

**KASRA**

**May 2004**

Email: [news@e-kasra.com](mailto:news@e-kasra.com)



## Retiree News

### Dear Fellow Retiree:

Some of what I have to say in this message is repetitious of recent e-mails and mailings, but I'd much rather be repetitive than risk having any retiree inadequately prepared, informed, and updated. And, because of the lead time involved in preparing KASRA News, it's quite likely that some of what appears here will be overtaken by events by the time you read it. So, please continue to watch for updatings via e-mail or first class mail.

That said, I want to focus on several items:

First, because the Kaiser Aluminum-provided medical benefits will terminate May 31, you need to be well down the track in determining which alternative coverage best suits your needs. KASRA continues to work with a consultant to see if there are any group medical and/or drug plans that might be offered to retirees/surviving spouses. So far, we have not come up with any group coverage that is significantly better than what you can obtain on your own. We will continue the search, but you should not postpone your efforts to find coverage on your own.

Second, as indicated in my March 24 letter that was both e-mailed and sent first class to those who don't use e-mail, the Official Salaried Retirees' Committee has been working with legal advisers, the company, and the USWA to determine whether a VEBA should be set up and whether it should be operated separately or jointly with the USWA. While the committee continues to work on this issue, it has decided against trying to establish a jointly owned VEBA. The committee continues to study the feasibility of a VEBA for salaried retirees and surviving spouses. We expect to

be in a position to better inform you on the status of this separate effort in late April. Again, however, I must caution that the value of a VEBA depends on a successful reorganization of the company, a return to profitability, and operational success in the years to come. And, in any event, any benefits that may accrue from a VEBA would not be comparable or equivalent to the benefits that will be terminated by the company on May 31. Therefore, you should not count on receiving any VEBA-provided medical benefits and should plan accordingly.

Third, Kaiser Aluminum has assured that it will send out a Termination of Benefits letter – with the termination date on it – to everyone who is enrolled in the company-provided medical benefits program in the near future. You may be asked to present this document when contracting for replacement coverage. As soon as we know this letter has been sent, we will inform you by e-mail so you can be watching for it.

Fourth, as you know, you will be offered the opportunity to convert your company-provided group life insurance coverage to an individual policy. If you elect to do this, the premiums going forward will need to be paid by you. The company has said that it will send out a letter on life insurance in the near future; this letter will advise you to contact EBDS if you are interested in exercising your conversion rights.

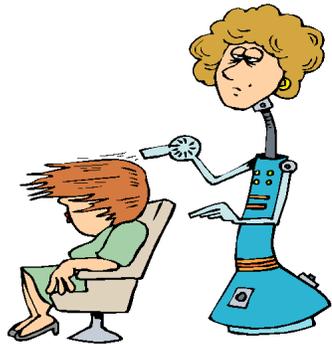
Fifth, we do not yet know what the COBRA rates are going to be; however, we expect that they will be very expensive (significantly higher than the present cost). You will only be offered COBRA for the plan that you are enrolled in through Kaiser Aluminum. In other

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## What's Going On

Aloha... Kaiser Ag Chem retiree **Sam Shelby** of Brentwood, TN, soaked up the sun on Oahu, HI, before returning home to have hip replacement surgery. Sam reports the operation was a success. Got the time?

**Rod McMillan** (Mt. Vernon, OH) collects antique clocks and mailboxes. A veteran of the Korean War, Rod is planning to attend his 23rd Army reunion in



September. Gramercy retiree **Frieda Boughton** of Vacherie, LA, volunteers at the local nursing home's beauty salon every week. Bet the residents are all gussied up on the days she works her magic.

**Alfred Goddard** of Bath, PA, and his wife, Pauline, visited family in the U.K. in March and will cruise aboard the new Queen Mary II to visit their daughter in Anguilla, British West Indies.

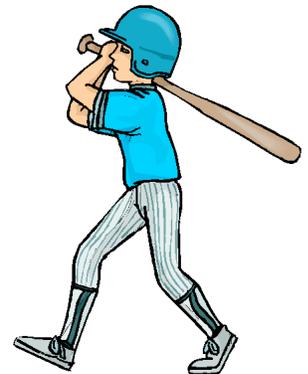
**Pat Schroeder** of Anchorage, AK, says her newest passion is quilting, a perfect pastime for those long winters. She will be attending her 50th high school reunion in WA in September. For regular exercise, **John Hughes** (Roebuck, SC) walks a mile and a half every morning. He enjoys gardening and camping. As a volunteer with AARP, **Ed Phillips** (Russellville, KY) helps seniors with tax preparation.

