

KASRA

Jan 2006

Email: news@e-kasra.com



Retiree News

Dear Fellow Retiree:

We delayed preparing this issue of Retiree News so we could include information of interest from the very important January 9 proceedings of the Bankruptcy Court as well as other updates.

All of the Retirees' Committee objections to the company's Plan of Reorganization were satisfactorily resolved. The Bankruptcy Court approved Kaiser's Plan of Reorganization along with an amended and restated Settlement Agreement between the company and the Retirees' Committee. The Bankruptcy Court Order approving the Plan of Reorganization now requires Federal District Court approval because it compromises future asbestos tort claims, but we are told that this approval is expected to be routine. Approval of the amended, and now final, Settlement Agreement was very important in a number of respects.

- It assures salaried retirees of the reorganized company's commitment to make a contribution of 1,940,100 shares of its common stock to the VEBA when the Plan of Reorganization finally becomes effective.
- It confirms the reorganized company's commitment to make future profit sharing contributions to the VEBA under a profit sharing plan of up to \$2.9 million annually and to reimburse the VEBA for one-half of its annual administrative expenses up to \$36,250 per year.
- In addition, the Settlement Agreement now includes an important new provision that the Retirees' Committee had long sought in negotiations with the company. Salaried retirees

are now assured that Kaiser will not exercise any right it may have to discontinue providing COBRA or Bankruptcy COBRA health care continuation coverage to salaried retirees, spouses and/or dependents who have elected to receive such coverage based upon enrollment in or the receipt of benefits from the VEBA Plan.

Until this last revision, the Settlement Agreement effectively required eligible salaried retirees, spouses and dependents to choose between COBRA or Bankruptcy COBRA health care continuation coverage from Kaiser on the one hand and participation in the VEBA Plan on the other hand. For fear that Kaiser might discontinue COBRA benefits based upon participation in the VEBA Plan, the VEBA Plan has not permitted enrollment of anyone continuing to receive COBRA health care continuation coverage from Kaiser. We are told that the Trustees of the VEBA will consider amending the VEBA Plan at their next meeting in early February to permit eligible salaried retirees, spouses and dependents receiving COBRA benefits from Kaiser to enroll in the VEBA Plan for 2006 and subsequent years. We are also told that the Trustees intend to take up the question of benefits later in the year. When we have further information on this we will let you know.

The company, with the support of the VEBAs for both salaried and hourly retirees, has submitted an application to the Department of Labor seeking the waivers required under ERISA for the contribution of the shares of common stock to the respective VEBA trusts. Although approval of the application is expected, the timing of the approval is uncertain at the present time. We will keep you informed of developments as they occur.

-continued on back page

What's Going On

It was a merry, merry gathering of more than 80 CFT retirees in December at the home of **Wendy & Steve Ping** in Pleasanton, CA. The annual get together is affectionately referred to as the Ping Fling.



R.L. Humphrey (Shingle Springs, CA) enjoys digital imaging, wood working and is a SCORE volunteer. He's visited Turkey and Central America. With 2 long cruises to the Pacific and South America under their belts, **Mike Goldsmith** and his wife Dotty (Oakland, CA) are preparing for a 105-day cruise around the world in January.

Doris Modica of Kenner, LA, visited family last summer in the Midwest and likes bowling, baking cakes and cross-stitching. Mead retiree **Roger Olson** (Addy, WA) and wife Carolyn host and visit people from around the world through Friendship Force. They went to New Zealand and are bound for England. **Jack Boon** of Bellevue, WA, likes to visit five great granddaughters in Wenatchee, WA.

Cruising veteran **Cliff Rider** of San Ramon, CA, will embark on his 18th cruise in November, this time to Hawaii. **Don Miller** (Lafayette, CA) says he's good for another 50 years, what with heart surgery. Wife Reba matches his stride, as she had knee surgery as well. **Genevieve O. Wolff** of Buchanan Dam, TX, says hip replacement surgery has slowed her down, but she still has the gumption to volunteer and care for the aged. Visiting a new grandson in Brazil, **William Boyd** (Moraga, CA) also took a cruise to Alaska. **Helen A. Knight** of Oakland, CA, enjoys gardening, crossword puzzles, golf and reading.



