

# PLAIN TALKS

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

JUNE, 1940

## He Saw Lake Charles Burn Thirty Years Ago



T. C. STEEN  
Production Department

Mr. Steen was born May 5, 1879 and came to the United States when three years old. He lived in Corpus Christi until he was 22 when he then moved to Westlake in Louisiana. Married December 1903 he has one daughter and two sons.

He started to work with the company in December 1909 as street car conductor until 1912 when he was made master mechanic in charge of maintenance of street cars and equipment. When the street cars were discontinued Mr. Steen served as master mechanic for the bus company.

In 1930 he was transferred to a job in the Filtration Plant of the Production department.

Highlights recalled by Mr. Steen during his period of service with the company and its predecessors are the big fire in April of 1910 which left devastation over 19 blocks of the city of Lake Charles, plant property damage and bricking up of the boilers caused by the high water in 1913 and the severe storm in August of 1918 which blew down the car barn.

## SCHOOL SUCCESS

According to Olaf Jacobsen, the Sixth Annual All-Electric Cooking School held at Sulphur June 28 was one of the most instructive and entertaining they have ever had.

Home Economist Ruth Landry conducted the Electric cooking demonstrations, assisted by Mercedes Champagne.

The many Sulphur home-makers who attended the school at the High School auditorium seemed pleased at the opportunity to learn of the many new ideas for better and easier house-keeping. Savings in time and energy through electric cooking had the unanimous approval of all present.

## PORT ARTHUR IS MODERN CITY OF BIG INDUSTRIES

### STATIC

TRANSFERS . . . . . Gloria Wicks from Sour Lake Cashier to Beaumont Customer Accounts . . . . . Hyson Eoff, Port Arthur Collections to Customer Accounts . . . . . Mrs. Fred Huddleston, Liberty office to Cashier at Sour Lake . . . . . Donald Laughlin, Port Arthur Billing to Collections . . . . .

S. T. Cooper, Silsbee serviceman to Woodville Service and Sales . . . . . P. G. Simon from Beaumont Distribution to Superintendent of Distribution at Lafayette . . . . . G. P. Fillin-game, Beaumont Service to Silsbee Service . . . . . W. Scott from Woodville Service and Sales to Nederland Service . . . . .

C. M. Scott leaves Lafayette to go with Western Public Service Company at Scott's Bluff, Nebraska . . . . . So long and good luck, Scotty . . . . .

\* \* \* \*

(Continued on page 8)

## ORANGE REMODELS

Superintendent C. H. Meeks played host to nearly 200 visitors at the June 13 open-house of the newly remodelled Orange office.

Hit of the show was the beautiful punch-bowl fashioned from a large cake of ice in which were frozen a gala array of flowers.

Home Economists Lola Martin and Docia Moore served refreshments to the visitors among whom were many from surrounding towns in the territory.



## Refined Products Are Shipped To Ports Throughout The World

Port Arthur is not one of those communities that boasts of its time-honored traditions, its ivy-clad edifices, nor its great age.

On the contrary, it shouts from the house-tops about the virility of its youthful community.

The first chapter of the story of the modern city was written when Arthur E. Stilwell, railroad president, financier, author, playwright, actor and psychic selected the present site of Port Arthur, as a southern terminus of his railroad later to be known as the KCS and sent surveyors to run the lines for the new railroad and the new town in 1895.

The railroad was put through, but its terminus was nine miles from the Gulf; and to connect the railroad with deep water, Arthur Stilwell's interests built a canal over which ocean-going ships might come from the Gulf of Mexico to the end of the rails at Port Arthur. That canal was finished in 1899. Last year more than 19,000,000 tons of freight, valued at more than \$250,000,000 were moved across the wharves at Port Arthur over this waterway.

### City Named For Arthur Stilwell

When Stilwell, and by the way, it was from his name that the name of the city of Port Arthur was taken, built the railroad, it was his idea that vast quantities of exportable surplus of the middle west would be carried to tidewater at Port Arthur and there transportation would be furnished by ocean-going ships to destinations abroad.

In 1901 oil was discovered at Spindletop near Beaumont and this changed Port Arthur's destiny.

Two men from Pennsylvania, the state which up to that time, had a monopoly of the oil business, came to Port Arthur and built a home-made refinery on a small scale, where they proceeded to refine this black gold that was found at Spindletop.

### Texans Build Home-made Refinery

A group of Texans, not to be outdone, organized another little syndicate, with Ex-Governor James Stephen Hogg at the head of it, and they also built a home-made refinery at Port Arthur.

Those two humble beginnings were the nuclei for the development of the refining of petroleum oil that now exists at Port Arthur. The first of those little companies,

(Continued on page 4)



## "ELECTION" CAMPAIGN IN JULY-AUGUST



Candidates and representatives of absent candidates toss hats in the ring at "Convention."

Partisanship ran high as sixteen candidates from the six Gulf States "Precincts" (Divisions) tossed their hats in the ring as candidates for the office of "Grand Sales Bagger" at the June 24 sales "convention".

The following candidates were introduced by Division Sales Superintendents:—

From Baton Rouge Precinct;

H. C. Leonard, Vice-Pres.  
W. R. Bell, Gen'l. Supt.  
L. V. Smith, Treasurer.  
D. H. Kirk, Distribution.

From Beaumont Precinct;

P. N. Masterson, Credits & Collections.  
R. E. Cargill, Trans. & Dist.  
D. O. Gideon, Production.

From Central Precinct;

E. L. Granau, Liberty Div. Sup't.  
I. F. Daniels, Silsbee Sup't.

From Lake Charles Precinct;

Elmer Sudderth  
Bill Rooney  
Jack Killough  
Bill Gibbs

Line Foremen.

From Navasota Precinct;

Harold Brown, Production. (Unopposed)

From Port Arthur Precinct;

L. L. Hirsch, Production.  
A. C. Handley, Nederland Sup't.

During July and August the Merchandise Sales organization will devote its attention to campaigning ranges and water-heaters with special emphasis on "exploding the old idea" that cooking with electricity is slow and expensive.

Special long, low terms, and trade-ins plus extra value in campaign model ranges helped by the added inducement of a free set of aluminum ware with each range purchased should make this campaign a record-breaker.

Plans for the two-month activity were announced at the Midsummer Sales Meeting at Orange Country Club June 24.

An "election" theme will be used for the campaign period during which time sales will be used to cast votes for candidates running for office of "Grand Sales Bagger". Each Division as a "Precinct" will select in the July "Primary" a candidate for the August "General" election.

## TEXAS WOMEN ENTERTAIN

About 100 employees were guests of Chairman Mary Lilyerstrom and Committee members at the June 11 annual Beach Party of Texas Women's Committee held at the Caplen Beach cottage of Mr. Will Orgain.

The afternoon of fun, games and "getting-back-to-nature" was climaxed by a delicious seafood dinner at Captain Brock's seaside inn and dancing 'til . . .



## BATON ROUGERS GET THE "BIRD"



The ladies: Velma Minor, Iris Landry, Abby Cunningham, Thelma Ulmer, Jewel Braud. Left: Eldon Werner. Right: (top) Doug Latimer, (bottom), Joe Carruth. Bottom row: D. H. Kirk, W. R. Bell, Dick Wheeler, Tommy Commerford, Clay McCarroll.

As announced by President Jimmy Barrick in last issue, the Short Circuit Club Badminton Courts were officially opened and dedicated June 27 with a round of exhibition games and refreshments.

Treasurer Neel Buell presided as master

of ceremonies at the opening and spoke for the entire membership of the Baton Rouge social club in thanking all those responsible for the installation of these fine, new badminton courts which will see plenty of service continuously throughout the summer and fall seasons.

