

GAS NEWS

● SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY ●

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SERVICE BY THE CARLOAD

● About ten years ago, two students of the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, decided that what this world needed was an automatic refrigerator with no moving parts. So, in the institute's laboratories, they toiled incessantly; created an odd appearing apparatus. It was crude, to be sure, nevertheless, the two students had discovered the revolutionary principle of automatic gas refrigeration.

What astounding progress in ten short years!

Visit the Distribution headquarters, 9th and Santa Fe, Los Angeles, of your own Company. Loading platforms are a bee-hive of activity. Warm weather makes folks think of cool drinks, ice creams, and frozen desserts. The result is carloads of Electrolux gas refrigerators arriving daily from the factory, to be distributed by the Company throughout most of Southern California. With clock-like precision, the refrigerators are re-tested upon their arrival from the factory, shipped by truck and

trailer to all divisions of the Company. It's no small job — ask the boys on the firing line!

Watch these men—in uniforms and coveralls—at work. Each box is loaded carefully on the truck, padded and



strapped firmly in place. And just as carefully it will be installed in the home of its new owner. Following these men to the "job" you will see them unload Mrs. Jones' new Electrolux with the use of a specially constructed, padded, hand truck; place the box, perhaps, in the most prominent corner of the kitchen. Working in close co-operation with the delivery crew, fitters will, probably, already have arrived on the scene. They also know their duties, and will perform them in short order.

And now, a word of the activity "behind the scenes." Obviously these service men—if ever that well-worn phrase could be applied—"are the Company." Depending on the work they do, is the opinion Mrs. Jones forms of the Southern California Gas Company. There must be no haphazard work; no spots left on kitchen floors, scratches on furniture. Every service man of the Company "goes to school" before he wears the uniform and cap of "Dependable Service." Company executives studied methods of utilities throughout the country and applied the best to the training of our own Company's men. Problems are studied. Ranges, water heaters, refrigerators, and heating appliances are taken apart and put together by the man in training, just as a recruit in the army learns to assemble blindfolded the gun he carries. But this is entering into a phase that is a complete story in itself. Enough to say, it's not accidental when Mrs. Jones, and many like her, write in to the Company to express appreciation for the quality of work done and the courtesy of the men "on the job."



● Ignorance is dangerous enough, but confident knowledge of things which have ceased to be true is more dangerous.—*Edward A. Filene.*

A HUNDRED YEARS . . .



● More than a million gas ranges were sold, throughout the country, last year. More than a half million gas refrigerators are installed in American homes and apartments. Automatic gas water heaters, gas furnaces, and other modern gas appliances are all bringing new conveniences to everyday living.

But it was not always so!

Forcefully is the progress of the gas industry during the past hundred years, brought to our at-

tention by the *Philadelphia Gas Works News*, which says, in part:

"With the agitation for the introduction of gas for lighting in Philadelphia, in the year 1833, there came the objections of many staid and conservative Philadelphians. A few, however, had vision, and one of the outstanding examples was a little tavern at Second and Dock Streets where gas was installed. The proprietor called his shop 'Gas Light Tavern.' . . .

"Today, under the streets of Philadelphia, lie 2000 miles of mains supplying gas to some eight hundred thousand domestic, commercial, and industrial appliances."

And, today, throughout the country, gas is finding more and wider uses, both in the home and industry.

PROMOTIONS . . .

● The following changes in personnel have been announced by the Company. H. E. Davidson, formerly Sales Promotion Engineer, is now Assistant General Superintendent of the Customers Department. Mr. Davidson's position has been filled by E. J. Strickland, formerly Sales Supervisor of the Eastern Division. George Porter, Van Nuys District Agent, will go to Visalia as Manager of the San Joaquin Valley Division. His place in Van Nuys will be taken by J. H. Ragsdale, District Agent of Banning. The new Banning District Agent will be C. K. Graham.

**NEW OFFICE . . .**

● An office, of frame construction, is nearing completion for the Company, near Bakersfield. The new office, with R. F. Ogburn in charge, will be headquarters of the Kern Division.

**NEW EQUIPMENT . . .**

● A semi-automatic pipe cleaning and painting machine will soon be installed at the Distribution plant headquarters, 9th and Santa Fe, Los Angeles. The new equipment will have an output more than double the capacity of the equipment now in use. Another new addition to plant equipment is a modern mobile crane mounted on a truck.

**MODEL KITCHENS . . .**

● Five model kitchens are being constructed by the Southern California Gas Company for display in the larger offices throughout the Company's system. The kitchens will contain the most modern kitchen equipment, and each will display a clock-controlled gas range and an Electrolux gas refrigerator.

