SAN FRANCISCO PLAYS HOST . . .

"Gas Marches On!"

With this as their slogan, delegates from Pacific Coast gas companies and gas appliance manufacturers met in San Francisco August 25, 26, and 27 for the 43rd Annual Convention of the Pacific Coast Gas Association. The convention was the largest and one of the most successful in the history of the Association. More than 650 delegates were registered for the three-day session.

Employees of the Southern California Gas Company were prominent in the conferences held at convention headquarters, the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco. Those who were on the convention program were W. M. Jacobs, Assistant General Superintendent of Sales, and chairman of the Sales and Advertising Section; B. M. Laulhere, Engineering Supervisor; D. R. Hiskey, Chief Chemist; M. T. Burton, member of the Chemical Laboratory; C. T. Burns, Chief
Clerk, Auditing Department; Gladys Price, Home Service Supervisor; and W. K. Dodd, Office Engineer.

As in conventions of the past, following the general sessions, delegates gathered in small group conferences to discuss common problems in their particular fields. Sales, Technical, Accounting, Utilization, and Customer Relations problems were discussed and analyzed by the above members of the Company. Highlights of the convention's first general session was an address by H. M. Crawford, President of the Pacific Coast Gas Association, and an interesting talk by Dr. R. D. Drury, Professor of Physiology, University of Southern California.

Climaxing the strenuous activities of sessions and conferences, delegates relaxed the fourth and last day of the meeting, August 28. At the Lakeside Golf Club was held the annual golf tournament. Then on the afternoon of the same day, delegates were treated to a boat trip on San Francisco bay, inspecting the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge and the future site of the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

(Photo on page one of Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge, courtesy Standard Oil Company)

**PIERCE WINS . . .**

- W. A. Pierce, member of the Company's Engineering Department, won from more than 1600 entries in the recently ended "Who are the Gas Appliance Manufacturers'" contest sponsored by the Pacific Coast Gas Association.

"GAS—THE ALL-PURPOSE FUEL" and his essay to support this well-worded slogan, brought him the first prize award of $50.00. Congratulations, Mr. Pierce!

A fifth prize of $10.00 also went to a member of the Company, Eric B. Marlor, member of the Customers Department. Congratulations to you too, Mr. Marlor! Walter C. Hendrix, Marjorie B. Tyro, G. W. Werner, L. G. Jones, Martin H. Rupprecht, C. Crowder, and Helen Laver had their names drawn from "lot"; each were awarded $5.00.

Mr. Pierce's statement to support his slogan was very much to the point. Here it is:

"Gas is the best all-purpose fuel because of its flexibility, cleanliness, dependability and economy. Any temperature instantly available. Fuel bills are lowest with Gas."

Many meritorious entries were submitted during the contest, according to H. T. Brian, Supervisor of Employee Education and contest director for the Company. Of the total of more than 1600 entries from all Pacific Coast Gas Companies, 452 were from the personnel of the Southern California Gas Company.

**GAS NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER • 1936 • SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**
The Mystery Chef is on the air!

Every Wednesday and Friday morning at 8:45 a.m.,
over KFI, beginning Wednesday morning September 2, this
mystery man of the culinary arts will tell women—
and the men—about new recipes and new cooking methods.

For good reason, perhaps, readers will wonder just how a business man—he has never been a professional chef—can tell home managers anything about the kitchen art, an art in the home supposedly reserved only for the ladies. This gentleman cook-in-a-tuxedo has been mystifying Eastern radio audiences for some time before his recent Pacific Coast debut. His enthusiasm for cooking is amazing, listeners say. His history is an interesting one.

The Mystery Chef was formerly a London business man. Coming to America he roomed in a New York boarding house while studying American business methods. America so delighted him he turned his London business over to his father and made America his permanent home. He did his own cooking while living in the rooming house, and it soon became his hobby. Friends remarked about the quality of his dishes and they flocked to him for suggestions. Little by little his fame spread. Then, when he first "went on the air" four years ago, he decided to keep his identity a secret. He became the Mystery Chef.

Today men who listen to the program, suddenly desire to "try this cooking business" for themselves. His fan mail is heavy, and he's thankful his name is a mystery, it is said.

