# 'New look' in pay checks won't be visible

Starting in October there's going to be something different about your pay check ... but you probably won't be able to detect that difference.

They will be printed and mailed to employees from Houston rather than Wood River. First will be the Maintenance checks dated October 8, and then the Operations and Staff payrolls of October 15.

Over a period of several years the pay check preparation for all Shell employees in the country has been consolidating to the Information Center complex in south Houston. Wood River was the last to change.

Actually, all Wood River computer applications have been handled by the centralized computer in Houston for about the past four years. Pay checks were printed by the local data terminal from earnings information supplied to the Houston computer by Wood River. Combining Wood River payroll calculations with other Shell locations having the same pay day, and printing a larger number of checks at the same time, provides obvious benefits in efficiency and processing cost.

**No delay**

"We don't expect any delay in pay check delivery even though the checks will originate from Houston instead of Wood River," said Al Slivka, chief data processor at Wood River. "In fact, the express delivery of mail between large cities is more suitable to the Postal Service which has also centralized mail handling over the past few years.

"When we mailed the checks from here, they first went to Wood River and then to East St. Louis for further distribution to St. Louis and other post offices. Under the new system all checks will be air expressed as a group to the big St. Louis post office -- arriving overnight from Houston -- for further delivery.

"The payroll and postal experts at the Information Center have the procedure, lead times, etc., well organized. Remember, they've been doing this for everybody else in the country for some time."

**Government regulations**

Walt Schroeder, refinery controller, explained the consolidation is part of a long-range plan to utilize the efficiencies of sophisticated centralized computers and also to meet the increasing need for records keeping demanded by government regulations.

He emphasized, however, the continued need for accurate and timely input on hours worked from those on the scene here at Wood River. "It will take close coordination between employees, foremen, timekeepers, and our local payroll people," he said.

Slivka said, "Whenever you go to a computerized operation you risk the possibility of losing a little personal service, but we don't anticipate any particular problems. We'll still have payroll experts here to help service employee accounts ... and as they say, 'service is our business'."

Slivka indicated two cases where -- if applicable -- employees should take note:

Advance Vacation Checks -- these checks will continue to be handed personally to employees on their last regular work day before vacation. To assure timely receipt, employees must give at least **two weeks' notice** of this desire.

U.S. Savings Bonds -- future bonds will be issued only once per month from a Houston bank. Employees may not be getting their bonds in hand on the exact day they've been accustomed to in the past, but Slivka stressed that there will be absolutely no loss in interest or maturity date since bonds have always been tied to a month of issue (rather than a day of a month) anyway.

Schroeder concluded, "I'm certain we'll not be able to notice any lessening in payroll service. But if there's anything to remember, it pertains to the timekeeping information: accuracy is first and foremost; after that, get the information to us the-sooner-the-better!"

**Wood River Review**

VOL. 39, NO. 10 | WOOD RIVER REFINERY | OCTOBER, 1976

# *Docks toured by Russian-American task force*

They came. They saw. They conferred.

An international task force of marine environment experts representing the United States and Soviet Russia toured the refinery's dock loading facilities on September 7th as part of a bilateral study of the prevention and control of water pollution.

The group, with the tongue twisting title of: The Joint United States of America-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Task Group on Prevention and Cleanup of the Marine Environment for Shipping, was formed by a joint resolution of both countries in 1972. Its efforts are ongoing.

American members, all from the Coast Guard, have been hosted by their counterparts on two previous trips to Russian installations, with another scheduled for November. This is the third U.S. trip by the Soviets.

**Shell showcase**

Coast Guard officials indicated they chose the Shell facility because it is one of the best petroleum loading facilities on our inland waterways, especially with regard to the prevention of pollution. Numerous safeguards against spills are incorporated, as are sophisticated containment and cleanup equipment.

Cliff Woodford, manager of Dispatching, led the group on a tour of the control room and a floating dock. He pointed out such features as the extensive use of pipe (as opposed to hoses) which reduces the possibility of rupture; and the shut-off system which allows simultaneous closing of all loading arms on a particular barge should a problem arise.

Members of the task force were interested in the floating feature of the dock which allows it to be on the same level as the barge, even with potential swings in river levels of thirty feet. Loading operations were suspended during the 1974 flood only after all barge traffic had ceased, and everything buttoned up only after the waters threatened to invade the control room.

