

MUELLER *Record*

M A Y • 1 9 5 5





THIS MONTH'S COVER

The imposing view above shows the deethanizer, debutanizer, still and reabsorber towers at the North Ruston, Louisiana, Gasoline Plant, a part of the Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company. Plants such as this help Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company keep pace with the exceptional industrial and urban development of the three-state area it serves.



May • 1955

WALTER H. DYER, Editor
MUELLER CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF WATER AND GAS
 DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PRODUCTS

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Recording Our Thoughts

James A. Patterson, nationally known cartoonist for trade journals and company magazines, has "joined" the staff of the Mueller Record as "chief cartoonist."

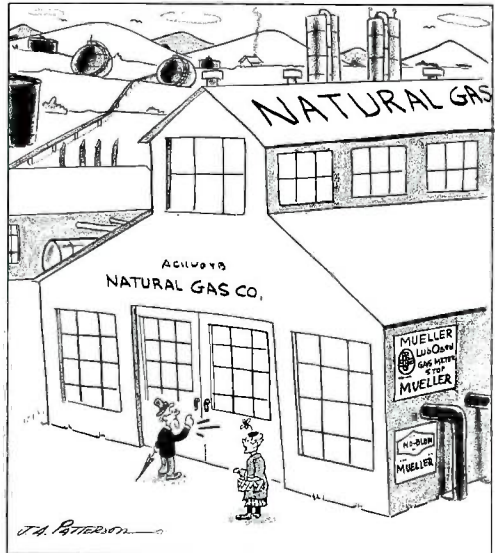
Although Mr. Patterson numbers among his clients many of the nation's outstanding trade and company publications, he designs each cartoon for the publication in which it appears. Cartoons in the Mueller Record under Mr. Patterson's by-line will be "exclusives."

We think you will enjoy his work for he has drawn each cartoon for the interest of our customers. You'll find a humorous touch of the industry, the inevitable Mueller theme, and last, but certainly not least, he has wisely placed a copy of the Mueller Record in most of the cartoons. As editor, we like that.

* * *

Mueller Co. equipment was scheduled to face an atomic blast sometime during the month of April. Our gas valves and fittings were to be used in conjunction

(Continued on page 13)



"Knock again, Paw—they might be up front and didn't hear you."

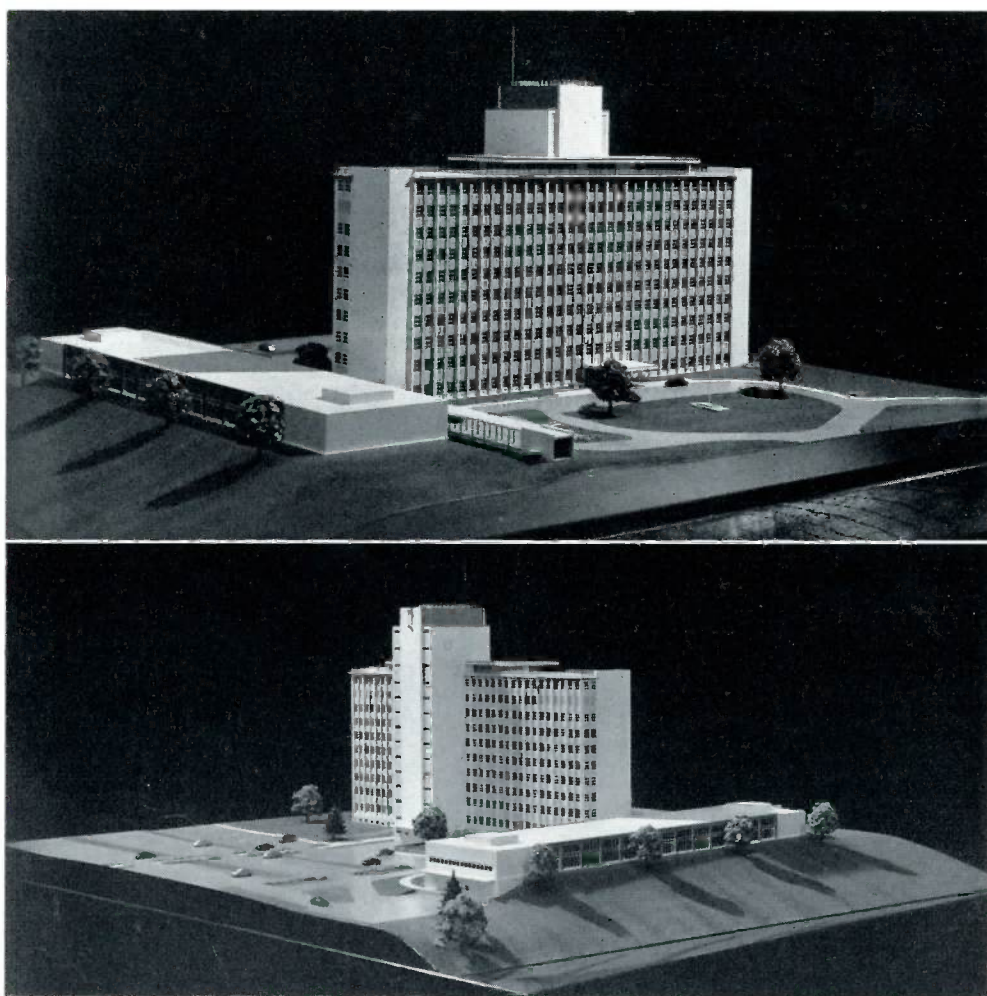
MUELLER RECORD

United Fuel Gas Company Constructing 11-Story General Headquarters Building

ANOTHER major contribution to the progress of West Virginia is being made by United Fuel Gas Company and affiliated companies of the Charleston Group, Columbia Gas System with the construction of an eleven-story general headquar-

ters building located on an eighteen-acre tract, west of Morris Harvey College.

