GAS NEWS

VOLUME XVI
NUMBER 1

JANUARY
1939

"DESERT SURVEY"

PHOTO BY
J. T. WOOTAN
This is the time of the year that the battles of the elements take place and, remaining true to form, Mother Nature played us several “unusual” tricks in November and December. A heavy northeast wind, locally known as a “Santa Ana,” blew in from the desert regions about November eighth. This was followed by a sharp drop in temperature on November eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth, below freezing in most places. Warmer weather, and then changeable periods, appeared, culminating in a sixty-two year record breaking 92 degrees on December ninth. Cooler weather then brought promise of rain after one of the driest falls on record.

The rainy spell which started December fifteenth and ended December twenty-first brought 7.3 inches to Los Angeles, the heaviest December precipitation since 1933.

Predictions made several months ago indicated we may expect some colder weather in January and considerable rains the latter part of the season.

And why does all this so concern the Gas Company, and particularly the gas supply and transmission departments? Because weather—rain, fog, clouds, winds, snow on the surrounding mountains, and low temperatures—all have a decided bearing on gas sendouts. Of the items listed, temperature is the greatest single factor.

Getting Up in the Mornin’

When you have lowering temperatures with a cold wind or a drizzly rain, then you can expect hundreds of thousands of gas heaters to light up within a short time and cause very heavy usage of gas from our distribution pipe lines. This is particularly noticeable at 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., when people are arising and heating a cold house or apartment and preparing breakfast. Again
Our heaviest peak day sendouts to date occurred during January, 1937. The fluctuations in the L. A. Basin District, all companies, would be 2.1 times as great as for the L.A.G. and E. system shown on the graph. Note the morning and evening peaks each day of January 21, 22 and 23, 1937. Also, that in the dotted “Temperature” line, the “peaks” represent the lowest temperatures.

with mean temperatures under 55 degrees. And when the minimum approaches 30 degrees every 1-degree drop makes for a decided increase in peak hour demands. (a)

“Is It Going to Rain?”

It is very evident, therefore, that the gas supply department must have accurate weather forecasts morning and afternoon (b) in order to anticipate the probable demand and provide for it. The Krick Industrial Weather Service is under contract to supply the gas companies twice daily with forecasts. General twenty-four-hour forecasts of sky, wind and storm conditions are given, including maximum and minimum temperature data in the Los Angeles area, coastal towns and interior towns. Additional information is furnished from time to time if very changeable weather conditions are in progress, or if the trend of an approaching storm is being closely followed.

Providing gas when it is required presents many and varied problems. Delivery to the Los Angeles metropolitan area from the three general sources in the Los Angeles Basin, Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties and Kings-Kern Counties (c) is fairly uniform hour after hour whereas, on a peak day, the usage fluctuates violently. This difference may be made up by withdrawing gas from the big holders located at strategic points, curtailment of low rate surplus industrial customers, and manufacture of diesel oil gas.

Storage and Withdrawal

Holders are of both the low-pressure and the high-pressure type, with the former predominating on the Southern California Gas Company system (d). Gas is generally stored

(a) “Gas News,” p. 27, March, 1932
(b) “Gas,” p. 14, December, 1938
(c) “Gas News,” p. 3, December, 1938
(d) “Gas News,” p. 2, November, 1937
The domestic and commercial sendout fluctuations between seasons and between days in the winter period are greater than for any other metropolitan locality in the United States. About 60,000 additional meters have been added to the several gas systems since January, 1937, so that with comparable weather conditions we may anticipate greater peak day sendouts than ever before. The steep "valleys" in the July-August section of the chart occur regularly on "week-ends."

at night during the period of light demand and withdrawn during periods of heavy demand. When the pipe lines are running to their maximum capacity and the holder withdrawal rate is greater than is considered safe from a gas supply standpoint, then industrial curtailment takes place, the customers having the lowest rates being curtailed first.

Chart III (see page 5) shows the reduction in monthly requirements during the summer period. The Gas Companies operating in this district have contracts for the purchase of gas with every important producer in the various gas and oil fields adjacent to the transmission lines. These contracts provide for daily, monthly or annual obligations in the casinghead gas fields and generally annual obligations in the dry gas fields. It is desirable to have some contracts which provide relief from obligations during the period of light demand, the summer period.