Tell your friends to tune in Wednesday and Friday, radio station KFI, 8:45 a.m. The Mystery Chef!

Note: After September 27th the hour will change to 9:45 A.M. due to end of Daylight Saving time in East.

Because of anticipated new construction in the northeast section San Bernardino in the Eastern Division of the Southern California Gas Company, new lines are now under construction in that section of the city. The work under construction is a 6-inch auxiliary line. Forty men comprise the construction crew. The work will be completed about September 15, according to H. C. McAllister, Manager of the Eastern Division.

Another large crew of men has been given employment in the Eastern Division of the Company. Gas main along the state park highway leading to San Jacinto is being lowered in preparation for state highway construction.

On the Harold Lloyd Studios lot the Little Theater of Beverly Hills recently held a "Fair." One of the features was a model kitchen, completely equipped with modern gas appliances and installed by the Natural Gas Bureau. Prudence Penny, well-known home economics expert, demonstrated modern cooking methods before a large group of women visitors.
Nowhere else in the world does so large a percentage of the people enjoy the advantage of power as in this country—and nowhere else does the average user employ current for so many purposes. It certainly isn’t reasonable to presume that the overwhelming percentage of communities served by private as compared with municipal plants is the result of public stupidity. Instead, it is the inevitable result of the fact that private companies have given better service at lower rates, taxation and other necessary costs considered.

—Westmorland, Calif., Mail.

There is one unmistakable sign that times are improving. The Good Time Charleys are showing up again. You know them, the fellows who never take their cigars out of their jowls, who talk out of the sides of their mouths as they tell us the big stuff they have put over, and outline the big program ahead. Their motto is “Full speed ahead.” When the breeze was slack and there had to be plenty of tacking and veering, you found them below decks, yellow at the gills. Since it’s freshened up a bit and the sailing’s easier, they’ve come up to tell us what conservative sailors we are. They are reckless spenders, despisers of economy, ready to heave the financial anchor and let her sail. They are ready to ignore all the charts and go ahead by dead reckoning. They make ridiculous us old sea dogs.

Well, blowing them up and knocking them down is a great American pastime. The toast of today and a bum tomorrow, goes for all walks of life. Fame, popularity, and success are as fugitive as mah-jongg or peewee golf. But it is to be hoped that we have learned something during the days just past. We’ll
probably continue to blow them up, but let's not inflate them too much nor let them inflate us too much.

—From "The Set-Up."

• Priceless bits of wisdom, a veritable compendium of ethics, appear in a translation of a papyrus recently completed by Professor H. de Baux. The age of this record which came into possession of the translator more than a generation ago, is undetermined, but its precepts, evidently those of a teacher or philosopher, have lost nothing of their original purity and practical value. "They are," says the professor, "impressive by their very simplicity and lofty idealism." A few of them follow:

We are taught, and reason compels us to agree that all men stand or fall together.

Knowing this, even the selfish man can see the advantage of working toward the welfare of the whole.

All forms must change; nothing is permanent in the realm of the five senses. Everywhere in nature there is observable the operation of an inexorable law of compensation.

It is useless to implore the gods to arrest or divert the course of the forces of the universe.

It is futile to resort to soothsayers and oracles to bring about miracles; there are no miracles.

We must do our duty wherever we find it; even though it be unpalatable. Our duty is that which necessity or reason or compassion compel us to perform. Look for the motive when judging a man's actions.

The fool idly speculates as to what the future may have in store; the wise man attends to that which is before him knowing that good results will flow from good action.

Patience is the first requisite for a happy life; confidence the second.

Man is the steward of all he possesses, whether material or immaterial; a steward is accountable for that which is entrusted to him.

Professor de Baux opines that the age of this papyrus is of no consequence.

—From the "Imprimatur."

10 years ago

(From GAS NEWS, September, 1926)

Both the San Bernardino and Compton offices opened during the past month.

Those who have seeds or flowers they would like to donate for the beautifying of Plant Number Two on North Main Street should send a note to the GAS NEWS office.

The contract for the building of the new office in Lankershim was awarded last month.