The Southeastern Construction Company of Charleston, awarded the contract with a successful bid of \$5,800,000, began construction on September 1,



The front and rear views of the new headquarters building of the United Fuel Gas Company and five affiliated gas companies of the Charleston, W. Va., Group, Columbia Gas System, are shown in the architect's drawing above. A view of the building's front is on top. Rear view is at bottom.

1954. The contract specifies completion of the building by June 1, 1956.

John W. Partridge, United Fuel president, said the building will be owned by New York Life Insurance Company which is providing funds for its construction. United Fuel will lease the building under a long-term agreement.

New York Life is financing the more than \$7,000,000 required to complete the project. This includes the cost of land, the \$5,800,000 contract for its construction and other separate costs, such as for steelwork, elevators, grading and architects' fees.

United Fuel and five affiliated companies will occupy the building. They form the Charleston Group Companies of the Columbia Gas System. Affiliated companies that will share the building with United Fuel are Amere Gas Utilities Company, Central Kentucky Natural Gas Company, Atlantic Seaboard Corporation, Virginia Distribution Corporation and Big Marsh Oil Company.

Mr. Partridge said that in the five years ending in 1954, the Charleston Group's construction program totaled \$123,000,000, the major part being in West Virginia. Growth in this proportion naturally resulted in great economic gains for the state through wages, taxes and rentals and royalties, a fact of which the Charleston Group is justifiably proud.

About seven hundred persons now form the general headquarters force of United Fuel and the five affiliated companies. This force occupies cramped office or storage space in ten buildings in downtown Charleston, including the companies outgrown Main Office Building. Mr. Partridge said the headquarters plans anticipate a normal growth, with provisions for additions if needed.

Douglas Orr of New Haven, Connecticut, noted American architect, designed the general headquarters office building. Associated with him are Richard Fletcher of Mr. Orr's firm and Walter F. Martens and Robert E. Martens of the Charleston architectural firm of Martens and Son. Mr. Orr is particularly well known for his construction of utility buildings. Samples are the Connecticut Light and Power Company in Berlin, Connecticut, and the Southern New England Telephone Company building in New Haven, Connecticut.

The headquarters building took shape to suit its particular need, to make the most efficient and economical use of space. The result is a rectangular shell ten stories high, topped by an offset eleventh floor for executive offices. Reaching somewhat higher than this is the "core", an element at the eastern side containing elevators, stairs, janitor closets, toilets, freight and mail stations, air supply, telephone and electric services. Dimensions of the building are 290' x 54'. The building will have 280,000 square feet of gross floor area, and 175,000 square feet of net office area.

At right angle to the main unit and facing the river will be the cafeteria and assembly room. Its ground dimensions are 300' x 70'. This building has a full basement and ground floor. The cafeteria is at one end and the assembly room at the other. The cafeteria is required because employees will not have easy access to public eating places in this location.

Exterior finish of the main unit will present a broad expanse of windows in aluminum frames and a "skin" of light blue porcelainized aluminum. As viewed from the outside, walls requiring windows will be light and colorful in contrast to the solid simplicity of those walls which do not require windows. This honest expression of wall function provides a handsome exterior. Window panes will be blue-tinted and heat absorbing. The windows pivot 360 degrees to make all washing possible from inside.

This porcelainized aluminum was chosen as a facing material because it is light in weight and because it presents a surface which will retain its color and will not corrode under local atmospheric conditions.

Structural columns will be convex in shape and faced with warm buff porcelainized aluminum "skin". At alternate intervals are concave columns carrying air conditioning ducts and piping, faced with the light blue porcelainized aluminum "skin."

Terra cotta of the warm buff color will cover the center core and the stairs at both ends of the building. Exterior finish of the cafeteria and assembly room will be treated similarly in terra cotta and aluminum.

Except for partitions in the core, lobbies, official and executive offices, the in-

terior walls will be movable. This will make the general office area fully adaptable to change. Offices may be enlarged or subdivided as future developments may dictate. All lighting, heating and air conditioning is laid out to allow this change.

The building will be fully air-conditioned with air systems located in under-window units. The boiler room will be in the penthouse of the core. This is made possible by the use of gas as fuel and eliminates necessity for a stack. Virtually all other heating and air conditioning equipment will be located in upper reaches of the building.

The main unit is at right angles to the Kanawha River and MacCorkle Avenue. Space is reserved for projected widening of MacCorkle Avenue, for future extension of the building if required in 15 or 20 years and for later construction of other facilities to serve customers better.

One of the main considerations in planning was for adequate parking fa-

cilities, in contrast to limited space available to employees downtown. Parking has been planned initially for 300 cars on both sides of the building to facilitate the arrival and departure of many cars and also to reduce the travel distance from a given parking area to the office building.

Space will be reserved for development of further parking areas as building population increases in the future. Parking spaces on the east side will be separated by grass strips where trees are to be planted to furnish shade to pavements in the summer time, cutting down radiant heat from the paved areas. Other parking areas will be in strip form, again shaded by trees.

Pedestrian entrances are to be provided at three points for those arriving by public transportation.

When completed, the building will be the largest privately owned office building in West Virginia.

