

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.

Dear Fellow Retirees/Surviving Spouses:

What a winter and spring we've had! While here in California, we've had more rain and snow than we've seen in many years. We've gone from record drought to record floods. I know all of you in other parts of the country have also had one weather-related problem after another. Let's hope that the worst is behind us, and we can all enjoy our backyards and the great outdoors.

I know lots of you have some great vacations planned, and I encourage you to share those experiences with your fellow retirees by sending in What's Happening forms and photos. You can also email the information and pictures if you like. Please send them to Sally Hogarty, P.O. Box 84, Canyon CA, 94516 or email sallyhogarty@gmail.com. I very much enjoy reading about all your adventures!

It's also time for the VEBA Trustees to mail out the reimbursement request forms to VEBA participants. The mailing will include the 2017 benefit declaration as well. So, look for its arrival and collect copies of the necessary documents

to accompany your reimbursement request. If you have questions, please contact the Delta Fund Administrator, P.O. Box 2308, Stockton, CA 95201-2308 or call (888) 344-8322 or email to VEBA@deltafund.com.

And, finally, each year in July we send out a hard copy of our newsletter to all salaried retirees and surviving spouses regardless of membership status, along with a dues enrollment form. We encourage nonmembers to fill out the enrollment form, include a check in the amount of \$10 payable to KASRA and send it to us at P.O. Box 1171, Lafayette, CA 94549. You will be glad you did when you receive the bimonthly issue of our popular newsletter and learn what your former colleagues have been doing.

That's it for now folks. So until our next issue, keep healthy and stay active!

All the best!

Doug Mann
President, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

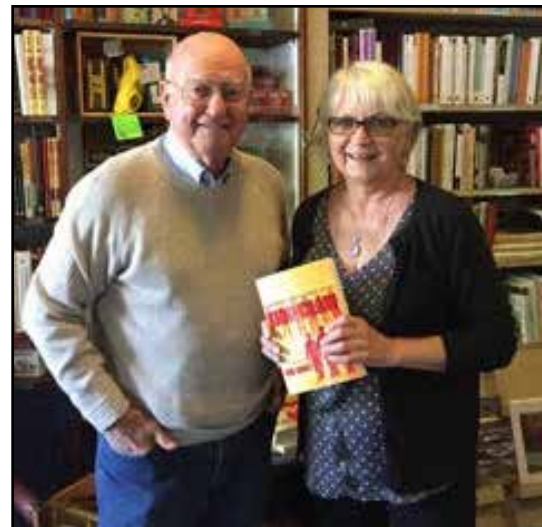
Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **Ron Rhody** (Pinehurst, NC) who launched his fourth novel *Concerning The Matter Of The King Of Craw* at the Kentucky Book Fair in late November. The book ranked in the top five in sales at the Kentucky Fair, which attracted 140 regional and national authors this year and had an attendance in excess of 3,000. *King of Craw* joins Ron's three non-fiction books -- *The CEO's Playbook*, *Wordsmithing*, and *Soccer: A Spectator's Guide*.

Ron joined Kaiser handling public relations and communications at Ravenswood before being transferred to New York, NY, to handle Eastern region PR. He then found himself in Oakland, CA, at Kaiser Center ending his career as corporate VP, Public Relations and Advertising under Cornell Maier. "I had a ball," he says. "I stay in touch with other retirees and very much enjoy the newsletter. Now, I spend my time writing, playing golf and chasing trout in the great trout streams up in the mountains along the Tennessee border.

Also taking to the literary highways is **Dick Evans** (San Francisco, CA). Dick presented his new photography collection: *The Mission* in April at San Francisco's Grand Theater. Showing the culture and community of this colorful neighborhood in San Francisco, Dick captures the pulse of life through poetry, quotations from residents and his beautiful photography.

Dick began his career with Kaiser in Spokane, WA, before transferring to Oakland, CA, and then to Valco where he was Plant Manager. He also worked at Ravenswood,



Ron Rhody displays his fourth novel with Lizz Taylor of Poor Richard's Books in Frankfort, KY, following the Kentucky Book Fair.