Task force members pointed out it matters little whether a river is called Volga or Mississippi ... it's still very difficult to clean spilled substances from moving water. They noted with interest the built-in containment features of the Shell dock which prevent runoff into the river, and the standby cleanup equipment should any spilled product reach the river.

**The same everywhere**

Coast Guard Commander J. D. Sipes, co-chairman of the task force, said the interest in preventing pollution of the world's waters is one of international importance, and thus far each group has learned important techniques from the other.

Dr. Sergey Nunuparov, director of the Black Sea Control and Design Construction Bureau, and Commander Sipes' co-chairman, said river traffic in the two countries is similar, but Russian barges have to be larger to handle the greater wave action there.

He indicated that hydrofoils and air cushion boats are used for passenger carrying, but did not mention whether there is much (if any) pleasure boat traffic in Russia.

This was the first time the Russian group had toured facilities on an inland U.S. waterway. Previous observations were along the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi River delta/ Gulf of Mexico area.



**TV COVERAGE. The task force's tour of Shell's dock facilities drew some interest from local news media. Here Steve Trinkman (center of picture) of KMOX-TV (ch. 4) interviews the Soviet chairman Dr. Nunuparov (next to Trinkman) and US chairman Cmdr. Sipes. The man with the beard is Dr. Beliajeff, US State Department interpreter.**

*Chemical building block...*

# Acetone manufacturing facility to be constructed in refinery

Shell Chemical Company will construct a new acetone manufacturing facility within the refinery. The new facility is scheduled to come onstream in early 1979 and will have a capacity in excess of 300 million pounds per year.

"Compared to the overall refinery, the size of this new facility will not be an unusually large component," said Art Williams, refinery manager, "but as far as acetone plants go, it will compare with anything currently in operation."

Acetone is a key intermediate in the manufacture of a number of different products. Acetone itself is an excellent solvent, and it is often combined with other properties to produce a variety of solvents, fingernail polish (and remover), and paints.

It is also a building block in the manufacture of adhesives, pharmaceuticals, and a variety of miscellaneous products such as plexiglas, window and light bulb coatings, and even football helmets.

Mr. Williams indicated the acetone manufactured here will be a finished product as far as Wood River is concerned. It will be sold to chemical companies which will use it in the manufacture of products such as those discussed above.

The site for the acetone facility has already been cleared. It will be located on the north side of Main Office Road between the Precursor and the Alky Plant.

Previously the site was inhabited by Alky's 2 and 3. Old timers may remember it as a coke yard in years past.

When completed, the facility will be a part of Hydroprocessing. M.S. Medley has been named the manager of Acetone Start-up. He comes to Wood River from Head Office, Manufacturing Plans and Analysis-Chemical.

As with all Shell facilities, special attention is being given to safety, environmental, and energy conservation. The latest technology to meet appropriate standards is incorporated in the design.

Shell also manufactures acetone at Dominguez, California; Norco, Louisiana; and Deer Park, Texas.

# *Service Anniversaries*



**Jerry Wooten**
**Yardman**
**40 years**



**Ed Brown**
**Construction**
**35 years**



**Lyn Neese**
**Lubricants**
**35 years**



**Herb Foederer**
**Financial**
**30 years**



**John Gerson**
**Aromatics-E**
**30 years**



**Roy Wolfe**
**Refinery Lab**
**30 years**



**Don Belliss**
**Lubricants**
**25 years**



**Pete Cook**
**Maintenance**
**25 years**



**Joe Dana**
**Refinery Lab**
**25 years**



**Isaac Davis**
**Garage Mechanic**
**25 years**



**Andy Dick**
**Lubricants**
**25 years**



**Denzil Dyer**
**Maintenance**
**25 years**



**Henry Noeltner**
**Pipefitter**
**25 years**



**Bob Port**
**Eng. Services**
**25 years**



**Dan Wilson**
**Refinery Lab**
**25 years**

# Place your order now for an Americana Calendar

Truly a piece of old Americana ... the Americana Calendar. These colorful wall calendars, with art work by the award winning artist Charles Wysocki, are again available to Shell employees and pensioners at reduced cost.

Instructions for ordering your calendar or calendars are outlined within the inset. Remember ... deadline for placing your order is October 15. Calendars are expected to be delivered in time for Christmas.