In Decatur

Archie Sefton Named General Superintendent

Archie Sefton, production superintendent at our Decatur factories since August, 1945, was appointed general superintendent of the Decatur factories on March 1.

Mr. Sefton thus becomes another longtime Mueller Co. employee to rise through the ranks to a high position in the company. He has been with Mueller Co. since 1923. Starting as a machine operator in the Plumbing Division, he was transferred to the Machine Shop in 1925, and ten years later was promoted to foreman of the department.

In 1938, he was named general foreman of Plant No. 2, and was general foreman of our wartime munitions plant in Decatur from 1941 to 1945. Then he became production superintendent of Decatur factories.

Mr. and Mrs. Sefton make their home in Decatur. They have three children, Richard in the Air Force, Bobby in the Army and Joyce at home.



ARCHIE SEFTON

Ralph W. Tibbils Is Appointed Administrative Assistant; Was Formerly Credit Manager

Ralph W. Tibbils, recently appointed administrative assistant to Robert H. Morris, vice president and general sales manager, is new to the Sales Division, yet is a familiar name to many Mueller Co. customers.

Mr. Tibbils has been Mueller Co. credit manager for the Decatur and Chattanooga plants since 1953. Before that, he served more than two years as assistant credit manager. His promotion to the Sales Division fills the vacancy created by the advancement of E. George Baker to assistant sales manager at our Los Angeles plant.

He is acquainted with many customers and friends of our company and, as credit manager, he called upon many personally to explain our Credit Department policies and other company business.

In his new position, Mr. Tibbils will be in charge of sales forecasting and budgets, supervise sales personnel, and be responsible for many other aspects of sales administration.

He joined Mueller Co. in 1950 as a time keeper in the Manufacturing Division, and was promoted to assistant credit manager about a year later. A graduate of the University of Illinois, Mr. Tibbils holds a degree in economics.



RALPH W. TIBBILS

Prior to joining Mueller Co., he was in the Accounting Department of Swift and Co. in Chicago. He is a veteran of World War II and served in the Air Force. Mr. and Mrs. Tibbils have two children, Richard, 4, and Susan Carol, born April 2, 1955. They make their home in Decatur.

A man was reading a prepared address to a meeting of industrialists and he swung into his speech.

"The average businessman is tired. He has worked long and diligently in difficult times and he is weary. He is physically and mentally exhausted. But he isn't nearly as tired as the girls who have to type all this hogwash."

There came a long tense pause while a delighted audience began to yelp its appreciation. The speaker stared at his script in disbelief. "Why," he blurted at last, "I never wrote anything like that!"

Mother (to finicky child at table):
"Eat it, dear—pretend it's mud."

"Papa," said the doting mother, "Robert's teacher says he ought to have an encyclopedia."

"Encyclopedia, my eye," grumped the father. "Let him walk to school like I did."

Irate Father: "I sacrificed everything I had in order that you could study medicine, and now that you're a doctor, you tell me I have to give up smoking."

"Sam, how long are you going to get in the jug for shooting your wife?"

"Two weeks."

"Only two weeks for killing your wife."

"Yeah. Then I get hung."

Texas Gas Deliveries Increased After Dual Underwater Crossing

Construction of new pipeline facilities, including a dual underwater crossing of the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels, Texas, to increase deliveries of natural gas to customers in the New Braunfels-Austin area has been completed by United Gas Pipe Line Company.

W. O. Allen, manager of the firm's San Antonio district, said the new river crossing east of New Braunfels was part of an overall construction project along the 47-mile New Braunfels-to-Austin line.

The new Guadalupe crossing was made about a half-mile downstream from the location of the old crossing, which con-

sisted of five eight-inch lines. The new installation, Mr. Allen said, includes one 20-inch and one 16-inch pipeline laid in the river bed.

In addition, approximately six miles of new 20-inch line was laid north from New Braunfels Junction to replace 5.2 miles of the existing parallel 12-inch lines which were located on the outskirts of New Braunfels, Mr. Allen said.

