

KASRA

Nov. 2007 Email: news@e-kasra.com



Retiree News

A Message from KASRA President, Dick Kauffman

Dear Fellow Retiree:

The ongoing effort by KASRA to assist the VEBA in enrolling more of our retirees has been successful. Of 4054 eligible "family units," 3524, or approximately 87%, were enrolled as of the end of August. Although the VEBA indicates that this is a high rate of enrollment relative to other plans, both we and the VEBA hope to eventually achieve a 90% enrollment rate or more.

With the VEBA firmly in place, a number of people have asked me, "What is the role of KASRA going forward?" My answer is that it is basically the same as it has always been, but the emphasis has changed.

"KASRA is an organization dedicated to assisting fellow salaried retirees of Kaiser Aluminum with benefit issues and with communicating matters of common interest."

KASRA has three main areas of endeavor:

- A. Assisting the VEBA. **The VEBA represents the most significant source of benefits retirees receive as a result of their service with Kaiser. Although the VEBA is a totally separate organization, KASRA will continue to assist the VEBA in any way it can for the benefit of retirees.**
- B. Monitoring COBRA Costs. **KASRA has no control of or input into the COBRA cost calculations. We do, however, monitor the calculations and method of calculation for consistency and accuracy.**
- C. Communicating to our retirees on items of common interest. **This area has become our major focus. The KASRA Newsletter is the prime communications vehicle. The articles that Evo Alexandre e-mails on a frequent basis are another very significant form of**

communications. These articles cover a wide range of topics; everything from spam warnings, earthquake preparedness, Medicare scams, successes of former Kaiser employees still working in the industry and many other topics.

- D. **We have plans to upgrade the Newsletter and launch a KASRA website. You will see the Newsletter upgrade in January, and information about the website will be announced in the January Newsletter.**

Again, it is always helpful to receive feedback from KASRA members on what you like or dislike about what your association is doing. Suggestions are always welcome.

One last note: There is a person many of you may not know, but who has done a great deal of work for all Kaiser retirees. That person is Colleen Geary. Over the past six years, Colleen has worked with Evo to maintain our database of retirees, respond to phone and e-mail inquiries, verify information for the "In Memoriam" section of the Newsletter and tackle numerous other KASRA-related tasks. She is retiring (again) at the end of the year and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Colleen, from all of us for all that you have done.

Since our next Newsletter will be in January, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to wish each of you a Happy Holiday season and New Year. You can be sure that in the coming year, as in the past, we will work to represent your interests and keep you informed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Kauffman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

President
Dick Kauffman

What's Going On

We are delighted to receive so many entries from you and we strive to put as many news notes as space allows in each edition of KASRA News. So, if your item is not in this issue, please be assured it will be posted in a future newsletter.

Fall is deer hunting season for **Ed Westerman** (San Ramon, CA) and his twin brother, who travel up to northern Washington for the tradition. Ed always makes a point to stop off in Spokane, where he began his career with Kaiser Aluminum at the Department of Metallurgical Research. Dana Point, CA residents **Tony Procanik** and his wife, Kathy, spent two weeks, exploring the countryside of Scotland and Ireland, as well as enjoying the wonderful Guinness. This is the month that Sara and **Harlan Gilmore** of Ann Arbor, MI, begin a five-month sojourn to destinations in Florida, Texas and Costa Rica. Surviving spouse **Anne Ferguson** still lives on the almond farm in Hughson, CA, that she and her late husband, Carl, bought 24 years ago. Three generations of family visit her often and she has an email address, too, at callmeamama@sbcglobal.net. Check out www.fergusonrecipes.com for some great recipes.

Larry Miller (Concord, CA) has found his passion: bridge. After retiring from his consulting business in 2001, he took up contract bridge following a 37-year break.

Within 5 years, Larry became a Bronze Life Master and as a certified bridge director, he directs bridge competitions aboard cruise ships with his wife, Joan. He teaches classes at the Walnut Creek Senior Center, too. He encourages fellow retirees to pursue a healthy blend of mental and physical exercise as well as volunteer work to make the world a better place.