They certainly have some queer names in Texas. The leading hotel in Mineral Wells is called the "Crazy Hotel." There's a hotel in Terrell called the Bugg House. An eastern traveling man while making the state, wishing to keep his house informed as to where he would be at certain days, sent the following message: Crazy—Monday; Bugg House—Tuesday.



# DIVOT-DIGGING FOURSOMES SHATTER FINE OLD GOLF TRADITIONS IN ANNUAL TOURNEY



The annual Texas Division Scotch-four-some Golf Tournament was under a full head of steam June 18-19-20 amid muttered threats, shouted insults and pointed remarks as to the individual character and morals of the two team captains.

The 1939 captains, J. H. Linnehan and J. M. DeBouy abdicated this year in favor of H. E. Braunig and F. P. Allen.

The "smart-money" was all on Braunig but the biggest upset in the history of the Tournament came about when Allen's "Mow-'em-down-Champions" turned in a 37 hole lead to cinch the cup.

Rumors of "fifth column" and "subversive" activities have been heard and maybe it's no coincidence that Martin Dies has just arrived in this vicinity from Washington.

Center picture shows Captains Braunig (left) and Allen wishing each other luck on the opening day. You can indentify the other participants yourself.

*Fashion note: Since the Tournament, Pro John Spillar of the Beaumont Municipal Golf Course has been seen wearing the latest in strait-jackets.*

## Wanted: Vacation Pictures And Particulars!



## WHAT DID THE WILD WAVES SAY?



McFaddin Beach near Port Arthur was the scene of fun-making, beach sports, swimming and general old-time getting-together all topped off by a larrupin' meal of fried fish and all the trimmings when Port Arthur employees, their families and guests from Beaumont, Lake Charles and Central Divisions attended the annual Port Arthur Beach Outing June 15.

All 250 "among those present" voted it one of the most enjoyable afternoons they had ever spent.

## The U. S. A.

BY C. H. DRAKE, Port Arthur Lineman

I'm a country loved and cherished,  
By a people brave and true.  
My flag that is so honored,  
Is the red, white and blue.

My father and my founder  
Was a man brave and true.  
Under the rules that you are living  
Are the laws that he put through.

Through his love and toil and sorrow,  
Through the blood of a bygone few,  
I, the U. S. A., bloomed forth  
And into a nation grew.

My states are represented  
By a star in my great flag.  
They make up my great boundaries,  
And never from me lag.

They began to join the union  
Into line began to fall;  
They grew from just thirteen  
Into forty-eight in all.

I am a mighty nation  
For more land I never crave.  
I am glad to have the honor  
Being the home of the true and brave.

I hope all my great leaders  
And my great financiers, too,  
And all my great multitude of people  
Always will be true.

I hope they'll work together  
And together they will pray  
That I'll forever and ever  
Be the good old U. S. A.

PORT ARTHUR IS  
A MODERN CITY  
(Continued from page 1)

the Guffey Oil Company, became the Gulf Oil Corporation of today with a plant at Port Arthur that employs nearly 5,000 persons.

The Hogg-Swayne Syndicate, organized by Ex-Governor Hogg, became The Texas Company of today, employing 4,000 persons. These two plants cover nearly 10,000 acres of ground, and have an annual payroll approximating \$12,000,000.

## Petroleum Development Throughout Division

But petroleum development in the Port Arthur division is not limited to these two refineries. The Texaco Can Company of Port Arthur manufactures cans and containers for the products of The Texas Company as well as numerous other manufacturing concerns. The Texas Company also has an asphalt plant at Port Neches. The Pure Oil Company has a refinery at Nederland. The Atlantic Refining Company in 1937 completed construction at Port Arthur of cracking and polymerization plant.

Long strings of freight cars leave Port Arthur daily; bearing the products of the refineries, and more than 3,500 ocean-going ships a year steam up the Port Arthur ship canal to load the products of the refineries and other commodities.

## Varied Enterprises

Naturally, with this development in the petroleum industry, a number of other enterprises related in nature to this industry came into being at Port Arthur. There is a ship-building plant which constructs barges and tugboats of all-welded steel. There is a brass manufacturing plant, a steel container factory, a coke calcining plant and other similar enterprises.

While commodities from the middle west still find exporting facilities at the port of Port Arthur, that business has paled into insignificance compared with the vast quantities of refined petroleum oil products manufactured at Port Arthur to go to many ports of the world.

## Modern City

Today Port Arthur is a modern city of 48,000, (60,000 with suburbs), with all the modern facilities that go to make a desirable place in which to live. Nestled on the shores of Lake Sabine, a body of water twelve miles long and six miles wide, it has just beyond it the Gulf of Mexico.

## Port Of Call For Ships The World Over

Rail transportation is furnished by the Kansas City Southern and the Southern Pacific railways to deep water through the Port Arthur Canal to ports all over the world, and inland navigation is made possible through the Intracoastal Canal, with 15,000 miles of navigable inland waterways. Well paved roads, consistently being improved and augmented help determine the question of transportation so satisfactorily that Port Arthur has become an industrial city almost wholly.

