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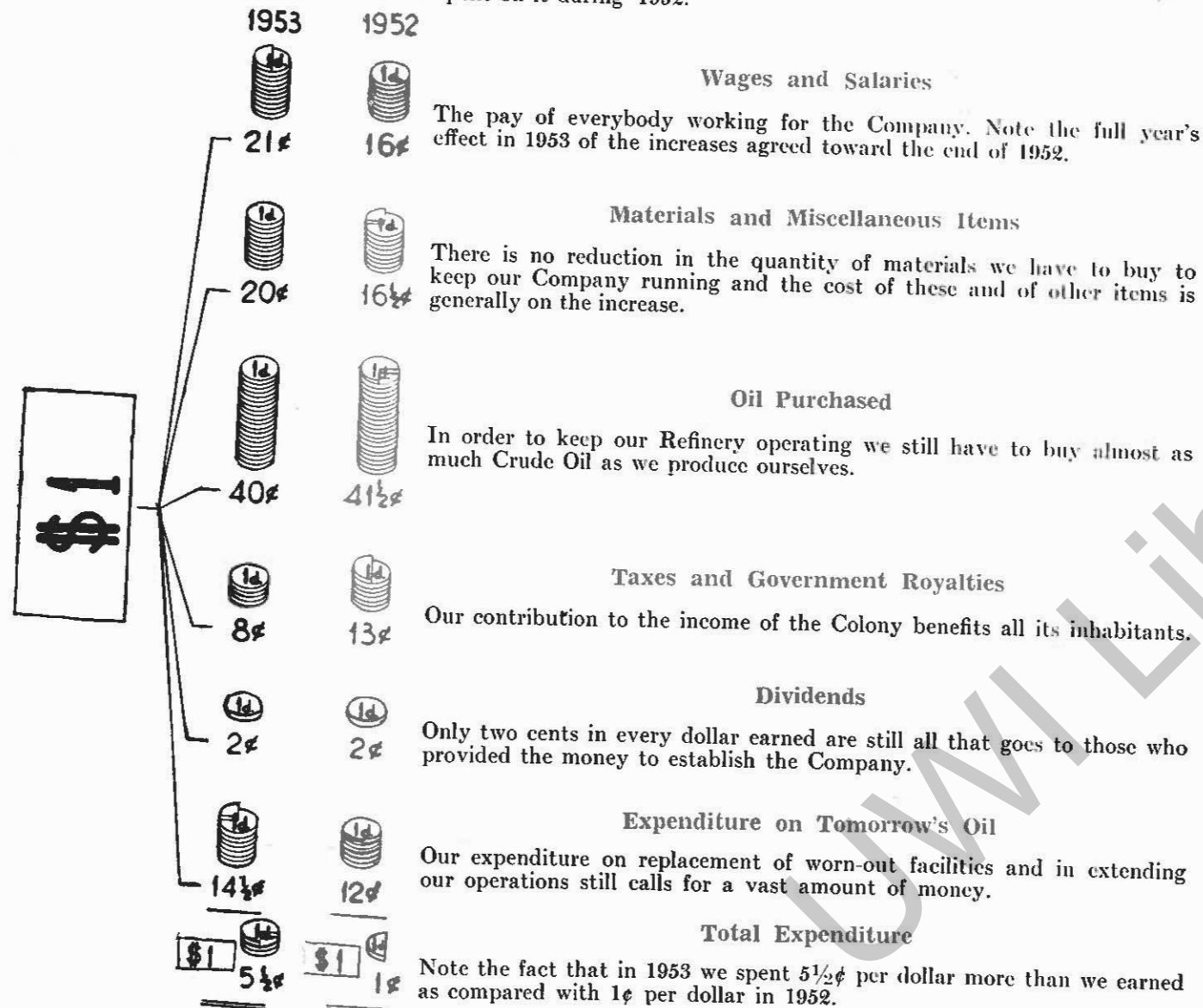
Vol 2 #12. UBOTIMES

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# How The Company's Earnings Were Spent in 1953

ONCE again we show you how there was spent during 1953 each dollar of the money earned by the Company from the sales during that year of the refined products obtained from the Crude Oil produced by ourselves—nearly 5½ million barrels—and from that purchased from our neighbours—nearly 4½ million barrels. Every coin represents one penny or two cents and for comparison we show in red alongside each item of expenditure the amount spent on it during 1952.



The outstanding features of the above analysis are:—

*Firstly:* The increase in Wages and Salaries. As in the case of last year there is an additional 1¢ Wages and Salaries contained in "Expenditure on Tomorrow's Oil" making the total Wages and Salaries expenditure in 1953 22¢ out of every dollar of revenue.

*Secondly:* The reduction in the amount per dollar of revenue which was appropriated for Government Taxes and Royalties. This was primarily due to the fact the Company made a much lower profit in 1953 than in 1952 and thus had a correspondingly smaller income tax liability. This in turn was due to the completion of the exploration stage in the Ortoire District which involved higher expenditure against revenue, as explained in the Company's published Annual Report and Accounts.

*Thirdly:* The effect of our excess expenditure was to reduce the Company's resources of cash or equivalent from \$5,796,000 at the beginning of 1953 to \$1,736,000 at the end of the year, as shown in the published Accounts.

## Wages and Salaries

The pay of everybody working for the Company. Note the full year's effect in 1953 of the increases agreed toward the end of 1952.

## Materials and Miscellaneous Items

There is no reduction in the quantity of materials we have to buy to keep our Company running and the cost of these and of other items is generally on the increase.

## Oil Purchased

In order to keep our Refinery operating we still have to buy almost as much Crude Oil as we produce ourselves.

## Taxes and Government Royalties

Our contribution to the income of the Colony benefits all its inhabitants.

## Dividends

Only two cents in every dollar earned are still all that goes to those who provided the money to establish the Company.

## Expenditure on Tomorrow's Oil

Our expenditure on replacement of worn-out facilities and in extending our operations still calls for a vast amount of money.

## Total Expenditure

Note the fact that in 1953 we spent 5½¢ per dollar more than we earned as compared with 1¢ per dollar in 1952.

# UBOTIMES

THE HOUSE MAGAZINE OF  
THE UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD LIMITED

TRINIDAD — BRITISH WEST INDIES

VOL. 3 No. 12

ISSUED QUARTERLY

SEPTEMBER, 1954

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## Around the Departments Appointments and Promotions

WE extend a cordial welcome to the following who have joined the Staff of U.B.O.T.:

Miss G. E. Rivers, Miss G. L. Browne and Miss N. Wilson who are employed in the Medical Department; Mr. N. Attai, who has joined the I.R. & P. Department; Mr. C. S. Lee Young and Mr. M. Khan who are employed in the Refinery and Mr. D. J. Ribeiro, who has joined the Staff of our Port-of-Spain Office.

The following have been promoted to Junior Staff status:—

Mr. S. A. Bonyun (Refinery), Mr. J. Corbie (Port-of-Spain Office), Mr. A. W. Watson (TNA), Messrs. E. McL. Bernard, H. L. Raghunanan and L. J. St. Laurent (Exploitation), Messrs. T. Lloyd, E. A. Ramsey, A. Rawlins and G. R. Villaneuva (Drilling), Messrs. A. Forrester and E. Joseph (Engineering) and Sgt. D. P. Scotland, of the Estate Police, who has been promoted to Sergeant Major at the same time.

The following other promotions have been made:—

Mr. N. A. Geetan from Office Boy, Engineering, to Clerk, Grade II; Mr. S. Thornhill from Chargehand Fitter "A", Fire Equipment Maintenance, to Foreman Fitter; Mr. W. Jack, of Materials, from Stores Attendant "A" to Clerk/Checker, Grade II; Mr. E. Pope, from Drilling Headman to Drilling Foreman; Mr. G. Baldeo (Penal Engineering) from Checker "A" to Road Construction Foreman; Messrs. R. Duval and C. Spencer of Penal, from Drilling Headmen to Drilling Foremen; Mr. H. Smith from Rigbuilder "A" (Penal) to Chargehand Rigbuilder; Mr. M. McColman from Plant Attendant "A" to Process Plant Foreman; Mr. H. Morgan (Refinery Engineering) from Apprentice to Clerk Grade II.

## Education and Training

Twenty-four boys were selected this year for entry to the Apprentices Technical School and they started their five-year training programme on July 16th. Of the successful candidates, 11 have close relatives working with the Company while seven belonged to the group of 17 who took the preparatory course designed to give sons of employees

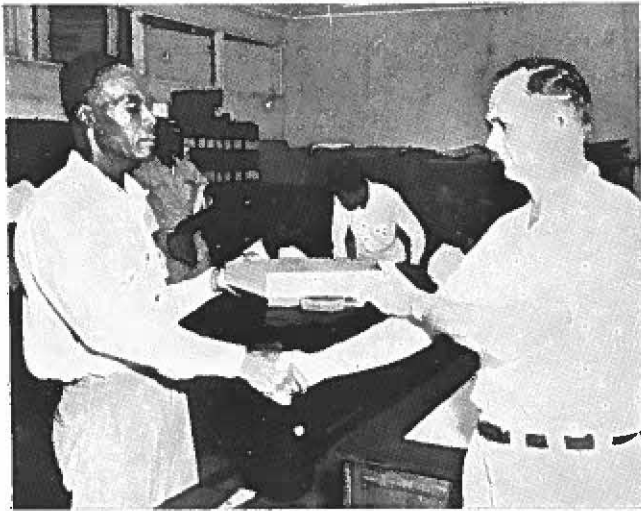
a chance of attaining the standard necessary for entry to the school. The successful candidates were chosen from 81 boys interviewed after the Entrance Examination held at San Fernando and Point Fortin on May 8th. This examination was written by 229 boys selected from some 400 original applicants. Apart from these Trade Apprentices, six Student Apprentices were chosen for the Drilling and Production Course which began in September. Of these, one is the son of an employee and another the son of an ex-employee. The Student Apprentices, who required higher initial qualifications than the Trade Apprentices, were selected from 45 applicants. UBOTIMES wishes both the new Trade Apprentices and the Student Apprentices every success in the careers on which they have embarked.

Our 1953 Regional Technical Trainees, Messrs. P. J. Smith, B. S. R. Barnes and C. J. Andrews completed their preliminary training at the end of August and sailed on September 7 for England where they are entering Loughborough College of Technology. Leaving with them for the same College was Kenneth Koo, who was awarded a Company scholarship after working for some time as a Mud Assistant. Mr. G. M. S. Lambert, who was also awarded a scholarship after working for some time as a Mud Assistant enters the University of Birmingham in October to do a course in Petroleum Technology.