WV, before ending his 27-year career with Kaiser back in Oakland, CA, as Executive Vice President for Rolled Products. After Kaiser, Dick went on to Alcan in Montreal. Currently, he acts as a business consultant. Dick and his wife Gretchen will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary this year. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Congratulations are also in order for **Bill Snider** (Newark, OH) who was recently re-elected President of KASRA's Newark group.

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

Bud Rother (Lake Wylie, SC) celebrated his 87th birthday on January 5 and his 64th wedding anniversary to his wife Ann on January 31. He and Ann like to travel and take walks. This summer they went to Central Florida to visit Ann's sister. When at home, Bud volunteers at the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Wylie Lions Club.

Congratulations to **Joanne Gutierrez** (Pleasant Hill, CA) who celebrated her 80th birthday in March. Joanne worked



Dick Evans displays his new photography book on San Francisco's colorful Mission District.

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for Kaiser for almost 40 years as an administrative assistant/secretary in Oakland, CA. Since her retirement, she has served as a member of the KASRA Board and is now the person who answers the KASRA phone and deals with the mail from members.

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

Golf, reading and travel keep former Refractories worker **Joe Moore** (Sun City, AZ) busy. **Michael Amico** (Houma, LA), the son of recently deceased retiree **Kathryn Amico**, wanted to thank Kaiser retirees who worked with his mother. "She loved working for Kaiser at the Chalmette, LA, plant and so enjoyed reading the KASRA newsletter to keep up on what everyone was doing."

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Shirley Schmalfluss (Oakland, CA), who worked for Kaiser's International Division, loves reading and painting. She combined both of those with her love of travel on a recent trip to Maui with her son Brad. Not only did she have time to



Shirley Schmalfluss and her son Brad on a recent vacation in Maui, HI.

read, she also did an acrylic painting of one of Maui's beautiful shorelines and sea.

Proud grandmother **Sharon Fraetis** (Lafayette, CA) traveled to Scottsdale, AZ, to visit her 2-year-old grandson. The former employee at Kaiser's Corporate Office in Oakland, CA, as well as CFT in Pleasanton, CA, loves visiting her grandson



Enjoying time together at Mt. Spokane, WA, are the Prime Timers. (L-R) Tom Brattebo, Bette Brattebo, John Dorosh, Judy Kuntz, Chuck Long, Joe Roberts and Dave Williams.

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MEMBER PROFILE: JK (Jerry) Lambert

JK (Jerry) Lambert worked for Kaiser from 1965 – 2000. Moving several times during his career, he found himself involved with many of Kaiser's plants both in the United States and around the world. He and his wife, LeRene, live an active life in Covington, LA, where Jerry is also very involved with fellow retirees and their KASRA group.

How did you get involved with Kaiser?

I answered an ad for Kaiser's Ravenswood plant in the summer of 1965. I was in Columbus Ohio and Ravenswood was in the middle of nowhere at the time. They told me it would take two and one-half hours to drive there, but it took four, so I was pretty late to the interview. Although it went well, I didn't think I'd ever hear from them again. Then, two weeks later they called and set up another interview. This time I allowed a lot more time to get there.

Eventually, I was hired, but I joke that they only hired me because they really

wanted my wife! She was a math/science teacher, and Ravenswood needed teachers. So, we both got jobs! She was also pretty popular with the boys in her class because she drove a corvette to school.

Where did you work during your career with Kaiser?

I started out in purchasing at Ravenswood and then in 1969 moved to Oakland and helped develop the Corporate Account Payable/Purchasing Stores (CAPPS) system. My wife, LeRene, and I bought a house in Concord, CA. Our property taxes in California were more than our entire house in Ravenswood. But, three years later in 1971, when I became part of the Southern Region Purchasing/Traffic group out of Chalmette, LA, we sold our Concord house for double what we had paid for it and were able to buy a really nice house in New Orleans. Even when I was working in Gramercy, we stayed put in New Orleans and I traveled the 50 miles back and forth.



(L-R) Front Row: son-in-law Richard, daughter Jodi, granddaughters Sabrina and Emma and grandson Kyle; Second Row: granddaughter Audrey, son Kent, daughter-in-law Mary Beth and grandson Andrew.

