MUELLER Record

MARCH • 1956

THIS MONTH'S COVER

A "Natural Gas Coat," worn by Miss Jane Magruder, an Ohio Fuel Gas Company representative, is as soft as the fur of the young kitten she holds. It is part of an outfit of clothes all made with natural gas as a raw material. The outfit illustrates the important role natural gas plays in modern industry.

MUELLER Record

March • 1956

WALTER H. DYER, Editor
LOUISE COLE, Assistant Editor

MUELLER CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF WATER AND GAS DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PRODUCTS

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Recording Our Thoughts

Promotion for the Mrs. America contest has become big business. Bert Nevins, the president of Mrs. America, Inc., has estimated that more than three million dollars will be spent by twelve national advertisers on the 1956 campaign.

The promotion was originated eighteen years ago as a beauty contest for the married girl, an event that attempted to rival the Miss America contest. Since that time, less emphasis has been placed on beauty and more on talent as homemakers. This is not to say that beauty doesn't enter the picture. It still is an important criteria, but nonetheless, the ladies have to be both attractive and talented homemakers.

The American Gas Association is one of the sponsors again this year—the third time AGA has participated in the nationwide promotional stunt. Eleven other sponsors have joined with AGA and each of the twelve participating

(Continued on page 19)

"Course th' glass's broken—how'd you suppose Pop was gonna turn those little wheels back for you?"

Miss Jane Magruder finds it easy to hold the attention of her audiences when telling the story of the role of natural gas in modern industry. Here, she explains to a service club audience that the modern automobile has more power-per-pound because of gas heat-treating processes.

She's Dressing With Gas

NATURAL GAS HAS undergone phenomenal changes in recent years, changes in which it not only has lost its invisibility, but also its transparency. As a matter of amazing fact, young ladies are now wearing clothing made of natural gas.

An eye-catching natural gas outfit is being worn these days by a young lady who represents the Ohio Fuel Gas Company. The "costume" is something new and different, and it is proving to be a dramatic way of illustrating the many important ways natural gas fits into our modern way of life.

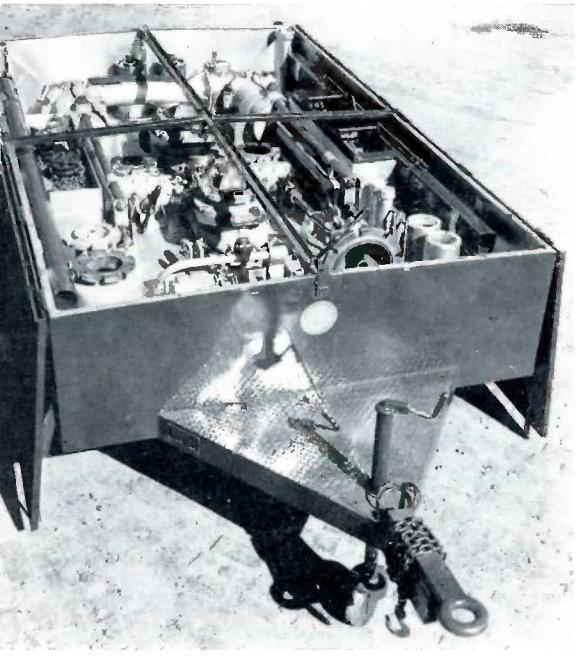
Miss Jane Magruder, a representative of the Information Department of Ohio Fuel, appears for speaking engagements attired from hat to shoes in clothing made from natural gas. Her outfit is a visible example to audiences of the vital role natural gas plays in industry—the subject of Miss Magruder's latest talk.

The sandy-haired Owensboro, Kentucky, native may excite the interest of some members of the fair sex simply because she is paid to talk, but the "natural gas outfit" causes even more widespread notice. Her hat, dress, purse, stockings, shoes, scarf, coat and even her luggage, have been made using gas either as a raw material or in processing.

Miss Magruder's dress, in fashionable black with wide collar, is made from a combination of wool and orlon. The latter is one of the new "miracle fibers" produced by petro-chemistry, the science of turning gas, oil or coal products into usable items for modern living.

Mueller No. 3 line stopper equipment is stored permanently aboard this trailer by one gas company. It is a compact and convenient method of storing equipment and at the same time being prepared for emergencies.

A front view of the trailer carrying Mueller No. 3 line stopper equipment.



Drama In One Act

This Narrative Tells How Best To Meet Gas Main Emergency

LESS THAN five minutes after it happened, the road superintendent telephoned the gas company.

"It's the eight-inch main carrying butane gas," he said. "Nobody hurt yet, but it's sure making a fuss. You can see vapor blowing dirt and rocks in the air. Looks like one of our graders bit a little too deep.

"What! Sure the driver knew the main was there, but he just didn't realize it was so near the surface. Afraid we've cut a nasty hole in it."

There was no time for idle conversation at this point, and the gas company engineer went into action. "Call Storage and have 'em get the trailer with the Mueller No. 3 line stopper equipment ready," he told his secretary. "We've got an emergency repair job out east of town."

While she made the calls and rounded up the crew, the engineer went to Storage and made a routine equipment check. This was always a double precaution with him—double because he also inspected the equipment before turning it over to Storage after each emergency.

