

GAS NEWS

● SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY ●

VOLUME XIII • LOS ANGELES • CALIFORNIA • APRIL, 1936 • NO. 4

CENTRAL CONTROL AND MEASUREMENT OF GAS

● The recent completion of the new gas measurement and control facilities at Central Station marked another milestone in the progress of this company. While the work just finished is not in itself of major importance, it is a noteworthy improvement and will lead to greater efficiency in operations.

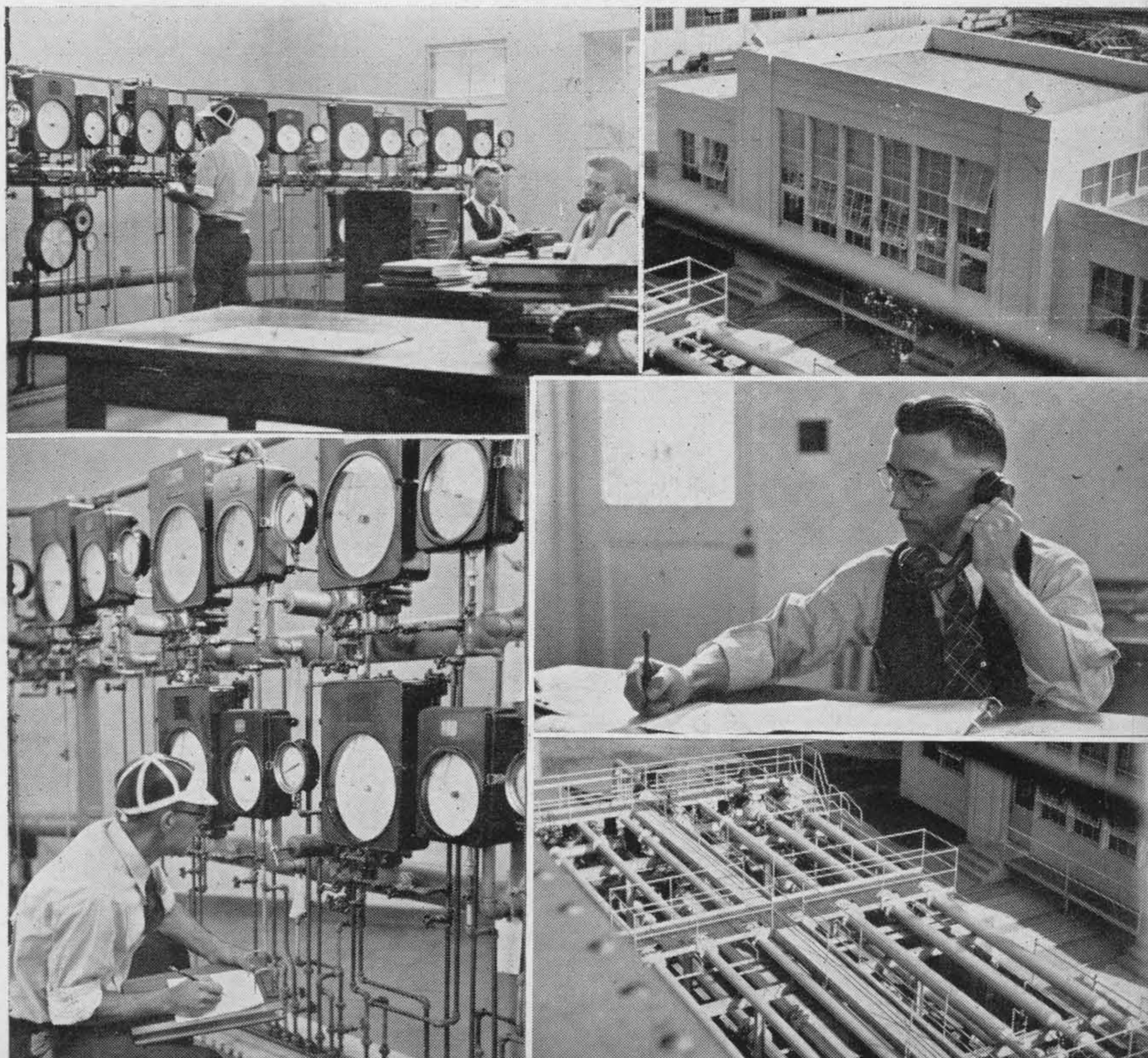
Previous to the new installation, the flow of gas to and from Central Station could be checked only by measurements made at widely separated points in the system. With the present arrangement it is possible to meter and account for all gas passing in and out of the Santa Fe Avenue plant. In all there are thirteen orifice meters to perform this function. Five of these are so arranged that gas can be measured when flowing in either direction, while eight will measure the gas as it leaves Central Station.

