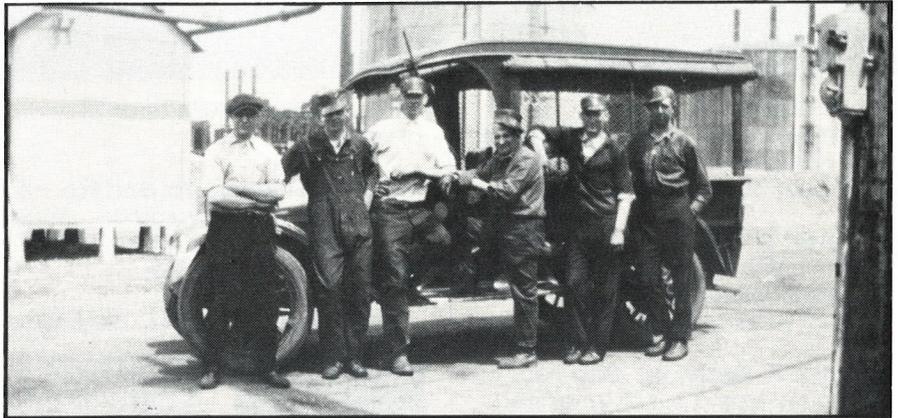
"He asked me if I wanted a job working at the station and I accepted," Roller said. "That was in 1935 and a year later I was running the place."

Forty-seven years have passed and Roller is still at it, giving little indication of slowing down in the near future. Retirement or at least partial retirement is definitely in the cards, he says, but it is going to be difficult for him to let go.

His Shell station is a fixture in the Alton area it serves and relies primarily on repeat business from professionals such as city officials, bankers and hospital personnel as well as numerous neighbors.

"Seventy-five percent of my customers live within a few blocks of the station and have been coming here for years," said Roller. "They know we offer friendly and guaranteed service, and that we will be here six months from now. Customers want the assurance that a business they deal with today will be here tomorrow. Our longevity is one reason people keep coming back."

Roller said the service station business has changed tremendously over the years, especially in regard to gasoline pump equipment and the increasing sophistication of automobile technology. Although "back



Lou Roller, third from left, with some of his garage co-workers on Main Office Road in 1923. In the background is the light oil treater area. The Dodge panel truck was used for pickups and deliveries in the refinery.

room" maintenance is still an important part of his operation, engine tune-ups and overhauls are not as common as before because cars today are more reliable — they require less maintenance.