DEGREE TO MACBETH . . .

● Alexander B. Macbeth, President of the Southern California Gas Company, was recently honored by his alma mater, the Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey, while on a trip east. Mr. Macbeth was presented with an honorary degree, Doctor of Engineering. He was also recently appointed a Trustee of the Institute.

In recommending Mr. Macbeth for the degree, President Harvey N. Davis pointed out that Mr. Macbeth, a graduate of the class of '97, had distinguished himself in the engineering field. "Since the days of his cadetship in his profession, he has advanced westward, from Georgia to Kansas, from Kansas to California, establishing and fortifying the outposts of a then new and always vital industry of public service; an alumnus who has presided over the local and national councils of his engineering associates, and whom we now welcome home."

Mr. Macbeth is a past president of the American Gas Association and the Natural Gas Association of America, and was a vice president of the American Petroleum Institute.



● Tell your friends to listen in on radio KHJ daily, except Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. Katherine Musselweight, nationally known lecturer, author, and authority on home decoration, is delivering a series of lectures, "Easy Home Decoration." The program is sponsored by Electrolux Dealers of Southern California. A contest is being held during the nine weeks of the program and nine Electrolux refrigerators are prizes for lucky winners. Employees and their relatives, of the Company, radio KHJ, and Electrolux dealers, are not eligible to win the prizes—but your friends are!

GAS NEWS

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★

DOUGLAS BUCKLER
Supervisor of Advertising and Publications

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● NEW YORK—The 1935 operations of the Commonwealth & Southern Corp. System have proven factually that certain of the Tennessee Valley Authority's claims for its program in the South are without foundation, the company's annual report says.

One of the favorite boasts of the TVA has been that its activities in the South have produced an unusual increase in the sale of electrical appliances in the area under its influence.

According to Wendell L. Willkie, president of Commonwealth & Southern Corp., such is not the case and in support of his contentions he submits to stockholders a set of simple figures.

The operating companies of his system, he explains, sold during 1935 electric and gas consuming appliances to the net amount of \$14,171,157—a new high record. In the South where TVA has undertaken competition with utilities, the Commonwealth & Southern properties sold \$7,433,406 of appliances, or 26% more than in 1934. The northern companies, however, operating in territory freer from direct Government competition were able to sell 61% more appliances than in the year previous.

Northern Territory Shows Progress

The northern territory, Mr. Willkie indicates, has proven more attractive to pri-

vate capital investment for industrial and other development. "This," he says, "has led to a greater stimulation of commercial activity and a correspondingly greater increase in appliance sales volume. The only major industries that are now locating in the Tennessee Valley are manufacturers using large quantities of 'dump' power and giving employment to few people, while in other parts of our system territory, our industrial department has been able during the last year to assist in the location of a large number of plants of diversified industries."

Condemning Government competition with private industry, Mr. Willkie expresses his belief that the country is gradually beginning to realize that the low electric rates charged in the limited area in which the TVA is operating are made possible only by additional taxes paid by people in all parts of the country.

Bills Paid by Other Citizens

"Whenever," he illustrates, "a citizen of Tupelo, Miss., turns on the electric switch everybody in the United States helps pay his electric bill."

Mr. Willkie intimates that TVA is conscious of rising opposition of security holders and taxpayers and accordingly has changed the nature of its publicity. It is now attempting to create, he says, the illusion that the Tennessee Valley Authority is primarily a flood control and navigation project. "Its activities, however, remain unchanged," Mr. Willkie asserts. "It is and, unless its jurisdiction is limited, will continue to be primarily engaged in the electric utility business, and be an incalculable menace to the privately owned utility companies within transmission distance of its power plants. The navigation and flood control publicity is merely the

constitutional excuse for the power program."

During the past 18 months the northern properties of the Commonwealth & Southern Corp. were able to refund \$154,536,900 of bonds at an annual interest saving of more than \$1,300,000.

Southern Refunding Impossible

Another \$5,000,000 in interest and dividend savings would be possible, Mr. Willkie explains, if it were not for Government competition in the South. That, he adds, has created such market uncertainties that the preferred stocks of Commonwealth's southern companies are selling at 30 to 40 points below par, and it is impossible for them to refund bonds or preferred stocks, or to publicly finance their construction requirements. The southern companies, he adds, thus compelled to continue paying high interest rates on their capital requirements, are having great difficulty in bringing about further residential rate reductions.

While the business of the system has shown material increases, Mr. Willkie cautions stockholders not to be misled by such increases which have been stimulated in part by heavy spending of public money and accompanied with increasing federal deficits.

