Customers to get safety notices

At the request of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, SoCal will mail a safety notice to all of its customers in bills this month.

The notice, which will follow the wording suggested by the safety commission, will advise customers what to do if they smell gas. It will further advise them of the possible failure of certain metal appliance connectors installed between 1955 and 1966.

The safety commission's action was prompted by the finding elsewhere in the country of a number of faulty appliance connectors of a type that may be in use in many states. The commission advised the American Gas Assn. of its finding in December and asked that all member companies notify their customers.

SoCal routinely examines appliance connectors as a part of its regular service to customers. Action is taken to have those considered potentially hazardous replaced. This includes the type of connector described in the notice.

The notice will ask customers to contact the gas company immediately if they smell gas. For customers who believe they may have a faulty connector, a form will be enclosed which they can return to SoCal with their gas bill. A service person will call on each customer who returns the form to inspect the connectors.

A task force was established in

(continued on page 7)

SoCal's transmission 'nerve center' directs flow of gas to serve 12 million

By Karen Charest

There's no Bob, Carol, Ted and Alice in Jerry Groves' life, but there certainly is a Ken, Bill and Gertrude.

Unlike the movie, however, the names in Jerry's life are fellow employees at SoCal's gas control center at Spence Street and its omnipresent computer.

"Gertrude the computer does make work easier," agrees the gas control operator, "but we still must know how to make all the decisions and the calculations ourselves. Each of SoCal's pipelines has a maximum and minimum pressure and volumetric limitations, and we must make sure they're not exceeded."

The "we" Jerry refers to includes Ken Barton, gas control supervisor, and Bill Kroll, system gas dispatcher. Together the three men control the gas that flows through approximately 3,200 miles of transmission pipelines reaching more than 500 communities. The monitoring and controlling are around-the-clock operations, with four other three-man teams rotating the shift work.

Each team consists of a gas control operator who is assigned to the telemetric (TM) gauge board, which contains remote control devices and serves as a backup for Gertrude, and a system gas dispatcher who is the statistician and determines the need for balancing the requirements and supply for the gas system.

A third team member, the gas control supervisor, oversees the operation of the transmission system and makes the decisions to balance the system by increasing or curtailing gas usage by customers, or increasing or decreasing supply, normally done with injection or withdrawal from the six underground storage fields.

Spence Street is basically a center for directing or controlling the flow of gas within the transmission system by means of telemetric control — telephone or radio — and monitoring 210 pressure and flow data points at 80 key locations ranging from Kettleman Hills and Gaviota to Needles and Blythe.

"Pack and draft is the name of the game," says Jerry. When "packing," SoCal is storing gas in its pipelines, when "drafting," gas is being withdrawn.

To determine the peak hourly and daily demands of the 12 million people served by the gas company, weather predictions, supply reports and historic data on usage are utilized, in addition to pressure and flow information from Gertrude or the TM board.

Each hour, Jerry contacts steam plant customers to see how much gas they have consumed.

To change pressure or flow, he moves a device on the TM board and the valve at a remote location automatically opens or closes as

(continued on page 4)
Q&A: A look at the customer charge

Divisions have reported receiving a number of customer inquiries regarding the "customer charge" itemized on the new, expanded monthly bill SoCal introduced systemwide last month.

The customer charge is not new, but under the old format was included in the customer's overall cost and not broken out separately.

Following are questions and answers related to the customer charge. (These are included in a company fact sheet which is being distributed to employees with outside contact responsibilities.)

**What is the customer charge on the gas bill?**
The customer charge, sometimes called a "readiness-to-serve" charge, is designed to recover a portion of SoCal's cost of doing business - the cost of constantly being ready to serve every customer whenever needed and to whatever extent needed.
This charge is not based on volume usage or cost of gas.

**Is this charge new?**
SoCal's residential customers have always been subject to a monthly service fee. A new bill format, introduced by the company in January 1980, itemizes this amount on each customer's monthly gas bill. At one time, a small amount of gas usage was included in this charge, but since 1976 this has not been the case.

**Why was a change needed in the format of the bill?**
The new bill format is aimed at promoting consumer awareness of the need to conserve energy by showing how much gas was used during the current billing period compared to the similar period in the previous year. Setting out actual gas usage and the various rate schedules lets the customer see how conservation can result in a lower bill.