## Fire and Safety and Red Cross News

The Point Fortin Red Cross Detachment has qualified as Southern Division finalists in the competition for the Lady Young Cup, emblem of supremacy in First Aid, which will be held at the Queen's Park Savannah on October 23. UBOTIMES wishes to congratulate the detachment on their performance and looks forward to seeing the trophy back in Point Fortin.

A First Aid examination for members of the Red Cross Detachment was conducted at the Point Fortin Library on August 6th by Dr. H. Seenath, a former member of the Staff of the San Fernando Colonial Hospital who is now in private practice. Of 38 members qualified to take the test, 35 sat and of these 32 passed and 3 failed. The Detachment Prize, awarded to the member gaining the highest aggregate, was won by Miss Joyce Thomas, who secured 99 per cent in the First Year Elementary Certificate part of the examination. Mr. Cuthbert Hamilton, of the Refinery Laboratory,



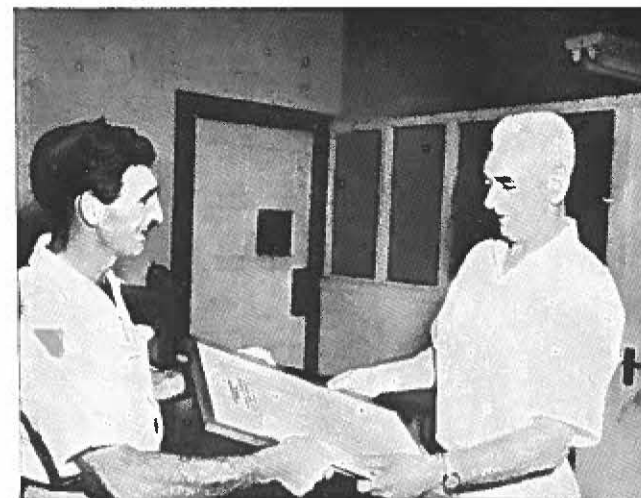
Mr. J. A. C. Pickering, Head of the Field Engineering Section, presents a canteen of cutlery, on behalf of the members of his Section, to Mr. J. Alleyne, who recently retired.

took first place in the Advanced Certificate test; Mr. Winston Kitson, of the Medical Department, first place in the Proficiency Badge examination and Mr. Arthur Arnasalam, first place in the Proficiency Bar section. UBOTIMES wishes to congratulate the successful candidates.

Ten members of the Detachment have qualified for Royal Life Saving Society badges. They are the Misses H. Bowen, J. Paige, A. Peters, J. Thomas, M. Francis, M. Stephen, L. Francois, L. Roberts, B. Carrington and Mr. A. Arnasalam. Amongst those gaining Proficiency badges in First Aid were the Misses H. Bowen and C. Rahman and Messrs. P. Cornwallis and G. Maharaj.

The Drilling Department, Penal, have been leaders in the "J. Grant" Safety Shield Contest from January to July this year. Last year this Department lost 1.1730 man days in every 100 man days worked. The figure up to July this year is .5926 — an improvement of .5810 or a gain of 5810 points. Second so far is the Drilling Department, Point Fortin, which has gained 3305 points on last year's total and third is the Camp Maintenance Section which has gained 2345 points. Drilling Department, Point Fortin, has lost .3310 man days this year as compared with .6635 last

Mr. K. G. Tait, Chief Engineer, presents to Mr. J. M. O'Hara, Head of the M. & O. Shops, a framed copy of the signatures of those who contributed to a cheque given to him before he left for England on pre-retirement leave.

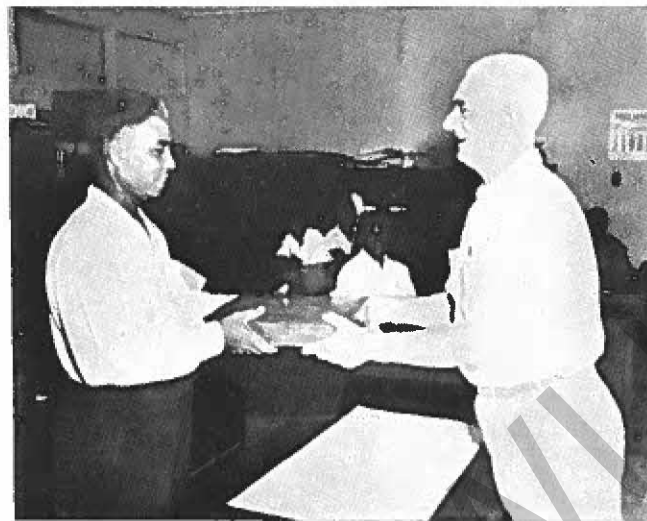


year and Camp Maintenance has lost .0276 days against .2621 last year.

Prompt and exemplary action by Launch Captain Lloyd Dyer recently resulted in the rescue of a drowning man. It is reported that on August 23rd several Contractors' employees, who were employed on a barge moored alongside the T.N.A. jetty, went into the water for a swim when one was overcome by cramp and got into difficulties. Dyer heard the cries for help from the cabin of his launch, which was also moored alongside the jetty, took a life buoy from the launch and threw it to the man. When he saw it had fallen short, Dyer dived into the water fully clothed and pulled out the man. So promptly had Dyer acted that artificial respiration was not necessary. The Company awarded Dyer \$25 in appreciation of this fine bit of work. Recently too, another life was saved by two employees, S. Thornhill, of the Fire and Safety Section, and A. Arnasalam, of TNA, when on the morning of September 3 they went to the assistance of a bather who had got into difficulties at Clifton Hill beach. Like Dyer, they have been awarded \$25 in appreciation of their example. UBOTIMES wishes to add its quota of praise to these employees.

## Recent Retirements

At a function held at the Central Engineering Office on July 5th, Mr. M. Worrell, of the Camp Maintenance Section,



Mr. J. M. O'Hara presents a canteen of cutlery, on behalf of the members of the Camp Maintenance Section, to Mr. M. Worrell, who recently retired.

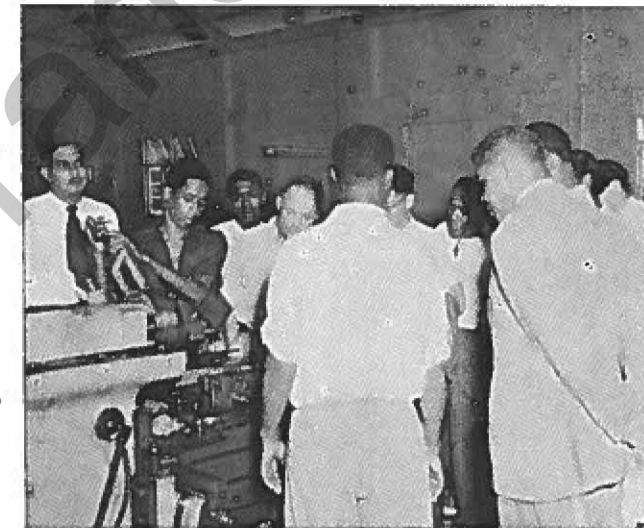
and Mr. J. Alleyne, of Field Engineering, were presented by their co-workers with a canteen of cutlery to mark the occasion of their retirement from the Company. In a brief address Mr. K. G. Tait, Chief Engineer, spoke of their sterling qualities and devoted service, and wished them happiness in retirement. The presentations were made by Mr. J. A. C. Pickering and Mr. J. M. O'Hara, who himself left for England on pre-retirement leave a few weeks later. A farewell function was held at the Engineering Office and he was presented with a cheque and a framed copy of the signatures of those who contributed.

## Visitors

During the weekend of July 3rd and 4th we had the honour of being host to the Acting Governor, the Hon. Maurice Dorman, and Mrs. Dorman, the Hon. Albert Gomes and Mrs. Gomes, the Hon. Alan Storey, Mr. A. J. Bain, Commissioner of Industry, Mr. J. S. Kerbey, General Manager of Shell Leaseholds Distributing Company and Mr. C. E. Hitchins, Editor of the "Trinidad Guardian" who all

stayed overnight in Point Fortin. Along with other guests they had been invited for the opening of the Ortoire pipeline on the Saturday afternoon and the T.N.A. marine drilling inauguration on the Sunday morning. On Saturday afternoon the visitors had tea at the Penal (U.B.) Club after touring the Ortoire and Catshill areas, and in the evening a formal dance was held at the Clifton Hill (U.B.) Club. During that time we also had the pleasure of a visit from Wing Commander J. G. Brathwaite, a Director of the Company, and his daughter, who both arrived from London shortly before the pipeline opening ceremony, and Mr. J. H. Brook, Petroleum Attaché from Her Majesty's Embassy in Washington, who attended the marine drilling inauguration. Mr. Brathwaite remained on for a few days for discussions and inspections and to meet members of the Staff. A few weeks ago we also had the pleasure of welcoming to Point Fortin Mr. J. G. Groundwater, of Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., who was a former member of U.B.O.T.'s Staff.

Visits to Point Fortin and other oil centres in the South are being arranged by Mr. Roland Gill, Public Relations Officer of the Petroleum Association of Trinidad, as part of a plan to give the general public an insight into the vast and complex nature of the Oil Industry. Under this arrangement we have had the pleasure of showing around representatives of the Press and Radio services, members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, groups of Civil Servants, pupils of Bishop Anstey's High School and a group from the Belmont Orphanage.



A group of Civil Servants being shown around the Apprentices Technical School.

## Apprentice Training Scheme Parents' Day and Graduation Ceremony

The first group of apprentices to enter the Company's Apprentice Training Scheme, which was remodelled in 1949, passed out at the first Graduation ceremony which was held on Saturday, August 28th at the Mahaica (U.B.) Club. Amongst the distinguished company were the Hon. Roy Joseph, Minister of Education and Social Services, and Mrs. Joseph; Mr. R. C. Loinsworth, Acting Assistant Director of Education; Mr. G. L. Reid, General Manager of U.B.O.T. Ltd.; Mr. J. L. Andrews, Production Manager; Mr. R. E. Staines, of our London Office; Mr. P. Hobson, of the Employers' Association of Trinidad; Heads of the Company's Departments, Government, Trade Union and Church officials and a large number of parents and relatives.



The Hon. Roy Joseph, Minister of Education and Social Services, addresses the gathering at the Apprentices Graduation ceremony.

This year the Parents' Day function was combined with the Graduation ceremony and before attending the latter, most of the parents and relatives had paid a visit to the Apprentices Technical School to see the type of training their boys receive (see back cover). After this they were taken to the Apprentices Hostel, where tea was served.

Of the 24 boys who originally entered the Scheme, 21 graduated — four as student drillers, four as field technical assistants, one as a motor mechanic, three as engine fitters, four as electricians, three as instrument mechanics, one as a welder, and one has been transferred to Production work.