That the weather in Fresno is considerably warmer than in Van Nuys is proven by the fact that Miss Bessy Muncy returned to work after a two weeks' stay in the northern city clad in an early fall coat.

C. M. Cole is spending his vacation at Lake Tahoe.

On August 2, John Stork dropped in at the home of E. L. Keasling.

Bob Sharp brought home 64 fish last Saturday, while J. R. Moore cursed his luck when he claimed only 5.

Virginia Hess, cashier, has been transferred to the Corona office.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Murphree are happy to announce the arrival of a five-pound baby girl, who has been given the name of Marjorie May.
NATURAL GAS TESTS MADE . . .

Recent tests made by scientists from the University of Southern California have revealed facts interesting to those of us in the gas industry.

In co-operation with the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation, Dr. D. R. Drury, professor of medicine, made tests which warranted his conclusions that "natural gas has no poisonous action on the human system."

Four men—two students from the university and two employees of the gas company—remained in a small and virtually air-tight room for two hours in a concentration of more than 25% gas in air. This concentration is many times that which gives the warning odor, a concentration of less than one per cent being detectable by the human nose. The research subjects, outside of a slight exhilaration, felt no ill effects from their sojourn.

More severe tests were tried with monkeys and rats. Rats kept in a stronger concentration for thirty-six days mated and gave birth to baby rats—all perfectly normal!

In announcing that natural gas in itself is harmless, the scientists explained that the only known danger from this type of gas results when, in concentrations difficult to obtain, a person is threatened with suffocation through lack of air; when carbon monoxide accumulates in a closed room from unvented heaters; or from carelessly caused explosions.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "MODERN"? . . .

No longer need m'lady bend over to broil steaks, chops, hubby's favorite meats. One of the new gas ranges has a swing broiler; much higher, it swings out like a door and for the lady that does much broiling is a real advantage.

"Simmer Save" is an appropriate name for a new type gas range burner that gives an even wider range of temperatures. A middle, small burner inside the larger one snaps on automatically when the larger one is turned off. The smaller one, in turn, can be turned very low.

Low temperature oven baking takes on a new meaning, now that a new low temperature oven has been developed. Temperatures well below 250 degrees F. may be maintained. For canning fruits, vegetables, this is especially advantageous.

Rectangular shaped automatic gas water heaters are now on the market, and finished in many of the rainbow hues. There's a new designed wall type, too. Trimmed in chrome and nickel, these gas appliances—more of a utility appliance than many of their brothers—are "going modern in a big way!"

An alloy inside tank such as Everdur and Monel metal for automatic water...
heaters will add years of life to the appliance. It is rust-proof.

- Automatic defrosting of the new Gas Refrigerators saves time and trouble. You just turn the cold control to "defrost" and return. Automatically your refrigerator defrosts, then automatically, resumes its duties!

- This winter, as for several years past, you can heat your home by the clock. Gas heating may be turned on and off automatically, and with thermostatic control the correct temperature can be constantly maintained.

FROGS...

- And now it's canned frog's backs—prepared in a steel pressure cooker operated by natural gas. It's a real delicacy—and in heavy demand, according to the company in Louisiana that is marketing the product.

- Vacation time is here again, and among those in the San Bernardino office who are enjoying a little relaxation are: H. C. McAlister, Division Manager, sojourning at Balboa and getting a very good tan; Barbara Taylor, visiting her father Dr. Wm. O. Taylor at Berkeley, and Al Cramer, who has everyone wondering if he is going to take the fatal step with a charming brunette.

SOFTWARE IN RIVERSIDE...

- Riverside's office "Gascos" seem to have a real softball team, if the press clippings that have come to the attention of Gas News are to be believed. And their record is an enviable one! The "gang" just missed winning the district championship, for according to the papers they were upset 4-1 after entering the final round slight favorites over the Parker Machine Works. The following are those whose names have appeared in the box score for the Gascos:

  Eubanks, 3rd base; Burns, center field; Kane, 2nd base; Adams, catcher; McLean, pitcher; Roach, shortstop; Wolfe, first base; Hair, left field; Flowers, right field. Also appearing in the line-ups have been Spargur, left field, and Callahan, catcher.