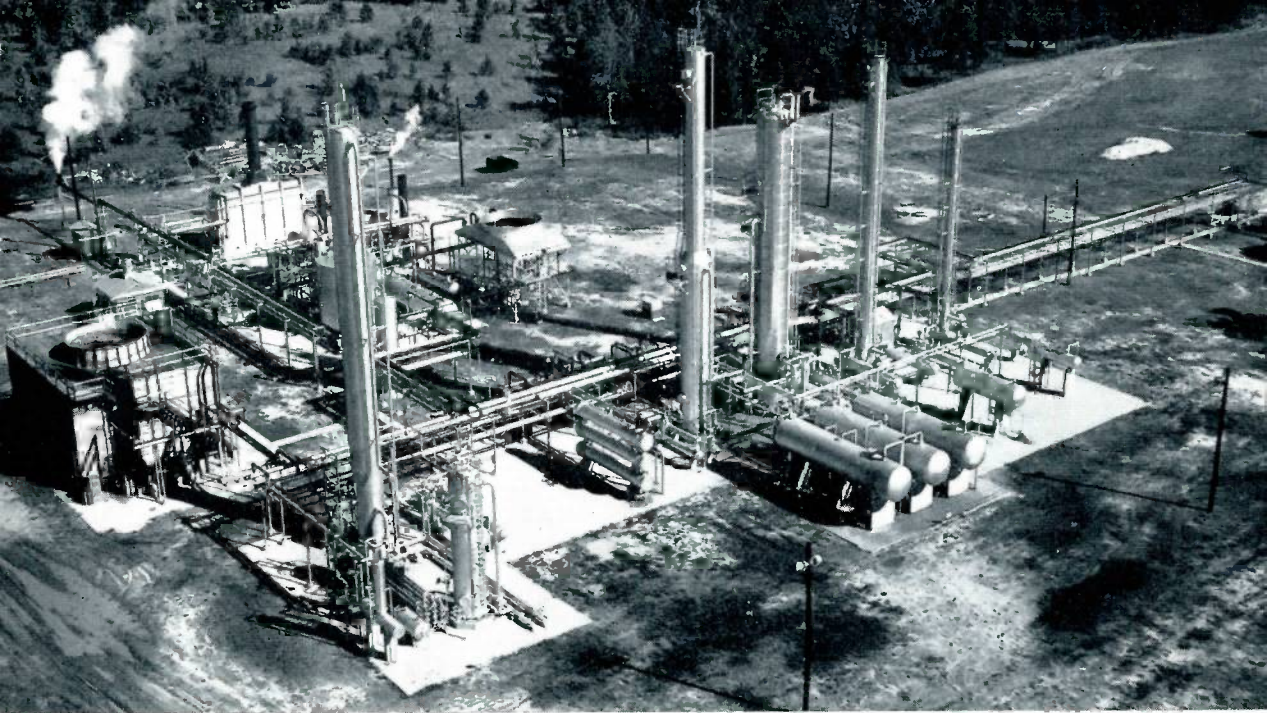
Other work on the two 12-inch lines that parallel each other from New Braunfels to Austin included replacing approximately 7,500 feet of pipe at various locations along these lines.

A woman rushed wildly into the station with her half-grown son. Her train was about to depart and she wanted two tickets to Duluth. When she reached the window she was very much out of breath, but managed to gasp: "Toodle looth!"

The ticket man grinned and replied: "Tra la, Tra la!"



One of the lines being pulled across the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels, Texas. The dual underwater crossing is part of a construction project of United Gas Pipe Line Company to increase deliveries of natural gas to customers in the New Braunfels-Austin area.



This is the North Ruston Gasoline Plant, Ruston, La., of Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company. Shown at left is an absorber and dehydrator. Other columns are the reabsorber, still, debutanizer, and deethanizer. In background are cooling tower, boilers, and rich oil heater.

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company

205,000 Residential Customers Being Served

In Fast Growing 3-State Area

KEEPING pace with the exceptional industrial and urban development of the three-state segment of the Southwest it serves, the Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company recently passed the 200,000 mark in total number of residential customers.

During 1954 the company reached new highs in many phases of operations and activities—in the number of customers, volume of gas sold and transported, miles of pipelines, money invested for service to the area, and gas reserves.

Combined industrial, commercial and residential customers of the company

now total approximately 234,000, in central and southern Arkansas, northwestern Louisiana, and northeastern Texas.

The ALG system now extends to 142 communities in the Ark-La-Tex region. On these lines are approximately 205,000 residential customers, of which 9,447 were added last year. The number of residential customers has increased by almost 57,000 since 1949, and has doubled in the past 10 years.

Commercial customers total more than 27,000 and industrial gas users number approximately 1,800.

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company is engaged in the production, purchase, transmission, distribution and sale of natural gas. Communities served have a combined population of approximately 750,000. Among larger cities on the distribution system are Little Rock, North Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs, El Dorado, Texarkana and Camden in Arkansas, Shreveport, and Bossier City in Louisiana, and Texarkana, Texas.

General company offices are located at Shreveport.

The 1954 annual report showed that the company has increased total gas sold and gas delivered under transportation agreements from 131 billion cubic feet in 1949 to 199 billion cubic feet in 1954.

The utility's investment in property, plant and equipment passed the 100 million dollar mark in 1953 for the first time in history, and on Dec. 31, 1954 totalled \$113,467,127.

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company is supplied with about 80 percent of its total gas requirements from purchased gas reserves, and about 20 per cent from company-owned reserves. Mineral leases are held by ALG on approximately 170,000 acres, of which 42,000 are producing.

During 1954 reserve additions of approximately 550 billion cubic feet were

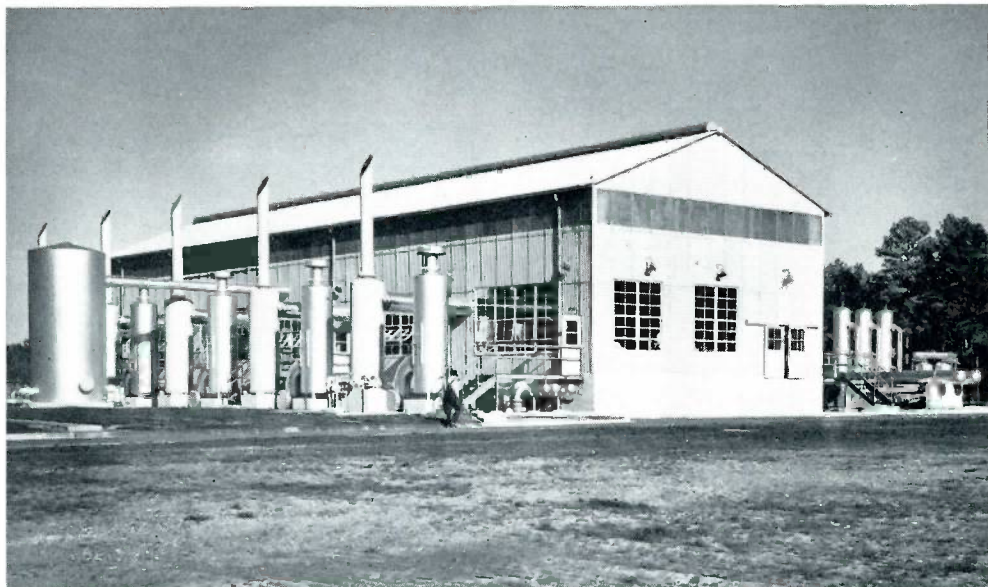


General offices of Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company are located in the 16-story Slattery building in downtown Shreveport, Louisiana.

acquired, or about two and a half times withdrawals for the year. Reserve additions have averaged about 400 billion cubic feet per year for the past six years.