**Do other utilities have a customer charge?**
Yes. It is a standard element of the rates charged by most energy utilities throughout the country.

**Do all residential customers pay the same customer charge?**
Yes. The customer charge is $3.10 per month. For the majority of customers — those who use gas throughout the year — the collection is accomplished through payment of monthly bills. For that relatively small group of customers who use gas for winter heating only, the charge is $6.20 per month during the winter (November through April) and nothing during the six other months.

**Why is the $3.10 monthly customer charge needed?**
To provide natural gas to its 3.4 million residential customers, SoCal has built and now operates a massive gas distribution system. This includes not only the pipelines and meters at customers' homes and the employees to install and maintain them, but also the large transmission lines that bring gas from the California border, distribution mains in the streets, underground storage facilities, compressors, and the many people needed to operate them. The cost of supporting this system goes on whether gas is used or not, and whether the weather is warm or cold.

**Does the customer charge cover all these costs?**
The $3.10 customer charge covers only a portion of the actual service costs directly related to serving an average residential customer. For the year 1979, the amount was actually $6.77. It included $2.13 for capital investments (primarily service line and meter costs); 66 cents for energy conservation programs, products and research; $1.85 for meter reading and billing; 72 cents for maintenance; and $1.41 for customer service.

**How does the company make up the deficit?**
The difference between the $3.10 customer charge and the $6.77 actual cost is made up chiefly by rates charged for gas consumed by large-volume residential users and industrial and commercial customers.

**Is SoCal planning to change the $3.10 service charge?**
In its general rate increase application, filed in December 1979, the gas company is seeking permission from the California Public Utilities Commission to raise the residential customer charge to $6.50, effective Jan. 1, 1981. This amount would still be below the actual $6.77 costs in 1979 and well below the estimate of $8 a month which it is expected to cost to provide service to residential customers in 1981.

**Why not continue to let large residential, industrial and commercial gas users subsidize the deficit? They can afford it.**
For several years in the 1970s, the PUC allocated the bulk of rate increases to these larger customers who historically were charged lower rates because they used larger volumes. As a result, rates to some industrial and commercial customers have increased 900 to 1,000 percent during the last decade, while rates to residential customers during the same period increased about 179 percent.

Continuing to ask large customers to disproportionately bear the burden of increasing costs could force the price of gas above alternate energy sources, such as fuel oil. To the extent that these large customers switch to other fuels, the rest of SoCal's customers — including residential ones — will have to pay even higher rates because there are fewer of them to pay the company's fixed costs.

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**AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER COSTS PER MONTH IN 1979**

- **Customer service:** $1.41
- **Capital investments (primarily service line and meter costs):** $2.13
- **Meter reading and billing:** $1.85
- **Energy conservation programs:** $0.66
- **Maintenance:** 72 cents
Management

11 division, 9 Headquarters recent job changes reported

Of 20 management changes reported recently by industrial relations, nine were in Headquarters and 11 in divisions. Five new employees joined the company.

Four of the division changes were in South Basin transmission. Bob Thomas, who has been on a temporary assignment as leasing survey specialist in distribution, Southern, is promoted to pipeline planner at Playa del Rey on a regular basis. He reports to Jerry Abbott.

Bob Walker is promoted from station supervisor to instrument supervisor at Playa del Rey and, after a temporary assignment as compressor specialist, Walt Merrell moves to station superintendent on a regular basis. Both report to Joe Allsbrock.

Also in South Basin, Joe Gnodle moves from Bunche Hill to Huntington Beach, reporting to Dick Rice.

In Southern division, John Fitch is promoted from crew leader to a temporary assignment as leasing survey specialist in distribution, reporting to Harry Sullivan.

Don Murray is promoted from field distribution supervisor at Huntington Park to a temporary assignment as technical supervisor. He reports to Don Evers.

And, Don Hendrickson moves from maintenance quality representative in distribution to a temporary assignment as field distribution supervisor at Huntington Park, reporting to Dick Harris.

In Western division, John Valdez, who has been on a temporary assignment as field distribution supervisor at 182nd Street, is promoted into this position at Santa Monica on a regular basis, reporting to Bill Bess.

Dick Aultman, who has been on a temporary assignment as district service supervisor in customer services at Montebello in Inland, returns to his regular assignment in the same job at Belvedere base, Metro. He reports to Bruce MacLaughlin.

