Blythe: an oasis in the desert plays historical role in gas supplies

By Jack Armstrong

Gateway to California? Or an oasis in the "outback" of the great Southwestern desert? The community of Blythe is both — and a great deal more. It's the site of one of three compressor stations on the Colorado River that brings out-of-state natural gas supplies to millions of SoCal customers.

The Blythe compressor station made history in 1947 when it became SoCal's link with the first interstate pipeline for delivering gas from the fields of Texas to booming, post-World War II, southern California. It is, thus, the company's oldest main-line station handling out-of-state gas, and its 15 compressors can produce a total of 25,280 horsepower.

Oldest, however, doesn't mean obsolete or forgotten.

Tim Mefford, station superintendent at Blythe, points out that as the times have changed, so has the volume of gas that the 40 South Inland transmission division employees handle at the desert outpost.

"SoCal now receives about 96 percent of its gas supplies from out-state," he says. "During the year, Blythe moves approximately 50 percent of that, including up to 70 percent of all gas received from El Paso (El Paso Natural Gas Co., one of the company's two major out-of-state suppliers)."

That amounts to a lot of gas — in fact, it means around 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day. The station, however, can move a capacity load of 1.25 billion cubic feet a day during peak operation.

Compressors, such as those at Blythe, add the force needed to push gas through a pipeline. When the out-of-state gas arrives at the California-Arizona border, compression is necessary to move it efficiently into SoCal's distribution and storage system in southern California.

The Blythe complex — situated just west of the community — has two main plants that house the compressors, "gas scrubbers" to remove pipeline dust particles, cooling towers to draw off the heat caused by compressing the gas, and a facility to add odorant to the gas. There's also miles of piping, meters, regulators and other equipment needed for Blythe to serve as a vital link in the South Inland division.

To keep the station operating requires four employees per shift, around the clock, throughout the year, plus a maintenance crew that works the day shift Monday through Friday.

(continued on page 4)

Census takes once-a-decade snapshot of America

Today is "Census Day," a once-a-decade event by which Americans provide a statistical snapshot of themselves.

Every 10 years, the federal Bureau of Census mails a questionnaire to households in the United States seeking basic information on residents' ages, sex and occupations, as well as facts on housing, personal transportation means and energy use. The bureau is asking that the census forms be mailed back today.

Most people have been asked to complete the basic census form that has 19 questions. However, one of every five households has been chosen randomly to answer a longer version with 46 additional questions.

Information received by the census is used by governmental agencies and American business — including SoCal — to plan for the future.

Federal and state programs use the data to allocate funds to state and local communities based on population and economic need. The information also is used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives and to redistrict state, county and city election boundaries.

American industry uses the information in almost every aspect of business, from deciding marketing plans to personnel recruitment.

As part of the gas company's effort to support the taking of the census, SoCal President Harry Letton mailed a letter to employees and retirees urging their participation.

In addition, posters have been placed on bulletin boards and stands throughout company facilities, and brochures explaining the census are available in English and Spanish at payment offices.

The census, which is required by the U.S. Constitution, is expected to reach an estimated 222 million U.S. residents — a nine percent population increase since 1970 — and 88 million households.

Federal law requires everyone to answer the census. It also protects the confidentiality of personal information. Answers gathered from the 1980 Census will be used only to compile statistical summaries.
**Non-management**

Janalee Stumpf

Gumante Thakker

Ronald Griffiths

Bennie Coleman

Clarence Edwards

John Mur

**Western names Cole, Severe as crew leaders in job changes**

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<th>Crew Assistant</th>
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<th>Fitter</th>
<th>Meter &amp; Regulator Mechanic #2</th>
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<td>David McKibben . . . . .</td>
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<td>Orange County to HQ . . . .</td>
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<td>Glenda Alexander . . . . .</td>
<td>Anthony Cano . . . . Inland</td>
<td>Jeffrey Warner . . . . . . OC</td>
<td>Paul Couture . . . . . . . SGV</td>
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<td>to Inland</td>
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</table>
| (Transmission)                |                                 | Field Service Representative | Meter Reader                  | Martha Gutierrez . . . . . |*
| (Gas Supply)                  |                                 | Jeffrey Warner . . . . . . OC |                               | HQ to Southeast               |

- **Incorporate adjustment that can produce a minimum increase of 8.5 percent and a maximum increase of 13.5 percent as of April 1, 1981.**

- **Also in the agreement are improvements on holidays and vacations, medical and dental insurance plans and premium pay for certain working conditions.**

- **The Independent Gas and Chemical Workers Union, which represents about 40 employees in South Inland transmission division, has also accepted the terms and provisions of the contract.**
Energy expert from ‘down under’ studies impact of electric heat pump at SoCal

Not many people in southern California know what an electric heat pump is, but—in the U.S. and other parts of the world—it is becoming a standard home appliance. SoCal, therefore, has turned to Ian Maloney, an employee of Australian Gas Light Co., for an analysis of what impact the heat pump could have on gas company business.