Shall we dance? Surviving spouse **Gerry Carothers** of Danville, CA, enjoys ballroom dancing and is the President of the Diablo Singles Dance Club. She carries a tune as well, singing with the Blackhawk Chorus. If I ever run into the law there, I'll produce proof that I know **Sgt. Lee Malus Jr.** of Chalmette, LA. Lee's been on the force for 15 years after working at Chalmette for 31 years. Son Earl took Lee to England to visit the B-24's 8th Air Force Base that was there during WWII.



Speaking of Chalmette, its newly-formed lunch bunch has taken off like wildfire. **Sherman Faught** of Slidell, LA, reported that 24 folks showed up in Mandeville for the second get together in March, twice the number of the first meeting held the previous month. He's expecting even more for #3 at Salvaggio's in Slidell on April 20 at 1 pm. To get in on the next date, call Sherman at 985-641-6121.

Great putt. **Arthur Mallinson** of Sherman, TX, enjoys golf, which is more than can be said for a lot of the duffers out there. He volunteers at the local St. Vincent de Paul's. Sorry, we can't seem to locate Eugene Wright, a Toledo Works retiree. But if you know his whereabouts, please write Ravenswood retiree **Mel Craft** of 2584 Raccoon Rd, Gallipolis, OH 45631, because Mel and Eugene's 50th high school reunion is coming up. Why pick a hobby when you can enjoy them all. **Alan Morasch** of Spokane, WA, likes fishing, boating, hunting and getting about on the snowmobile. He also enjoys watching the grandkids play sports.



**William (Carey) Salassi** of Ponchatoula, LA, did his spring planting early this year, so everything's bloomin' awful pretty. He teaches adult Sunday school and serves as Secretary of the local Masonic Lodge. Happy 61st Anniversary to the Salassis. Frostburg, MD, Refractories retiree **Jane Morgan** of Vero Beach, FL, likes to sit on the beautiful beaches of Florida, read and attend her grandsons' Little League baseball and soccer games. Why watch TV when you can check out the action at the airport? On Thursday evenings, you will find **Sue & TJ Summerson** (Spokane, WA) meeting and greeting travelers at the Spokane International Airport information booth. They hope to put together a booklet of some of the million stories travelers have shared with them. KASRA retiree sightings: **John Rubino** of Daly City, CA, is becoming computer literate to write his autobiography. **Sherrill Wood** of Danville, CA, brought her friend, Margo Scott of Orinda, CA to the HJK exhibition. Margo (nee Marsden) was an 18-year old drafts-person at the Kaiser Shipyard during WWII. Our condolences to **Hal Pearson** of Lakewood, WA, on the passing of his wife, Ruth.

## Henry J. Kaiser: Think Big Oakland Museum Exhibition

“I always have to dream up there against the stars,” said Henry J. Kaiser. “If I don’t dream I’ll make it, I won’t even get close.”

Today, we can see the results of his dreams at the Henry J. Kaiser exhibition in the Oakland Museum. Here are a few firsthand impressions from my visit to the exhibit:

In 1950, Kaiser Aluminum was a household name, thanks in part to the sponsoring of a television series called “The Maverick” on ABC-TV. The star of the show was a young actor named James Garner. The series became #1 in television ratings.

Kaiser Aluminum generated visibility through the sponsorship of the Indianapolis 500 as well as the sponsorship of an Offenhauser-powered race roadster, which finished No. 4 in the 1963 Brickyard Classic.

When he moved to Hawaii to retire, Mr. Kaiser instead created a broadcasting network of radio and television stations, (this editor worked at both), built the Kaiser Hawaiian Village resort with its unique aluminum geodesic dome, and developed a master planned residential community, Hawaii Kai. In 1967, Mr. Kaiser passed away in Honolulu at the age of 85.