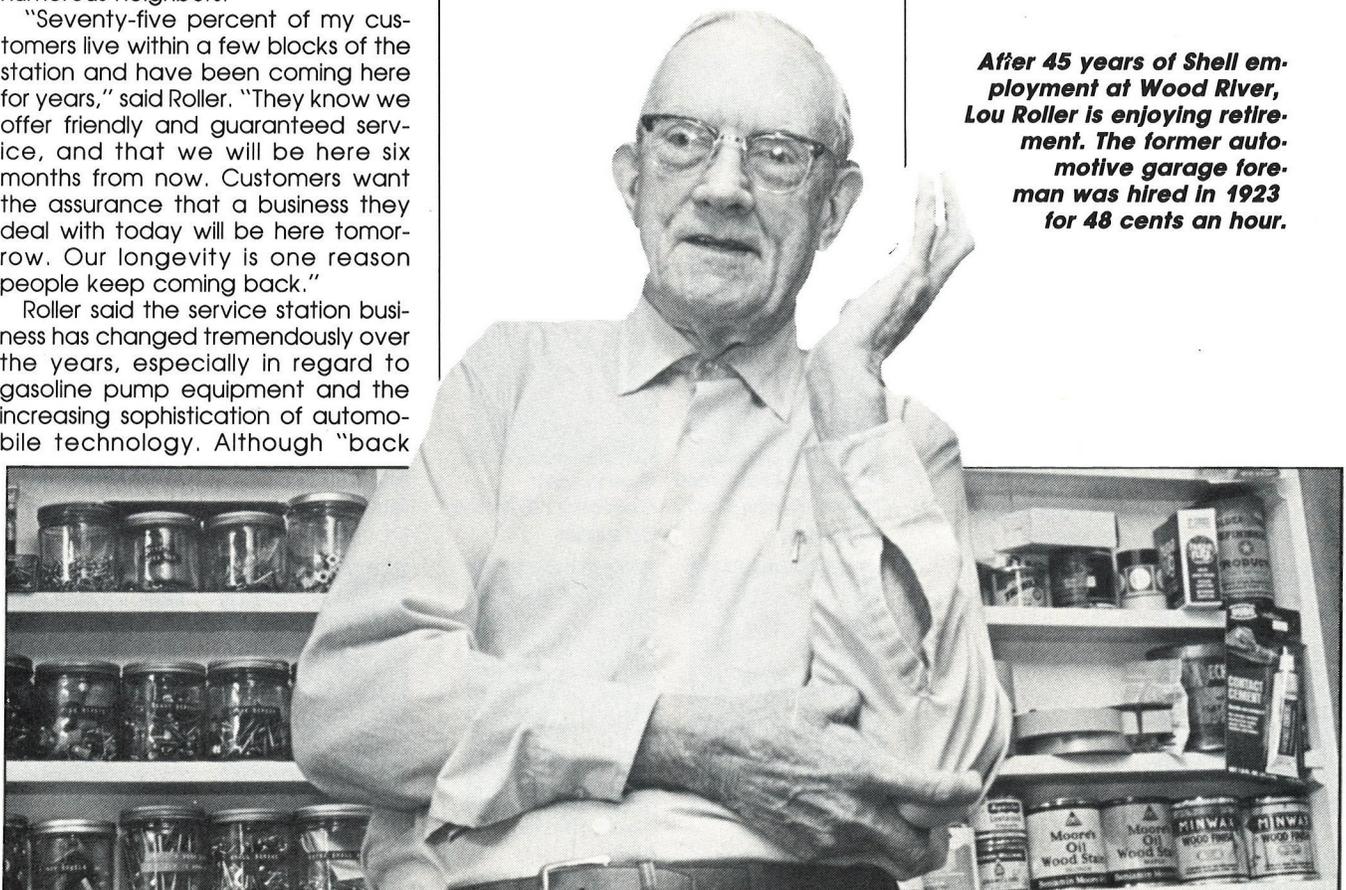
How has the high mileage car boom impacted gasoline sales? "We've felt the effect, no doubt about it," he stated. "However, I have found that people with high mileage cars spend more time on the road than those who drive gas

guzzlers. So, when you drive more you obviously need more gasoline. It evens out."

Roller attributes the station's success in part to his community involvement. The contacts and friends he develops from participating in PRIDE, Inc., the East End Improvement Association and other groups often results in new customers.

"Bill and I are what you call 'company men,'" Lou pointed out. "We not only talk shop, we live it."

After 45 years of Shell employment at Wood River, Lou Roller is enjoying retirement. The former automotive garage foreman was hired in 1923 for 48 cents an hour.



In remembrance

D.E. Wilson, 63, died Feb. 15. Mr. Wilson worked in Quality Assurance as a special tester before retiring in 1982 after 30 years of service.

Everett W. Davis, 75, died Feb. 4. Mr. Davis was an electrician 1st - Engineering Field before retiring in 1965 after 22 years of service.

Daniel F. Bauer, 80, died Feb. 5. Mr. Bauer was a senior engineer - Engineering Office before retiring in 1967 after 32 years of service.

Carl A. Reynolds, 70, died Jan. 26. Mr. Reynolds was a counterman 1st - Purchasing before retiring in 1968 after 25 years of service.

Glenn O. Allen, 88, died Feb. 12. Mr. Allen was a shop machinist 1st

before retiring in 1954 after 21 years of service.

Cloyd D. Reeves, 76, died Feb. 14. Mr. Reeves was a yardman - Engineering Field before retiring in 1969 after 25 years of service.

Roosevelt Turner, 41, died Nov.

18. Mr. Turner was a truck driver - Maintenance and had eight years of service. His photo was not available for the February issue.

Sam F. Leffler, 90, died Jan. 20. Mr. Leffler was a pumper 2nd - Dispatching before retiring in 1957 after 26 years of service.