We had lots of interaction with other plants such as Gramercy, Baton Rouge, Valco, Alpart, Kaiser Jamaica Bauxite and some interaction with QAL, in Queensland, Australia. I became part of the Alumina Bauxite Unit (ABU) and moved the offices from Chalmette to Gramercy, LA, where I was General Manager of Commercial Services for the ABU and Co-General Manager of Gramercy with **Bill Kirsch**. We

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made a great team. Bill knew everything about the engineering, operations and technical aspects, and I took care of the business side. We each had a working knowledge of the other's responsibilities, but we didn't mess with it. We just let the other person take care of their business and everything worked out well.

LeRene and I spent time at all the locations except QAL. We both wanted to visit Australia but never made the trip.

What are your best memories of your time at Kaiser?

My best memories are of the people I worked for and with because they were all first-class. Secondly, I feel so fortunate that I had these wonderful positions with the company that allowed me to do all these things that really made my life complete.

Some of the projects I worked on were



The 1987 signing of an agreement that made construction of a mid-stream cargo transfer facility known as the Chalmette Slip possible. (L-R) Seated: Vice President and General Manager of Kaiser F.J. Haydel and President of the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District Harold C. Felger; Standing: Vice President of the Port District Jean G. Lansou, Jr., Manager of Kaiser's Southern Region Purchasing and Distribution Jerry Lambert and District Commissioner Elton J. LeBlanc.

truly exciting. For instance, with the Minority Purchasing Council, I ended up at the White House at a reception with the Carters. They spent about an hour and one-half with us. He wasn't my favorite president, but he and his wife were just so gracious.

Then, as part of the Purchasing Management Association, I meet with Alan Greenspan twice -- once on a committee in his office, which included the CEO of Chrysler and the Executive Vice President of Walmart. And then there was me, a little old manager from Kaiser. Boy, did I feel far down the totem pole. I remember when we were all picked up in a Ford van to go to a meeting and the CEO of Chrysler just lit into the driver saying they could have at least picked us up in a Dodge or Plymouth!

I met Greenspan again when he agreed to speak at the Purchasing Management Association's national conference in New Orleans. As Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Greenspan always had the Secret Service with him. We had to get him four hotel rooms, one for him and the rest for secret service -- one on either side of his room and another in the room across the hall.

I also really enjoyed my time in New Orleans where we did the purchasing and transportation for Chalmette, Gramercy, Valco, Jamaica and more. That's how



Jerry Lambert (far left) speaks at the annual conference of Natural Minority Purchasing Council.

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we ended up with the Chalmette Slip, because we needed a place to receive and transport to all those plants. Some small businesses in the area also used the Slip for their products and that gave us the idea to do more with other companies and create a revenue stream so that the Chalmette Slip wasn't just an expense. We developed so much outside business that, I think one year, we made about \$1 million for the company. This is all because we had the staff and base to make it happen.

I also have great memories of working with **Ed Coyne** on what came to be called the Green Pepper Project. Ed was at Kaiser's Jamaica Bauxite Center and needed to reclaim the land. He tried to figure out what kind of crops could be produced. He knew the local farmers were good at growing green peppers on reclaimed land, so that became the main crop and every ship that we sent down there with supplies would come back to the Chalmette Slip with lots of green peppers in a refrigerated container. Then, we'd act as their marketing agent and sell them to local grocery stores. So many people did all the hard work to make it successful.

What were the most challenging aspects of your job with Kaiser?

Getting Super Bowl tickets for **Stephens Hutchcraft** and **Jerry Carroll** in 1990 just six weeks before the game! They wanted 10-15 tickets plus hotel rooms and dinner reservations at one of the top two restaurants in town. Of course, Super Bowl XXIV was sold out and all the best hotels and restaurants booked solid. I spent some stressful time calling every contact I could think of and finally got



Jerry Lambert and his wife LeRene.

what they wanted. Hutchcraft and Carroll were very gracious and invited my wife and I to many of the functions they had while in New Orleans.

Other challenging aspects included trying to satisfy the various plant managers. They had their way of doing things and, sometimes, Kaiser Oakland, who I worked for, had a slightly different way. Trying to keep everyone happy was a juggling act – frustrating at times but enjoyable and never dull. Every day you knew you were going to have something new to do.

As Kaiser began winding down, I traveled around to all the plants looking for idle assets that we could sell. That got me into the Investment Recovery Association, which got me into Minority Purchasing thing, which got me into Greenspan. Interesting how it all involved!

