

Spinning of Power

personal slants on doings of

interest to power men—some significant, some just odd

New tenant of this page takes over from Defense Digest just after the Korea truce signing. That's mostly coincidence, though. Reason for the change goes deeper. Truce or no truce, we're still up to our necks in defense business. But we've worked our way out of the "bulldup" phase and we've got an administration that doesn't believe in unneeded controls. So, with relatively little to report about bottlenecks, shortages, and regulations to relieve them, Defense Digest seems to have earned honorable retirement.

Of course, when something "hot" comes along we'll run it here, new title for the page notwithstanding. But our aim from now on is to tell you about things that strike us as important, interesting, unusual, or just plain amusing.

Ultrasonic inspection for h-p h-t piping quickly became accepted practice (Power, Oct 1950, pp 102-104). Now it's tackling the new job of locating and measuring corroded areas inside pipelines. It spots trouble areas fine, but before it can be used as a routine method, pipeliners have to find a way to scan pipe surfaces quickly and completely and to "digest" resulting mass of oscillographs.

Bourbon and electricity make a fascinating combination, so you can bet we took more than a casual look at a recent news release tying up these two forms of energy. Seems that, since Repeal, demand for Old Stag caused recordbreaking production of 2,000,000 barrels of bourbon at the Albert B Blanton distillery. So the 2,000,000th keg, suitably decorated and inscribed, was tucked away ceremoniously in a little "one-barrel" stone warehouse built for the occasion.

Not content to trust to our interest in whiskey for itself alone, a hardworking ad-agency man coyly captioned the picture "Power Keg" and went on to tell us that more than \$900,000 worth of electricity went into making those 2,000,000 barrels. He's probably still lame from reaching for that tieup!

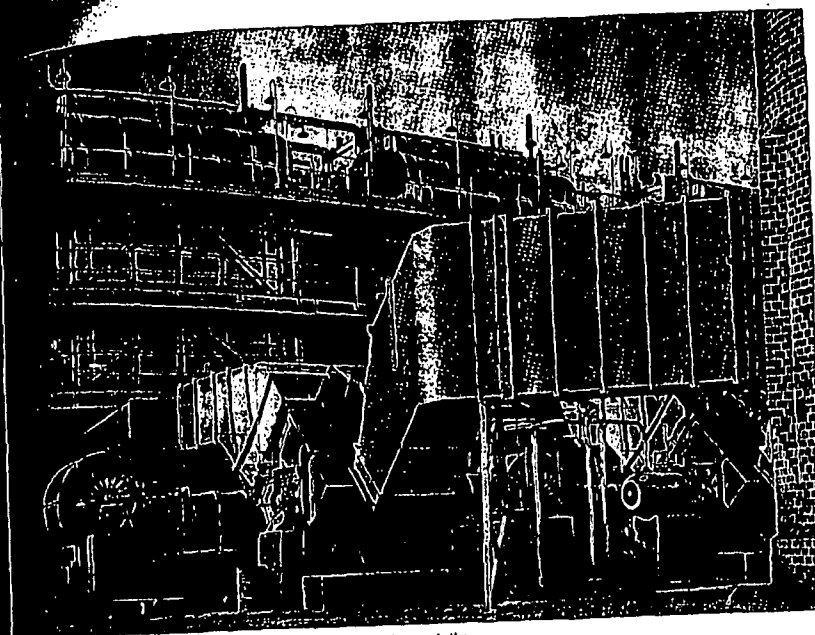
Bagasse burning may well become less common for disposing of pressed sugar cane. It looks as if bagasse may be entering the cycle followed by other waste fuels—sawdust for example. In the old days, sawdust was incinerated. Then, as fuel costs rose, it became worthwhile to burn it as a steam fuel and to develop equipment to do the job efficiently. Now, in many areas fuel use is declining as sawdust finds a place as a raw material for marketable products.

What started this philosophizing was a recent news item about a \$2.6 million paper mill in the heart of Louisiana's sugar-cane country. It will be first in U. S. to make newsprint and other papers from bagasse. Test press runs on all-bagasse newsprint have been made by several publishers and it looks good.

Want to write better? Ability to write clearly and concisely can make a big difference to your career. And it isn't too hard to acquire. A number of recent books put across the fundamentals in easy-to-take fashion.

Try these: "Technique of Clear Writing" by Robert Gunning (McGraw-Hill), "Art of Readable Writing" by Rudolph Flesch (Harper & Brothers), "Clear Writing for Easy Reading" by Norman Shidle (McGraw-Hill). Gunning and Flesch not only tell how to improve your writing, they show you how to measure the readability of what you've written. Shidle gives considerable attention to the common forms of business writing—letters, memos, reports, etc.

Lon Lowby



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