Making the exhibit a reality at the Oakland Museum was a four-year effort spearheaded by former Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation Chairman and CEO, Cornell Maier. Maier enlisted fellow colleagues and CEOs from other Kaiser companies, solicited contributions from his management committee and put out the word through this publication. “Of the 107 donors whose contributions made this exhibit possible, 78 are from Kaiser Aluminum,” said Maier proudly, who also noted that more than 60 contributors sent donations after reading about the exhibition in KASRA News.

Besides the documentation of a great legacy, the exhibition is providing a vehicle for young entrepreneurs to think big. Funds will provide 24 scholarships of \$1000 and \$500 to 11th and 12th grade students in the Oakland and West Contra Costa Unified School Districts through a Dare to Dream Essay Contest. Stu-

ents obtain free admission to view the exhibition, then write about their personal response to the exhibition.

The Henry J. Kaiser Exhibition is open until August 29, 2004, Wednesdays – Saturdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from noon- 5:00 p.m. Admission charge except for the second Sunday of the month, when admission is free. The exhibition will be closed for expansion and re-opened as a permanent exhibition in 2005. Call 510-238-2200 or [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org)

## World War II Memorial In Washington D.C.



Veterans may want to attend the upcoming dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. on Saturday, May 29, 2004 at 2 p.m. at the National Mall. The official dedication celebration will span four days and will include a WWII-themed reunion exhibition on the National Mall staged in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, a service of celebration at the Washington National Cathedral, and an entertainment salute to WWII veterans from military performing units. Other related activities in cultural venues throughout the city are expected. Details on all dedication-related events are available on the web at [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com). Or, call the memorial’s toll free telephone number at 800-639-4992. Thanks for this tip from **Charles F. Williams** of Newark, OH.

Daniel, continued from page one

words, if you are enrolled in the full medical plan, you will not have a COBRA option for the custodial care/prescription drug only plan. And, if you are enrolled in the custodial care/prescription drug only plan, you will not have a COBRA option for the full medical plan.

We realize that information on the above subjects is incomplete at this time. As soon as we have more complete information, we will communicate it by e-mail and/or regular mail.

That's where things stand as this letter is being written in mid-April. If you are not already on KASRA's e-mail list and want to be added, please let us know pronto. Also, if you do not use e-mail but have a friend or relative who does and who would be willing to receive KASRA e-mails and pass them on to you promptly, please provide us with his or her e-mail address. Having e-mail capability assures that you will receive any KASRA messages in the most timely manner possible, rather than experiencing the delay that accompanies regular mail.

In closing, I want to reiterate: Do not delay in doing the work you need to do to find the type of replacement medical coverage that is best for you.



Jed Daniel

### **Annual Sour Mash Golf Tourney Thurs, May 27 Stockton's Oakmoore GC**

It's not too late to sign up. All Kaiser, KASRA, KARAF golfers and friends are invited and the course is exclusively ours all day. Please make checks for \$60 per person payable to David Geary and send to David Geary, 364 So. Overlook Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583. Questions? E-mail Steve Booth at [sboothcal@juno.com](mailto:sboothcal@juno.com) or call (510) 654-1938. Oakmoore Golf Club, 3737 N. Wilson Way, Stockton, CA 95205. 9:30 a.m. shotgun. Cost: \$60 per person includes 18 holes of golf, cart, meal and prizes.

### *In Memoriam*

Joseph Blanchard – Brusly, LA  
John Dempsey - Oakland, CA  
Noble Diehl – Walnut Creek, CA  
James Hilling - Ocean City, NJ  
Esther Hiser – Cumberland, MD  
Clayton Hunt – Mead, WA  
James Jameson - Aromas, CA  
George Lewis – Alachua, FL  
John McFadden – Baton Rouge, LA  
Ron McGarrah – Bangkok, Thailand  
Harry Osment – Baton Rouge, LA  
Harold C. Pepperell – Tiburon, CA  
Carl Richter – Baltimore, MD  
Eric Rini - Destreham, LA  
Randolph Rushing – St. Amant, LA  
Chester Scherer – New Orleans, LA  
A. Vanaudestrade – Seattle, WA

KASRA only recently learned of the passing in 2003 of the following retirees:

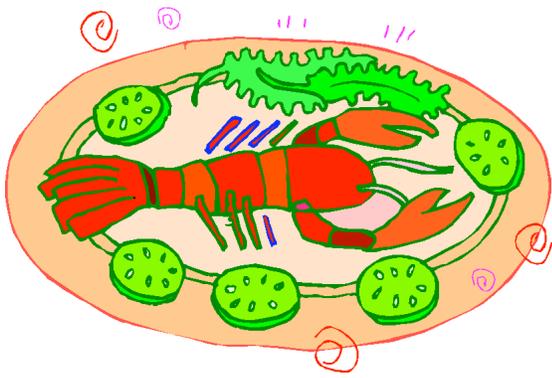
Robert Brannon – New Orleans, LA  
Orrin Busby – Salt Lake City, UT  
Owen Crenshaw – Paradise, CA  
LeRoy Dyer – Grosse Tete, LA  
Ned Huff – Kernersville, NC  
Melvin Johnson – Ravenswood, WV  
Rosendo Reyes – San Jose, CA  
Anthony Sedia – Tustin, CA  
Harold Sell – Hampsted, MD  
Hugh Wilkinson – St. George, UT

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

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### **Send KASRA Your News**

Our sources are depleted! Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Editor, KASRA News, 2471 San Miguel Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or email [wmipr@aol.com](mailto:wmipr@aol.com). Okay to send jpeg photos, but please be sure to write KASRA News in subject line or they will not be opened.



## The Lunch Bunch

### May 3 Los Angeles (So. CA)

Noon at The Elephant Bar, 14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada. Norm Manger (310) 377-2135 email [normanger@cox.net](mailto:normanger@cox.net).

### May 6 Baton Rouge

Lunch at noon at the Louisiana Culinary Institute, Essen Lane. Call Bob Lister (225) 272-2886 or Bob Eisenbach (225) 926-1334 [bobeisenbach@cox.net](mailto:bobeisenbach@cox.net)

### May 13 Mead

Cathay Inn on North Division St, 11:30 a.m. Call Joe Fife (509) 466-9155 [ajjfife@aol.com](mailto:ajjfife@aol.com) or Phil Marksbury at [pjmarksb@comcast.net](mailto:pjmarksb@comcast.net)

### May 18 Newark

11:30 a.m. Luncheon, Stacey's Hometown Inn. This is the next "regular" meeting. Prior to it, there will be "special" meetings at which area insurers will present their programs to interested members. Call Bob Abel at (740) 323-2268 or email [rpabel@alltel.net](mailto:rpabel@alltel.net)

### May 19 Erie

Luncheon meeting at 1:00 p.m., Lake Shore Country Club. Contact Tim Healy (814) 474-3536 or email [thealy@leol.net](mailto:thealy@leol.net)

### May 20 Trentwood

Luncheon at Spokane Valley Eagles. Speaker: Mayor Mike Defleming, City of Spokane Valley. Call Bob Shogren (509) 226-0837 or email [robertmshogren@hotmail.com](mailto:robertmshogren@hotmail.com)

### June Bristol

The regularly scheduled meeting has been postponed until August, date pending. Contact John Carre (401) 247-2199.

### June 2 Tacoma

Noon to 2 p.m. Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965 So. Union St. Call Bob Mohr (253) 564-9308 or email [bobjanetmohr@comcast.net](mailto:bobjanetmohr@comcast.net)

### June 5 Ravenswood

Annual Pig Roast, 1 pm at KERA. Call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email [dwhitman@wirefire.com](mailto:dwhitman@wirefire.com)

### June 7 Los Angeles (So. CA)

Noon at The Elephant Bar, 14303 E. Firestone Blvd., La Mirada. Norm Manger (310) 377-2135 email [normanger@cox.net](mailto:normanger@cox.net)

### June 16 Erie

Luncheon meeting at 1:00 p.m., Lake Shore Country Club. Contact Tim Healy (814) 474-3536 or email [thealy@leol.net](mailto:thealy@leol.net)

**Chalmette** retirees met in February, March and April in Covington, Mandeville and Slidell. For future dates and places, please contact **Sherman Faught** (Slidell, LA) at (985) 641-6121.

**Texas** retirees met in March, please contact Cathy Peterson Eaton at (972) 562-2352 or email [Cathypeaton1@comcast.net](mailto:Cathypeaton1@comcast.net)