The first family reunion in more than 20 years took place in Milwaukie, WS, for **Nancy A. Dembny** of Portland, OR. The reunion also coincided with Nancy's 50th h.s. reunion. **Ron Angell** (Walnut Creek, CA) is the woodshop supervisor at the Rossmoor retirement community. Ron's also learning all about his computer. Trentwood retiree **Janet Pendergast** (Post Falls, ID) got together with fellow retiree **Jim Waters** and his wife Carol (Pahrump, NV) at Coeur d'Alene Lake in Spokane, WA. Condolences to Ravenswood retiree **Seldon W. Angus** of Sandyville, WV, whose wife Elaine passed away this year. They were married for 48 years.

Trentwood retiree **Phil Marksbury** (Spokane, WA) went fishing for salmon this summer. Instead, he along with 21 fellas found themselves singing and dancing on the Hula Girl (after much liquid refreshment) but they also managed to catch 220 sea bass, along with 4 ling cod and, alas, just one salmon.



Robert M. Cooper (Pensacola, FL) enjoys hunting as well as fishing in the Gulf, but not during hurricane season. Trentwood retiree **Dale Davis** (Spokane, WA) vacations in Alaska where he enjoys fishing.

Gentleman farmer. Two sheep, egg-laying hens and ducks all give city boy **Dennis Brzybcien** a reason to get up early in Sonoma, CA, to collect those fresh eggs. Oh, the sheep keep his fields mowed. Congratulations to Kaiser Ag Chem retiree **Frank Wooten** of Savannah, GA, for his induction into the Savannah Business Hall of Fame that recognizes his leadership in the economic development of Savannah and the Coastal Empire. Frank also received the Toby Buttimer Award for his contribution to political and government affairs there.

Kerstine Sogge Lee of Ashland, OR, is living the good life in this artsy community she likens to Carmel. Buddies are welcome to visit Kit. Baton Rouge, LA, retiree and resident **Grover L. Dobbins** visited the children and grandchildren in Seattle and also took

a side trip to Canada. **Ahmad Abrishamian** (San Mateo, CA) looks forward to visiting his daughter and grandchildren in McCall, ID.

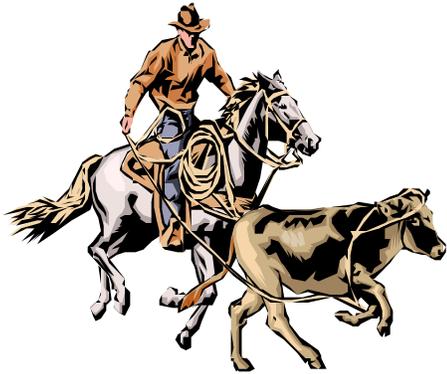
W. H. Mihalic of Spokane, WA, attended his 60th reunion at Maine Maritime Academy last August. Hola! **Evelyn Fulcher** of Fairfield, IA, is studying Spanish when she's not taking part in church activities or helping others around the apartment building where she resides. **Joseph Vicknair** (Lutcher, LA) likes to watch LSU football and volunteer with wife Gayle for Extraordinary Ministers for the Homebound. **Marcheta Bowdle** (Walnut Creek, CA) invites you to visit the restful oasis found at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, where she serves on its board of directors.

Whoa. Whoever wrote a news item about having a job "still punching cows" please write us back and tell us who you are! That sounds like quite an occupation.

John C. Preston of Poplarville, MS, lists Jack Daniels as a hobby. Last summer he wrote that he and his wife Sallie have been married for 72 and a half years, so congratulations on their 73rd. **Delmar Dow** (Sonora, CA) enjoyed seeing a once-in-a-100-year display of wildflowers during a trip through Death Valley, the Mojave Desert and Carrizo Plain in New Mexico.

New B&B in WA! Cheryl & **Larry Hoppe** of Friday Harbor, WA, invite you to stay at their Trumpeter Inn B&B on San Juan Island in western Washington state. Kaiser Retirees will receive a 15% discount. Visit their web site at www.trumpeterinn.com or call (360) 378-3884. **Norm Whitford** (Otis Orchards, WA) and wife Jean hosted a week-long reunion last August with over 100 attending, ages 16 months old to 89 years young.

Oakland resident and former City Councilman **Richard Spees** enjoys writing lyrics. He wrote the lyrics



for an original musical production depicting the history of Oakland that included a tribute to Henry J. Kaiser. The musical was presented at the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, where Dick sits on the board.