Maloney, who is on loan to SoCal’s market services for six months, explains that the electric heat pump offers an efficiency that is unsurpassed by any other electric heating-cooling device or system. "The heat pump," he continues, "is essentially a refrigeration machine that can either cool an area as a conventional refrigerated air conditioning device or heat the same space by transferring energy from outdoor air."

There are only about two million of the devices in the United States, compared to 45 million homes with gas heating. "In Australia, the heat pump is becoming more popular," he explains, "but electricity costs about half the price here. Although Australian Gas Light was founded in 1837 and is the oldest industrial company in Australia, it wasn’t until recently that natural gas was introduced to Sydney, the company’s major market. Previously, gas appliances operated on processed fuel, which we made from naphtha, a light oil."

When the cost of oil skyrocketed, Sydney turned to natural gas. Australian Gas Light’s industrial market has increased 1,000 percent since the first natural gas hookup was made in Sydney three years ago. The Australian firm also recently received approval to bring natural gas supplies to Canberra, the national capital.

With natural gas now more economical, the firm has embarked on a program to convert residential appliances to accept the higher Btu natural gas. "Only about half the homes in Sydney use gas for cooking and space and water heating," he continues, "compared to about 96 percent of the homes in Los Angeles. Even so, the conversion will cost about $1 million."

Energy conservation is not stressed as much in the United States, according to Maloney, because "Australia is in a better energy position. We have good gas supplies and we are actively promoting and marketing the use of natural gas."

Conservation should not hurt income

There is a widespread misconception that conservation of natural gas by consumers will have a detrimental impact on a utility’s net income, John Abram, SoCal senior vice president, said recently. "Conservation is clearly in the national interest," Abram told a conference of the Pacific Coast Gas Assn., and it is "not harmful to the economic interests of gas distribution utilities."

Rate base and rate of return on rate base are the real determinants of net income, not the amount of gas sold, he said. The company has the same meters, regulators, services and distribution mains—the physical plant that represents the major portion of its rate base—whether it sells more or less gas to a given customer. "Our net income under normal regulation will be identical because our rate base and rate of return upon that rate base are the same," Abram said.

By "normal regulation," Abram referred to adequate expense allowances being granted to the utility for costs of gas, transmission and storage, customer service, conservation programs and their marketing, and other normal costs of doing business.

However, Abram added, the company must work harder than ever to keep controllable costs down and to seek understanding of its customers and employees. "It takes unusual skill to convince a customer to conserve in the use of gas while making it clear that he or she will likely pay 50 percent more on next year’s gas bill when 20 percent less gas will be used," Abram noted.

Q&A

How much insurance can be carried by an employee?

In addition to Basic Life Insurance (equivalent to one year’s pay) that the company provides free of charge to any employee after being with SoCal one year, the employee can enroll in two optional contributory life insurance plans, each equal to one year’s pay.

The first optional plan, called General Contributory Life Insurance, is equivalent to one year’s pay. The employee pays the full premium cost, which depends on the employee’s age. The second optional plan is called Supplemental Contributory Life Insurance and is available only after General Contributory is obtained. It, too, is equivalent to a year’s pay, and the employee pays the full premium, again based on age. Insurance amounts are subject to reduction beginning at age 60.

Can pension checks and stock dividends be paid to a bank?

Pension checks can be mailed directly to a retiree’s bank if the retiree and the bank work out the arrangements. The company, however, needs a written authorization from the retiree, along with the retiree’s account number at the bank, and the name and address of the bank.

Cash dividends from company stock also can be mailed directly to a retiree’s bank once the retiree notifies Pacific Lighting’s stock transfer office in writing or signs a dividend order authorizing the check be sent directly to the bank. The dividend order is available on request.