Within the 1977 calendar, as in the past, are fourteen new paintings -- each capturing a warm vibrant aspect of America's past. Among them: A Rural Village; Magnificent Women in Their Flying Machines; Horse Drawn Trolleys; and Pumpkin Gathering Time.

The beautifully reproduced, full color paintings are ideally suited for framing -- giving the calendar an artistic as well as functional use. They lend themselves well to decoupage.

Order several and give them as gifts. They suit any area of the home or office.

**Ordering Americana Calendars**

**Employees:** Orders are being taken and consolidated by individual departments. Contact your departmental secretary or clerk for details. Checks should be made payable to J. W. Gibson. Cost is $2.50 per calendar. Calendars will be distributed back through departments.

**Pensioners:** Orders should be mailed to Mrs. Ruth Holliday, Shell Oil Company, Box 262, Wood River, Illinois 62095. Be sure to include your name and return address with your order. Checks should be made payable to J. W. Gibson. Cost is $2.50 per calendar. Unless otherwise instructed, calendars will be mailed to your return address.

**Remember**

Deadline is October 15, 1976.
Make checks payable to J. W. Gibson.
Cost is $2.50 per calendar.
Include your return address if appropriate.




# *Classified ads*

*For sale*

**Lennox gas furnace.** 80,000 BTU down draft. $50. Stan Pohlman. 618-377-8910.

**The kitchen sink, etc.** Youngstown kitchen sink (42 inch) and Formica top corner cabinet with lazy susan. $15. Also 36 inch aluminum combination storm door. $10. Frank Roberts. 618-876-8997.

**For your Datsun truck.** Two wire mags. Fit all Datsun trucks. 6x14. $10. Also two 6x14 tires and tubes. 6 ply rating. Less than 10,000 miles. Albert Kline. 618-585-4883.

**Never been used** new tire and rim. E70x14. CXV. Road range B. Fits Ford Maverick. B. Augustine. 618-637-2481.

**Yamaha Enduro.** 1973. 125 cc. Bill White. 618-656-2843.

**Lot** at Timberline, Missouri. Ray Jones. 618-259-3259.

*Wanted*

**Engine / transmission.** Need 283 or 302 or 327 engine and 350 or 400 turbo automatic transmission. Bill White. 618-656-2843.

*Found*

**Man's watch.** Was found in the refinery. Identify and claim at the Main Gate guard shack.

# Local rainfall shortage more than a drop in the ol' bucket

Not since the dust bowl days of the 30's has it been this dry! Fact is, going into September, this area of the country was some nine inches below normal precipitation figures.

Now ... sitting back in an easy chair, watching a 24-inch boob tube, and firmly clutching a can containing 26 cubic inches of amber liquid ... nine inches of rain doesn't sound like all that much.

More than nine inches of rain have fallen in scarcely half a day at other U.S. locations already this summer. Houston, Texas, and Big Thompson Canyon, Colorado, to name a couple.

But when you consider the vast area covered by this drought, and how many gallons of water are contained in even a modest rainstorm, the figures virtually make one's mind swim!

**Figure it out**

Let's do some quick figuring. Get out your slide rule, calculator, and/or pencil and double check these figures if you'd like.

An acre of thirsty farmland contains 43,560 square feet ... or 6,272,640 square inches (43,560 x 144).

To fully quench the nine-inch rain shortage of this one acre, it will need 56,453,760 cubic inches of rain (6,272,640 x 9).

Since there are 231 cubic inches per gallon, that means our acre in question needs over 244,388 gallons of rain to get back to "normal" (56,453,760 ÷ 231).

Now that's for **one acre.** According to the *World Almanac* there are about 30 million acres of farmland in the state of Illinois. Not all of it is as parched as in central Illinois, but virtually all of it has been described as lacking some moisture.

**Only Illinois**

Being conservative for our exercise here, let's take only two-thirds of this area -- 20 million acres. Missouri and other surrounding states will be excluded from these calculations.

Twenty million acres in need of nine inches of rain comes out to 4,887,760,000,000 gallons (244,388 gallons x 20 million acres).

So, pretty close to 5 trillion gallons of water, eh? Darn big numbers, but what do they mean? Put it on a local basis: the towns of Alton, East Alton, and Wood River indicate a combined summer consumption of water of about 14½ million gallons a day.