By the time the crew assembled, the truck and trailer were ready to go. Long since stored aboard the trailer for just such an emergency was the Mueller No. 3 line stopper unit, including a drilling machine, two stopping machines with nine inch gate valves and other equipment necessary to stop off six and eight inch gas mains.

The truck is backed into the trailer carrying Mueller line stopper equipment. Keeping line stopper equipment ready for emergency use in this manner is proving to be very popular among several gas companies.

The truck raced to the site of the main break, and quickly brought the emergency under control. Before the Mueller equipment was placed back on the trailer, the engineer had the equipment cleaned and he scanned his checklist making sure all parts were on the trailer.

* * *

Pictures on these pages show how one gas company has solved this emergency problem. One of the purposes of Mueller line stopper equipment is to make emergency repairs and replacements in existing gas distribution or transmission mains.

There is a great advantage of having line stopper equipment ready to go into emergency action at all times. There should never be an instance of a crew wasting precious minutes on an emergency call while their truck is being loaded.

The trailer plan seems to be the best answer for this problem although some gas companies have devised other methods. For instance, one company has Mueller line stopper equipment in a large steel box. On top of the box is a provision to hook a chain hoist on it so that it may be lifted aboard a flat bed truck. Almost any method is superior to that of loading the truck each time an emergency is at hand.

FPC Okays $12 Million Project

A joint $12 million project of United Gas Pipe Line Company of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Southern Natural Gas Company of Birmingham, Alabama, has gotten the go ahead from the Federal Power Commission.

The FPC decision grants permission for about 63 miles of pipeline and a new 330-horsepower compressor station on United's system in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Estimated cost is $10,055,823. Southern's project includes approximately 52 miles of pipeline and 4,950 additional horsepower in compressor capacity on its system in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Mssisippi. Cost is estimated at $2,361,219.

These three diesel engines are in the process of testing the first 400 mile portion of the American Louisiana Pipeline from Willow Run, Michigan, to Slaughter, Kentucky. A complete testing package consists of two low stage compressors and one high stage compressor. Nate Beal and Alfred Hickey of the American Louisiana Pipeline testing crew are examining the high stage compressor. (Authenticated News Photos)

400-Mile Section of 30-Inch Pipe Line Tested With Compressed Air, Natural Gas

A 400-MILE SECTION of the American Louisiana Pipe Line is now being tested with compressed air and natural gas. This 30″ line extends from Willow Run, Michigan, to Cameron, Louisiana.

When completed, American Louisiana Pipe Line Company's $130,000,000 project will represent one of the longest thirty-inch lines in existence. It will serve customers in the Michigan, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin areas.

Ten Caterpillar Diesel Engines driving Gardner-Denver Compressors comprise all the testing units. All of these will compress air except one which will serve as a gas unit and will test the southern end of the line.

Each testing package is composed of one high-stage and two low-stage compressor units connected in series. The high-stage is mounted on one Martin Trailer, while the two-stage units are mounted on another.

Each trailer has a 560-gallon fuel tank for its respective engine. The two engines for the low-stage compressors draw their fuel from the same tank. It will supply the low-stage engines for about 24 hours and the high-stage for about 48 hours.

The low-stage Gardner-Denver Compressors are Model WBK six-cylinder, two-stage, water-cooled units rated at 500 cfm. They are powered through a V-belt drive by a Caterpillar D337 Diesel Engine developing 165 hp at 1760 rpm.

The high-stage unit is a Gardner-Denver Model RXE capable of pressures from 150 to 950 psi. These units operate at 300 rpm and are rated at 1,000 cfm. They are driven from a V-belt drive through an intermediate shaft and chain drive by a Cat D337, producing 175 hp at 1600 rpm.

Initial tests along this line began near Ypsilanti, Michigan. Other tests were conducted near Slaughters with the gas unit.

Before any units began testing operations, headers were prepared, which included valves, for connecting to the pipe line. Usually a test section will run from 14 to 16 miles in length. In Urban areas, valve spacing may be as close as 5 miles.

When the test unit arrives at the line section to be tested, the headers are connected and the trailer-mounted compressors are dug in to reduce vibration and rocking. Connecting the headers takes from 3 to 4 hours.

The low-stage compressors are hooked in series and pressure up the line to 150 psi. From this point on, the high-stage compressor takes over; the low-stage compressors are pumping into the high, and bring the line up to the test pressure of 944 psi. This pressure is held for 24 hours and recorded for permanent record on a recording chart. During this 24-hour period, if the pressure loss reaches 1 pound per hour, it is a good indication the line has a leak which must be repaired.

Line pressure is brought up at a rate of approximately 3 pounds per hour. In some instances, more units are brought in to increase this rate. For the first test section, it takes about 2 weeks to bring the section up to the test pressure. Thereafter, testing time is reduced in half in adjoining sections. Air from the completed section is bled into the next section which equalizes the pressure in the two at 472 psi if the sections are of equal length. The remaining air in the completed section is compressed into the next section.

Ordinary pressure gauges are not considered accurate enough for computing line pressure. A dead weight gauge, manufactured by the Refinery Supply Company, is used to measure the internal pressure.