The orifice meter setup is rather unusual in design since the limited space available for construction made it necessary to place the metering tubes in two horizontal planes, one above the other. As would be expected, only equipment of the latest type was used in the layout, convenience and flexibility of operation being one of the important considerations. In other words, it might be said that the manual operation of large valves on individual lines as practiced in the "good old days" has been supplanted by modern "finger tip control" from one point.

In the former practice of gas dispatching, the dispatcher, then located on the second floor at 1700 Santa Fe Avenue, received reports on gas pressures and volumes by telephone and issued the necessary orders from that point. He is now more closely in touch with the operations and obtains these data by actual contact. A new steel frame build-

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● Left: Arrangement of meter gauges in terminal building. Right: Terminal building, Chief Gas Dispatcher E. L. Keasling and terminal meters and piping.



PAGEANT . . .



● The Ramona Pageant, annual event in Hemet, California, has become a tradition of Southern California.

With a cast of 250 and the natural outdoor amphitheater, the Ramona Bowl, as a background the play is an adaptation of that famous historical novel by Helen Hunt Jackson depicting the love of Alessandro and Ramona.

The pageant is presented by the people of Hemet on a purely non-profit basis, similar to the famous German drama Oberammergau. The 1936 season is April 18-19, 25-26, and May 2-3. Tickets or information may be obtained from any local ticket agency.



● "Whoops, my dear, I've burned the spinach," says Mrs. Housewife of not so many years ago.

PUBLICITY
FOR ELSINORE . . .

● In Elsinore, in the Eastern Division of the Company, a new Company office was recently opened. The Elsinore Leader Press had this to say, in part:

"The Southern California Gas Company will be lodged in their new, ultra-modern building at 130 So. Main street, next Wednesday, March 25th.

"Final touches were being put this week on the new business structure, and furnishings moved in to provide one of the most complete and modern buildings of the Gas Company in any community of similar size in the Southland."



In 1830 Philadelphians opposed street lighting with gas as injurious to the public health.



YE OLDEN DAYS

● Not so many years ago the woman of the household spent weary hours bending over a hot stove. "Peek and poke" was the accepted cooking method, and refrigeration consisted of a musty "cooler" in the corner. Such was the life of the housewife!

Contrast the early American scene to the left with the modern kitchen pictured to the right. This model, on display in the windows of the General Office of the Company, Los Angeles, shows a modern automatic clock-controlled gas range and one of the new Electrolux Gas Refrigerators.

A far cry from the old stove and so-called "cooler!"