Original Aborigine art work now graces the home of Pam and **Norm Schinetsky** of Plano, TX. They bought the pieces during a trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Condolences to **John Melancon** of Baton Rouge, La, **Guy Robicheaux** of Chalmette, LA, and **Eva Torrice** of Paradise, CA, who all lost their life mates.

Hurricane wrap up: the following folks checked into the network established by **Chuck Schimmel** after we published the story in the November, 2005 issue:



Bert & Judy St. Romain, lost everything, building new house at 20101 Esterbrook Rd. Ponchatoula, LA, 70754 Cell ph. 985-351-6808

Guy Beaudette, after floating out his window, grabbing onto a gutter, was rescued. He has purchased a home in Jefferson Parish. Cell ph. 504-835-8595

Bob & Bette Cadwell, P.O. Box 1284, Metairie, LA 70004, 504-681-0111, bettecadwell@bellsouth.net

Rufus Berry, relocating to Alexandria, LA.

Julius D. Fandal is at his daughter's home, 22 Chamaile Cove, Slidell, LA 70458

Marlene Hahn at daughter's home, c/o Lori Richard, 4829 Abelia Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. Ph. 225-218-9217, richard4611@bellsouth.net

Murial Offan moved to c/o Terrebonne House, 1163 Museum Drive, Houma, LA 70368

Charlie Olivier back in Diamondhead, MS

Malcolm & Carol Phillips, 30310 Saint John Drive, Lacombe, LA 70445-2890, 985-882-6319, macphil@bellsouth.net

Georgia & John Weese moved to 24782 Cutter St., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Ph 949-309-6932, papaweese@juno.com

Jim Whittington, 510 Highway 27 South, Tylertown, MS, 39667, Ph 601-876-4978

Jed's Letter - cont. from page 1

In connection with the Department of Labor review of the company's application, you will receive a formal notice of the transactions for which waivers have been requested, advising you of your right to object or comment on the subject. KASRA supports the grant of the necessary waivers and the contribution of the shares as provided in the Settlement Agreement for the reason that receipt of the shares will be more valuable than the receipt of nothing at all in lieu of such shares. You don't need to do anything in response to the notice unless you wish to file a formal objection or comment. Once the shares are transferred, the VEBA Trust will hold a 9.7% interest in the reorganized company for the benefit of eligible salaried retirees, spouses and dependents.

It will take some more time before the company can emerge from Chapter 11. The \$300,000 per month advances that the company has been contributing to the VEBA per the Settlement Agreement will continue until it formally emerges from bankruptcy. Since these advances exceeded an agreed-upon, initial contribution of \$5,220,000 back in September, monthly contributions since then are being credited and offset against future profit-sharing contributions, if any. Through December 2005, the advances total \$5,900,000.

In November, the VEBA sent an enrollment reminder notice to those eligible retirees, spouses and dependents who had not at that point enrolled in the VEBA Plan. Enrollment for 2005 ended as of December 31, 2005 except for those individuals who are located (or were located at any time during 2005) in the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. By way of hurricane relief, the 2005 enrollment deadline was extended for those individuals until February 28, 2006. If you are enrolled prior to the applicable 2005 enrollment deadline, you do not need to re-enroll this year or in future years. If you did not enroll in 2005, you will need to enroll in 2006 in order to be eligible to file claims for any benefits that may be declared this year or in subsequent years.

It has been nearly four years since the company filed for Chapter 11. Finally, this process is about to be concluded. I believe that each of us owes a vote of thanks to the members of the Retirees' Committee who volunteered so much of their time and expertise to make the best of a very difficult situation.

As I've written in the past, however disappointed we may be that the company felt it necessary to declare bankruptcy, terminate our benefits, and turn the pension plan over to the government, it is in our best in-

terests that the reorganized Kaiser succeed. In that spirit, we wish it well.

We will continue to monitor the company's progress, provide information on the VEBA and the VEBA Plan, and to represent your interests.