Pumping away at 14½ million gallons a day, it would take these three towns about 337,087 days -- or over 923½ years -- to make up the four trillion eight hundred eighty seven billion seven hundred sixty million gallons of rain that two-thirds of Illinois found itself short of -- after only eight months of 1976!

**Heavy!**

Heavy stuff, huh?

Speaking of heavy stuff ... since water weighs 8.345 pounds per gallon, the nearly five trillion gallons in question would weigh 40,788,357,200,000 pounds! Please, don't all fall at once!

*Thanks go to Arch Merkel (Utilities) who sparked the idea for this story and Sully Sullivan (Eng. Office) who once again came up with an appropriate cartoon.*



# 'Twas all Lube finale for softball championship

The "World Series" of SRA slow pitch softball produced an All-Lubricants finale with Compounding taking on Lube D&D for the refinery championship.

Compounding swept the best-of-three series on August 18th by winning the first game 16 to 8 and the second 9 to 5.

The two teams had earned their ways into the championship series by winning post season playoffs in their respective divisions. Each had posted the best regular season records in their divisions as well: Compounding was 9 and 1, and D&D was 7 and 3.

The two Lubricants teams interrupted a several year domination of softball by the powerful Pipefitter team.

The winning Compounding team is pictured. Members of Lube D&D were: Gale Crane, John Griffiths, John Hamm, 'Sadie' Hawkins, Mel Henson, Ron Hettinger, Larry Lochard, Don Lybarger, Bob Morfeld, Greg Pohlman, and Ed Pohlman.



Tim Yinger gets a hit in the championship series. Catching is John Hamm. The umpire is Weldon Tucker.



REFINERY SOFTBALL CHAMPS. The Compounding team (front row from left): John Elmendorf, Tim Yinger, Jim Seekamp, Dave Bristol, Leo Cox, and Tom George. Back row: Charles Coffey, Ed Hamill, Jim Berry, Darryl Lochman, and Joe Karlovic.

# The word is learn not to burn

Have you "learned not to burn"? "Learn not to burn" is the slogan of this year's Fire Prevention Week (October 3-9) sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Current statistics from the NFPA indicate the leading causes for unintentional fires to be:

1. Electrical; 2. Smoking and matches; 3. Heating and cooking equipment; 4. Open flames and sparks; 5. Children and matches; 6. Flammable liquids; 7. Lightning; and 8. Chimneys and flues.

Here are some specific suggestions from NFPA on control of fire.

**Electrical:** Heed warnings such as sparking equipment, dimming lights, blowing fuses. Take defective equipment out of service immediately. Have it repaired by experts or replace it.

**Smoking and matches:** Obey the age-old warning not to smoke in bed. Smoking and drinking are an equally poor mixture. Let ashes and cigarette butts cool overnight in large ashtrays before discarding them. Before going to bed, check behind all cushions for any smoldering materials.

**Heating and cooking equipment:** Keep in good working order, free of grease, well away from furnishings such as curtains and bedding which catch fire easily.

**Open flames and sparks:** Again, keep away from combustible furnishings, and guard against clothing catching fire.

**Children and matches:** Take part in the NFPA "Strike Zone" campaign by keeping matches and lighters well out of the reach of young children. Teach older ones the proper way to light and to dispose of matches.

**Flammable liquids:** Store only minimal amounts, keep in a cool place away from pilot lights and other open flames, and place out of children's reach.

**Lightning:** Protect your property with a correctly installed and maintained lightning system. If caught outdoors in an electrical storm, seek shelter in a large building, metal-roofed car, dense woods, or a ditch or other low area.

**Chimneys and flues:** Keep in good repair and clean at least once a year. How about doing it now?

Fires kill an average of 32 persons in the United States each and every day. An estimated 11,800 lives were lost due to fire last year.

Fires cost approximately $4.4 billion last year. That's an average of $20.40 for every man, woman, and child in the nation. Lost wages, sales, production, etc., raise that to $12 billion.

Don't be a part of these statistics ... learn not to burn.

# Make a date with EDITH

Make a date with EDITH, and keep it. "She" could save your life and the lives of your family.