Farbest Specialty Chemicals retiree **Joe O'Connell** (Mission Viejo, CA) went on an Alaskan cruise through the Inland Passage with the whole family of 17. Newark, OH retiree and resident **Bill Snider**

spent three weeks in France and England touring with his extended family. Bill, a woodworking hobbyist, builds displays for the local Museum.

Mary Alice Chase, a surviving spouse in Middletown, RI, wrote to thank KASRA for caring about its retirees. She especially wants to say a big thank you to **Carol Cook** in Bristol for patiently answering questions with knowledge and compassion. Hugs to Carol!

Ed Silver and his wife thought they'd get out of the heat by driving to higher elevation. The Parker, CO couple found themselves on a harrowing four-wheel



drive road to reach the summit of Imogene Pass in Telluride. **Otto A. Weil** of Bennington, VT, makes yearly visits to Tokyo to visit his son and family. Otto works in R&D for a local producer of mace and pepper aerosols.

Jack Folkman and his wife, Doris, (Reno, NV) traveled to SE Asia this year. Chalmette retiree **John D'Antonlo** (Talisheek, LA) took a cruise to Cozumel and Costa Maya that managed to stay ahead of the Gulf storms. Fellow Chalmette retiree **Clif Arnold** and his wife, Pat (Slidell, LA) loved their cruise to Alaska. Tennis fan **Mary Bozarth** of San Ramon, CA, saw the Pacific Life Tennis Open at Indian Wells, CA. Mary also took a 15-day cruise to the Hawaiian Islands from Los Angeles. Ravenswood retiree **James C. Presley** of Cottageville, WV, shares tips for a relaxing evening: extra strength Excedrin, hot tea and listening to classical music. After a long day of rustling Angus cattle, that probably settles Jim down pretty well.

CFT retiree **Sharon Fraetis** (Lafayette, CA) cruised the Mexican Riviera with fellow retirees **Dinah Berry** of Houston, TX, and **Terri Zanutto** of Foothill Ranch, CA.

Los Gatos, CA resident **Bert Altmann** enjoys acrylic painting and is a member of the local art association. Bert's travel plans this year include visiting the Nile River, the Grand Teton Mountains and Mexico. **Don Kusko** (Livermore, CA) took an extended cruise from Alaska to Japan, Russia, Korea and China. Refractories Division retiree **William E. Boyd** of Moraga, CA, attended the annual reunion of the 305th Brigade, 8th AF and has shared his experience as a P.O.W in Germany during WWII as a speaker at local organizations. On this year's Veterans' Day, we salute you and all our KASRA retirees who served this country in uniform.

Callaway Gardens, CA, was the setting for a family vacation that Chalmette retiree **Edwin Frank** (Metairie, LA) hosted in honor of his daughter's 25th wedding anniversary. Trentwood retiree **Orville T. Benjamin** (Coeur D'Alene, ID) does some stained glass making and woodwork. The 96-year old also spends time at the local senior center. Erie, PA retiree and resident **Donald L. Askins** likes to do yard work, mountain hiking and photography. The Askins have traveled to Austria, Germany, Italy, China and also to Washington state. Happy Longevity. **E. Walter Adams** of North Lima, OH, is 98 years old and lives in an assisted living facility with his wife, Eleanor. The accomplished woodworker and painter has three water color paintings on display in Hudson, OH. Trentwood retiree **John H. Sprague** is currently living at Riverview Care Center in Spokane, WA, looking forward to his 96th birthday. Surviving spouse **Agnes Gerling** (Mexico, MO) turned 89 and loves baseball. She doesn't miss a Cardinals game.



Kaiser Ag Chemical retiree **Charles E. Doran** of New Waverly, IN, celebrates his 90th birthday this month. **Sam E. Shelby** of Brentwood, TN, also a

Kaiser Ag Chemical retiree, celebrated his 90th birthday in good health.

Move over, Jack La Lanne, meet **Dudley J. Aldous**



of Santa Cruz, CA. The 91-year old works out faithfully three times a week and can push and pull 44,000 lbs in a 1-hour workout. Way to go!