While every employee in the automobile industry represents $3,000 invested in plant and machinery; in the steel business, $7,000; in railroads, $25,000; every employee in the gas industry has behind him the tremendous investment of nearly $37,000.

Home Service departments in gas companies throughout the country number 498 and count more than 1200 women on their staffs.
Chart III

For the past three years the Golden State has been first in the number of natural gas customers and second in natural gas sales among the states of the Union. Note the wide difference between the summer and winter demands for gas.

(Applies to text on page 4)

Bridge

THE "Company Bridge Party" has been growing in popularity each month since it was revived last November as a regular monthly social feature at our Flower Street Auditorium.

More than 111 employees and members of their families have, so far, taken part, and there is room for many more, according to the committee in charge. "If you like contract—as a beginner or as an old hand—you'll find it fun to come to the next session, February 9," they tell us. It is not necessary to make any advance reservation, and admission is free.

The playing starts at eight o'clock on the second Thursday of each month, immediately following the drawing for the door prize.

At the session January 12 Mrs. Clayton August was the door prize winner.

The "hosts" who arrange the parties are Maurice E. Bauman, Auditing Department; Charles W. Beck, Manufacture, Compression and Storage; Harold R. Preston, Land and Tax; and Mandel Sandusky, Auditing Department.

Bowlers in Second Half

THE Company's bowlers wound up the first round of their fall season early this month with a special inter-league playoff and, on January 10, got the second under way.

Michael, Tannehill, Kelso, O'Haver and McKenzie, of the Commercial Sales team, were the winners of the first round as a result of their victory over the Stores Department, leaders of the "second shift" group of teams.

The Hollywood and Industrial Service teams were acclaimed second and third-place winners after defeating Gas Accounting and Design Engineering, respectively.

Individual high score average for the first half of the tournament was earned by Roy Gormsen, a member of the General Agents team. His 181-point average was five better than his closest competitor, H. Sherwood, of the Glendale Dispatchers.

A. Wedemeyer, of the Hollywood team, won the draw prize of a bowling ball, bag and shoes.

—Clyde S. Johnson.
Dispatchers Foregather and Fare Sumptuously

Inspired by a desire to become better acquainted and thus to better appreciate each others' problems, a group of about 60 dispatchers of all varieties met for dinner in Huntington Park during the holiday season on Wednesday evening, December 28.

The local operating unit of Central Division order dispatchers naturally had the largest representation, but also present were order dispatchers from Pasadena, Glendale, Compton, Inglewood and Hermosa, and gas transmission dispatchers from the Industrial Fuel Supply Company at Glendale, and representatives of our own gas transmission dispatchers in Central Division.

Lou Dell was the instigator of this gathering and to him must go the credit for a pleasant evening of social intercourse among the men in the "front line trenches."

—H. P. George.

Alhambra Advices

Elizabeth A. Tidd
Staff Correspondent

A total of $120.00 was received by the EEABB winners in the Alhambra Office at the end of last quarter. With eligible participants numbering 28, the average winning per employee is $4.20. Is your average that good? We're pretty proud!

That far-away look Mrs. Jean Holmes has been wearing lately is due to the departure of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, to Seattle, Washington, where they will be permanently located.

St. Nick at Compton Office

One would hardly recognize the laughing, boisterous group around the Christmas tree in the Compton Office on the evening of December 23 to be the efficient-looking office force seen by our customers just a few minutes before. Immediately after 5 o'clock old St. Nick (who was really Burt Williams, of the Sales Department), white whiskers, jingle bells and all, appeared with a gift for each employee. After the distribution of gifts everyone gathered around Santa and sang Christmas Carols.

—Jane C. McLaughlin.
San Bernardino, 3-2

Basketball is the sports interest of the month in the Eastern Division, with all eyes on the Southern California Gas Company team now playing in the San Bernardino Commercial League.

At mid-January, the hoopsters had played five games, of which they won three and lost two. Holly Service, Latter Day Saints, Twin Palms, Citizens National Bank, and Harris Company are the other teams in the schedule.

One of the openers for our quintet was a sparkling exhibition game with the varsity team of San Bernardino Junior College. The score was close until the closing minutes of play, when the college team forged ahead to win, 64 to 49.

