

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT



Doug Mann
KASRA President

Visit website at
www.e-kasra.com

Do you know a retiree who has not signed up for the VEBA? Suggest they call the Delta Fund Administrators toll-free at (888) 344-8322 or email VEBA@deltafund.com.

Greetings Fellow Retirees and Surviving Spouses:

I hope you all had a very happy and healthy 4th of July. This holiday always brings back fond memories of my childhood days when neighbors pooled their funds to purchase fireworks for early evening entertainment for the kids on the block. I hope you have similar fond memories as well.

Every year in July we hold our annual membership drive. Each of you will receive a letter from me accompanying the hard copy of the July newsletter indicating your current dues status. For those of you who already are KASRA members, I thank you for your ongoing support, and I encourage every one to fill out and return the green "Dues Renewal" form enclosed.

Unfortunately, each July the post office returns a number of non-delivered mail marked "no forwarding address." So it's important you keep us posted when ever you change your address. By doing so, you can be sure that you are being kept informed on any matters arising at both KASRA and the VEBA.

I encourage those of you who have

allowed your membership to lapse to please rejoin.

By now, all eligible and enrolled members of the VEBA plan received a letter from the Board of Trustees advising that a qualified benefit amount of up to \$3,800 per family unit has been declared for the year 2016. Any questions should be directed to Delta Fund Administrators, LLC, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA95201-2308. Telephone: Toll Free (888) 344-8322.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support of KASRA! It truly wouldn't exist without your participation. So keep in touch, tell us what's going on with you and send along those wonderful pictures!

That's it for now, folks! So until the next issue, stay well and keep busy!

All the best!

Doug Mann
President, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

Accomplishments . . .

Joe Reger (Meridian, ID) was recently elected to a three-year term to the position of Northwest National Director of the Early Ford V8 Club of America. As such, he is responsible for the Regional Groups located in the states of Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Western Canada. The National Club has over 8,000 members in the USA and foreign countries. "On the National Board, I am on various committees including National Marketing, the Audit Committee, 75th anniversary, and the Judging Standards Committees," says Joe, who has been involved with the Early Fords for approximately 30 years. Currently, the avid collector owns four fully-restored Early Ford Motor models. Joe last worked at Kaiser's headquarters in Oakland, CA.

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

On April 8, 2016, **John Schnittker**



Jayne and John Schnittker (center) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren.



Joe Reger stands next to one of the beautifully maintained classic Ford automobiles that he restores.

(Alamo, CA) and his lovely wife Jayne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The couple's three sons and their wives, plus four grandchildren joined the celebration, which included celebrating Jayne's 80th birthday on April 5. The Schnittker's middle son, Rob, is married to Kristie, whose father Al Hopf was a KACC retiree. "They didn't know that

each of their father's had worked for Kaiser when they first started dating," says John. Rob and Kristie live in Issaquah, WA, where she is an electrical engineer and supervisor for Puget Sound Energy.

Congratulations to **Charles Schimmel, Jr.** (Slidell, LA) and his bride Jacqueline who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15, 2016. Charles, who is very involved

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with his local KASRA group and is on the KASRA Board of Directors, worked at Kaiser's Chalmette, LA, facility.

A Little of This, A Little of That . . .

An ardent outdoorsman, **Frank Gerlach** (Harborcreek, PA) continues to hunt despite back surgery in January, 2016. By March, he and his fiancée were vacationing in Key West, FL, where he spent time fishing in the clear tropical Atlantic waters and, in late March, he harvested a 1,200 lb. buffalo with a bow and arrow! "All in all, not a bad winter for a guy who turned 77 years old in May," he says. Frank began his Kaiser career at Newark, OH, before being transferred to Erie, PA, Edison, NJ, Wanatah, IN, and Baton Rouge, LA, before returning to the Erie plant where he retired.



Frank Gerlach harvested a 1,200 lb. buffalo with just a bow and arrow.

this year.

Best Wishes . . .

Condolences to the families of **Gisela Probst**, surviving spouse of **John Probst**, **Madalyn Watters** (spouse unknown) and **Marie Wilson**, surviving spouse of **James Wilson**.

Traveling Far, Far Away . . .

Instead of several short items on trips near and far, we decided to share with you an incredible adventure taken by Kaiser retiree **Sharon Fraetis** (Lafayette, CA). This trip of a lifetime lasted 111 days. Enjoy!

"On January 23, 2015, I sailed out of Los Angeles on the Pacific Princess, otherwise known as the Love Boat from the TV series of the same name. It arrived in Honolulu on January 29, an auspicious day as my grandson, Presley Jean Fraetis, was born in Scottsdale that day. I was able to talk to my son and receive pictures of the

Joanne Clevenger (Evans, WV), who worked at Kaiser's Ravenswood, WV, facility, keeps busy with a variety of puzzles, while **April Leavy** (Oakland, CA) still enjoys traveling, exercising and going to the opera. Meanwhile, **Hazel Parsons** (Ripley, WV) says the luncheon get-together started by the "Ol' Girls of Kaiser" in 2000 is still going strong. "Sixteen years later and we're still meeting for lunch," Hazel says.

Reporting for the Trentwood, WA, KASRA group, **TJ Summerson** (Spokane, WA) says that the group held four luncheon programs from October 2015 through April 2016. Approximately 30-40 people attend each luncheon. Speakers for the meetings included a financial management group, an author reviewing her book on World War II, a man showing the group how to build a kit plane, and a musician who entertained the group on his guitar and harmonica. The Executive Board is currently finalizing programs for

MEMBER PROFILE: Don Dewar

How long did you work at Kaiser and what did you do?

I was at Kaiser in Trentwood for a total of 30 years, but I worked those years in two different batches. The first time was in 1950 soon after I received my mechanical engineering degree. I was hired in the Physical Testing Laboratory where we evaluated the strength of the aluminum product.

The Mechanical Labs were part of quality assurance. We also had an Analytical Lab, Spectrographic Lab, a Paint Lab and an Anodized Lab, where we checked the surface quality. I became the Laboratory Supervisor but, after 10 years, I was laid off. Kaiser had more people than they needed at the time and so they let the newest people go.

How did you end up back at Kaiser?

A Technical Superintendent I had worked with had left Kaiser several years before I was laid off. When he came back, he asked where I was and said he wanted me back in the labs. So they contacted me and offered me a job again.

You said being laid off was a good thing. Please explain.

It really was one of the best things that could have happened to me. You always worry about losing your job, but when I was laid off, I came through it okay. And, although I was very happy to come back to Kaiser, during the two years I was gone, I found other work and everything was fine. So when I returned to Kaiser,



Don Dewar (far left) enjoyed the 2013 luncheon for the Trentwood retirees. Unidentified man sitting next to Don and Greg Kamy (far right). Norm Whitford has his back to the camera.

I felt free about making decisions. The worst had already happened, and I survived, so I didn't worry about pleasing someone to keep my job. I just did what was best in each situation.

What was one of your challenges while working at Trentwood?

Computers! About a year after I came back to Kaiser, computers started to appear. At first, we just had them in accounting, but then they really pushed to have them in the Physical Test Lab I was running. It turned out to be a really good place to computerize, but we had to do a lot of training and develop new processes that were a challenge at times.

What was one of the accomplishments you achieved at Trentwood?

Getting the ISO 9000 Certification was quite an accomplishment. The goal of the Certification is to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction, reduce unnecessary costs and improve productivity. We had so many hoops to

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jump through to get that Certification. It was really big change, but it made everything much more efficient.

When did you retire from Kaiser?

I left Kaiser in 1982 with lots of fond memories. Kaiser was a great place to work most of the time. We had excellent people operating the labs.

Tell us about your family.

I've been widowed since 2001. I have four daughters, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. I'm 90 and still around – a surprise to everybody! One of my daughters lives in the Spokane area, another in Seattle and the rest in Portland, OR.

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baby before touring Pearl Harbor and enjoying lunch with a longtime friend who lives in Hawaii.”

This long-awaited trip included several firsts for me -- my first ever Super Bowl party, first time crossing over the International Date Line and first time crossing



Sharon Fraetis by the old walled city of Valletta, Malta.

Do you have any hobbies?

It's hard to keep up with hobbies when you're in your 90s, but I still take photos. Over the years, I used to climb the peaks around here and I rode all over the west on my motorcycle. Now, I concentrate more on gardening and keeping the place looking decent. I still live in my own house and I have a 92-year-old girl friend. She and my wife were in the same sorority. We ran into each other 12 years ago. We have a lot in common, including how we both had such wonderful relationships with our spouses.

Life just gets better and better as it goes on. My family is very important to me. I enjoy their company and apparently they enjoy mine!

the Equator. Crossing the Equator involved a special initiation of the Equator where I went from a polliwog (someone who's never crossed the Equator) to a shellback (one who has crossed the Equator). Lots of eggs, fish guts and spaghetti were poured over us newbies. It took a long shower to get that stuff out of my hair.

We traveled to Apia, Samoa, before going on to the Bay of Islands, New Zealand, where I took a catamaran ride and saw water caves and lots of dolphins.

Auckland, New Zealand, meant a trip to the Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium and up the Sky Tower, the tallest structure in the Southern Hemisphere at 1072 feet. When we arrived in Sydney, Australia, the ship had a great welcome because it was the first time the Love Boat from the TV series was in Sydney on Valentine's

Send KASRA Your News & Pictures

Write us your news, travels, stories... humorous tales welcome. Send a note to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516 or sallyhogarty@gmail.com.

* Photos encouraged.

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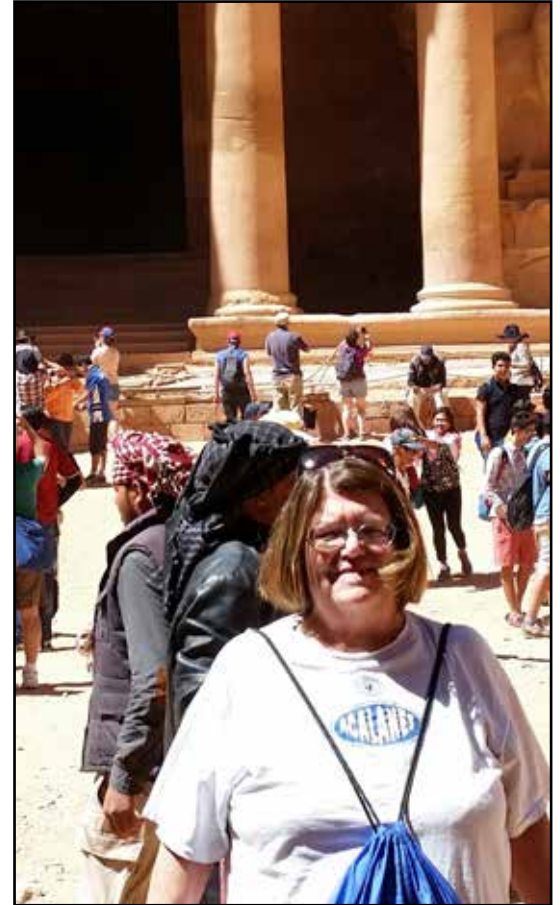
Day. We were up at 5 a.m. with news helicopters circling us as the ship played the Love Boat theme. My overnight stay included holding an adorable koala and touring Sydney and the surrounding country side. Then off to Cairns and Darwin, Australia, where I saw crocodiles jump as our guide hung food over the side of the boat.

During this once-in-a-lifetime trip, I crossed seas I never knew existed -- Tasmanian, Coral and Banda for starters. February ended with a trip to Maura, Brunei, with its beautiful mosques. In March, it was on to Kota Kinabalu Malaysia, where I petted a baby elephant. In Hong Kong, we managed to see much of the fantastic architecture and the harbor.

I met lots of friendly people in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Then, I celebrated my March birthday in style by visiting lots of gold Buddhas and beautiful mosques in Bangkok, Thailand, Singapore and the National Orchid Garden. Next, I traveled to India, Cochin and Mumbai (Bombay), where despite the very hot and humid weather, I managed to do some shopping and have lunch at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

Muscat, Oman, had so many wonderful things to see, especially the beautiful stained glass works in the ceilings of the souks (shopping areas). During our overnight stay in Dubai, I went on a desert excursion -- six of us in a SUV, flying over the sand dunes to get to a Bedouin camp for camel rides, belly dancers, barbeque and a falcon show.

The next day, a tour took us to the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world at 2717 feet, 160 stories. We could only



Sharon Fraetis in Dubai, the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates.

go as far as the 124 floor to a glassed in observation deck where an ATM machine dispenses gold bars! Did you know that the Emirates Mall has an indoor ski area? It was really strange to see snow and skiers in the middle of a mall.

In April, I arrived in Petra, Jordan, which was the reason I took this cruise. I certainly wasn't disappointed. Petra was absolutely stunning. Carved out of multicolored sandstone by the Nabataeans more than 2,200 years ago, the city was abandoned in the 14th century and not re-discovered until 1812 when Swiss traveler, Johann Ludwing Burckhardt, stumbled upon it.

The ship skipped Egypt due to the turmoil and spent time cruising the Suez Canal

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and the Mediterranean Sea where we visited the absolutely breathtaking old walled city of Valletta, Malta, my second favorite port. We also visited Messina and Sorrento, Italy, the beautiful Bay of Naples, Capri and Pompeii. How amazing that so many of Pompeii's ruins were uncovered from the ash of the eruption of Mt Vesuvius in 79 A.D.

What can I say about Rome? The Sistine Chapel, the Basilica, the Vatican Museum, Vatican City, St. Peters Square and, to top it off, the Colosseum. Glorious Barcelona, Spain, included an overnight stay. I toured the La Sagrada Familia, designed by Antoni Gaudi. It has been under construction since 1882, and they say it may be completed by 2026! I also visited a park designed by Gaudi. With mosaics everywhere, it must be seen to be believed.

Following a flower festival in Madeira, Portugal, we journeyed on to Hamilton, Bermuda, where I enjoyed the beautiful beach of Horseshoe Bay. Then we made a short stop in the U.S.A. in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, for an airboat tour of the everglades.

By now it was May, but the trip still had many surprises, including stopping in one of the ABC islands, Curacao, to see the colorful Dutch architecture. Cartagena, Columbia, became the next port before cruising the Panama Canal.

As we cruised into the Pacific Ocean, I went into the rain forest in Puerto Quepos, Costa Rica, before visiting Topolobampo, Mexico, and, finally, Cabo, where I swam with some dolphins. This incredible journey ended back in Los Angeles on May 15. But, for me, the best was yet to come – being met at the ship by my new grandson!

In Memoriam

*Arthur Ainscough
Walnut Creek, CA*

*Earl D. Bevard
Heath, OH*

*Ina M. Buxton
Sullivan, IL*

*Stephen Charles Carniglia
San Geronimo, CA*

*Archie C. Chaney
Port Wentworth, GA*

*Clinton Dean Compton
Coeur D'alene, ID*

*Norma Jean Crull
Spokane, WA*

*John David Evanson
Pleasanton, CA*

*Betty G. Hepburn
Slidell, LA*

*Bernard L. Palmer
Newark, OH*

*James William "Jim" Pantaleo
Spokane Valley, WA*

*Neal L. Person
Ellensburg, WA*

*Perry R. Oliver, Sr.
Claxton, GA*

*Lowell Clifton Tillman
Savannah, GA*

*Robert W. "Bob" Walls
Gulf Shores, AL*

*James Walker
Seattle, WA*

*Meredith Lee "Mickey" Warrington
Queenstown, MD*

*John M. Winkler
Danville, CA*

*Lillian R. "Ruth" Yaeger
Spokane, WA*

Please inform us of a retiree or spouse passing. Include date of death, city and state, and first name of surviving spouse. If possible, a copy or link to the obituary or name of the newspaper would be helpful. Contact Klaus Adler, 1127 Rachele Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 or (925) 935-2938 or kcharlie34@comcast.net.

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



Ina Buxton, a 1985 retiree of the Sullivan, IL, Kaiser facility, passed away on May 27, 2016.

P.O. Box 1171
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 685-1313

E-Mail:
news@e-kasra.com

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.e-kasra.com

Belpre **Aug 27**
Saturday Lunch, noon, Western Sizzlin,
Parkersburg. Confirm with Betty Blair
(304) 489-1337 or to
bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

Chalmette **Sept 7, Dec 7**
Lunch, 11 a.m. at NOLA Lagniappe,
1375 Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$20.
Confirm with Chuck Schimmel (985)
643- 0437 or to schimcol@aol.com.

Erie **Jul 16, Aug 20, Sept 17**
Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Peggy's 3512
Liberty Street, Erie. Confirm with Tim
Healy (814) 402-1062 or
thealy1931@gmail.com.

Los Angeles **Jul 11, Aug 8, Sept 12**
Lunch, noon at Marie Callendar's, 540
N. Euclid, West Anaheim. Confirm
with Bob O'Leary (714) 898-7463 or
robemmet39@gmail.com.

Mead **Jul 14, Aug 11, Sept 8**
Lunch, 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North
Division St. Confirm with Danny Petruss
(509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

Newark **Aug 9, Oct 11**
Lunch 11 a.m., Stacey's Hometown Buf-
fet, Heath. Lunch paid for by the Newark



Magician Dale Wheeler performs at Ravenswood's April 21 luncheon. He is assisted by Kaiser retiree Dottie Whitman.

plant. Contact Bill Snider (740) 403-8328
or
colbill44@roadrunner.com.

Ravenswood **Sept 8**
Noon, Cedar Lakes, Ripley. \$10/plate
Confirm with Pete Westenhaber (304)
266-4109 or Pete26164@gmail.com or
Lee Corder (304) 273-9457.

Trentwood **Oct 18, Nov 15**
Meet 11 a.m. Hot Meal served 11:30
a.m. Valley Eagles, 16801 E. Sprague
Ave. Confirm with Steve Harvey (509)
924-1132, or slharv3y@comcast.net
or TJ Summerson (509) 448-1228 at
tsummerson@aol.com.



The "Kaiser Girls" at a recent luncheon in Ravenswood, WV, (Kneeling in the front) Hazel Parsons, Carolyn Waybright and Glenna Witschy (seated in 2nd row) Ingrid Lee, Carolyn Wilson, Doris Osborne, Pat McNeeley, Dorothy Gore, Joanna Clevenger, Shirley Hodge and behind Shirley, Ellie Keefer (seated in 3rd row) Martha Marty, Lillian Weese and Becky Taylor (standing in 4th row) Nancy Casto, Thelma King, Darlene Casto, Sandy Fortner, Rosita Morris, Mary Eakins and Debbie Tennant