

# New Kansas Helium Plant To Assure Space-Age Fuel

**By REYNOLDS KNIGHT**  
The extended dry spell that has plagued the Northeastern quadrant of the country may have caused many personal inconveniences and some damage through fires, but its detrimental effects on the basic economy of the region will be relatively slight.

Several major local industries in New England, for example, had finished their "season" before the drought hit. A major part of all agricultural output was safely "in the barn" or on its way to the processors and distributors. Tourism, a big dollar earner in New England and northern New York, was in its normal dol-drum between the summer surges.

Transportation to service medium and heavy industry in the area has suffered little damage because highways and railroads mainly bring in necessary raw materials and parts; river transport is little used east of Pennsylvania. (In this respect the drought is much preferable to hurricanes, which in the past have flooded or otherwise decommissioned rail and highway arteries, with serious effects.)

Fires of course have caused loss in commercial timberlands and to scattered residen-

## Safety Folders Available at Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol has available to the public without charge a number of brochures dealing with various aspects of highway safety.

Motorists may obtain copies of these folders by writing John Wagner, public information officer, California Highway Patrol, 437 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 4.

tial properties — and that will keep insurance firms busier than usual. And unless there's heavy rain soon, a number of farm crops such as fruits may suffer next year.

**SPACE PROGRAM BOOSTER**  
—When helium was discovered in natural gas in 1905 only "way out" dreamers thought of actually going to the moon some day. But with the recent dedication at Liberal, Kan., of a multi-million-dollar helium extraction plant, the government's space program was assumed of an adequate supply of this space-age fuel, even though demand is now 600 million cubic feet a year.

The new National Helium Corp. will pour into the government storage fields each year nearly twice as much helium as the government's own five plants can produce. National Helium — a joint venture of Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Co. and National Distillers & Chemical Corp. — will have an annual production capacity of some 1.3 cubic feet; the total annual capacity of the government plants is only 700 million cubic feet.

AS MIGHT BE expected, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the nation's largest single user of helium, which is to play a double role in the next important step in our space program: the 1964 launch of Gemini, the two-man spacecraft. Helium will be used in the pre-launch servicing and fuel system of the rocket which will lift Gemini into orbit, and also in the capsule control system. It was the small annual volume of the government's plants, plus realization that helium was vital to space exploration that prompted the government helium conservation program adopted in 1958.

**HAPPY TURNABOUT**—Following months of front-page squabbling in which railroad labor was pitted against railroad management over the featherbedding issue, it is unusual to find them teamed together on a different but equally important matter.

Recently the organization representing all the railroad unions — Railroad Labor Exec-

utives Assn. — came out in support of giving railroads freedom to set minimum freight rates, an objective of several bills now before Congress.

Management has argued for years that such freedom to set minimum rates, which trucks enjoy when hauling agricultural products and barges enjoy when hauling bulk commodities would not win

back business for the rails but actually reduce transportation costs for consumers.

The reversal of position by the railroad brotherhoods (labor unions) is expected to improve chances of enactment of the so-called "fair competition" legislation before Congress. For now labor has joined management and the big shipper organization and twelve national farm organizations and hun-

dreds of Chambers of Commerce to urge Congress to allow the railroads to help themselves.

**THINGS TO COME** — A toy racing car powered by a solar cell that obtains propulsion energy when a flashlight beam is directed on it is to be marketed in a do-it-yourself kit form by a California firm . . . A high-priced cigarette brand

has been launched in the New York area; its package is actually two attached "twin packages" holding 10 smokes each . . . A full-size auto-washing apparatus that can be folded and put away when not in service operates with standard household water power and electric current; it's accompanied by such supplies as brushes, detergent tank and a washer-dryer for towels.

**WORKING WIVES** — Most business observers know that a sizeable fraction of the nation's married-female population has jobs, but now a survey reports that the total is

close to 13.5 million. Another finding is that better-educated females are more likely to seek and hold jobs. Among families having a total income of more than \$25,000, the wife-at-work occurs in 20 per cent of such families.

**BITS O' BUSINESS**—Department store sales nationally are believed to have dipped below expectations in October because of unseasonal warm weather . . . Gasoline prices are headed downward in many sections of the country; in the upper Midwest three reductions have been announced in barely two weeks.

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• PEAS • SPINACH  
• CUT CORN  
• FRENCH FRIES  
• CRINKLE CUT POTATOES  
YOUR CHOICE  
**5 PKGS. 89¢**

BIRDS EYE FROZEN  
• PEAS & POTATOES with CREAM SAUCE  
• CORN, PEAS and TOMATOES  
• CUT BEANS with BUTTER  
YOUR CHOICE EACH  
**25¢**

PILLSBURY ALL FLAVORS REFRIGERATED COOKIES  
2 PKGS. **89¢**



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PRICES EFFECTIVE THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, NOV. 14-17

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**CAL-FAME DRINKS**  
5 46-OZ. CANS **\$1.00**

HILLCREST SLICED BEETS 16-OZ. CANS **2 23¢**

KERN'S STRAWBERRY PRESERVES 2-LB. JAR **59¢**  
MAKES SO MANY GOOD THINGS  
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PRICE INCLUDES 5¢ OFF LABEL  
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STRIPE SHORTBREAD, 12 1/4-OZ. PKG.

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FOLGER'S 3-LB. CAN. **\$1.49**  
Coffee 1-LB. CAN **59¢**  
2-LB. CAN. **\$1.17**  
INSTANT COFFEE, 10-OZ. JAR. **\$1.15**  
PRICE INCLUDES 5¢ OFF  
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NESTLE'S CHOCOLATE Quik 1-LB. CAN **39¢**  
SERVE HOT OR COLD  
HUNT'S Tomato Sauce 6 8-OZ. CANS **45¢**  
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PRICE INCLUDES 3¢ OFF LABEL  
ZEE Sandwich Bags PKG. OF 75 **19¢**  
ZEE Lunch Bags PKG. OF 50 **19¢**

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LOOKS AND TASTES LIKE HAM  
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R. S. Pyle, your Telephone Manager in Torrance

TELEPHONE PATROL

Maintaining phone lines is a never ending job! To keep phone lines ready for your calls, men in Telephone Patrol planes fly along hundreds of miles of phone cable nearly every day. They're on the lookout for construction work or other hazards that might damage underground or overhead lines. They warn anyone on the ground working near cables by dropping notes or calling to them over the plane's loudspeaker system.

You, too, can help protect your service (and your neighbors') by watching out for buried cable if you have occasion to use digging equipment on your property. If you're having a contractor handle the job, it's a good idea to remind him, too.

If you have any questions about the location of a buried cable, just give us a call.

Here's a shortcut to faster phoning. As you can see on this map, Southern California is divided into different telephone calling areas, each with its different Area Code. And these Area Codes are your key to faster service.

For example, if you want to call from the 213 area to a number in the 714 area, please remember to dial the Area Code (714), then the telephone number. Even when you place calls through an Operator, they'll go through faster if you give her the Area Code. On calls within your own area, no Area Code is needed . . . just dial the phone number.

Pacific Telephone

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built-in light for faster, easier ironing . . . eliminates eye strain . . . water wadger tells you when to refill . . . one-control temperature selector . . . floating 7-ft. cord.

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4 appliances in 1 . . . toasts, broils, bakes or roasts . . . automatic, lightweight, portable . . . has thermostat control; heat-proof, look-in window; stay-cool handles and feet.

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