SEVEN "WONDERS" OF CREOLE

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Antiquarians are generally agreed as to the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, human accomplishments which testify to the imagination and toil of a civilization.

Today American industry boasts accomplishments which, for their very size and boldness of conception, may be considered "wonders" in their own right—the Empire State Building, the transatlantic cable, and many others less well known but tremendously important as milestones of progress within specific industries.

The following achievements of Creole Petroleum Corporation, a U. S. company and Venezuela's largest oil producer, are noteworthy in the world of oil production.

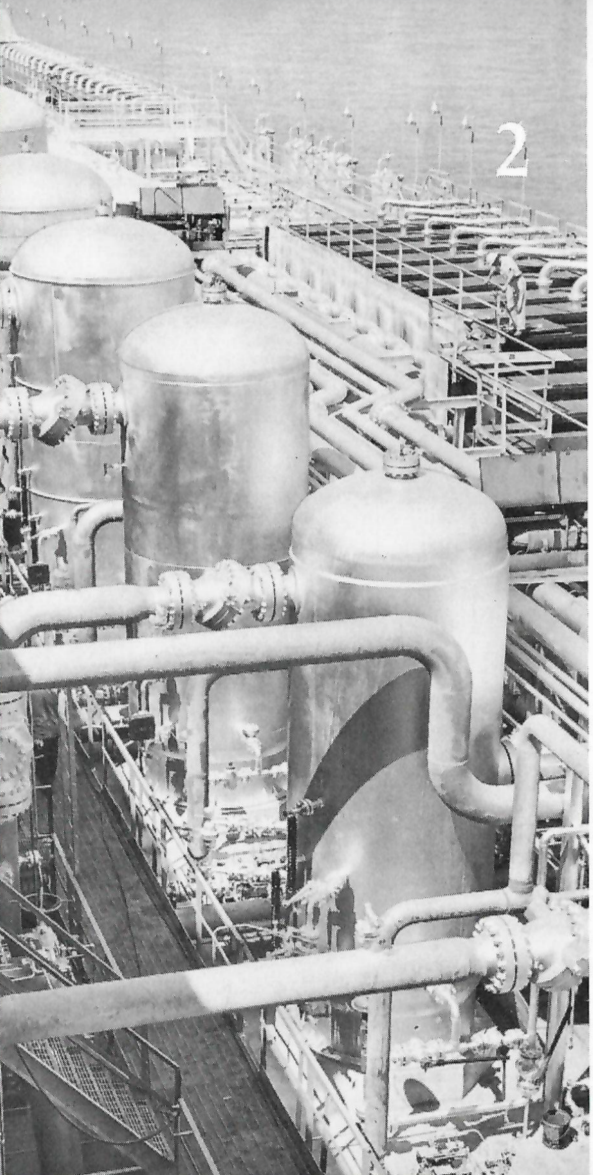
Here, then, are the Seven "Wonders" of Creole.