EDITH -- Exit Drills in the Home -- is simply a matter of planning ahead for the possbility of a fire in your home, setting up escape routes, designating an assembly point safely away from the structure, and practicing your fire drills.

They do it at schools ... why not at home? Many more people are victims of fires at home than they are at school.

Thinking about EDITH isn't going to get the job done. Rehearsal is the only way. It not only makes the exercise more automatic, it lets you discover any pitfalls in your own escape plan.

Make a date with EDITH. You won't regret it.

# Sports and shorts

**Pensioner Christmas Party**

Mark your calendar, Wood River pensioners . . . and mark it for Saturday, December 4. That's the date of the annual Wood River Pensioners Club Christmas Party at the Lewis and Clark Restaurant in East Alton. The club traditionally has a big turnout. You are bound to see many old friends. You will not (repeat, not) be getting an invitation through the mail, so watch next month's *Review* for reservation details.

**Fall Dance**

The SRA Fall Dance will be held Friday, November 5, at the Fireman's Hall in Collinsville. Tickets for member couples can be purchased at the door, but guest couple tickets should be purchased in advance at Employee Relations.

**Fishing Winners**

Top anglers during the second quarter of the SRA fishing contest were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Bass** | |
| Robert Mills | Dispatching | 6 lb. 4 oz. |
| C.S. Janssen | Retired | 5 lb. 7 oz. |
| | **Bluegill** | |
| Bob Ralston | Electrician | 1 lb. 0 oz. |
| S. Ferrari | Retired | 11 oz. |
| | **Crappie** | |
| W. Wojtkiewicz | Retired | 1 lb. 10 oz. |
| V.I. Oehler | Cracking | 1 lb. 8 oz. |

**Volleyballers**

There will be a whole lot of spikin' goin' on starting Tuesday, October 5, and every Tuesday thereafter through December 21. The SRA volleyball league will be in action at the Roxana gym (Central and Third Streets) between 6-10 p.m. Anyone interested but not already on a team, contact Bob Travis in the electric shop.

# Shell Shuckers trap refinery title in shoot out with Blanks

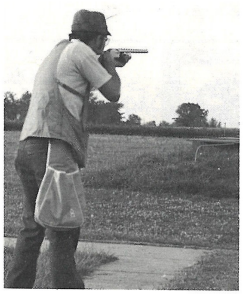
The Shell Shuckers of Industrial League A and the Shell Blanks of Industrial League B ended the regular season with the same number of SRA points which determine the refinery trapshooting champions.

This necessitated a shoot-off on August 18th in which the Shuckers emerged victorious. Each of the five team members had a crack at 50 clay pigeons. The final score was 204 to 193.

Members of the winning Shell Shuckers team are pictured here. Second place finishing Shell Blanks members were: Larry Ray (captain), Frank Hackethal, Dick Pond, Tom Schilling, and Dave Smith. Also shooting with the team during the season were Larry Fencel and Fred Sackman.

Ray Smith of the Shuckers and Bill Magruder of the Shell Quacks tied for high-hit average for the season at 91 percent. Bill Walton of the Super Birds was close behind them with a 90 percent average.

The Shuckers and Blanks stopped a three year stint as champs by the Shell Quacks.



Larry Ray takes aim at an elusive pigeon during the trap finals.



REFINERY TRAP CHAMPS. The Shell Shuckers (front from left): Dale Brueggemann and Ray Smith. Back row: Tom Colgate, Walt Ogg, Don Bradfisch (captain), and Ray Cobbel. Not pictured are Bob Leckrone and Jack Kornegay.

# *Employees' United Way drive winding down*

Have you pledged your support to the United Way? At the refinery, the employees' annual fund drive has recently passed its peak period of activity and is in the process of winding up.

If this year is typical, there are a number of people who are still considering their contributions. Walt Schroeder, refinery controller, is co-chairman for this year's fund drive, along with Harry Kulp, boilermaker.

Walt says, "It's no secret that the local United Ways depend heavily upon employee contribution drives such as ours. And it's no mistake that the agencies supported by our contributions provide needed services within our own communities.

"I would hope that every Wood River employee gave as much as he or she could ... but at least that everyone participated in some way by giving. One hundred percent participation is what every group within the refinery should strive for.

"If you haven't made your pledge to the United Way yet, please contact your solicitor, supervisor, or a member of the Steering Committee. No amount is too small."

