



Steve Ping
Erach Tarapore
Mike Venie

KASRA
Co-Presidents

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

Now that most of our fall leaves have changed colors and dropped to

the ground, we often burrow into our homes to “make it through another cold wet winter and flu season.” This month we pay homage to those of you who are veterans or supported our soldiers while they were doing their duties. Your sacrifices were many, and we are humbled and thankful for your efforts. The KASRA Board of Directors wishes you an early Happy Holidays with hopes you will spend them with many loved ones and close friends.

We hope you enjoy Bob Irelan’s stories of Henry J. Kaiser during this and the previous newsletter. We always welcome personal stories any of you might have about Henry J. and will eagerly share them with newsletter readers. **So, fire up those memory banks and send us your stories!**

The VEBA account appears to be quite robust again this year and, with Kaiser Aluminum making very good profits, we can hope for a continued very healthy VEBA in years to come. Please remember to file for your medical expenses (including long term health insurance premiums) reimbursement. **You have until December 31, 2018 to file for your 2017**

expenses. If you are having trouble with this process, please contact your KASRA area representatives or talk to other retirees about your difficulties. If you still are having problems, **help is also available by directly contacting the VEBA Plan Administrator, Delta Fund Administrator, LLC at 888-344-8322, or via email at VEBA@Deltafund.com.** You can contact the board of directors if the VEBA Plan Administrator doesn’t satisfy your need, and we will try to help you through the process. As we all age, there will be some of us who will find the filing process to be increasingly difficult. As much as possible, please help your fellow retirees, especially the shut-ins, get their VEBA benefits.

May God bless you all in these waning months of 2018 and may 2019 bring you great health and many fun adventures.

All the best!

Crack

Michael Venie

Erach Tarapore

Erach Tarapore, Mike Venie and Steve Ping
Co-Presidents, KASRA

WHAT'S GOING ON

Accomplishments . . .

Congratulations to **George Nolta** (Citrus Heights, CA) on his new book *The Doolittle Raiders: What Heroes Do After the War*, available on Amazon.com. The book is about 80 brave men who made a near-suicidal first attack on Japan approximately four months after Pearl Harbor. Lt. Col Jimmy Doolittle was selected to plan and lead the raid from the USS *Hornet*. While much has been written about the daring raid, little had been written about the brave men before and after the raid. Thanks to a chance encounter with

Ellen Lawson, the widow of Major Ted Lawson, a raider and author of *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, George has now published the raiders biographical sketches. He met Ellen while researching his own family history. It turns out that the Lawsons were good friends with George's Uncle Floyd, an aviation pioneer. Ellen was so impressed with an article George had written for the Colusi County Historical Society that she

asked him to take on the Doolittle Raiders project using her extensive private collection of information and memorabilia.

Birthdays and Anniversaries . . .

"I'm joining the 10th decade with all you 90-year olds!" boasts **G. Stanley "Stan" Fergin** (Spokane, WA) from Mead Works. Stan, who enjoys puttering outside and going back and forth to his cabin on Priest Lake, ID, volunteers with Meals on Wheels and his church property committee. He is also an officer with the Rockwood Retirement Green Team. Congratulations to **James W. Miller** (Rocky Point, NC) and his wife Erika, who celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary

in Germany, her homeland, in October. James, who loves camping, last worked at Gramercy. **Gretta Byrne** (Haines City, FL), who enjoys playing bridge and dominoes, celebrated her 93rd birthday July 8.

Anne Marie Stewart (San Leandro, CA) celebrated her 80th birthday in August after welcoming her sixth great grandchild in July. Anne Marie, a veteran of Public Affairs, enjoys gardening and politics. **Howard Nelson** (Alamo, CA), who enjoys golf and reading, celebrated his 83rd birthday July 5. The veteran of the Chemical Division at Cleveland, OH, had celebrated his 62nd wedding anniversary with wife **Dorothy Ann** the month before on June 11. Howard spends his time "keeping up with activities of our three daughters and their families including our six grandchildren, the youngest of whom is now 21!"