Rob Angell and his brother **Don**, celebrated their 90th

birthdays with relatives and family at the Dollar Club House in Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, CA.

Bernice Benson celebrates her 91st birthday at Alameda Care Center, Alameda, CA.

Tacoma retiree **Joe Kuljis'** days of wild horseback riding may be over, but the 82-year old still shows up at the hospital every year to take a cardio stress test wearing his cowboy boots. And yes, the Graham, WA resident passes as if he were riding bareback! Credit his bride of 61 years, June, for keeping him in shape.

Happy Anniversary... Couples who have tied the knot for 66 years: Mr. & Mrs. **Mort Crockett** (Pompano Beach, FL) who celebrated with 15 family members on a Caribbean cruise;



Jeanette and **Alfred (Al) Zucker** of Sunrise, IL, who also celebrated with a cruise to the Caribbean as well as Al's 88th birthday this year; Esther and **Edward J. Brown, Jr.** (Savannah, GA) who were honored at their retirement home with a surprise party. Three couples saw their 61st anniversary: Charis and **Robert W. Gambill** (Troy, MI); Sonora, CA residents Jean and **Delmar (Del) Dow** whose watercolor paintings are for sale at an art gallery in Pinecrest, CA; Marlee and **John F. Naddy III** (West Linn, OR) who were able to celebrate their last anniversary together before Marlee's passing some three weeks later.

What's Going On – cont.

These unions have lasted for 60 years: Charlotte and **Otto J. Vondrak** (Bend, OR); Mary and **William D. Barlett** (Ravenswood, WV); Mr. & Mrs. **John Principe, Jr.** (Pantelo, TX); Fern and **Cliff Halstead** (Spokane, WA); Mavis and **Howard Justus** (Post Falls, ID); Mr. & Mrs. **Cleveland E. Owen** (Scottsboro, AL).

Celebrating 58 years of marriage: Tom and **Jean Tygrett** of Ripley, WV; Mr. & Mrs. **John Sprowl** of Spokane, WA; Mr. & Mrs. **Allen Lightner** of Ponchatoula, LA; Betty and **Edward (Ed) Holmes** of Anderson, CA.

Ruth and **William (Bill) Wood** of Avon Park, FL, celebrated 57 years of marriage, as did Bertha and **Ray Lightell** (Kingwood, TX); Mr. & Mrs. **Arnold Schlottmann** of Carriere, MS; Mary Louise and **Bud Caro** of Portland, OR.

Barb and **Vern Van De Vanter** of Newport, WA, cruised to Alaska to celebrate their 52nd anniversary, taking time off from managing their auto sales website, www.kustomautomotive.net. **Jacque Clements** and her husband celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary and 81st birthdays this year. The former secretary to, the late, **A.S. Hutchcraft** lives in Reno, NV and welcomes calls at (775) 852-9232. Happy Anniversary to all you love birds. And we promise to fill you in on all the Golden Anniversary couples in the next issue.

News Briefs

Rio Tinto's acquisition of Alcan Inc., is expected to be completed this quarter. Former Kaiser Aluminum executive and current Alcan President and Chief Executive Officer **Dick Evans** will become chief executive of Rio Tinto Alcan, based in Montreal.



Century Aluminum, the former Kaiser Aluminum Ravenswood smelter, marked its 50th Anniversary this year. With 660 employees, the plant is the third largest employer in Jackson County. Ravenswood is the oldest aluminum smelter operating in the U.S. and just one of 13 active smelters in the country. Most of the Ravenswood output goes right next door to supply the Alcan Rolled Products rolling mill.