News Briefs

CREDIT UNION RESTRICTIONS

The Gasco Credit Union, in compliance with President Carter’s recent Credit Control Act, has imposed certain temporary restrictions on employee loans in the areas of credit line accounts, second trust deeds, vehicles and unsecured signature loans. Further information is available by calling ext. 3285.

LETTON RECEIVES HONORS

SoCal President Harry Letton has been honored by the Los Angeles City Council for his many years of service to both the business and civic communities of Los Angeles. The L.A. County Board of Supervisors will present Letton with a similar resolution next week.

JOB MARKET GOES DOWN

A quarterly survey by Manpower Inc. shows job opportunities for the next three months across the United States will be sharply lower than a year ago.

Gas News

Vol. 39 No. 7

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layout: Veronica Coleman
graphics: Angee Shedd

Gas News  Page 3
"We need a lot of power here," station maintenance supervisor Carl Lunsford says. "Seven of our compressor units have 1,600-horsepower engines, while the other eight each have a 1,760-horsepower capacity."

A compressor engine is similar to an automobile engine, according to Medford. "Ours at Blythe are two-cycle, naturally aspirated engines, which have pistons that draw in outside air to increase their power. Later model engines are equipped with turbochargers to give them that extra needed boost."

Although located in the desert surrounded by miles of sand and scrub brush, Blythe is not an isolated operation.

"There is continuous contact with gas control at Spence Street," Medford points out, "and our activity varies according to a 'call rate' that is coordinated from there. Our operation as with any station — depends on instructions received on a daily, or even hourly, basis from Spence.

"Depending on the load Needles is taking from El Paso, or whether we're bringing in peak amounts for storage during the summer," he continues, "Blythe could be operating with as few as six compressors, or at full capacity with all 15 units going."

The large number of compressors also permits the station to shut down some of the equipment for periodic dismantling, cleaning and maintenance — a regular procedure during times the station is not at peak load — without losing total operational capacity.

But the station is only the first link in an interlocking chain that helps move the gas to customers in the Los Angeles basin. There are...
Zero-interest loans for solar proposed

SoCal's plan to develop a demonstration program for zero-interest financing for customers who install solar water heaters has been submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission.

As ordered by the PUC in January, the plan outlines ways to promote and finance the installation of solar water-heating systems for two percent (about 77,400 dwelling units) of SoCal's residential customers over a three-year period. The plan would cover installations in both single-family and multi-family dwellings.

Under SoCal's plan, zero-interest loans will be available to customers who purchase solar/gas water-heating systems from SoCal or from independent solar contractors. The loans would also be available to those who purchase the equipment from retailers and install the solar water heaters themselves.

Customers would have a choice of four repayment options:
- Fixed monthly payments over a 20-year term;
- Monthly payments indexed to rising energy costs;
- No repayment until property is sold; or
- No repayment during the first 85 months, then equal monthly payments for 155 months (for low- and fixed-income customers only).

The outstanding balance of a loan under any of these options would be due and payable when the property is sold.

Also proposed in the plan is an option whereby SoCal would own the solar water-heating system and the customer would have no obligation for repayment. This option would be available only to low- and fixed-income customers.

SoCal's cost for providing the zero-interest loans and for the solar systems requiring no repayment would be recovered in rates.

SoCal's plan includes steps to promote the program to customers and to the solar industry.

The PUC now will review SoCal's plan, as well as those submitted by the state's three other major utilities.

Retirements
Gold deposit ahead

Howard Powell's 35-year career with SoCal has spanned from bookkeeper to general services manager in Metro.

His plans include researching a quartz gold deposit that his father discovered, and exploring California. Powell enjoys fresh-water and deep-sea fishing, golfing, hiking, oil painting and sketching.

Bob Sill and his wife, Ruth, will see more of the United States when he retires as instrument mechanic in distribution, San Joaquin Valley, after 40 years.

Sill enjoys fishing, hiking and reading.

The funniest thing that happened to Ida (Tang) Mokri while working at the gas company was once finding a dead field mouse in her top desk drawer—placed there by the supply supervisor who later became her husband. Mokri retired as secretary to the division manager in San Gabriel Valley, after 31 years.
SoCal faces

Gas News is published biweekly for Bonnie Domet and other employees and retirees of Southern California Gas Co. Bonnie recently transitioned from Western division as a new business senior control clerk in general services. Her other assignments have included five years in the Northeast division and 10 years in San Fernando Valley division.