Louis J. Chovich is our captain, and plays in the guard position. Other members of the team are Lee M. Langford, forward; Allan C. Higbee, forward and guard; Alfred H. Baldwin, guard; Woodrow W. Newton, forward; Delbert C. Simons, center; and John P. Coyle, forward. All of these men work in the Distribution Department, San Bernardino, with the exception of Woody Newton, who is a member of the Customers Department.

—Clayton E. Pickup.

Flower Street Fancies

Warren W. King
Staff Correspondent

Cupid certainly has not been taking a holiday, according to reports in the Los Angeles Office. Miss Rose Conrad, Gas Accounting Section, and Miss Marjorie Patten, Merchandise Accounting Section, are both wearing engagement rings. When will it be, girls?

At a very lovely dinner party at The Bit of Sweden, the engagement of Miss Bernice Nelson, Collection Department, to Mr. Irving Edwards, Branch No. 5, was announced to members of the immediate family.

It was good to see Charlie Cook again this year in his familiar role of Santa Claus at turkey distribution headquarters in the basement of the Flower Street Building. Charlie has been our Santa at Company affairs of one sort or another for eleven years, and he does the part so merrily that the original must be jealous of him.

Eastern Etchings

Adele P. Lee
Staff Correspondent

We are sorry to report that N. L. Ketcham, Dispatcher at San Bernardino, is quarantined with measles. Best wishes for a speedy and unblemished recovery.

The Eastern Division held its second annual Christmas party on December 23 at the Fontana Women’s Club House. The party was a huge success, with Stan Gorman acting as master of ceremonies. Santa remembered everyone present with a ten-cent gift.

Alydia Dutcher’s friends in the San Bernardino Customers Department are happy to learn that she is improving rapidly from an appendectomy.

Employees of the San Bernardino District wish to extend their deepest sympathy to R. E. Fessenden, of the Distribution Department, in the loss of his one-year-old baby boy on November 30.

We are happy to report that Patsy Burke, young daughter of J. M. Burke, Chief Clerk in the Banning Office, is satisfactorily recovering from a serious illness.

Dear Aunt Sophie:

Just a note to tell you that Jim is home from the hospital and gaining weight. He’s on a diet, which means broiled meats.

My neighbor, Mrs. Watz, was very discouraging. She said that broiling was smoky and dirty. But I was determined to learn how to broil or die in the attempt. For Jim, I’d even choke on the smoke.

Would you believe it? The Home Service girl from the gas company said my CP range gave me more broiling area. Why, Aunt Sophie, I broil the meat for all five of us at one time. What’s more, there’s no smoke!

Mrs. Watz had to be convinced about the “no smoking” part. But last week when they broiled she said they no longer smoked like a “house on fire”—thanks to me.

The children are all well. Do visit us soon.

Love,

Lucy.

P.S.—I forgot to tell you that the “smokeless broiling” feature sold Mrs. Watz on a CP gas range.
BABY PICTURES

We're not hurrying you about those pictures of our "Babies of 1938," but want to remind you that our special Baby number will be issued in the course of the next few months. So make it a point to get the best possible picture of your 1938 baby for inclusion in this number.

It doesn't matter what size your picture is, if it is clear and sharp. Pictures by professional photographers and your own amateur snapshots do equally well—if they are sharp.

Don't send pictures to GAS NEWS just yet. We will publish instructions covering that point in the near future. But get your picture ready—the clearest and sharpest one you can.

TEN PER CENT WRONG!

You wouldn't think that 400 Employees out of 4,050 would neglect to have their Pension and Benefit Plan Certificates changed to show the names of new beneficiaries when circumstances had made the change necessary, would you? Well, they did, as brought out by the recent exchange of new certificates for old, following revision of the Plan.

Such neglect has caused confusion and delay in settling life insurance claims maturing at the death of Employees; has even defeated the Employee's wishes as to the distribution of his insurance money.

Need we say more?

AND 62 LOST

Sixty-two Employees had lost their certificates, as was revealed by the exchange. Know where yours is?

The first natural gas corporation in this country was the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company, organized in 1858.

CUSTOMERS DEPT’ CHANGE

ANNOUNCEMENT was made recently of the decision of Oscar L. Moore, Manager Customers Department, to retire from active duty in the Company, and setting January 1 as the effective date.