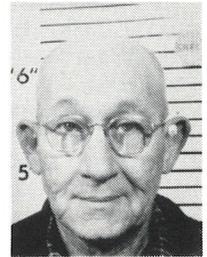
D.E. Wilson



E.W. Davis



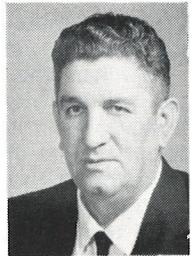
G.O. Allen



C.D. Reeves



D.F. Bauer



C.A. Reynolds



R. Turner



S.F. Leffler

Anniversaries



Carl Campbell
LOP-Dispatching
35 years



Bob Leckrone
EP&S
30 years



Bob Cruthis
Maintenance
35 years



Vic Dalber
LOP-Distilling
25 years



Art Beyer
QA-Lab
35 years

Retirements



George Archibald
Hydro-Arom East
33 years



Howie Irish
Customer Service
36 years



Bob Parsh
Maintenance
31 years



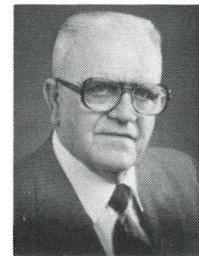
Jack Demand
Maintenance
31 years



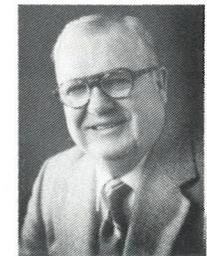
Orville Scott
Hydro-Arom East
33 years



Norm Mozley
EOS
36 years



George Reddish
Lube-Comp.
33 years



Bill Andreus
Hydro-Alky
35 years

SHELL SHORTS

Let's go fishin'

Dates have been set for the SRA bass tournament: April 23 at Lake of Egypt, May 14 at Gillespie Lake, Sept. 10 at Kinkaid Lake, and Oct. 8 at Kaskaskia River. Contact **Orville Rahn**, ext. 2431 for details.

Roundballers win

For the third straight year, the Roundballers won the SRA men's basketball league. The team finished with a won-loss record of 16-3. Members are **Ron Miller, Mitch Scroggins, Greg Franke, Les Tiek, Terry Green, Gary Godar, Harry Green, Larry Melsenheimer** and **Steve Eatmon**. The Bombers took second place and the Sixers, third place.

Bowling tourney

The SRA Western Mixed Bowling Tournament is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. April 10 at Airport Bowl, Bethalto. Following the tournament a banquet will be held at the West-erner Club.

SRA league sanctioned bowlers and their spouses/friends are eligible to enter. Tournament applications are available at the two gates and at Field Office 1. All applications must be turned in by April 5 to **Al Depping**, Instrument Shop.

QA Lab party

The annual Lab retirement party is set for Wednesday, April 6 at the Wood River Moose Lodge. Cash bar starts at 5:30 p.m. with a smorgas-board banquet to follow at 6:30.

The cost is \$6 per person and reservations must be made by March 30. For more information contact **Virgil Bunge**, ext. 2420.

Classified Ads

For sale: 1970 Ford F-100 pickup truck, one-half ton, 6 cyl., standard transmission, overload springs, 52,000 miles. Call **Gary Roifingsmeier**, 627-2462.

For rent: two-bedroom condominium by the week or month. Located at New Smyrna Beach, Fla. which is 15 miles south of Daytona Beach and 60 miles from Orlando-Disney World. The Kennedy Space Center and St. John's River (bass fishing) are also nearby. For details call **Tony Calca-terra**, 618/466-1982.

Fire extinguisher comes in handy

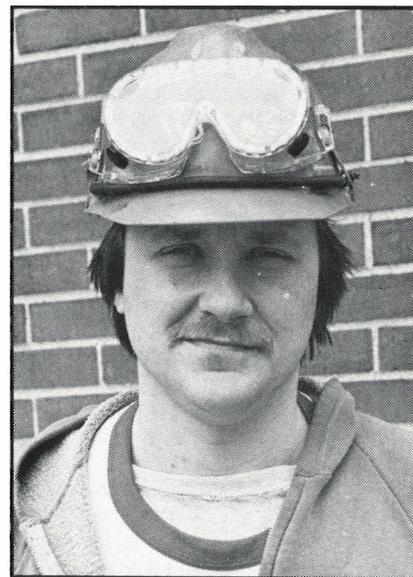
When WRMC distributed fire extinguishers to all employees after reaching the one million safe hours mark in August 1981, **Don Johnson** placed his in the kitchen, figuring that to be the most likely room in the house for a fire.

The extinguisher laid unused for 18 months until one day in February when a cracked fuel line caused Johnson's 1968 Volkswagen to burst into flames. Fortunately the car was parked in his driveway which gave him time to run into the house, grab the extinguisher and return to put out the fire.