—*Wall St. Journal.*



● There has been much discussion in California in bygone days of the fact that the state does not tax publicly owned utilities—water, gas, electricity, and the like. And in municipalities where public ownership prevailed as to some one or more of these organizations, the people have had lower rates than others had, who lived outside. A good many of us have thought this unfair. A family living on one side of a street, in-

side such a municipality, was favored with a lower rate than the family living on the other side of the street, outside the incorporation. But there wasn't, and isn't anything we could do about it. Now comes the Supreme Court and rules that states have the power to tax bank stocks owned by the RFC. And that isn't very far from taxing a publicly owned service. The court in its opinion, in ordinary garden variety of language, said that banking (and it might as well have said producing power or gas) is not a proper government function. As long as either state or nation sticks to its own job of governing, the services it gives cannot be taxed by the other. But when either goes into a competitive business with its citizens, then it steps outside the charmed non-taxable circle.

And in my humble judgment that is what a states does, or a county or a municipality when it engages in the power business. —*Redlands Daily Facts.*




● A new forced air heating unit manufactured by the Payne Furnace Supply Company, Beverly Hills, is now on the market. The unit is a semi air conditioner, in that it circulates the air in summer time, when heat is not needed. The entire unit can be installed in closet space on the back porch. No cellar is needed.



● A kitchen planning service is now in its second year of operation at the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co. In 1935 there were some 14,000 callers and some 200 kitchens were designed—all gas equipped, of course.



● The educational committee of the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation now has some 29 evening classes in which 1,304 employees are enrolled.



GAS and OIL Field NEWS



ON THE JOB . . .

● Our wandering GAS NEWS reporter snapped the picture above showing one of the Northern Division's main installation trucks and crew on the job near Montrose. The truck, with the most modern equipment, worked in co-operation with the United States Engineering Department on the flood control channels in that district.

It was necessary to by-pass several of the Company's mains before the government workers could proceed with construction of the flood control channels. This particular job was one of forty similar installations.

In the picture, left to right, are Ralph Raferson, Roy McGraw, Guy Beaucher, Albert Newton, H. Castaneda, R. Hulsebus, Al Morgan, and Foreman J. R. Parker.



● Books and magazines, it is said, are welcomed gifts to the library of Alcatraz, government prison on Alcatraz island, San Francisco. One book, however, was recently rejected by authorities. It was "How to Swim in Six Easy Lessons."

● Extensive geophysical surveys and numerous wildcat drilling projects by many of the major companies are everyday occurrences in the San Joaquin Valley area.

One result of this activity was the Shell Oil Company's discovery of high gravity oil on Kern County Land Company's holdings in Section 29-T 30S-R26E, between Elk Hills and Mountain View fields. The Shell Company has blocked about 5000 acres around the discovery well which was completed at a depth of 7888 feet.

The production of about 750 barrels of 61 gravity oil and 10,000 MCF gas a day through a 34/64 inch bean makes this discovery one of the most important of the year. Casing pressure is reported as 2100 pounds and tubing pressure 1800 pounds.

Plans call for the drilling of two additional wells immediately.



Standard Oil Company of California has completed its No. 1 wildcat well on McDonald Island near Stockton, for an estimated flow of approximately 20,000 MCF gas a day. The gas built up a pressure of 2000 pounds when shut in and 575 pounds when flowing. No. 2 is now being drilled.

This field materially adds to the dry gas reserves of California.



● "Western Gas" magazine is especially familiar to the gas industry on the Pacific Coast. The name has been shortened to "Gas." So many important developments have taken place in its field that it has developed a national readers' audience. Hence the change in name.

● Construction will soon start on a new yard building at the Company's distribution and plant headquarters, 9th and Santa Fe Ave., Los Angeles. The building, of plastered brick and galvanized iron construction, will cover approximately 6100 square feet and will be used to house the yard office, salvage materials and equipment, and miscellaneous yard materials.

Also work will begin soon on the paving of 80,000 square feet of yard space. Asphaltic concrete, decomposed granite, and oil will be used.



● The San Bernardino office wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to two of its employees, Florence Reister and Ruth Andis, in the loss of their mothers, Mary Elizabeth Ashton and Mrs. Ida V. Andis.



● We feel that the Eastern's loss is the Northern's gain in the announcement that J. H. Ragsdale is to be transferred to Van Nuys. Best of luck, Jack!

Speaking of losses, the Central's loss becomes the Eastern's gain as C. K. Graham is transferred from Los Angeles to Banning as District Agent. Carroll is not a newcomer to the Eastern as he was formerly Assistant Sales Supervisor here. Welcome "Home"!