Mr. Moore's action brought to a close an association of 34 years' standing with our Company. He came to Los Angeles in 1904 from Ohio, his native state, where he had been employed by the National Cash Register Company. Starting in that year as a telephone clerk in the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Company, he became, in succession, a clerk in the Auditing Department, Chief Clerk, Assistant Auditor and, in 1917, Auditor. On March 1, 1925, he was advanced to his position as Manager Customers Department and, from January, 1930, until the merger in 1937, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation.

Harold E. Davidson, former Assistant is the new Manager Customers Department.

Mr. Davidson joined the Company in March, 1923, as an Industrial Sales Engineer. Prior to 1936, when he became Assistant General Superintendent of the Customers Department in the Southern California Gas Company, he had held the positions of Sales Supervisor, Superintendent of Appliance Sales, General Supervisor of Domestic Sales and Sales Promotion Engineer.

GAS NEWS wants to say "best wishes," for our whole Company, to both of these men.

"Summer gas air conditioning appears the brightest opportunity offered the gas industry today."—Leon Ourasoff at 1938 A.G.A. Convention.

The past year has been the most active in the history of the A.G.A. Testing Laboratories.
WHO is the Safety Engineer in your home? Who watches brother to see that he does not put his fingers in the electric light socket? Who watches little sister to see that she does not go swimming in the fish pool? Or that she makes the grade with no more serious results than a good wet, smelly bath?

Here is a bit of information for the Home Safety Engineer on a product that is appearing in the home more often each day. This product fascinates both brother and sister, and sometimes fascinates Dad when questions are asked and he decides to maintain his dignity as head of the house and show by demonstration what can be done with dry ice, or technically speaking, solid carbon dioxide gas.

Dry ice is a substance which in cake form resembles closely packed snow. A cubic foot weighs 90 pounds, or 40 pounds more than a cubic foot of ordinary ice. It is the coldest substance in common use, its temperature being about 109 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

It is used principally for refrigeration of food products, and to cool candy more quickly and produce speedier crystallization. It is also used in oil refineries, in testing electric cables, freezing of quicksand in foundation work, and testing insulating qualities of building materials.

Dry ice does not melt in the ordinary sense of the word, but changes from the solid state into a dry non-flammable gas, which, being heavier than air, sinks to the floor in the absence of air currents. The fog which is sometimes seen when the ice is exposed to air at ordinary temperatures is water vapor condensed from the surrounding air. A pound of this ice will at ordinary temperatures produce about 9 cubic feet of carbon dioxide gas.

Precautions

On account of the extremely low temperature, the ice should not be allowed to touch any part of the body. Contact results in painful injury in the form of a burn or frost bite. Gloves should always be worn if it is necessary to handle the ice or metal objects that have been in contact with the ice.

Dry ice should not be used in drinking glasses for cooling drinking water, or, if so used, care should be taken to remove all pieces of ice before drinking the liquid; otherwise a painful frost bite to the stomach may result.

Never permit brother or sister to put a piece of dry ice in an air-tight container, such as a bottle or a jar. As the ice is converted into gaseous form, pressure is built up and may cause the explosion of the container.

Carbon dioxide gas replaces oxygen in the air and if sufficient quantities were present it would cause suffocation. It is very unlikely, however, that enough would be liberated in a room in the home to cause trouble.

You might, however, watch to see that if Dad loads the automobile up with dry ice in order to keep cool when starting on a desert vacation trip, he provides adequate ventilation for the car. A 30 per cent concentration will cause dizziness, ringing in the ears, and other unusual sensations, which may result in loss of control of the automobile.

Treatment

Dry ice burns should be treated the same as a heat burn. Apply tannic acid or other recognized remedy. In case ice is swallowed call a physician without delay. Interior burns result in inflammation or stomach ulcers.

Prevent injury by explosion and by carbon dioxide gas displacing the oxygen in the air by preventing brother and sister from putting ice in jars or bottles, and Dad from carelessly using dry ice for a cooling agent on a desert trip.