At the close of 1954 the ALG gather-

Exterior view of main building, Beirne Compressor Station near Gurdon, Ark., jacket water surge tank at far left shown with mufflers and auxiliary piping to building. Gas scrubbers and gas header piping at right. Station is on ALG Line S, designed to operate at 800 per square inch gauge.





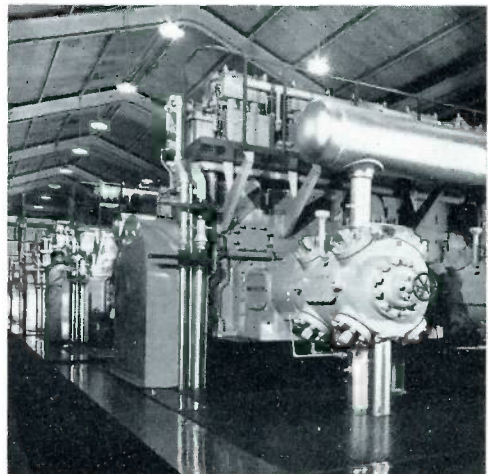
Here's Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company's 20-inch natural gas line ST-1 under construction. It extends from Carthage, Texas, to Waskom, Texas.

ing and transmission systems consisted of 2,726 miles of pipelines, 63,320 horsepower in field and main line compressor stations, and 2,281 measurement stations. The various systems gathered natural gas produced and purchased from 47 fields in the Ark-La-Tex region.

During the last year two large electric generating units were connected to the system and transmission capacity again was increased to meet the requirements of these and other new loads. Major changes in transmission facilities were: Increase in the diameter of an existing line serving the area in which one of the power units is located, addition of a 16 and 20-inch pipeline to connect new gas supplies in East Texas, and placing in service of a 10,500 horsepower compressor station at Taylor, Ark.

The 142 communities in the distribu-

Interior view, ALG's Taylor Compressor Station, Taylor, Ark., completed in 1954, showing gas engine compressors.



tion system are served by 3,498 miles of mains, which compares with 3,257 miles at the end of 1953. The Arkansas towns of Alexander, Foreman, Murfreesboro, Curtis, and Vimy Ridge, and the Louisiana towns of Ada and Heflin were added to the system in 1954.

The company operates 10 natural gasoline plants, with combined processing capacity of 516 million cubic feet a day. In 1954 a total of 131 billion cubic feet of gas was processed, producing 145 million gallons of liquid products.

Liquids produced from the hydrocarbons extracted from natural gas at these plants include natural gasoline, butane and propane. These products are sold in competitive open market by the company.

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company conducts direct sales promotion aimed at demonstrating benefits of using natural gas appliances in the home. The company seeks to stimulate sales of natural gas appliances through cooperative promotion and advertising which helps the

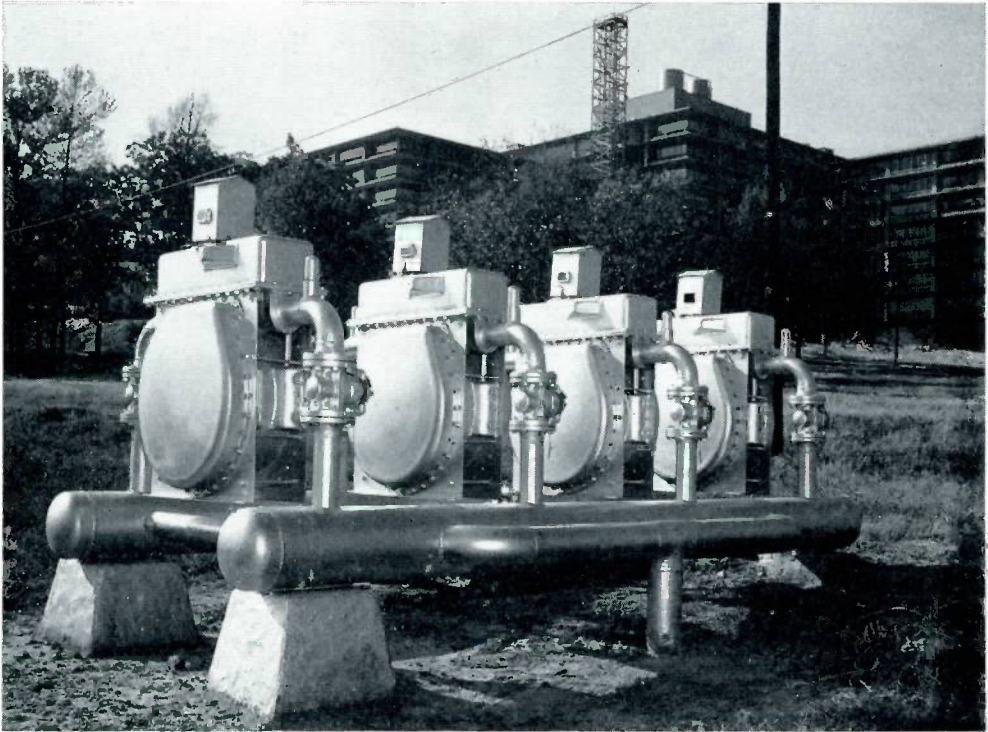


Here's one of Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company's 35 local distribution and sales offices. This is the Pine Bluff, Arkansas, office.

local independent retailer. One recent promotion campaign was sponsorship of the "Mrs. Arkansas" Contest to select Arkansas' representative in the annual "Mrs. America" Contest.