The testing crews are comprised of 6 men for each testing group. These testing units work around the clock, 7 days a week. The men work shifts of 8 hours each, 2 men to a shift.

(1). The testing is expedited through the use of 2-Way VHF Shortwave Radio units which are furnished and serviced by A. T. & T. on a contract basis.

(2) Mr. Bill Clark, American Louisiana Superintendent of Testing, says, these test units are highly efficient due to their compactness and maneuverability.

Compressed air testing offers the pipe line company two distinct advantages over other methods. It is safer and faster because less waiting time is consumed—cleaning and testing are practically one operation.

It is anticipated that by early 1956 the first section of the line will be completed and ready to deliver 50 MMCFD to the Detroit area. The remaining mileage of the project will be completed in early summer of 1956 and will deliver 300 MMCFD with the potential of 550 MMCFD when additional compressor stations are added.

All of the main valves on the pipe line are W-K-M full-opening valves which have been installed together with scraper traps to provide additional cleaning on the pipe line. The W-K-M valves have been equipped with a Shafer hydraulically operated, automatic closing device. This is to insure added safety in the event of leakage or damage occurring to any one section of the pipe line.

Initially, the 30" main line will have three 10,000 hp compressor stations equally spaced along the line at Greenville, Mississippi; Paris, Tennessee, and Shelbyville, Indiana. *(An authenticated news release).*

The most impressive evidence of tolerance is a golden wedding anniversary.

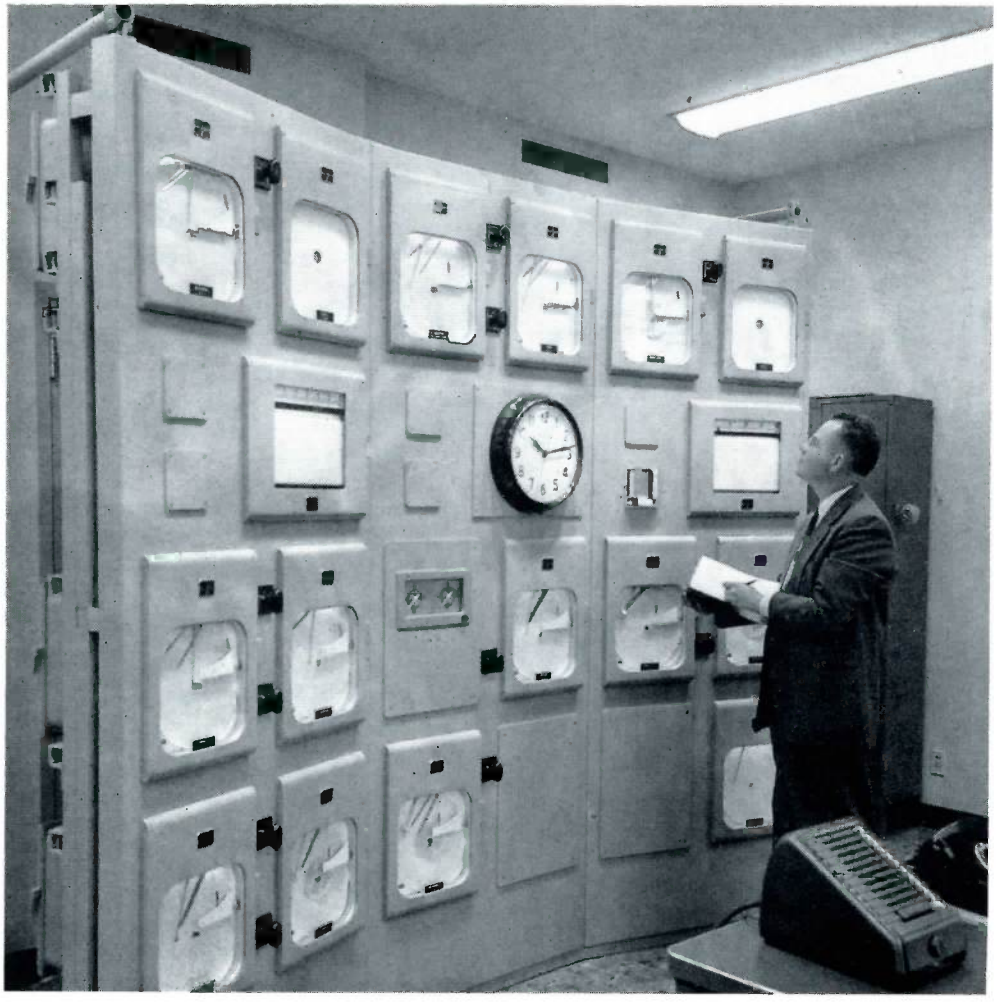
Mountain climbers rope themselves together because there's safety in numbers —also, it keeps the sane ones from going home.

Illinois Power Co. Installs Modern Gas Telemeter

A GAS TELEMETERING system, said to be the most advanced in the gas industry today, has been installed in Decatur, Illinois, by the Illinois Power Company. Gas is taken into the company's system in fifteen different towns from four different pipe lines where there are a total of 23 meters, and the job of the telemeter is to register the necessary data immediately from all these points.