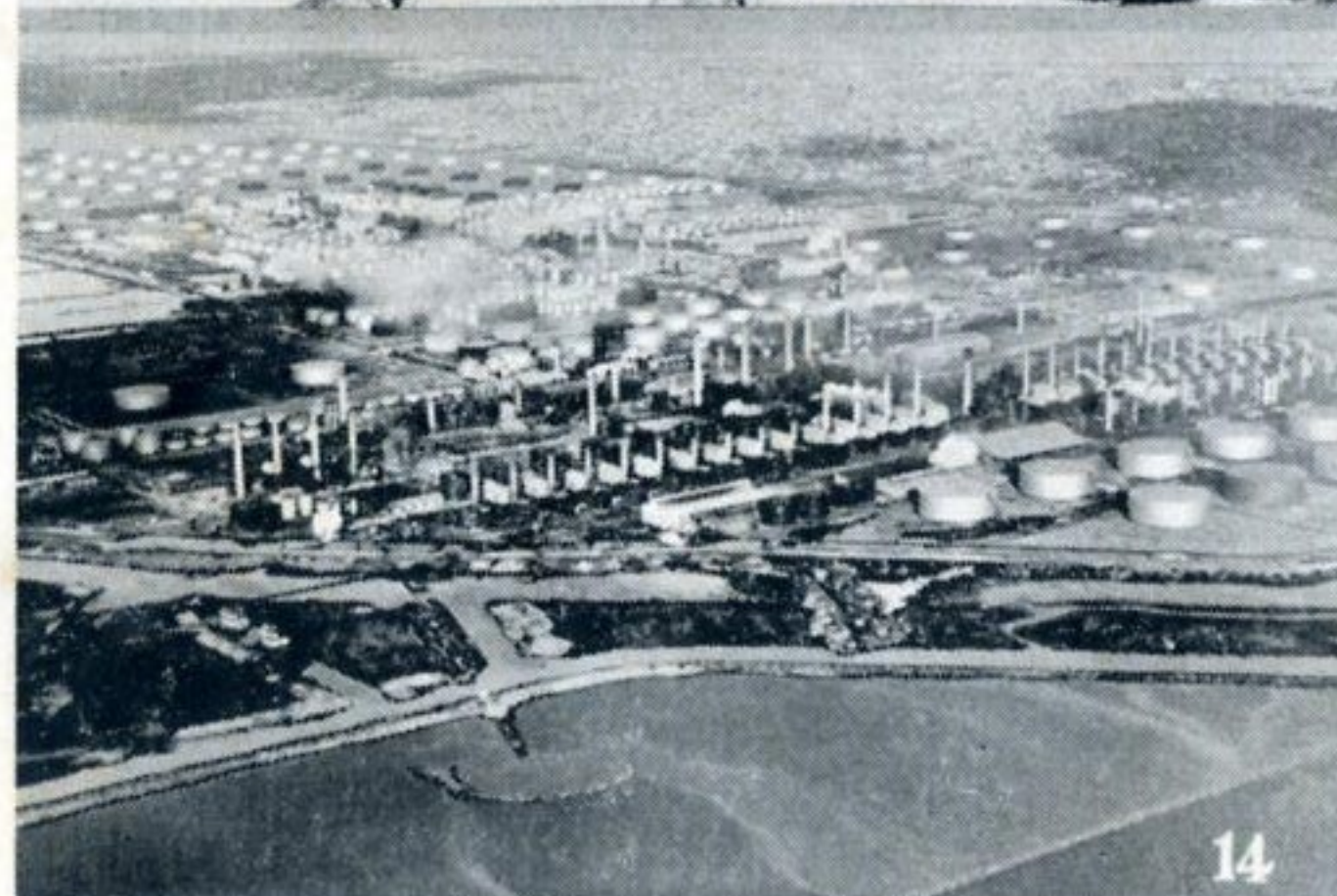
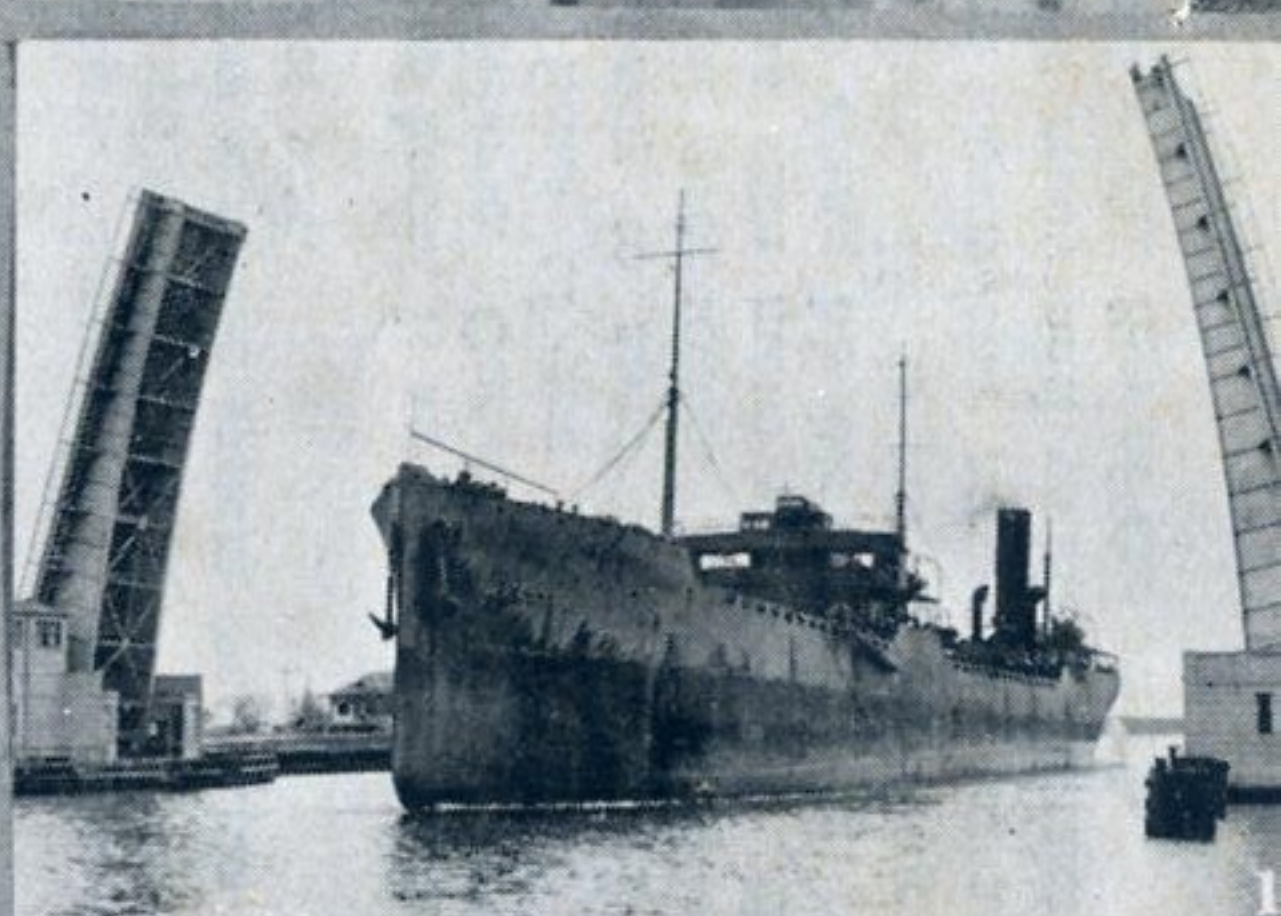
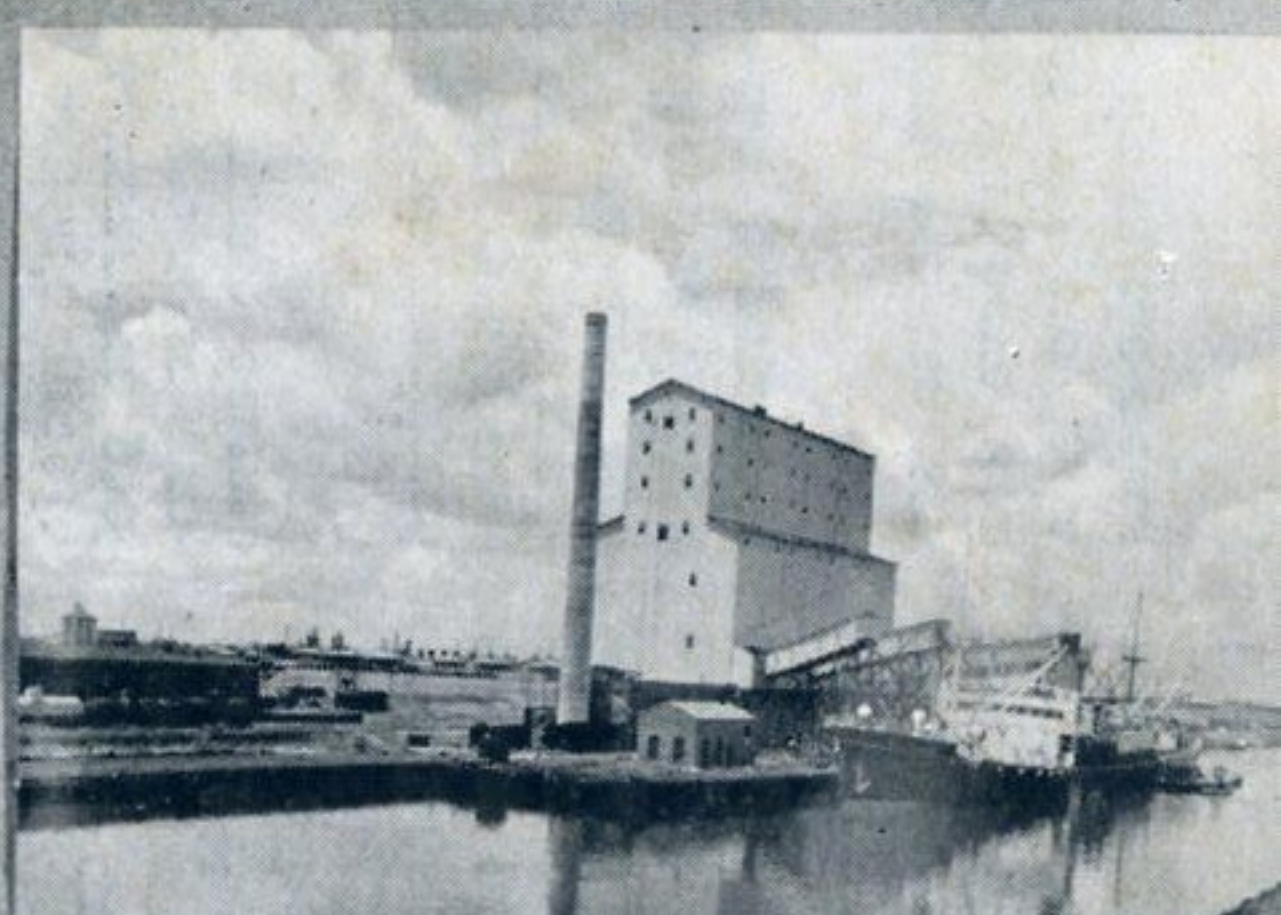
