Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association - P.O. Box 1171, Lafayette, CA 94549 (925) 284-7009

KASRA

March 2003



Retiree News

Dear Fellow Retiree:

It seems like each day brings a new bankruptcy. In the steel industry alone, I understand that about 30 companies have filed for Chapter 11. The reasons vary but the results too often are similar, especially for retirees. Unlike creditors whose rights are recognized by the legal system and the bankruptcy process, the rights of retirees are not. That's simply not fair. Why shouldn't retiree benefits earned during a career of service to an employer be accorded the same standing in the courts and the bankruptcy process as the claims of creditors?

The legal system and the bankruptcy process in particular are broken and need to be fixed in a way that recognizes promises made to retirees. KASRA will be communicating these concerns to national, state, and local elected officials, civic organizations, and other influential people in the months ahead. We'll be asking for your involvement in this public relations and government relations effort and we'll keep you informed.

There are several other items I want to cover in this month's newsletter:

Payment for Medical Benefits. If you are a participant in the Kaiser Aluminum-provided medical benefits program, you should have received by now a letter from Employee Benefit Data Services (EBDS), which enclosed your invoice and payment coupon for March. If you have not received this mailing (it was mailed in February), you should call the EBDS Customer Service Center at 1-877-794-4446 (toll free). EBDS began administering the billing and collection of payments for retiree medical benefits on March 1. Going forward, EBDS says it will mail a new invoice on or about the 10th of every month for the amount that you must pay for the following month of coverage. I urge each of you to read the EBDS letter carefully. It answers questions like: How will EBDS bill me? What happens if my payment is late? And can I pay for more than one month of coverage at a time? A final point on the initial mailing from EBDS: The invoice for March requested that the "member number" (Social Security number) be written on the check. In the future, EBDS says a different identification number will be used.

Kaiser Aluminum's Bankruptcy. The best way for you to stay informed on the status of the company's Chapter 11 reorganization is through its internet web site: www.kaiseral.com. Once the home page appears on your computer screen, click on "Restructuring News" and that will give you the latest information. The web site is updated regularly.

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). We understand from the company that it continues to be involved in discussions with the PBGC about its pension obligations. That's all we know at this time.

E-mail Communications. As I've said a couple of times previously, the fastest and most economical way for KASRA to communicate information to you is through e-mail. So, if you have not already provided us with your e-mail address or if you have changed it, please make sure we have the correct information. If you do not have e-mail, please ask a fellow retiree who has it to share KASRA e-mail messages with you – or provide us with the e-mail address of a relative who will relay information to you. We will, of course, also use regular mail for the most important communications, but it is both slower and more costly than e-mail.

We appreciate your support and will continue to keep you informed.

Jed Daniel President

Benefits Questions? Call or E-mail EBDS

Effective March 3, if you have questions about any of your Kaiser Aluminum benefits, please contact Employee Benefit Data Services (EBDS). The EBDS Customer Service Center can be reached by phone at 1-877-794-4446 (toll free) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. You may also e-mail your questions to kaccadmin@ebds.com.

Tee Off On May 8th Annual Sour Mash Golf

It's not too late to sign up for the annual Bay Area Sour Mash Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 8th, shotgun starting @ 9:30 a.m. at the Bethel Island golf course. The \$55 fee includes golf cart, lunch afterwards, and prizes. Guests are welcome. You may organize your own four person team or let us assign you. Make checks payable to David Geary and send to 364 South Overlook Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583. David Geary Ph (925) 735-8638 or e-mail @ dsgeary@attbi.com

What's Going On

Okay, a new baseball season is about to begin, and since baseball is this editor's favorite spectator sport, let's begin with something special that happened last year. Amidst family, friends and after a huge tail gate party, **Norman E. Whitford** of Otis Orchards, WA, got to throw out the first pitch at the Spokane Indians baseball game on his 80th birthday last September. **Darline Hobock** (Tulsa, OK) loves sailing - she races sailboats on Lake Keystone and maintains four web sites for US Sailing. When he's not the receptionist at the Senior Center, CFT retiree **Hal Page** of Mount Vernon, WA, plays a lot of bridge. By the way, he's looking for **Tom Lowe** of Pleasanton, CA. So, Tom, drop Hal a line at 212 N. 5th St., Mount Vernon, WA, 98273.