Robert C. Newsom (Pleasanton, CA), who worked at Gramercy and does a little gardening, celebrated his 61st wedding anniversary in June. His son lives nearby in Danville, CA. He volunteers for his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and enjoys going home to Baton Rouge, LA, to see family. **Cebert Riddle** (Scott Depot, WV) will celebrate his 90th birthday in late-November. The Ravenswood veteran is a big supporter of West Virginia Mountaineer football.

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

In 2017, **Henry S. "Hank" James** (Walnut Creek, CA) retired for a second time from the company he formed after leaving Kaiser in 1982. Corporate Finance Associates helped mid-sized company owners plan and execute their exit strategies. His 35 years doing that followed stints with Kaiser in the Raw Materials Division, Reduction Division, Real Estate



George Nolta's book on *The Doolittle Raiders*, shown here, was recently published by Schiffer Publishing and is now available on Amazon.com.

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Division, Refractories Division, Central Engineering and Corporate Development. Hank, who loves rebuilding mechanical clocks is also learning Spanish.

Arnold A. Hayes (College Station, TX) enthuses that he has been to all 50 states as well as Japan, Europe, Africa and Russia. Still, he loves College Station, home of his alma mater, Texas A & M. When not watching Aggie sporting events, Arnold enjoys golf and travel. He retired from Kaiser in 1988 to work as General Manager of Waterguard Cable Products until 1995. Subsequently, he bought, improved and sold five farms. Kaiser's Drainage Products Division veteran is President of his Homeowner's Association and volunteers with a local Lions Club and for Traditions Golf Club Golf Tournaments while staying active with his church.

CFT retiree **Steve Ping** (Broomfield, CO) and his wife Wendy just completed a move to Broomfield, CO, a northwestern suburb of Denver. Steve, who will continue in his positions of Co-President and Secretary of KASRA notes that the move elicits joy and sorrow: "After 42 years residing in Pleasanton, CA, we relocated to be near our son's family, including our 1- and 3-year-old grandchildren. Both of our first jobs were with KACC/CFT, so it was difficult leaving so many friends in the Bay Area. We will especially miss our annual 'CFT Alumni Reunion,' which graced our home for the past 21 years. However, we look forward to exploring beautiful Colorado and sharing our love of the outdoors with our grandchildren."

Donald F. Hebert (Gramercy, LA) proclaims that his golfing days are over. Don, who will be 91 soon, is "just enjoying my three children, eight grandkids and 13 great grandchildren." He adds, "Thanks to all KASRA volunteers for all

you do for us retirees." **Robert "Bob" Conrad** (Spokane Valley, WA), who spent 31 years at Kaiser Trentwood, enjoys his ham radio (N7VYG) and brags about a new acquisition, "a sit-down lawn mower." **Priscilla Kozak** (Martinez, CA), from Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical in Oakland, CA, plays bridge two times a week and enjoys reading. The 91-year-old can't travel because of her arthritis and other ailments, but she basks in the affection of a big family with 14 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Priscilla glories in "lots of birthday parties and other celebrations." She also bakes for church charity.

William E. Boyd (Moraga, CA), after traveling to 40-plus countries, has curtailed major travel experiences due to age. Until then, a favorite gathering was the reunion of the famous Curtis LeMay-led 305th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force until they stopped a few years ago. William, who lists reading, television watching, visiting family and attending meetings as hobbies, worked in Refractories in Oakland, CA. "Now we spend more time at a retirement home, "Maravilea," in Santa Barbara, CA. **Frank W. Lewis** (Baton Rouge, LA) of Gramercy Works, volunteers on the WWII Destroyer, the U.S.S. Kidd. Frank, who loves the beach especially along the Florida Gulf Coast, bemoans the fact that he hasn't played golf in the last 12 months due to moving: "I hope to get started again soon."

Joseph P. Reger (Meridian, ID), who worked at Corporate Profit Planning in Oakland, CA, collects, restores and shows classic cars. He recently received a first-place award for his 1946 Mercury convertible. Joseph traveled to Dearborn, MI, to host with other direc-



Around 20 Trentwood and Mead Retirees gathered together in May. (L-R) Alan Longmuir, Don Bristol, Bob Mohr and Allen Man. The four total over 150 years of Kaiser service between them.