In an address to the gathering, Mr. G. L. Reid, General Manager, made it plain that U.B.O.T.'s training scheme aimed at quality rather than quantity — an objective which fitted into the Company's overall plan of training and equipping West Indians for top level technical and administrative posts. He pointed out that almost 96 per cent of our employees today are West Indians, the other four per cent being persons from abroad with special technical qualifications, skill and experience and/or administrative and organising ability. "It is", he added, "our Company's policy

Top prize winning Apprentice was Maurice Golah, who is here seen receiving his awards from Mrs. Roy Joseph.



—and I believe that of the industry as a whole—not to cling to this last remaining few per cent, but, on the contrary, to hand over to the citizens of the West Indies." He warned, however, that this would be a slow and difficult process since the Industry was becoming more technically complex and administratively extensive every year. It was for this reason that the Company had limited the School's total complement to 60, had taken great pains in the selection of candidates and had insisted on the boys living at the hostel where they could be helped to develop their character. "This latter aspect", Mr. Reid declared, "needs special emphasis since the technical skill and experience acquired is really of little ultimate use to the individual — and may indeed lead to his downfall — unless it is accompanied by a firm and solid build-up of those intangible qualities such as energy, imagination, initiative, loyalty, integrity and team spirit." He congratulated the 21 graduates whom he described as "the living exponents of what we have been trying to do with them for five years", and added: "Their responsibility to set a good example to others is thus a heavy one, but we have confidence that they will not fail us. We realise that they represent a collective investment of some \$200,000 [\$10,000 per apprentice for five years] and we wish them all success in their future careers."

In his report, Mr. B. Sanders, Training Supervisor, threw some light on the running costs of the school. The building, he said, was erected and equipped at a cost of about \$80,000. The Hostel entailed expenditure of \$30,000 and two buildings now being provided to house graduates between the time when they leave the hostel and become self-sufficient will cost \$22,000 — a total of \$130,000 on buildings and equipment alone.

Running costs, he said, had been going up every year since 1949 when \$24,000 was spent, until the scheme now costs about \$300 a day. By the end of the year the grand total spent since the inception of the scheme would be \$500,000. "I mention these figures", Mr. Sanders declared, "because it is on you, the past and present students of the School, on whom we rely for the proof that it is money and time well spent. You can demonstrate this by your skill and displaying the essential qualities of integrity, keenness, loyalty and appreciation both during and after your apprenticeship."

This appeal was endorsed by the Hon. Roy Joseph, Minister of Education and Social Services, who told the graduates that they should at all times so act as to provide an incentive to those who followed them. He congratulated them warmly on their achievement, and acknowledged the contribution which U.B.O.T. was making to technical education in the Colony. U.B.O.T.'s Apprentices Technical School, was, he said, one of the finest in the West Indies.

Mr. S. J. Ireson, Senior Industrial Relations Supervisor, said the graduation ceremony was a source of great personal satisfaction to him since he had had the privilege of watching the Training Scheme develop from its inception. Continuing, Mr. Ireson said, "It is a source of great satisfaction to all of us that our system of selection and training has enabled us to achieve our original objective and that, in addition to the boys who are passing out as tradesmen, we have been able to produce some boys who, in spite of their limited educational background, had the special qualities which enabled us to train them for the more responsible supervisory positions in our Industry." Mr. Ireson told the audience that each boy had been carefully watched and reported on during his five years at the School and each had received a considerable amount of personal attention. Turning first to the parents and then to the graduates, Mr. Ireson ended with these words of advice: "To you parents I say if your son has been fortunate enough to get into our Apprentice Training Scheme do all you can to encourage him in his efforts. To the boys I say — work hard, study hard, set yourself a strict moral standard and live up to it. The golden opportunity is there — reach out with both hands and take it, and if you want a motto on which to hang your star think of the immortal words which Shakes-

peare put into the mouth of Polonius — 'This above all else, to thine ownself be true.' "

Prizes and certificates won by all the apprentices were presented by Mrs. Roy Joseph, and the principal prize winners were as follows:—

#### COMPLETION AWARD:

**BEST APPRENTICESHIP — 1949-1954:**  
(Gold Medal and Prize to the value of \$20).  
— Maurice C. Golah

#### AWARDS FOR 1952-53 SESSION:

**BEST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR:**  
(Silver Cup and Books/Tools to the value of \$20).  
— Anthony Rawlins

**SECOND BEST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$15). — Trevor Lloyd

**THIRD BEST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10). — Errol Ramsey

**GROUP PRIZES:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$7.50).  
1949 Intake: — Harold Raghunanan  
1950 Intake: — Nazim Ali  
1952 Intake: — Ramsahai Mangaroo

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10). — Selwyn Moore

**MR. R. M. HARCOURT'S PRIZE FOR ENGINEERING DRAWING:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10).  
— Ramkhelawan Bachoo

#### 1953-54 SESSION:

**BEST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR:**  
(Silver Cup and Books/Tools to the value of \$20).  
— Maurice C. Golah.

**SECOND BEST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$15). — Lloyd Broomes.

**THIRD BEST APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10).  
— Ramsahai Mangaroo.

**GROUP PRIZES:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$7.50).  
1949 Intake: — Erwin Panchorie.  
1950 Intake: — Ramkhelawan Bachoo.  
1952 Intake: — Seunarine Ramphal.  
1953 Intake: — Carlton Ramsey.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S PRIZE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCE:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10). — Maurice C. Golah.

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10). — Hugh Smith.

**MR. S. J. IRESON'S PRIZE FOR ENGLISH:**  
(Books/Tools to the value of \$10). — Alex Harrington.

After the presentations, addresses were given by Mr. E. Ramsey on behalf of the graduating Student Apprentices and Mr. A. Legall on behalf of the graduating Trade Apprentices when they expressed appreciation of all that had been done for them during their apprenticeship. At the end of the ceremony the Apprentices Dramatic Group staged a One-Act play, "The Rival Suitors" by José Ramon-Fortuné. This was followed by a Graduation party and dance. UBOTIMES congratulates all the prize-winners on their achievements and looks forward to hearing of the continued progress of those Apprentices who have graduated.



Harry Bailey, outstanding U.B.A.A. cyclist, who recently broke the Colony's half mile cycling record.

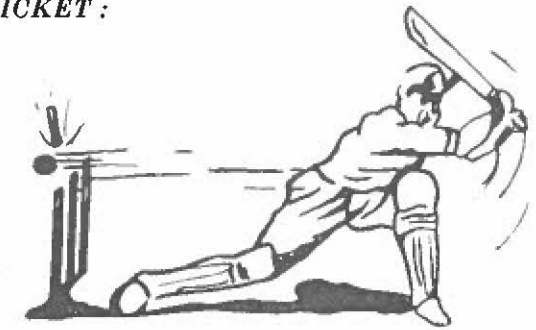
## Sports

### FOOTBALL:



This season, for the first time, the U.B.A.A. have entered two first class teams — UBAA "A" and UBAA "B" — in the S.A.F.L. Competition — a venture that was regarded with trepidation in some quarters, but one which the experts think is a means of "bleeding" the younger players who would otherwise have had to wait for some time to play first class football. At the end of the first round in the contest for the Mark Moody Stuart Shield the "A" team was second to Forest Reserve F.C., having won three games, drawn two and lost one. The "B" team, though playing good football at times, has not such a good record, having had two drawn matches and four defeats. In the Coronation Cup contest, which we won when it was first held last year, the "A" team qualified for the finals by defeating Forest Reserve and the "B" team. They will play the winner of the Apex-Leaseholds match in the final. The "A" team's experience in the Duckham Cup contest has not been so happy — they have been knocked out of the running. The "B" team, however, is still in the competition and at the time of writing are due to meet Spitfire F.C. The "A" team is still in the F.A. Trophy contest having beaten T.P.D. by six goals to nothing. On the other hand, the "B" side lost their first game against Forest Reserve and were thus eliminated. With two sides in the first Division League contest, the U.B.A.A. now has only one representative team in the Second Class Competition, a change from the last two years when we were represented by two teams. Nevertheless at the end of the first round in this competition we are at the top of the table along with Hawks F.C., another Point Fortin team. A keen struggle is expected in the second round. UBOTIMES wishes all our teams the best of luck in their remaining games.

### CRICKET:



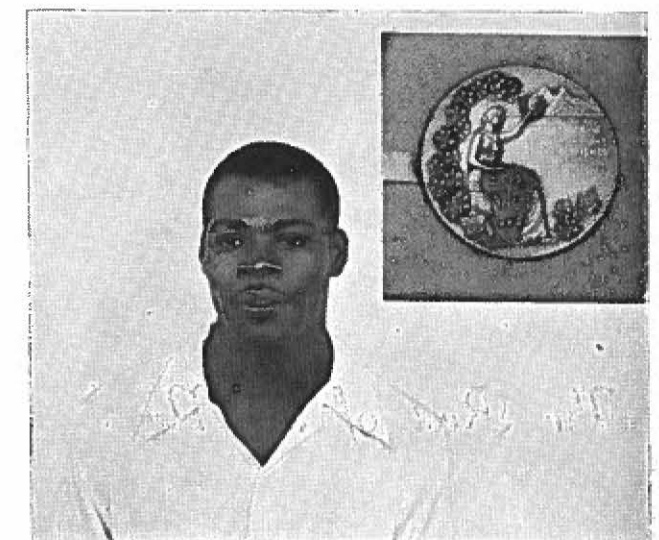
Both U.B.A.A. teams suffered defeat in the finals of the St. Patrick Cricket Competition, which were being played when the last issue of UBOTIMES went to Press. The first class side lost to Ste. Marie C.C. of Cedros, and the second class side to Durban C.C., of Siparia. It was heartening to see both our teams reaching so far, but it was even more encouraging, from the point of view of the continued keenness of the competition, to see that the championships were eventually won by new sides. UBOTIMES wishes to congratulate the winners.

On July 15th the U.B.A.A. Executive Board held its annual cricket dinner at the Kim Far Restaurant. In a brief speech, Mr. G. L. Reid, General Manager, said how happy he was to be among the boys who strove willingly on and off the field to uphold U.B.A.A.'s prestige. He was satisfied that although we won no trophies we had played the game in the true spirit. Replying, Mr. C. McClean, captain of the First Eleven and this magazine's Sports Editor, thanked the Executive Board for making the dinner possible and went on to say that all the players had enjoyed representing the U.B.A.A., and that in all matches the team spirit prevailed.