STICKLER...

- Roy Bauer passes along this baseball stickler. We don't know the answer but we'll have Roy tell you if you can't figure it out. Here it is:

  First, there were three triples. Then there was one single, one stolen base, then two singles. This all happened in one inning, in succession (one team at bat). There were no runs scored. How did it happen? Send your answer to Gas News.

BON VOYAGE, "OLD TIMER"!

- Used for service installation work throughout the system of the Southern California Gas Company is this type of modern truck in the picture just below. And at the bottom is "old timer," the last of its kind to leave service. "Old timer" had an open cab and rear platform and the maximum speed allowable was fifteen miles per hour—providing "she could do it." The last of the solid rubber tire trucks, it was placed in service in 1924. The photos were taken by L. F. Dishman, automotive engineer in the Distribution Department.
 Typical of many of the vacations enjoyed by employees of the Company are these pictures taken by members of the Kern Division. In the left picture Edna Von Kanel, with a friend, is enjoying life in the big mountain country. The center pictures were taken in the Virginia Lakes Country by R. W. Park of Taft, while the pictures to the right were snapped by Ben J. Thomas. That one under the canvas he titles “Settling down for two weeks at Camp Trumbull.”

• To Mr. and Mrs. Sy Young, congratulations! The occasion is the arrival August 16 of a new daughter, Judith Ann Young. Sy, incidentally, is a stellar ball player and a member of the Beverly Hills Distribution Department.

• Best wishes to Alice Augensen and congratulations to H. G. Sites! The couple were married in Los Angeles the evening of August 1 at Grace Lutheran Church. Many friends of the couple with the Company, attended the wedding ceremony. Don Wheaton, member of the Sales Department, sang. Following the wedding, they motored to Yosemite and Tahoe.

• Austin Strong, Central Division Sales Supervisor, recently joined the army of Benedict. Austin was married August 1 to Miss Barbara Mascart of Redlands. Following the wedding the couple journeled north by auto for their honeymoon. They will make their home in Pasadena.

 BEST WISHES TO MR. AND MRS. STRONG!

• To Bob Belben, member of the Stores Department, apologies. Through some error, it was announced in the last issue of GAS NEWS that a MRS. Belben accompanied Bob to Catalina. Bob was very emphatic in stating that he was NOT married!

• On Wednesday evening, August 26, Oliver Jacobi, Glendale District Agent, took as his bride Marguerite deDormont Evans of Hollywood, California. The wedding occurred at the home of friends of the couple in Glendale. Congratulations and best wishes, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobi!

• There’s a story going the rounds about E. H. Wellauer’s private suite at the Hotel Fairmont, San Francisco. Some say it was the bridal suite. Ask him about it.

• Charles Munn of Union, New Jersey, heard strange voices coming from the basement of his home. Investigation disclosed the voices—then music—coming from the gas meter. By some freak the meter was acting as a radio. A note of caution to our own meter men—expect most anything!

• Honoring two of their group, Evelyn Roche, who was to be married to Alex Napier of Beaumont on August 7, and Mr. Frank Roach, who was recently married to Ruth Lindsley, members of the force of the Riverside office and their families held a potluck supper at Fairmont Park, July 30. During the evening C. A. Gillespie, District Manager, presented Miss Roche with a set of pyrex, and Mr. and Mrs. Roach with an assortment of multi-colored pottery. Ingo bikes, swimming and boating were enjoyed by the group after supper.

• Recently Roy Gormsen of the Personnel, Claims and Safety Department, returned from a quick trip to his home State, Ohio. The occasion for Roy’s trip east was the sudden passing of his father, a resident of that State.

VERSATILE . . .

• There’s a good story going the rounds in the Visalia office concerning the undying efforts of our service men to aid a distracted housewife in that territory. It seems that Mrs. Housewife complained of leaking gas appliances. How did she know there was a leak? Naturally—she could smell it! Ever willing to give that famed “Dependable Service,” our boys went to the rescue. There was no doubt of the odor. But it was not gas. It was a skunk.

VERSATILE are our service men—in a short, but difficult, time they extracted Mr. Skunk and saved the day for a very thankful housewife.