When did you retire from Kaiser?

I retired from Kaiser in 2000 and we moved across the lake from New Orleans to Covington, LA, and spent the next

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eight months on consulting projects. I worked with the Government Surplus Agency and got a taste of dealing with bureaucracy in Washington, DC, a whole other experience.

What are you involved with now?

I was appointed to our local Drainage Board, so dealing with drainage takes up a lot of my time. Drainage is very important in Louisiana, where north of New Orleans, our average elevation is just over 20 feet and developers are looking to build everywhere. But every time you build something, you take away land that's absorbing water. Our Board has some regulatory powers but, basically, we try to convince builders and developers and politicians to do the right thing for the people who already live there. We look at the big picture.

I also volunteer at the Lakeview Regional Medical Center where I work in admissions and the Mary Bird Cancer Center. I'm sort of the assistant to the assistant gofer and doer of things. All days at the center are rewarding, but some days make you thankful for what you have and the illnesses that you don't have.

I am also Chair of our Church's Administrative Council. I keep in touch with former retirees through the Chalmette and Baton Rouge lunches. I really enjoy going to those.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, LeRene, in addition to being a math/science teacher is also quite a pianist. She retired from Loyola University in 2005, where she taught piano. Now, she keeps a piano studio in our home and teaches private lessons.



(L-R) Manager of the Chalmette Slip Walter Clark, Contract Foreman and Jerry Lambert.

We have two children: our son, Kent, a very successful attorney who lives in Mandeville, LA, with his wife and two children, and our daughter, Jodi, who has a PhD in Piano Performance, lives in Austin, TX, with her husband Richard and three children and is the Music Director for a large private high school. Her choir attended the Trump inauguration and, while there, competed in a contest coming in first out of 100 choirs.

We've also been blessed with five very talented grandchildren. They are all involved with various sports that we try to attend. If we made all their games (over 20 a week!), we would need a mobile home and a jet! Our oldest granddaughter, Audrey, follows her mother's love of music and became the section leader of her high school band which scored fifth place at the National High School Band competition last fall. She will be attending Samford University in Birmingham, AL, next fall. Andrew, our oldest grandson, plays Lacrosse and will attend Louisiana State University in the fall, while Emma enjoys volleyball and Kyle and Sabrina are into soccer.

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.

Former Kaiser Metallurgists Celebrate Special 100th Birthday

A Kaiser Aluminum initiated program from a quarter of a century ago, the envy of competitors at the time, enjoyed another day in the sun this past January when **Dr. Raymond Smith**, a renowned metallurgist and a President of the Michigan Technological University (MTU), celebrated his 100th birthday.

Smith was president of the institution during a 1977 to 1981 summer program, exclusively imagined for Kaiser participants, which involved over 90 people from various Kaiser plants including: Dolton, IL; CFT in Pleasanton, CA; Newark, OH; Trentwood, WA; Ravenswood, WV; San Leandro, CA; Erie, PA; Chalmette, LA; Oakland, CA, and even participants from Voerde and Koblenz, Germany.

The summer program at MTU involved the formal technological updating of metallurgists who had received their degree at least two decades earlier. Dedicated to providing a refreshing review of earlier topics and an introduction to changing and emerging concepts about metals such as atomic dislocations and the coming description of nanotechnology, the primary focus, when applicable, fittingly was on aluminum.

George J. Binczewski (Moraga, CA) recalls the two-week summer program as being very valuable as well as enjoyable. He notes that the exclusive Kaiser classes were taught by university professors with expertise in their respective topics. Participants were housed in university dorms and took meals in the company of instructors. He



A 1978 photo of the Kaiser metallurgists attending a unique Kaiser Aluminum program at Michigan Technological University. (L-R) Front row: John Dorosh; Ian Smith; O.L. Burtenshaw; Bill Mohondro; John Marchi; George Farnham; Jim Hunter and Jim Whitman; Middle row: Prof. Lloyd Heldt, Chairman of Metallurgy Dept. at MTU; Fred Drews; Tony Warman; Ralph Anderson; Maury Dean; Dale Davis; Fred Binkley; Pieter Tukker and Ray Smith, President of MTU; Top row: Ralph Woods and Don Harvey.

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lauds Dr. Smith's leadership of the program.