1 THE BOLIVAR COASTAL FIELD

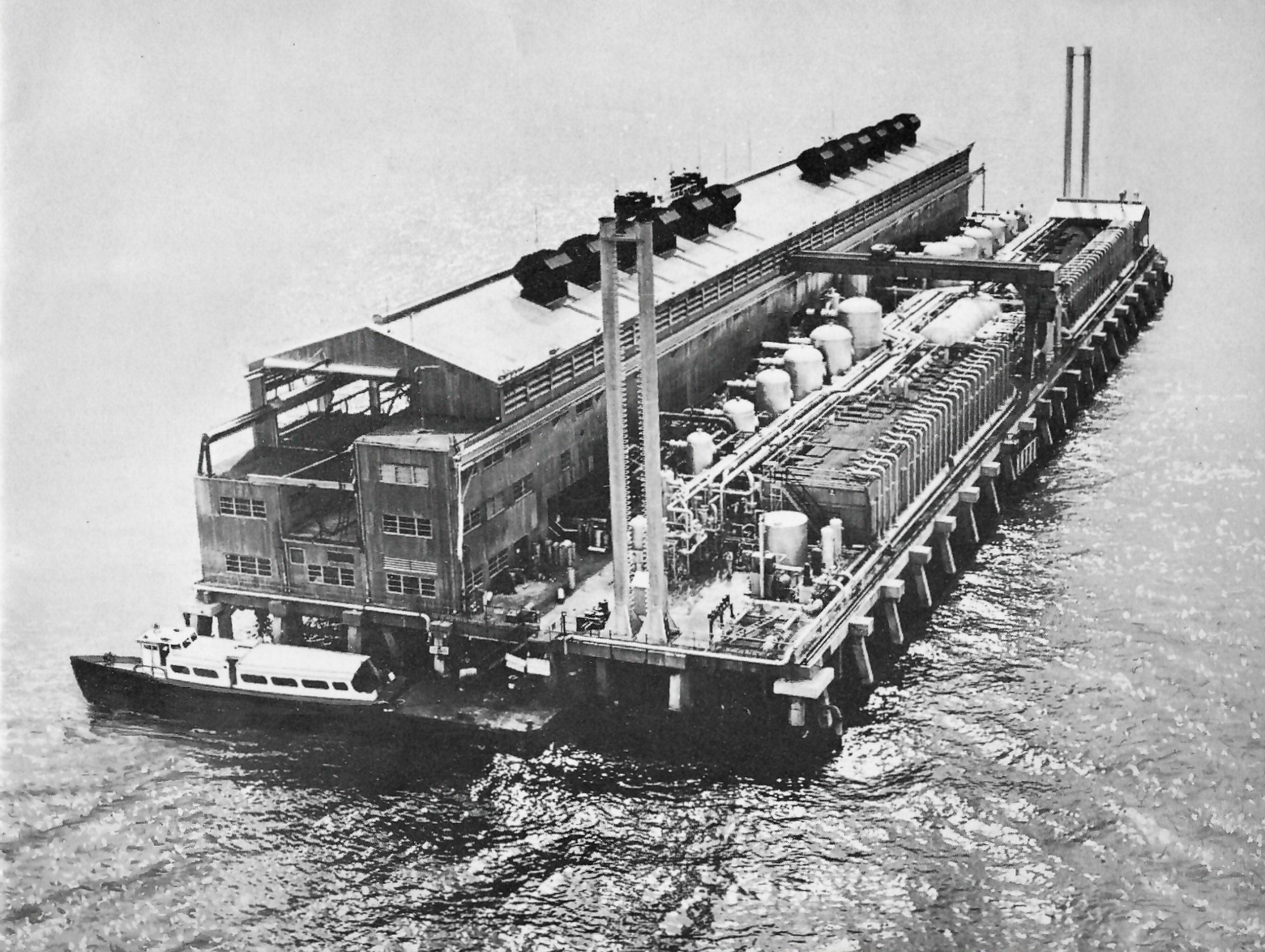
In Lake Maracaibo, an inlet from the Caribbean on South America's northern coastline, more than 2,000 Creole oil wells in an area 55 miles long and as much as 25 miles from shore produce over 900,000 barrels of oil daily. Concrete pilings, three feet thick and fabricated in one of the world's largest casting yards, support drilling platforms in water as deep as 100 feet. Techniques developed by Creole in Venezuela have made possible much of the offshore production along the Gulf and Pacific Coasts of the United States.





TIA JUANA 2

Here is the world's largest gas repressuring plant which was designed to pump more than 300,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day back into the oil formations beneath Lake Maracaibo. Re-circulation conserves the natural gas while increasing recovery of crude oil by as much as one-third. Built in 1957 at a cost of $28,000,000, its 1.3 acres house the largest single concentration of gas turbines in the world—12 units of 8,000 horsepower each—providing half again as much power as its predecessor, Tía Juana 1, which was dedicated in 1955. A third plant of the same capacity as Tía Juana 1 was recently completed and a fourth is being built. Creole's investment in gas conservation at Lake Maracaibo will total $175,000,000.