"I'm sure I would have lost the car if the extinguisher hadn't been handy," said Johnson, of Alkylation. "As it turned out the damage to my car was minimal."

Johnson didn't waste much time getting his then empty extinguisher recharged — he took care of that piece of business the same day. It only takes one such incident to make a believer of you, he commented.

"Too often we only hear about



Don Johnson

accidents and injuries . . . the negative side of safety," he said. "Thanks to the Shell fire extinguisher my story has a happy ending."

Nitrogen study

Continued from page 1

Compounding. The system is anticipated to yield annual savings of nearly \$70,000 by minimizing the amount of nitrogen required for tank "blanketing," according to **David Levy**, technical manager - Lube. In blanketing, the vapor space between the product and top of a tank is filled with nitrogen.

Prior to the Jan. 4 installation of blanket gas pressure controllers, more nitrogen than was needed for proper blanketing was supplied to N-181 and N-183. Excess nitrogen was continuously vented at the rate of 3,600 to 6,000 cubic feet/hour which is equivalent to filling an

8'x10'x12' room with the gas every 12 minutes, said **Mike Breyer**, senior inspector - Lube.

"With the new system the nitrogen usage at the tanks has dropped to almost zero," Breyer said. "The system keeps the tanks at a slight positive pressure and only supplies makeup nitrogen when the pressure controllers call for it, such as when a tank is pumped down."

Jim Thatcher, process manager - Compounding, said the HVI-150 oil is stored in the 100 percent nitrogen atmosphere to prevent discoloration that occurs if it is exposed to air. Once discolored the product is unsalable.

Matching Gifts forms due April 1

The Shell Matching Gifts program will have its ninth match of contributions to approved colleges, universities, and private, independent secondary schools April 30. All completed forms must be received by April 1.

Full-time employees who have in the aggregate at least one year accredited service with Shell Oil or any other participating company,

pensioners who retired directly from active service with a Shell company and members of the board of directors of any participating company may contribute.

Brochures describing the program and including the forms are available from Employee Relations.

Forms received by the foundation after April 1 will be eligible for the September 1983 match.

Credit Union plans summer move

Shell Wood River Federal Credit Union is on the move. After 31 years at 217 East Ferguson, the non-profit financial institution is being relocated this summer to a facility now under construction at 6th & Lewis, Wood River. The new 3,700 square foot credit Union building is scheduled for completion and grand opening in August.

"The Shell Credit Union has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years both in membership and assets," said **Leroy Wood**, manager. "We've added 200 new members since 1981 for a total of 4,450. Current assets are approximately \$11.6 million."

Wood added that the larger, more modern facility will enable the Credit Union to offer new services to members. These include two drive-up windows, an automatic teller machine, 400 safe deposit boxes and plenty of much needed parking space. He said the closer proximity to WRMC should make it more convenient for Shell employees to take care of their personal Credit Union business.

Chartered in 1935 as the 91st U.S. credit union, the Shell Credit Union is owned and directed by its members, and operated exclusively for their benefit. Eligible members are employees of Shell, the City of Roxana, City of Wood River and their immediate families.

The Credit Union offers share draft accounts which are similar to bank checking accounts but without monthly fees, service charges or minimum balance requirements. Plus,

the Credit Union pays 6 percent interest on share draft account balances. Interest paid on savings account balances is 8 percent compared to about 5.25 percent at most banks. A payroll deduction service and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are also available to members. Wood has all of the details.

The Credit Union's answer to the money market certificate becomes available in March. Known as a money management account, the new service pays substantial interest on minimum balances of \$2,500. The interest paid is determined monthly based on the average daily rates over the preceding 30-day period. Wood estimates the monthly rate to vary from 9.5 to 10 percent. Members with money management ac-

counts may make up to six withdrawals per month without penalty.

Wood emphasized that the Shell Credit Union is not only a place to save money, but also to borrow money. New and used car loans are available for 12 and 15 percent respectively; share secured loans, 10 percent; and five year home refinancing loans, 12 percent. In the planning stages are second mortgage loans at 15 percent, and Visa and debit card service.

"Our objective is to provide as many services as possible to remain competitive with banks and other institutions," Wood said. "The Credit Union is a stable, growing organization and with our new computer and upcoming move, we'll be better than ever."



Jeannine Honke (left), a teller at the Shell Wood River Federal Credit Union, assists a customer with a transaction. The Credit Union is moving this summer to a new facility at 6th & Lewis.

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