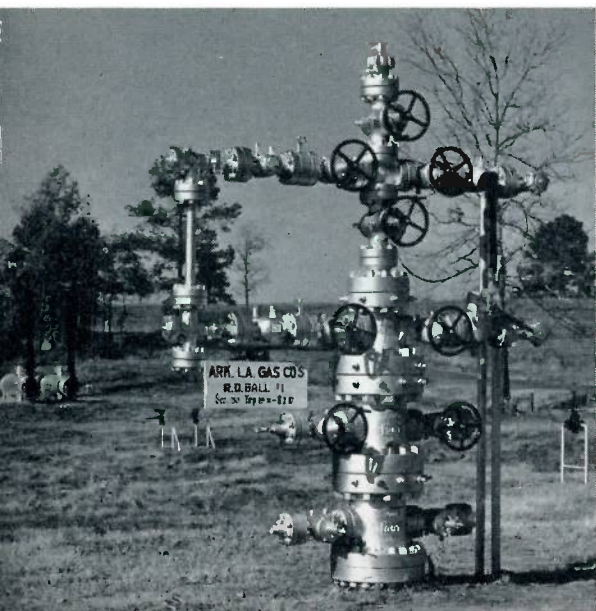
This aerial view of Beirne Compressor Station near Gurdon, Ark., operated by Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co. shows three gas scrubbers at extreme left, and next are gas coolers. The large building at left center is the main engine room with auxiliary equipment and jacket water cooling fans. The auxiliary building at right center houses two 407 hp electric generating units which furnish power for lights, jacket water circulating pumps and the cooler fans. An office building of native stone and redwood is at right.





Big users of natural gas call for bigger measurement equipment. Here's an Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co. measurement station at the Arkansas State Hospital in Little Rock. The new multi-million dollar University of Arkansas Medical Center, now under construction, looms in the background. At present the measurement station serves the huge Arkansas State Hospital, and will take care of the new medical center when it is occupied during 1955.

This is a 5,000 pound working pressure assembly on Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company's R. D. Ball Well No. 1, in the North Ruston Field, Lincoln Parish, La. It is commonly called a "Christmas Tree" assembly. This particular well is a dual producer, producing natural gas and some distillate from two sand levels. Heaters and meter runs are shown at left. Heating is used to prevent solidifying in the well operation.



The company employs about 2,200 persons, and 35 district offices handle gas distribution to the 142 communities.

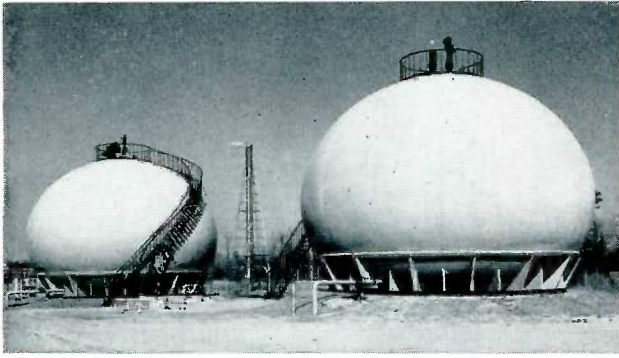
Distribution and sales promotion activity is divided between the southern division, headquartered at Shreveport, and the northern division, headquartered at Little Rock.

Officers of the company are veterans in the field of gas production, distribution and utility operation. A. H. Weyland is president. Vice-presidents are E. P. Farmer and J. C. Hamilton. Thomas J. Heard is secretary, and Harold G. Walters is treasurer. Edward N. Henderson is chief engineer.

Other officers are Frank L. Holleman and Charles B. Wedum, assistant secretaries, and Charles A. Egley, assistant treasurer.

The present firm dates back to 1934, but predecessor companies were organized in 1909-11, giving the company a

MUELLER RECORD



Capacity of each of these two spheroid tanks at Columbia Gas Treating Plant near Magnolia, Ark., is 5,000 barrels.

long background of experience in the natural gas business.

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company has grown up with the Ark-La-Tex area, and is an important business-citizen of the three states. With steadily increasing numbers of commercial, industrial and residential customers, it is an integral part of the business and industrial activity of the Southwest.

RECORD ATTENDANCE TAKES PART IN A.G.A.-E.E.I. CONFERENCE

More than 1,300 delegates from gas and electric utility companies—an all-time record registration—attended the National Conference of Electric and Gas Utility Accountants in Chicago, April 25, 26 and 27. The conference was jointly sponsored by the American Gas Association and the Edison Electric Institute. It was the eighteenth annual meeting sponsored by the two national utility trade associations.

Delegates were told of ways accounting can better serve management needs, and were informed of new developments and technological changes in methods and requirements necessitated by today's changing conditions.