● Reuben Long, of the Redlands office, enjoyed his vacation visiting the beaches and the San Diego Fair. Huber Allman of the Service Department spent part of his vacation visiting Boulder Dam and the beaches. J. H. Waymire, also of the Service Department, spent his vacation at Long Beach.

The Redlands office welcomes Glenn Burgess, formerly of the Los Angeles office, as Sales Representative. Virginia Sucher is also a newcomer in our office.

All employees of the office and plant enjoyed a steak bake at the home of Earl Sams, Tuesday evening, June 16. They showed R. T. McFadden, District Agent, how a real steak tastes in the open air.

Our Redlands office is again complete. Helen Lockhart entered the office doors a week ago, looking quite herself, after spending two months in the hospital.

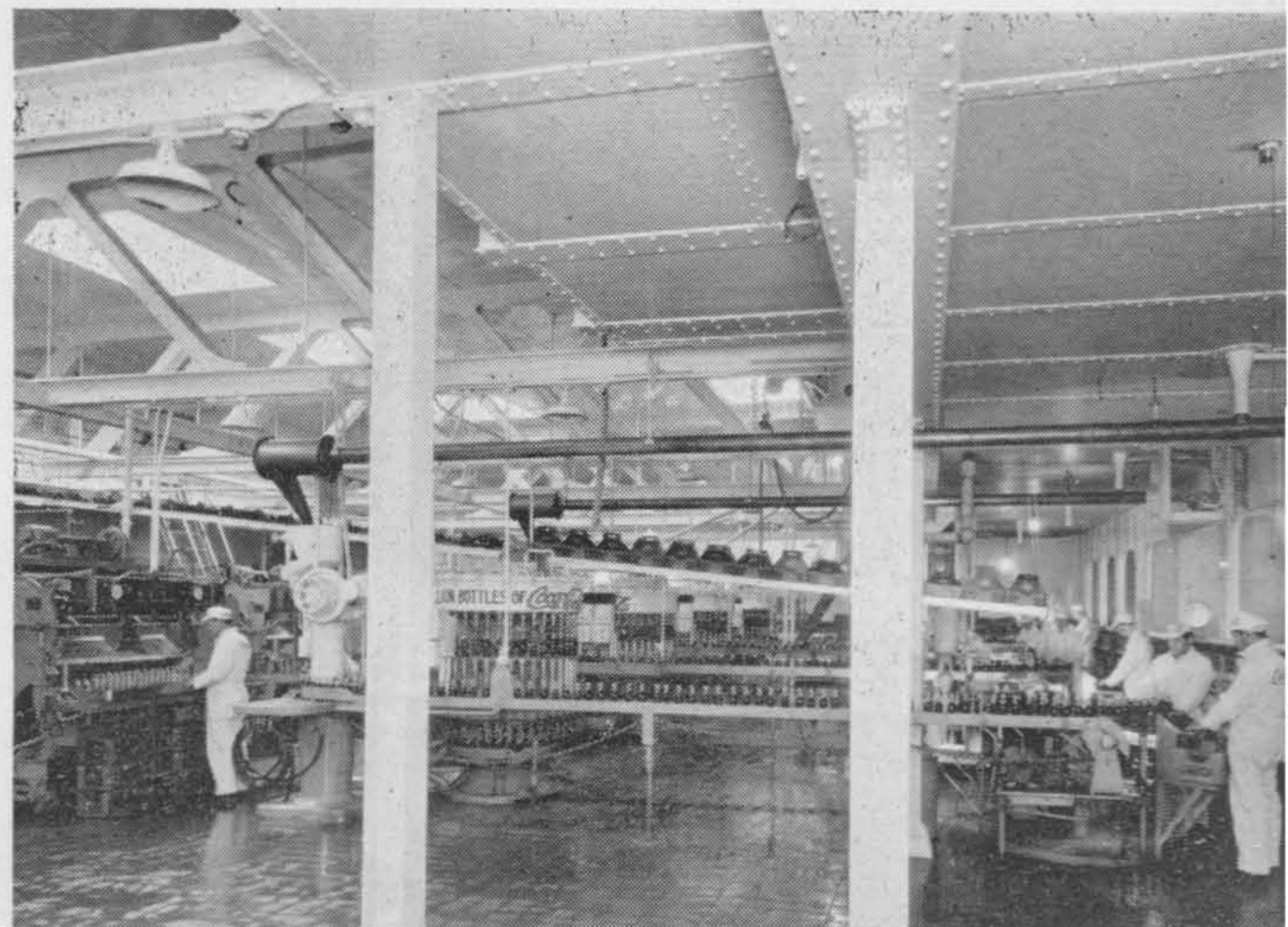
● 50,000 booklets of tested recipes with a center spread of a modern all-gas kitchen reproduced in full colors, is being distributed through the Home Service Department of the Southern California Gas Company. A series of model kitchen designs, used in the booklets, were prepared co-operatively by the Southern California Gas Company, and the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation.