### OTHER SPORTS NEWS:

Congratulations to Harry Bailey, U.B.A.A. cyclist, who broke the Colony's half-mile cycling record when he represented Trinidad against Venezuela in the All-Stars meeting held at the Queen's Park Oval in June. Bailey, who started competitive cycling just four years ago, has already established three records — two of them in 1953 when he was promoted from "B"1 to "B" class. Because of his fine

The man and his medal — Mr. Rodney Wilkes.



performances he was again promoted later that year to the Intermediate Division, and when the classifications were published this year no one was surprised to find him in the "A" Division. He has also distinguished himself in two types of races which were recently introduced in Trinidad—"Australiana" and "Devil-Take-the-Hindmost". UBOTIMES joins every one in wishing this cyclist continued success.

From a recent issue of SHELL MAGAZINE comes a small boy's novel description of cricket to an American visitor: "It's quite simple. You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man on the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out the side that's been in the field comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get out those coming in. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. Then when both sides have been in and out—including not outs—that's the end of the game. Now do you see?"

When Rodney Wilkes bid goodbye to his colleagues at the Electrical Workshop before leaving to represent Trinidad at the British Empire Games at Vancouver, Canada, he is reported to have assured them that, all things being equal, he would win the gold medal in the Featherweight Weightlifting contest—a pledge that was duly fulfilled. At this, his first Empire Games, Wilkes, by lifting a total of 690 pounds remained supreme over other Empire weightlifters of that class. This was the sixth time that Rodney was successfully representing the Colony abroad. His first tour was to the Baranquilla Games of 1946, and this was followed by the Olympics of 1948, where he placed second, and by trips to Guatemala in 1950, Buenos Aires in 1951 and to the Olympics at Helsinki in 1952 when he placed third to two Russian weightlifters. His other trip abroad took him to the World Championship in Philadelphia in 1947, but there he failed to uphold his splendid reputation. A congratulatory cable was sent to this wonderful little athlete by the Management, Staff and employees of the Company, and UBOTIMES takes this opportunity to add its quota to the chorus of praise.

## Sportsmen of the Year and Photographic Competition

Name the Sportsmen of the Year!—and immediately several different names are put forward. This year we invite you to send us nominations from which, with the help of the experts, we will choose the best footballer, the best cricketer and the best athlete of the year, and the person who has done the most for sport in general. To this end, a separate nomination form is enclosed in each copy of this issue and all employees are asked to complete these and send them in by October 22nd, the date on which entries close. Penal employees are asked to name their choices for that area. Remember, that it is on your nominations that we rely to help us choose our "Sportsmen of the Year". UBOTIMES is also holding a photographic contest, open to all employees, for which first, second and third prizes of \$10, \$6, and \$4 respectively will be awarded. Photographs submitted must be of some Trinidad coastal scene and must have the owner's non-de-plume together with a description of the scene written at the back. Each entry must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the contestant's real name and address, with the non-de-plume written on the outside. Entries should be addressed to the Assistant Editor, UBOTIMES, Point Fortin, and must be received not later than October 22nd. The names of the prize-winners and the winning photographs will be published in the Christmas edition of UBOTIMES.

## The Rest of the News

The first anniversary of the Point Fortin District Welfare Council was observed at the Point Fortin Library on Thursday, July 15th, when Mr. J. H. Superville, Warden of the County of St. Patrick, installed officers for the ensuing



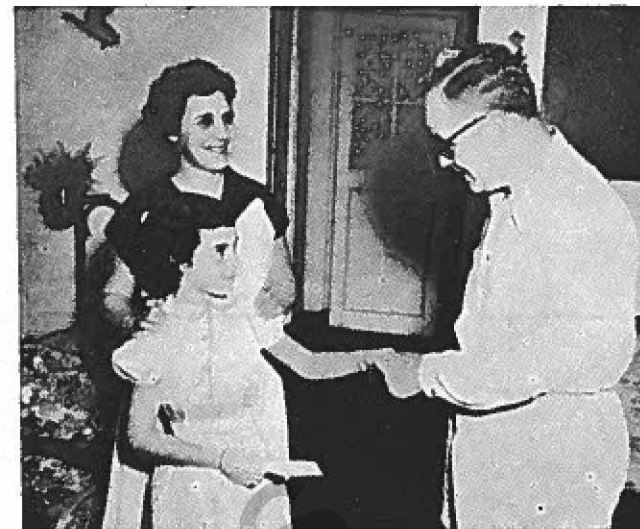
View of the new Royal Bank of Canada building.

year. The highlight of the ceremony was the induction of County Councillor D. I. Lynch as the Council's first President. Hitherto the Council had functioned under the principle of a rotating Chairman, but at a meeting held on July 16th it was unanimously decided to amend the constitution to provide for a permanent Chairman. The officers for the new term are: County Councillor D. I. Lynch, President; Mr. W. D. Best, Secretary; Mr. Amos Brown, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Mackie John, Treasurer. In a short address before the installation ceremony, Mr. Superville stated that the emphasis today was on Village Councils (as opposed to Literary and Debating Societies in his youth) and as such it was "the beginning of the end of an era—an era in which the people sat back and waited for Government or industry to do everything." This theme, the value of communal self-reliance, was repeated by Mr. G. L. Reid, General Manager, who stated that though U.B.O.T. would play its full part in the development of the Community, it wanted to fall more into the background. A report of the Council's first year of activity was read by Mr. W. D. Best, who, at the close of the function, was presented with a gift by Mrs. Melvie St. Louis on behalf of the Council. Mr. Best, together with Mrs. Best, sailed for the United Kingdom on July 21st. UBOTIMES extends congratulations to the new officers and wishes them a successful year in office.

The new Royal Bank of Canada building on Techier Road was opened on Thursday July 22nd when representatives of U.B.O.T. Ltd., The Oilfield Workers' Trade Union and residents of the district were invited to inspect the neat, well-planned building. On hand to greet them were Mr. W. Monroe, Manager of the Branch; Mr. J. W. Bradshaw, Supervisor of the Bank's Eastern Caribbean branches and Mr. G. V. S. Sharpe, the Bank's Port-of-Spain Manager. Rev. J. Allen, Rector of St. Marks, blessed the building. We congratulate the Royal Bank of Canada, whose enterprise has resulted in yet another valuable amenity being added to Point Fortin—to say nothing of a very fine modern building.

Discovery Day celebrations in Point Fortin were organised this year by a Committee headed by Mr. S. B. C. Singh, Headmaster of the Point Fortin E. C. School, with the assistance of several other community-minded persons. The celebrations, which included a parade by school children, Scouts and Guides, began with the ringing of church bells and the discharge of rockets, and ended with a dance and selection of a Discovery Day "Queen". The Annual 20-mile Walking Race, starting at Point D'Or Junction, La Brea, and ending at the Point Fortin E.C. School, was won in easy fashion by E. Shaw.

Two girls were the winners of the painting competition conducted by UBOTIMES amongst the school children in Point Fortin and Penal. Purpose of the contest, which was divided into two age groups, was to stimulate an interest



Whilst Mrs. Pampellone looks proudly on, Anne Pampellone, winner in Group II of the UBOTIMES painting competition, receives her prize from Mr. S. J. Ireson, Editor of the magazine.

in art and to obtain a novel cover design for this issue. The girls are Susan de La Bastide, of the U.B. Clifton Hill School, winner in the first group (up to and including children of 9) and Anne Pampellone, of the same school, winner in the second group (10 to 14 years). Anne's painting is reproduced as the cover design for this issue of UBOTIMES (for full story and prize-winning drawings see middle pages).



Susan de Labastide, winner in Group I of the contest, receives her prize. Looking on are her teachers, Miss P. Nicholas and Miss M. Manton, and a group of classmates.



Captain A. F. Dickson, and J. M. Langeveld (T.N.A.), J. E. Patterson, W. H. Vervloet, A. van de Graaf, E. J. Popieluch and F. A. Sanou (Drilling), D. Paterson, M. Zanela and J. M. O'Hara (Engineering), A. E. Murdoch (Materials), I. H. Steels, W. D. Best and F. Dutton (I.R.&P.), W. D. Bell (Exploitation), R. E. de Freitas, and A. R. B. Wilson (Refinery), D. S. Law (Port-of-Spain Office), B. E. Thompson and G. Cooke (Accounts), Miss K. Kinsey (Senior Staff School), and P. P. A. Davey (Exploitation).

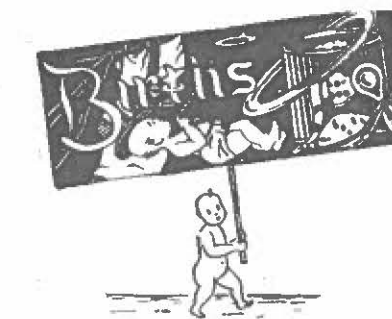


We extend congratulations to the following:—

Mr. O. Ormrod, of the Refinery, and Mrs. Ormrod on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. I. D. C. Connolly, Exploitation Engineer, Ortoire, and Mrs. Connolly on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. J. A. Thornton, of the Exploitation Department and Mrs. Thornton on the birth of a daughter.



Mr. H. B. Phillips, of the Refinery, and Mrs. Phillips on the birth of a son.

Mr. Horace Clement, of the I.R. & P. Department, and Mrs. Clement on the birth of a son.

Mr. C N Jackson, of the Central Engineering Office, and Mrs. Jackson on the birth of a son.

Mr. D. Taitt, of the Estate Police Force, and Mrs. Taitt on the birth of a son.

Mr. I. Seudat, of the Refinery, and Mrs. Seudat on the birth of a son.

Mr. J. A. Thornton, of the Exploitation Department and Mrs. Thornton on the birth of a daughter.

## Obituary

It is with deep regret that we record the following deaths and offer our sincerest condolences to the families concerned:

Reginald Julien, of the Engineering Department, who died on June 15, 1954.

Ramesarsingh, of the Engineering Department (Penal) who died on June 30, 1954.