For sale
Scuba gear, new hand light, $30; regulator, $150; weight belt, $15; wetsuit - sizes 5’7”, 140 lbs., $40. Dick or Rick Shearer (213) 323-3607.

Ski boat, Kachina, 17’, 75 hp outboard, $2,600. Cond. antique head/foot board, walnut, for display (213) 961-2603.


Wall furnace, Williams, exc. cond., $70. Gas valve, w/p/g., $50. Greg LaMar, (213) 636-0740.

Dyer, Sears, heavy duty, electric, 4 settings, almond color, $125 or offer. Luan mower, Sears, gasoline, 3-wd, $60. Anita Martinez, (213) 322-2456.

Trust deed, $62,500, 13% interest for 5-year payable monthly, will discount 25%. Bob Bond, (213) 561-6517.

Bracelet, 14 karat yellow gold with four prong and eleven small diamonds, like new, cost $450, sell for $350. Ward Orson, (213) 355-2498.

Winch, Warn, 8,000 lb, complete w/bumper, new $1,000. Jack Dodge, or Chevy, $500. Tom Hild, (714) 735-8100.


Shutters, 24 new, unpainted movable, interior wood, 7 1/2"x25" 3/4". Edith Summer, (213) 835-6292.

Fishing tackle, white "look" tennis line, never used, man’s small, $20. Rosemary Mose, (213) 835-2531.

Bicycle, men’s, 21", steel, good cond., $50. Paul LaTourrette, (213) 344-9393.

Flute, Gemeinhardt, student cond, $100. Lloyd Kells, (213) 961-3170.

Speakers, Sony, two 3-way systems w/woofer and directional tweeter, walnut finished enclosures, $30 each. John Fairman, (213) 596-0336.

Stereo, 8-track, am/fm stereo radio, two speakers, $75. David Lifell, (213) 266-4127.


Oil paintings, landscapes, seascapes, still life in all sizes, from $50. Gary Regade, (213) 923-4488.


Crib, Bassett walnut, $90, $25, very good cond., $90. Connie Roberts, (213) 477-4720.


CAMPERS/TRAILERS FOR SALE
Camper, ’72 Chevy bubble top van, V8, auto. 40 gal gas tank, inc 40 gal of gas, $3,500. Larry Tolliver, (213) 961-2603.

Trailer, ’79 Starcraft Galaxy 6 tent, sleeps 6, used once, includes canopy and screen room, extra, $2,800. David Perry, (213) 967-1645.

Camper, 1’3/2’ Pilgrim, excel cond, can be sold together, $1,500. Wayne Ballock, (213) 989-0268.

HOMES FOR SALE
House, Costa Mesa, 3 brdr, 1 1/2 ba, lg family room w/ fireplace, $79,500. Larry Krause, (213) 963-6142.

FOR RENT

Mobile home, Rancho Mirage (Palm Springs), 2 brdr, 2 ba, color tv, 2 pools, sauna, jacuzzi, $300/wk, $500/wkend. Gene Allen, (714) 593-4397.


Condominium, Hawaii, Kona Coast, 1 brdr, sleeper, furnished, a/c, May 15 to May 25 and May 26 to June 1, $35/day. Don Cunningham, (213) 947-5356.

California Beach, Lake Sabrina, 3-br, 2-b, $47,500. Jake Cowan, (213) 790-1012.

WANTED

Jewelry, costume, for senior citizen art projects, old or broken ok. Chuck Kellen, (213) 272-0793 or M.L. 1034.

Food labels, Campbell’s (incuding tomato and V8 juice) and Franco American products for son’s school. M.L. 643.

MISCELLANEOUS

Retirement parties, for Oscar Dahlberg, April 10, 6th floor condominium building, 2:30-4:00 p.m. Contact Glenda Brown, ext. 3351.

Scraped nuclei, for information call Hedy Trope, (213) 915-6277.


Retirement for Rubinos, April 15, at the place of Steve Perlis, 5614 Sepulveda, Culver City. Contact John Mur at (213) 839-7603.

Thanks, to all my friends for the great dinner and gifts. A.A. (Jack) Beets, Jr.

Next classified ad deadline is 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 9. Mail to Gas News, M.L. 1122.

Directory changes reminder given
Employees who have responsibility for company telephone and mail location directory changes are reminded that such corrections should be made on a continuous basis and not just at the deadline for each quarterly directory (213) 571-1141.

Telephonic extension and mail location changes should be made on Form 3673-D and sent to ML.

participate. Having the blood- mobile on site is expected to increase the number of donors, said Eleanor Stankiewicz, employee activities office.

