

TODAY'S BUSINESS MIRROR

**Mild Weather Gives Pipeline Oilmen Worries and Shivers**

By SAM DAWSON

New York, Nov. 10 (AP)—A mild fall—and the pipeline that attaches the easterner's furnace to a Texas natural gas well—give the fuel oil man the shivers.

Fuel oil producers started raising prices as the summer ended. Now, in the east, they are granting price concessions to wholesale purchasers.

Oil storage tanks are well filled—at the producer's level. But mild weather induces the homeowner to put off buying. And jobbers have resisted oilmen's pleas to stock up, apparently satisfied that fuel oil is going to be plentiful, and that if another open winter is in the making, oil prices will be soft.

As the tentacles of natural gas pipelines push steadily northward into the oilman's richest market, he is losing some of that elation he has felt since the war when mounting coal mining costs sent that fuel up into oil price brackets.

At the University of Illinois they recently figured out that, according to the amount of heat each fuel gives off, you can heat your house at the same total cost whether you pay eight cents a therm for gas, 11.2 cents a gallon for fuel oil, or \$20 a ton for anthracite. Therefore, it was pointed out this week to the 5,000 oilmen at the Chicago meeting of the American Petroleum Institute, in some localities none of the three fuels enjoys much of a price advantage anymore.

The oilmen are doing all right, of course. This year they are installing around a half million new oil burners, nearly a third more than last year. They are selling more and more fuel oil. Since 1939 the country's total use of oil for both heat and power has gone up 66 per cent.

However, in the same period the nation's use of natural gas went up 97 per cent. And the oilmen are warned by a New York marketing consultant E. Holley Poe, that they haven't seen the half of it yet.

Natural gas pipelines authorized by the federal power commission in the last 12 months will add a daily capacity of 2.6 billion cubic feet to present capacity, or the equivalent in energy at an annual rate of 183 million barrels of oil. Poe reminded the oil men that this one year's addition to natural gas capacity is equal to half of all the distillate fuel oil they sold last year. Natural gas transmission lines now total more than a quarter million miles, and last year the industry sold nearly three trillion cubic feet of gas.

In Chicago some of the oil dealers are calling this natural gas invasion of the northeast—stressing the refinery, tanker, tank wagon and local distributing labor that is employed by the fuel oil men to get oil to your furnace, as compared to the relatively simple business of piping gas across the land. And the oilmen say the government ought to prevent it.

But Poe has a word for that, too. He warns them that any new federal interference with gas "must, and will, be accompanied by further regulation of the oil industry."

The reason oilmen fret most about the weather in the northeast is that 45 per cent of all the nation's oil burner installations are in New York, New Jersey and the six New England States. It takes a lot of cold weather elsewhere to offset the sales drop when a warm sun shines in the northeast.

A year ago fuel oil sold as 12.9 cents a gallon in New York. Now it sells at 11.9 cents, but some of the big oil companies have just started wholesale buyers an allowance of 6-10 of a cent a gallon, to move oil out of the terminals. The retail price so far has not been affected.

Oil men, however, renew their warning not to count your weather before it snows. The warm days may end soon. Last

**Dallas Reservoir Undergoes Tests**

Dallas, Ore., Nov. 10—The new 3,000,000 gallon water reservoir on the west Clay street heights is being tested for water leaks. The reservoir is filled at different levels, each being held for 48 hours, with a maximum of one-eighth of an inch drop.

The new reservoir is scheduled for use early next month, according to E. L. McCleary, water commission manager. The new basin has been sterilized and ready when the final tests are made.

Construction has been by F. B. Miller and company, Salem, and provides nearly three times the capacity of the old reservoir and when used in combination with it, stores more than 4,000,000 gallons of water.

Noah's Ark was calked with pitch, a form of petroleum gathered from the shores of the Dead Sea.

**Shippers Opposed to Higher Truck Rates**

Portland, Nov. 10 (AP)—Spokesmen for shippers testified yesterday against freight rate boosts asked by Oregon truckers.

George M. Martin, official of the Utah Canning company, Milton, said any boost would menace the competitive position of northwest canneries. He said the profit margin in the industry already was too low. He spoke for the Northwest Cannery Association.

H. A. Holmes, representing Medford area fruit growers, said the industry couldn't afford higher rates. He urged the state utilities commission examiners to exempt fresh fruits from any rate increase.

**7,700-Ton Freighter Breaks Amidships**

Seattle, Nov. 10 (AP)—The 7,700-ton freighter Andalucia broke amidships on its rocky underwater pinnacle last night and today, the coast guard said, the bow and stern sections are about 100 feet apart.

A three-man salvage crew, which went aboard last evening to attempt removal of the vessel's deck cargo of lumber, was removed when the ship began to crack.

The Andalucia went aground last Friday when the master attempted to beach her after fire broke out in the engine room.

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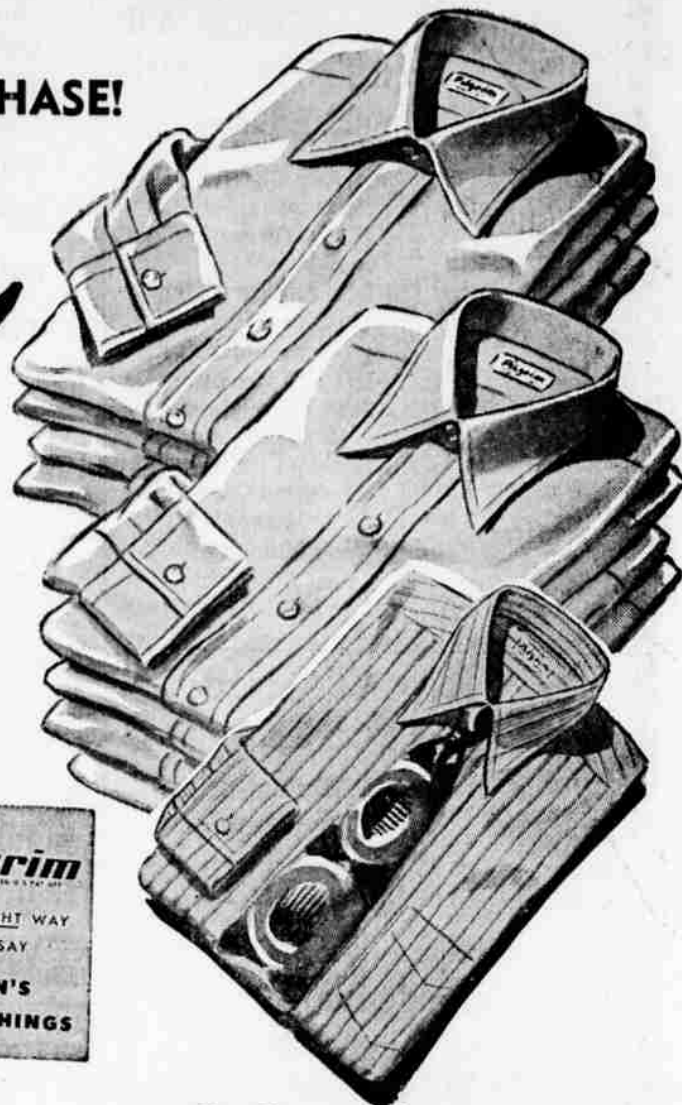
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