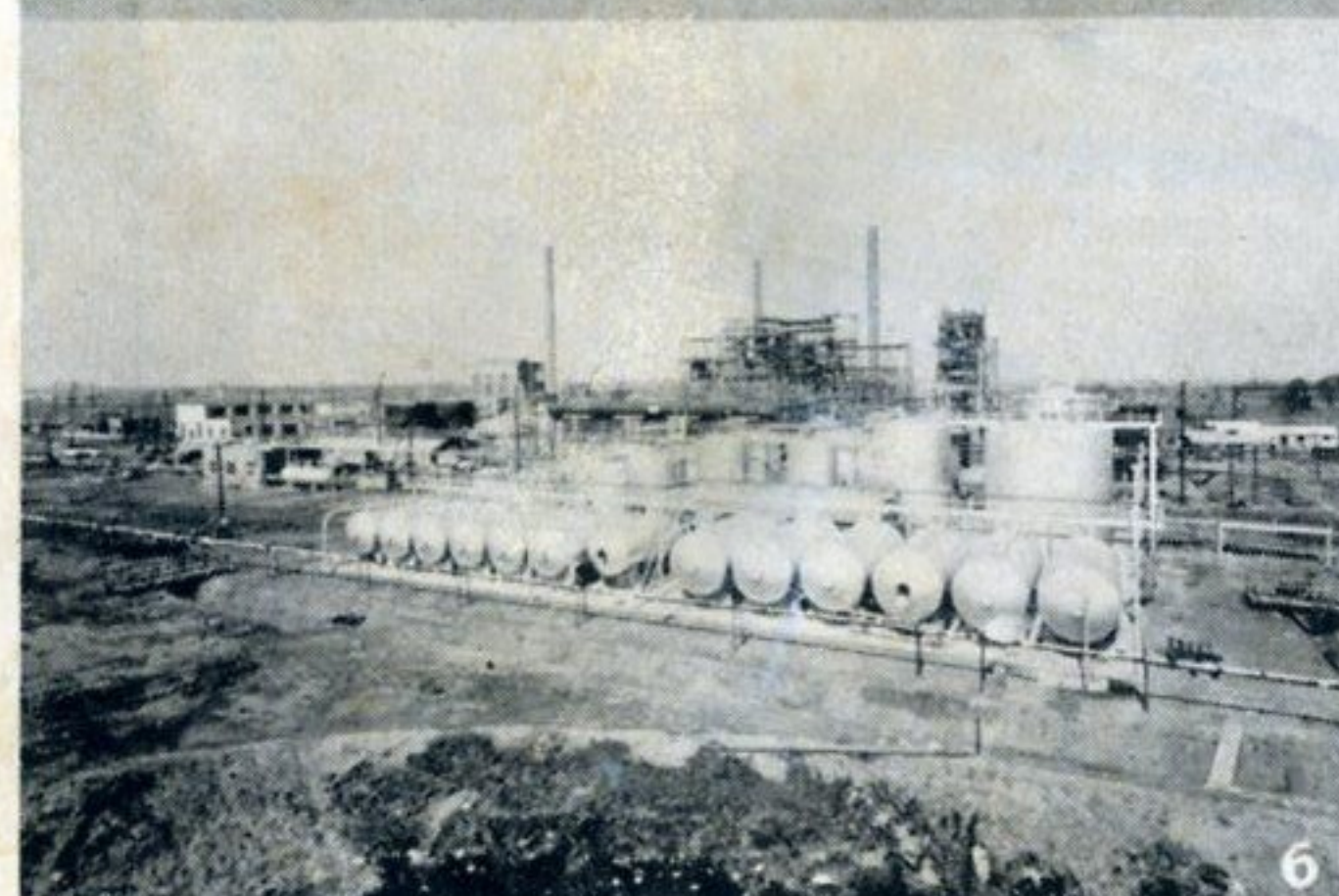
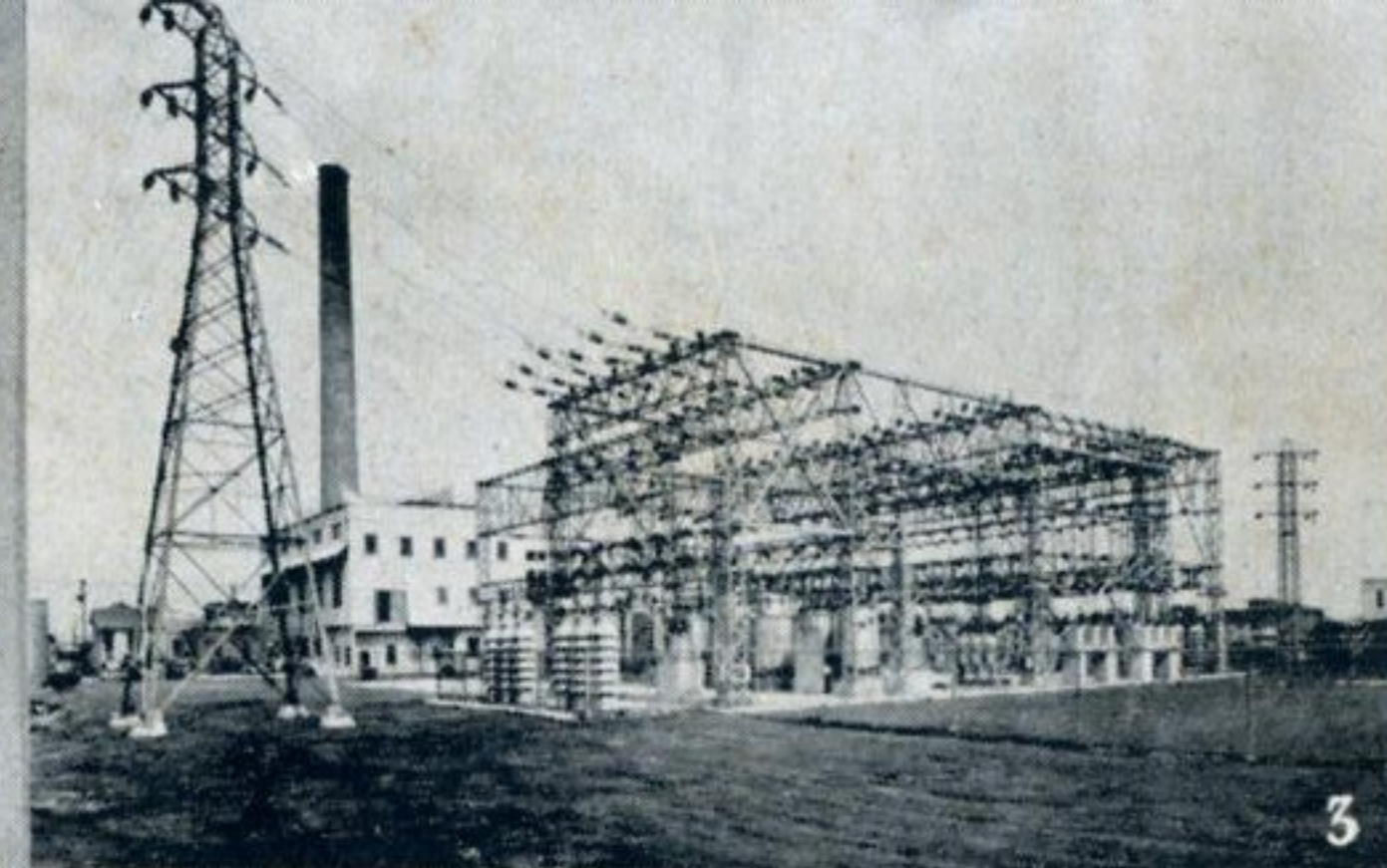
## School System Complete