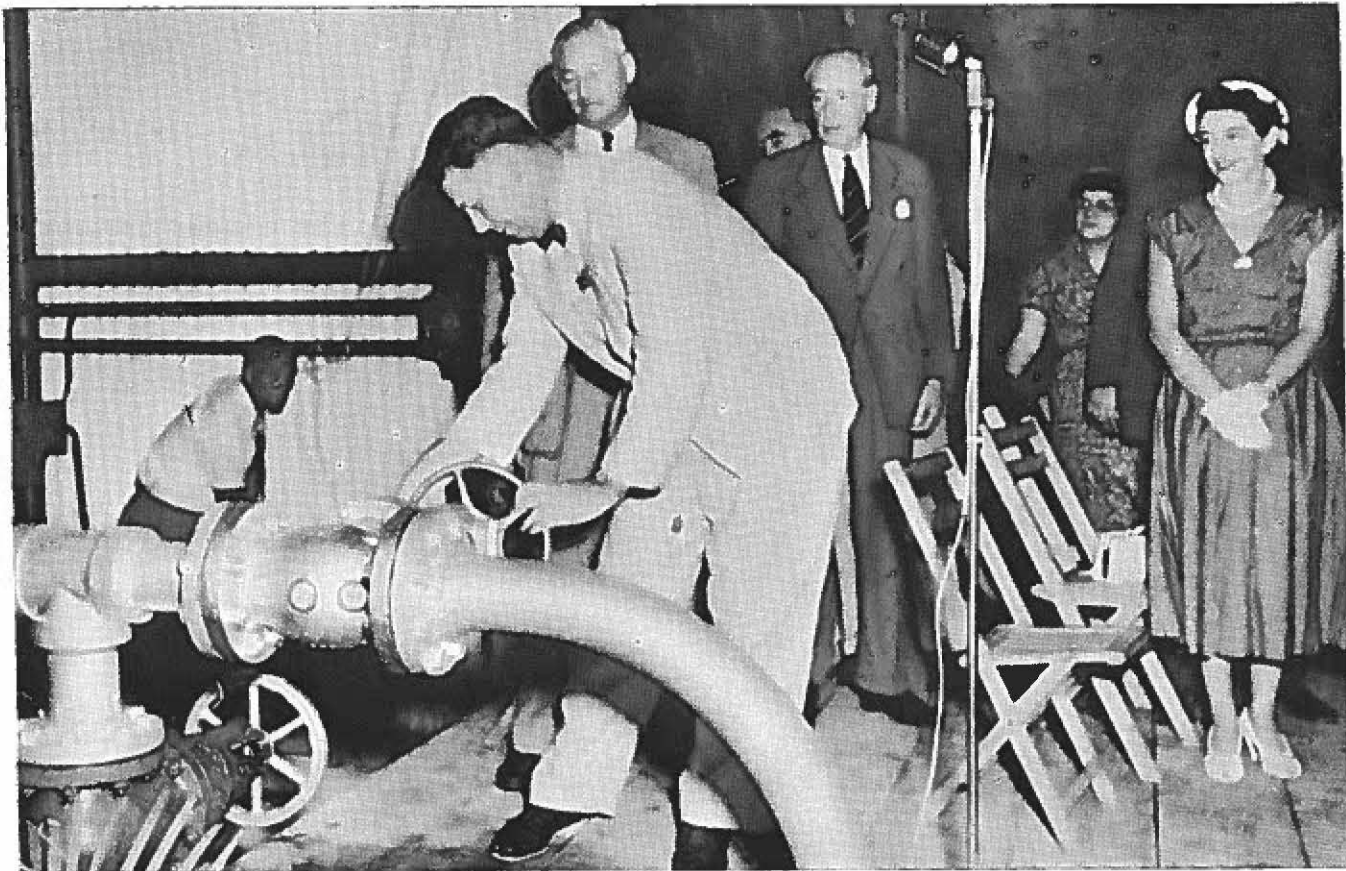
Milton Joseph, of the Refinery Marine Section, who died on July 13, 1954.

Lawrence Duncan, of the Engineering Department, who died on July 13, 1954.

Perez Andrews, of the Refinery, who died on July 24, 1954.

Irwing Billingham, of the Engineering Department, who died on August 10, 1954.

Egbert James, of the Transport Department (Ortoire) who died on August 20, 1954.



The Hon. Maurice Dorman, Acting Governor, opens the valve to start the flow of oil through the new pipeline. Looking on are Mr. G. L. Reid, General Manager, Wing Commander J. G. Brathwaite, a Director of the Company, Mrs. Albert Gomes, and Mrs. Dorman.

## Opening of the Ortoire-Penal Pipeline

ON Saturday, 3rd July, 1954, the 32-mile line, built between January and June this year, lay waiting to be opened by the Acting Governor, the Hon. Maurice Dorman. The General Manager of U.B.O.T. Ltd. and other Company officials, a member of the Company's Board of Directors from London, Ministers and other Government dignitaries, Councillors, representatives of other Oil Companies and the industry's Trade Union, and businessmen braved the inclement weather to assist in the ceremony of sending the first flow of oil through a pipeline which, it is hoped, will lead to substantial benefits to everyone.

Over a period of twenty trying years the Company had poured more than \$16 million into the inhospitable, unyielding Ortoire area. Vast sections of virgin jungle had been cleared and brought within the scope of civilization. Mile upon mile of the untrod, trackless Ortoire forest had been converted into sturdy, well-built roads, although there was not a rock or stone to be found for miles around. Acre

upon acre had been tirelessly probed and searched. Geologists, surveyors, engineers, technicians, and artisans had laboured in primitive surroundings and under forbidding conditions. All had contributed in some way or another towards the day when a pipeline linking the Ortoire to Penal and thence to Point Fortin would become a reality. Now that day had come.

As Mr. G. L. Reid, the General Manager, put it: "This Company has for more than twenty years been looking forward to, and working for, this day. Accordingly we may perhaps be pardoned for feeling a sense of pride that we have at last brought our ambitions to fulfilment in spite of considerable difficulties and setbacks which have at times made the prospects seem almost hopeless."

Nevertheless the occasion had to be seen in its actual perspective. "While", Mr. Reid went on, "this is naturally a day of fulfilment and rejoicing for our company and, to some extent also for Trinidad in general, in which



Mr. G. L. Reid, addressing the gathering. Also seen in the picture are the Hon. Maurice Dorman, Wing Commander J. G. Brathwaite, Mrs. Dorman, and Mr. J. L. Andrews, Production Manager.

we have invited you to join us, and while we should not overlook the significance of this opening up of an entirely new section of the oil belt in Trinidad, I would not like anyone here to think that they are participating in the birth of a bonanza, or that we have 'hit the jackpot' here in the Ortoire district."

The Company still had no idea whether by laying the pipeline and starting regular production from the Ortoire they had embarked upon a profitable venture or had further committed themselves to pouring out more and more money into a virtually bottomless pit.

Guests, he said, would easily understand how the enormous sum of money referred to had been spent by looking around when driving through Balata and Catshill and realising that only two and a half years ago these areas were nothing but virgin jungle.

"Nevertheless", he added, "this money has not by any means all been spent in Balata and Catshill and in the pipeline which now connects the producing wells to the refinery and market. There are a number of graves of our earlier hopes elsewhere in this neighbourhood. The pattern which we have had to follow is a familiar one in the oil business when trying to discover new fields, namely, to obtain a sizeable concession area and then to start the laborious process of scraping and probing in order to discover and sift out the areas from which oil can be produced, which, if existing at all, are almost certain to be extremely small in relation to the area as a whole".

In the case of Ortoire, Mr. Reid declared, it had taken U.B.O.T. more than twenty years to establish proven commercial oil-bearing territory amounting to under 500 acres of the Company's total holdings of 85,000 acres.

The financial difficulties which U.B.O.T. was now experiencing were mainly the results of their large efforts and expenditure in the attempt to win oil from the region, the necessity of which arose from the fact that new reserves had to be found to keep the life-blood of the Colony flowing.

Mr. Reid described the Company's undertaking as "a sort of competition which might almost be described as a vicious circle — trying to get money out at a faster rate than we put it in". It was obvious from what he had said that they were bound to lose unless substantial new com-

mercial oil deposits were discovered. "In the light of this situation", he declared, "you may well come to the conclusion that the Oil Industry is a crazy business, and to judge from our experience to date in the Ortoire district you might well be right. All I can say is that by the same token the Oil Industry can probably claim to be the most fascinatingly unpredictable there is, and the one where it is most necessary to have optimistic faith in the future".

In his speech, the Hon. Maurice Dorman, the Acting Governor, indicated that he thought the people of Trinidad possessed such faith, and although they realised the future was full of risk and uncertainty they were sure the Industry could be depended upon to maintain past performance.

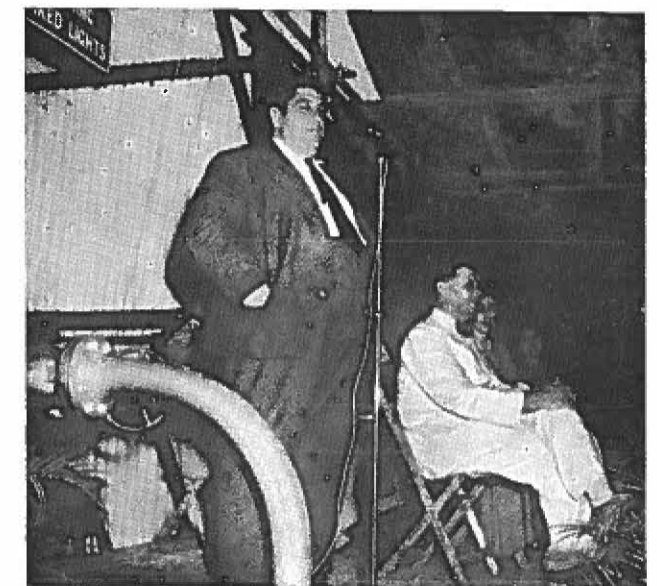
Touching on the question of oil reserves, which, he said, presented itself as a conflict of faith, Mr. Dorman asked: "Are we to believe your Jeremiahs or have faith in the outstanding ability of your teams of scientists and engineers, in the efficiency of your Industry, in the courage and vision of your leaders?" To which he answered: "We have the evidence of past years to fortify us. We have the buoyant optimism of our people to sustain us when, in this conflict of faith, we believe your Jeremiahs but have greater faith in your Industry's ability to maintain past performance". He added that like his friend, the Hon. Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, he remained an optimist. Mr. Dorman ended by assuring the Company that they had the warmest and best wishes of all Trinidad.

In his turn, the Hon. Albert Gomes endorsed Mr. Dorman's statements. At the same time he appealed for sane and realistic thought and attitude on the part of everyone, if the Colony was to make any economic progress.

In a brief speech Wing Commander J. G. Brathwaite, a Director of the Company, who had arrived from London with his daughter only a few hours before, recalled that his father, a London stockbroker, had pulled the financial strings which led to the founding of U.B.O.T. some 40 years earlier. The policy of this company from then till the present day had always been one of progress. They did not believe in storing money in the vault, but in putting it back into the business to keep it alive.

After the Hon. Maurice Dorman, Acting Governor, had turned the valve to send the first flow of oil through the pipeline, the guests were taken on a guided tour of the Balata and Catshill areas.

The Hon. Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, speaking at the opening ceremony.