Sincerely,



Jed Daniel
President

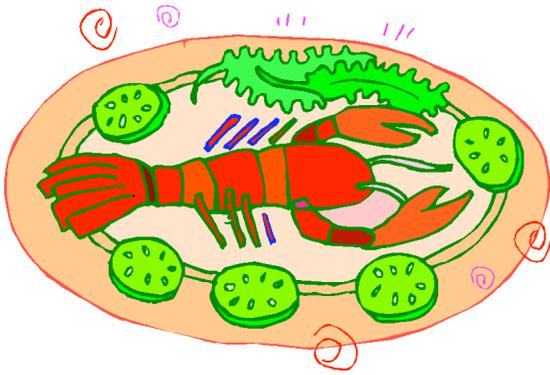
In Memoriam

Richard J. Alden, Sr. - Concord, CA
James Virgil Anderson - Zachary, LA
Liedy (Bill) H. Beatty - Queensland, Australia
Vera Beeler - Stockton, CA
George F. Bellos - So. Sacramento, CA
Numa Benoit - Baton Rouge, LA
Edward C. Bryant - Chalmette, LA
Gordon J. Elley - Erie, PA
Eugene R. Eskins - Baton Rouge, LA
Orla L. Gilbert - Pacheco, CA
Betty Louise Gordon - Sun City, AZ
James C. Hicks - Newark, CA
Clifton LeRoy King, Sr. - Spokane, WA
Harry Coyne Law - Leawood, KS
Carey E. Lindsay - Columbus, OH
Virginia E. Mayes - Avila Beach, CA
John W. Nargang - Walnut Creek, CA
Evelyn M. (Lake) Sandberg - Lafayette, LA
Evelyn Smyers - Walnut Creek, CA
Robert G. Stanwood - Walnut Creek, CA
Lee J Whiteley - Livermore, CA

The Board of Directors expresses its deepest sympathy to families and loved ones.

Send KASRA Your News

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Mark Murray, Editor, KASRA News, 2471 San Miguel Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or email mamwmipr@aol.com.



The Lunch Bunch

February 2 Baton Rouge

Lunch at noon at Mansur's 5720 Corporate Blvd.
Call Bob Lister (225) 272-2886 or Bob Eisenbach
(225) 926-1334 bobeisenbach@cox.net (Baton Rouge
meets 1st Thursday of each month)

February 6 Los Angeles (So. CA)

Noon at The Elephant Bar, 14303 E. Firestone Blvd.,
La Mirada. Norm Manger (310) 377-2135 email
normanger@cox.net. (Meetings held the 1st Monday
of each month)

February 7 Chalmette

11:30 a.m. Doors open for Luncheon at Bealer's,
Slidell 348 Robert Blvd.(Restaurant 985-649-1805).
All KASRA retirees and spouses invited. Please
RSVP by Feb 3. Call Sherman Faught at (985) 641-
6121. Or email Chuck Schimmel at
schimcol@aol.com

February 9 Mead

11:30 a.m. Lunch at Cathay Inn on North Division
St. Contact Phil Marksbury at
pjmarksb@comcast.net. (Mead meets of 2nd Thurs-
day of each month)

February 16 Erie

Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Lake Shore Country Club. Call
Tim Healy at (814) 474-3536 fax (814) 474-2700
thealy@velocity.net (Next meeting Feb 16. Erie meets
3rd Wednesday of each month)

February 16 Trentwood

11:00 a.m. at Valley Eagles, 16810 E. Sprague, Vera-
dale. Topic: Rich Williams - IRS & Income Tax. Con-
tact T. J. Summerson (509) 448-1228 or email tsummerson@aol.com. (Next meeting Feb. 16. Trentwood
meets 3rd Thursday of each month)

April 3 Bay Area K.A.R.L.A.

11 a.m. Elks Club, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut
Creek. Call Al Matthews at (925) 930-8243.

March 21 Newark

11 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio.
Contact Bob Abel (740) 323-2268 or email
rpabel@alltel.net (Next meeting Mar. 21. Newark
meets 3rd Tuesday of every other month)

TBA (June) Bristol

11:30 a.m., The Lobster Pot. Call Carol Cook (401)
253-4251 or John Carre at (401) 247-2199

June 7 Tacoma

Noon, Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965 South Union. Con-
tact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or
bojjanetmohr@comcast.net. (Next meeting Dec. 6)

TBA Ravenswood

Call Dave Whitman (304) 273-5548 or email
dwhitman@wirefire.com

TBA Texas

Please contact Cathy Peterson Eaton at (972) 562-
2352 or email Cathypeaton1@comcast.net