Put me on this year's list, Santa. Last holiday, **Guy Robicheaux** of Chalmette, LA, designed, fabricated and distributed more than 65 Christmas tree ornaments to family & friends. And add me to your list, too. Using designs from the 1800's, woodworker **Lynn Huston** of Erie PA, has made and

given away most of 14 oak folding rocking chairs. One of his chairs will be on display at the Nautical Bayfront Museum in Erie. Permanente foil retiree **Mary Serpa** (Carson City, NV) writes that her son built her a lovely home with a covered swimming pool, so she has year-round therapy for crippling arthritis.

Tom Singer (Appleton, NY) visited Southeast Asia including Vietnam and says a new grandson born in the Bay Area provides added incentive for more frequent visits here. Dale Doerr (Oroville, CA) enjoyed 6 days in Hawaii and manages the Oroville duplicate bridge club. On the mend from hip replacement surgery is Genevieve Wolff (Buchanan Dam, TX). John Cashel (Lafayette, CA) does a lot of international and domestic travel to see family, and back home, John maintains a work office that serves as KASRA headquarters.

Last fall, Ag Chem retiree **Joe Heimes'** (Savannah, GA) daughter and family relocated to Moscow, Russia. Joe would love to hear from others who have been to Russia.

Send him an email at MJHeimes@aol.com. Ravenswood retiree Mel Craft of Gallipolis, OH, keeps busy taking six grandsons ages 3 -11 to football, basketball, baseball and soccer games, with a bit of fishing and dirt biking, too. Joe Pacheco (Hillsborough, CA) is a manufacturer's rep for Aluminum Sales Associates. Robert Schoen, Jr. (Baton Rouge, LA) works for Riverland Industries in quality & technical services. Bob Howard (Hayden, ID) has his pick of hobbies - hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, bowling & golf.

Top (Bull)Dog: **Gary Simpson** (Atherton, CA) was named Public Relations Alumnus of the Year by the Dept. of Mass Communications and Journalism at Cali-



fornia State University, Fresno. Congratulations, Gary! Howard "Dutch" Stouffer of Leetonia, OH, wants to know if Tom Bailey is still in Florida. He'd like to hear from Tom, so write: 100 York St., Leetonia, OH 44431-1056. Let's get fit. Subhas Sarkar (Berkeley, CA) invites KASRA members to try out his new fitness club, the Lakeridge Athletic Club at 6350 San Pablo

Dam Rd in El Sobrante, CA, for one month free. And if you get hooked, he'll work out a sweet membership deal. Club ph. (510) 222-2500.

Happy Anniversary. Ruth & James (Bob) Aungerer of Jefferson City, MO, celebrated their 25th last November. Celebrating their golden anniversary on a trip to Australia & New Zealand last November were Leah & Keith Oxford of Athol, ID. Kenneth & Helen Knight (Oakland, CA) celebrated their 58th anniversary also in November. Carmie & Phil Marksbury (Spokane, WA) were married 50 years in January. Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Stauffer (Vero Beach, FL) celebrated their 60th last December. Audrey & Zane Legg of Ravenswood, WV, were married 54 years in January. Mr. & Mrs. William "Carey" Salassi of Ponchatoula, LA, celebrated their 60th anniversary in February. Helen & Charles Locke (Erie, PA) celebrated their golden anniversary. Best wishes to all you lovebirds.

KACC Oakland retiree **C.J. Bosch** moved to Burbank, CA, to live with his daughter after his wife died last year. Oakland retiree **Dick Tenney** (Bainbridge Island, CA) together with his son and grandson became the first three generations of attendees at the 20th Anniversary Conference of the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Auburn, AL. Just sign here. **George Nolta** (Citrus Heights, CA) has a retirement job as a courier driver. But you won't find him behind the wheel in April, because that's when he'll be in Palm Springs. Erie retiree **Frank Wodecki** (Hendersonville, NC) and his wife Joanne relocated to an area known as the Land of the Waterfalls. They enjoy hiking in the mountains with their dogs.

Staying power. Neither Hurricanes Isidore & Lilli nor two opponents prevented **J. Dewey Gregoire** of Chalmette, LA, from being reelected to six more years as Constable, a post he's held since 1980. **Anne Brunckhorst** (Penn Valley, CA) likes to play golf and go fishing. Trentwood retiree **Bob Young** (McMinnville, OR) and his wife put 6000 miles on



their motorhome driving cross country and are wintering in Ehrenberg, AZ. Woodworker **Leonard Sedlin** of Baton Rouge, LA, built a dining table with two leaves and refinished the chairs for his son.