In Southeast division, Bob Robb takes over as customer services manager in Downey, moving from supervisor of field services, Headquarters. Robb reports to Earl Kinne. Replacing Robb is Bernie Marshall, who was Southeast customer services manager. Marshall reports to John Radcliffe.

At Headquarters, Maria Santos is promoted from senior accountant to staff accountant in general accounting and finance, reporting to Art Boyer. GeneBrunton is promoted from service center supervisor at Flower Street in customer services, Metro, to labor relations administrator in industrial relations, reporting to Bob Young.

Promoted from market services research librarian to market services research assistant in market services, is Helen Larson. She reports to Dick Reynolds.

Staff accountant Bill Fowler is promoted from general accounting and finance, to Pacific Lighting Exploration. He reports to Mary Hirst.

In regulatory affairs, George Hannah and Anne Shen take new positions.

Hannah moves from cost allocation and rate analyst to a temporary assignment as energy affairs analyst, reporting to Nancey Day. Shen is promoted from market services research statistical analyst in market services to gas requirements and forecasting analyst, reporting to Ron Riehman.

There were two promotions in information systems.

Gil Reyes is promoted from assistant computer programmer to computer programmer, reporting to Chuck Rooney, and Andre Daigault is promoted from senior staff accountant in budgets and financial planning, accounting and finance, to financial modeling analyst, reporting to Rainer Otto.

In customer services, John Harrell is promoted from collections support supervisor at Glendale, Northerm, to collection procedures assistant in customer services. He reports to Ed Mayville.

Joining the company are:

Saeeduddin Ahmad as Synthetic fuels engineer in gas supply, coming from the Ben Holt Company. He reports to Mel Yates.

Leo Yu as software programmer in information systems, coming from Gibraltar Savings, and reporting to Al Christensen.

Tom Anderson as industrial engineering systems analyst in information systems, coming from JBL Sound Inc. Anderson reports Don Deyoe.

Karen Charest as associate news editor in public affairs, most recently employed by Teledora Inc. She reports to Ron Hale.

And, Jeff Segall as news bureau representative in public affairs, coming from KFWB radio, reporting to Rich Nemecek.

Meet Mickey and Minnie at SoCal’s Disney nights

Friday, April 18, and Friday, May 2, are the dates set for SoCal’s 1980 “Gas Company Private Party” nights at Disneyland.

Complimentary tickets for all rides and attractions, plus admission and parking (except for refreshments and shooting galleries), will be available to employees for themselves and their families or guests on a reserved basis. Party hours are 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Eleanor Stankiewicz of employee activities said divisions scheduled to attend on April 18 are Inland, Northern, Northwest, Orange County, San Gabriel Valley, Southeast, Southern and Western.

On May 2, Coastal, Metropolitan, North Basin, North Inland (Victorville), South Basin, South Inland (Indio), and Valley divisions, along with Headquarters, Pacific Lighting and Central Plants employees will attend.

Other divisions plan picnics in lieu of the Disneyland visit. They are Eastern, North Coastal, San Fernando Valley, San Joaquin Valley, North Basin, North Inland (Neddles) and South Inland (Blythe).

As in the past, a limited number of guest tickets for one of the Disneyland nights will be made available to employee guests at a reduced price.

Obituaries

Alan R. Bailey, former company executive, died Jan. 20 in Los Angeles at the age of 79.

Mr. Bailey was president of Pacific Lighting Service Co. and executive vice president of Southern California Gas Co. prior to his retirement in February 1969.

A native of Boston, Mass., he attended the University of Southern California and began his utility career in 1924 with the former Los Angeles Gas and Electric Co. He eventually became assistant to the vice president and general manager of Pacific Gas and Electric Co., San Francisco, before joining Southern California Gas Co. in 1956.

Mr. Bailey was president of the Pacific Coast Gas Association in 1964.

Elmer Peterson, 67, died Jan. 16. Mr. Peterson began with the company in 1956 and retired in 1977 as a station mechanic in Coastal division.

Gordon Aultman died Dec. 11 at the age of 74. He started with the company in 1947 and retired in August 1985, as a parking lot attendant in Headquarters.

Ethel Brockelman, 89, died Jan. 21. Mrs. Brockelman started with the company in 1925 and retired in 1945 as a secretary in Headquarters.