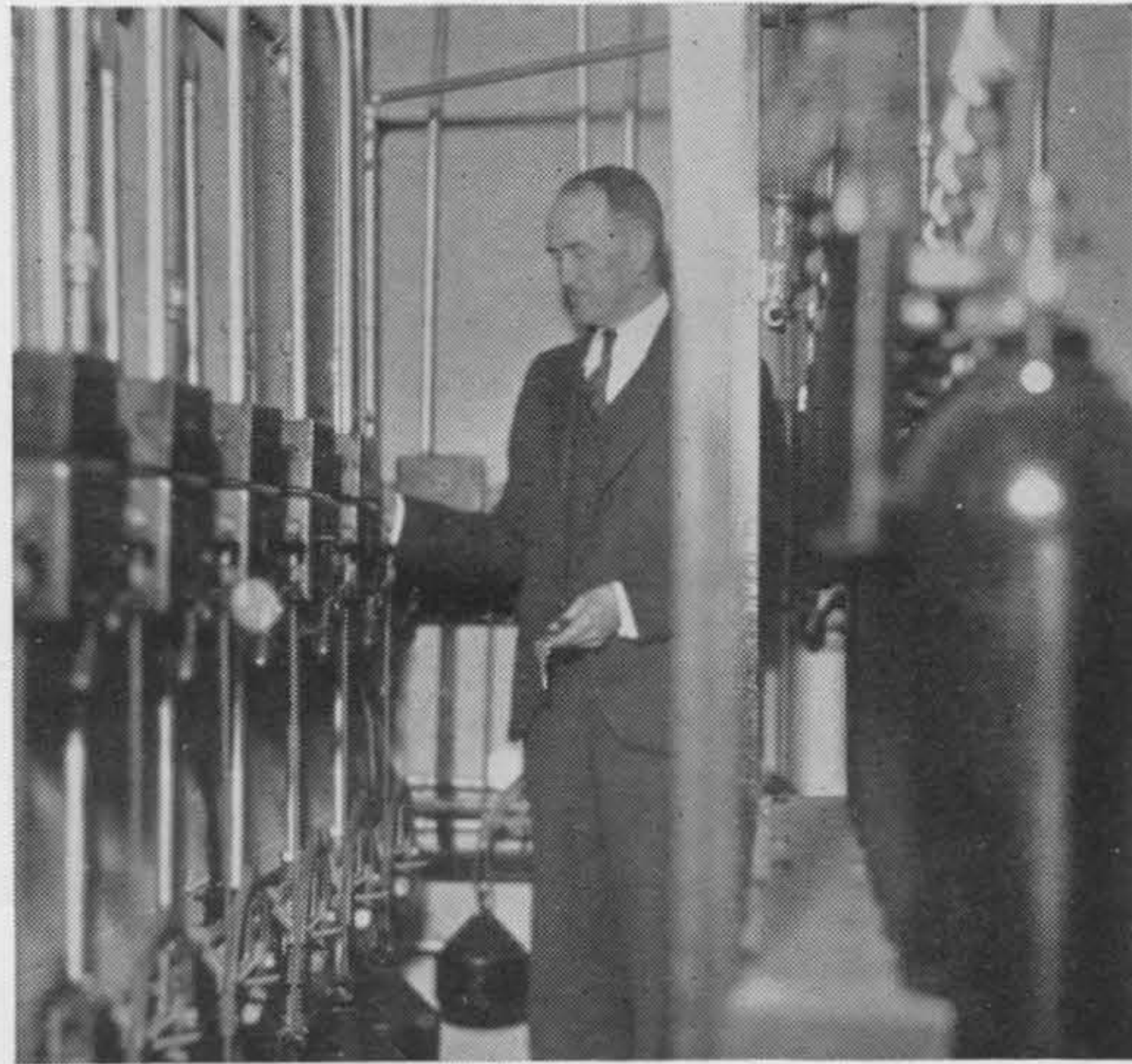
MEASUREMENT . . .*(Continued from page one)*

ing with metal lath and special acoustic plaster covering, houses the flow and pressure recording instruments, as well as the regulator control pilots. All of these are arranged in a large room in the form of an arc where they are readily accessible to the dispatcher. In this room is also the control board for the transmission department's private telephone system.

In addition, the building contains two private offices and a gas testing laboratory. The two private offices are occupied by the Superintendent of Gas Manufacture and Transmission and the Chief Gas Dispatcher.

**SNAKES, APES, AND REFRIGERATORS . . .**

● Life in the land of the jungles—with snakes, apes, and wild savages at your front door may be adventurous, dramatic and all that, but it's convenient to have some of the comforts of home, nevertheless. That, in short, is the sentiment of Osa Johnson, wife and partner in adventure of Martin Johnson, famous explorer, in a letter to Servel, Inc., manufacturers of the Electrolux Refrigerator. The Johnsons, now on location in an uncharted section of northern Borneo after a flight by airplane from Singapore, are enjoying the use of two Electrolux Refrigerators. It seems they were shipped by boat previous to their flight, and according to the letter received by the Electrolux Company, they are a great source of enjoyment.

APRIL • 1936**LITTLE LESSONS . . .**

E. E. Penter looks over fire control equipment in the Archives building.

● Archives—the word held a rather foreboding meaning for the GAS NEWS reporter as he tucked his camera under his arm and headed for the building by that name at 2428 McPherson Street, Los

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● In the all-gas kitchen shown below, the home manager lets her clock-controlled gas range do the cooking.



GAS NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH FOR THE
EMPLOYEES BY THE MANAGEMENT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
950 SOUTH BROADWAY, LOS ANGELES



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VOL. XIII APRIL, 1936 No. 4

● Everyone has heard of municipal power plants which, according to their admirers, cut under the rates of private utilities, provide good service, and at the same time earn handsome profits for the happy taxpayers of their communities. Occasionally such a paragon of a plant will issue an elaborate financial statement to prove its achievements.