Let's do lunch. CFT retiree **John D. Bracher** and his wife Carol of Portland, OR, like to have lunch at many of the fine restaurants in that city. How about lunch from some of the salmon bounty caught by **Harry Roll** of Brookings, OR? Freezer's full, so stop by for a feast, says Harry. Mead retiree **John Kendall** of Camano Island, WA, proudly writes that his wife's novel, White Mustang, has been published. Oh, her pen name is M.L. Verne.

On the Move: **Betty Nores,** from Poplarville, MS, to Dallas, TX. **Larry Edwards**, from Valco & Spokane to Royal Palm Beach, FL.

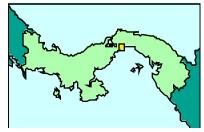
Carl Holland and his wife (Bay Minette, LA) traveled 3000 miles through the Midwest in a motor home. Barbara Brewster (Spokane, WA) visited her daughter in Alaska and toured the Greek Islands last spring. Frank Clemens and his wife Marj of Spokane, WA, have become snowbirds, living in Beaver Dam, AZ, from winter to spring. They're north of Mesquite, NV, so if you're ever in Las Vegas, give them a call at (928) 347-4155.

Mary Rhodes of Oakland, CA, decided some time ago to learn how to get by without her Kaiser pension - she donated it to the SPCA. Meanwhile, Jack Voigt of Winchester, PA, is trying to stay healthy on his. Marion Spears (Slidell, LA) gets a lot of joy travelling to see her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Bruce Wilson of

Moraga, CA, cruised through the Panama Canal. Wonder if he saw **Gene Gibbs**

(Pleasanton, CA) who also cruised the Canal, then up the Pacific coast along Costa Rica and Mexico.



It must be his magnetic personality. Every time **Tony Procanik** (Monarch Beach, CA) travels, he runs into KASRA retirees. Tony went on a tour of Spain which

he says not only had great tapas, great paella and great history, but also great company. For, **Nadine Blansett** (Placentia, CA) and **Cathy Peterson Eaton** (McKinney, TX) were on the same tour with their spouses. Wabash retiree **Paul Kilty** of Lafontaine, IN, likes to reproduce furniture and so does **Wayne Lounder** (Spokane, WA), a Trentwood retiree.

Model engines are what Portsmouth retiree and sailor **Joe Darling** (Venice, FL, snowbird) builds with his Logan 10" machine lathe. Joe is a hammie, too at KTLQH. With all of his hobbies of gardening, fishing, hunting and camping keeping him outdoors, betcha won't find **Eugene Whitcombe** of Tacoma, WA, indoors much. More power to you. **Donna Roe Sweeney** (Posh Falls, ID) writes that she'll beat cancer. She volunteers for the museum and historical society there. **Paul Kochman** of Davenport, IA, says there are about five Kaiser retirees living in his community, known as 7 Bays. **Art Hoener** (Bayview, ID) has traveled to Canada, Texas and been on a Western Caribbean cruise.

Tropical paradise in the Midwest. **A.J. Tony Luzio** of Newark, OH, writes that he keeps busy tending pineapple plants, orchids and a fig tree in his year-round greenhouse, with the help of **Grant Oliver**

(Newark, OH). **Anne Stewart** and husband **Bill Marquardt** (San Leandro, CA) took a train trip last fall to So. Carolina and Florida to visit a son who is in the Air Force and a sister in law. Highlights of the trip: Lincoln Memorial in Wash DC and Cape Canaveral, FL, now more poignant in memory.

Checkmate. For the past 14 years, San Leandro retiree Chuck Johnson (Castro Valley, CA) has run two chess clubs. Kaiser Jamaica Bauxite snagged Doug Wilkins (Palo Alto, CA) while he was visiting Jamaica last fall to write an article on his favorite memories of the 18 years he spent there. The article appears in a KJB publication celebrating Kaiser's 50th Anniversary in Jamaica. Chalmette retiree Evelyn Schwab (Slidell, LA) helped to start the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where she is very active and serves as congregation treasurer. Willem Kegge (Colbert, WA) issues a daily aluminum industry newsletter on his website www.aluconsultants.com

Don't look under the couch, honey. **Bob Irelan** (Rancho Murieta, CA) says his job is doing house-cleaning pro bono for his wife of 44 years, Barbara. Gramercy retiree **Jim Johnson** (New Orleans, LA) is a member of Jazz Club at Sea, taking 7 day jazz cruises each year. Oh, and in one of the 3 leagues he belongs to, Jim bowled a 300 game six months after his retirement in 1999. Another striker is Chalmette retiree **Doris Modica** (Kenner, LA) who bowls three times a week. Doris and husband **Chuck Modica**, a Gramercy retiree,

went to Disney World with their grandson and his wife. **Harry Coyne** (Leawood, KS) is planning to attend the USS Reno annual reunion of officers and crew this June in Reno, NV.