Smith, who himself taught Kaiser classes and also earned kudos for building up the physical campus and enriching the curriculum at MTU, served as president for 16 years. He also served a term as the president of the 50,000-member American Society for Metals. He now lives in Arizona.

Binczewski remembers him as being an authority on the history of gold and an invited keynote speaker at the 100th anniversary of the Klondike gold discovery in Alaska in 1997. Binczewski adds, "More recently he addressed a meeting at the prominent Tsinghua Technical University in Beijing where he spoke in Mandarin. He remains very active, continues writing, and lives with his wife at their home in Arizona. I'm sure many alums of the program will remember him fondly."

A subsequent three-year program sequel, focused on the relationships of the various corporate business functions and unit relationships, was to begin in 1982. "Unfortunately," Binczewski laments, "the then dire conditions and economic outlook of the aluminum industry resulted in the curtailment of operations, cancellation of budgets and substantial retirements." He adds, "Readers from that period will be familiar with events that followed."

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which also allows her to visit such nearby Arizona destinations as Sedona, Tombstone, Bisbee, Sonorita, Sierra Vista and the Grand Canyon.

Spokane, WA, Kaiser retirees **Tom Brattebo** and his wife **Bette**, **John Dorosh**, **Judy Kuntz**, **Chuck Long**, **Joe Roberts** and **Dave Williams**, who are also known as the Prime Timers, gathered at Mt. Spokane, WA, for eating, drinking, visiting and even some skiing.

In Memoriam



*Charlie Alongi
Davis, CA*

*Kathryn Ann Amico
Houma, LA*

*Claude E. Baker
Covington, LA.*

*George H. Comfort
Niceville, FL*

*W. Paul Holbrook
Garner, NC*

*William "Bill" F. Leech
La Pine, OR*

*Stuart "Stu" N. Lovelace
Oakland, CA*

*Thomas J. O'Hare
Slidell, LA*

*C. Earl Phillips
Baton Rouge, LA*

*Dorothy C. Steel
Walnut Creek, CA*

*Valentine Verna
Bristol, RI*

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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E-Mail:
news@e-kasra.com

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.e-kasra.com

Chalmette **Jun 7** (509) 483-2171 or dpjr70@comcast.net.
Lunch, 11 a.m. NOLA Lagniappe 1375
Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$20 Contact
Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643- 0437 or to
schimcol@aol.com.

Erie **May 20, Jun 17**
Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Peggy's 3512
Liberty Street., Erie, Contact Tim Healy
at (814) 402-1062 or
thealy1931@gmail.com.

Los Angeles **May 1, Jun 5**
Lunch, 12 noon, Marie Callendar's, 540
N. Euclid, West Anaheim. Contact Bob
O'Leary at (714) 898- 7463 or
robemmet39@gmail.com.

Mead **May 11, Jun 8**
Lunch, 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North
Division St. Contact Danny Petrus at

Newark **May 9, Jun 13**
Lunch 11 a.m., Stacey's Hometown Buf-
fet, Heath. Lunch paid for by the Newark
plant. Contact Bill Snider at (740) 403-
8328 or
colbill44@roadrunner.com.

Ravenswood **Jun 24**
River Shelter Cookout, 1 p.m. Contact
Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109, or
Pete26164@gmail.com or Lee Corder at
(304) 273-9457.

Tacoma **Jun 7**
Lunch 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Johnny's
Dock, 1900 East B St., Tacoma. Contact
Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569, or
bobjanetmohr@comcast.net or Roy Bren-
nan at (253) 535-4942.



The Newark lunch bunch started off Valentine's Day by gathering together and enjoying each other's company. Front row seated: Bill Snider, Bob Andrews; second row: Patsy McCullough, Jack Rhodes, Betty Palmer. Standing: Phyllis McCullough, Arlee McCullough, Joe Serfozo, Whitey Osborn, Virginia Osborn, Rita Crossan and Ralph Crossan.

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Best Wishes . . .

Condolences to **Joe Caddy** on the loss of his wife **Nancy** on February 16, 2017 and to **Don Bristol** on the loss of his wife **Rita** on March 1, 2017. Our best wishes also go to the families of **Elizabeth Owens** (surviving spouse of **Forrest Owens**) and **Charlotte Vondrak** (surviving spouse of **Otto Vondrak**).