3

A PRIVATE "NAVY"

The largest private fleet of small craft in the world is owned by Creole. More than 400 vessels service its vast offshore installations in the Lake Maracaibo area. Included in this number are personnel launches, tugs, work boats, drilling-tender barges, pile-driver barges and one of the world's largest marine-type diesel-electric drilling rigs, 180 feet long and 70 feet in width. In addition, the Company operates several tankers in coastwise service.

Creole's "Navy" requires more than 1,400 people and 11 marine terminals for its extensive operations. At La Salina two drydocks, one of them 500 feet long and able to handle several barges at once, are included in marine repair facilities.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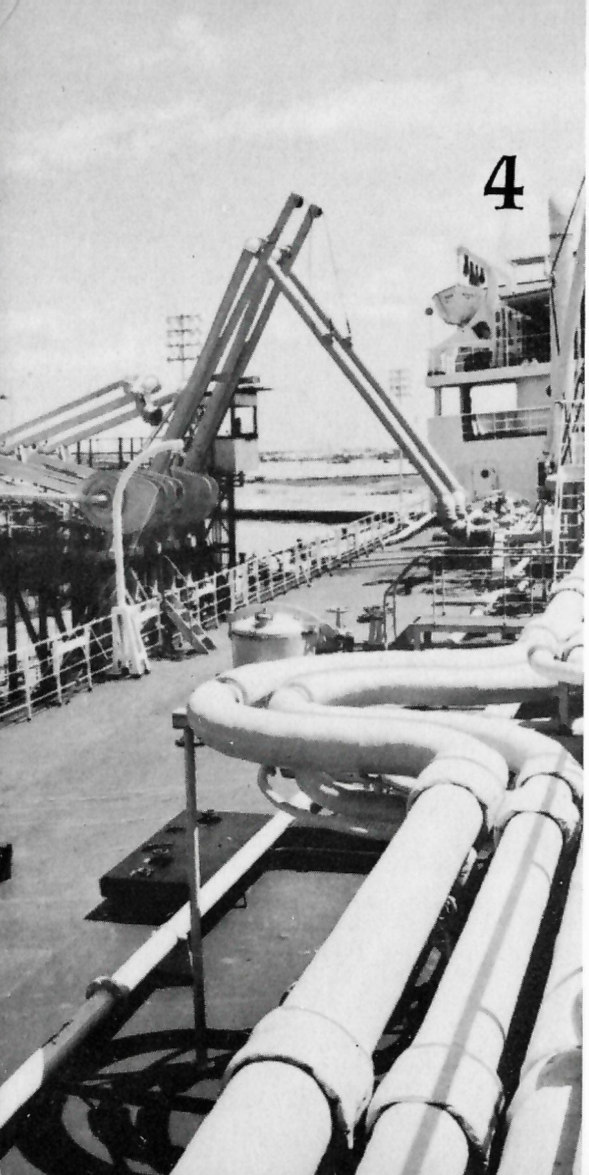
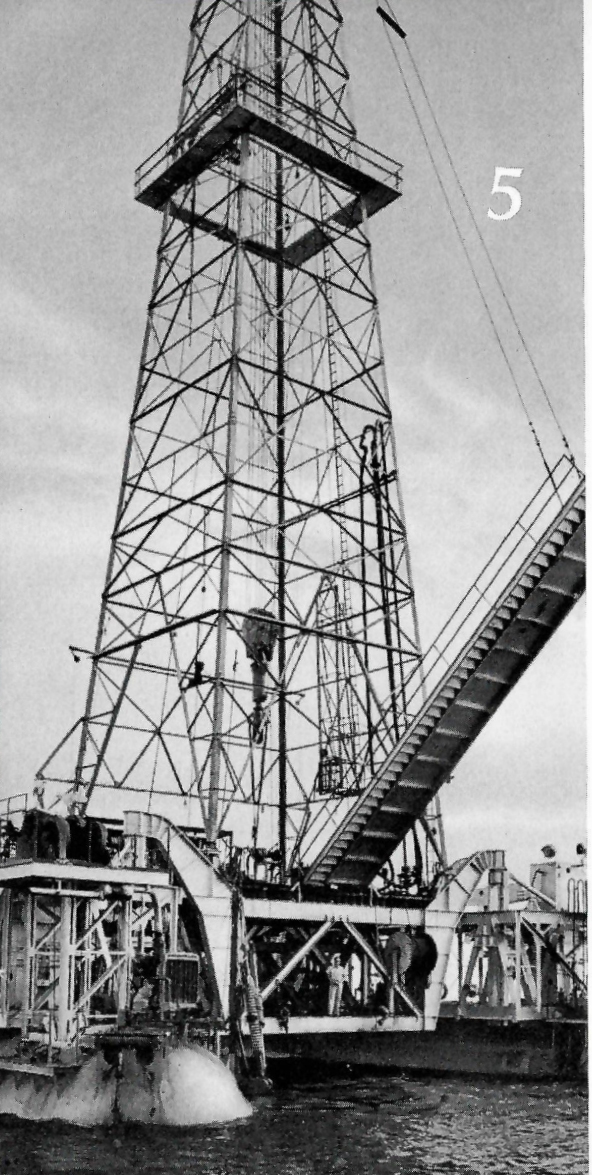