With the dual purpose of stimulating an interest in art and obtaining a novel cover design for UBOTIMES, we recently conducted a painting competition amongst the school children in the Point Fortin and Penal districts. The children were divided into two age groups, and prizes of \$5.00, \$3.00, and \$1.00 were offered for the best paintings in each group. The conditions of the competition stipulated that the work must be unaided and cover the child's conception of some phase of our operations. Entries were judged by a panel consisting of Mrs. S. T. Waite, Dr. D. D. Muir, and Mr. H. Muller, to whom we extend our thanks. In order to preserve anonymity, each painting bore only a non-descriptive and the age of the child. The painting judged to be the best of the two groups was that done by Anne Pampellone of the U.B.O.T. Clifton Hill School, and she thus has the distinction of seeing her effort on our front cover.

Of the schools invited to participate, entries were received as follows:—U.B.O.T. School, Clifton Hill—16; U.B.O.T. School, Penal—20; U.B.O.T. Rio Claro School—2; Penal C.M. School—10; Cap-de-Ville Government School—2; Point Fortin Intermediate School—5; Guapo Government School—Nil; Point Fortin Government School—Nil; Point Fortin E.C. School—Nil.

The complete list of prize-winners is as follows:

*Group I: Up to and including 9 years of age:* 1st: Susan de la Bastide (U.B.O.T. Clifton Hill School—Drawing No. 4), 2nd: Michael de Verteull (U.B.O.T. Rio Claro School—Drawing No. 1), 3rd: Linda Melrose (U.B.O.T. Penal School—Drawing No. 3).

*Group II: From 10 years up to and including 14 years of age:* 1st: Anne Pampellone (U.B.O.T. Clifton Hill School—Front Cover), 2nd: Salman Seeparsad (Penal C.M. School—Drawing No. 2), 3rd: Patrick Lokai (Point Fortin Intermediate R.C. School—Drawing No. 5).

On this page we reproduce a selection of the drawings, and we think our readers will agree we have uncovered some promising artistic talent.

In congratulating the winners on their successes, we say to the losers—keep at it and better luck next time.

# CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION



# The Penal Division

## Part II.

**T**HE Company's Penal Division, the development of which was described in the last issue of UBOTIMES, falls naturally into two parts and this article is concerned with those departments whose business is strictly oil — Drilling, Production and Exploitation Engineering. The vital services rendered by the other departments will form the subject of a subsequent article or articles in this series on the Penal Division.

### Drilling Department

The world today, thanks to technical and scientific progress, may be one of substitutes and short-cuts, but unfortunately no short-cut has been, or is likely to be, found to the crude oil lodged in the womb of the earth. We still have to take the long way down, past difficult strata and through unpredictable geological formations, and we still have to take jumps in the dark.



In Penal the drilling business is no less risky and demanding. The supervision of it falls to Mr. A. J. Dorenbos, Senior Toolpusher, who has been with the Shell Group for 33 years. His is the task of seeing that the programmes drawn up by the Exploitation Engineering Department at headquarters in Point Fortin are carried out smoothly, efficiently and quickly. Responsible in this respect to Mr. P. Morris, the Drilling Superintendent, and Mr. R. P. Brown, Field Superintendent, he co-ordinates and directs all drilling operations from the Ortoire to Dome. His responsibility covers the rigging up of the drilling outfits, the complete drilling of the well, running and cementing casing, and the initial completion of the well until it is "washed in" and handed over to the Production Department. Assisting Mr. Dorenbos are the toolpushers, Mr. L. S. F. Peters, and Mr. C. Weetink, each of whom supervises the routine operations of one string. They ensure that the programme for each well is observed, see to it that the right equipment and materials are delivered to the rig, and generally supervise special aspects of each operation.

The drilling strings under their charge consist, as they do in Point Fortin, of four drillers and their crews — headmen, derrickmen, and floormen — who carry out the thousand and one necessary tasks. To maintain a round-the-clock schedule the crews work on an eight-hour shift basis, and all told the Penal Drilling Department employs about 80 men several of whom have given many years of service to the Company. Noteworthy in this respect are Mr. J. McIntosh, toolman, with 24 years service in both Point Fortin and Penal; Mr. D. Jones and Mr. C. Young, headmen, who have 20 and 17 years' service respectively, and Mr. B. Daniel and Mr. E. Tom, derrickmen, who have 18 and 16 years' respectively.

Like the rest of the Penal Division, the Drilling Department works in unison with headquarters and although routine operations are carried out without close supervision from Point Fortin, major changes in the programme, or unusual conditions encountered, are always referred to the Drilling Superintendent.

### Production Department

The job of the Production Department begins where that of the Drilling Department ends. In capsule form, their lot is to see that each well yields the maximum amount of oil possible during its lifetime. This in itself is a never-ending job, and when we add to it the other innumerable tasks, such as measuring the quantity of oil and gas produced, distributing the gas (a great deal of it is sold to Trinidad Leaseholds Limited and the Trinidad & Tobago Electricity Commission's new power station in Penal), and looking after the numerous production stations, it is easy to see why this is the biggest of the three departments under review.

Supervised by Mr. F. Anderson, Senior Production Foreman, it is divided into three sections — Well Pulling,

Well Testing, and Field Operations — each of which have their individual Supervisors in the persons of Mr. H. J. de Verteuil, Mr. W. Alston, Mr. F. Thompson and Mr. C. Maingot respectively.

Well pulling is the routine job of keeping pumping wells free of any impediment which would prevent them from producing, and ensuring that all pumps and allied equipment are in proper working condition. But to leave this bare description without amplification is to distort the true magnitude of the job, which is an exacting one when we take into account that on an average a pumping well requires some sort of work-over every month. Each day a list is prepared of the wells requiring attention and the work for the employees in this Section outlined. There can be many reasons for a well going off production — broken sucker rods, worn pumps, sand chokes — and it is the Section's duty to apply a swift, sure remedy. It is a job which many of them have been doing for a number of years and in which they have acquired much skill and experience. This is particularly so of Mr. K. Jacob and Mr. J. Williams, the two foremen assisting Mr. de Verteuil, and Mr. I. Henry, pumpfitter — they have been engaged in this type of work at Penal for the past 15 years. Mention should also be made of Mr. C. Alexander who has been Field Foreman at the San Francique and Dome Fields since the day they were taken over.

Despite the skill, patience, and best efforts of the well pullers there comes a time in the life of many a well when it is no longer possible to maintain production by routine work-over methods. If the horizon is not considered to be exhausted, attempts may be made to re-perforate the well, but often the only solution is to re-complete the well by plugging off the existing productive interval and opening up a higher sand if one exists in the well. New wells also may require to be tested at several different levels before a satisfactory productive interval is obtained. Some wells start to produce saltwater along with the oil, and this is obviously undesirable and requires "shutting off" in some way or another. These more complicated jobs are left to the Well Testing and Repair Section. The programmes for the work to be done by this Section are drawn up by the Exploitation Engineering Department, and give details of the horizons which are to be sealed off and the method by which this is to be done. They also indicate at what new level the casing is to be perforated, and any other technical data which may be required for a repair or re-completion job. It is the duty of the Section to follow these instructions and to endeavour to get the well back into production at a higher rate than before. Many an old well has been given a new lease of life by this method, and it constitutes an important phase in the Company's efforts to keep up the level of production. The experience gained in this phase of work is invaluable and offers ample scope for providing production knowledge to our junior Production Supervisors. In this respect Mr. G. Lambert should be mentioned, who having served his training in this Section for over a year is now in the U.K. to sit for his degree.

The duties of the third and largest section (Field Operations which includes Gas Distribution, Production Stations and Flowing Well Control etc.) are not so specific although they are no less important. Their job begins from the "washing in" of the well and its subsequent cleaning up process until it starts flowing freely. The crude from these and all other wells flows or is pumped into groups of 250-barrel tanks — the production stations as they are called. At this point the gas is, if necessary, separated from the oil, and both oil and gas are measured.

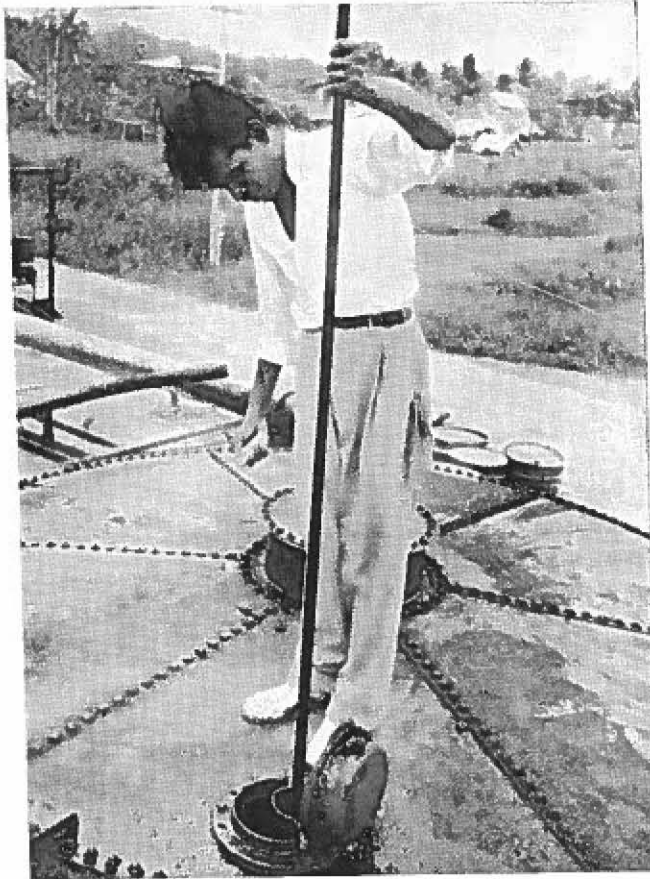
At each of the production stations is a gauger who is responsible for recording every hour the production of each well or group of wells by measuring the level of oil in the tanks. The gas is measured by means of flow-meters and passes into the distribution system, while the oil is pumped at regular intervals from the stations to the field main storage tanks. We need hardly stress the importance of accurate metering, the instrument maintenance of which is the responsibility of Mr. J. Russell.

Above, Mr. A. J. Dorenbos at his desk, and (left to right) Messrs. H. McIntosh and E. Tom. At right, Messrs. B. Daniel and D. Jones.



Downwards, from left to right, Messrs. F. Anderson, F. Thompson and H. J. de Verteuil, C. Black and R. Jagassar, J. Williams and J. Russell. Below, Messrs. I. Henry and R. de Coteau.





Above, Gauger H. Baboolal measuring the oil in one of the Penal production tanks, and, below (Left to Right), Messrs. H. M. Stiasny, F. Thomas and A. Bikharry.

Every day the gaugers reports are collected and the previous day's crude production and the gas production and distribution figures worked out from the daily charts taken from the meters. This is done by Mr. Carl Black, who has been employed with the Company in Point Fortin and Penal since 1933. In this, he is assisted by four clerks Mr. B. Supersad, Mr. R. Jagassar, Mr. H. Koylass and Mr. C. William.