Unhappily, these statements are not all that they seem—nor are the plants such amazing examples of successful business enterprise as they may appear on a superficial examination. Evidence of this is found in a recent editorial in the *American City*, a publication which is not unfavorable to municipal ownership, and is designed to serve community officials. The editorial says, in part: "In any statement of the cost of municipal power it is highly desirable to include ALL the costs. In addition to operating expenses, these include interest charges and overhead and, in certain instances, depreciation. Another good figure to mention—is what the tax would be if the plant were owned by a private utility."

The obvious deduction from this is that many municipal plant managers conveniently overlook these little financial details—and they do. How many man-

agers of municipal plants ever mention the tremendous taxes that would be paid to all units of government if a private utility were serving the town—taxes that run as high as 15 to 20 per cent of gross revenue? How many "municipal" managers ever let it be known that it is very easy to lower depreciation charges, and in some cases omit them entirely, in order to create a favorable statement? How many comment on the fact that hundreds of municipal plants have been kept in operation only by tremendous subsidies from the general treasury—at the expense of all the taxpayers?

These are all common dodges of municipal operation. It has been demonstrated all too often that private utilities, when all costs are figured, are generally able to greatly undersell municipal plants, and provide better and more dependable service. Fortunately, it seems that a large part of the electorate is beginning to understand this—as is evidenced by the fact that bond issues for municipal plants have been snowed under in many elections in the last few years.

—*Westmorland (Cal.) Mail.*



● Warning by Ralph Budd, president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway, on the occasion of a recent visit to the coast that "government ownership of railroads would lead almost certainly to government ownership of other forms of business" ought scarcely be needed by thinking Americans. The tendency towards turning everything over to the government already under way would become a frenzied scramble if the machinery for public transportation were handed over to Washington.

The reasons for keeping government out of business instead of getting more busi-

ness under government control are numerous.

The operation of our industrial machinery, including transportation, by private enterprise is fundamentally American and anything else is quite the reverse. Ours has grown to be the most marvelous economic structure the world ever knew under conditions that encouraged and rewarded individual initiative.

We shall retrograde and go the other way if we depart from that traditional system.

Another reason for fearing government in industry is one provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The millions that have been lavished upon that experiment in government control and operation will ultimately come from the American people. There is no other source from which it can come. The certain deficits which will be created by the bungling methods government invariably uses in operating a utility of any sort must also be supplied from the pockets of the taxpayers.

When the San Bernardino householder turns the wall switch and floods his home with that modern miracle—electric light—it costs nobody a single cent but himself. He pays the bill for whatever of electric energy he uses and nobody helps him, which is as it should be. But when a householder in the Tennessee valley turns an electric switch to light his home or cook his food or iron his clothing he does not alone pay the bill. Every taxpayer in the United States must help him foot it.

None of these things would be true if government ever could or ever did perform a service in the same degree of economy and efficiency that can be done by private enterprise.

—*San Bernardino Evening Telegram.*

● Thousands of socially handicapped children, whom the governmental departments apparently overlooked in their relief programs and which Los Angeles Community Chest child-care agencies are serving, will be featured in a community-wide informational program during the ensuing month. No money is to be solicited for the agencies, but through speakers, plays, skits, and the radio, a concerted effort will be made to acquaint the public more thoroughly with the need and value of this service.



KNIGHT OF OLD . . .



The "Gas House Terrier"

"He was a grimy Terrier from the gas house
down beyant,
Of chemistry and algebra his knowledge true
was scant;
But he'd a horny fist and an honest face and
the grit of a brindled pup,
He didn't go much on photometry, but he kept
his holder up."

—*Philadelphia Gas Works News.*

P. C. G. A. SPRING CONFERENCES

● Informal discussions of mutual problems of Pacific Coast Gas Companies were held March 19, 20, and March 26, 27, at the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation building, Los Angeles. Occasion for the meetings was the annual Spring conferences of the Accounting, Sales, and Advertising, and the Technical Sections of the Pacific Coast Gas Association.

Employees of the Company were active during the sessions. Leading the Sales and Advertising Section was W. M. Jacobs, General Chairman of that section. E. J. Strickland, chairman of the Domestic Sales committee; C. T. Burns, chairman of the Accounting Section committee on Credit Problems, and E. J. Kern took active part during the Accounting, Sales and Advertising Section meetings.