Newhall News

K. V. Ehrhardt
Staff Correspondent

S. S. Donaldson and H. G. Laub recently spent several days in San Francisco on business.

During the Christmas holidays, D. R. Waite and family moved into their new home at 12432 Foothill Boulevard, San Fernando. Since he has approximately two acres of fruit trees and berries, Don will henceforth spend all his spare time working his ranch.
MODERNISMS

Most for the Money!

By J. E. Kern

The 1939 Electrolux refrigerator, with its scientifically designed one-piece cabinet construction and generous use of insulation, keeps heat out and cold in; constant cold temperatures within the cabinet are thereby more economically maintained. No effort has been spared in improving its efficiency; cost of operation is low, inasmuch as the gas burner opening is a mere pin-point in size, and mineral wool is packed around the heat chamber to assure a maximum use of heat input. With no moving parts to wear, the cost of operating the Electrolux freezing system remains low year after year.

Over a million Electrolux refrigerators have been installed throughout the United States, and people who still have the earlier models say that they are getting the same silent, economical service as they did at first.

Without qualification, we can say that only Electrolux provides the most dependable "year-in and year-out refrigeration service" for your home—in other words, the most refrigeration for your money.

Hollywood Heliograms

Edith E. Neill
Staff Correspondent

At the completion of her cooking class series at the Hollywood Women's Club, Miss Cleo Kerley had her first airplane ride when she flew to Texas to be with her mother for Christmas. The trip was necessitated by the serious illness of Mrs. Kerley.

Hollywood Office extends sympathy to E. O. Butcher for the loss of his mother, and to P. J. Hoshaw for the loss of his brother-in-law in automobile accidents during the holidays.

W. C. Shaw came through the last quarter of 1938 under the EEABB Plan with flying colors. He was head man of Group C, with 190 points.

Deaths

Four men, each well known to employees of our Company, have passed away recently, it is our sad duty to report.

Ferdinand J. Stager, a member of the Automobile Maintenance Department, died suddenly just as he was completing his work December 16. Mr. Stager was born at Detroit, January 27, 1888, and had been employed with our Company in various positions since August, 1925.

Wesley C. Houser retired from active service in the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation September 1, 1932, after 27 years of service as a salesman in the New Business Department. Death came to him December 29, 1938, following a long illness. He was 71 years of age.

Edwin Bowen, who passed away at the Mountain View Rest Home January 4, was also a member of the Honor Roll from the L. A. G. and E. Corporation. He had retired from his position as steam engineer at the Electric Works August 1, 1926. Mr. Bowen was born November 7, 1859, and was employed by the Company from August 15, 1910.

Henry G. Sites, our Sales Representative at Glendale, died January 14, the result of a heart attack. Mr. Sites was born at Roanoke, Virginia, on July 20, 1899 and worked as cruise director of the New York and Porto Rico Steamship Company at New York prior to his employment by the Southern California Gas Company on November 1, 1935. His wife, Alice M. Sites, is a member of the Sales Department of our Company at the Los Angeles office.

To the loved ones who survive these men, we express the deep sympathy of our organization.

Pasadena Paragraphs

C. A. Peterson
Staff Correspondent

We welcome a newcomer to our force in the person of Miss Olive Wilson, who is replacing Miss Porter.

On December 23, 1938, the employees of the Pasadena District presented their annual Christmas check of $100.00 to the Salvation Army.

Industrial and commercial sales of natural gas in the United States in 1937 were 50 per cent greater than in 1929.
Southern Division Honors J. F. Murray at Christmas Party

A WORD of regret at parting for Mr. Murray, a welcome for Mr. Carbee, and a party for all. Such was the occasion on December 9, when over 400 employees, families, friends and former employees of the Southern Division gathered at the Elks Club in Redondo Beach to honor Mr. Murray, our retiring Division Manager.

Amid a scene of gayety and beside a beautifully decorated Christmas tree surrounded by presents, our new Division Manager, Mr. G. W. Carbee, was presented. Mr. Murray was next called before the microphone, where Mr. Paul Walters on behalf the employees of the Southern Division presented him with the best wishes of all present in the form of an appropriately engraved watch. Mr. Murray then spoke a few words to his erstwhile employees, amid applause and cheers, thanking them for their cooperation and assuring them he was leaving them in very good hands with Mr. Carbee at the helm. He then surrendered the stage to our third guest of the evening, Santa Claus, who distributed presents to all present.