Its residences are new and modern, its school buildings are said to be the most complete of any school system in Texas. It was the first to adopt the twelve-grade public school system in Texas, a plan now followed in many Texas cities.

—J. C. Watkins

Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce





# INTERESTING SIGHTS TO BE SEEN IN AND AROUND MODERN, PROGRESSIVE PORT ARTHUR.

1. L. E. Thorne, Division Superintendent.
2. Division office.
3. Sub-station with Lakeside Station in background.
4. St. Mary's Gates Memorial Hospital.
5. Fishing from the East Jetty, "Sidewalk to the Sea".
6. Atlantic Refining Company.
7. Gulf marshes near Port Arthur yield muskrat hides.

8. Sailboating on Lake Sabine.
9. Ship loading grain at Port Arthur elevator.
10. Main building of Port Arthur College.
11. Barge launched at Gulfport Boiler & Welding Works.
- Long stretches of sandy beach attract thousands of bathers and picnickers each year.

13. Freighter passing through canal bridge at Port Arthur.
14. Air view of the Texas Company plant.
15. Valuable prizes in July 4-14 Port Arthur Jaycee Fishing Rodeo.
16. The tallest highway bridge in the south on Highway 8 between Port Arthur and Orange.
17. Bird's-eye view of the city of Port Arthur.



## PLAIN TALKS . . . .

Published monthly by and for employees of Gulf States Utilities Company as a medium for a better appreciation of our responsibilities to each other and the public.

NEWS EDITORS: Don Brown, Louisiana Division, Baton Rouge; Bill Hammond, Texas Division, Beaumont.

ART EDITOR: Jack Gammage, Beaumont.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Kenneth Sutton, Beaumont.

## Prepared! . . . .

With our country's defense program getting under way, and all of us wondering with the rest of the world what the future may hold, it is appropriate that we take stock and talk over the situation.

It has been difficult, during these recent weeks, for us to tend strictly to business as usual during the hours we are on the job, although our common sense tells us that is the greatest personal contribution we can make at this time to our nation's welfare.

Minding our own business, doing the very best we can, seeing to it that if the electric service in the territory we serve is weighed it is not found wanting, will contribute very materially in the days to come to the smooth functioning of any program that may be launched in this area.

We have reason at this time to be particularly proud of our company and our industry, the privately owned and managed electric industry. There should be no need for our government to appeal to the people to curtail their use of electric service in their homes in order that it may be available to industry as has been the case in some foreign countries where the government owns, or too closely controls, electric utilities. The generating capacity in this country is adequate for almost any conceivable emergency demand.