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REMEMBERING ONE OF THE GREATS: HENRY J. KAISER

Having covered the highlights of the early history of Henry J. Kaiser's accomplishments in the September Newsletter, we now turn to what he meant specifically to Kaiser Aluminum. Our hope is that by covering some of this history we will prompt those of you who lived it to share your own memories and anecdotes about this incredible man.

For aluminum, it all started with industry analysts saying it was crazy to enter the business at the end of World War II because there would be a huge overhang of wartime-created surplus capacity. After all, capacity to produce the metal had been increased sevenfold during the war.

But, as was the case so often in the past, Henry J. Kaiser saw things differently. He foresaw huge markets opening up for peacetime uses of aluminum -- in transportation, housing, commercial construction, consumer durables. He saw opportunities where others saw problems.

So, instead of being scared away, he jumped head first into the industry or, as he said, "went out on a limb, which is where I like to be." Actually, he had begun considering aluminum during the war. Effectively blocked from entry at that time, he turned to another light metal, magnesium, and formed Permanente Metals Corporation in Cupertino, CA.

By itself, aluminum was a major gamble. But think about it. He dove into that business at the same time he was entering the automobile industry and expanding Kaiser Steel. Had any businessman before him piled so many risks on top of each other? Historians later would agree none had.

To get into the aluminum business, he leased the Baton Rouge alumina refinery, the Mead smelter and the Trentwood



Henry J. Kaiser at the dedication of Fontana's first blast furnace in 1942.

fabricating plant from the War Assets Administration in 1946. Indicative of the wrong-headed pessimism of others already in the metals business, Henry J. was the only bidder. A year later, the company purchased the Tacoma smelter and, in 1948, leased the Newark plant.

The company's Permanente Metals name was changed to the more descriptive Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation in 1949, the same year it began foil production at Trentwood and purchased with private capital the assets it had previously leased: Baton Rouge, Mead, Trentwood and Newark.

For Henry J., one of the motivating factors for entering the aluminum business was his idea of using aluminum to build Kaiser automobiles. Post-war, most of the available steel was being gobbled up by more established customers, so Henry J. had dispatched teams of "expeditors" to buy small quantities including scrap wherever and whenever they could to meet -- often just in time -- the needs of the auto plant.

As it turned out, he never built production cars out of aluminum. Steel became

(Henry J. Kaiser, from Page 4)

more available, and better-suited uses for aluminum developed thanks to his imagination and aggressive optimism about the industry's future.

A publication produced at the time of HJK's death best describes what took place:

"Within five years, Henry Kaiser and his team of energetic young managers were producing and marketing more aluminum than the entire U.S. annual output up to 1937, and, in its first 20 years, Kaiser Aluminum was destined to expand its capacity to approximately five times that pre-war level."

How this was accomplished has been called one of America's greatest industrial success stories. Kaiser's constant search for new applications contributed mightily to usage growing from 10 pounds per capita in 1946 to 47 pounds in 1966 -- a span of just 20 years.

By 1949, Kaiser was becoming a major player in the industry. It refined bauxite into alumina, smelted alumina into aluminum, and fabricated an array of aluminum shapes and products. In 1950, it completed the integration with the purchase of bauxite properties in Jamaica. Three years later, it began shipping the ore to Baton Rouge.



At the Fleetwings plant in Bristol PA, female war-workers make final adjustments on a B-17 bomber fin.



Kaiser engineers developed a method of making steel in minutes instead of hours as soon here at the Fontana, CA, plant.

Ever the marketer, Henry J. saw to it that the Kaiser Aluminum promoted its products via television advertising, program sponsorship and prototype demonstrations.

Additional facilities were acquired or built to meet growing demand. For example, Chalmette, Halethorpe, Erie, as well as chemicals properties. And, in 1955, the company began construction of the Ravenswood rolling mill to put it in a stronger position to serve Eastern, Southern and Midwestern markets. Two years later, the companion Ravenswood smelter poured its first metal.