Dancing, cards and door prizes made it a most enjoyable evening. The winner of the grand prize, an ivory room heater, generously given by the O'Keefe & Merritt Co., was Joe Uhlman; the other major prizes were won by L. E. Holliday and M. Hunt. Herb Copeland, Division Storekeeper, as usual did himself proud in the role of Master of Ceremonies. He was ably assisted by our old friend, Lou Dell.

The Committee responsible for the success of the party was George Vetter, Chairman; Beulah Porch, Jessie Ewing, Ann Supple, Florine Burgess, Sam Shearman, Otto Boyd, Pete Hammerton, “Mac” McMillan, Frank McAllister, Henry Miller, Ed Smith, and Herb Copeland.

—who McLaughlin.

San Bernardino Plans

CONSTRUCTION of two new buildings at 155 “G” Street, San Bernardino, is sure to be counted as one of the news highlights of 1939 in our Eastern Division. The Company has acquired property measuring 350 by 400 feet at this address, which adjoins the property of the Santa Fe Railroad, just south of Rialto Street. Plans call for the construction of a building 60 by 285 feet, which will house the distribution headquarters of the Division, as well as the store-room and meter shop.

The second building, 60 by 60 feet, will contain an attractive auditorium room, complete with kitchen and stage for home service demonstrations, and certain garage facilities. These will adjoin an automobile shed 300 feet long and 35 feet wide. This latter will be of steel and corrugated iron construction, and the adjoining area will be paved and fenced.

The date for the beginning of construction on these projects has not yet been announced.
Three Christmas Snaps

Left: Santa Claus Charlie Cook hands 'em out at 810 South Flower.
Center: Glendale Office ready for the festivities.
Right: One section of the "birds" in Flower Street basement.

Northern Notes
M. Aileen Crain
Staff Correspondent

Jep Miles and Anthony Meyer, of the Northern Division, were the recipients of the following piece of poetry, sent to them in gratitude for the nice, fat turkey delivered to Joe Hill, a former laborer, who was retired in 1936:

"Many thanks for the generous gift that you left at my door
Fond remembrance for you forevermore.
The turkey you left was a wonder, I'll say,
So tender, and sweet, what I ate next day.
My son in Stockton came to see me the next night
A big crowd eating turkey was a delight.
Again I want to thank you, don't forget
Fond remembrances for you always, you bet."
Wishing you a very happy New Year,
(Signed) J. S. Hill.

Glendale and Van Nuys anticipated the Christmas holidays with office parties, each being held at the respective offices. Gifts were exchanged amidst much laughter and merriment. Burbank employees joined with Glendale in the celebration.

Spalding Trafton, Jr., Clerk "B," at Van Nuys, has been confined since December 20 to his home at 881 North Kemp Street, Burbank, due to illness.
It is hoped that he will be able to return to work soon, as latest reports indicate slight improvement.

Mrs. Leone Muller is confined to the hospital, having undergone an appendectomy. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Glendale Office welcomes Dave Williams into its midst again, after several weeks of absence. Dave, too, underwent an appendectomy.

Valley Vogue
Paul H. Hammond
Staff Correspondent

Our congratulations to Charles Condon on his recovery from his recent illness. Looking the picture of health, following a year and a half at Springville, Mr. Condon returned to Visalia to resume his duties as Division Storekeeper.

Valley hunters wound up their season in a blaze of glory that saw many a heretofore unfortunate bag his limit at the expense of the pigeon family. Among the most successful were the Messrs. Muldoon, Nash, Scott, Wiley and Simpson.

Miss Marie Hoffman, Herbert West and Cecil Luckin were among the members of the Visalia Office spotted at Sequoia National Park enjoying the winter sports over the holidays.
**Nuptials**

CONGRATULATIONS to the Company's newlyweds! We all join in extending sincere best wishes to these couples.

Bells were ringing at 8:00 o'clock, December 16, as Gladys Charlton, Order Department, and Charles Holbrook, Dispatcher, walked down that middle aisle at St. Paul's Church, Washington and Bronson.

Edith Plummer took the Hollywood Office by surprise when she returned after Christmas as Mrs. B. B. Brink. She was married at Las Vegas Christmas eve.

