



CWO James Combs, McKeeson on his recent promotion at Coe Barricks, Yokohama. Charles Utley, Durham, N. C.

### Five Questions Most Asked Answered By Local Oil Man

Five of the questions the public most frequently asks about gasoline and the nation's oil industry were answered today in a statement by Charles G. Harris, of the local area Oil Industry Information Committee. The questions deal with what determines gasoline prices, why there are so many brands of gasoline, monopoly charges, the future of oil as affected by atomic energy, and "myths about a 100-mile per gallon carburetor."

"Local competition determines gasoline prices," said Mr. Harris. "The individual dealer's gasoline prices tend to stabilize at a point where margin of profit and volume of sales strike the most favorable balance." He pointed out that this process and the fluidity of consumer buying habits produce small but distinct variations in local and nation-wide gasoline prices. "In the Durham area,"

he said, "there is a price spread of four and one-half cents a gallon. Prices may vary up to eight cents per gallon nationwide."

As to whether the many brands of gasoline are "all the same," Harris said, "Definitely not. Each company makes many different gasolines."

"If all gasolines were the same, it would be necessary to develop variations. Otherwise, it would be impossible for each driver to get good performance, as he now can, from his own make and model of engine, anywhere, under any conditions, in any weather."

On the question of monopoly, Harris pointed out that there are some 42,000 oil companies in this country, plus about 200,000 service stations operated by some 190,000 separate and competing concerns. He asserted that monopoly "could never have built today's American

oil industry."

"During the past 25 years," he said, "oil companies have increased production by 158 per cent, and have developed literally hundreds of new and better products. The price of their most widely used product, gasoline, is only 7.3 per cent higher (except for taxes) than it was in 1925. And the power this gasoline delivers is 50 per cent higher than it was in 1925. No monopoly, governmental or private, could match this record."

In regard to atomic energy's effect on the oil business, Harris said that "power needs are growing at such a rate that atomic energy will be a welcome supplement to other energy sources for countless years to come."

"Proved U.S. oil reserves today, despite the entire consumption of fifty years of peace and war, are more than ten times the total amount known to exist in 1900," he said. "And petroleum extraction from oil shales, now practical but costly, would yield three times the 38.8 billion barrels of our present proved reserves."

Harris said that reports of the oil industry's suppressing fuel-saving devices such as a 100-mile-per gallon carburetor crop up perennially. No such carburetor has ever been patented, or even stood up to intensive investigation," he said. He added that patents can't be kept secret, "since anyone can obtain copies of any patent granted by the U. S. Patent Office."

"There is none on a 'magic carburetor' or on those equally vaunted 'magic pills' which, when mixed with water, purportedly make motor fuel," Harris said.

The Oil Industry Information Committee representative, who is also president of the Bull City Oil company, based his statements on information just issued by the OIIC, which is sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute.

### Erskine Hawkins To Play For Pre-June German

Two of the top Rhythm and Blues orchestras of all times will be among the big stars in The Biggest Rhythm and Blues Show which will play for the 22nd Annual Pre-June German



ERSKINE HAWKINS

at the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium on Monday Night, June 6th; the famous Erskine Hawkins and his great orchestra and Little "Walkin'" Willie and his orchestra.

If that isn't enough the show also stars three of the top Rhythm and Blues vocal groups in the country; The Drifters whose Atlantic record of "What Ya Gonna Do" is at present the number three favorite on all juke box boxes in the country; The Hearts whose recording of "Lonely Nights" on Baton la-

bel has pushed them right up to the top in the Rhythm and Blues field; The Spaniels whose Veejay recordings of "Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight" and "Do Wah" has shot them into nation prominence.

Now add to all that the top singing find of the year, Roy Hamilton, "The Golden Boy of Song", whose recording of "You'll Never Walk Alone" made him the number one favorite of the country.

And if that isn't enough the one and only Willie Mabon will be on hand with his unusual singing style and the inimitable

Jimmy Reed, On the diastaff side there are two of the nation's outstanding delineators of the rock and roll rhythm school, LaVern Baker and Della Reese. Then there are Jimmy Mitchell and Julian Dash, two of the nation's top sax players.

All in all this adds up to one of the greatest evening of thrills of Rhythm and Blues ever offered on any stage. That is the 22nd Annual Pre-June German for you. In Raleigh at the Memorial Auditorium on Monday Night June 6.

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