Gas News Page 3
Overtime tax bite only hurts at first; most comes back at tax refund time

“There’s one difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist — the taxidermist leaves the hide.”

With the income tax filing deadline approaching more rapidly than most people would prefer, the quote by Mortimer Caplan, former director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, brings ready agreement from many people. But SoCal employees — especially those who worked overtime in 1979 — may be in for a surprise when their tax forms are completed, according to Ted Cardwell, manager of income taxes.

“Employees who work a lot of overtime really feel the tax bite when they receive their pay checks,” Cardwell says. “Market taxation is only on a temporary basis; most people get at least 80 percent of the amount back when they complete the tax forms the following year.”

Describing the withholding as a “short-term penalty,” Cardwell says federal and state governments set up the tax tables based on annual salaries divided by the number of pay periods.

“If a person who earns $300 a week suddenly makes $600,” he continues, “that person is going to be taxed on a $31,200 annual salary that week. There’s no allowance made for the $300 base salary at one rate and the overtime pay at another percentage.”

In 1978, SoCal had 8,800 employees who worked a total of 770,000 overtime hours at a cost of $9.5 million to the company. With more than half of the employees having received overtime pay (1979 figures are not available yet), the issue of taxation can cause some employees to believe there is no advantage to working overtime.

The difficulty that employees face, according to Cardwell, is that overtime is not spread out throughout the year. “Emergency situations arise,” he elaborates, “and an employee may have to work as much as 50 hours overtime within a pay period. Even though overtime pays one and a half times more than straight time, the net hourly pay after taxes for overtime at times can be less than the net hourly pay after taxes for straight time.”

To get an idea of how much withholding is paid and how much would be refunded, Cardwell developed estimates for two “typical” cases: one for a married person with two children and one for a single person, each being paid $790.40 for two weeks’ work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimators of Taxes Withheld</th>
<th>State Tax</th>
<th>Federal Tax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maried (8 exemptions)</td>
<td>$89.25</td>
<td>$336.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With 50 hours overtime</td>
<td>29.56</td>
<td>101.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With overtime only</td>
<td>59.32</td>
<td>235.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single (1 exemption)</td>
<td>$128.85</td>
<td>$451.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With 50 hours overtime</td>
<td>47.34</td>
<td>167.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For overtime only</td>
<td>81.51</td>
<td>283.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“As you can see,” Cardwell continues, “the overtime pay gets diluted with the taxes on the combined wages.”

In addition to the amount withheld for income tax purposes, an employee pays 6.13 percent of all wages earned for Social Security (up to the annual maximum ceiling). “It’s easy, at first glance,” Cardwell says, “to get that Social Security deduction confused with income taxes withheld. And, of course, that makes the tax bite look worse than it is.”

If employees are concerned with the withholding taxes and don’t want to wait until Uncle Sam returns the money the following year, the government permits them to estimate total income for the year, including overtime payments, to determine the amount of taxes expected to be paid. The estimated tax is then divided by the number of annual pay periods (26 for SoCal). Employees can then adjust the number of exemptions needed to evenly distribute the taxes throughout the year.

New energy-saving products available: weather stripping, duct wrap, sun film

Three new energy-saving items have been added to the conservation products that are made available to customers by market services. John Varga, market services assistant-residential, said 3 M and Scotch Brand weather stripping, Fiberglass duct wrap and ScotchMastic Reusable Sun Control film are now available by mail order, along with water heater insulation blankets and water flow control devices previously offered.

The weather stripping is V-shaped and self-adhesive. It comes in strips 7/8-inch wide by 17 feet long, suitable for sealing one standard size door or two average windows, or 7/8-inch by 180 feet, enough to weather-seal about 20 average windows.

The duct wrap prevents loss of heat from hot air ducts that run from furnaces through unheated attic or crawl spaces. The 1 inch thick pink wrap is 12 inches wide, and comes in rolls of 25, 50 and 100 feet. It includes duct tape which can be used to seal leaks in duct work as well as hold the wrap in place.

Varga said you need about 2.36 feet of duct wrap to cover one linear foot of 6-inch duct work, or 5 feet of duct wrap for a linear foot of 10-inch duct work. The Reusable Sun Control Film is designed to control summer sun by reflecting heat and ultraviolet rays. It allows light to come in, and you can see out. It’s another easy-to-apply product, Varga said. The film, available in either silver or bronze tints, trims easily and applies to the inside of a window with squeegee and water.