Bon Voyage and Best Wishes to the newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Platz, who are honeymooning in Honolulu. Mrs. Platz was formerly Miss Theresa Porter, who left our employ before her marriage on January 10, 1939.

A. W. Lund of the Pasadena Distribution Department was married to Miss Grace Walkup of Monterey Park on December 31, 1938, at the Bethany Church in Alhambra.

Ed. Aigner, Chief Clerk at Van Nuys, and Helen Louise Gamet, of South Pasadena, joined hands to exchange vows at the Church of the Angels in South Pasadena. The wedding took place on December 30, at 8 o'clock. Orris Hedges acted as best man, and matron of honor was Mrs. Fred Pettiford. The Aigners are now at home in Hollywood.

C. E. Grady, in the Payroll Section, Distribution Department, was quietly married December 24, 1938, to Miss Beatrice Rosemary Barton at the Lafayette Hotel in Long Beach. Congratulations.

**Santa Fe Send-Out**

E. H. McDermott
Staff Correspondent

Our sympathies are extended to Distribution employees A. J. Walden, A. O. Buehler and J. J. Cella in the death of their mothers; also to E. M. Montoya, gang foreman, whose wife died after a long illness.

Approximately 1,500 of the 1939 Electroluxes have already cleared through our Santa Fe Warehouse. Part of them arrived by steamship. If present sales indications continue, 1939 should be a banner year on Electrolux installations throughout the system.

Bernardine La Frankie, Division Accountant's Office, left her appendix in the hospital during the first week in December. We wish her a speedy recovery.

**Newcomers**

In a number of departments we are hearing, from proud fathers, of the latest cute doing of the little ones. We know they just can't be as clever and bright as mother and father say they are—but we do congratulate the parents most sincerely, nonetheless.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin A. Green were blessed with a baby daughter, Melva Lee, born October 19. The father is a member of the Distribution Department, Los Angeles.

Joyce Pottle is the new arrival at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Pottle. December 15 was her birthdate, at the Hollywood Hospital. The daddy is Industrial Sales Engineer in the Eastern Division.

The Alhambra Office now proudly boasts a grandfather among its personnel. Ray Francisco reports the arrival of an 8 lb. 3 oz. boy, Gene Ray, to his son and daughter-in-law, on November 13. Mother, baby, father, and grandfather are all doing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Waite are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter, Sandra Christine, on December 16, at the San Fernando Hospital. Mr. Waite is an employee of the Newhall Office.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Buchenau are the proud and happy parents of Elizabeth Ann, seven and one-half pound daughter, born January 4, 1939, at Riverside Community Hospital. Welcome to the baby and congratulations to Bob and Florence.

Wallace Haines, storeroom attendant at Van Nuys, is the proud father of an eight-pound, blue-eyed baby girl, born December 27, 1938, at Valley Hospital in Van Nuys. Congratulations!

**Southern Signals**

Jane C. McLaughlin
Staff Correspondent

On Wednesday, December 21, an old-timer in the Distribution Department, Hermosa Beach, was honored by being installed as Worshipful Master of Hermosa Beach Lodge No. 557, F. & A. M. This is our old friend, Al Bailey, whom we congratulate.


Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Vern Wallis, who is in the Downey Hospital convalescing from an appendectomy and tonsillectomy.
The Industrial Service Department of the Central Division, consisting of forty employees, maintains service to approximately 10,000 industrial, commercial, restaurant and apartment house installations. These installations range from pilot flame capacity for jewelers to those of one thousand cubic feet per minute for firing kilns, and include such variety of service as cooking in domestic science departments of our public schools, where gas is helping educators prepare approximately 40,000 pupils annually for future cooking duties in the home, and the furnishing of B.t.u.'s to bakeries supplying 300,000 pies daily.

One of the novel services rendered by natural gas in this community is—of all things—peeling potatoes! Since the western world gave the luscious tuber to civilization, from 20 per cent to 35 per cent of its weight, and more than that of its most precious mineral, vitamin and protein values, have been lost by hand peeling. Now, however, by the use of a dynamic gas-generated flame and water impacted through revolving sprays, the ancient bugaboo of food processing and the loss of food values through hand paring have been abolished for those commercial establishments which “peel” their potatoes the natural gas way.