Conferees were welcomed by James F. Oates, Jr., chairman of the board, The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company and Gordon R. Corey, vice-president, Commonwealth Edison Company, host utilities for the conference. Greetings and remarks were delivered by Dean H. Mitchell, first vice-president, American Gas Association, and president, Northern Indiana Public Service Company, and H. S. Bennion, managing director, E.E.I., who spoke in place of Harold Quinton, E.E.I. president, and president, Southern California Edison Co.

Recording Our Thoughts . . .

(Continued from page 2)

with the part played by the American Gas Association in the big test scheduled in Mercury, Nevada. The test was planned under the auspices of the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

Mueller Co. joined several members of the American Gas Association and the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association in contributing equipment for the test.

The objectives of the American Gas Association's participation were to determine the effects of ground shock, and atmospheric overpressure and elevated temperature on typical gas industry installations as a result of atomic explosions.

A two-story and basement house of brick and cinder block and a ranch-type home of wood erected at the test site were equipped with gas stoves, refrigerators, cloths dryers, incinerators, water heaters and furnaces.

The homes were given typical meters and piping, connected to regular underground mains, pits equipped with gas pressure regulators, valves and other gas equipment. Emergency gas repair and replacement equipment on trucks also was to be tested from ground zero to see how they withstand heat and blast. Gages were to test joints before and after the explosion.

Results will show what to expect in damage to gas facilities in an atomic explosion.

Sign in a western bar: "We don't have TV, but we do have a fight every night."

J. H. McClintick Named Sales Representative

James H. McClintick, a sales assistant at our main office in Decatur since September, 1953, has been appointed a sales representative, Robert H. Morris, vice president and general sales manager, has announced.

Mr. McClintick will travel the upper Illinois territory which Garnett A. Smith has been covering. Mr. Smith is returning to his native state of California where he will take over a Southern California territory for Mueller Co.

With Mueller Co. since September, 1953, Mr. McClintick has shown considerable ability in administrative sales work. He has served as assistant to the assistant sales manager of both the Water Products Department and the Gas Products Department. He thus has a large fund of knowledge of two of our principal product lines.

It is felt that his training in the home office gives him the background to properly serve our customers. His familiarity with sales office procedure as well as the problems of both the customer and



JAMES H. McCLINTICK

the salesman should prove invaluable to him in the field.

He is a veteran of the Korean War, and received his discharge from the service in 1953. He entered in 1950 as a private, but advanced rapidly in rank. At the time of his discharge, he was serving as a first lieutenant and was given the opportunity to make his career that of an army officer. Instead, he chose civilian life and a position with Mueller Co.



GARNETT A. SMITH

Math department explanation: A circle has no corners. An oval has no corners. But not nearly so no corners as a circle has.

Two moonshiners were discussing their operations. "When I take the stuff into town," one said, "I always drive slow—about 20 miles an hour."

"Skeered o' the law?" jeered the other.

"Nope," said the first, "ye gotta age the stuff, hain't ye?"

Two men were discussing an acquaintance. One remarked, "Jones always strikes me as being a lazy sort of chap."

"Lazy," replied the other, "Why, that man is so lazy he drives over a bump to knock the ash off his cigar."

UNITED GAS SEEKS 63 MILES OF PIPELINE, NEW COMPRESSOR STATION

United Gas Pipe Line Company, of Shreveport, La., has applied to the Federal Power Commission for authority to construct approximately 63 miles of pipeline and a new 330 horsepower compressor station on its natural gas transmission system in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

Estimated cost of the construction program is \$8,339,481. The company said the new facilities would enable it to supply increased requirements of existing customers, including Southern Natural Gas Company, of Birmingham, Ala. Part of the additional facilities would be used to supply a new customer, the Escambia Bay Chemical Corporation, with gas for its proposed plant in Santa Rosa County, Fla.

MARCH GAS SALES RISE SHARPLY IN '55

Total gas sales of the gas utility and pipeline industry to ultimate consumers during March, 1955, aggregated 7,033 million therms, up 14.4 percent over sales of 6,149 million therms in March of last year, the American Gas Association reports. The Association's March index of utility and pipeline sales is 212.5 percent of the 1947-1949 average.

Utility and pipeline sales of natural gas to ultimate consumers in March totaled 6,648 million therms, a gain of 15.0 percent over the 5,778 million therms sold in March, 1954. Natural gas sales now account for nearly 95 percent of all utility and pipeline sales to consumers. If gas used for reforming, enriching and mixing were considered, 98 percent of total gas sales today are derived from natural gas.

Manufactured and mixed gas sales in March increased 4.1 percent from 370.2 million therms to 385.4 million therms. Mixed gas sales increased 12.8 percent to total 331.1 million therms, while sales of manufactured gas declined 29.2 percent during the month to 54.2 million therms, reflecting continued conversions to mixed and natural gas distribution.

During the twelve months ending March 31, 1955, total sales of gas were

63,698 million therms, up 8.4 percent over the 58,737 million therms consumed in the previous twelve-month period.

Natural gas sales totaled 60,320 million therms, a gain of 8.7 percent while sales of manufactured and mixed gas increased 3.7 percent to aggregate 3,378 million therms during the cumulative twelve-month period.

U. S. CHAMBER ASKS CONGRESS TO DROP GAS PRICE CONTROLS

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has asked Congress to prevent the Federal Government from controlling prices charged by natural gas producers.

In a statement sent to the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, the Chamber spokesman, H. B. Fell, President, Simpson-Fell Oil Co., Ardmore, Oklahoma, said that price controls would discourage new development of new sources of gas, eventually increase consumer prices and reduce supplies.