The film rolls 36 inches wide and 78 inches long in either tint or rolls of the same length 49 inches wide are available.

In the winter, when you want the heat of the sun to help warm your home, simply peel the film off and save it to re-apply the next summer.

Varga said the energy-saving conservation products are available to employees and customers by filling out an order form in a brochure which describes and gives prices for each item. The flyers have been sent to all customers as bill stuffers, and are available at SoCal offices.

The company is currently working on a program to make these products available to employees at reduced prices, possibly within the next two months.

Gas News  Page 4

TRANSMISSION
(continued from page 1)

the signal is transmitted over telephone lines.

“Weather or short supplies sometimes force us to curtail sales to customers who have other sources of energy,” explains the native of Stroud, Oklahoma. “For example, right now during peak hours, a steam plant customer may be using about 30 million cubic feet per hour. If it got very cold, we could redirect some of that gas to residential customers, and the steam plant would use another source of fuel.”

The greatest demand for gas is usually from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. when people are at home. Conversely, less gas is used on weekends when people are home but industries are shut down.

“We update our supply and demand forecast every two hours with any new information, including that day’s pattern so far,” Jerry explains.

Such a daily or even hourly change is one of the attractions of the job for Jerry. But his routine changes each week as well.

“It takes a special kind of person to enjoy shift work,” he says. “It means you don’t have much of a social life and your biological clock gets pretty confused. But working here is, in many ways, like working at home. The coffee pot is always on, and there’s a hot plate and refrigerator for preparing snacks. It’s very informal, and we all work well together.”

When off-duty, the engineer visits the Central Plants’ Bunker Hill station enjoying completing remodeling projects around his Huntington Beach home, rebuilding automobiles (a 1965 Mustang was a recent challenge) and periodically heading for the Mojave Desert for some metal detection and gold panning.
"Working here is like working at home. The coffee pot is always on..."

Using the TM gauge board, Jerry Groves can check pressures and volumes at various metering locations (left). The control keyboard (right) gives instant access to information from Gertrude, the computer.

Ken Barton, gas control supervisor (below), checks usage figures as Jerry receives them from large gas company customers. Bill Kroll, system gas dispatcher, is seen in background.

WE CENTER'...

Work also permits Jerry to take a more active part in raising his two daughters, 11-year-old Laura and 4-year-old Leslie.

The girls were a surprise after so many years. "Everything has worked out well. I'll take the girls on outings, like to the beach or summer. That's a definite advantage, time with the kids during the day."

For a week, the teams at gas control rotate between the Smoky Mountain and the Central service areas. For six days, with one day off; for each seven-day cycle, there are five days off. During their five-week rotation, the teams rotate with each other, they carpool to work.

The men serve as an office, completing clerical and planning filling in for shifts that are short-staffed. Sometimes the schedule pays off in your body, especially when you're tired and just can't fall asleep when you watch TV. Jerry adds, "but I wouldn't change my job."

J.C. Curry concludes, "I've done many things. I didn't have driver training — I was the cleaning man. I could see working in a lumbermill; I still have lumberjacks. I even had muscles.

I might not get all the exercise I did if it were a great place to work."
Secret tips sought on how to enjoy exercise and diet

Exercise and diet. The experts extol their virtues for maintaining good health and a good life. But what is one to do when the clocks are filled with rushing to work, being tied behind a desk or a steering wheel, and then fighting traffic to get home at night? Life just seems too hectic to get in that “necessary” exercise.

A recent series in a Los Angeles newspaper explained how a person can “eat anything you want” and still maintain weight control when exercise is combined. Do gas company employees take the stairs rather than the elevator? Are lunch hours spent briskly walking around the block? Are

memberships in gyms the answer to the spreading problem? Or is disco dancing and Ferrier the way to good health and good life?

To share your secret tips on exercise and diet, contact Karen Charest, c/o Gas News, ML 1122, or ext. 2180.
SAFETY NOTICES...

(continued from page 1)

January to coordinate the work of departments, particularly those involved in customer services, in complying with the safety commission request and to be prepared for what could be a substantial increase in customer inquiries and the necessity for related service calls.