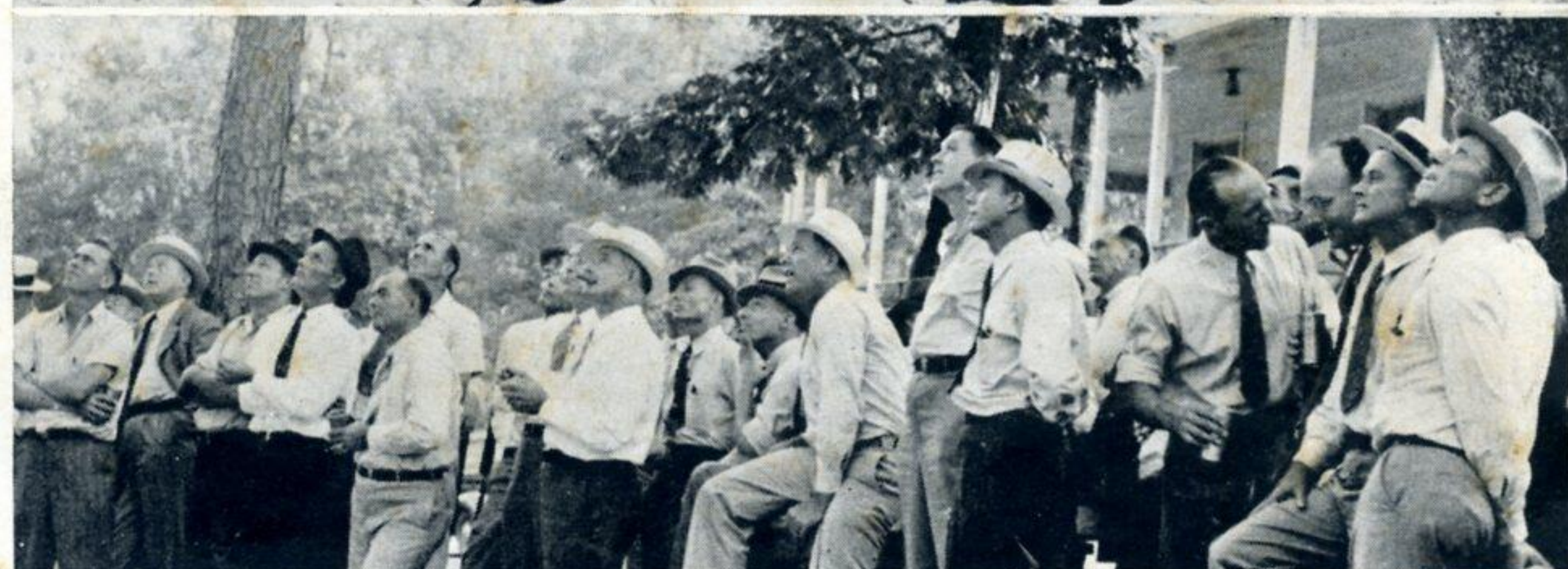
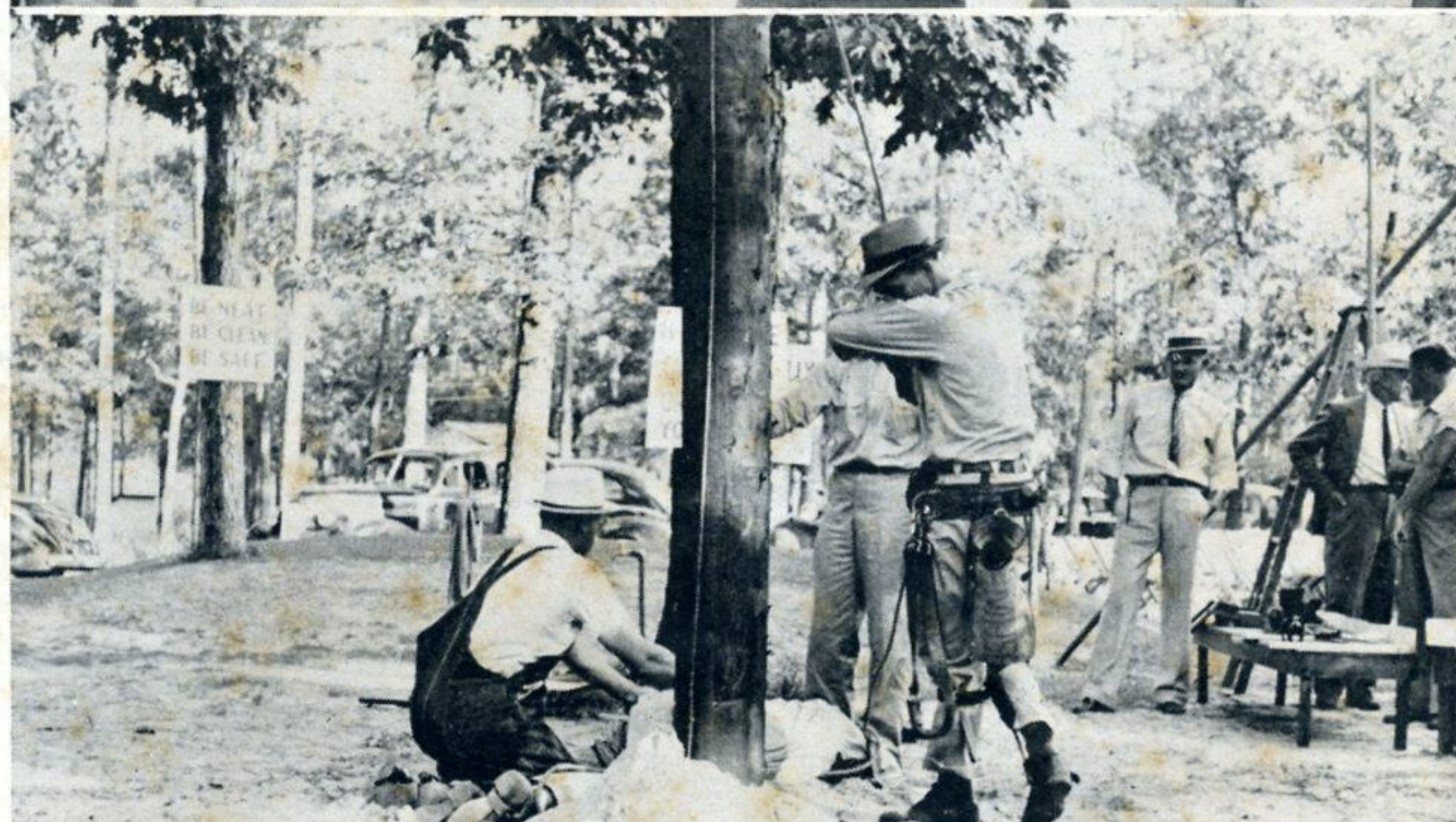
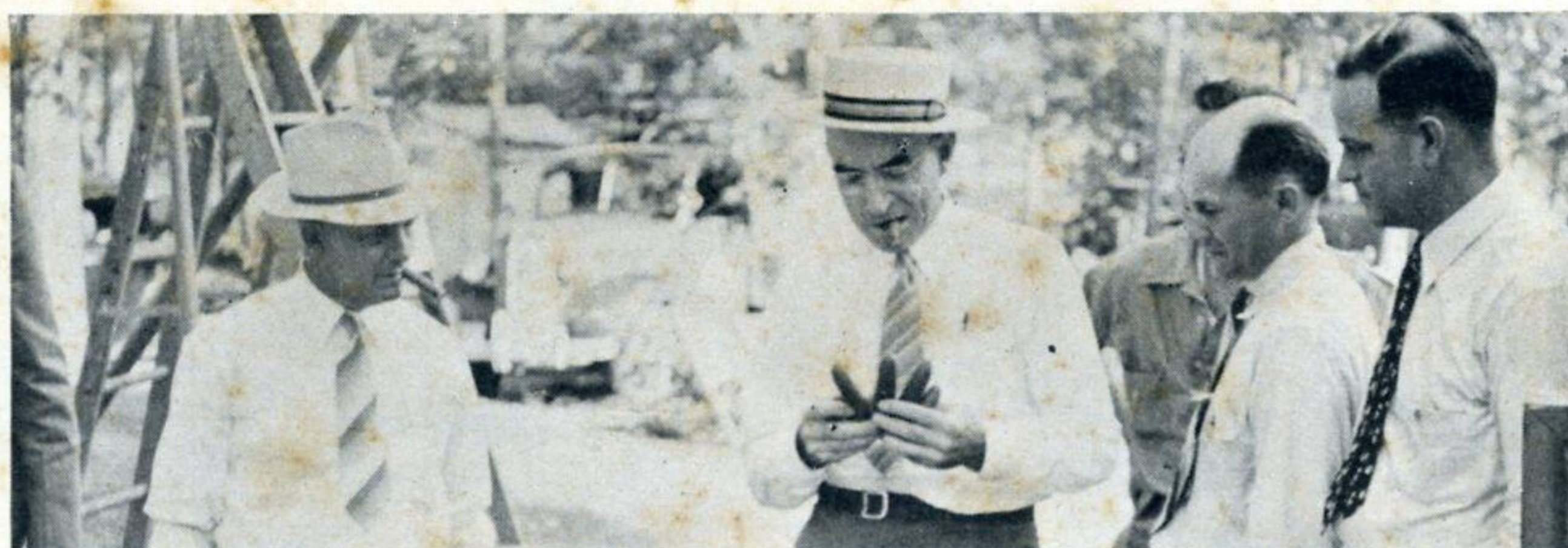
As a matter of fact we have called attention time and again to the fact that it is a practice of privately owned electric systems to build for the future by providing generating capacity more than sufficient for immediate needs. This has been true of our own company.

It is easy to imagine the situation that would exist were industry to call upon small local plants in emergency for large amounts of power. The small plants wouldn't have the capacity, and perhaps couldn't get it, because men and materials necessary to provide the capacity would be needed to produce defense materials. The whole defense program would be slowed up.

But, thanks to the initiative and considered planning of those who run the private utilities of our country, power aplenty is available at the flip of a switch and men and materials can be used to produce the defense equipment those who run the government now need for protection.

We can all feel proud that we can say "we're ready" to the very men who have been our severest critics and that we are in a position to respond so promptly to the needs

## AT NAVASOTA'S SAFETY MEETING



Top, left to right; H. E. Braunig, C. F. Terrell, C. P. Shirey and Johnny Adams inspect linemen's equipment.

Center; Linemen demonstrating resuscitation methods on a fellow-worker who has supposedly come in contact with "hot stuff".

Bottom; The audience.

All there agreed that the meeting at the San Jacinto Country Club in Conroe, May 24, was a highspot in the company safety program.

of our country. Some of those citizens who have clamored for local city light plants may feel now that the system way—our way—is a better way.

Oil, as you know, is an essential to modern offense or defense. Our lines already are in the many fields of the gulf coast. The power is ready to meet any increased demand in oil production. Reddy Kilowatt is waiting to turn more wheels in machine shops. He's doing his bit in welding boats for Uncle Sam. He is not only doing the job up and down and across the area we serve, but is ready and waiting to take on more work—at the flip of the switch.

### An Educated Man

When is a man educated? What are the marks of an educated man? One writer recently listed his "marks of an educated man," which we believe will interest most employees. They are:

1. He keeps his mind open on every question until all the evidence is in.
2. He never laughs at new ideas.
3. He always listens to the man who knows.
4. He knows his strong point and plays it.
5. He cross-examines his day dreams.
6. He knows when to think and when to call in an expert to think for him.



## YANKEE DOODLE "GOES TO TOWN", AND HOW!

Beaumont's southside substation, "Yankee Doodle," is so-named because, in patriotic fervor, the streets of what was then a new subdivision were named after historic incidents. Yankee Doodle Street has since been renamed Church Street, but the substation retains the original name.