This innovation in the gas industry operates by a flowmeter attached to each point where gas enters the system. These flowmeters measure the flow of gas, automatically making adjustments for differences in temperature and pressure. This data is transmitted to a totalizer that combines the flow from each orifice

The new gas telemetering system installed by the Illinois Power Co. in Decatur, Illinois.



meter in a particular station. The amount of the total is then retransmitted to the load control office at North Decatur, where it is automatically received and recorded by the telemeter.

Data from the several stations on the same pipeline is received and automatically combined into a record of the total flow of gas from a particular pipe line. As an example, gas is purchased from the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company in Galesburg, Abingdon, Danville, Champaign, Clinton, Jacksonville and Decatur. The record of the flow of gas into each of the systems at these points telemetered to North Decatur, where it is integrated and totalized into one figure which represents the total flow of gas into the system from this one pipeline.

The reason this information is needed, and the importance of the time element in it, is the tremendous expense of gas used over a certain quota.

The Illinois Power Company has contracts with each of the pipelines serving it, stating the maximum quantity of gas that Illinois Power may take within a 24-hour period. If this maximum quantity is exceeded, then expensive penalties may be imposed. That means that even a small amount of excess gas taken on a given day might become very expensive.

The Company has a number of large customers known as "interruptable"; customers who have signed contracts which provide that they will stop their use of gas upon notification, and use a substitute fuel which they keep on hand at all times for just such emergencies. Some switch to coal, oil, and some have tanks of propane on hand for this purpose. Upon notification, these customers switch to their stand-by fuel, making natural gas available for those customers known as "firm" customers, who include all residential customers.

It is to the Company's advantage to keep interruptable customers on gas service as long as possible, but when the amount of gas being used becomes critical, they must quickly be shifted to their substitute fuel.

Data from each of the pipe lines supplying Illinois Power is brought to North Decatur by various methods, all of them almost instantaneous. Each message is originally relayed on telephone circuits, then some are transferred to microwave, another is brought in over the carrier system and several use telephone circuits all the way to Decatur.

Gas supply supervisors read the results at stated intervals and plot the information on a graph so complete information on the trend of use, as well as, the actual flow is available. When the indicated flow nears the maximum, "interruptable" customers are asked to cut over to their stand-by fuel.

In the winter accurate and early weather reports are needed to estimate gas needs, since heating requirements determine the severity and extent of curtailments, the operation of production facilities and use of gas in storage. Presently, weather forecasts are obtained from newspapers, radio and television. However, eventually weather forecasts may be brought in on a teletype system that originates in Chicago. This system has not been brought into Decatur, but the telephone company has said it is trying to work that out.

FPC Hearing on Texas Eastern Pipe Line Plans Set March 19

A $141,981,000 pipeline construction application has been filed by Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation of Shreveport, Louisiana, and the Federal Power Commission hearings were slated to begin March 19 in Washington.

Texas Eastern Transmission is proposing to build a total of 1,132 miles of pipeline ranging in size from 8⅝ to 30 inches in diameter. The total includes 422 miles of 30-inch line extending from the U.S.-Mexican border near McAllen, Texas, to a connection with Texas Eastern's system in Orange County, Texas. The company also would build approximately 530 miles of 30-inch loop lines along its existing system between Kosciusko, Mississippi, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Five new compressor stations, having a total installed horsepower of 50,000 and 20,780 additional horsepower in four existing stations, is also proposed.

Sales representatives and administrative personnel attending the 1956 general sales meeting in Decatur were, front row left to right: W. G. Gansler, J. Milne, G. W. Knipe, A. D. Parks, R. D. Kitchen, R. L. Jolly, W. R. Augustine, D. R. Gannon, L. J. Evans, R. H. Morris, R. K. Levey, A. O. Yonker, F. E. Carroll, E G. Baker, R. W. Tibbils, J. D. Bailey, W. H. Dyer, H. L. Baker. Center row, left to right: E. P. Graeber, F. R. Seevers, R J. Ott, L. E. Grosboll, R. J. Thomas, K. F. Tohill, J. H. McClintick, L. George, R. J. Cope, P. L. Hines, R. L. Burdick,

Mueller Salesme

When you find the man who knows his product . . . the market he serves . . . and his own ability to sell, then you have found the man who is doing a service for both his company and customers.

Such a man is the type Mueller Co. strives to develop for representation in the field. These men are our first contact with the industries we serve and they must be equipped to meet our customers as both a consultant and as a representative of a manufacturer.

Therefore, Mueller Co. sales representatives are carefully selected and thoroughly trained in every phase of our operation before leaving for direct contact with the customer.

To insure that they maintain an understanding of Mueller products, both old and new, that they know the markets we serve, and that they may be able to re-evaluate their own ability as salesmen, Mueller Co. has for many years conducted a General Sales Meeting.

From January 24-26, 1956, such a meeting was held at our Headquarters

W. D. Crawford, J. T. Leahy, W. L. DeWitt, E. D. Ayers, J. C. Rubicam, R. K. Morris, H. V. Seevers, F. V. Martin, G. W. Simpson, F. C. McCown. Back row, left to right: R. B. Herrin, R. C. Sponsler, H. T. Huffine, G. A. Smith, F. L. Kuenstler, H. W. Cessna, R. E. DeWeese, R. H. Roarick, L. Mautz, E. C. Fenstad, W. A. Arnett, J. E. Williamson, H. K. Udell, F. X. Uhl, E. W. Peterson, R. G. Medick, S. B. Johnson, P. B. Watts, R. H. Gamble, C. W. Auer.

n Get Together

in Decatur. It was attended by our entire field sales force as well as those men in administrative sales positions. The training consisted of three days of concentrated instruction on sales policies and techniques and a comprehensive review of all our major products.