Motorcycle man. **Fred Waechter** (Corona Del Mar, CA) keeps five heavy motorcycles and a 40-foot trailer. Fred arranges, plans and takes motorcycle trips throughout the country with local and international friends. Kaiser Refractories retiree **Van Gilbert**



(Pleasanton, CA) is such a bird watching enthusiast he owns the Wild Birds Unlimited Store in Dublin, CA. Ciao, bella. **Liz Simon** (San Francisco, CA) spent five months in Rome with husband Jan last year, combining academics with pleasure. She attended Loyola University in Rome to finish up credits to obtain her college degree in English and History. Bravissimo! **Janet Vogelgesang** (Roseville, CA) saw **Roberta Wong Murray** (Walnut Creek, CA) at the Women of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church retreat at Asilomar, where, amidst spiritual reflection and soul searching, they learned 50 ways to make the favorite recipe of Lutheran church ladies - jello salad.

Calling all retirees in Savannah. Bernard Lowenthal (Tybec Is, GA) wants to organize a KASRA lunch bunch in this area. Call him at (912) 786-5710 or send an email to triciatybee@aol.com. Bernard was elected President of the Bacon Park Sr. Golf Blitz, where Bobby Tucker is also a member. Ken Ries (Spokane, WA) is launching his own business as a consultant in anode technology. Plant photographer Lee Malus of Chalmette, LA, went on a very special trip to Europe with his son to revisit the same places he saw in WWII when Lee was in a B-24 bomber unit. They flew to London, drove to Norwick, then over the English Channel to France, covering 1100 miles, which Lee writes, was just great.

Norm Manger (Palos Verdes, CA) had a sky venture, flying solo above 9800 feet in a Blanik L-13 Sailplane over the Mojave Desert. Norm writes the plane was made in the Czech Republic decades ago. Glad to know it still works. Mead retiree Pat Rossini (Spokane, WA) is working at the Health Research & Education Center at Washington State Univ. in Spokane and planning a summer trip to the Bay Area for her son's wedding. Kaiser Ag Chem retiree Mac Graven (Sullivan, IL) is a Lions Club trustee whose hobbies are genealogy and stained glass making. Mac plans to visit the Latter-Day Saints Library in Salt Lake City, UT, this summer.

Several issues back, the editor asked if there were some record-breaking cruisers out there. Well, I believe we found a special couple. The spouse of Oakland ac-

counting retiree **Rosalie Crompton Shepard** (Placerville, CA) wrote to say, that life imitated art some 15 years ago, when Bob met Rosalie aboard a cruise ship, the Ocean Princess. Although both were born and raised in Oakland, their paths had not crossed until two strangers shared a table in the ship's crowded lounge. They fell in love and were married on the same love boat a year later, in Barbados, the same port of call, on the same day they first met. They have taken 41 cruises together. Sadly, Rosalie was stricken with Parkinsons disease and passed away this January. Our sincere condolences to Bob Shepard, who can be reached at 6021 Golden Center G #216, Placerville, CA 95667.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Allen, Orinda, CA Russell Brooks, Stockton, CA Eveline Collier, Alameda, CA Ruthann Clough, N. Canton, OH Jack T. Elmer, Salinas, CA Hubert Gerling, Holts Summit, MO Joe Guthrie, Baton Rouge, LA Ellis Hancock, Gladstone, MO Juliet Johnson, Convent, LA Ralph Johnson, Meraux, LA Clayton Landry, Baker, LA Robert Maier, Hilton Head Isle, SC Paul Mueller, Belle Vernon, PA John Newman, Inola, OK Barry Okuda, Kaneohe, HI John Probst, San Diego, CA Lee Ralph, Alameda, CA Priscilla Richard, Reserve, LA Rosalie Shepard, Placerville, CA

The **Board of Directors** extends its deepest sympathy to the families at the loss of their loved ones.

Editor's Note: With the closing of the KACC benefits office in San Ramon, CA, KASRA news will no longer receive corporate information about retiree deaths. If you become aware of the passing of colleagues, please send information directly to the editor at our address below. We would appreciate receiving notices directly from families as well as newspaper obituaries.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

Our sources are depleted. We need more news from retirees. Drop us a line about your favorite pasttime, big fish story, or unusual anecdotes. Fill out the enclosed brown slip and share your news! And, keep sending those emails, too!

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