During the Technical Section conference held a few days later, members of the Company were active at the various group discussions. Lee Holtz discussed training in Customer's Service; B. M. Laulhere, chairman of the Compressor Plants and Pipelines committee, led the discussion of that committee in which W. K. Dodd, M. T. Burton, and J. B. Reddick also took part. B. G. Williams and F. S. Honberger were also active at Technical Section discussions.

Luncheons held during the conferences were unusually well attended, with greater optimism shown, perhaps, than in recent years. Guest speakers Don Thomas of the All-Year Club of Southern California and W. O. Harris of the Federal Housing Administration gave interesting talks. Guests and delegates included gas appliance manufacturers,

their representatives and executives of Pacific Coast Gas Companies.

Among those at the speakers table and introduced by the Chairman was William Moeller, Jr., the Company's Vice President in charge of Production and Transmission, chairman of the Natural Gas Department of the American Gas Association and past president of the Pacific Coast Gas Association.

★ CONTEST . . .



W.M. Jacobs, Assistant General Superintendent of Sales, inspects the "Sword of Merit" while Vice President H. A. Strong of Serval, Inc., looks on.

● A nation-wide "leadership campaign" with "swords of merit" as awards of distinction for the winners, has been announced by the Gas Refrigeration Committee of the American Gas Association for the months of April, May, and June.

The Southern California Gas Company will compete with hundreds of other gas utilities throughout the country. Last year a "Prosperity Cup" contest was held, and our Company was among the winners.

More than a half million gas refrigerators are now in use in cities and towns in the United States, according to Serval, Inc., Electrolux manufacturers. In Southern California since 1933 Electrolux has led in sales all other automatic refrigerators.

ARCHIVES . . .

(Continued from page three)

Angeles. Perhaps it would be something like the catacombs of Rome. Skulls tucked in dark corners, mysterious parchments covered with dust and spider webs.

Nothing of the kind! The Archives Building is a neat, two-story fireproof structure—but let's ask E. E. Penter, in charge of the building, to tell us something about it.

Erected by the Southern California Gas Company in 1931, it is of reinforced concrete construction, fireproof, quake-proof, and storm-proof. A very elaborate system of fire protection is an item of considerable interest. The method used smothers a fire with inert gas and thus does not damage the records. The use of water as a fire extinguisher would damage the valuable records.

The building is operated by the Southern California Gas Company and provides storage and service for the three local gas companies—Southern California Gas Company, Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation, and Southern Counties Gas Company.

There are now some 12,000 cases of valuable records on file and available for reference, which have been placed in the Archives by the three companies.

Approximately \$60,000.00 has been invested in the building and its equipment. Unestimated is the value of the records stored here for safekeeping, and they must be filed in such a way that they may be located at any time. In fact, that's Penter's job!



One hundred and twenty years ago on April 24, Baltimore celebrated the introduction into the United States of Gas Street Lamps—1816.

GOLF, BARBECUE . . .

● Barbecue, the 19th hole, and golf—incidentally—were features of the "get together" of some hundred husbands, wives, kiddies and sweethearts at the Stockdale Country Club, Bakersfield, Sunday, March 26.

Employees of the Company from most the divisions enjoyed a day of near perfect weather. According to reports, most the golf foresomes, starting as early as 9 A.M., busied themselves with tree dodging strokes, consisting of fancy hooks and slices. However, all were "par" around the barbecue pit!

The affair, which has developed into an annual event, will be held again next year, it was stated.

**PINS AND SUCH . . .**

● Bowling along are the bowlers of the Southern California Gas Company. Teams of several different groups are battling it out, with the Engineering Department leading at this writing by the narrowest of margins—two points to be exact. As for individual bowlers it seems Bill Blaska still holds the edge, but he is being hard pushed according to all reports. A match between the Customers Department and the Engineers should settle some old scores. A team of the leading players are taking on outside opposition and have had encouraging results for a newly organized group. They hold a victory over the local office of the Southern California Telephone Company, and another match is in the offing for April 10. The "boys" want your support.

And not to be outdone by mere males, the ladies have organized their own group, and from the group teams of Bee Cannon, Nannie Ford, Joan Maule, Kay Huddle, Martha Yoerg, Mildred Donohew, Vera Campbell, Helen Kroboth, Virginia Bigger, Dorothy McCarthy, Dorothy Todd and the staff of trainers, etc., are meeting all opposition.