Robert H. Morris, Vice President and General Sales Manager, was in charge of the sessions which among other things featured sixteen speakers who discussed all phases of our products and business.

One of the three days was turned over to our Engineering Division, headed by Frank H. Mueller, Vice President and Director of Engineering. Mr. Mueller and his staff lectured on the use and operation of our major machines and equipment.

Dr. Kenneth McFarland, nationally known public speaker and Educational Consultant for General Motors Corporation and the American Trucking Association, was guest speaker. Dr. McFarland is a former guest editor for Readers Digest.

AGA Group Meets April 4, 5, 6

A stimulating array of subjects, ranging from "Economic Analysis and Forecast," to "Canadian Gas Resources," will enliven the interesting program of the Second Annual General Management Conference of the American Gas Association at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, April 4, 5 and 6.

Topics of importance and interest to top management and personnel have been selected by the Arrangements Committee acting for the eight standing committees that make up the General Management Section. A competent speaker will discuss cost problems in business; an address will be given by Dean H. Mitchell, president of A.G.A.; organization planning and labor-management relations will be brought under discussion. Top executives in each of these fields have been contacted to present the subjects.

The Conference will include General Sessions in the mornings; Section luncheons, and combined sessions concurrent with individual committee open business meetings on the first two afternoons. April 6 will be available for committees needing more time to complete agenda. The Purchasing and Stores Committee will visit plant facilities of Peoples Gas Light & Coke Company on Friday, April 6.

A combined Insurance-Personnel session will include a presentation by a General Electric representative on his company's recently negotiated Comprehensive Health Plan.

The combined Corporate Secretaries-Comparison of Competitive Services—Economics—Rate session will feature a speaker on a subject of general interest to the four committees represented. Open business meetings, at which top management and others who may be interested can see active committees at work, will be sponsored by the Accident Prevention Committee, as well as the four committees above.

The Purchasing and Stores Committee, in addition to presenting reports of four subcommittees, will present formal papers on: "Inventory Yardsticks," a slide picture film on warehouse designs, a paper on the value of salvage and one on continuing requisitions. Other purchasing and stores problems will also have a prominent place on the program.

In addition to its participation in a combined session, the Insurance Committee expects to discuss flood insurance and to hear insurance men on the different sides of property insurance.

"Something for everyone" is the keynote of A.G.A.'s newest section conference. Striking a balance between important subjects of current interest to management in general, and the detailed work of its subcommittees, the members of the Section's Arrangements Committee have scheduled a program that will benefit all gas industry management.

A Promotion for E. M. Kelly

EL PASO'S E. M. KELLEY, district manager of Southern Union Gas Co., was promoted recently to southern division manager of the company's western properties. With headquarters in El Paso, Mr. Kelley will assist in the operations of the company's southeastern New Mexico and west Texas districts in addition to his present supervision of the El Paso and Alamogordo districts. He has been in the employ of Southern Union 26 years and served in various positions in Clovis and Portales, New Mexico and in Rogers and Fayetteville, Arkansas, before becoming manager of the El Paso district in 1944. He is a member of A.G.A. and SGA.

INTRODUCING:

Charles Farmer, Chattanooga Sales Correspondent

Charles E. Farmer, a veteran of high school and college sports, left his coaching position in Central High School in Chattanooga in September, 1954, to accept his present job as sales correspondent in our plant there.

Born in Alabama City, Alabama, Mr. Farmer went to grade school in Montgomery City, junior high in South Pittsburg, Tennessee, and graduated from high school in Chattanooga. He served two years in the Marine Corp after his high school graduation, then went on to major in physical education at the University of Chattanooga where he graduated in 1953. A member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, he was vice-president in 1952, and president in 1953.

Mr. Farmer probably would be a bad person to get into an argument over sports, since he has been an athlete most of his life and has coached football. He is also quite a wrestler.

However, Mr. Farmer has other interests at which he excels. His hobby, woodworking, is quite a project as he makes furniture pieces for his home.

Mr. Farmer's job as sales correspondent includes taking care of debits and credits, correspondence with customers, other plants and with salesmen.

CHARLES E. FARMER

Samuel Green in New AGA Post

DEAN H. MITCHELL, president of A.G.A., has announced the appointment of Samuel Green as chairman of the general research planning committee of the American Gas Association and F. J. Pfluke as the new chairman of the gas operation research committee.

Vice-president of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, Mr. Green started his career with Brooklyn Union as a superintendent's assistant in the production department. He has been active in Association affairs for many years, serving as chairman of the water gas sub-committee and the gas production committee, as well as, serving on the gas production research committee since 1948. He was chairman of that committee last year.

Mr. Pfluke, who is superintendent of gas operations, Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation, also has a long record of service with A.G.A., including a term as chairman of the operation section. He has served as chairman of various subcommittees, including producer, oxygen, water gas, carbonization and the A.G.A. gas production committee. Last year he was vice-chairman of the gas operations research committee.