Carl Swing, customer service manager in Inland division, is heading the task force. Members include representatives from several departments throughout the company, including division management, administrative services, information systems, public affairs, consumer services, regulatory affairs and law.

The connectors involved have had fittings brazed or welded to the corrugated flexible tubing. Some connectors of this type have been reported to deteriorate with age, and gas leakage can result.

The company first became aware of a problem with connectors in the mid-1950s. In 1958, it conducted "Operation Hosestock." Colleagues were used during the summer to sweep the service territory to check for possible faulty connectors. As a result, SoCal service people replaced nearly 200,000 connectors.

In 1974, the company decided to replace most soldered connectors. Since that time, customer service people routinely check appliance connectors during service calls. Those that appear hazardous are replaced without charge.

Crawford reelected president of credit union in recent vote

Gasco Credit Union officers and directors for 1980 have been elected, Harry Young said.

Dave Crawford was reelected president, and Young treasurer. Roberta Rasmussen is the new vice president of Gasco, and Paul Armantrout was elected secretary.

Chosen for the supervisory committee were Gene Davis and Lorraine Peterson for two-year terms, and Sue Alsop and Yvonne Lang for three-year terms. John Cooper is the incumbent. Davis also was named chairman of the supervisory committee.

Newly elected directors of Gasco are Martha Nelson, Sam Rogers and Beverley Smith, three years; Gordon Gauntlet, two years; and Patty Ybara and Susan Ramsey, one year.

Q&A

For several years now the turkey check has been for $15, yet inflation has caused holiday dinners to go up. If the company is going to give out turkey checks, why isn’t it a realistic amount?

Doug Hughes, manager of employee relations, says, “The traditional turkey check doesn’t represent a large amount of money but its purpose is not to keep up with inflation or buy a Christmas dinner.” Its purpose is to contribute toward the cost of a turkey or ham at Christmas time. In the past, the company delivered turkeys to employees but the growing logistical problem made it more practical to deliver checks rather than turkeys, he adds. The $15 is in lieu of a turkey and at today’s turkey and ham prices is still adequate.

It is recognized that employees who come to work when sick can spread illness to others. Yet when an employee uses less than 5 days or 40 hours of sick time a year, this is put in his or her yearly personnel report. Why?

Jim Taylor, manager of personnel administration, explains that attendance history is included in all employee appraisals, including management, regardless of the number of absences. It is important that good attendance be documented as well as adverse attendance since it is an important element, along with others, in evaluating an employee’s overall work performance. The resulting appraisal is important in considering the employee along with other potential candidates for job openings.

Non-management

Kirk, Carrillo take jobs as field mechanics as 61 move

Crew Assistant

Richard Costanza ..... SGV to OC
John Defroest ..... Western
David Green ..... San Fernando Valley
Desi Hazely ..... Southern
Crew Leader
Gary Bell ..... Inland
Frank Galvy ..... Southern to Inland
Hector Hernandez ..... SGV to Inland
Jose Villarreal ..... North Coastal
Field Mechanic
Robert Carrillo ..... Southern
Richard Cuthiart ..... San Gabriel Valley
Lloyd Kirk ..... Inland
Louis Kuehler ..... Eastern
Patrick Martin ..... Orange County
Field Technician
Roy LaQuire ..... Orange County
Mahan Vittorso ..... Metro
Technician
Melvin Ohanesian ..... Southern
Edward Puerta ..... Northwest
Leslie Sullivan ..... Southern
Welder
Patrick Parker ..... Orange County
Applicance Service Representative
Gary Freire ..... Western to N. Coastal
Kenneth Brown ..... Southern
George Monaghen ..... Metro to Southeast
Rodolfo Morales ..... Southern
Field Collector
John Chambers ..... Metro to SFV
Daniel Espinoza ..... San Gabriel Valley
Earl Freeland ..... Western
Robi Smith ..... San Gabriel Valley
Field Service Representative
Mark Berstein ..... North Coastal
Kenneth Dailey ..... Metro to Inland
Richard Tozer ..... HQ to Northern
Michael Abarg ..... SGV to OC
David Fryar ..... SGV to SFV
Gloria Maitre ..... HQ to SGV
Michael Ramone ..... Metro to Inland
Reene Rivera ..... Metro to SGV
James Whited ..... Metro to Inland
St. Branch Office Representative
Mary Jeter ..... Metro
Accountant
Arthur Washington ..... Southern to HQ
Gas Storage Technician
George Reid ..... N. Basin to S. Basin
Station Assistant
Jon Bedingfield ..... N. Inland
Station Operator
Paul Cox ..... Coastal
Terry Sweatt ..... SFV to Western
Warehouse Keeper
Steve Lott ..... Headquarters (Administrative Services)
Special Clerk
Guthrie Haward ..... Orange County
Marie Kanakoski ..... Headquarters (Regulatory, Affairs)
Senior Clerk
Bonnie Donet ..... Northwest to Western
Gail Jones ..... Inland
Margaret Caldart ..... Inland
Barbara Hughes ..... Western
Linda Lighthouse ..... San Gabriel Valley
Danne Lord ..... Southwest to Northern
Lynn McKee ..... Orange County
Olga Morris ..... Southern to SE
Evelyn Nelson ..... Inland
Dame Spiller ..... Headquarters to Metro
Karen Traylor ..... San Joaquin Valley
Ruthie Yerman ..... Southern to Eastern
General Clerk
Kenneth Brown