The Process

Potatoes that are washed absolutely clean are fed to a segmented carrier chain of high-
heat-resisting iron, which transports them through a retort tunnel lined with fire brick and clay, at the rate of a ton an hour.

The potatoes rotate on special members which expose their entire surface repeatedly to the heat blast of 1700 to 1800 degrees from gas jets penetrating the tunnel throughout, during which operation they are blackened and completely blistered as they topple off into a chute leading to the spray trough. One mixed spray above this chute cools them at once, as they tumble on to a row of revolving pipes covered with heavy hose, spirally wound, which acts as a special conveyor. The pipes turning clock-wise and counter-clock-wise, tumble the potatoes along under the impact of water sprayed from rotating jets, from which the potatoes emerge smooth and ivory white.

Warm air currents then remove most of their surface moisture, after which they are dropped down through a sulfurizing cabinet, where a mild exposure to the fumes of pure sulphur bleaches them and prevents them from turning black in the open air. Out of the sulphur bath, the potatoes pass through a brief plunge-bath of pure water, after which they are delivered to hotels, apartments, or other commercial users.

Just another illustration that when heat is required, it can be done better with gas.

**New Central Avenue Office**

NEW quarters for another of the Company's branch offices in Los Angeles will be ready for occupancy about April 1, according to present plans.

Construction is well under way for this at 4619-23 South Central Avenue, where a new structure will house the staff and facilities now located at 1049 East 45th Place.

The new building, 50 feet wide and 70 deep, will be of brick and reinforced concrete construction and one story in height.

An attractive customers counter, in the form of an arc, will separate the large appliance display space from office quarters.

Cost of the building and land will approximate $31,500. The total area purchased measures 72 feet by 156 feet.

**Cover by Wootan**

ON THE front cover of this issue, you will find a picture of Bertram W. Shaw, entitled “Desert Survey,” which won a prize in the December issue of Desert Magazine. The picture was taken by J. T. Wootan, Jn. Both Mr. Shaw and Mr. Wootan are Engineers in the Eastern Division. Mr. Wootan's work in amateur photography has already attracted considerable attention locally and he has earned a fine reputation among Gas Company parents as photographer of their young hopefuls. Congratulations to Mr. Wootan.

—ADELE P. LEE.

**JANUARY**

**In Our Company's History**

1883—Readers of the January 2 issue of the Los Angeles Express learned of “the Economy and Gas Cooking Stoves, the Eclipse Parlor Stove and Boiler for saloon use” in our first appliance advertising. “For neatness, dispatch and economy these are hard to beat,” said the ad. “They are ornamental as well as useful and can be used in parlor as in kitchen.”

1900—The Company reported 7,435 domestic and commercial gas meters active as the year opened.

1907—Fifty or 60 prominent citizens gathered this month to launch the new “City Gas Company of Los Angeles” and elected J. F. Sartori as its president.

1911—In Glendale, 817 gas meters were said to be in service.

1926—Announcement was made of the purchase, by executives of our Company, of the Central Counties Gas Company, with headquarters at Visalia; the River Bend Gas and Water Company, at Dinuba; and the Hanford Gas and Power Company.

1927—the new 25-mile, 16-inch transmission line, extending from Castaic Junction to Glendale Terminal, was placed in operation January 12.

1927—On January 25 a straight natural gas service was begun by Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation.

**Participate in Elks' Festivity**

THIS season's annual Elks Charity Ball was a successful event. The Club's own “swing” orchestra furnished the music while the melodious voice of John Michelmore, of the Glendale Engineering Department, furnished the vocal selections.

At eleven o'clock, the hour sacred to all Elks, Russell Ostrander, an officer of the Club, halted the merry-making to remind all that the eleventh hour had arrived. A hush fell over the crowd as fellow Elks bowed their heads in silent tribute in remembrance of absent brothers, until Mr. Ostrander commanded the orchestra to resume its playing.

Present at the ball were Mr. and Mrs. Anthony B. Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Michelmore, Mr. and Mrs. Don Muller, Aileen Crain, Al Fagergren and Russell Ostrander.

—M. Aileen Crain.

The merger of the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, under the latter name, is now being effected, following the approval of the State Railroad Commission.