Louis P. Mautz to Texas, New Mexico; Frank Kuenstler Goes to Dallas Area

LOUIS P. MAUTZ

The appointment of a new sales representative and the transfer of another has been announced by Robert H. Morris, Mueller Co. Vice President and General Sales Manager.

Frank L. Kuenstler, sales representative in West Texas and New Mexico, joined Ward L. DeWitt, effective February 6, as a representative traveling the Dallas area. Louis P. Mautz, who has just completed the company's sales training program, will travel in West Texas and New Mexico.

Mr. DeWitt and Mr. Kuenstler form a team coordinating work in the rapidly expanding Southwest. The latter has a background particularly suitable for service in the utility field.

A graduate of Southwest Texas State College at San Marcos, Mr. Kuenstler was a junior partner in a large Texas construction firm prior to joining Mueller Co. Mr. Kuenstler and his family will make their home in Dallas.

As the replacement for Mr. Kuenstler, Mr. Mautz has been engaged in an intensive sales training program since July 15, 1955. During his training period he has made a thorough study of the Mueller product line as well as field sales procedures. In addition, he has studied sales office procedures and manufacturing methods in the Decatur and Chattanooga offices and plants.

Mr. Mautz was sales manager for an auto appliance dealer before joining Mueller Co. A graduate of the University of Illinois, he has had additional sales experience as an advertising salesman for a television station. He also has worked as a radio announcer and sportscaster.

Mr. Mautz and his family will make their home in Lubbock.

FRANK L. KUENSTLER

U.S. Chamber Sees 1956 Construction At All-Time High

Despite forecasts to the contrary, construction in 1956 should top last year's all-time record, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States believes.

Even residential construction, most affected by credit restrictions, will not miss last year's record of an estimated 1.3 million starts by as much as 100,000 units, the Chamber said. Some estimates have placed the 1956 housing starts at 200,000 less than the 1955 figure.

The Chamber conceded that many builders of private residences as well as mortgage companies are having difficulty finding credit.

"But it does not follow that the present situation will be indefinitely protracted," the Chamber asserted.

Short-term funds now are being used chiefly to help investers handle outstanding commitments, the business organization pointed out, and when this purpose has been served, "bank funds will again be more readily obtainable by builders and mortgage companies, though not on the same scale . . . as last spring."

"But short-term funds aside, the normally expanding rate of increase in the assets of life insurance companies, savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks and other sources of investment funds assures that, for the year 1956 as a whole, builders will have . . . a substantially greater volume of financing than . . . during 1955.

"For two of these groups alone—insurance companies and savings and loan associations—the increase in assets in 1956 is likely to be at least $1.5 billion more than the increase in assets during 1955, or about equal to the increased amount of short-term credit supplied to the market this year.

In addition to the rise in loanable funds, there will be an increase in consumer's buying power owing to the "unusually large" 1955 wage increases which have not been accompanied by a gain in the cost of living.

This means that more families will be able to buy homes in 1956, despite higher monthly charges due to shortened maturities and the requirement of a reasonable down payment.

"Even in 1954," the Chamber recalled, "when unemployment was threatening, veterans who bought with no down payment had an average of more than $900 in liquid assets."

Turning to private nonresidential building, the Chamber stated that "reassurance is not difficult to find."

"Contracts already awarded and advanced plans for business plant construction indicate that a great deal of new work is already safely accounted for. Moreover, this type of work is probably the least vulnerable to fluctuations in the financing market.

"Industry has large internal resources from which to draw. Beyond this, when it does come to borrow, it usually stands in a more favored position in soliciting funds than the residential borrower. Industrial and commercial building in 1956, therefore, are not likely to be restricted."

As for local public works, the Chamber noted that the pressure of need for schools, sewer and water facilities, streets and highways "will in most cases be sufficient to overcome the resistance created by the cost of money."

"Public construction in 1956 seems certain to be greater than in 1955."

On balance, the Chamber concluded, "next year promises to be another record-breaking construction year."

Walter K. Paul Gets New AGA Appointment

Walter K. Paul, manager of industrial relations for the Northern Indiana Public Service Company in Hammond, Indiana, has been appointed chairman of the American Gas Association personnel committee. The announcement was made by John H. Carson, vice-president of the East Ohio Company in Cleveland. Mr. Carson is chairman of the A.G.A. general management section, and the personnel committee is one of the eight committees comprising that section.

MISS LOUISE COLE

Miss Louise Cole Named Assistant Publications Editor

In a move to further expand Mueller Co.'s publications program, Miss Louise Cole of Huntsville, Texas, has been employed as assistant editor of the Mueller Record and Main Connections. The latter is the company's employee newspaper.

Miss Cole, who studied journalism at the University of Texas, has had extensive experience in the weekly and small daily newspaper field, and in addition has served as correspondent for the Houston (Texas) Post, and the Houston Chronicle, two of the South's largest newspapers, and for the United Press Bureau in Houston.