Gas News  Page 7
CPUC okays insulation financing; calls for solar water heater aid

In separate decisions last week, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC): 1) ordered SoCal to submit plans to provide financing for solar water heaters, and 2) approved the company’s proposed low-cost financing program for attic insulation.

The PUC’s order on solar water heater financing will expand SoCal’s role in the development of solar energy for California homeowners. It calls for the company to develop proposals for low-interest financing programs to lead to installation of solar water-heating systems for two percent of residential customers (about 65,000 homes) by 1983.

Assuming an average cost per solar unit of $2,500 (at today’s prices), SoCal may be financing about $150 million in solar equipment over the next three years. It is to offer the loans on either a no-interest, no-down payment basis with a variety of repayment options or through an investment program, in which the cost is included in rate base.

Financing is to be offered retroactively for those who install solar systems before the program actually takes effect, so that potential buyers will not defer purchasing solar systems while the financing programs are being developed.

The company’s plan must be submitted to the PUC within 60 days. The commission will conduct public hearings before approving any proposal.

The state’s other three major utilities — Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison — must also submit plans. All totaled, the four utilities are being asked to finance solar installations in about 175,000 homes.

In its other decision, the PUC approved SoCal’s proposal for a low-cost insulation financing program. The program will offer eight percent, five-year loans to residential customers for the financing of retrofit attic insulation.

Customers may purchase insulation from SoCal or any other insulation contractor, or from insulation retailers and install it themselves.

The program will be offered for three years, with up to $15 million to be available for loans this year and up to $5 million more to be available thereafter. The $20 million would finance about 76,000 installations.

The program expenses will be covered by funds previously budgeted for other conservation programs and authorized in rates by the PUC. Thus, no rate increase will be needed at this time.

Retirements

Travel to China in Johnson’s itinerary

“We are buying a beautiful Spanish style home in Yucaipa, and after my husband, Phil, gets his garden planted he is going to teach me how to fish,” says Esther Tubesing of her plans when she retires as customer contact representative in San Gabriel Valley after 20 years.

Everett (Tex) Pickard, shift supervisor in transmission, Coastal, retirement year 1944. Pickard joined the company in 1936 as an oiler at Somis.

His plans include working around the house, enjoying his grandchildren and golfing.

Dolores Johnson and her husband Arthur, plan a trip to China along with reading and working in the garden. She retires as special accounts payable clerk in controller’s, Headquarters, after 35 years.

“I remember when there was no such word as conservation and our customers were encouraged to use all the gas they could,” says Leon Gossett. He retires as relief service mechanic in customer services, North Coastal, after 35 years.

Gossett and his wife, Eleanor, hope to travel and catch up on home improvements.

Relax completely, forget clocks have alarms, do things when I want to, and get out in the fresh air for a walk every day,” are Florence’s (Floss) Hamilton’s immediate plans.

Hamilton departs as payment control clerk in Southern, after 33 years.

Bill Klein, field mechanic in distribution, Inland division, retires after 35 years. He began with the company in 1945 as a helper.

Plans include building a new home in central California, working in the yard and building doll houses.

Gas News Page 8