In 1917 Lakeside Power Station in Port Arthur and Tevis Street Power Station in Beaumont were connected by the first high voltage transmission line in this section of the country, at which time the original Yankee Doodle Substation was installed south of Beaumont city limits. Power was transmitted from Lakeside to Yankee Doodle at 33 kv and from there to Tevis Street Station at 13 kv.

#### Old Structure Becomes Hazard

In 1924 the first distribution feeder was installed from this substation and other street lighting circuits and light and power feeders added later. The original wood pole structure, as extended from time to time, gradually became obsolete and a hazard to our service, necessitating its replacement which was completed early in 1940. This modern steel substation, serves the southern area of Beaumont and is also a switching station for 33 kv lines extending south as far as High Island.

The new substation is now operating at less than 50% of its ultimate and estimated necessary capacity but it is equipped to care for increased demands.

#### Normal Growth

The underground distribution getaway system contains conduits for all estimated requirements. The inclusion of these future requirements in the basic construction will pay dividends again and again as the station progresses in normal growth.

The station is now part of a 33 kv loop which includes Neches, Travis, and Yankee Doodle and at present is served by two loop lines, a third is under construction, and a fourth is the ultimate anticipation. Conditions indicate that ultimately five substations will be included in the loop around Beaumont.

#### Adequate Facilities For Future Requirements Allowed For

The substation and its associated looped supply lines thus provide adequate service facilities for the present need, and yet constitute a nucleus of supply for the much larger need which we believe will be created by the normal growth of Beaumont, its industries, and its neighborhood of natural resources.

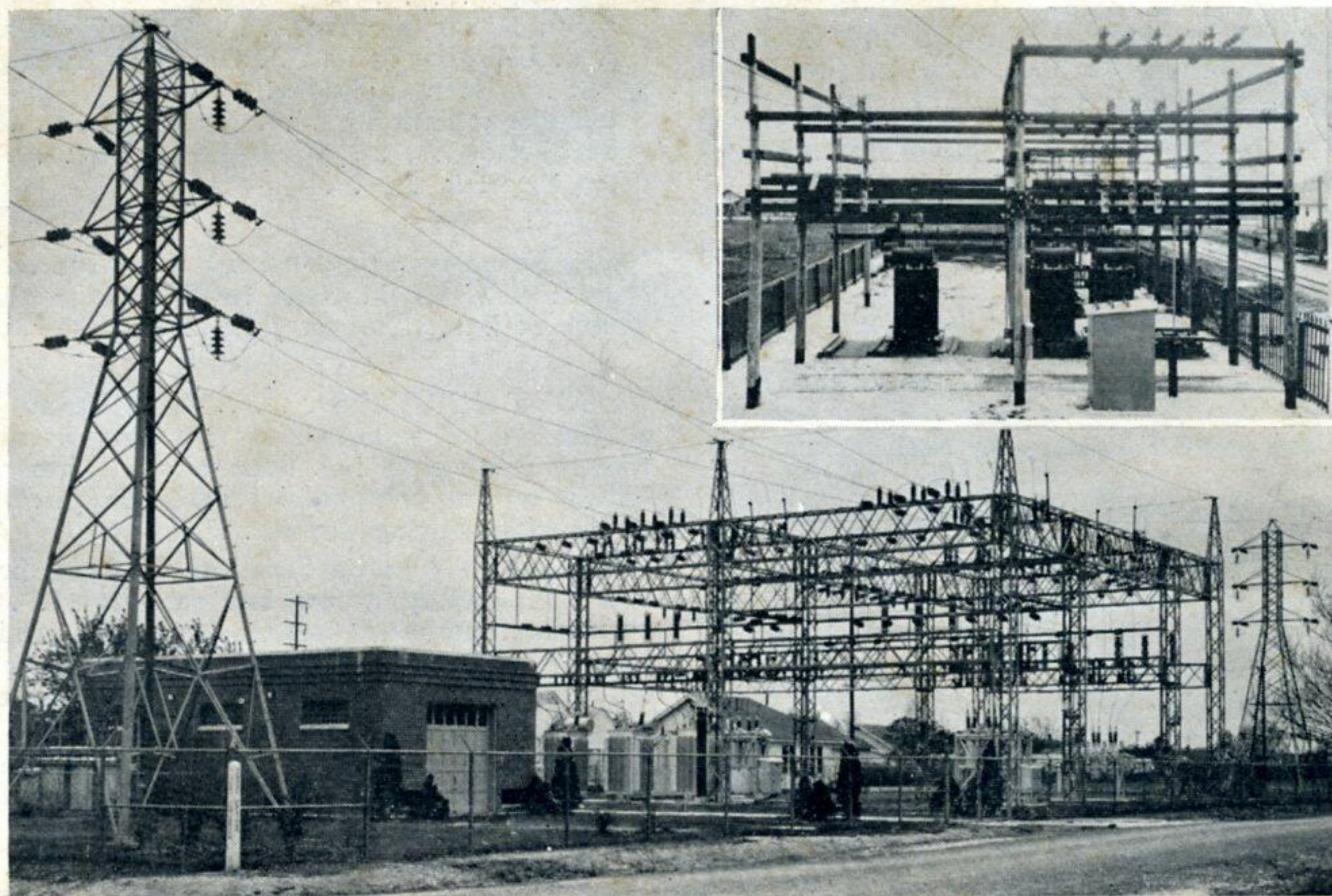
—By Wm. Wendt, Beaumont Engineering

#### ATTENTION FISHERMEN

Fishermen of the southwest are invited to Port Arthur July 4-14 for the second annual Jaycee Fishing Rodeo, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

More than \$500.00 in prizes will be awarded for the largest fish of various species each day and for the duration of the contest, and for amassing the most points for quantity and quality.

The entry fee is 50 cents to be paid at the Jaycee docks at the end of the west jetty road below Sabine, at the Hotel Goodhue or Hotel Sabine or at the Chamber of Commerce offices in Port Arthur.



Present thoroughly modern "Yankee Doodle". (Inset) As the station appeared in 1925.

## Reddy Kilowatt Club Honors Top Salesmen

General Sales Manager L. F. Riegel presented members of the Reddy Kilowatt Salesmen's Club with silver tie chains at the June 24 Midsummer Sales Meeting.

The members, listed below, qualified for club membership by doing outstanding sales jobs in their respective divisions during the first five months of 1940.

#### BATON ROUGE DIVISION

J. S. Lockhart, Denham Springs.  
V. P. Parker, Baton Rouge.

#### BEAUMONT DIVISION

W. M. Larkin, Beaumont  
Day Seastrunk, Beaumont

#### CENTRAL DIVISION

V. E. Blanchette, Jasper  
J. B. Selman, Orange

#### LAKE CHARLES DIVISION

J. L. McCrary, Lake Arthur  
R. W. McGowen, Lake Charles

#### NAVASOTA DIVISION

W. E. Earthman, Conroe  
C. W. Winborn, Navasota

#### PORT ARTHUR DIVISION

W. E. Dinkins, Nederland  
G. M. Minton, Port Arthur

#### Poor Hubby

A woman driver ran into an embankment and bent a fender. It worried her. She went to a garage and asked the mechanic: "Can you fix this fender so my husband won't know how it was bent?"

The mechanic looked at the bent fender and then at her, and said:

"No, lady, I can't. But I'll tell you what I can do. I can fix it up so that in a few days you can ask your husband how he bent it."

## NEW BEAUMONT BRIDGE BIGGEST OF ITS KIND

Southern Pacific Railway's new half-million-dollar, electrically operated lift, which is the longest single-leaf, bascule type structure in the world was recently completed, even to ties and rails, in open position to keep rail traffic moving while construction was under way.