A native of Roscoe, Texas, Miss Cole attended Hardin Simmons University before entering the University of Texas. She began her career in 1950 as a reporter for the Madisonville, Texas, Meteor, a weekly newspaper. She was named society editor for the Angleton, Texas, Daily Review in May, 1951, serving in this capacity for nine months before being transferred to the general news staff as courthouse reporter.

In 1952, Miss Cole was appointed editor of the Angleton Times, a weekly newspaper, and later served as editor of both the Times and Brazoria County Light, a weekly serving five small towns.

She was named city editor of the Texas City Sun in July, 1953, but left on a leave of absence a year later due to the illness and subsequent death of her father. She was preparing to return to Texas City when she accepted the new position with Mueller Co.

Research, Dividends AGA Conference Theme

"Today's Research Pays Tomorrow's Dividends," is to be the theme of the American Gas Association's eleventh annual research and utilization conference at Hotel Cleveland in Cleveland, Ohio, April 3 and 4.

F. W. Batten of the Manufacturers Light and Heat Company in Pittsburgh, is chairman of the conference committee, and Leon Ourusoff, of the Washington Gas Light Company, is chairman of the committee on domestic gas research, sponsor of the conference.

Industry executives who will address the conference include: R. A. Malony, president of the Bridgeport Gas Light Company; W. F. Rockwell, Jr., president of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association, and president of the Rockwell Manufacturing Company; and C. S. Stackpole, managing director of A.G.A. Dr. G. H. McIntyre, vice-president of the Ferro Corporation, will be a luncheon speaker, and a session will be directed by E. J. Horton, of the Robertshaw-Fulton Controls Co., who is president of the newly-formed Gas Appliance Engineers Society.

Doughnut to tier cake: If I had as much dough as you I wouldn't be hanging around this hole.

Housewife (hiring new maid): "And how much wages do you expect?"

Applicant: "That depends. Do you peel or unfreeze?"

Ed Parkes New AGA Director

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF the American Gas Association has appointed Ed Parkes, director and vice-president and general manager of United Gas Corporation, Shreveport, Louisiana, to serve as director of the Association for a two year term ending in October, 1957. He succeeds the late M. A. Abernathy, former vice-president of United Gas Corporation, who had been elected a director of A.G.A. in October, 1955.

A director and vice-president of United's transmission subsidiary, United Gas Pipe Line Company, and of the firm's production subsidiary, Union Producing Company, Mr. Parkes has been associated with the organization for more than twenty-seven years. He is also a member of the board of directors of Atlas Processing Company of Shreveport.

Mr. Parkes was graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Arkansas. After three years as assistant superintendent and district superintendent in Bastrop and Monroe, Louisiana, he transferred to the corporation's general office as assistant to the production superintendent of pipe lines, a post he held until he was named general superintendent of field pipe lines in 1937. He was appointed vice-president and general manager of United Gas Corporation in November, 1955.

He has been active in national and regional affairs in the oil and gas industries for many years and participates actively in civic matters in Shreveport, headquarters city of United Gas Corporation.

Columbia Gas Appointments Made

RECENT ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED by the Columbia Gas System, Inc. include Cecil E. Loomis senior vice-president, Francis H. Crissman, vice-president and chief financial officer, and H. Edwin Olson, vice-president and secretary. Mr. Olson is also a director.

Mr. Loomis, as senior vice-president, will direct the gas system's operations under George S. Young, president. He joined Columbia as a statistician in one of the operating companies in 1928. He was elected assistant vice-president of the parent corporation and Columbia Gas System Service Corporation in 1950 and a year later was named vice-president of both.

Mr. Crissman joined Columbia as a bookkeeper in Pittsburgh in 1930 and was brought into New York in 1938. He was elected treasurer of the parent company after serving several years as assistant treasurer of both the parent and the service corporation.

All of Mr. Olson's business life has been spent in the utilities industry. He joined Columbia as an assistant treasurer in 1928 and went on to become treasurer, vice-president and a director of the corporation, as well as a member of the boards of various Columbia Gas System companies. He replaces Dale Parker, who was secretary for the past 15 years.

Gas Industry Facts

At the beginning of 1944 there were about 50 storage pools located in 11 states. These storage fields had an estimated capacity of 135 billion cubic feet of natural gas. At the end of 1954 there were 172 pools in 17 states made up of nearly 6,400 active storage wells. These pools had an estimated total reservoir capacity of 1,859 billion cubic feet. There were 12 new pools under construction at the end of 1954 with an estimated capacity of more than 180 billion cubic feet. The gas industry spent about $50 million on construction of underground storage facilities in 1954 and will spend an additional $65 million on such facilities in the next three years.

* * *

In 1832, an Englishman named James Sharp manufactured the first gas range. Previously, cooking with gas had been confined to the use of gas rings or individual gas jets similar to Bunsen burners. It was not until 1860 that gas was utilized to any great extent for cooking, and gas ranges were regarded as an innovation at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1873. Today it is estimated that nearly 35 million homes use utility gas or bottled gas for cooking and other residential uses.

* * *

City officials in Baltimore last year set aside about $925,000 as a starter to buy the city's way out of the gas light era, according to the Associated Press. There are still more than thirty cities in the United States using gas for street illumination in one form or another. Some of the nation's leading cities such as Chicago, Boston, Kansas City and Philadelphia are included in the list. Even New York City has some gas street lamps that are kept in operation for nostalgic and historic reasons. Cities in such states as Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Missouri, Kansas and Pennsylvania still have the gas lamps of the Gay Nineties in operation.