The bowling is open to all—and much enthusiasm and interest is being shown.



● W. W. Mattox, uptown garage foreman, is spending an unasked for vacation in the Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles. Mattox underwent an operation, and from all reports he is convalescing satisfactorily. Best of luck to you, "Mat," and we're looking for you back soon.

TENNIS . . .



Charles Otis

● By defeating Bill Wanamaker, member of the Los Angeles Distribution Department, Charles Otis of the Customers Department took number one spot in the Company tennis ladder, at the same time annexing a beautiful trophy donated by the city of Los Angeles Recreation Department for the Industrial Tournament.

A large group of "tennisers" from the Company took part in the tournament, and matches held at various playgrounds saw startling upsets. Eligible winner to go on and "do or die" for the Company in the Industrial Tournament proper, was John Brun, who has promised to "come home with his shield or on it."

Results:

FIRST ROUND—Adams defeated P. Tytherliegh, 7-5, 6-4; D. Tytherliegh defeated Hoak, default; Grimshaw defeated Robinson, 6-4, 6-2.

SECOND ROUND—Brun defeated Butler, 6-4, 6-2; Adams defeated Rice, default; Wheaton defeated Powel, 6-0, 6-1; Moulton defeated Carrico, 6-0, 6-0; D. Tytherliegh defeated Anger, 6-4, 6-3; Kelso defeated Moon, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; Grimshaw defeated Crosby, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Embry defeated Moore, 0-6, 6-4, 6-0.

THIRD ROUND—Brun defeated Adams 6-1, 6-2; Moulton defeated Wheaton, 6-1, 6-2; D. Tytherliegh defeated Kelso, 6-3, 6-2; Embry defeated Grimshaw, 7-5, 6-1.

FOURTH ROUND—Moulton defeated Brun, 6-1, 6-0; Embry defeated D. Tytherliegh, 6-3, 9-7.

FIFTH ROUND—Wanamaker defeated Embry, 6-1, 6-0; Otis defeated Moulton, 6-0, 6-1.

FINALS—Otis defeated Wanamaker, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

All are invited to get in on the tennis ladder—see or call Moulton in the Auditing Department, Thompson in the Customers Department, or Murphy, Distribution Building, Los Angeles.

● "Beware Mrs. Dionne," says the *North Hollywood Sun Record*, "for Ted Chase, Company dealer representative, is expecting Mrs. Chase's blessed event."

GAS NEWS awaits anxiously to publish the details.

● According to the *San Bernardino Sun*, night soft ball will soon be under way for another season in Beaumont. Wallace Freeman of the Company is one of the managers of the team, according to the paper.

● Mr. and Mrs. William Henery Hackett observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary Sunday, March 29, according to an announcement received by the Company. The affair was celebrated with open house during the day. Hackett retired from active duty with the Company in July, 1934. His friends wish them both many more years of wedded happiness!

★
To the bereaved relatives of John Mathewson, Jr., his many friends throughout the Company extend their sincere sympathy. John had been ill for some time before his passing Monday, March 30. He was a Division Accountant in the Redondo office, headquarters of the Southern Division of the Company.

★
Mrs. John Hancock, accompanied by her husband, took advantage of a recent holiday by taking a trip to Boulder Dam. Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Dockstader spent the same holiday at Arrowhead Lake, and Mrs. Williams was moral support for "Bert" who leaned against the rail making the most of his vocal chords shouting "Come-on, 'Top Row.'"

★
The Baptist Church of Downey was the scene of a very pretty wedding last month, when Vern Wallis, storekeeper of the Downey office, took as his bride Miss Georgiabelle Goodhue. Sincere wishes for a long life of marital happiness are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Wallis.

★
The birthday of Lucile Shrontz was added this year to the triple celebration of February 20, commemorating the birth of Delia Wright, and wedding anniversaries of the L. H. Norwoods and John McLauchlans.

★
The Compton personnel is happy to have Margaret Morrison back to work again, and especially happy to see her looking and feeling so well.

★
Harry Evans passed the cigars last month when his wire-hair terrier gave birth to EIGHT ferocious BULL-pups. Mother and children are doing as well as—nay, even better than—could be expected according to the latest report.

★
The sincere sympathy of her friends in the Company is extended Lillian Collins of the Personnel, Claims and Safety Department. Her sister passed away February 24.