Overnight, Henry J. became a folk hero of sorts in West Virginia. At a \$5 dinner in Ravenswood attended by more than 1,000 locals, he said he had selected Ravenswood ahead of 50 other potential sites, not only because of its strategic location but "most of all because we like the people."

A few years later, Henry J. moved to Oahu and began the development of Hawaii-Kai on 6,000 acres east of Honolulu -- a property that some years later became a part of Kaiser Aluminum's expansive real estate business. As he had done so many times before, he built something of substance from scratch at Hawaii-Kai.

(Henry J. Kaiser, continued Page 7)

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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tors a Grand National Meet with the Early Ford V-8 Club of America. Joseph also received a 10-year service award with SCORE, Service Corps of Retired Executives. **Dottie** (South Lyon, MI), widower of **Dean Lauer** from Ravenswood, WV, recently moved to Michigan to be near daughter Cathy. **William J. Doyle** (Abita Springs, LA) from Chalmette, LA, loves his golf. William works as a Logistics Manager for Rain CII Carbon (formerly KACC Carbon Division).

Traveling Near and Far . . .

Eugenia "Jeanne" Haslam (Alameda, CA), who worked at Kaiser International Oakland, was in Aix-en-Provence, France this past spring visiting her granddaughter who was doing a semester abroad there. She furthered the adventure by traveling throughout Southwest France visiting family. **Carl Hinger** (Spanish Fort, AL) who worked at Electrical Products in Bay Minette, AL, makes daily trips to his local senior center for fellowship and exercise. Longer trips include visits to Huntsville, AL, to visit his son's family and Greenville, SC, to visit both of his daughters' families. "I look forward to the KASRA publication and seeing what is going on with everyone. You are doing a good job; keep it going."

Bernard Lowenthal (Savannah, GA) "left the beach to move closer to our children." He says that his golfing is on hold "now that I have a couple of fractures in a knee replacement." **Kirk McVean** (Walnut Creek, CA) who worked in credit at Pleasanton, CA, traveled to London in June with his wife, son and daughter-in-law for 10 days before taking a 12-day cruise on the Baltic. **Tom Franklin** (Loon Lake, WA), who likes golfing and gardening and last worked at

Reduction at MEAD, recently traveled to Cancun, Mexico, for a family wedding. Tom notes, "We're still snowbirds in Slidell, LA (winter), and Loon Lake, WA (summer), but we don't drive it anymore; we fly."

Condolences / Best Wishes . . .

Condolences to **Bruce A. Wagar** (Greenacres, WA) whose wife **Joyce** passed away after a 63-year marriage. The former Trentwood worker raises buffalo on a small farm and still plays poker three to four times a week. Bruce, who does a lot of fishing, enjoys visiting Lake Roosevelt, AZ. Also, all the best to the families of surviving spouses **Rita Eilerman** and **Shirley Sprowl** who passed away recently.

Best wishes to **Lynn Huston** (Erie, PA), who has been laid up due to double neck surgery for a couple of months. Lynn loves woodworking and repairing church statues when mobile. Good wishes also to **Joe Moore** (Sun City, AZ) from Refractories in Ohio, fell and broke his hip. Though his surgery was successful, Joe notes that the rehab "is quite intense though I hope to be walking again soon."

Best wishes to **Len Sedlin** (Baton Rouge, LA), who is still working on fully restoring his home that was flooded in 2016. The Raw Materials retiree says, "We're living in it but still have lots to do!" It's a good thing Len lists carpentry, basic electronics and furniture refinishing as main hobbies along with reading. Besides visiting his children and grandkids in Charlotte, NC, Len is a member of the Intercivic Council of Greater Baton Rouge, a certified mentor for the Baton Rouge area SCORE, and a member and commissioner of the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission while still finding time to help at the USS Kidd Veterans Museum.



Bill Snider (seated center), who retired from Newark, OH, is shown with his family on a recent trip to Ireland. They enjoyed the southern part of Ireland from Dublin to Kilraney and Galway and managed to tip a pint or two of Guinness beer along the way!

