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Anacortes Refinery

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Bechtel Will Design and Construct It

ONE OF THE largest and most significant refinery developments in recent years was announced late in September by F. S. Clulow, Vice President in charge of manufacturing, Shell Oil Company.

It is Shell's new refinery to serve the Pacific Northwest market to be constructed at Anacortes, Washington, on the shores of Puget Sound.

Engineering, procurement and construction, Shell has announced, will be by Bechtel Corporation. The project is a major one in every respect, and a notable addition to Refinery Division work in progress. Activity is now under way in the engineering section, and refinery construction is preparing for the initial field work.

The new refinery reflects the growth of demand for Shell products in the Northwest, and the continuous availability of a Canadian crude oil supply, which will cross the border through a lateral of the Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line.

In a recent statement, R. W. McOmie, Shell's Pacific Coast Refinery Coordinator, said that clearing of the 700-acre site will begin shortly and continue into mid-1954. Actual field construction of the refinery units will start at that time.

Shell's Anacortes Refinery will have a capacity of 50,000 barrels per day. Major components will be a crude oil fractionating unit, a platformer and a catalytic cracker.

The crude unit and platformer are scheduled for completion by the middle of 1955, and the "cat" cracker and remaining units by the end of 1955.

The first units will go into operation before the entire refinery is completed. It is expected that production will begin in the summer of 1955.

Joppa Back at Work

Work on the $195,000,000 Joppa, Illinois steam electric station for Electric Energy, Incorporated, was resumed on October 12th after a labor dispute shutdown that started 28 days before. Based on a petition of the National Labor Relations Board, Federal District Court Judge Fred L. Wham of East St. Louis, Illinois, issued a temporary restraining order enjoining the striking union from picketing. Immediately all workers commenced to return and at present Project Manager Al Orselli reports there are well over 1,000 men back on the job and working.

Earl Nichols Returns To Industrial

Senior Vice President Jerome K. Doolan has recently announced the return to the Industrial Division of Earl E. Nichols, who, as Vice President for Constructora Bechtel, S. A., has spent the last two years as Project Manager on the Orinoco job. Earl left the Industrial Division to handle this South American assignment and will return to the Division as Manager of its construction forces.

Earl's last big project before leaving for the Orinoco job was the construction of the $23,000,000 Lever Brothers Plant in Los Angeles. His varied experience in all types of construction, including copper reduction plants, power plants, railroads, waterfront and shipyard developments, a liquid chlorine plant and the mechanical design of alkylation plants has eminently fitted Earl for the post of No. 1 man in the Industrial Division construction activities. Work on the Orinoco project, which was of tremendous scope and included the development of complete facilities at Puerto Ordaz and Ciudad Piar as well as 90 miles of railroad and highway connecting the two, is close to fruition and Earl tells us that ore will be shipped starting the early part of January, 1954.

Earl is a graduate of the University of Colorado as a Civil Engineer and has stacked up almost thirty years of leadership in construction activities of all description. The Industrial Division considers itself most fortunate to have Earl filling its all-important spot as General Construction Manager.

W. H. Gerhardt Elected Vice President of C.B.S.A.

Wilton H. Gerhardt, a veteran of Bechtel foreign service, has been elected Vice President of Constructora Bechtel, S. A., according to an announcement by S. D. Bechtel. He takes over as Project Manager on the Orinoco mining job in Venezuela, succeeding Earl Nichols who has returned to the Industrial Division of Bechtel Corporation.

Now completing his second year on the mine and port project, Will Gerhardt's election climaxes a career largely devoted to foreign work since taking his first overseas job in 1939—appropriately with the W. A. Bechtel Co. in Venezuela! Major domestic and foreign contracts on which he has been active include the Columbia Steel expansion at Pittsburg, California (Bechtel-Pomeroy 1950-52), and the Kuwait and Aramco developments in the Middle East (International Bechtel, Inc., 1947-50). His new responsibilities will provide an even greater opportunity for the effective use of his abilities and experience.

Somastic Pipe Coating Sold To Pipe Linings, Inc.

The Somastic Pipe Coating operation has been sold to Pipe Linings, Inc., of Los Angeles, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Pipe and Construction Co. The move to discontinue the manufacture and application of pipe coating is in line with Bechtel Corporation's enlarged activities in the fields of engineering and construction.

In announcing the sale, President S. D. Bechtel said that Somastic Pipe Coating had been placed in the competent hands of a progressive firm that has had friendly relations with Bechtel interests for more than twenty years.

"Somastic Pipe Coating operations are more in keeping with those of American Pipe and Construction Company than those of Bechtel Corporation," he said. "It is our belief that under this new arrangement Somastic will be handled splendidly and Somastic will be available over a broader area because of American's many operating plants in the West and the services which they plan to make available."

J. S. Connell, general manager, will remain for a period in an advisory capacity before returning to Bechtel Corporation. Austin S. Joy, general sales manager, moves over to Pipe Linings, Inc., as sales manager.

"Heinie" Returns To London and Aden

Senior Vice President V. G. "Heinie" Hindmarsh left San Francisco by air on October 7th. As Sponsoring Director of the Anglo Iranian Oil Company refinery, he returned to London after a week at Eastern Division offices in New York.

Since early summer when he came "home" after an extended period in London and at jobsite, "Heinie" has directed important stateside activities of the A. I. O. C. job from San Francisco. He plans to spend the month of November at Little Aden. Mrs. Hindmarsh, now a seasoned globe trotter, accompanied her husband overseas.