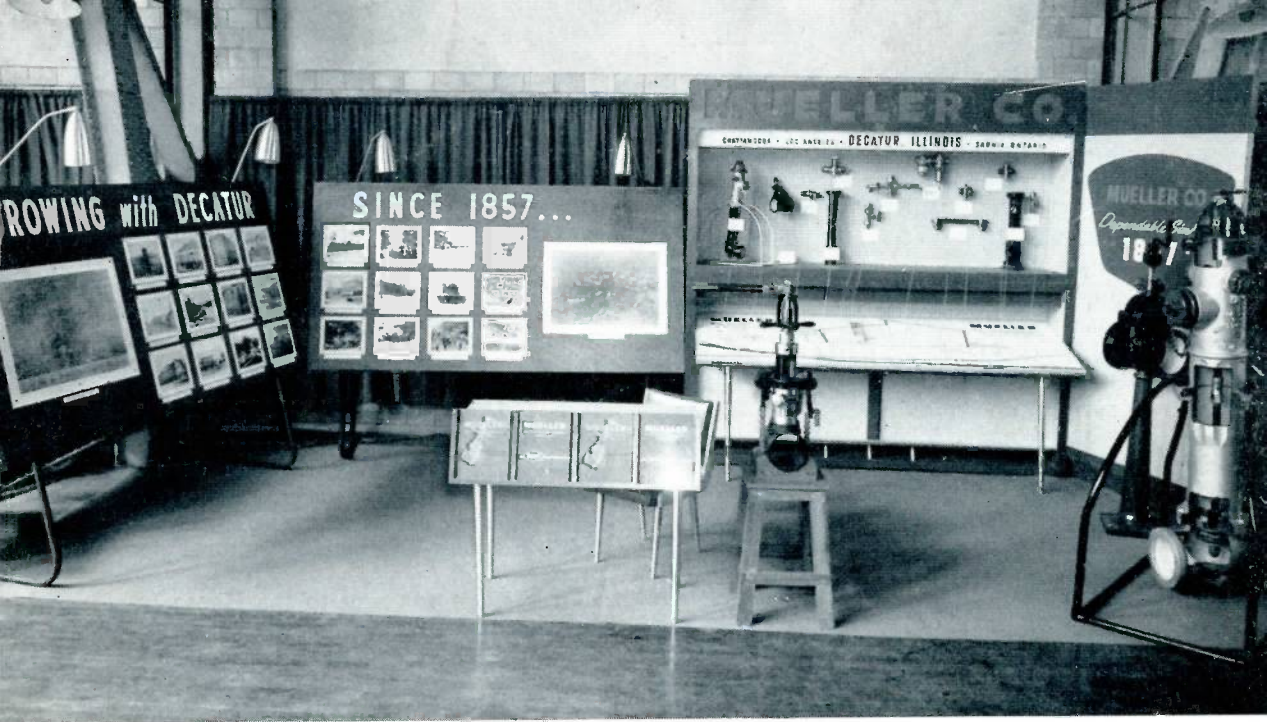
Specifically, Mr. Fell asked the Committee to approve the Harris Bill (H.R. 4560) exempting gas producers from federal regulation as in the best interest of the public in both the consuming and producing states.

Mr. Fell's statement noted that even before federal price control was instituted following a United States Supreme Court decision last June, gas producers received only a small fraction of the price paid by consumers. The remainder represents the cost of transporting and distributing gas to areas distant from the sources.

"Even if the producers of natural gas gave it away to the . . . transporters," the statement asserted, "each consumer would be saved only a very few cents each month."

Mr. Fell said federal regulation of natural gas producers' prices might lead to similar regulation of other fuels and other commodities sold in interstate commerce.

Mr. Fell pointed out that the "several thousand" producers of natural gas are highly competitive, have no guaranteed markets and bear no other characteristics of public utilities. Therefore, he asserted, government regulation is not only unjustified, but sets a dangerous precedent.



Businessmen in Decatur, Illinois have sponsored a Home Show for many years. During 1955, a Mueller Co. exhibit was displayed at the annual event. Many residents viewed with interest our products and photographs showing our growth in Decatur since 1857.

J. M. Wilson Named New Chairman of Personnel Conference

John M. Wilson, director of employee relations, United Fuel Gas Company, Charleston, West Virginia, was elected chairman of the Great Lakes Personnel Conference of the American Gas Association at a meeting held in Chicago, April 29. The meeting, at which Walter K. Paul, manager of industrial relations, Northern Indiana Public Service Company, presided as current chairman, was addressed by Arthur W. Luchs of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He presented, through slides and recordings, the handling of actual grievance cases. General discussion by the group followed. At the luncheon session, Kurwin R. Boyes, secretary, outlined the organization of the American Gas Association which considers personnel and industrial relations matters for the gas industry.

Also elected officers of the conference at the afternoon session together with Mr. Wilson, were W. E. Hoare, employee relations director, The Ohio Fuel Gas Company, Columbus, vice chairman; and Emory A. Manlove, assistant to the vice president of The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company, secretary for the coming year.

The Nominating Committee presenting this slate of candidates comprised: Norman D. Bradley, The Peoples Natural Gas Company; Earl G. Huck, The Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, and J. J. Solon, The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company. Reporting and discussion of company developments pertaining to present active negotiations concluded the afternoon session.

The Federal Power Commission has issued a certificate to Texas Gas Transmission Corporation, of Owensboro, Ky., authorizing it to construct approximately 207 miles of pipeline and 22, 600 horsepower in compressor capacity on its natural gas transmission system in Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana.