



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.

Kaiser Aluminum Salaried Retirees Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE KASRA PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

As we enter the holiday season, I'd like to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving. With all of the early advertising in the media, the days between Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah seem to get shorter and more hectic each year. I hope you find a way to slow that pace down and take the time to be thankful for all your blessings.

I know I'm making an even greater effort this year to appreciate the beauty around me and the incredible support and love of family members. No gift is more appreciated than that of good health and a loving family.

In this issue of the KASRA News, we are highlighting the refractories operations in Mexico, MO. While many of you are familiar with the wonderful work accomplished at Kaiser Refractories, here is a chance to learn a bit more about the history of refractories in Mexico, MO, and how fierce the competition became.

I also want to express the Board's concern for all of our members who had to deal with the effects of the flooding in Louisiana earlier this year and those along the Eastern Seaboard who so recently dealt with Hurricane Matthew. Our own Board Member **Ed Coyne** experienced 107 mph winds at his condo in Cocoa Beach, FL. Fortunately, damage was light.

VEBA – Time is running out! The VEBA trustees remind participants that December 31, 2016 is the deadline for filing a claim for the 2015 maximum benefit of \$3,300 per family unit. Unfortunately, there are still a few eligible family units who have not as yet enrolled for this benefit.

If you know of anyone who may be eligible but has not enrolled, please encourage them to contact the Delta Fund Administrator by phone toll free at (888) 344-8322.

Our newsletter editor, **Sally Hogarty**, thanks everyone who has been sending her their wonderful photographs to include in the newsletter. A picture is truly worth a 1,000 words, so keep them coming. You can email photos to Sally at sallyhogarty@gmail.com or mail hard copies to her at: Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon, CA 94516.

Steve Abernathy, our website guru, also sends his thanks for the photos coming his way. Steve does a great job posting them on the website (www.e-kasra.com) for all our members to see. But, like Sally, he always wants more! Keep sending those photos to web@e-kasra.com.

All the best!

Doug Mann
President, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

Accomplishments . . .

Former Halethorpe, MD, Extrusion Plant worker **Howard Dicus** (Gambrills, MD) says he's a late bloomer as a writer. But since his retirement, he's written four novelettes and one book of short stories. One of his novelettes, *On the Street*, is a romantic action and adventure story now available on Amazon.com and in the Library of Congress! "It is quite a thrill to realize that my book sits on a shelf in the Library of Congress," Howard enthuses.

Congratulations to **Chris Laszcz-Davis** (Orinda, CA), who was recently appointed to the Board of Scientific Counsellors for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The Board is comprised of 15 national experts in occupational safety and health. "I'm looking forward to working with an incredible group of folks to help make a difference," Chris says. On a more personal note, Chris recently completed the San Francisco AVON sponsored two-day, 39.3 mile walkathon, which raised \$4.6 million for breast cancer services in California alone. Chris thanks the Kaiser colleagues who contributed to the fundraiser and admits it was grueling towards the end "but worth every step!"

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Alfred "Al" Zucker (Sunrise, FL) celebrated his 97th birthday in August! He stays active with Veteran's groups, crossword puzzles, reading and taking care of his wife of over 75 years, Jeanette. In February, 2016, Al took a bad fall and fractured his left shoulder and lower back, but he is doing okay now. Happy Birthday to **Hazel Hunt** (Mead, WA). Although the former Trentwood, WA, employee isn't saying which birthday she celebrated on July 1, she admits to having a great time.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Joseph Graziani** (Parkersburg, WV) who celebrated his 95th birthday on Aug. 12! Right before his birthday, however, he had a bout of double pneumonia which had him in the hospital for three weeks, followed by three weeks of rehabilitation. Fortunately, he made it home in plenty of time for his birthday.

Shelby Deem (Longs, SC) thanks her husband for the big 80th birthday party he gave her on May 13. Family and friends from West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina and South Carolina surprised her by attending.

A former Telecommunications Manager in Oakland, CA, **Roger Underwood** (Arroyo Grande, CA) celebrated his 91st birthday on March 20 with family and friends. He now lives in a care home and suffers from congestive heart failure and middle-stage dementia. His wife Casey says he's still very alert when she visits him every afternoon and enjoys crossword puzzles and singing hymns.



William and Linda Prior celebrated their 53rd anniversary and birth of first great granddaughter.

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Congratulations are also in order for **William Prior** (Pickerington, OH) and his bride of 53 years Linda. The couple not only celebrated their 53rd anniversary but also became great grandparents this year with the arrival of Evie James Gibson on April 29. Bill began working for Kaiser at Newark Rod, Bar and Wire (RBW) in 1965. His career included working for corporate in the oversight of facility environmental health and safety among other things. With Kaiser Aluminum Chemical Corporation's decentralization in 1985, he moved to the Chemical Division's new Cleveland, OH, location. He ended his Kaiser career in Baton Rouge, LA, in 1989. Active in church work, he and Linda also publish a monthly six-page newsletter and volunteer at their condo complex in Ohio as well as their second home in Largo, FL. "Since we bought our property near Clearwater Beach, FL, last year, we've noticed that more of our friends come by to visit and spend the night," says Bill.

Former Gramercy Works, LA, employee **Donald Hebert** (Gramercy, LA) and his wife Barbara celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 30. Don has filled his 27 years of retirement with lots of golf but now, with Alzheimer's, has had to forgo that pastime. He still enjoys



Herbert and Peggy Gant celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

his family, which includes three children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren!

Celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary are **Don Gallogly** (Marysville, OH) and his wife Mary. Both attended Muskingum University in New Concord, OH, and in June, they went back for their 65th reunion. Don worked for Kaiser for 31 years in Newark, OH, and Bedford, IN, as a controller, while Mary worked as a hospital dietician, office manager and real estate agent. They spent many years following Don's retirement traveling and living in their motorhome. They have three children, three grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and seven step-great grandchildren.

Richard "Dick" Hughes (Enumclaw, WA) says 2016 was a great year for his family. "My wife Pat and I celebrated our 65th anniversary, I had my 85th birthday and we saw the arrival of our seventh and eighth great grandkids," he boasts. Previously with Kaiser International out of Oakland, CA, Dick enjoys gardening and dancing. Also celebrating a 65th wedding anniversary is **Herbert Gant** (Hebron, OH) and his wife Peggy Kemper Gant. Herbert worked for Kaiser Aluminum for 32 years in Richmond, IN, while Peggy worked 36 years for the Lakewood Schools. They have two children, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Celebrating 60 years of wedded bliss are **Frank Clemens** and his wife Marjorie (Spokane, WA). "We are so grateful to have been welcomed into the Kaiser family 61 years ago. We are especially grateful for **Jed Daniel**, without whom we may not have had a KASRA," says Frank. He and Marjorie remodeled their

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winter home in Beaverdam, AR, as well as constructed a new waterfront home and guesthouse on Loon Lake, WA. "We also remodeled our base-home in Spokane, WA. "Construction is our hobby, and we've done all our projects without outside help," explains the former Mead Works employee. "We are both in good health and enjoying life."

Shirley Exley (Eatonton, GA) had lots to celebrate. First she moved to be near her children, then she and her husband Cordell celebrated their 60th anniversary and, finally, the former Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals employee from Savannah, GA, celebrated her 80th birthday by visiting Pigeon Forge, TN. Shirley and Cordell have two daughters, three grandchildren and one great grandson.

Splitting their time between Florida and Pawling, NY, are **A. Vincent Cerny** (St. Petersburg, FL) and his wife Diana. The two will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary on Nov. 28. Vincent worked for Kaiser's Chemical Division in Cleveland, OH, as the National Sales Manager of the Foodservice Division. **John Sprowl** (Spokane, WA) celebrated his 67th wedding anniversary in August and says he is "feeling good" at 92-years-of-age. "Life is Good," he adds.

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

Donald Waldie (Point Pleasant, WV) and his wife spent part of the summer attending two of their six grandchildren's weddings. When not traveling to see family or going to the beach, Don enjoys golfing, gardening and attending local high school and college sporting events. A current member of the Ravenswood Kaiser Retirees Board of Directors, Don appreciates the KASRA newsletter, especially articles about former employees of Kaiser where,



Frank and Marjorie Clemens celebrated 60 years of marriage.

he says, "we enjoyed the best of times."

Gardening and golf, as well as bowling, are favorite past times of **Harley Marcum** (Point Pleasant, WV). The former Ravenswood, WV, employee worked as Technical Advisor for the Reduction and Fabrication plants. "I loved most of my fellow workers and their ability to get the job done well," says Harley, who loves to travel to see the "big trees" in Utah and Arizona. Restoring old tools keeps **Rodney McMillan** (Mt. Vernon, OH) busy. He even has a table at an antique store in Amish Country (Berlin, OH) where he sells them!

Roger Daughterly (Kaukauna, WI) finds time to go bowling, golfing and walking. He loves to visit California and Eugene, OR. A member of the U.S. Navy Seabees from 1967-1970, he served two tours in Vietnam. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Vietnam Veterans. **Frederick Livergood** (Portage, IN) enjoys camping, doing crossword puzzles, playing the organ and piano and singing. Last year he sang in his church choir.

Walking, swimming, ice skating and sleeping are favorite past times for **Anne Walker** (Seaside Park, NJ) while **Donald Skeens** (Ravenswood, WV) plays golf

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three days a week, volunteers with the Lions Club and First United Methodist Church and enjoys raising vegetables during the summer months. **Harry Wenberg** (Saratoga, CA) and his wife Jean became the proud great grandparents of a beautiful baby girl named Cameron. They also had a nice visit from Harry's cousin and her children who visited from Sweden in June. Although in a walker, the former Permanente Foil Plant worker still enjoys walking, playing bridge and watching sports.

Congratulations to **Howard Haisley** (Spokane, WA), who recently completed rebuilding a 1927 Ford Model T Track Roadster. "It took me approximately four years to compete," he says. "But, it was a labor of love. He and his wife Lynda marked their 50th wedding anniversary this year and celebrated with a trip to London and Paris.

Melita Israel (Aptos, CA) loves singing with the choir at her senior center. She also enjoys watercolor painting, gardening and canning the crops that she grows.

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Steve Ping (Pleasanton, CA) and his wife



Wendy and Steve Ping at the summit of Mt. Whitney at sunrise.



Howard Haisley rebuilt this Ford Model T Track Roadster.

Wendy took on the hiking adventure of a lifetime when they trekked over 200 miles in 18.5 days along the John Muir Trail. They went from sea level to the top of Mt. Everest (30,000 feet!), returned to sea level and then up Mt. Olympus (10,000 feet). "The demands on our sixty-two-year-old bodies were many, but we completed our adventure with one final herculean day starting at 2 a.m. from Arctic Lake at 10,500 feet elevation, hiking under the full moon, summiting Mt. Whitney at sunrise, crossing our last Sierra Mountain pass at 13,500 feet and descending to our last campsite at 10,500 feet by 4 p.m.," says Steve. "Thankfully, our packs were 'light' because we had consumed essentially all of our food by then!" The Pings met hikers from many U.S. states, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Asia along the way. "It was interesting to hear their personal stories and why they were out there to see this remarkable section of the Sierra range."

Trips to Italy and cruises to Alaska and the Caribbean provided special memories for **Paul Mestemak** (New Weston, OH). The former Kaiser Agriculture Chemical employee, and now retired farmer, also enjoys playing cards and spending time with his seven sons, three daughters, 22 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren!

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SPOTLIGHT ON REFRACTORIES IN MEXICO, MO

On July 14, 2016, former workers at the Mexico Refractories, Kaiser Refractories and National Refractories facilities feasted on fried chicken, broccoli, fruit salad, meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, Italian green beans, cherry pie and ice cream as they renewed old friendships and told more than a few old stories. The Mexico Missouri Senior Center hosted the event.

A feast for the eyes as well as the stomach, many former employees brought along old pictures to recall the days of working together, including stories about helping America's naval fleet during World War II. Following lunch, attendees toured the Firebrick Museum, where they enjoyed displays of memorabilia from the various refractories.

Glenn Hatfield (Mexico, MO) and his wife Annette arranged the event, which was so popular that Glenn believes many of those in attendance will continue to meet. "There were so many stories to share, and it had been such a long time, that I think it's quite possible some of the former employees from the surrounding areas will get together again," says Glenn, who started at Mexico Refractories on Nov. 6, 1951. "I started out at the plant but was promoted to top management after four or five years and worked there



Neva Carter and Claire Lowery

for a total of 46 years."

The refractories in Mexico, MO, have a long and proud history. Audrain County, where Mexico is located, once had one of the richest deposits of fire clay in the world, easily mined by open-pit methods, making it especially suitable for refractory purposes.

The young business man, A.P. Green, saw the potential and bought the Mexico Brick and Fire Clay Company in 1910 for \$85,000. Five years later, it was worth over \$200,000.

The company grew during World War I and saw an even larger growth surge during World War II, when a huge demand for refractory products to line war ship boilers took place.

Before long, however, the thriving company found itself with some stiff competition. J.B. Arthur, an executive with A.P. Green, requested ownership interest in the company. When he was refused, he started Mexico Refractories in 1928.

"My father, Charles A. Smith, was one of the A.P. Green executives that joined with J.B. Arthur to found Mexico Refractories," says long-time Kaiser employee **Con Smith** (Bainbridge Island, WA).

It turned out to be a good move for Charles Smith and his colleagues. By 1940, 300 million bricks were being shipped and the company had 450 employees. By the mid-1950s, it had grown to 787 employees.

"My dad had so many stories to tell about how the two companies competed,"

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Con says. “I remember one about Mexico Refractories beating Green in the marketplace by a clever ploy. Both companies sold liquid mortar in 100-pound drums on pallets of 12 drums per pallet. Tons of mortar were sold to lay up the bricks that both companies produced to line industrial furnaces, and the prices were very competitive. Brick masons did the layup by hand. Mexico Refractories mortar consistently outsold the Green product for a very clever reason. They placed a bottle of whiskey in one of the 12 drums on each pallet and the brick Mason’s would open drums on each pallet until they found the whiskey. Since mortar has a short shelf live after being opened, it is unknown how much mortar was opened that never could be used and orders just kept coming! Real country boy marketing,” says Con.

In 1959, another company came into the picture – Kaiser Aluminum, which purchased Mexico Refractories. “My father was Executive Vice President of Mexico Refractories when they merged with Kaiser,” Con adds. “I gave Glenn Hatfield a lot of my dad’s memorabilia when he and others in the town started the museum.”

According to old timers, the town was so



Marvin Wilson, Alice and Jess Edwards

split politically by the two competing companies that workers didn’t dare date anyone from the competition!

Con found himself working for Kaiser Refractories in 1962 after receiving his MBA from Stanford. He worked in production at Moss Landing, CA, and Mexico, MO, until 1967 when he found himself in Oakland, CA, working on Kaiser’s acquisition of Ceramica Industria Haedo, an Argentine refractories company. Con became Vice President and General Manager of the newly acquired company in Buenos Aires, Argentina until 1975 when he returned to the United States. He went on to become Kaiser Refractories Division Vice President, reporting to Steve Hutchcraft, in 1982.

In 1985, Kaiser Aluminum sold Kaiser Refractories to National Refractories and Minerals Corporation, an employee stock ownership plan. Con moved over to the newly formed company serving as Chairman, President and CEO. Currently, Harbison-Walker Refractories operates the only refractory facility out of Mexico, MO.

In 1988, Corinne Azen Krause published “Refractories: The Hidden Industry: A History of Refractories in the United States, 1860 to 1985.” Available through Amazon.com, the book includes many stories including the following related by Con Smith: JB Arthur and Joe Cruson were known to drink together, and



Larry Kessler, Glenn Hatfield and Lawrence Dubbest

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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they had a few too many while driving in the countryside looking for clay properties one day. As they crested a hill, JB exclaimed “there is an elephant in that field.” Joe saw it too, and they both swore off drinking for the rest of the day. Unknown to them, there was a carnival in town with an elephant show, and the

elephant was out grazing for lunch!

“I spent 40 years in the refractories industry, and I have so many stories,” he adds. Con and his wife of 54 years, Conni, moved to Bainbridge Island, WA, in 2007, where they enjoy a beautiful view of Seattle, WA, and no elephants!

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Also traveling to Alaska was **Arthur Hoener** (Bayview, ID). Previously at Kaiser’s Trentwood Plant in sheet and plate, Arthur visited Anchorage, AK and Fairbanks, AK before driving to the Arctic Circle, Chena Hot Springs and Seward, AK, where he went fishing for halibut and silver salmon. “I drove it all,” he states. Although still consulting one day a week at the Gramery Alumina Refinery, **Robert Schoen, Jr.** (Baton Rouge, LA) found time to visit Colorado Springs, CO and Charlottesville, VA, last year. He also enjoys gardening, bee keeping, duck hunting and volunteering at St.

Aloysius Catholic Church.

The beauty of Glacier National Park in Montana’s Rocky Mountains was the setting for **Margaret Zaffran** (Homedale, ID) and her family to enjoy time together this summer. The former worker at Chalmette, LA, loved the “awesome” waterfalls, museums and white water rafting as well as the Long Horn Sheep and deer. “They had wonderful museums on the explores Lewis and Clark as well as their Indian guide Sacagawea,” says Margaret. “We were fortunate to be there during a birthday parade for Sacagawea and we



Margaret Zaffran at Glacier National Park with (L-R) Holly Robichaux (Margaret’s niece), Margaret, Edwin Zaffran, Ramona Gentry (Zaffran), Regina Robichaux (niece) and Mike White.

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just joined in.”

Best Wishes . . .

Jeanette Guillaume (Gonzales, LA) thanks everyone for thinking of her during her six back surgeries. Unfortunately, she can no longer drive and only leaves the house to go to the doctor and back.

Feeling much better is **Leslie Buchholz** (McMinnville, OR). He had back surgery in February to straighten out adult onset spinal scoliosis. It took three months to have it completed at the Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO, but he is now walking with a walker and is a couple of inches taller and pain free. “I am so proud of him undertaking this at the age of 76,” says his wife Judy.



Les Buchholz is recuperating from back surgery. Shown here with his wife Judy.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to **Lucas Clay** (Savannah, GA) who lost his wife **Betty** in September as well as to the families of **Rita Crumhorn** (surviving spouse of **John Crumhorn**), **Joan Rosener** (surviving spouse of **Alfred Rosener**) and **Dalta Roy** (surviving spouse of **Muriel Roy**).

In Memoriam

*Naomi L. Acardo
Denham Springs, LA*

*Arlene M. Basucar
Concord, CA*

*Matthew C. Borgia
Bristol, RI*

*Irene A. Cabral
Bristol, RI*

*Raymond (Ray) F. Garavaglia
Walnut Creek, CA*

*Douglas Hansen
Walnut Creek, CA*

*Allen Lightner
Ponchatoula, LA*

*Raymond J. Maenner
Salt Lake City, Ut*

*William Wedell “Mac” McDonald
Salinas, CA*

*Charles E. Measel
Monticello, IN*

*James M. Perrette, Sr.
Diamond Head, MS*

*Wayne C. Purcell
Salinas, CA*

*Renee G. Ragucci
Lafayette, CA*

*Raymond C. Sansbury
Tuscumbia, AL*

*Kenneth H. Schiefelbein
Lockport, IL*

*Marion W. Swinford
Savannah, GA*

*Edward F. Wettengel, Jr.
Carmel, CA*

*Arthur (Art) H. Woodward
Palm Desert, CA*

*Peter A. Young Jr.
Hayward, CA*

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.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
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Baton Rouge Nov 16

Lunch 11:15 a.m. Oak Lodge 2834 So. Sherwood Forest in Baton Rouge. Confirm with Bob Eisenbach (225) 926-1334 or bobeisenbach@att.net.

Belpre Jan 27, Apr 28

Saturday Bkfst, 9 a.m., Shoney's Garfield Ave. Parkersburg. Confirm with Betty Blair (304) 489-1337, or to bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

Chalmette Dec 7, Mar 1

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

Erie Nov 19, Dec 17, Jan 21

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

Bay Area (KARLA) Dec 5

Meet 11 a.m., Lunch, Noon at San Ramon Golf Club. Confirm with Sharon Fraetis (925) 934-4334 or lafnatv@silcon.com.

Los Angeles Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 9

Lunch, 12:00 noon, Marie Callendar's, 540 N. Euclid, West Anaheim. Confirm with Bob O'Leary (714) 898-7463 or

robemmet39@gmail.com.

Mead Nov 10, Dec 8, Jan 12

Lunch, 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. - Confirm with Danny Petrus (509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.

Newark Dec 13, Feb 14

Lunch 11 a.m., Stacey's Hometown Buffet, Heath. Lunch paid for by the Newark plant. Contact Bill Snider (740) 403-8328 or colbill44@roadrunner.com.

Ravenswood Dec 2

Winter Luncheon 1 p.m. \$25/plate at Green Hills Country Club. Confirm with Pete Westenhaver (304) 266-4109, or Pete26164@gmail.com or to Lee Corder (304) 273-9457.

Tacoma Dec 7

Lunch 12 noon to 3 at Johnny's Dock, 1900 East B St., Tacoma. Confirm with Bob Mohr (253) 820-6569, at bobjanetmohr@comcast.net, or to Roy Brennan (253) 535-4942.

Trentwood Nov 15, Mar 21

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



(L-R) Pat Arnold, Ted Aucoin, Earl Bellanger, Doc Incaprera and Jim White at the June 1, 2016 Chalmette luncheon.