(Henry J. Kaiser, from Page 5)

Kaiser Aluminum thrived in HJK's final years, becoming by far the most profitable of his ventures. Its operations stretched across the globe, with major investments in Europe, Jamaica, Australia, India and Ghana.

At the time of Henry J.'s passing in 1967, Kaiser Aluminum had just turned 21, and there was no doubt that entering that business at the end of World War II had been a brilliant decision.

As we retirees reflect back on our careers, we do so knowing we worked for a unique outfit, founded by a unique individual, and built, as Henry J. would say, by dedicated people working together with a shared vision.

Yes, "Together We Built."

Bob Irelan, Kaiser's former Vice President of Public Relations, researched and wrote this two-part series on Henry J. Kaiser. If you missed the first half, you can find it on our website, www.e-kasra.com.



Welders swarm over a newly-laid keel to join the steel plates at the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, CA.

In Memoriam

*William H. Bonar
Liberty, IN*

*Neva J. Carter
Springfield, MO*

*Charmain R. Dare
Liberty, IN*

*Anthony "Tony" Fradella
Chalmette, LA*

*Frank Martin Gerlach
Harborcreek, PA*

*Howard A. Hanson
Baton Rouge, LA*

*Jack George Hill Sr.
Chalmette, LA*

*Jack Richard Heinz
Orinda, CA*

*Julie A. Macksey
Walnut Creek, CA*

*Conrad F. Meijer
Baton Rouge, LA*

*James E. "Jim" Mire
Baton Rouge, LA*

*Virgil Montgomery
Auxvasse, MO*

*John D. Sprowl
Spokane, WA*

*Gloria V. Trosclair
Baton Rouge, LA*

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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Baton Rouge**Nov 13******NEW LOCATION****

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Juban's Restaurant, 3729 Perkin's Road Email Bob Presson at leilap3@cox.net, or Bob Schoen at bobschoen@cox.net, or call Bob Schoen at (225) 937-2984.

Bay Area, KARLA**Dec 10**

Lunch at 11 a.m. at Wedgewood Banquet Center, San Ramon Golf Club. Contact Sharon Fraetis at (925) 330-8533 or email lafnatv@gmail.com.

Belpre**Jan 25, Apr 26**

Breakfast 9 a.m. at Shoneys, Garfield Ave. Parkersburg. Contact Betty Blair at (304) 489-1337 or email bettylou13@suddenlink.net.

Chalmette**Dec 5, Mar 3**

Lunch at 11 a.m. at NOLA Lagniappe, 1375 Gause Blvd., Slidell. Cost \$21 Contact Chuck Schimmel at (985) 643-0437 or email schimcol@aol.com.

Erie**Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19**

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

Los Angeles**Nov 5, Dec 3, Jan 7**

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Marie Calendar's 540 North Euclid, West Anaheim Contact

Bob O'Leary at (714) 898- 7463 or email robemmet39@gmail.com.

Mead**Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 10**

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Cathay Inn, North Division St. - Contact Danny Petrus at (509) 218-4730 email dpjr70@comcast.net.

Newark**Dec 11, Feb 12, Apr 9**

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

Ravenswood**Dec 7**

Christmas Lunch, 1 p.m. at Green Hills Country Club. Confirm to Pete Westenhaver at (304) 266-4109 or email Pete26164@gmail.com or call Lee Corder at (304) 273-9457.

Tacoma**Dec 5**

Lunch at noon at Johnny's Dock, 1900 East B St., Tacoma. Contact Bob Mohr at (253) 820-6569 or bobmohr1942@gmail.com or call Roy Brennan at (253) 535-4942.

Trentwood**Nov 13, Mar 19, Apr 16**

Meet 11 a.m. Meal served at 11:30 a.m. Valley Eagles 16801 E. Sprague Ave. Contact Steve Harvey at (509) 939-7132 or email s1harv3y@comcast.net.



Ravenswood Kaiser Retirees had their annual fall get-together on Sept. 20 at the Greenhills Country Club near Ravenswood, WV.