Last year the gas utility industry spent a total of $1,055 million on the construction of new facilities. It is expected that 1955 expenditures will aggregate more than $1,385 million, which would make the current year the second largest from the point of construction expenditures in the history of the industry. In 1951 the gas industry spent a record $1,462 million for construction of new facilities and expansion of existing plants to handle the ever-increasing number of gas customers.

During the four years, 1955-1958, the industry estimates new construction costs will equal $4,315 million. Although this budget is somewhat less than the $4,933 million spent in the four year period ending with 1954, this added investment in plant and facilities will make the gas industry practically a $20 billion industry, placing it among the leading industries of the nation from the standpoint of net plant and asset value.

* * *

Outdoor sales stalls and sidewalk cafes in Paris are being heated in the cooler seasons by infra-red heaters fueled by gas. A long series of "radiant plaques" that burn gas at a temperature of 1,562 degrees Fahrenheit have been hung over the sidewalks at the second floor level. Each plaque heats an 18-square yard stretch of the pavement area. Nearly 100 of France's big, chilly Cathedrals are now being warmed by these units.

* * *

The 350 residents of the medieval village of Beckbury, England, recently rejected by a 2-to-1 majority a proposal to install electric lights in their gaslit cottages. At an annual parish meeting they also rejected a suggestion that a lantern fitted with four tallow candles be used to light the village street. Villagers declared they didn't want these things and are content to go on as they have since the Norman conquest.

Recording Our Thoughts . . .

sponsors work together successfully to plan the project.

Gas companies at the local level promote the contest in their particular area and together will spend in excess of one million dollars in local newspaper advertising, radio and TV, and displays. Joining them for the first time this year at the local level are 2,800 dealers of the DeSoto Division of Chrysler Corporation.

Another new sponsor this year is the Colgate-Palmolive Company, which plans to spend close to a half million on "Mrs. America" in conjunction with its detergent AD.

Other national advertisers who have previously participated in the Mrs. America promotion and who have re-signed for 1956 include the American Kitchens Division of the AVCO Manufacturing Company which manufactures a "Mrs. America" kitchen; The Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association, Range Division, whose members market a "Mrs. America" range; the Robertshaw-Fulton Controls Company, manufacturers of temperature controls; Servel, Inc., manufacturers of gas refrigerators and gas air conditioning units; The Aluminum Cooking Utensil Co., Inc., manufacturers of Hallite Wear-Ever aluminum utensils; John Wood Company, manufacturers of John Wood automatic gas water heaters; Proctor Electric Company, manufacturers of the Mary Proctor Hi-Lo Adjustable ironing tables and family model toaster; and Sabena Belgian World Airlines.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago has just issued its annual report for 1955. The colorful 48-page book gives a description of the growth and prosperity of five Midwest cities. Leading off is the story of Decatur, Illinois, which the Federal Reserve Bank calls a "Town of Transition".

Very favorable mention is made of Mueller Co. in the report which we would like to repeat in this column. The report states:

"The other old-time metal products firm (previous mention in the report was made of Wagner Malleable Iron Company) is the Mueller Co. Its origins can be traced to a gunsmith established in 1857. If this is a legitimate way of tracing industrial family trees, it is really Decatur's oldest manufacturing establishment. Today it is the nation's leading producer of gas and water main equipment, especially tapping equipment. When you see a new house going up, chances are that Mueller equipment is being used to tie it into the water and gas systems. The boom in residential home building and the development of new subdivisions has been a real stimulant to Mueller's activity. In addition to the Decatur plant, Mueller Co. has branch plants in Tennessee and California and a wholly-owned subsidiary in Canada."

"What is alimony, mother?" asked the small girl.

"Alimony, my dear, is a man's cash surrender value."

Two fleas had just finished a hard day at the circus. Said one, "Shall we walk home or take a dog?"

Vernon Tallman Elected Vice-President

VERNON M. F. TALLMAN has been elected a vice-president of Brockton Taunton Gas Co., Ditchburg Gas and Electric Light Co., and Springfield Gas Light Co., all of Massachusetts.

Mr. Tallman has been associated with the companies since 1920 successively as engineer, commercial and industrial manager, executive assistant, and consulting engineer. He is an engineering graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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PROTECTION

1 GAS TIGHT "O" ring seals at top and bottom of key offer absolute assurance against leakage to the atmosphere. The precisely ground key is lapped into the stop body, preventing leakage through the port when the stop is closed.

2 LUBRICATED KEY The entire seating surface of the key is pressure lubricated through an independent port in the body. Lubricant is stored under pressure by the "O" rings. Vertical grooves in key lubricate stop each time it is operated, assuring easy turning.

3 TAMPERPROOF Heavy bronze washer is secured to the lower end of the stem with a blind pinned key. The original factory adjustment is retained even if the nut threads are stripped or if nut is removed from stem.

These and other advanced features of the Mueller Lub-O-Seal gas meter stop can help you eliminate meter stop replacement. Consult your Catalog G-97, your Mueller Representative or write direct for complete information.

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