The employees' fund drive goal for the Wood River Refinery (including Pipe Line) is $30,500 -- as set by the Steering Committee. Contributions can be made in cash or payroll deductions can be easily arranged ... with the first deduction starting next January.

A 'don't bother me again' payroll deduction can also be chosen wherein the individual asks that a certain percentage or amount of pay be given to the United Way each pay day until further notice. Your friendly solicitor will not solicit you again as long as this is in effect.

Some 75 solicitors throughout the plant have helped with this year's campaign, and the Steering Committee thanks them publicly here.

Members of the Steering Committee are: Harry Kulp and Walt Schroeder, co-chairmen; Charlie Barnett, Refinery Lab; Floyd Bazzell, machinist; Al George, electrician; Don Klotz, pipefitter; Phil Lamm, boilermaker; Roy Long, Maintenance; Don Marshall, Pipe Line; and Roy Wolfe, operating engineer - Refinery Lab.

# Shell offering college scholarships

Students just beginning their junior year in high school may think it's too early to be making plans for college ... after all, that's two full years away.

But for some Shell offspring, the month of October, 1976 could be the starting point toward a four-year college scholarship.

The tenth Shell Companies Scholarship Competition is under way, and fifty college scholarships will be awarded. Eligible to compete are sons and daughters of regular full-time employees and retired or deceased employees of Shell Oil Company (including Shell Chemical, Shell Development, and Shell Pipe Line). This year's competition is for students who will complete high school in 1978 and enter college in 1978.

Students who wish to compete must submit completed 1978 Entry Forms to the Shell Companies Foundation, Incorporated, in Houston by November 1, 1976. They must also take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT) which will be given at local high schools on October 19 or 23, 1976.

The 1978 Entry Forms, and booklets explaining the competition, are now available at the refinery's Employee Relations office. Arrangements for taking the PSAT/ NMSQT should be made through your high school counselor.

All phases of the competition are handled by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. This includes selection of scholarship winners, amount of the scholarship stipends, and administration of the scholarship while in force.

If you are interested in more information about this scholarship for your son or daughter, contact Employee Relations.

But don't wait! October 19 and 23 and November 1 will be here before you know it!



**RUSSIAN VISITORS toured Shell's dock facilities. From left: Cliff Woodford, Dispatching manager; Dr. Beliajeff, US State Department interpreter; Dr. Nunuparov, USSR Design Construction Bureau; V.P. Spirodonov, USSR Ministry of River Fleet; unidentified task force member; and Commander Sipes, US Coast Guard. See story on page one.**

# *In remembrance*



**L. B. Booth**

LESLIE BURNS BOOTH, July 26. Mr. Booth was a senior inspector in Engineering Services before retiring in 1968. He was 70.



**K.L. Bruning**

KENNETH L. BRUNING, August 11. Mr. Bruning was a material dispatcher in Purchasing before retiring in 1961. He was 69.



**H. Hockinghomer**

HARRY HOCKINGHOMER, August 1. Mr. Hockinghomer was a zone supervisor in Engineering Field before retiring in 1959. He was 79.



**C.K. Johnson**

CREIGHTON KABLE JOHNSON, September 11. Mr. Johnson was a senior engineer in Engineering Services before retiring in 1965. He was 70.



**R. O. Keilbach**

ROBERT OTTO KEILBACH, July 29. Mr. Keilbach was a compounder 1st in Compounding before retiring in 1963. He was 73.



**H. G. Mead**

HORACE G. MEAD, August 17. Mr. Mead was an operator 1st in Distilling before retiring in 1967. He was 61.



**H. E. Rethorn**

HENRY E. RETHORN, July 14. Mr. Rethorn was a foreman in Utilities before retiring in 1958. He was 78.



**M. O. Schmutzler**

MILTON OTTO SCHMUTZLER, August 26. Mr. Schmutzler was a yardman in Engineering Field before retiring in 1964. He was 66.



**H. W. Sittner**

HENRY W. SITTNER, JR., August 19. Mr. Sittner was a field machinist 1st in Maintenance. He had worked at Wood River over 33 years. He was 56.



**L. V. Young**

LEONARD VERN YOUNG, September 7. Mr. Young was an operator 1st in Utilities before retiring in 1969. He was 62.


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Bill Gibson, editor



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