Gulf States territory is rapidly stepping to the front with unusual bridge constructions. The tallest highway bridge in the South was completed in 1938 across the Neches River at Port Arthur and an immense, new highway bridge is being built across the Mississippi at Baton Rouge.



The old bridge (left foreground) was floated away on barges to permit the new span to be lowered in place perfectly aligned.

Life is like a grindstone, and whether it grinds a man down or polishes him up depends on the stuff he's made of.



## Keglers Celebrate

Here is a part of the group which gathered at a camp on the Amite River May 29 to gobble barbecued chicken and celebrate the end of the season's play in the Baton Rouge Bowling League.

The party was held to honor the winning team of Ivy Sternberger, Guy Witmer, Eldon Werner and Rudy Landers but all the participants came in for a share of the fun and refreshments.

All in attendance were unanimous in the opinion that the Bowling League should be started again next season if for no other reason than it would be a good excuse for having another swell party such as this one.



Left to right: Jim Hodge, Don Brown, Joe Austin, "Pie" Garrison, Jack Chatelain, Pete Guelfi, Neel Buell.

Bottom: Kenny Jumel, Nap Watson, Les Landry, Bert Lindee, Bill Parker, "Red" Dunham, Johnny Harrop.

## STATIC

(Continued from page 1)

Average Kwh per home customer for May . . . . 1,020 . . . .

\* \* \* \*

RESIGNED . . . . Guido Grady, Baton Rouge Accounting . . . . Emory Barrett, Port Arthur Customer Accounts . . . . Bill Swift, Baton Rouge Bus . . . .

\* \* \* \*

Gulf Staters step to the front in their community Civic affairs . . . Superintendent Dean Saxby of Alvin elected to the Board of Directors of Alvin Chamber of Commerce . . . Superintendent S. R. Hereford of Conroe appointed to Montgomery County Hospital Board . . . Superintendent V. B. Hereford of Madisonville elected director of the local Lions Club . . . .

\* \* \* \*

Add to those with long terms of rendering dependable, public service . . . Donald C. Barnes, President of Engineer's Public Service Company, is now an honorary member of our Thirty Year Club and on the occasion of his recent trip into this territory from New York was presented with a thirty-year button by Mr. Walker . . . .

\* \* \* \*

If you don't find many news items from Baton Rouge Division this time then blame it on Don Brown's tonsils . . . . Don had to have 'em yanked out June 14 and it sort of messed up his news-gathering for this issue . . . Anyway, the July issue will feature the Baton Rouge Division and Don promises to really make up for lost time . . .

\* \* \* \*

NEW EMPLOYEES . . . . Howdy and a hearty welcome . . . . In Navasota Division Ice Departments for the summer . . . . Cecil Love and Clifton McGee at Huntsville . . . . Otto Dickshat at Navasota . . . . Leo Walsh, Baton Rouge Gas . . . . Eugene

Duck, Port Arthur Billing . . . . LaRue Dyess, Beaumont Billing . . . . Earle Price, Baton Rouge Accounting . . . . Ed Smith, Baton Rouge Bus . . . .

Baton Rouge Electric . . . . Jacob Rawlins, Jr. . . . Leonard Curtis . . . . Galloway Turnipseed . . . . Hanson Baden . . . .

Louisiana Station . . . . Ira Noble . . . . Jesse Shelton . . . . Lihue Hodgeson . . . . Peter Rogillio . . . .

\* \* \* \*

One Newcomer reported for this issue . . . Daughter, Sylvia Marlene to Bill Crow and Missus at Baton Rouge, June 2 . . . .

\* \* \* \*

SHORT SUBJECTS . . . . Meter Tester J. B. Jones of Beaumont now working in the Navasota Division has done a swell job of selling several refrigerators while in pursuit of his meter-testing duties. . . .

Serviceman Johnnie Strait of Caldwell has also been selling a few refrigerators . . . . The most interesting sale was one he made recently to a customer who was later gathered into Uncle Sam's arms on suspicions of being a Nazi spy. . . .

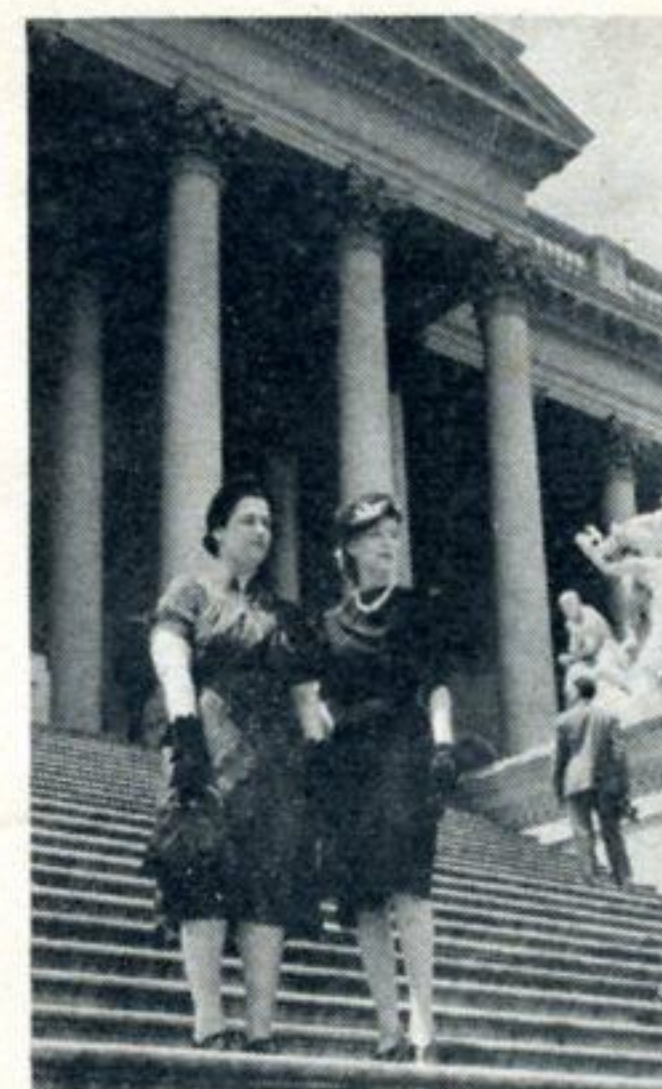
O. K. Bolton of Baton Rouge received the appointment of Gas Department Safety Director for the next six months . . . .

\* \* \* \*

Comes a note from Safety Director J. T. Reidy of Beaumont asking us to remind you folks that vacation time is the time of poison ivy, snake bites, and various other uncomfortable situations that come up on us in an unguarded moment. . . .

Please be careful while enjoying your vacation. . . . Be on the alert for dangers of touring . . . . Be careful when you swim. . . .

\* \* \* \*



Washington, D. C. . . . New York . . . Via the Hudson River to Buffalo . . Across to Canada . . Stopover at Niagara Falls . . Ann Arbor, Mich . . . Chicago . . . This sounds like a pretty fine itinerary to us . . . And that's just where Ruth Stine and LaVerne Franke, of the Beaumont office went and spent their vacation . . .

Picture shows Ruth (left) and Laverne on the steps of the Capitol at Washington, D. C.

How about some of the rest of you vacationers sending in some pictures and details of how and where you spent or will spend your vacation? . . . .

\* \* \* \*

We haven't heard much from Lake Charles Division in the way of Plain Talks news lately . . . . But those folks over there are in the midst of the upheaval of a remodeling job which is being done on the Broad Street office . . . . When they get settled down again we're going to start looking for lots of news items and pictures . . . .

## GOLFERS DINE AND DANCE



Fine food and dancing was the order of the evening June 24 at Beaumont Country Club.

A merry time was had by all in celebration of the June 18-19-20 annual Texas Division Golf Tourney.

(See pictures of participants on page 3)