In Memoriam

Joseph Canezaro - Oscar, LA
Harold B. Chevront - Parkersburg, WV
David D. Emerson - Veradale, WA
Carl J. Fandal - Slidell, LA
Elsie G. Hansen - Merrillville, IN
Gerald D. Honn - Spokane Valley, WA
Harry H. Hutton - Santa Cruz, CA
George G. Ishee - Slidell, LA
Harold "Hal" Jensen - Lafayette, CA
Joyce R. Kather - Arabi, LA
Cecilia L. Klimer* - Brecksville, OH
Robert H. Knight - Cottageville, WV
Eleanor M. Meiboom* - San Jose, CA
Frederick K. Morris - Ripley, WV
Milton "Nick" H. Nuechterlein - Spokane, WA
Edwin H. Nuscher* - Savannah, GA
Marion L. Ploussard - Irmo, SC
James S. Rayborn* - Lumberton, MS
John S. Rhoades - Quincy, CA
John H. Sprague - Chattaroy, WA
Hubert F. Stinn* - Kingman, AZ
Peggy J. Thibodeaux* - Greenwell Spring, LA
Luis Valdivieso - West Palm Beach, FL
Paul L. Vogt - Omaha, NE
Raymond O. Wagner Sr. - Chalmette, LA
J. Bryan Webber - Mexico, MO
Bruce R. Weil* - Maplewood, NJ

* Died more than 12 months ago

The KASRA 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.

Member Profile: Jim Hobby

Jim Hobby likes to joke that he spent 35 years with Kaiser Aluminum trying to find a job. Over the course of seven various assignments which took him to Argentina, Australia, France, Cleveland, Ravenswood, and spots in between, Jim recalls that there's been one constant in his career – the wonderful people he has worked with and for. Today, Jim and his wife, Nancy, reside in Medford, OR, where a golf game can be found just a block away from home.

Q. When did you begin your career at Kaiser Aluminum and what were some early accomplishments?

A. I joined the corporation in 1956 in Oakland and worked on systems and procedures to centralize the accounts payable and receivable functions. Early on, I traveled extensively, in particular due to the acquisitions of Mexico Refractories Company and Bristol, R.I. Then, as Manager of Accounting Services, I worked on compressing the financial reporting closing date for the corporation from ten days to four days. That was no easy task and it was not uncommon to spend 20-hour workdays on the job. But we did it, launching the four-day closing in 1967.

Q. What took you to travel overseas?

A. I spent eight years in the Refractories division, during which we acquired plants in Argentina, England, France and Sweden. We met some very memorable individuals. For example, the chief executive of the joint venture partner in France was a very gregarious fellow who loved to entertain, usually with dinner at a Michelin 3-star restaurant.

Q. You also have experience in other business lines - Chemicals and Aluminum Flat Rolled Products. How did that occur?

A. In 1977, I was named Assistant Corporate Controller and worked on a hodgepodge of different assignments in planning and analysis on the corporate budget, and in compliance for domestic pricing. Then, I was assigned to the acquisition team for Harshaw Chemical in Cleveland. We merged Filtrol fluorocarbon in Los Angeles with Harshaw. In 1983, I moved to Cleveland to work at Harshaw Filtrol with Don

Smith, Ed Nesselroade and Phil Grosso. Besides the controller function, I was in charge of purchasing, traffic, public affairs, advertising, back office services and more. In addition, I became manager of the Carbon Division. I returned to Oakland in 1988 to head administration for the Flat Rolled Division. My assignment was to help find a buyer for and negotiate the sale of the Ravenswood plant, which was accomplished in 1990. The last chapter in my career was to help develop managed health care programs for unionized workers. I retired in 1991.

Q. That must have prepared you for your involvement with KASRA.

A. Indeed. I was an active advocate for retirees while serving on the KASRA board. Thanks to our combined efforts, we slowed down the company some and managed to delay the inevitable cut in health care benefits. I was a member of the salaried retiree committee during the bankruptcy proceedings and became an initial trustee of the VEBA we now have.

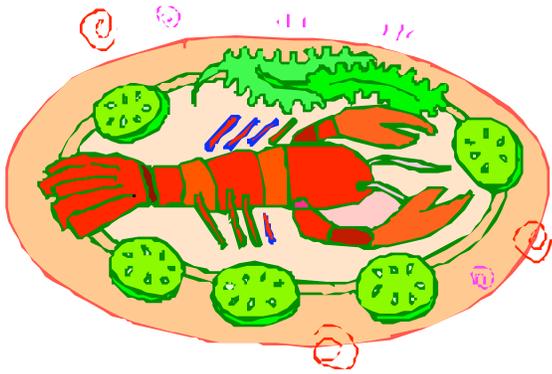
Q. Tell us about your personal life.