Like the drilling crews, most employees of the Production Department work on an eight-hour shift basis. Many have given more than 10 years' service, and one of them Mr. R. de Coteau has been employed with U.B.O.T. for 26 years, the last 16 of which he has spent in Penal. In addition, two of his brothers, Mr. E. de Coteau and Mr. K. de Coteau, have been with us from 1938 and 1942 respectively, so that this family has given U.B.O.T. more than 50 years combined service. A notable achievement.

## Exploitation Engineering Department

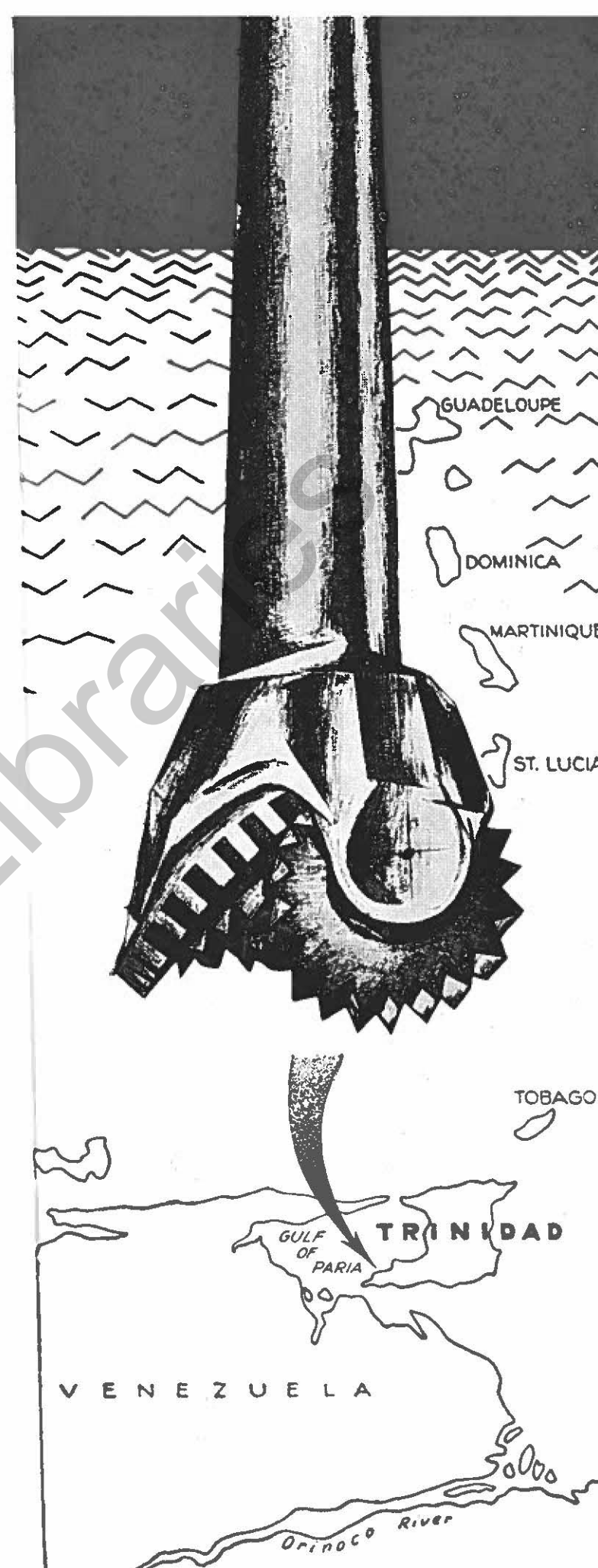
The technical advice upon which both the Drilling and Production Departments rely comes from the Exploitation Engineering Department. The Penal Section of the Department does not, however, formulate the programmes for development of the area, as this is all done by headquarters at Point Fortin. Even so, it is a job which fully occupies the time and attention of the Resident Exploitation Engineer in Penal, Mr. H. M. Stiasny, and his counterpart in the Ortoire, Mr. D. Connolly, for there remains the need to ensure that the technical requirements of the drilling programmes are fulfilled. There is the job of checking on casing, calculating the quantity of cement required, supervising the running of Schlumberger and other well surveys, the preparation of well completion programmes and the perforation of casing. They also prepare programmes for Production repair and re-completion jobs. The Penal Section keeps in close consultation with headquarters in Point Fortin, where decisions on important matters are made, leaving Penal to work out the details. In addition, all well records for the Penal Division are prepared by these Exploitation Engineers.

Besides giving technical advice, the Department also supervises the operation of the Mud Plant and makes routine analyses of drilling mud in the small laboratory provided for that purpose. All mud for use in the wells is prepared in the Mud Plant and pumped to the wells through an extensive pipeline system. Directly in charge of the Mud Plant is Mr. F. Thomas, who has a fine record of 30 years service to his credit, and in this work he is ably assisted by Mr. E. Bushell. Clerical work and type-writing is the responsibility of Mr. A. Bikharry.

Different though the functions of these three departments are, they are linked by one individual bond — their members' pride in their jobs. In many cases these employees have seen the Division through the difficult early days and have richly contributed to make it what it is today. They, as well as the more recently engaged employees, can justifiably be proud of their achievement.

As the search for new reserves of oil in Penal and the Ortoire Area is intensified, the work of the Drilling, Production and Exploitation Engineering Departments becomes more and more important to our everyday operations and their needs must be catered for if they are to do their work efficiently.

Shoulder-to-shoulder with the technicians and skilled and semi-skilled employees of these three Departments are the Staff and employees of the other Departments. As stated earlier, we shall endeavour to show in a subsequent article or articles that these other Departments supply the ancillary services without which the rest of the Penal Division, or for that matter any other Section of the Company's operations, could not function.



# The Drill Goes to Sea

THE Fourth of July, a significant date for our American friends, may well become a significant date for Trinidad. For this was the day on which Trinidad Northern Areas Ltd. inaugurated its first high seas well, the day on which the drill went out to sea. In one way or another, the results of this marine drilling venture will have a considerable influence on the Island's future prosperity. It was natural, therefore, that much attention was focussed on the inauguration ceremony held on the first marine drilling platform, located in the Gulf of Paria, some 14 miles from U.B.O.T.'s headquarters at Point Fortin, within sight of Trinidad's well known Soldier's Rock and seemingly within easy reach of the Pedernales field looming in the distance on the Venezuelan coast.

The locale did not fail to attract the attention of two of the members of the Government invited to take part in the ceremony. The Hon. Maurice Dorman, the Acting Governor, referred to it as an area "where only fishermen venture", and the Hon. Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, who started the drilling bit in motion, felt "something in the air that renders the occasion very dramatic". The drama, perhaps, lay more in the skill, ingenuity and hard work which had made the project possible, in the courage and vision needed for this venture, in the whole story of T.N.A. itself.

Today, for understandable reasons, the name T.N.A. is largely associated with marine drilling and the same applies to some extent to U.B.O.T., who are the operators for T.N.A. in respect of all the latter Company's submarine concessions. When T.N.A. was established in January 1936, as a result of an agreement between Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. and the United British Oilfields of Trinidad Ltd., the concept of marine drilling was merely part of an overall plan to step up the exploration for oil and establish bigger reserves. The general object (as the words *Northern Areas* imply) was to

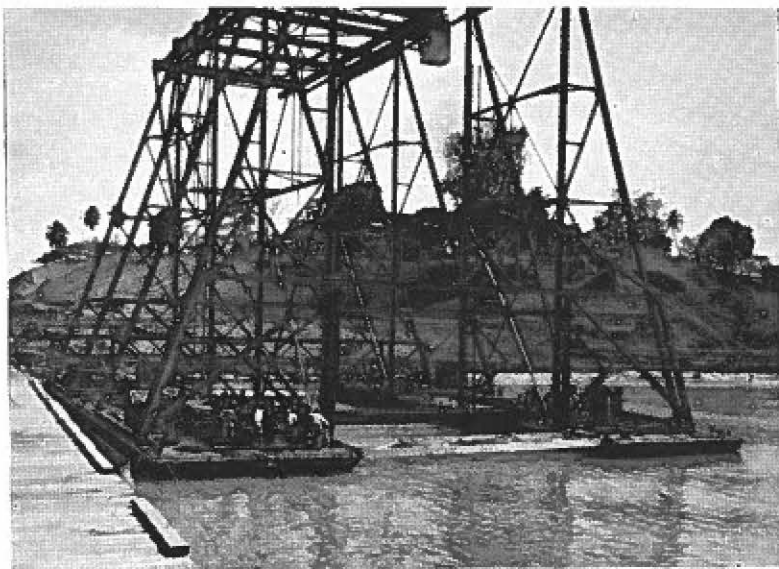


waters, and later applications for marine concessions were made by both T.L.L. and U.B.O.T. on behalf of T.N.A. On July 1, 1946, a licence was obtained to explore for and win oil in certain marine areas.

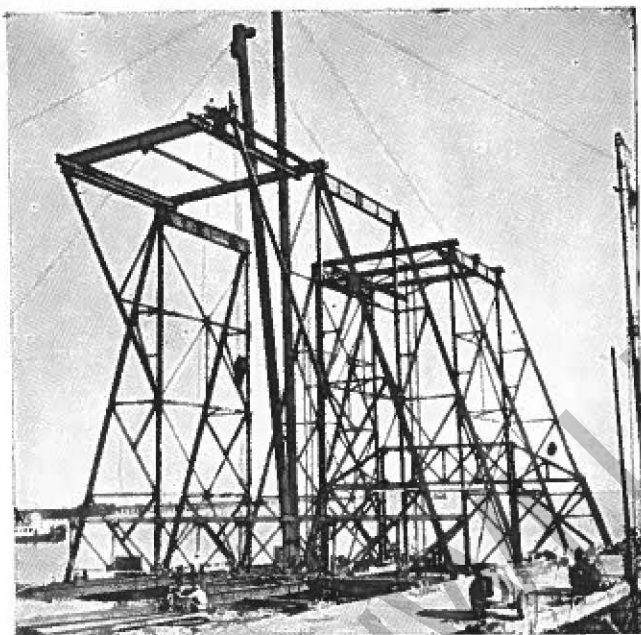
With the granting of this licence, plans began to take shape. There followed a series of surveys in an attempt to obtain essential geological information. Between 1947 and 1949 gravity surveys were made in the Gulf of Paria; a seismic survey followed in 1952, and sedimentation surveys in 1952 and 1953. In August and September 1950 test piles were driven into the sea bed in the area of the proposed location to determine the nature of the sea bottom.