The unit will be set up in rooms 560 and 562 in the 800 building.

Directory changes are sent daily to the company PBX operator and Headquarters mail room so calls and mail can be routed without delay. Corrections then appear in the directory at its next printing.

Bloodmobile to visit Flower St.
A Red Cross bloodmobile unit will be at SoCal’s Flower Street Headquarters April 7 to accept donations to the company’s blood bank program. In the past, donors carpooled to a local Red Cross office, which required more time off work to participate.
Management

Four take positions in IR

New promotions and transfers became effective recently for 20 employees, including 14 at Headquarters and six in divisions. Three new management employees have joined the company.

At Headquarters, Betty Scardina, Al Russell and Shirley Morris were promoted in customer services. Scardina moves to meter reading control representative from billing support supervisor in customer services, Orange County. She reports to Carolyn Cape.

Russell is promoted to supervisor of office services from consumer affairs manager, Headquarters. Morris is promoted to consumer affair manager from organization and compensation administrator in industrial relations. Russell and Morris report to Jim Raddcliffe.

Replacing Morris as organization and compensation administrator in industrial relations is Ken Sharran. Promoted from market services control specialist, Sharran reports to Hank Hert.

Carolyn Fung is promoted to cost analyst in budgets and financial planning, accounting and finance, from staff services representative in transmission staff. She reports to Bill Edman.

Taking posts in industrial relations are Nancy Lang, Billy Ware and Mario de los Cobos. Lang is promoted to management training coordinator, reporting to Jim Carson, from market services training specialist, market services.

Ware, who has been on temporary assignment as regulatory coordinator, regulatory affairs, is promoted to management planning administrator on a permanent basis. He reports to Foster Hames.

A project specialist, de los Cobos is promoted to organization and compensation administrator, reporting to Bob Lahy.

Computer programmer Archie Staff is promoted to computer systems technical specialist in information systems, reporting to Bob Westphal.

Also in information systems, Wayne Madison is promoted to data specialist, reporting to Bob Murday, from senior computer programmer.

Armado Redondo, Stan Reed and Regina Brown are assuming new positions as market services assistants, market services, Headquarters.

Redondo had been a meter reading supervisor in Orange County customer services, Santa Ana, and Reed was mail supervisor in support services, administrative services, Headquarters. Brown has been an energy systems engineer in market services.

In public affairs, Barbara McKenzie-Slater takes over as reference center supervisor, reporting to Rich Neme. She was promoted from records control clerk in the reference center.

Vesta Wardan is promoted to section supervisor at Palm Springs, Eastern division, from senior branch office representative in customer services in Ventura, North Coastal. She reports to Bob Hird.

Jonny Guy is promoted to billing support supervisor in customer services, Orange County, from records control clerk in customer services, Metro. He reports to Art Guillet.

In San Fernando Valley, Dennis Bundy is promoted to technical supervisor in distribution at Woodland Hills from field distribution supervisor at Montclair in Inland. He reports to J.B. Hobbs.

In San Gabriel Valley, Jim Jordan is promoted to field distribution supervisor at Pasadena from instructor in operations support, Headquarters. He reports to Glen Montgomery.

Bob Lobb is promoted to district distribution supervisor at 182nd Street, Western, from technical supervisor in distribution planning. He reports to Ken Olson.

In transmission staff, Charlie Reyes is promoted to staff services representative from buyer in purchasing, administrative services, Headquarters. Reyes reports to Mike Chamberlain.

Joining the company are Bonita Bakke, Pat Reddy and Christine Keim.

Bakke is a control analyst in internal controls, accounting and finance, Headquarters. Formerly with J.R. McDermott Co. in New Orleans, Bakke reports to Kelly Kim.

Reddy is a gas supply financial analyst in gas supply finance, Headquarters, coming from Rocketdyne division of Rockwell International. He reports to Jack Green.

Keim is an assistant computer programmer in information systems, coming from Cal State University, Los Angeles. She reports to Chuck Romany.

COAL GAS INCLUDED

Seven key assignments made

Seven key management assignments, all effective today, have been made to meet changing company needs.

Bob Rudzik, manager of engineering services, will assume the newly created position of manager of coal gasification, reporting to gas supply Vice President Bill Cole. The increasing importance of coal gasification as an alternative and supplemental fuel supply has resulted in establishing this full time assignment, and Rudzik will investigate the potential and possible application of that technology to SoCal's future energy supplies.