4 LAKE TERMINAL

A plot of land, 2,800 by 2,000 feet in size and half a mile from Lake Maracaibo's eastern shore, houses one of the world's most modern and efficient oil terminals. Two 1,100-foot "finger piers" with four ship berths each and remote control loading devices characterize this $27,500,000 installation designed to service tankers of steadily increasing size. Plans call for the addition of two more piers and for dredging to a depth of 45 feet to accommodate tankers of 60,000 dwt. When completed, the terminal will have a loading rate of 80,000 barrels per hour.



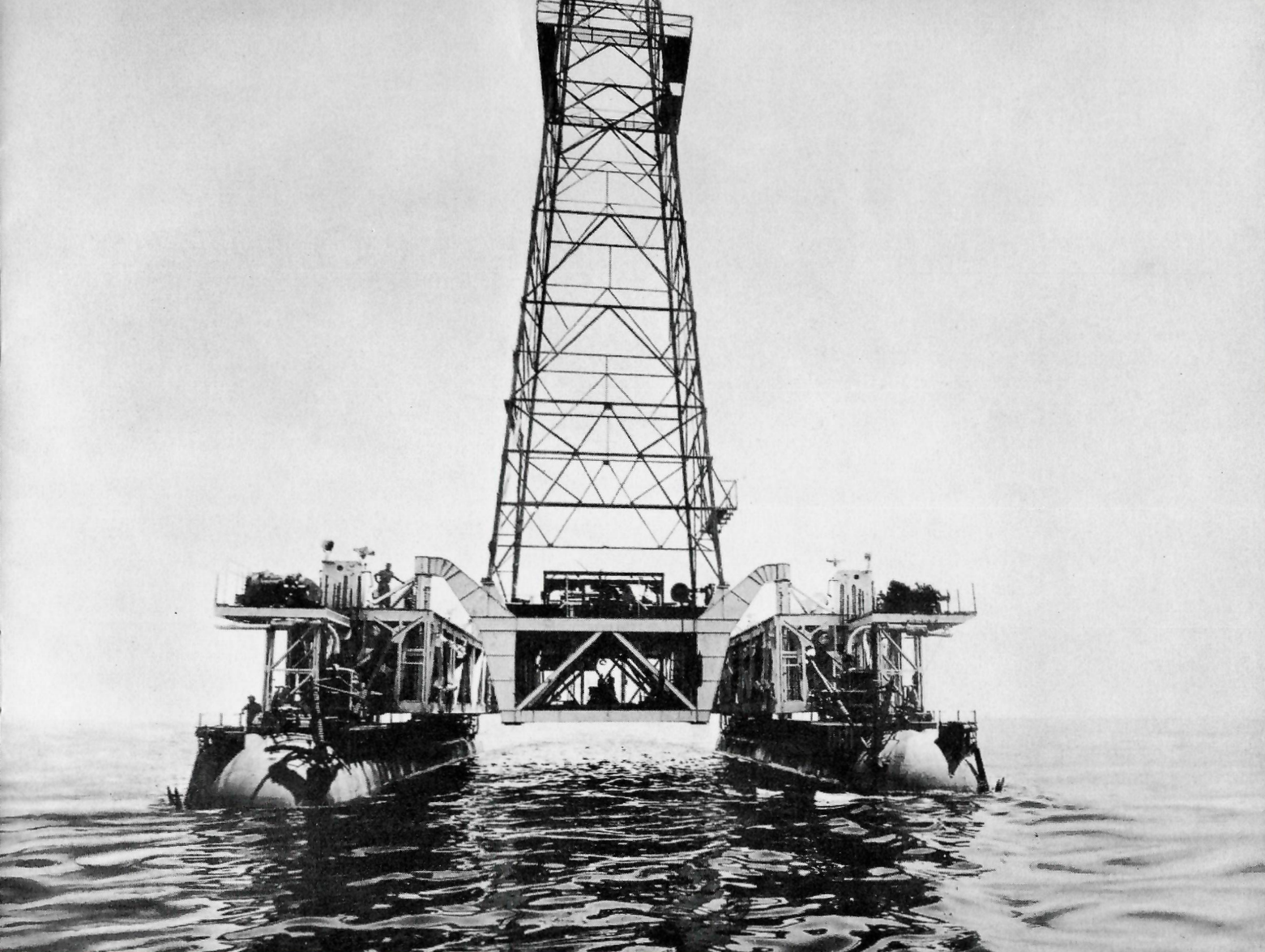


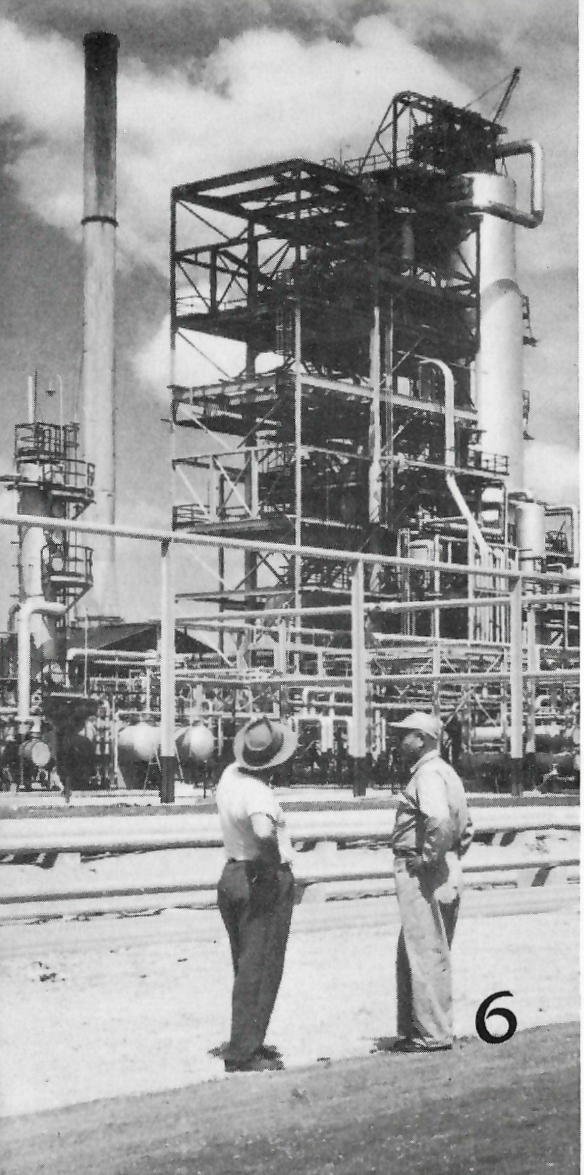
FLOATING RIGMOVER

This device, introduced by Creole in 1958, moves derricks and drilling platforms from one offshore location to another. Formerly, derricks were either left at the well, or else were taken apart and re-assembled, which required a day and one half. With the new equipment, only a few hours are needed.