Before any definite construction plans could be drawn up a detailed knowledge of wind, tide and weather conditions was also needed, and Capt. F. Dickson was sent out from London in January 1953 to set in motion machinery for obtaining this data. These observations are still being continued.

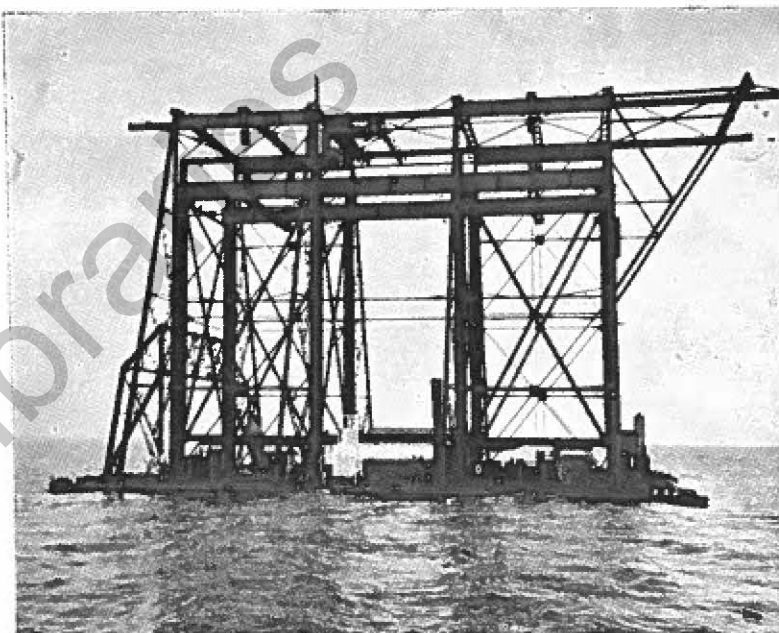
On the heels of Capt. Dickson came a preliminary visit by Mr. J. M. Langeveld, a designer from the Royal Dutch Shell's Hague Office of steel structures for refineries and



*The steel jacket almost completed.*



*At this stage of its construction, the steel jacket looks like a giant Meccano set.*



*Above, the steel jacket arrives at the location off Cedros.*

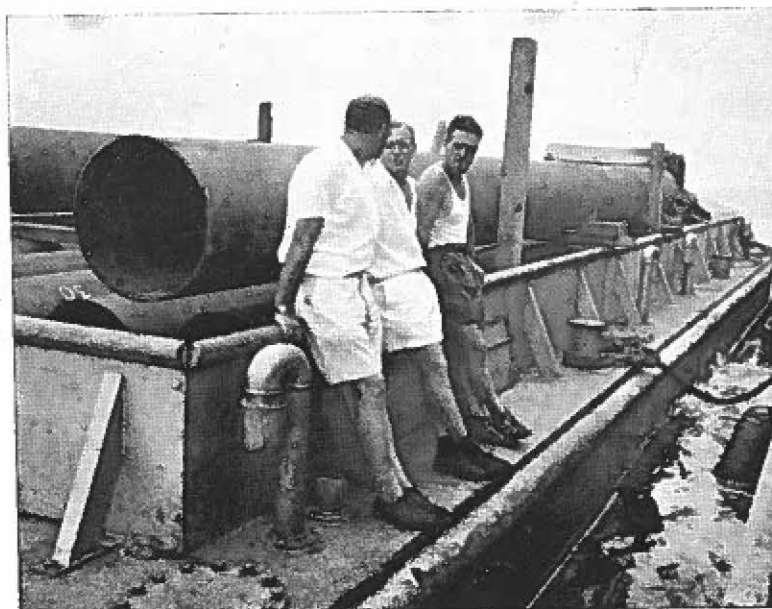
*Below, Messrs. J. M. Langeveld (left), L. C. Allcock (centre), and C. Boxall taking a "five" to discuss technical matters.*

other projects, and a man of considerable general experience in this type of work.

Early in 1953 work was started on cutting a road through the hill at Point Fortin, where the old Anglican Church once stood, down to the shore where it was planned to begin the building of a jetty. As soon as the road was completed, delivery began of the materials needed for the construction of the jetty which was itself completed in September. At this point the way was clear for work to be started on the actual marine part of the project.

The whole plan, in simple terms, was to assemble across two pontoon barges a gantry like structure through which piles could be driven into the sea bed at the well location, and on these piles the drilling platform would be fitted.

Because the drilling of this first well would be largely exploratory in character, it was decided that this platform should be of a design that would (a) meet local marine conditions (b) incorporate features for its easy removal in





*The Hon. Albert Gomes, Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, at the controls before starting the bit on its journey to the sea bed. Mr. J. L. Andrews, Production Manager, may be seen at the extreme left.*

effort), and in February they were refloated, brought to the jetty at Point Fortin, and put on the barge-fitting platform.

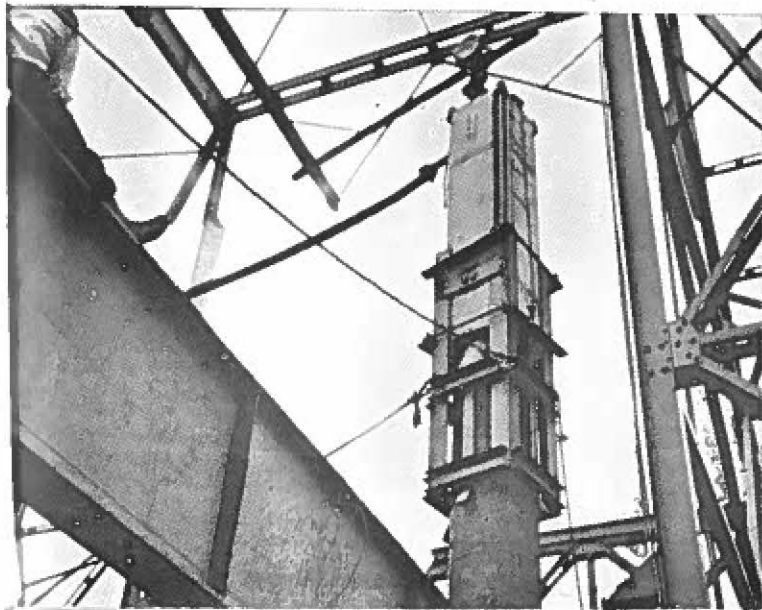
Slowly the structure began to assume that look that was to become very familiar — the look of a giant-sized Meccano set. With the aid of a 113-foot high hoisting derrick the sections of pre-assembled steelwork were lifted on to the barges — a method that had been put to the test and proven satisfactory in the erection of the Borneo platform.

At this point it is interesting to contrast the differences in the Borneo and Trinidad operations and to see how the experience gained in one was utilised on the other.

The Borneo platform is also 100 feet by 50 feet but is supported by 28 piles and connected to the shore by cableway. It was designed to withstand the open-sea conditions off the Borneo coast. It was decided to use only 8 piles of a larger diameter to support T.N.A.'s platform, and an electric crane built on to a pontoon frame was used to support a seven-and-a-half ton double acting steam hammer which drove the piles to pin the Trinidad jacket to the sea bottom. Whereas in Borneo two lines convey fresh water and drilling mud from shore to the location, the plan here was to have the mud supplied by barges from a plant on shore, and to carry a small standby stock on the platform. Finally — and this is a vital difference — the Borneo platform is a permanent fixture whereas T.N.A.'s can be removed.

*Closeup of the steam hammer driving piles into the sea bed.*

*Some of the costly launches which had to be purchased for this marine venture.*





## Family album

**CONRAD BERESFORD MATHISON**—or "C.B." as he is known to his friends—was born in Port-of-Spain on June 4, 1900, received his early education at the Western Boys R.C. School, and after this had private tuition up to Cambridge examination standard. He first worked at a store in Port-of-Spain, and in his spare time he studied commercial subjects which enabled him, on March 1st, 1921, to join the Company as a stenographer. Two years later he was assigned to deal specifically with Production work, and a year later he was moved to the Accounts Department. His ability enabled him to rise to the position of Head of the Personnel Section of that Department, and with the formation of the Industrial Relations and Personnel Department in April 1950, his experience in personnel work coupled with his knowledge of conditions and the community made him an automatic choice for the post of Staff Supervisor, a position which he still holds. For many years "C.B." has identified himself with welfare work and as a member of the St. Patrick Community Education Committee, his activities have extended beyond the boundaries of the Point Fortin district. One movement, however, has been very close to his heart—the Child Welfare League, and from 1933 until the present time he has been Hon. Treasurer and Secretary-Treasurer of the Point Fortin Branch which runs the only Child Welfare Maternity Hospital in Trinidad. Largely through his efforts this has grown from a six-bed to a twenty-bed hospital and instead of the one nurse formerly employed the institution now boasts a Ward Sister and three nurses. In recognition of his work the League recently made him one of its Vice-Presidents. An ardent Scout, in his boyhood he gained many proficiency badges and was elevated through the ranks to the position of Assistant Scoutmaster. To-day he still finds it possible to give support to the movement and is Chairman of the La Brea/Cedros Boy Scouts Local Association. In club life "C.B.'s" talents have also taken him to executive positions. He has been a member of the Executive Board and Treasurer of the United British Athletics Association from its inception. He was Treasurer of the Junior Staff Club (as it then was) from its formation in 1934 until 1945, when he became President, a post he held for two years. The Club's Literary Section was one which particularly occupied his interest, and whilst he was a member of it, he became Chairman of the St. Patrick Division of the Literary League of Trinidad & Tobago. Only recently he read an enlightening paper to the Club on "Point Fortin" Past, Present and Future", tracing the development of the district and indicating its possible further expansion. Although never an active sportsman, he has always been a football fan and has represented the U.B. Clubs on the Southern Amateur Football League Council from 1936 onwards. During World War II "C.B." did his bit by enlisting as a part-time volunteer and was attached to the First Coast Defence Battery stationed at Point Fortin. Happily married for 28 years, he is the father of one girl, who is herself married, and two boys, the elder of whom is now at St. Mary's College. To-day his main hobbies are photography—he is Secretary of the Camera Section of the Clifton Hill (U.B.) Club—and stamp collecting, to which he hopes to devote more time in later years. A tireless welfare worker, a man fair and dispassionate in his dealings, and esteemed for his 33 years of loyal service to the Company, "C.B." adds lustre to our Family Album.



G. Ragoonthan operates the shaping  
ents, and at right, Apprantlog G.  
also, woodwork specimens.



# Apprentices Technical School Parents Day



At left, Apprentice R. Pillai displays a model boat; below left, Apprentice S. Ranaphal operates a lathe; A' right, Apprentice R. Mahara) operates the same lathe and, below right, parents and relatives are seen having tea at the Hostel.