Tom Harlan, manager of transmission division, will replace Rudzik as manager of engineering services, reporting to Norm Hawes, operations staff vice president.

George Strong, general superintendent in Valley transmission division, has been named project engineering manager in the restructured project engineering group, engineering services. Strong will report to Harlan.

Carl Anderson, staff supervisor of rights of way procedures in engineering services, will replace Strong as general superintendent for Valley division.

Joe Allaway, general superintendent in South Basin transmission division, will replace Harlan as manager of transmission division. He will report to John Brady, vice president of transmission and storage.

Replacing Allaway as general superintendent in South Basin transmission division will be Ben Jones, reserve engineering manager in underground storage. Anderson and Jones will both report to Allaway.

In an unrelated management change, Ken Olson, Western division superintendent, will become construction and maintenance manager, distribution staff -- a newly created position that reports to Ty Miller, manager of distribution. Olsen will direct the staff groups in operations and maintenance, construction and material and equipment utilization. Other distribution staff groups will continue to report to Miller.

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HELPFUL HINT NO. 64

How to react in a road emergency

How do you react in an emergency situation when you’re driving? Your survival may depend on two things — your ability to stay calm and your knowledge of the best defensive action.

Fix the following tips in your mind now so you react properly in emergency situations:

- **Brakes fail:** Pump the brake pedal to try to build up pressure. If there’s none and the way is clear, coast in drive gear and use the parking brake. If you need to slow faster, shift into lower forward gear and let the engine compression help. On a hill or mountain grade, look for something to sidestep — roadside brush, a guardrail, even parked cars (dented sheet metal can be repaired). Use your horn and/or lights to warn other drivers and pedestrians that the car is out of control.
- **Skid:** Make your foot off the accelerator at once. Turn the steering wheel in the same direction as the turn of the car is skidding. When you feel the car regain rolling traction, straighten the wheels and pump the brakes with a hard, rapid jabbing and releasing action (slower if you have disc brakes).
- **Accelerator sticks:** If you have time, try to pull the pedal up with the toe of your shoe — or have a passenger do it — but don’t take your attention from the road by reaching for the pedal yourself. If there isn’t time, turn off the ignition and brake to a stop (steering will be harder with the power off). To avoid motor damage, get the ignition off as soon as possible.
- **Blowout:** Keep a firm, steady grip on the steering wheel. Do not oversteer to correct swerve or pull. (If a front tire goes, there’ll be pull toward the side with the blowout. A rear blowout tends to cause weaving of the rear end.) Brake smoothly, and get onto the shoulder where it’s level enough to change the tire safely. If you’re on a freeway, try to limp to the nearest offramp and get on a surface street. Day or night, set out flares and turn on the car’s flashers.
- **Engine fire:** Shut off the engine immediately. Use a tire iron or jack handle to rip out burning wires (they are more easily replaced than the whole car). Use a fire extinguisher or a large article of clothing to smother the burning wires. If the fire is beyond control, get away from the car before the gas tank explodes.
- **Hood flies up:** Brake smoothly and ease onto the shoulder. Make it a habit to check after every service station stop to be sure the hood is safely latched.

- **A collision course:** Brake hard (every mile per hour you reduce the speed reduces the impact force) and head for the right shoulder of the road. If you have time, lean on the horn and flash the headlights as you aim your car to the right side of the road.
- **Headlights go out:** Hold a straight steering course and turn on emergency flashers. Try to get off the road and stop as quickly as possible. Set out flares or reflective devices to warn other traffic.

The best way to avoid an emergency on the road is preventive maintenance and awareness. Regularly check the battery, brakes, tires, windshield, muffler, oil and coolant. Keep all windows free of items that obstruct your view. And, of course, observe all traffic signs and speed regulations.

**WATS line procedure changed at Headquarters**

The procedure for making out-of-state long distance phone calls at Headquarters has been changed because of increased activity on the PBX board. Operators no longer dial the number for the caller over the special WATS (long distance) lines, nor transmit termination of the call, according to Leo Smith, communications supervisor.

Company operators now connect a caller to the WATS lines for his or her own dialing. For accounting purposes, the operator still needs to record the name of the caller, the company telephone station and the number to be dialed.

This change is expected to improve service by cutting back on delays, Smith said.

The use of the WATS lines for out-of-state long distance calls provides significant savings to the company.