A. I was born in Arkansas and graduated from high school in Oakdale, CA. I received an undergraduate degree from San Jose State University and an MBA from University of California at Berkeley. My wife, Nancy and I met at Arthur Andersen where we both worked and were married three months before I started my career at Kaiser Aluminum in 1956. We have a son and a daughter and three grandchildren.

Q. Besides golf, what do you like about living in Medford, OR.

A. We live in a beautiful valley and I play 9 holes of golf twice a week. There's a wonderful farmer's market nearby where we get the best tasting produce. The apples and pears are in full season now. We're also fortunate to have regional theatre as well as the reknown Oregon Shakespeare Festival nearby.

Please write-in or email, if you have suggestions for persons you would like KASRA NEWS to profile in future issues



The Lunch Bunch

Nov. 1 Baton Rouge

Noon at Mansur's on the Blvd. Lunch Bunch now invites wives or girlfriends (not both). Call Bob Eisenbach (225) 926-1334 or email him at bobeisenbach@cox.net. (Baton Rouge meets 1st Thursday of each month)

Nov. 5 Los Angeles

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

Nov. 8 Mead

11:30 a.m., Cathay Inn on North Division St. Contact Phil Marksbury (509) 325-1798; or email: pjmarksb@comcast.net. (Mead meets 2nd Thursday of each month)

Nov. 13 Newark

11:00 a.m. at Stacy's Hometown Buffet in Heath, Ohio. Theme: OSU-Michigan Football game. Wear your colors. Contact Bob Abel (740) 323-2268 or email rpabel@alltel.net.

Nov. 15 Trentwood

11:00 a.m. Valley Eagles, 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Speaker: JoAnn Ehlers will have MEDI-CAL update. Call Del McKinley (509) 924-3077 or email delcree@msn.com or Jan Gorman (509) 926-5476 or email jandon4@hotmail.com No meeting in Dec.

Nov. 16 Baton Rouge

Meeting of KAOS. 11:30 a.m. at the Sherman Forest Country Club. Cost \$25. Call Bob Eisenbach (225) 926-1334 or email him at bobeisenbach@cox.net.

Nov. 21 Erie

Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Lake Shore Country Club. Call Tim Healy at (814) 474-3536, fax (814) 474-2700 or email at thealy@velocity.net. Christmas Party will at 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 19th. (Erie meets 3rd Wednesday of each month)

Nov. 30 Ravenswood

6:30 p.m., Christmas Dinner/Dance at the Greenhill Country Club. RSVP. Call Dave Whitman at (304) 273-5548 or email him at dwhitman@wirefire.com

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

11:00 a.m. at the Walnut Creek Elks Club. A menu will be finalized soon. Please Email Carol Brown at: cbrown3799@yahoo.com or Sharon Fraetis at (925) 934-4334 or lafnatv@silcon.com. Call Sharon for a mailed invitation if you don't use or receive email.

Dec. 4 Bristol

11:45 a.m., The Wharf Restaurant. Call Carol Cook (401) 253-4251 or John Carre at (401) 247-2199

Dec. 5 Chalmette

11:30 a.m., Jasmine French Restaurant (across from the Slidell Train Station on the corner of Teddy Avenue - in Olde Towne Slidell) 1768 Front Street (AKA US Hwy. 11, Blue Star Highway) Slidell. Call Sherman Faught (985) 690-4942; Chuck Schimmel (985) 643-0437 or email: schimcol@aol.com.

Dec. 5 Tacoma

Noon. Tacoma Elks Lodge, 1965 South Union. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 564-9308 or bobjanetmohr@comcast.net.

TBA Bay Minette

Tentative April 2008. For info contact Carl Holland at (251) 937-9737; Freddie Hosey at (251) 456-1267; or Betty Wilson at (251) 610-5611 or email bsw1939@netzero.com.