Its four propellers, located at the ends of the pontoons, drive the Rigmover under the direction of a single operator who also controls its hydraulic jacks of 200-ton capacity.

The unit is one of many offshore oil production techniques pioneered by Creole.

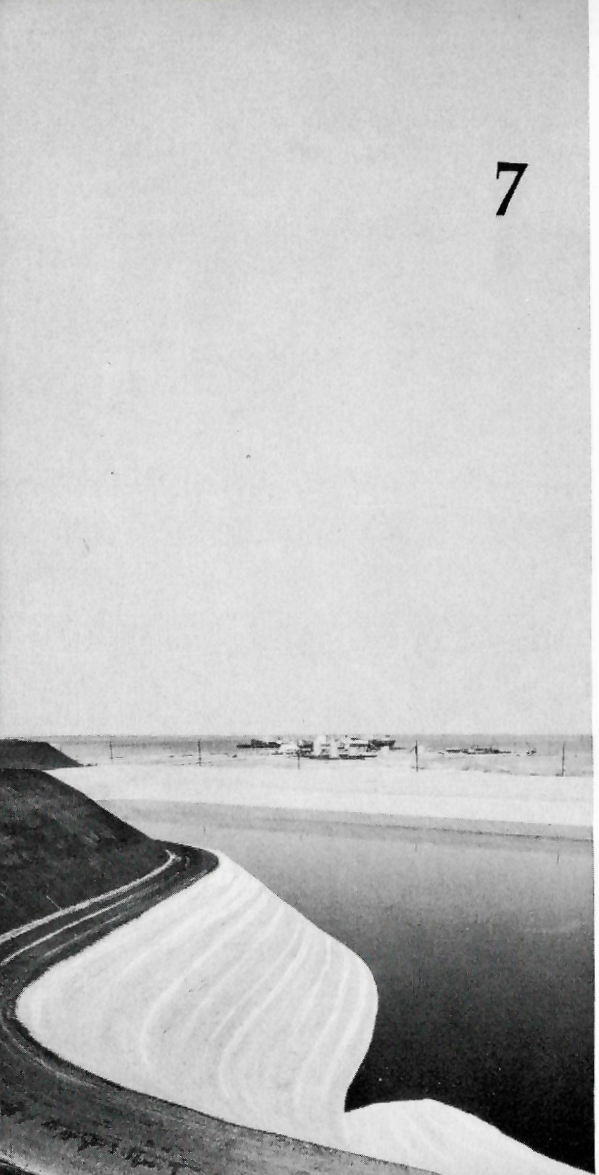




AMUAY REFINERY

A 12-year transformation of a sandy peninsula into the site of the world's fourth largest refinery has been accomplished by Creole at Amuay Bay, on Venezuela's Paraguaná Peninsula. With a throughput capacity of 328,000 barrels a day, the installation has become one of South America's biggest and ranks with Aruba in the Netherlands West Indies, Abadan in Iran, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in size. Total investment is over $200,000,000. Four distillation plants, a fluid hydroformer, desulfurization plant, asphalt plant and lubricating oil plant permit an output of a great variety of petroleum products. Port facilities allow the simultaneous docking of eight ocean-going vessels, with 175 ships docking every month.





7 AMUAY STORAGE PITS

Over 12 million barrels of heavy fuel oil may be stored in these earthen pits at Creole's Amuay refinery. Built at a cost of $3,800,000, they provide seasonal storage at far less cost than customary tanks, helping to maintain production and refining operations at more uniform rates throughout the year.

The smaller pit covers 15 acres and required three months of around-the-clock excavation. The larger one, 29 acres, with a capacity of 8,800,000 barrels, has an earthen dam 275 feet wide at the base encircling two sides. The pits' clay walls, highly impermeable to oil, were sprayed on the outside with asphalt to prevent erosion.