SHIP-SHAPE PLANT . . .

● Step into the bottling plant of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Los Angeles and you will expect to be greeted by a naval officer in blue uniform and gold braid. The workers, however, are garbed in plain spotless white, even though the entire bottling department has been constructed to represent the interior of an ocean liner, hawsers, portholes, and all.

The bottling department of the company consists of five units, each unit washing, filling and capping a continuous line of bottles. The total capacity is 585 bottles per minute, or more than 280,000 per eight hour day. Five mammoth bottle washers sterilize the bottles, and these washers are fueled with natural gas from the lines of the Company. Gas was used after exhaustive tests by Coca-Cola engineers, and the decision was based on economy, cleanliness, and ease of handling.



SOFTBALL . . .

● At the end of the first half schedule, the teams lined up as follows, according to Bob Wyckoff, our sports reporter. How about these softball teams in other divisions? GAS NEWS would like to know about them.

Team	Won	Lost	Tie
Beverly	6	0	1
Shops	5	1	1
Rangers	5	2	0
Leakage	4	2	1
Distribution	3	3	1
Engineers	2	5	0
Measurement	1	6	0
Meter Shop	0	7	0



● To Tommy Rice, Assistant Counsel, goes the sympathy of his many friends. Monday, June 13, his father, M. J. Rice, passed away.



● E. M. DeRemer, General Supervisor, Industrial Sales, recently returned from an extended trip to the East. After visiting Dallas and attending the Natural Gas Department's convention, he visited Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, Detroit and other large cities, where he visited gas companies and large industrial installations.

**BATTLE . . .**

● It was a tough battle and when the smoke cleared away, the Industrial team representing the Central Division was winner 7-4 over the hard-fighting Glendale outfit. The game was played June 19 at McLaglen field, Los Angeles. With 7 games won, one game lost, and a percentage of .857, the Central Division Industrial team nosed out seven other Los Angeles teams to win the first half race of the major industrial Section "D" League. They have started off with a victory on the second half schedule, winning from the Swift Formay team 23-2.



● With the opening of the summer recreation season in the national forests of California, the U. S. rangers will add a new slogan to their familiar "Help Prevent Fires" and "Keep Your Forests Green." This will be an appeal to campers and picnickers to "Bury Your Tin Cans." Already requests for extra help to keep the public camp grounds clean have been received at the California headquarters of the U. S. Forest Service in San Francisco, and forest officers state that if the number of empty cans found to date in the campgrounds is any barometer of travel the 1936 tourist season promises to be a record breaker.

10 years ago

this MONTH



(From Gas News, July 1926)

Charley Nichols is back on the job again after a long siege of illness . . . glad to see you back, Charley.



George Deitrick has his hand in a bandage due to a box of matches exploding . . . he blames the explosion on the Taft heat.



Billy Tully and his wife have stored their son and heir with mother and are spending a delayed honeymoon in San Francisco.



On Thursday night the younger generation of 1700 Santa Fe assembled at Castle Rock for a wienie bake. Bob Belben's personally conducted ukulele orchestra furnished the music.



Paul McDaniel is now Storekeeper at Taft and George Hickernell has taken over Mr. McDaniel's former duties.



L. P. Greenlesh led the procession to the altar by being married to Miss Lucille Needle. . . .



At Gulfport, Mississippi, John Camper and Adele Conn were married . . . after visiting Mr. Camper's relatives in Illinois, they returned to Taft. . . .



And . . . to think that we all once laughed at stuff like this . . . (From Gas News, July 1926).

"F U N E M"

"S V F M" etc., etc., and etc. . . . ugh!



● From Big Boulder Mining Claim comes word that Deputy Ed Turner, 9th and Santa Fe plant watchman, is taking a good rest and doing a little gold mining during odd moments. Ed has his own cabin. It is located in San Gabriel Canyon, near Glendora.



● C. E. Aseltine, Gas Main Extension Supervisor, was recently elected commander of the Cheviot Hills Post of the American Legion. Congratulations, Ace! W. K. Anderson, sales representative of the Company, is finance officer of the Post.